

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission
Committee for the review of Line Drawing and Redistricting Technical Services RFP Submissions
February 23, 2021 Meeting Public Comment

Date of Submission: Monday, February 22, 2021 10:45PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Scott Urbanowski
Subject: Written public comment for February 23 Technical Services Committee meeting

Dear committee members:

I had a chance to skim through the four proposals listed on the commission's website for this meeting, as well as some of the LinkedIn profiles of staff members and consultants for these firms.

On the one hand, I'm impressed by the credentials that the firms and their staff and consultants offer.

On the other hand, I'm disappointed by the apparent lack of diversity represented in these proposals. While I realize that it may be difficult to solicit proposals from a diverse pool of experienced mapmakers, it would benefit us all to have diversity among all stakeholders of this redistricting process - including among consultants.

We in Michigan should be leaders in ensuring that a diverse pool of people can gain the skills and experience to do this important work this year and in future redistricting cycles. This can be done regardless of which firm's proposal you select.

Thank you for all you do.

Scott Urbanowski
Kentwood

Date of Submission: Monday, February 22, 2021 3:08PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Dave Brausch
Subject: Line Drawing and Redistricting Technical Services

From the description on the website it sounds like you will be choosing the company that will be providing the software used for redistricting.

I firmly believe that the redistricting should be done by computer, based on a set of rules according to proposition 18-2 to avoid biases that all of us as individuals would have.

For the rural areas of the state at least, it should keep counties, townships and cities as intact as possible. Communities of Interest, even though they have a prominent place in the hierarchy of things, should only be used rarely, such as for Indian reservations which are their own unit of government.

Using them for any other purposes just amounts to gerrymandering, even though it may be done with good intent.

The software should actually draw the boundaries, not just evaluate boundaries that have already been drawn by individuals. If it can't do this, you should be looking at other companies.

Thank You,

David Brausch

[REDACTED]

Midland, Mi 48642

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]