



MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

RESOLUTION**IN SUPPORT OF FAIR MAPS AND IN OPPOSITION
TO MINORITY VOTE DILUTION**

WHEREAS, the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act authorizes the Michigan Civil Rights Commission to safeguard the constitutional and legal guarantees against discrimination, (the ELCRA protects anyone having minimal contacts in Michigan, not only citizens), such as the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Michigan Constitutional Amendment that created the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission; and

WHEREAS, the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides, “[t]he right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color . . .” Racial, ethnic and language minorities must be allowed to cast a meaningful ballot and not have their vote diluted; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court in *Thornburg v. Gingles (1986)* set three measures to evaluate Voting Rights Act violations of minority groups:

- A minority group must demonstrate it is large enough and compact enough to constitute a majority in an electoral district;
- A minority group must demonstrate it is politically united;
- A minority group must demonstrate the majority group historically votes sufficiently as a group to defeat the minority group’s preferred candidate; coalitions of Black, Asian, Hispanic, Native American, “Other,” and those who identify with “two or more” racial groups have had the ability to come together and elect candidates of their choice; and

WHEREAS, if a map results in a minority’s vote being diluted, it is a violation of the Voting Rights Act. A majority-minority district is a district in which a racial minority group or groups comprise a majority of the district's total population; and

WHEREAS, maps for Congressional districts, the Michigan State Senate and the Michigan House of Representatives are drawn by the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Civil Rights Commission urges the MICRC to use statistical data to compare Michigan's 22 majority-minority districts (17 are predominantly Black) with the percentages in the nine (9) maps proposed on November 5, 2021, for a 45-day public comment, to determine if they comply with the unanimous Supreme Court decision in *Thornburg v. Gingles (1986)*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan Civil Rights Commission urges the MICRC to take all necessary action to ensure that there is no minority vote dilution and/or violations of the Voting Rights Act in the nine (9) maps proposed by the MICRC; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, Attorney General Dana Nessel, and the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.



Passed unanimously on the 22nd day of November 2021, by the
MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

Stacie Clayton, Chair

Zenna Faraj Elhasan, Vice Chair

Ira Combs, Secretary

Richard Corriveau

Gloria E. Lara

Portia L. Roberson