

***Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission  
January 11, 2024 Meeting Public Comment***

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**Date of Submission:** Wednesday, December 27, 2023 5:17 PM

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

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:**

Dear Ms. Benson,

I heard there is a suggestion to have a Special Master appointed to redistrict S.E. Michigan's voting districts. Please NO!

I spent months collecting signatures to take this process out of the hands of politicians and did not do so in order to have one, single person take charge of the process. Apparently, the existing, independent citizen redistricting commission got some bad legal advice about the Voting Rights Act, but now that that has been corrected, the commission needs to regroup and finish the job.

Please, let's stick to the legal process. It's the best we've got and we can make it work.

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**Date of Submission:** Thursday, January 4, 2024 4:07 PM

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

**Name:** Teresa dubose

**Subject:** Public Comment January 4, 2023

Please consider this my request for written public comment.

I am concerned with the lack of inclusion and diversity of the commission. The commission certainly doesn't reflect the diversity of the districts voters. Diversity and inclusion of the commission would certainly allow for us to have at least a voice on the commission. I would appreciate the Commissioners input.

Teresa Dubose  
Detroit

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**Date of Submission:** Thursday, January 4, 2024 3:49 PM

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

**Name:** Matt Grossman

**Subject:** Public Comment January 4, 2023

Dear Commissioners and Edward,

I wish you luck with the next stage of this important process. I wanted to forward several names for your consideration as submissions to the Court for potential special masters. I believe that these folks would help the Commission succeed. I will also be available during public comment today to address these suggestions.

Justin Levitt, Loyola

Moon Duchin, Tufts

Nate Persily, Stanford

Bernie Grofman, Irvine

Daryl DeFord, Washington State

IPPSR and MSU of course remain available to help the Commission as it moves forward, though not in this capacity.

Happy new year,

Matt

Matt Grossmann

Dr. Matt Grossmann

Director, Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR)

Professor of Political Science, Michigan State University

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**Date of Submission:** Sunday, January 7, 2024 9:50 AM

**Method of Submission:** Email To [Secretary@Michigan.gov](mailto:Secretary@Michigan.gov)

**Name:** Jack Bengtsson

**Subject:** Public Comment January 4, 2023

I realize this is a little late for the last meeting. But, I wanted to weigh in on the Detroit area lawsuit.

I find the lawsuit kind of puzzling on a couple levels.

While I understand the logic of the court to some extent, the bottom line is, redistricting really didn't change minority representation that much.

And, as I paid pretty close attention to the process and the final product, I never got the impression that commission was basing their redistricting decisions on race as much as they were basing them on political (partisan) equity. And the only way to achieve the latter was to dilute some areas with an extremely high concentration of Democratic voters. Granted, some of those areas also had a high concentration of Black voters, but I never sensed that your decisions were based on race.

That being said, I was quite pleased with the end product, although some parts of it might have benefited from some minor tweaks. But I understand you kind of ran out of time at the end. Nevertheless, the end product was equitable and fair.

The other thing is that, just because a given district has a majority, or plurality, Black VAP population doesn't guarantee that said minority will win that district. The opposite of that is also true in that a majority white district doesn't necessarily preclude minority representation. There are numerous examples of both.

The biggest is probably Detroit itself. Detroit has a white mayor in a city that is overwhelmingly Black. The same can be said for the two congressional districts that divide Detroit and surrounding areas. Neither Congressional district is represented by a black person despite the fact that the largest population group in both districts is, in fact, black. This type of example goes back even further to the 2010 redistricting cycle when the Republicans tried to gerrymander one of the Detroit Congressional Districts in an attempt to get rid of Gary Peters. Of course it failed in that Peters won the Democratic primary over an incumbent Black man in a majority black district. As far as examples of the opposite being true, I can only speak of my side of the state, that being Greater Grand Rapids. We have had more than one black representative in the legislature, elected in districts that were overwhelmingly white, and have one right now. And, I guess there is at least one on the other side of the state, as James represents Macomb County. So, from those points of view, the decision of the court baffles me. But the law is not my area of expertise, so I have no idea how my opinions on this matter play out in legal terms. In any case, that's my view on the matter.

I wish you all the best of luck while trying to decide where to go from here.

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**Date of Submission:** Thursday, January 4, 2024 4:56 PM

**Method of Submission:** Email To [Secretary@Michigan.gov](mailto:Secretary@Michigan.gov) (Contact MDOS – ICRC category)

**Name:** Harrison Shelby

**Subject:** Public Comment January 4, 2023

Thank you Sarah. Yes, I would like to provide written comment.

Hello, my name is Harrison Shelby, a concerned citizen of the City of Detroit. My questions for the commission are as follows

- 1) How much has the Commission spent to date defending its racially gerrymandered maps?
- 2) How much will an appeal cost?
- 3) Won't an appeal potentially delay justice to the Black voters in Detroit?
- 4) How can the Commission justify an appeal given the Court's comprehensive order?

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**Date of Submission:** Thursday, January 4, 2024 4:26 PM

**Method of Submission:** Email To [Secretary@Michigan.gov](mailto:Secretary@Michigan.gov) (Contact MDOS – ICRC category)

**Name:** Moon Duchin

**Subject:** Public Comment January 4, 2023

Dear MICRC,

I understand that you are about to convene a meeting to discuss, among other things, names of special master candidates for the remedial phase of litigation.

Special masters are often drawn from the ranks of academia, for good reason-- they tend to have well-established scholarly records that provide key credentials for courts. But I want to mention one non-academic name in case he is not already on your radar:

**Tony Fairfax** is a demographer and line-drawer based in Virginia. He has earned the trust of civil rights groups and has a strong reputation for being fair and having a broad skill set. He frequently works as an expert witness in redistricting cases.

Here is his consulting website: <https://censuschannel.com/about-us/>

I think Tony would be a strong choice to help advise the commission, while also being acceptable to plaintiffs.

All the best in the next stage of your important work!

Regards,

Moon

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**Date of Submission:** Thursday, January 4, 2024 4:52 PM

**Method of Submission:** Email To [Secretary@Michigan.gov](mailto:Secretary@Michigan.gov) (Contact MDOS – ICRC category)

**Name:** Tanesha Wilson

**Subject:** Public Comment January 4, 2023

Will an appeal potentially delay justice to the Black voters in Detroit?

*Warm regards,*

*Tanesha Wilson, MBA*

Administrative Supervisor

Team Wellness Center - Eastern Market



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24-Hour Crisis & Suicide Hotline [888.813.TEAM](tel:888.813.TEAM)