



REDISTRICTING 301

BACKGROUND

In 2018, Michigan voters passed Proposal 2, a ballot initiative, for voters and not legislators to take responsibility for mapping of election districts. The proposal created the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC). The MICRC is comprised of 13 randomly selected Michigan residents — four who affiliate with the Democrats, five who are unaffiliated with either the Democrats or Republicans, and four who affiliate with the Republicans. The MICRC is responsible for redrawing the U.S. Congressional, Michigan House, and Michigan Senate districts.

WHAT ARE THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES?

The MICRC mission is to lead Michigan’s redistricting process to assure Congressional, State Senate, and State House district boundaries are drawn fairly in a citizen-led, transparent process, meeting Constitutional mandates.

The MICRC vision is to chart a positive course for elections based on fair maps for Michigan today and for the future.

The MICRC core values are integrity, respect, transparency, and purposefulness.

WHO ARE THE COMMISSIONERS?

Elaine Andrade, Democrat; Donna Callaghan, Democrat; Juanita Curry, Democrat; Anthony Eid, unaffiliated; Brittni Kellom, Democrat; Rhonda Lange, Republican; Steven T. Lett, unaffiliated; Marcus Muldoon, Republican; Cynthia Orton, Republican; Rebecca Szetela, unaffiliated; Janice Vallette, unaffiliated; Erin Wagner, Republican; and Richard Weiss, unaffiliated are the 13 commissioners.

WHAT IS REDISTRICTING?

Every 10 years following the U.S. Census, district lines for U.S. Congressional, State House, and State Senate representation must be redrawn in states across the country to accurately reflect their population. The process of drawing district boundaries is known as “redistricting.”



In Michigan, there were 161 districts that needed to be redrawn for the 2022 election cycle.

For the first time in Michigan’s history, residents have an opportunity to provide input on drawing maps for Congressional, House and Senate districts.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Openness, transparency, and public engagement represent the principles of this new redistricting process. Now you have an opportunity to ensure your voice and your community’s voices are heard. Instead of politicians choosing their districts to represent their interests, Michigan residents can share their interests to assist in mapping their districts through the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

WHAT ARE THE SEVEN REDISTRICTING CRITERIA?

In ranked priority order, these are the redistricting criteria:

1. Equal population and Voting Rights Act.
2. Geographically contiguous.
3. Reflect state’s diversity and communities of interest.
4. No disproportionate advantage to any political party.
5. No favor or disfavor to an incumbent elected official or a candidate.
6. Reflect consideration of county, city, and township boundaries.
7. Reasonably compact.

As mandated by the U.S. Constitution, equal population refers to the amount of people per district. The Voting Rights Act refers to federal legislation that prohibits minority or minority language discrimination.

Examples of communities of interest include neighborhoods, people of Middle Eastern and North African descent or other ethnic or religious backgrounds, people with common historical interests, people with a shared culture, people with similar economic interests, agricultural areas, waterfront communities, etc.



WHAT IS THE TOTAL POPULATION IN MICHIGAN?

In 2020, the U.S. Census reported Michigan's population at 10,077,331 people.

WHAT IS THE BREAKDOWN OF THE 161 DISTRICTS IN MICHIGAN?

There are 13 Congressional districts that represent an average of 775,200 people per district. There are 38 State Senate districts that represent an average of 265,200 people. There are 110 State House districts that represent an average of 91,600 people each.

WHAT MAPS WERE APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE 2022 ELECTION?

The Commission approved the Hickory plan for the Michigan House, the Linden plan for the Michigan Senate, and the Chestnut plan for the U.S. House of Representatives.

WHY DID THE COMMISSION HAVE TO REDRAW MAPS FOR THE MICHIGAN HOUSE AND SENATE?

The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan found the Commission drew maps focused on race in violation of the 14th Amendment, the Equal Protection Clause, and disenfranchised Black voters. There was no finding regarding the Voting Rights Act. The court ordered the Commission to reconfigure State House Districts 1, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, and 14 and not focus on race. The court ordered the Commission to reconfigure State Senate Districts 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, and 11 and not focus on race.

WHAT DID THE COMMISSION DO TO REMEDY THE STATE HOUSE MAPS?

During Jan. 16 through Feb. 28, the Commission reconfigured the State House districts. They hosted two public hearings and a virtual meeting to hear directly from Michigan citizens regarding nine collaborative maps and one individual map as alternatives. The public provided overwhelming support for the Motown Sound map. Based on public feedback, the Commission voted to submit the Motown Sound FC E1 map to the court. The court approved this map for use in the 2024 election for the Michigan House of Representatives.



WHAT ABOUT THE MICHIGAN SENATE?

The Commission starts drawing maps to reconfigure State Senate Districts 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, and 11 for the Michigan Senate Tuesday, April 23.

- State Senate District 1 (Ecorse, Lincoln Park, Melvindale, River Rouge, Allen Park, Detroit, and Taylor)
- State Senate District 3 (Hamtramck, Hazel Park, Highland Park, Madison Heights, Clawson, Detroit, Royal Oak, Sterling Heights, and Warren)
- State Senate District 6 (Detroit, Farmington Hills, Livonia, Farmington, and Redford Township)
- State Senate District 8 (Clawson, Detroit, Royal Oak, Beverly Hills, Berkeley, Birmingham Ferndale, Huntington Woods, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, and Royal Oak Township)
- State Senate District 10 (Sterling Heights, Warren, Detroit, and Centerline)
- State Senate District 11 (Clinton Township, Detroit, Macomb Township, Eastpointe, Fraser, and Roseville)

Please note that [adjacent districts](#) will be impacted by this process.

The Commission will host three public hearings to solicit public comments on how to draw the maps at the following locations.

Tuesday, May 7

10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., lunch from 12:30-1:30 p.m.; 4:00-7:00 p.m.
Warren Community Center
5460 Arden Ave.
Warren, MI 48092

Wednesday, May 8

10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., lunch from 12:30-1:30 p.m.; 4:00-7:00 p.m.
Pearls Event Center
26100 Northwestern Hwy
Southfield, MI 48076



Thursday, May 9

10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., lunch from 12:30-1:30 p.m.; 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Wayne State University

Student Center

5221 Gullen Mall, Ste. 011

Detroit, MI 48202

On May 29 and June 6, the Commission will host a Virtual Public Hearing to review the maps submitted to the Court being considered by the Commission for adoption. This will take place between 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and 5:00-7:30 p.m. on each date. The public is encouraged to join and ask questions.

The Commission will also host three public hearings to be held June 11, 12, and 13 to solicit public comments on which State Senate map to submit to the court for approval. Please stay tuned for more information.

By July 26, the court plans to approve a map for use in the 2026 election for the Michigan Senate.

HOW DO I ENGAGE THE COMMISSION?

- Sign up for email alerts or text messages at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC.
- Mail public comments to MICRC at P.O. Box 30318, Lansing, MI 48909.
- [Sign-up](#) to provide virtual or in-person public comments at meetings or public hearings.
- Submit public or mapping comments at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC.
- Like and/or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, X formerly known as Twitter, or TikTok @RedistrictingMI.
- [Subscribe](#) to the MICRC YouTube Channel.
- Call 1-866-MAP-FAIR, that's 1-866-627-3247, for more information.