

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission
January 23, 2024 Meeting Public Comment

Date of Submission: January 22, 2023 3:00 PM

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

Name: James Galant

Subject: MICRC_Public Comment_01-22-2024(am)

MICRC & Secretary Benson,

These are my opinions! (01-22-2024)

- I regret having to address Racial Gerrymandering in Detroit, Michigan (U.S.A.).
- Since a Supermajority of White People accomplished this Racial Gerrymandering – let me personally apologize to every individual on Earth for their Shenanigans!
- The manner in which the White Commissioners are performing their duties “is not” (I repeat) “is not” consistent with the values of White People in the United States of America, because our values are contained in the United States Constitution (1776) as amended and Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised (2020)(RONR) as a direct interpretation of our Legislatures’ Rules of Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- The biggest problem today is that Secretary Benson and the MICRC were instructed to follow Robert’s Rules by Mike Brady (MDOS, Dir. Legal Serv.) on 09-17-2020 and you “did not” (I repeat) you “did not” follow Robert’s Rules from the beginning in 2020 until today.
- On page 366/ line 8 (RONR) says; ‘There shall be no debate - before a Motion - with proper support - to approve a specific action’.
- Parliamentary - Common Law in the USA allows you only “one (1) yes or no question” at a time and your statements must be germane to the “immediately pending Motion”.
- Yet you still have no "Motions to Approve" the new Court Ordered Maps to replace your previously Gerrymandered Maps. Please let us know; When will you make a Motion to approve our new Unconstitutional maps?
- (Also), The Constitutional Amendment (Prop 2 of 2018), “did not create” the MICRC as Comm. Szetela has alleged in a document to "Vacate Commissioner Eid". It merely re-designed, re-tooled, and re-named the “Commission on Legislative Apportionment” that was created in 1963 to “establish” the MICRC in its current iteration - according to the MI Supreme Court in a (VNP -Counter Complaint) in 2018. Also, there is a real chance for future Constitutional Ballot Proposals in Michigan affecting the MICRC.

Thank you for your continued service and Have a Nice Day!

James Gallant (White Guy of Irish-American descent),

Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition

[REDACTED] >

Date of Submission: January 22, 2024 1:22 PM

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

Name: Sheila

Subject: (No subject)

14th district , will this map draw the 8mile line again? An how will that affect our vote ? An why can't we stay apart of 14th district bound by Dequindre,Hoover,8mile,6mile Farwell area

Date of Submission: January 20, 2024 4:34 PM

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

Name: Justin Truong

Subject: Do Not Fragment and Dilute the Arab American Community

Dear Cynthia Orton,

I write to demand that you do not fragment Arab American voters by breaking up the greater Dearborn area into multiple districts.

In considering a district map which creates three or more districts, the commission will be diluting the Arab American vote, denying this community of interest long term representation. The greater Dearborn area is home to the most concentrated population of Arab Americans in the United States. Ensuring that they are able to elect representatives that reflect them and their interests is essential to the MICRC's mission. I support the effort to empower Black voters, but this must not come at the expense of marginalizing and fragmenting Arab American voters.

As the redistricting process continues, I sincerely hope to see proposed maps which allow the majority of the Arab community to stay and vote together.

Sincerely,

Mr. Justin Truong

San Francisco, CA 94112-3245

Date of Submission: January 19, 2024 10:22 AM

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

Name: Sharon Fosmo

Subject: Gerimandering. Want districts, Designed for fair voting.

Sent from my iPhone

Date of Submission: January 19, 2024 9:02 AM

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

Name: Sherry Trezise

Subject: Revising Michigan maps

My name is Sherry Trezise. I live in Okemos, MI. I am proud and grateful to live in a state in which the responsibility for redistricting rests in the hands of a citizen commission, rather than in the hands of politicians.

I understand that you have been directed by the Court to re-draw several districts in the Detroit area, which will impact our state Representatives and Senators.

As you begin this process, please keep in mind that it is vitally important to ALL Michigan citizens that you create FAIR STATEWIDE MAPS. No matter where we live, we each need to know that our vote has the actual opportunity to elect the Representative and Senator of our choice. When our maps are FAIR, STATEWIDE, neither political party will have an "election guarantee" in any district. This is the very essence of our democracy!

Thank you for the work you have devoted to creating maps for Michigan, and for the work you have yet to do. I will be following your progress toward creating the FAIR STATEWIDE MAPS we all deserve.

Sincerely,
Sherry Trezise
Okemos, MI

North Woodward COI Cheat-Sheet:

1. District 7 (blue, 1) should include the entire **Palmer Park area**, including Palmer Woods, Greenacres, Sherwood Forest, Palmer Park, and University District. This area should be connected with the cities of **Ferndale and Pleasant Ridge** across 8 Mile; this preserves an inter-county LGBT community of interest that is still present in the Palmer Park area, and which has been strengthened by more recent patterns of population transfer between Palmer Park and Ferndale. Crossing 8-Mile here to include only these cities does not prevent the creation of a detroit-centric district 7 due to the relatively small population of ferndale, but it does preserve a COI that is distinct from nearby areas of Oakland County like Oak Park and Hazel Park. Within Detroit, this COI should **wrap around Highland park** to include **Oakman Boulevard, Russell Woods, and Boston-Edison**, which surround Highland Park but have far more in common with each other. Between 8-Mile and McNichols, this COI should be bounded by Livernois and I-95; south of McNichols, it should extend West to Meyers Rd, Southwest to Grand River, and Southeast to include the Boston Edison area. This COI preserves a community united by strong economic, recreational, and human ties, and it also protects the ability of dissimilar communities like Oak Park and Highland Park to maintain representation as voting blocs with other communities that have more similar interests.
2. District 5 (yellow, 2) should include **all of Oak Park, all of Royal Oak Township**, and the bordering portion of detroit roughly bounded by 8-Mile, McNichols/6 Mile, Livernois, and Greenfield (including neighborhoods such as **Bagley, Garden Homes, and College Park**). Royal Oak township is a distinct municipality that the commission has so far largely ignored; currently, it is split between districts 5, 6, and 7. Royal oak township is small, discontinuous, and contains a heavily black community of interest that should be kept with Oak Park and Detroit; fixing this unnecessary split should be part of redrawing district 7, and it means that **redrawing districts 5 and 6 will be not only reasonably necessary but absolutely necessary to redraw the struck districts**. This part of Oakland has far more in common with the northern edge of Detroit than with the much less diverse communities further north in Royal Oak and Berkeley. Connecting Oak Park and Royal Oak Township with Detroit north of McNichols reunites a black middle-class COI with extensive ties due to both population transfers and shared economic activity across 8 Mile.

3. District 6 (teal, 3) should include the northern parts of the current districts 5/6/7, namely **Royal Oak, Berkley, Huntington Woods, Southfield/Southfield Twp, and Birmingham**. These communities have much more in common with each other than with the communities further south (particularly Oak Park and Royal Oak Township), and were only ever combined with Oak Park and Royal Oak Township in pursuit of misguided and unconstitutional BVAP quotas; this must be remedied in the new maps, again making changes to districts 5 and 6 necessary. Uniting these upper-middle class Oakland County suburban regions helps to minimize municipal splits, one of the constitutional criteria the commission must consider, in addition to unifying a coherent COI that is already roughly the size of a house district.
4. District 8 (lime green, 4) should include **Madison Heights, Hazel Park, Center Line**, and most of the adjoining east-central part of **Warren**. While South Warren contains a black working-class community that should be united with Detroit, much of the remainder of Warren is a much better fit with Hazel Park and Madison Heights. Hazel Park and Madison Heights form a relatively young and working-class COI that is distinct from the rest of southeast Oakland and has much more in common with Warren and Centerline; both also include significant industrial areas not really present in other nearby suburbs such as Ferndale and Royal Oak (except just adjacent to the borders with Madison Heights and Hazel Park). This COI lies fully within struck districts and/or districts that will need to change due to their location, so no districts need to be changed unnecessarily to bring this COI together.
5. District 14 (magenta, 5) should unite **Highland Park**, the southern edge of **Warren**, the **North Campau** neighborhood, and the section of **Detroit's northern eastside** bounded by **I-95 and Gratiot north of McNichols**. This is a black working-class COI with ties across Warren from economic activity and population transfers over the last few decades. While Highland Park is geographically closer to the regions described above in the proposed District 7, it is culturally and socioeconomically much more similar to these working-class parts of Detroit's east side. North Campau (i.e. the area just north of Davison) is not really part of Banglatown, and broadly has more in common with both Highland Park and the areas north of McNichols (e.g. **Conant Gardens, Krainz Woods**.) By following major road boundaries like McNichols and Gratiot within Detroit where possible, these communities can be combined with places that make sense together like South Warren and Highland Park, rather than a bizarre vertical strip that throws Madison Heights, Highland Park, and Boston Edison all into the same seat.

