

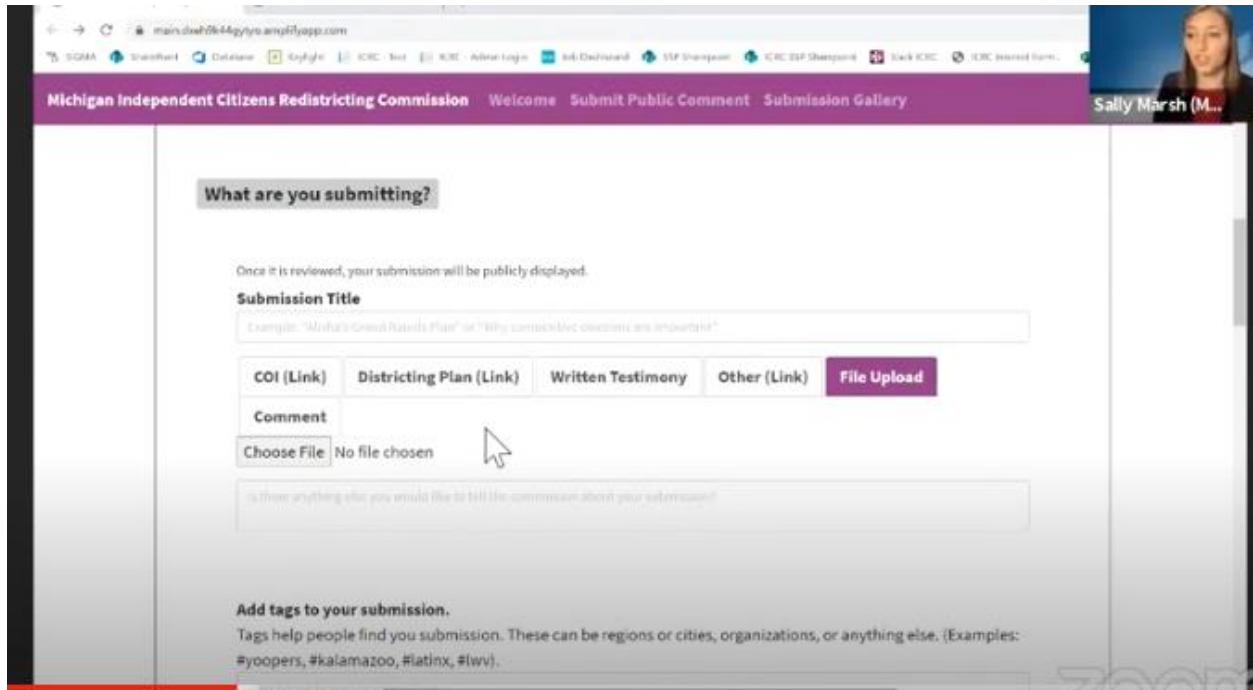
Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission
April 29th, 2021 Meeting Public Comment

Date of Submission: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 10:27 AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Cindy Krieg
Subject: Sally Marsh, did you notice this typo?

Hi!

In Sally's presentation from 4/22/21 regarding public comment submissions, I noticed a typo that I wondered if you found yet. The last sentence on this screen shot includes the sentence, "Tags help people find you submission...", which should say "your" submission. Just thought you would want to know if you hadn't noticed this.

Thanks,
Cindy Krieg



Date of Submission: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 9:43 AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Arnie Morse
Subject: Location of Public Hearings

Hello,

I am from Gaylord, interested in the public hearing being held on May 20, 2021. I was unable to find the location of the hearing.

Could you please furnish that information?

Thank you

Date of Submission: Monday, April 26, 2021 3:44 PM

Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>

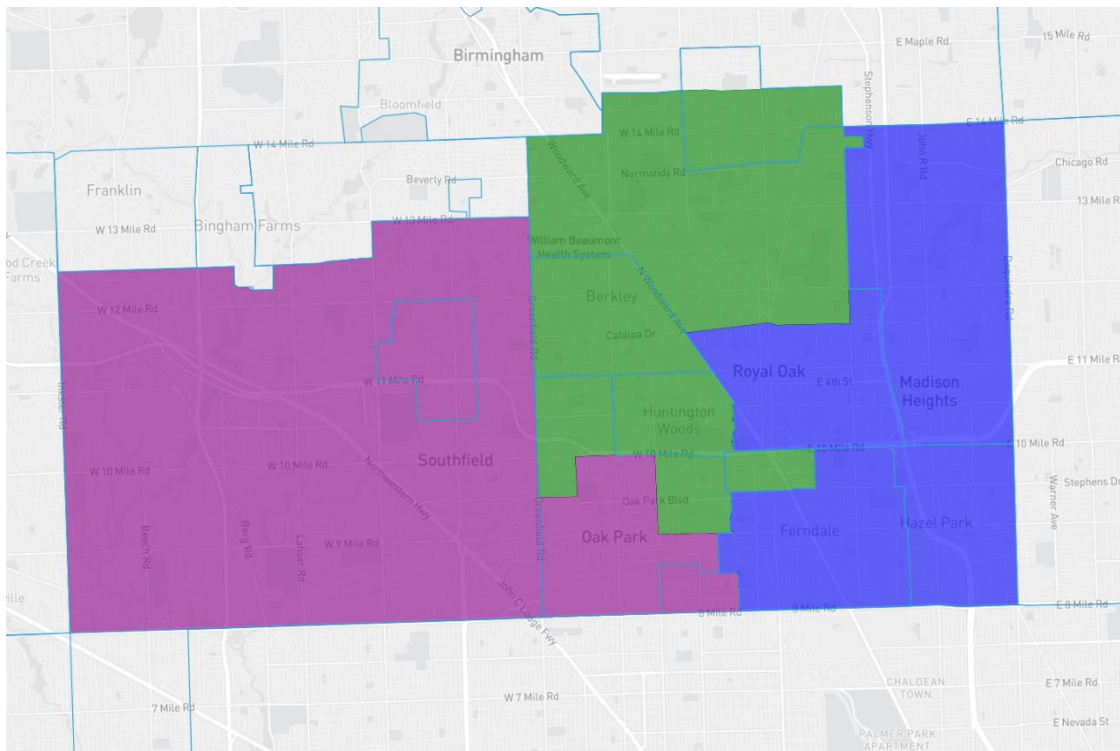
Name: Ian Sandler-Bowen

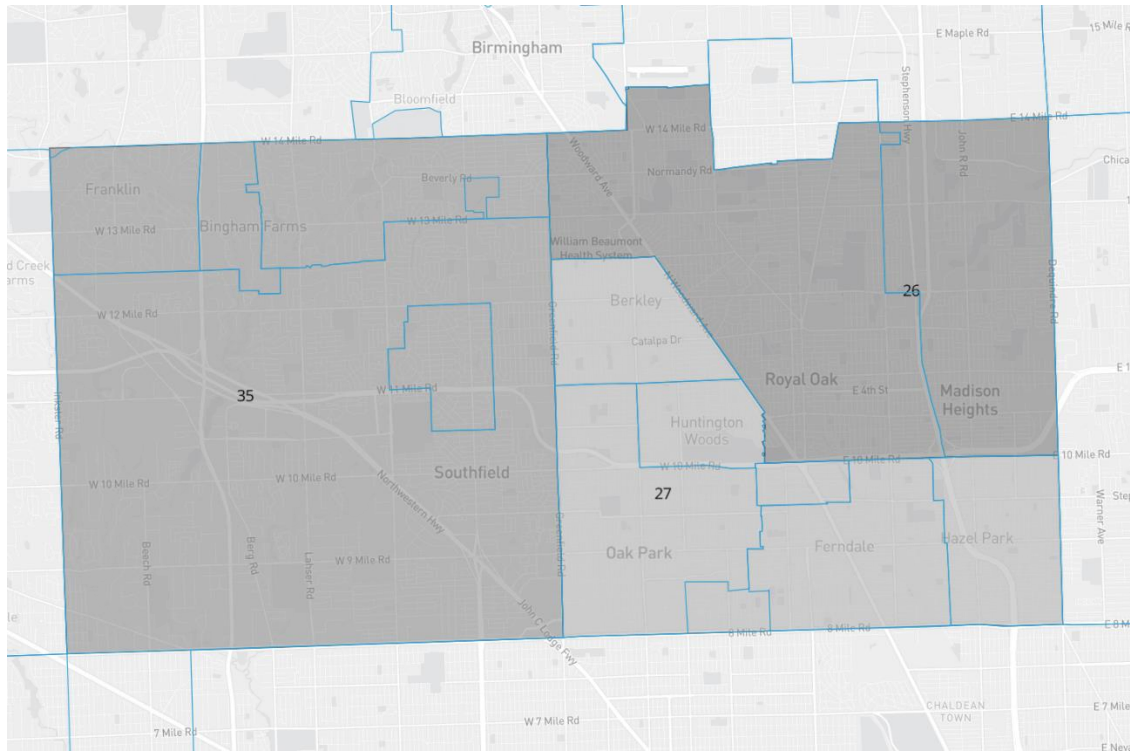
Subject: Suggestion for State House District in Southern Oakland County

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today to present and explain a map which I believe would be the ideal configuration for Oakland County's Southernmost State House districts.

These districts are quite a significant departure from the current configuration, however I believe that there is a compelling argument to be made in favor of my map (pictured in color) as opposed to one that bears a resemblance to the current districts (pictured in gray).





The key to my proposal is splitting Southfield Township (Franklin, Bingham Farms, and Beverly Hills) from the City of Southfield. These areas are not only significantly whiter, but also wealthier than Southfield proper. This bears a much closer resemblance to Bloomfield Township and Birmingham above than it does to the Black and less affluent Southfield to their South.

The median household income in Southfield proper is about \$50.4k a year. In Franklin, Bingham Farms, and Beverly Hills, median income is respectively \$150.3k, \$113.3k, and 108.2k. If we look at Bloomfield Township and Birmingham, their median income is \$112.5k and \$118.3k, which are far more comparable to the Southfield Township municipalities.

From a demographic standpoint as well, Franklin, Bingham Farms, and Beverly Hills are all very White, with a not insignificant Asian population. The City of Southfield is 69.4% Black. Southfield Township is far more demographically similar: largely White, with a reasonable Asian population.

This split leads to the district encompassing Southfield and Lathrup Village to be underpopulated. To make up for this, I drew in parts of Oak Park and Royal Oak Township. This is because those areas bear striking Demographic similarities to the City of Southfield. Both are heavily Black (2019 Population Estimates place the section of Oak Park in my district at about 74.4% Black, and Royal Oak Township at 91.8% Black), and are relatively lower income than other nearby municipalities such as Huntington Woods and Ferndale. Furthermore, under other district configurations (including the present map), these heavily black communities would be represented by a White State Representative. This new configuration would allow for African American voters to actually have a fair voice in electing their State Representative, unlike under the current map which places them in a 2/3rds White district.

The other significant difference I can't as easily point to demographic or statistical differences so much as just having experienced and lived in the region my entire life. From what I've seen and experienced, Royal Oak ought to be divided into two different districts. The dividing line I propose is Gardenia/Catalpa for the North/South divide, as it separates a Royal Oak which feels far more similar to its Southern

neighbors from that which is a better fit with Berkley and Huntington Woods. The Southern, downtown-heavy region bears a striking cultural and historical similarity to Ferndale. From a cultural standpoint, both Ferndale and that section of Royal Oak have been significantly impacted by a substantial LGBTQ+ population, with a 1997 list of LGBTQ+ friendly cities listing Ferndale and Royal Oak.

Ferndale also bears a noticeable similarity with its Eastern neighbor Hazel Park (in addition to Demographic and historical parallels, both are currently represented together at all levels of Government above the Municipal). Both have recovered from a state of disrepair and have (or are currently) attracting many new and educated residents. They went from being "Hazel-tucky" and "Ferna-bama" when my parents first moved to Ferndale in 1996, to both being fairly comfortably middle-class.

The remainder of this district is made up by Madison Heights, which bears an economic resemblance to Hazel Park (fairly middle income), and is also culturally similar, containing the John R corridor and a border with Warren in Macomb County along Dequindre.

The final of my proposed districts, comprising Royal Oak, Clawson, Berkeley, Huntington Woods, Pleasant Ridge, and the remainder of Oak Park is the result of some Communities of Interest, as well as just being an efficient use of the remaining population. Huntington Woods and northern Oak Park both have a noticeable Jewish Population, which would be well served being maintained in a district. Pleasant Ridge is also demographically fairly similar to Huntington Woods (generally white, educated, and fairly affluent with median household incomes of over \$100k. The remainder of Royal Oak and Clawson below Elmwood Avenue are added in order to allow the district to achieve the target population. This would additionally allow for an adequately populated district comprising the city of Troy and the remainder of Clawson to be drawn.

I hope that this is useful and helpful in informing the way Southern Oakland County's State House districts are drawn.

Ian Sandler-Bowen

Lifelong Resident of Ferndale, and student at the University of Michigan

Date of Submission: Monday, April 26, 2021 3:16 PM

Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>

Name: Mark Hergott

Subject: Comment on Redistricting and Proposed Preliminary Map

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Mark Hergott and I live in Ypsilanti (zip 48198). I am writing to urge you to draw a fair map that emphasizes competitiveness. I am also submitting a proposed map of my own. Having competitive districts is essential to ensuring that our democratic process works properly. Political science also shows that competition makes government more responsive to constituents, which benefits voters of all political affiliations. I have put together a map based on 2019 ACS data and 2016 presidential voting data that I think fulfills a number of tenets of fairness and reasonableness:

1. The map I have drawn retains two majority African American districts in order to comply with the Voting Rights Amendment.

2. The districts are fairly compact, scoring higher on the Reock and Polsby-Popper measures than the current map. Additionally, 72 of 83 counties are kept whole and municipalities are generally kept together (except for Detroit which has to be split in order to draw two majority minority districts and comply with the VRA). Note: The software will say District 12 is not contiguous but this is just because it is treating Grosse Ile as disconnected since it's an island.

3. The map creates six highly competitive districts. In 2016, the margin between Trump and Clinton votes in each of these six districts would have been about 3% or less. Trump would have narrowly carried 2 of these districts while Clinton would have narrowly carried the other 4. Of the remaining districts, Trump would have carried 4 solidly (by about 20-30 points), Clinton would have carried 2 very solidly (by about 50 points), and Clinton would have carried the final district comfortably (by about 7 points). This seems like a fair partisan breakdown of districts (4 solid rep, 2 solid dem, 1 lean dem, and 6 toss up) given that our state has been pretty close to 50-50 in recent statewide elections.

Here is a link to the map: <https://davesredistricting.org/join/8b217782-20b0-4977-a06a-782a6966ddf2>

Thank you for your service to our state and for considering my map proposal.

Sincerely,

Mark Hergott

Date of Submission: Sunday, April 25, 2021 12:26 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Elliot Zelenak
Subject: So civilians can no longer submit suggested maps?

Please send this to all commissioners if the Commission isn't allowing civilian-submitted maps. If you are, please disregard and don't annoy anyone with my asinine comments.

Hi, so why can't normal civilians draw maps? There are tons of people online who do this for free because they are into data and mapping. They can probably provide better map suggestions more so than consultants. Consultants you choose will define what Michigan looks like re: voting; they have for years (i won't link any stories in the interests of impartiality, but you can google it).

Why are the consultants the ones who draw the maps? Why can't we allow normal-day people provide map input? Again, this is a project regarding our voting institutions and how it should be led by normal-day people (and not hired hands). if you are allowing submissions from the normal-day person as well as consultants, then i'd say you have a very good idea (as long as equal weight is given to every party's submissions).

If you are not allowing any citizen mapping submissions, and the consultants you pick create a huge partisan edge (no matter what side - left or right), you will have played a role in the continued destruction of democratic institutions caused by years of strain. Please do the right thing and allow citizen submissions alongside consultants. It will show the voting initiative we accomplished that made

your board was to give normal people a say in their democracy. Please don't go against what you're meant for.

For the greater good,
Elliott Zelenak

Sent from my iPhone