

**MICHIGAN
INDEPENDENT
CITIZENS
REDISTRICTING
COMMISSION**



Communities of Interest Process

Why Communities of Interest are Important in Redistricting



- Because COI are the 3rd ranked criteria in the Michigan Constitution
- To promote fair, representative districts by reflecting diverse communities and their distinct interests
- To keep common interest groups intact, so they can have an opportunity to vote for representatives, who will be responsive to their unique interests
- To encourage continuing interaction and civic engagement among community members in the communities in which they live



What are Communities of Interest?

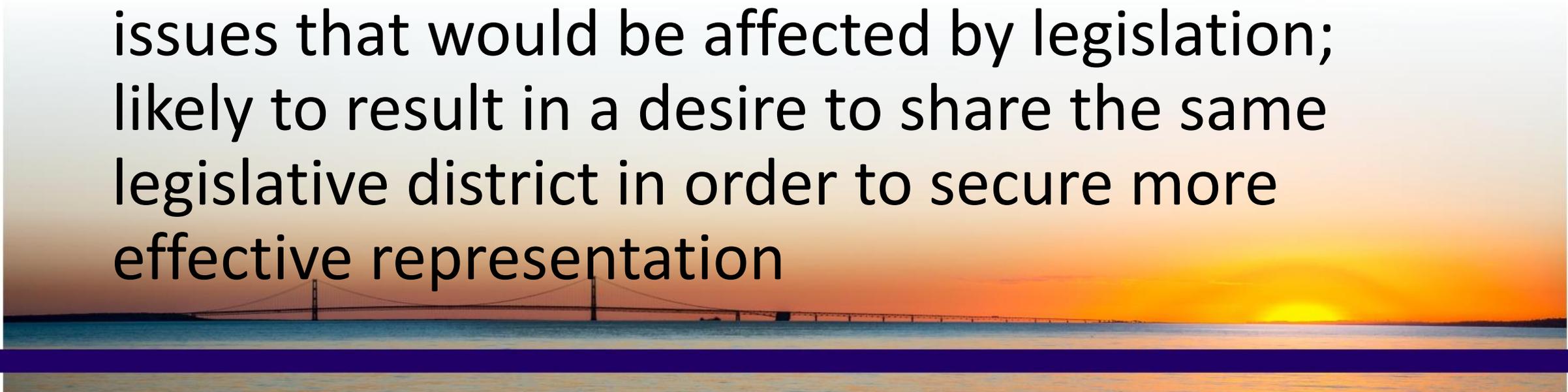
Criteria #3: “Districts shall reflect the state’s diverse population and communities of interest . . . may include, but shall not be limited to, populations that share cultural or historical characteristics or economic interests . . . do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.”





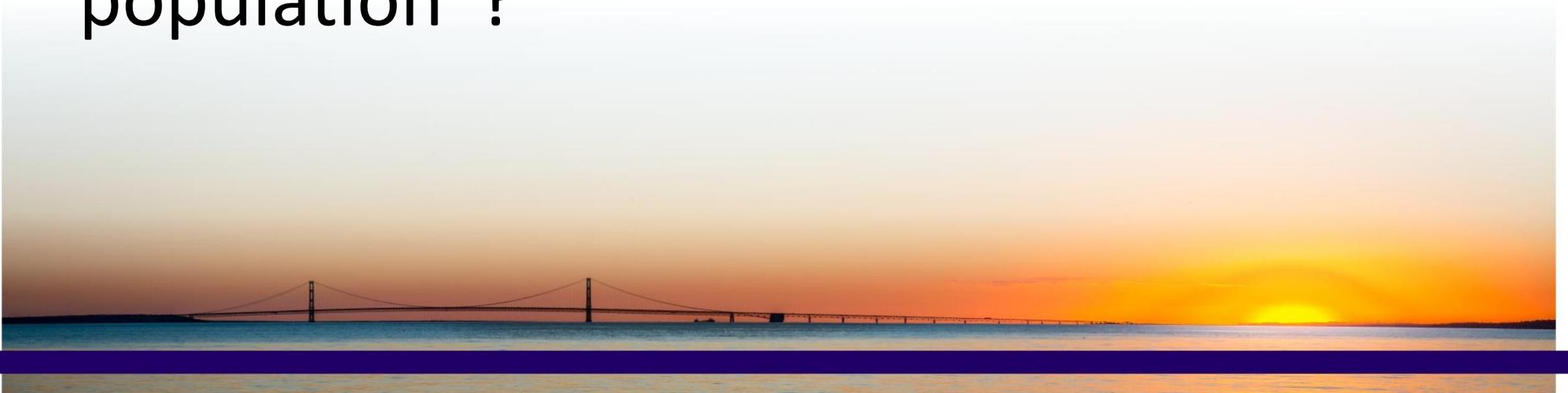
Characteristics of Communities of Interest

- Self-defined by the local community members
- Associated with a contiguous area on a map
- Shared common bonds linked to public policy issues that would be affected by legislation; likely to result in a desire to share the same legislative district in order to secure more effective representation



Discussion Question

How will Commissioners assure that the districts reflect “the state’s diverse population”?





How will the Commission define and incorporate cultural characteristics?

Culture: Artistic and intellectual pursuits/products, including the arts, letters, manners; ways of living transmitted from one generation to the next; a form or stage of civilization; behaviors and beliefs characteristic of a social, ethnic, or age group





How will the Commission define and incorporate historical characteristics?

History: Past events and times relating to people, country, or time period; aggregate or record of past events; a notable past; acts, ideas or events that will shape the future



How will the Commission define and incorporate economic interests?



Economic: the production, distribution, and use of income, wealth and commodities; affecting or apt to affect the welfare of material resources; financial considerations; wealth and wage disparities



What about “districts may include but shall not be limited to”



Other Questions



- How will the Commission handle conflicting input?
- How will the high volume of public comment and overlapping COI districts be handled?
- How will the Commission take into consideration one person vs. many providing input on a COI? What about better resourced groups vs. those with fewer resources?
- How does the Commission envision the approach to honoring the Constitutional COI criteria, now that we're beginning to see the data?

