



MICRC Public Hearing Guidelines

Effective October 11, 2021

The MICRC is committed to inviting wide public participation in the redistricting process and at Public Hearings. The MICRC will continue to operate with transparency, integrity, and impartiality, as well as ensuring the public's access to information is maintained.

PUBLIC HEARING ACCESS

All MICRC Public Hearings may viewed in the following ways:

- **Zoom Webinar and Dial-in:** The link to join via Zoom Webinar and dial-in information is accessible via the Meeting Notice posted at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC in the Meeting Notices and Materials section. Once posted, you can also view the agenda for the meeting at this link.
- **YouTube Livestream and Replay:** All meetings of the MICRC, including Public Hearings, are livestreamed to YouTube. The link is available in real time at the MICRC channel on YouTube, accessible through a link in the Meeting Notice, posted at Michigan.gov/MICRC in the Meeting Notices and Materials section. During these livestreamed meetings, public comments are recorded in the official record of the MICRC, which are retained online and are publicly available.
- **In-Person Attendance:** Information on in-person attendance at a MICRC public hearing, including times and location, is accessible via the Meeting Notice posted at Michigan.gov/MICRC in the Meeting Notices and Materials section.
- **Accessibility:** Closed caption and ASL, Spanish, Bengali, and Arabic translation services will be provided for effective participation in this meeting. People with disabilities needing other specific accommodations should email ReinhardtS@Michigan.gov or contact Sarah Reinhardt at (517) 285-0043.

PUBLIC HEARING DECORUM

- Subsection 11 of Art. 4, § 6 the Michigan Constitution prohibits MICRC Commissioners, staff, attorneys, and consultants from discussing redistricting matters with members of the public unless the communication occurs in writing or during public comment at an open meeting.
- **Covid Protocols:** Temperature checks required by a facility or local health order shall be enforced by those entities, and any person with a temperature over 100.4°F will not be permitted to stay. Due to the pandemic, seating may be limited. Signing up for public comment does not guarantee entrance to the meeting room for the duration of the meeting. Those who wish to speak are advised to arrive early or be prepared to wait to speak outside of the venue. Each meeting notice will include the facility's public health policy, including whether masks are required and masks will be mandatory, if required by the facility.



- No oversize banners or signs, bullhorns or similar devices, items that could be used as weapons, or large bags or cases are allowed into the meeting room. All items may be subject to search prior to entering the meeting room. Items may be held outside of the meeting room by law enforcement or security personnel, at their discretion.

PUBLIC COMMENT PARTICIPATION

Methods for providing public comment to the MICRC are listed below. During livestreamed meetings and public hearings, all public comments are recorded in the official record of the MICRC, which are retained online and are publicly available.

- **In-person Public Comment:** Upon arrival at the meeting, participants may sign-up for public comment at the sign-up table and complete a sign-up card. After signing up, participants will be given a sticker listing a speaking order number.

Public comment sign-up closes at 7:00 p.m. on the day of each public hearing.

During the in-person, live public comment portion of the meeting, the Chairperson of the Commission will call on participants by speaking order number to approach the microphone and provide public comment.

- **Remote Public Comment:** Members of the public must sign-up for remote public comment (via Zoom or phone) in advance. The link to sign-up for remote public comment is accessible via the Meeting Notice posted at Michigan.gov/MICRC in the Meeting Notices and Materials section.

Remote public comment sign-up closes at 3:00 p.m. on the day of each public hearing.

- **Public Comment Portal:** Members of the public may submit comments in writing using the Commission's online Public Comment Portal, accessible by visiting Michigan.gov/MICRC.
- **Public Comment Map Display:** The Commission invites members of the public to present their district plan or community of interest map to the Commission for display during their public comment. Members of the public wishing to share their maps during public comment must provide the map ID number during public comment sign-up.

PUBLIC COMMENT PROCEDURE

Pursuant to Section 12.0 of the MICRC Rules of Procedure, *Procedures for Public Participation*, the following guidelines pertain to all speakers who will be addressing the MICRC live during its public comment sessions:



- **Speaking Order:** Speaking order for in-person and remote public comment is determined on a first-come, first-serve basis by order of sign-up. All in-person meeting attendees will be invited to provide comments to the Commission beginning at the start of the meeting. Remote or virtual public comment will take place after all in-person public comment has concluded.
- **Speaking Time:** Speakers will be recognized by the Chairperson and invited to speak for a set time up to ninety (90) seconds. All speakers will be allowed the same amount of speaking time at each meeting. Speakers are requested to respect the time limit allotted to each speaker (announced at the beginning of each public comment period). Speakers will be informed when their time has expired, and the next speaker will be invited to begin. Speakers may not yield any time to another speaker.
- **Addressing the Commission:** All comments shall be directed to the Commission as a whole, not any one individual or Commissioner. Speakers are requested to address items on the agenda or topics relevant to the redistricting work of the MICRC.

Speakers are requested to indicate which map about which they are speaking – State Senate, State House, or Congressional. If speaking about a specific map, time will be allowed for the mapping firm to display the map, prior to the public comment time commencing.

No person, other than members of the MICRC and the person having the floor, shall be permitted to enter into any discussion, either directly or through the members of the Commission. All questions to the Commission or its individual members shall be directed through the Chairperson.

The Chairperson may warn any person or curtail an opportunity to speak for failure to be germane, for vulgarity, for redundancy within their comment, for speaking more than the allotted time, for technical issues, or for failure to address remarks to the Commission.

- **Personal Conduct:** Any person making personal, impertinent, or slanderous remarks, or who shall become boisterous or disruptive, while addressing the Commission, may be requested to leave the microphone. The Chairperson may take action to address such remarks, which may include a warning, a clarification, a request for the person to leave the microphone or be ruled out of order.

If any person becomes loud or unruly, the Chairperson may rule that person out of order, and may forfeit that person's opportunity to speak further and that person shall immediately cease their remarks.

Any meeting attendee, who, at the direction of the Chairperson for a breach of the peace actually committed at the meeting, is escorted from the meeting room, will not be admitted for the remainder of that meeting.