

**Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission
February 4, 2021 Meeting Public Comment**

Date of Submission: Thursday, February 4, 2021 10:24AM
Method of Submission: SurveyMonkey 2.4.21 Public Comment Sign Up
Name: Charles E Reese

Good meeting today. I previously submitted a comment regarding no black male voice on the Commission. Your adding a black male Communications person with no voice to comment doesn't satisfy the need that I originally expressed. Again, I realize the random selection process, however with very few black men interested in this project extremely lowers their chance to be selected.

Date of Submission: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 9:23PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Nancy Wang
Subject: College student involvement in the ICRC public hearings

To the members of the ICRC,

Please see our letter dated February 3, 2021, attached.

Thank you!
Nancy

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Date of Submission: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 2:53PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Susanprakke;nsmith Smith
Subject: College student involvement in the ICRC public hearings

Dear Commissioners,

I'm Susan Smith, Vice President for Advocacy for the League of Women Voters of Michigan.

When I spoke to you last December, I mentioned the League's support for redistricting reform in Michigan and especially Proposal Two which created the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

From watching your meetings, I know that the Commission has a keen interest in Communities of Interest and how to encourage them to speak at the Public Hearings you will be conducting in May and June.

As you know, respecting Communities of Interest is third in the prioritized list of criteria the Commission is required to follow when drawing the maps. Given that, the League of Women Voters is working with its 27 local Leagues to identify and support Communities of Interest across the state.

To date, we have recruited over 75 League members whom we will be training this month. They will identify and educate Communities of Interest in over 40 counties. They will help people to draw maps of their communities using a mapping software tool called "Representable", which I understand will be compatible with the mapping software purchased by the Commission.

Last week, we had the opportunity to meet with your Executive Director, Sue Hammersmith, and your Communications and Outreach Director, Edward Woods. We look forward to working with Mr. Woods as he develops plans for the Commission's outreach and public hearings in the coming months.

Thank you for this opportunity to address you.

I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Susan Smith
Vice President for Advocacy
League of Women Voters of Michigan

Date of Submission: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 1:59PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Ellen Wehrman
Subject: College student involvement in the ICRC public hearings

Dear Commissioners -

My name is Ellen Wehrman, and I'm the Michigan Director with the nonpartisan nonprofit Campus Election Engagement Project. We work with the 90+ higher education institutions in Michigan to ensure that youth are civically engaged, and we were a proud Democracy Partner with the MDOS through the 2020 election. One of our most successful collaborative projects last spring was outreach to every Michigan campus to drive youth applications for the ICRC, and I am writing today to offer whatever support I can to encourage college students to attend public hearings and give input.

My network of college student leaders, faculty, staff, and administrators are eager to share opportunities for students to participate in democracy, and I am sure that the Commission is eager to hear from young Michiganders about how they define their communities of interest.

Please be in touch with how I can support your work.
Best,

Ellen

Date of Submission: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 9:00AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Lin Gar
Subject: Community of Interest

Good morning Committee Members,

Thank you for your focus and dedication to our communities and democracy. Your civic duties are greatly appreciated and impacts are wide.

This morning, I read an article about Communities of Interest written by the LSJ. In the article, this email was shared as a way to reach out to share concerns or requests related to the 3rd role of the Committee.

As a resident of East Lansing, I find that we straddle the common ideals that are found in both the neighboring communities; those being: Lansing and Meridian Township.

While we are distinctively unique, we definitely hold close common interests and I wanted to share this opinion with you all so that it might help in your Committee's later review.

Thank you all again for your commitment to our communities and democracy.

I hope you are all well, safe, and enjoying the snow.

Nick
East Lansing, MI

Article Reference:

<https://www.lansingstatejournal.com/story/news/2021/02/03/michigan-redistricting-commission-what-is-community-of-interest/4295624001/>

Date of Submission: Monday, February 1, 2021 10:57AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Okelly, Barbara Ann
Subject: Video on the mathematics of redistricting

Greetings--

Members of the Redistricting Commission might be interested in the YouTube video "Political Geometry: The Mathematics of Redistricting" by Dr. Moon Duchin of the Radcliffe Institute at Harvard. I found it a good overview of the complexity and constraints of the process.

Thanks for undertaking this challenge!

Barbara O'Kelly (she/her)

[REDACTED]

Okemos, MI 48864

[REDACTED]

Date of Submission: Monday, February 1, 2021 10:58AM

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

Sorry--the link is https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pi_i3ZMvtTo
Barb

Date of Submission: Monday, February 1, 2021 10:11AM

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

Name: Scott Urbanowski

Subject: Written public comment suggesting public hearing locations

Dear Commissioners:

As you know, the Constitution requires that you "hold at least ten public hearings throughout the state for the purpose of informing the public about the redistricting process and the purpose and responsibilities of the commission and soliciting information from the public about potential plans."

I am writing to recommend a slate of 13 cities (three more than required) in which it would make sense to hold these public hearings. These locations are:

Detroit

Ann Arbor

Novi

New Baltimore

Flint

Lansing

Kalamazoo

Grand Rapids

Mt. Pleasant

Alpena

Traverse City

Sault Ste. Marie

Marquette

I recommend Ann Arbor, Detroit, New Baltimore, and Novi because of their relative distance from each other. This makes it easy for residents of Detroit proper as well as folks on the outskirts of the metro area to attend a hearing. For example, New Baltimore is approximately halfway between Port Huron and downtown Detroit, while Novi is approximately halfway between Brighton and downtown Detroit.

Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing, and Flint are some of the major population centers outside of metro Detroit, which means that more legislative districts will include those cities or their surrounding areas.

Mt. Pleasant, Traverse City, and Alpena would cover different areas of the northern and central Lower Peninsula.

Finally, It's important that there be two hearings in the Upper Peninsula because of how vast the UP is. Did you know that a road trip from St. Ignace to Ironwood takes longer than one from St. Ignace to Detroit? By having hearings in different parts of the UP, you can ensure that it is feasible for as many "yoopers" as possible to attend a hearing.

Thank you for serving in this important role. I look forward to participating even more in this process later this year.

Scott Urbanowski
Kentwood, MI

February 3, 2021

To the members of Michigan's Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission:

On behalf of Voters Not Politicians, I would like to thank you for stewarding Michigan's first ever, citizen-driven redistricting process. Your role is integral to ensure our new redistricting process is fair, impartial, and transparent. Most importantly, it is up to you to ensure the process is centered around community input, as the Constitution mandates.

In 2020, Voters Not Politicians volunteers dedicated themselves to recruiting applicants to apply for the commission. We made 291 presentations to diverse groups, used paid and earned media, distributed educational materials, and more, reaching more than 300,000 Michigan voters. Now, we are conducting a similarly significant education and outreach campaign to support community mapping. Our goal is to empower as many communities as possible to participate in the public hearing process, so that you can hear from them directly about how they want to be represented.

To encourage meaningful public participation, we respectfully request that you set a schedule of public hearings as quickly as possible, and additionally, that you communicate guidelines to help the public prepare input that is actionable and useful to the commission.

While the Census data are not expected until after July, robust public engagement now allows communities to inform the commission where they are located and the interests they have at stake, before draft maps are drawn.

Setting the meeting schedule will allow communities of interest to set a timeline as they plan their approach to offering testimony to the Commission. Voters Not Politicians has already begun outreach to a number of communities of interest to share best practices, tools, and resources learned from other states and national fair redistricting experts, and we know other Michigan groups are doing the same. Knowing the timeline and how the Commission would like to receive information will help immensely in our organizing and education efforts.

Again, we truly appreciate the commitment and passion you have demonstrated through your work so far. We look forward to working alongside you to ensure Michigan's first Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission and our fair, impartial, and transparent process are a success.

Respectfully,



Nancy Wang

Executive Director, Voters Not Politicians

nancy@votersnotpoliticians.com