

***Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission
October 8, 2021 Meeting Public Comment***

Date of Submission: Friday, October 8, 2021 9:08 AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Brian Marl
Subject: Public Comment for 10/8 Commission meeting—

Dear Commission members:

As Mayor of the City of Saline, I know firsthand the communities of interest in my county and region. Saline is one of many small to mid-sized towns that dot the I-94 Corridor - sharing many similarities with Dexter, Chelsea, Manchester, and Grass Lake. We are a suburb of Ann Arbor, but in many distinct areas, our issues are nothing like those confronting our neighbor to the north. Issues ranging from broadband reliability, small business retention, mobility and connectivity, all separate Saline's needs from Ann Arbor's.

As the current draft map stands for the Michigan State Senate, Saline is currently in a true urban district - a district that packs Washtenaw County voters together. I urge you to unpack central Washtenaw and send Scio Township, Saline, and the more suburban western side of Ann Arbor west with the other small towns in Washtenaw County. Combining these areas with Jackson County would create a district that more truly respects the I-94 economic corridor. The two universities that anchor the central and eastern side of the County could then dominate in a more representative central-eastern Washtenaw State Senate District.

Finally, when looking at the small and more dense communities of interest at the State House level, I once again urge you to connect Saline with other smaller towns in Washtenaw County and surrounding areas - not the more heavily suburban areas to the east and north of Saline. This would allow for a representative to better represent Saline's interests, as well as those of Manchester, Tecumseh, Chelsea, Dexter, and Grass Lake. The small cities in this region are often overlooked, but we are an impressive group that deserve representation just as much as our larger neighbors to the north and east.

Should you have any questions or concerns pertaining to this correspondence, please do not hesitate to call or email my office.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

B

Brian D. Marl
Mayor
City of Saline
734-272-3654

Date of Submission: Friday, October 8, 2021 8:19 AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Radina, Travis
Subject: Written Testimony – Ann Arbor Elected Officials Letter

Chair Szetela and MIRC Commissioners,

Please find the attached written testimony, submitted on behalf of a majority of the Ann Arbor City Council and my colleagues representing Ann Arbor on the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners.

Thank you,

--

Travis Radina
Councilmember, Ward 3
(he|him|his)

City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
<https://www.a2gov.org/>

The land the City of Ann Arbor occupies is the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabeg – (including Odawa, Ojibwe and Boodewadomi) and Wyandot peoples. Our City stands, like almost all property in the United States, on lands obtained, generally in unconscionable ways, from indigenous peoples. The taking of this land was formalized by the Treaty of Detroit in 1807. Knowing where we live, work, study, and recreate does not change the past, but a thorough understanding of the ongoing consequences of this past can empower us in our work to create a future that supports human flourishing and justice for all individuals.

Date of Submission: Thursday, October 7, 2021 10:36 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Curtin Brookins
Subject: Opinion for choosing district map

I have an opinion about the final map that will be used to draw district lines. Michigan Democratic voters out voted Republicans. The district lines should represent that. There is no competition that rewards the person with less votes control or a win other than politics.

Date of Submission: Thursday, October 7, 2021 4:05 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Jacqueline Stewart
Subject: question about the metric for proportionality

Today Commissioner Orton questioned Commissioner Eid's interpretation of the Proportionality measure. On Eid's map, 52.3% of the Democratic votes cast resulted in 53.8% of the Congressional seats. That means the Dems had a bonus/advantage of 1.5% extra seats over what the vote % earned. Commissioner Orton was correct. This measure favors the Dems.
Jacqueline Stewart

Date of Submission: Thursday, October 7, 2021 12:58 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Quehl5
Subject: Concerns about many recent amaps that separate Midland from Midland County

TO: Redistricting Commissioners
FROM: Dennis Quehl


Midland MI 48642

RE: Recent Map submissions

I have many concerns that seem to be centered around the same two topics.
First there continues to be maps submitted that separate Midland from Midland County and/or sending Midland to Bay City, Saginaw, and Flint with which we have no shared community of interest.

Secondly a concern that you may not be seeing the public comments that state Midland should be separated from Midland County and sent to Bay City, Saginaw, and Flint for what they are. Many of the comments that want this state that their decision to support this move is the community of interest we share because they either:

- Live in the metro areas but work in Midland
- Come to visit Midland frequently
- We all have some large companies such as Nexteer, GM, Dow, and others

None of these comments pass the true smell test, but actually show the motivation that they want the votes and fair representation of Midland to be diluted by adding us to these large metro populations. If they truly wanted the community of interest that is in Midland they would live here. Just because you visit Midland frequently they have chosen to live in their different community of interest in the larger metro areas because it "fits" their beliefs and interests better.

There is nothing wrong with that and I do not mean to be disrespectful, but we each chose to live where it fits our community of interest. Anyone who has truly done a deep dive into what "makes" each of these communities who they are and their beliefs and the population knows that they are totally different.

I really have grave concerns about the statehouse maps 208, 209, and 210. The same is true regarding the recent congressional maps 200, 201, 202, and 203. They all appear to go against everything that was promised to us back in 2018. The promise was that the maps would:

- Be representative of the communities of interest
- Not rip communities apart thus separate voters and representation
- no odd shaped maps that would represent political interests by diluting communities of interest by cutting them up and adding them to other areas with dissimilar interests to get to the vote tallies that are desired by these political interests.

Please be willing to do an audit which looks into who has submitted these types of maps and I believe that it will be made clear that they are not following the guidelines as given by the state constitution. As well I believe that it is common sense in our situation that the city of Midland and Midland County definitely do not have any true community of interest similarities that unite us as an extended community. At this point the motivation needs to be examined and then as a result some type of new guideline and/or corrective action/steps taken to avoid these in the future. In a large group of people there are always different opinions, but when coming together they should be able to truly see what is in the best interest for representation for us as well as other parts of the state. You also may have to do some investigation on any partisanship that may be existing on some of the commissioners and make some hard decisions as a result. If this is the case they were not honest from the outset which reveals their true motivation.

May you have the courage that it takes to go through this process and make the hard decisions that you will have to make. This is unfortunately the world that we live in today, but the truth and honesty must prevail, especially when it comes to the rights of citizens to have appropriate representation. This does not mean figuring out how you can split, divide up cities and communities to come up with a magic number. It is about representation not equity if the overwhelming majority votes a certain way. For example, if Michigan was 90% one party, redistricting should not be about where you can put certain districts together to make it a 50/50 split. To an extent this is what the maps that have done to Midland by separating us from Midland County and throwing us in a totally different mix in Flint, Saginaw, and Bay City.

Thanks for your efforts in this endeavor. May you have the courage to make tough common sense decisions.

Dennis Quehl

Date of Submission: Thursday, October 7, 2021 10:50 AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Quehl5
Subject: New statehouse maps 208 through 212

TO: Redistricting Commissioners
FROM: Mary Quehl
[REDACTED] Midland MI 48642

Please see my comments below regarding the new maps on your site. I really have grave concerns about the statehouse maps 208, 209, and 210. The same is true regarding the recent congressional maps 200,

201, 202, and 203. They all appear to go against everything that was promised to us back in 2018. The promise was that the maps would:

- Be representative of the communities of interest
- Not rip communities apart thus separate voters and representation
- no odd shaped maps that would represent political interests by diluting communities of interest by cutting them up and adding them to other areas with dissimilar interests to get to the vote tallies that are desired by these political interests.

When looking at the comments made on many maps, the statehouse maps as well as the congressional maps that are from people outside the city of Midland and/or Midland County they are all politically biased and based on common sense and community of interest. Comments such as:

- I live in Bay City, Saginaw, and/or Flint but work in Midland, so therefore these cities all have the same community of interest.
- I live in one of the above metro cities and visit Midland frequently, therefore we share the same community of interest.
- Midland has Dow and we have Nexteer, GM, or another larger company so therefore we share the same community of interest even more than the city of Midland has with Midland County.

These comments go on and on but have the same theme. They are driven by people that want to dilute the community of interest and votes of both Midland and Midland County by separating us and adding us to larger metro cities.

These comments all are absolutely ridiculous and I am hoping that you can see right through all of these. If these people really wanted the community of interest of Midland they would live in Midland and not in these other metro cities and so they would not have to travel. The truth is they prefer the cities they live in because of the different community of interest their city has in comparison to ours. I had many staff at the medical center in Midland that chose to drive up to 1 1/2 hours because they wanted to work here. However they chose to live in cities such as north of Detroit, Essexville, Flushing, and north of Lansing because they preferred those areas to live in because it best met their preferred community of interest. Also if they truly had an understanding of the strong connection of the city of Midland and Midland County, they would not want us split up. I mean no disrespect for these larger metro cities but Midland is not similar in any community of interest with them. THIS IS A GREAT TELL AND EXPOSES THE TRUE NATURE BEHIND THEIR COMMENTS AND BRINGS IT INTO LIGHT.

Please make the commitment to be non partisan and make decisions based on community of interest versus any political pressure that you may be facing. I also strongly urge you to look at who on your commission is submitting maps that clearly are tearing up areas like the city of Midland and Midland County as I believe it clearly reveals a political motivation and must be called out and exposed for what it is and dealt with. This commission needs to police themselves!

Statehouse map 208, 209, and 210

It is hard for me to believe that this map could even be allowed to be on this portal. There is NO WAY that this map fits the rules set out in the constitution. This appears to be someone's attempt to meet an equal number of voters on each side which is not what redistricting is about. If this were true and 90% of an area/community of interest of the state was one party, would you then split this community apart and link it with another area not even in close proximity to try to make it 50/50?? This is exactly what you have done in this map. The commission is recently in maps taken apart cities and counties for what appears to be political purposes. The commission needs to remember that they are supposed to be

nonpartisan! It appears that partisanship is driving this process, and that they are being inappropriately influenced by others away from their duties on hand. This new map looks like what the mandate in 2018 said it was not going to do. You have made a sideways weird shaped ?shoulder and arm.
Please represent us based on community of interest and be strong and DO NOT be influenced by others, even on the commission, that appear to have ulterior motives.

Respectively submitted,
Mary Quehl

Date of Submission: Thursday, October 7, 2021 10:15 AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Brenda
Subject: Redistricting

I implore you to keep Midland County and Midland part of rural map and keep it the same as it was. There are people that were affected by the flooding and are working together to get assistance still in October of 2021! Do not change our community!

Sincerely,
Brenda Cesaretti
Sent from my iPhone

Date of Submission: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 11:07 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Nancy Wang
Subject: Maps that comply with all of the constitutional mandates including COIs and Partisan Fairness

Dear Commissioners,

We have watched with much appreciation the MICRC's attempts to draw Congressional, state House, and state Senate maps that both reflect Michigan's diverse communities of interest and achieve partisan fairness.

I wanted to draw your attention to two discussions VNP hosted with national redistricting expert Ruth Greenwood, formerly of the Campaign Legal Center and now at the Harvard Law School, where she states with assurance that:

There are millions of plans for Michigan that simultaneously comply with the VRA, respect COIs, and achieve partisan fairness;

Experts like Prof. Duchin can help produce them;

Geography does not prevent you from drawing maps that meet criteria # 1 through 4;

We know this for a fact because maps you have easy access to -- they are in the MICRC portal -- demonstrate that criteria # 1 through 4 can simultaneously be met.

One example is the Congressional plan developed by Commissioner Eid himself.

Another example is the Promote the Vote plan, which was developed with extensive COI input.

These examples show that the MICRC's drafts can do much better. For the public's sake, I hope that means you will strive to achieve the levels they show you can meet, rather than settle for something that may or may not be legally defensible.

I respectfully request, before you go much further, to please watch Ms. Greenwood's presentations at the links below. What she says is in perfect agreement with what your counsel and experts have advised, and she drills down on specific points. If you have any lingering questions or doubts, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or Ms. Greenwood at rgreenwood@law.harvard.edu. We would happily discuss the matter in a public forum with you, at any time.

First presentation (9/16/21): <https://youtu.be/OUXhYNoYP7E>

Second discussion, where Ms. Greenwood references specific maps that have been submitted to the MICRC portal (10/5/21): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OvDCu3VRI2c>. Slides courtesy of Bob Chunn / NextVote

Respectfully,
Nancy Wang

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Nancy M. Wang
Executive Director Voters Not Politicians

m: [REDACTED]
w: www.votersnotpoliticians.com

Date of Submission: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 9:18 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Quehl5
Subject: Comments and concerns with newer maps

TO: Redistricting Commissioners
FROM: Dennis Quehl
[REDACTED] Midland, MI 48642

Regarding Maps #200, 201, and now 202

WOW. I would think the commissioners would be questioning this NEW map s 200, 201 , and 202, and also who exactly came up with it. Honestly this map looks like someone's attempt to appease the concern from Midland in the separation of the city of Midland and Midland County.... BUT A CLOSER LOOK,... REVEALS they have tried to attempt to dilute Midland by adding us with Saginaw and Flint. NOT GOOD. We have no shared community of interest at all with them, and I do not believe that anyone has commented that they believe we do that actually makes sense.

When looking at the "like" comments on maps 200. 201, and 202 there seems to be a similarity of comments that make no sense. Comments that state they live in Bay City, Saginaw, and Flint but drive to Midland for work somehow makes us the same community of interest with them. Working in a city does not make you similar when you live in a different city. At the medical center in Midland I had staff that chose to drive up to 1 ½ hours to Midland because they liked working here. HOWEVER, they did not move to Midland because they liked the community they lived in. They lived in the city that had they

community of interest that they preferred. Similarly people stated that they visited Midland frequently so as a result Midland should be linked with Saginaw and Flint and separated from Midland County where we definitely have a community of interest in healthcare, sports, schools in many cases, and other community interests we have in common.

It seems to be clear to me that at a late hour someone is sending a bunch of maps to this site to dilute Midland and Midland County own community of interest. Please look into this.

This map appears to be ignoring the constitution which requires that communities of interest should be similar to draw fair maps. We have nothing in common regarding community of interest with Saginaw and Flint.

Article IV § 6

The commission shall abide by the following criteria in proposing and adopting each plan, in order of priority:

- (a) Districts shall be of equal population as mandated by the United States constitution, and shall comply with the voting rights act and other federal laws.
- (b) Districts shall be geographically contiguous. Island areas are considered to be contiguous by land to the county of which they are a part.
- (c) Districts shall reflect the state's diverse population and communities of interest. Communities of interest may include, but shall not be limited to, populations that share cultural or historical characteristics or economic interests. Communities of interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.
- (d) Districts shall not provide a disproportionate advantage to any political party. A disproportionate advantage to a political party shall be determined using accepted measures of partisan fairness.
- (e) Districts shall not favor or disfavor an incumbent elected official or a candidate.
- (f) Districts shall reflect consideration of county, city, and township boundaries.
- (g) Districts shall be reasonably compact.

For example, I worked in healthcare for over 40 years. MidMichigan Health has its flagship hospital in Midland, and other hospitals in our system are in Clare, Gladwin, Alma, and a few other areas. They are not connected in any way to the hospitals in Saginaw or Flint. We do not even refer patients to them. We refer patients to the U of M, which by the way reached out to us as their first choice for other systems to become affiliated with. The reasoning was that we shared a community of interest in caring for both Midland and all the other rural communities around us as previously mentioned. We are also a strong agricultural community as compared to none or little in Saginaw and Flint. I respectfully oppose this map. Please see this map for what interests it serves whoever submitted it.

Flint and Saginaw are definitely larger metro areas with little to no agriculture; we on the other hand have almost 100,000 acres of farmland. My cousins only 5 miles down the same road that goes into Midland County have over 1000 acres themselves.

Also neither Saginaw nor Flint have a huge ongoing flood recovery in process which we have and this will be ongoing for most likely 5 years or more to come.

You seemed to be getting the map correctly when map 187 came up, but not there seems to be a concerted effort to slip these maps in place. Please do not let this happen. Fulfill your role and delete the maps such as 191, 200, 201, and 202.

Thank you for your time and efforts, and please investigate whomever came up with these maps as it is clearly very conspicuous in its attempt to go against the constitutional directions of community of interest.

Respectively submitted,

Dennis Quehl

Date of Submission: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 9:03 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Quehl5
Subject: Maps 200,201, 202

To: COMmissioners
From:
Mary Quehl
[REDACTED]
Midland, MI 48642

Map 200, 201, 202

This is the worst representation of a map for the city of Midland. We would be separated from Midland County, then put in with metropolitan areas such as Bay City, Saginaw and Flint. This is in direct conflict with our community of interest. My husband's cousins own over 1000 acres of land less than 5 miles north of me on the same road that I get on to to leave my neighborhood. We are a rural community and should not be separated from Midland County north of us as well as Isabella and Gratiot counties. We share nothing in common with Saginaw and Flint,, nor do they share anything in common with us. When I look at comments about people living in the larger surrounding metro cities like Bay City, Saginaw, and Flint but driving to Midland to work here, thus this makes us similar in community of interest, this is absolutely ridiculous. When I worked as a respiratory therapist for some of my career I did work in Bay City and Saginaw. However, I did not choose to live there because the larger metro cities did not fit my lifestyle and belief structures. That is why I drove there and did not live there. I mean no disrespect but in these regards, which is a part of community of interest, we have nothing in common with those metro cities. We have more in common with Midland County and the surrounding rural communities.

I have stated previously that I know people that have suffered significant or total home loss and/or loss of their waterfront property due to the flood of 2020 that live in the city of Midland, Sanford, and Beaverton. This map will most likely prevent everyone from receiving the assistance to get things back by separating the representation.

This map seems to be clearly in conflict with the guidelines set in place by the constitution in Michigan which the commissioners are supposed to go by. It clearly states that the commission shall abide by the following criteria in proposing and adopting each plan, in order of priority:

- (a) Districts shall be of equal population as mandated by the United States constitution, and shall comply with the voting rights act and other federal laws.
- (b) Districts shall be geographically contiguous. Island areas are considered to be contiguous by land to the county of which they are a part.
- (c) Districts shall reflect the state's diverse population and communities of interest. Communities of interest may include, but shall not be limited to, populations that share cultural or historical characteristics or economic interests. Communities of interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.
- (d) Districts shall not provide a disproportionate advantage to any political party. A disproportionate advantage to a political party shall be determined using accepted measures of partisan fairness.
- (e) Districts shall not favor or disfavor an incumbent elected official or a candidate.

(f) Districts shall reflect consideration of county, city, and township boundaries.

(g) Districts shall be reasonably compact.

Please follow these guidelines and as a result this map should be eliminated and put us back to a map similar to seen in map #187 where the commissioners seemed to understand and put the map where it should be. Not sure what happened, but there seems to be a significant shift in the number of maps that put Midland back with Bay City, Saginaw, and Flint. This is very disconcerting and also questionable to me. I believe that the commissioners should look into both who is putting these maps in at this late hour, as well as what the motivation may be. Please do not use this map.

Date of Submission: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 10:18 PM

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

Name: Lynn Sauve

Subject: Midland Redistricting

Please understand how important it is to keep Midland County whole and aligned with other rural counties such as Gladwin.

Where is Map# 146?

Thank you,
Lynn Sauve
Life long Midland Resident

Date of Submission: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 2:09 PM

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

Name: Laura Norcutt

Subject: Map 179 comments

Map 179

The previous map with my comments seems to be gone. I like this Map because it does not split Midland County which allows the county governing body to better serve the community. It also keeps Midland with the smaller towns that are similar like Mt. Pleasant, Clare, Gladwin and Alma. These same towns are also in the Chippewa and Tittabawasee watersheds dealing with regular flooding events where we need to work together.

Midland does not share the more urban interests of Saginaw and Flint, and even Bay City.

Thanks for considering these points.

Laura Norcutt
Sanford, MI

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The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. (John 10:10)

Date of Submission: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 8:53 AM

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

Name: David Kepler

Subject: Map 146 and Map 179

It appears the Congressional Map #146 has been re-numbered to Map #179 – However, all the Likes and Comments are gone. The other maps appear not to have changes.

Are the comments lost? Its already unclear on how this exercise on posting on maps is going to be used. But what ever the reason the maps changes should be explained, this is not creating trust on a fair outcome.

I live in Edenville Township, in Midland County.

Best Regards

Dave Kepler

Date of Submission: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 7:44 AM

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

Name: Matt J Smitm=h

Subject: map change?my input again

i liked 146 which is now gone..why? lots of posirve comments and now missing?
with this change now i see that you took that away i like
#179

keep Midland together and with local communities.

emailing you so my map and preferences are not lost as as first comments were.

Matt Smith

[REDACTED]

Midland Michigan 48642

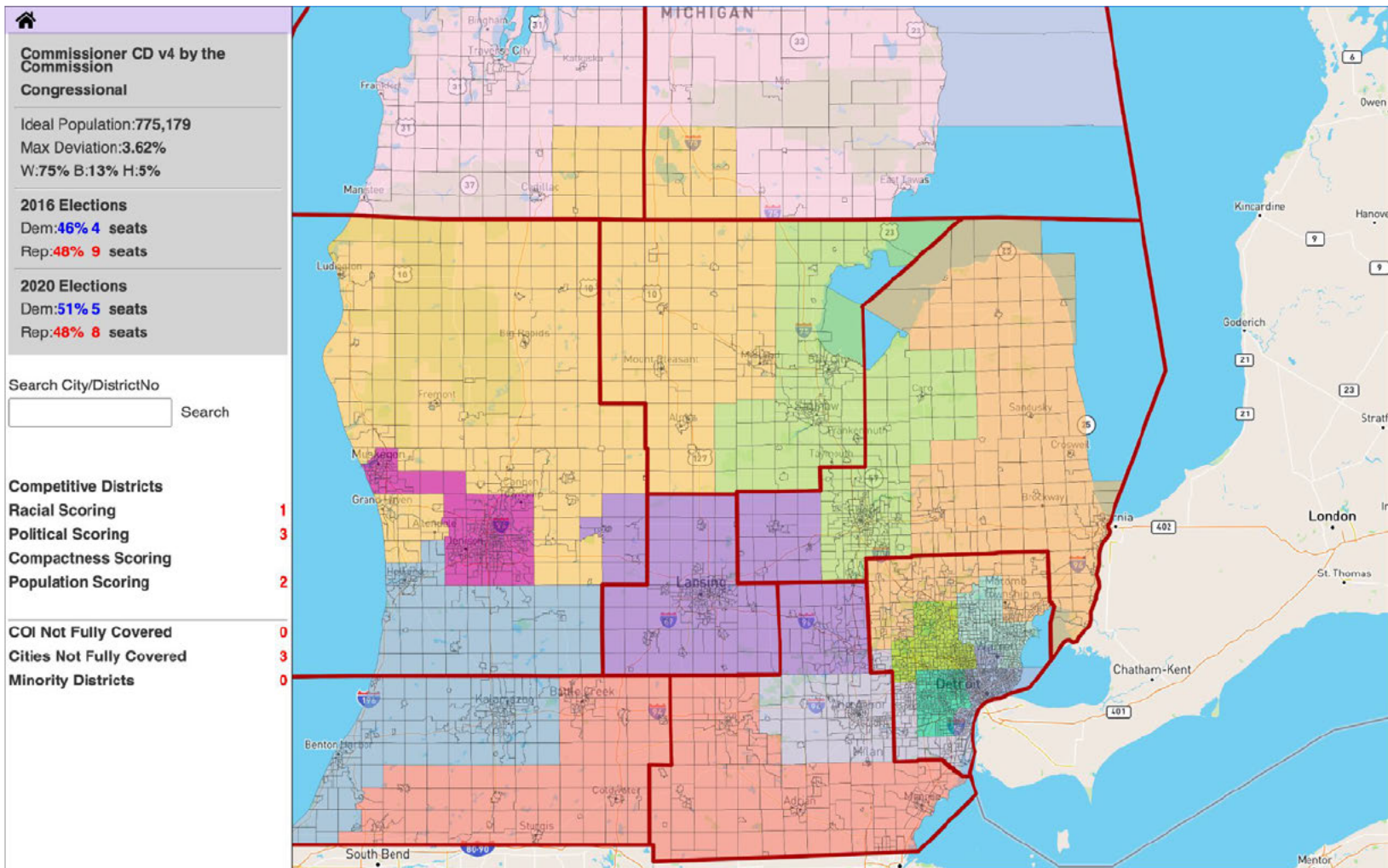
[REDACTED]

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

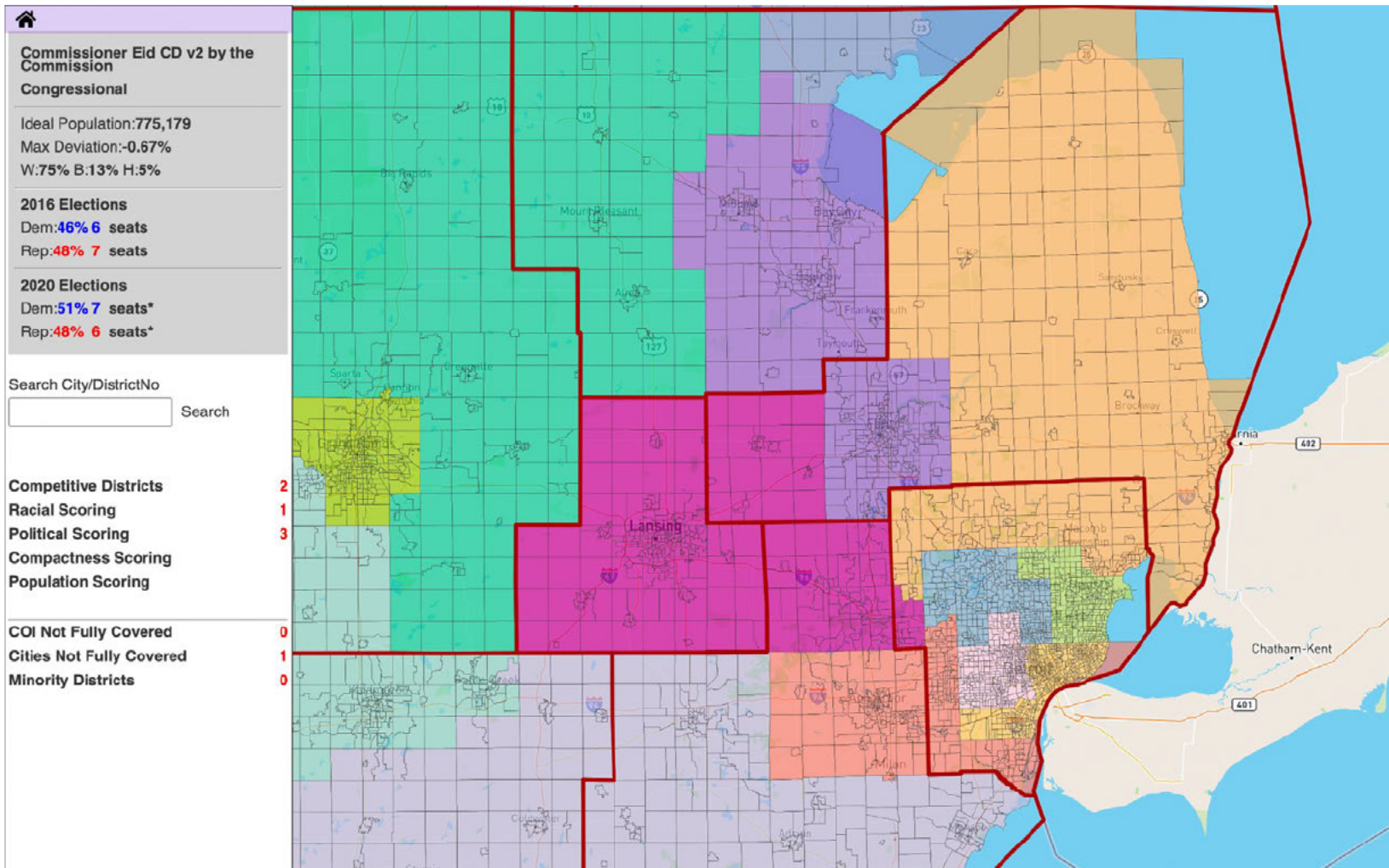
Comparing MICRC Drafts with Portal Maps

Congressional

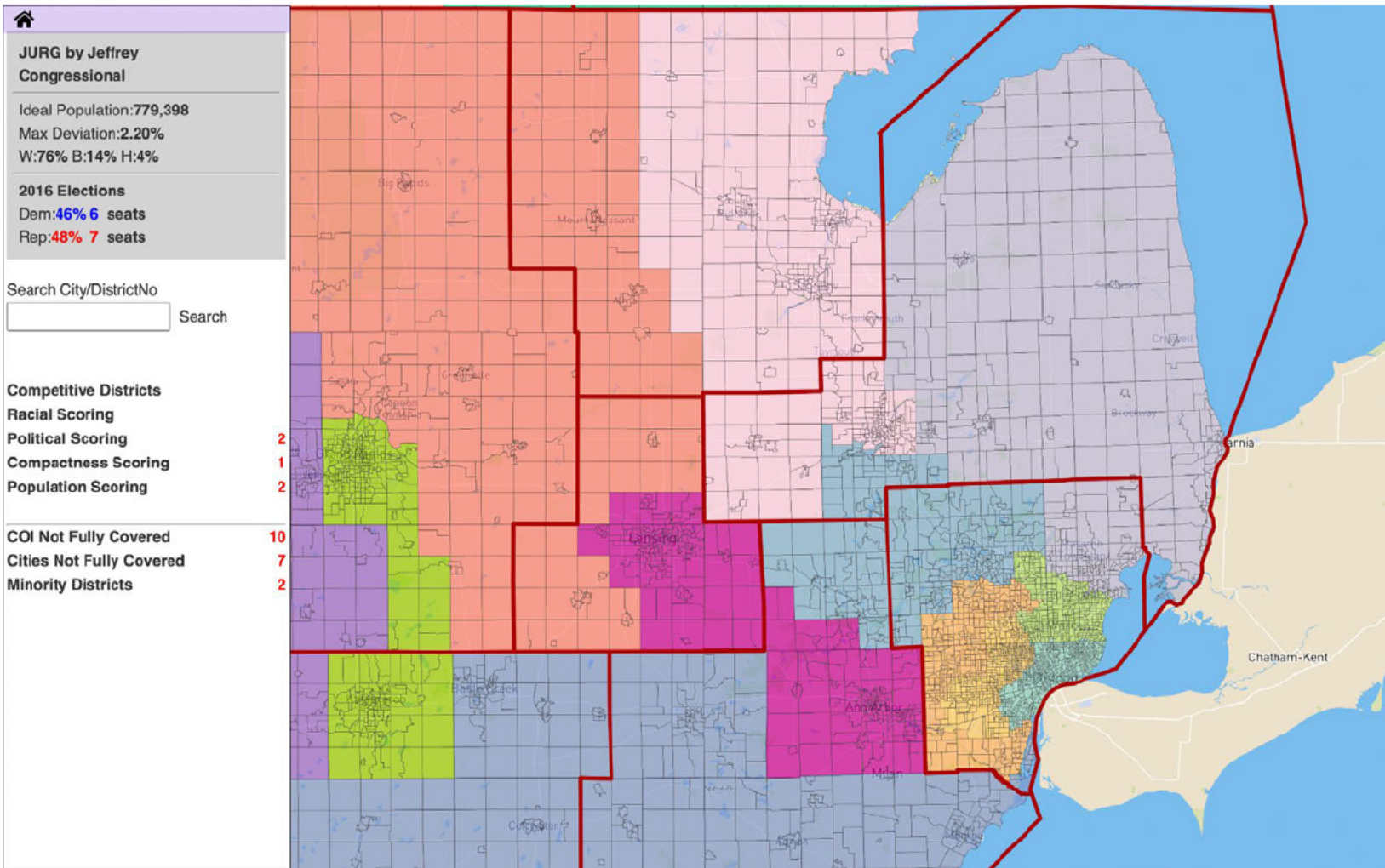
MICRC CD V4- most current



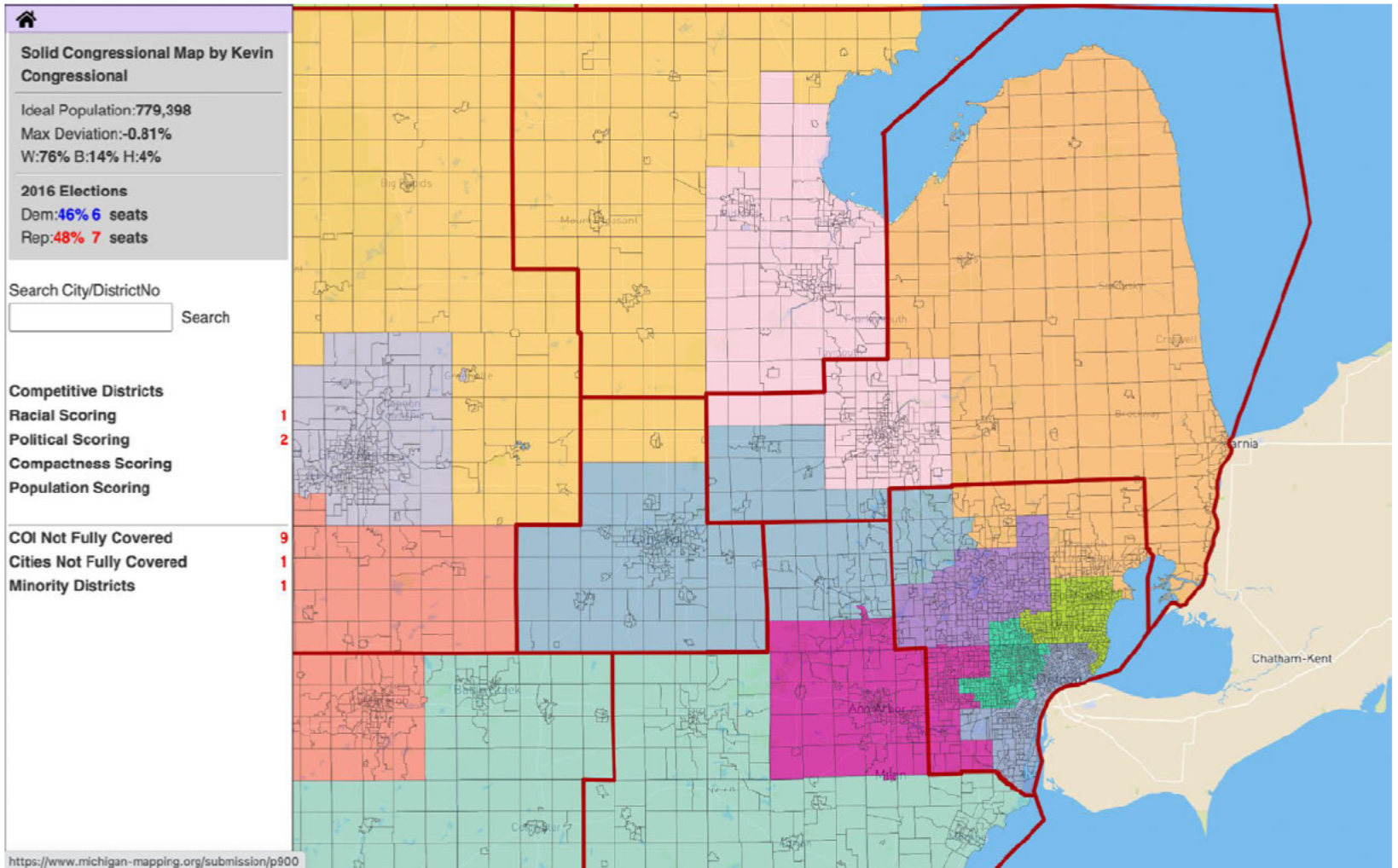
MICRC CD Eid V2



Jurg by Jeffrey

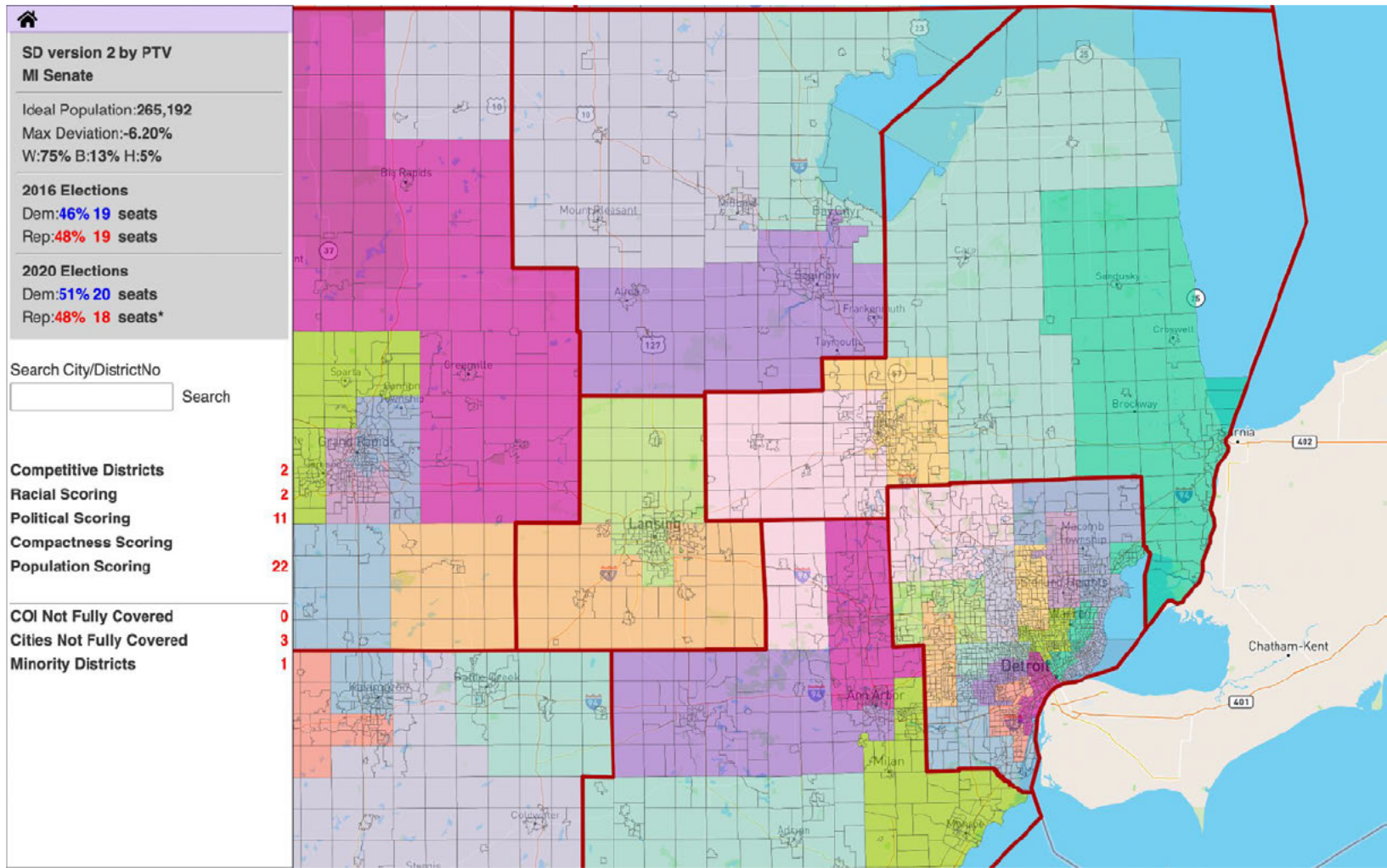


Solid Congressional Map by Kevin

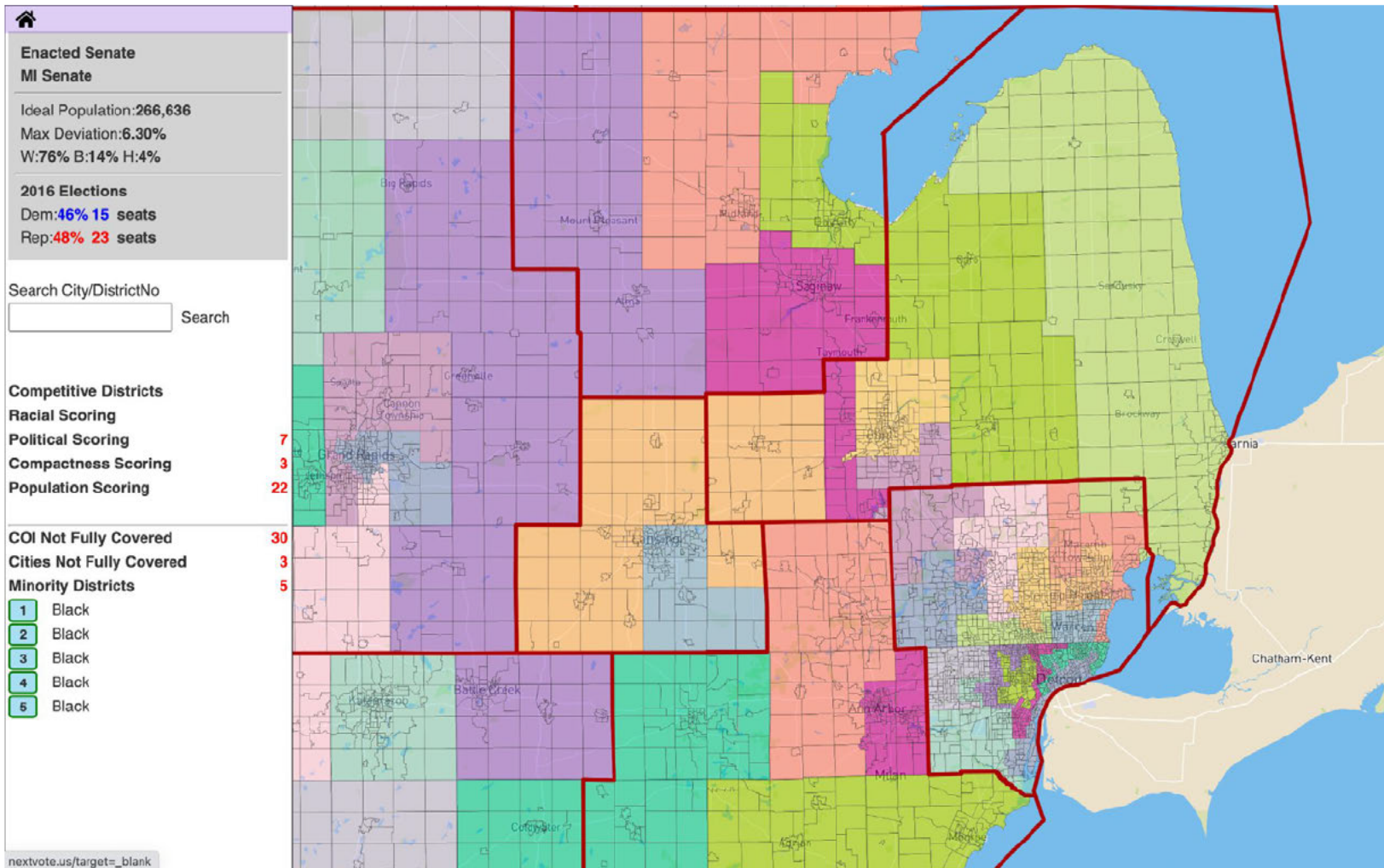


State Senate

PTV Senate Map V2



Enacted Senate Map



AFL Senate Map



Untitled by Anonymous
MI Senate

Ideal Population:266,636
Max Deviation:8.43%
W:76% B:14% H:4%

2016 Elections

Dem:46% 18 seats

Rep:48% 20 seats

Search City/DistrictNo

Search

Competitive Districts

Racial Scoring

4

Political Scoring

7

Compactness Scoring

21

Population Scoring

COI Not Fully Covered

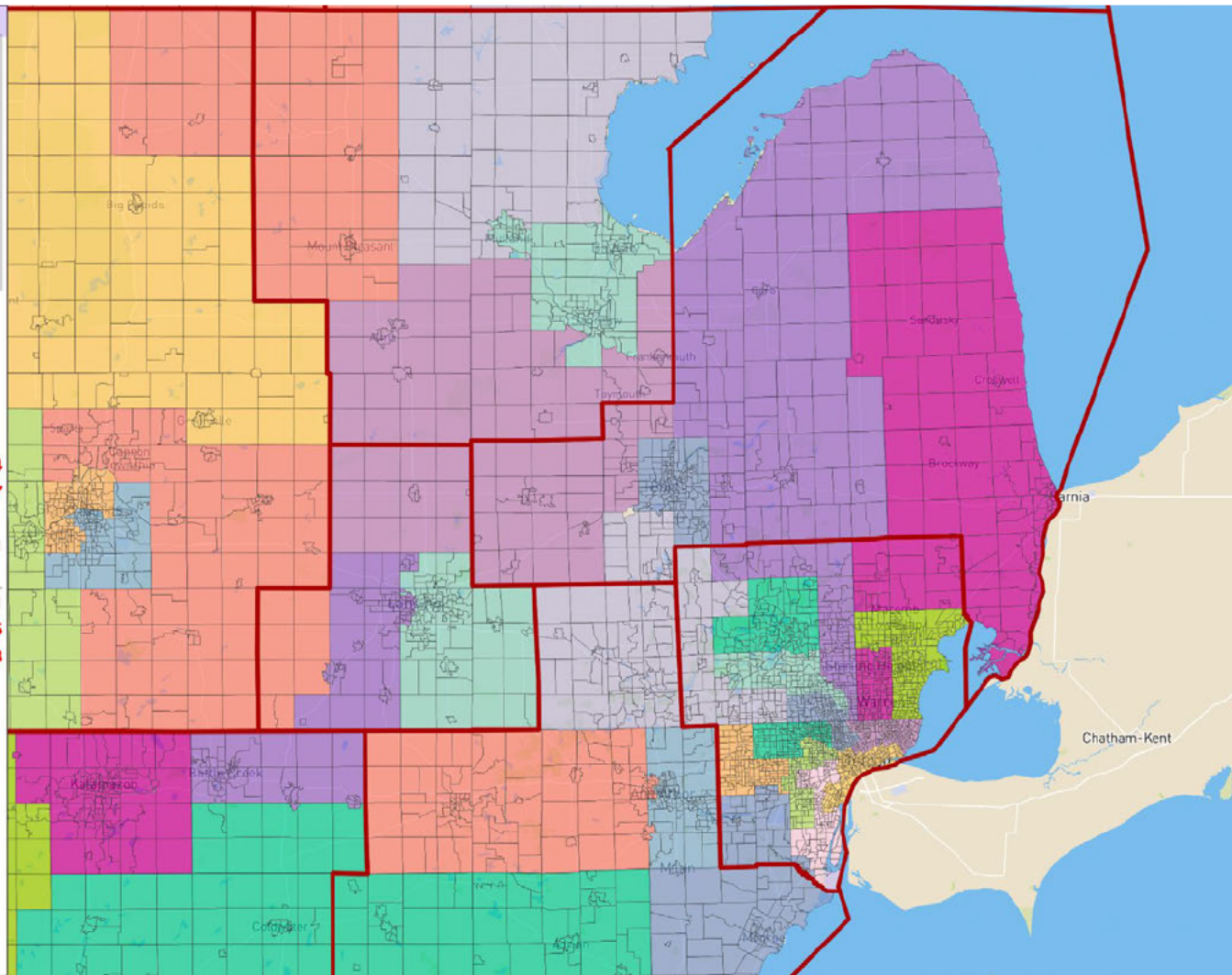
21

Cities Not Fully Covered

5

Minority Districts

3



State Senate by Jay Hoekstra



State Senate Alternative #1 by Jay Hoekstra

MI Senate

Ideal Population:266,636

Max Deviation:-1.85%

W:76% B:14% H:4%

2016 Elections

Dem: **46% 18** seats

Rep: **48%** **20** seats

Search City/DistrictNo

Search

Competitive Districts

Racial Scoring

Political Scoring

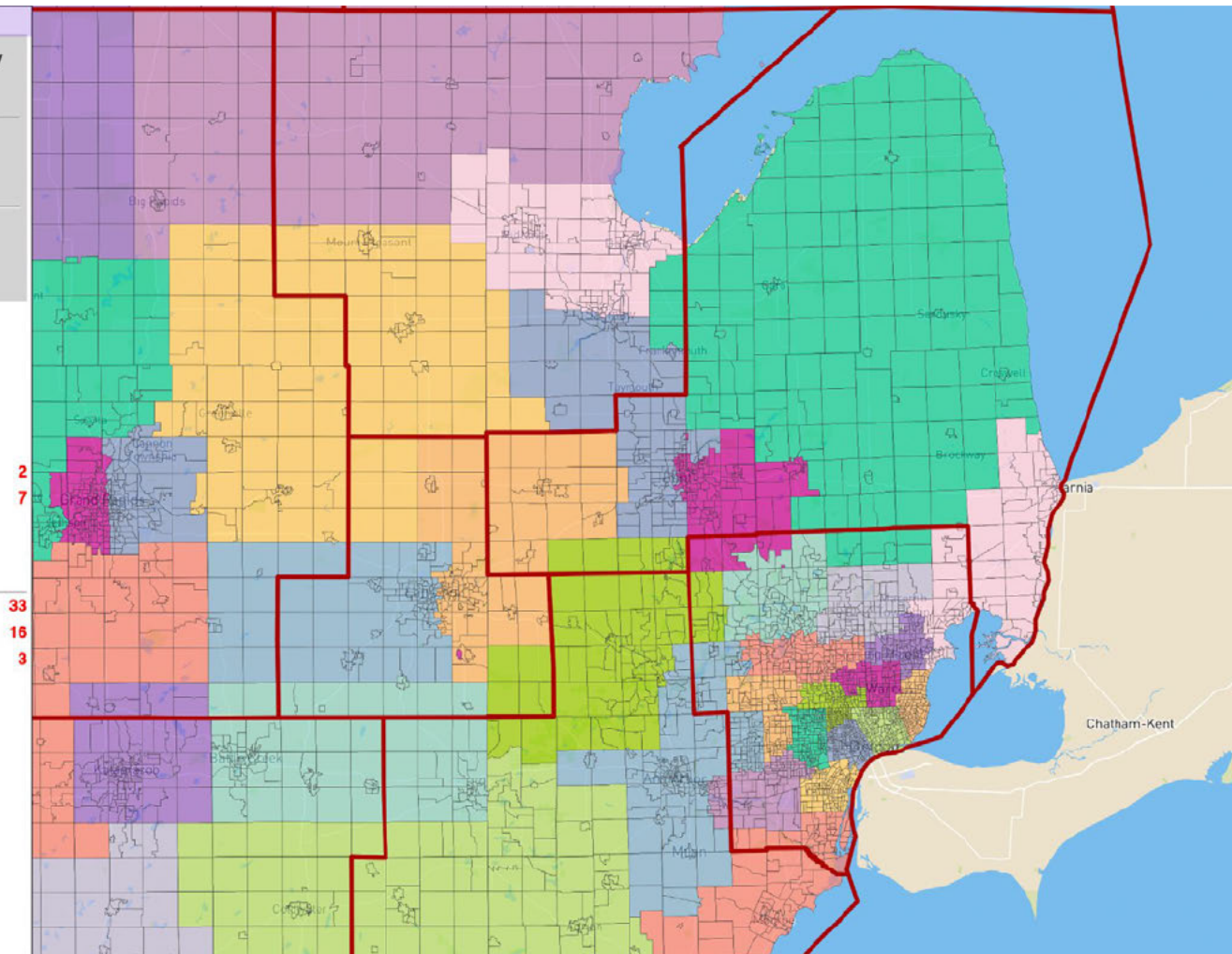
Compactness Scoring

Population Scoring

COI Not Fully Covered

Cities Not Fully Covered

Minority Districts



October 8, 2021

The Honorable Rebecca Szetela
Members of the Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission
P.O. Box 30318
Lansing MI 48909

Dear Chair Szetela and MIRC Commissioners,

As members of the Ann Arbor City Council and the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, we have a duty to represent our constituents to the best of our ability and to promote the interests of our City and County. Providing basic services, such as maintaining a reliable water supply, ensuring safe transit systems, and encouraging investment in our City and County are core responsibilities for us. However, several of these objectives have been impaired over the last decade because of the packed nature of our legislative districts and the effect it has to diminish our representation in Lansing.

Proposed State Senate Districts

In the two State Senate elections that occurred under the current maps, the election results in District 18 – the district representing Ann Arbor and surrounding communities – yielded outcomes where the winning candidate won by an average margin of nearly 50%.

The current iterations of the district representing Ann Arbor that the Commission has drawn continues this trend – packing Ann Arbor voters and depriving Ann Arbor of proper representation. The “Z” shaped State Senate district is particularly egregious – winning candidates in 2018 received nearly 80% of the vote in this proposed district. Additionally, districts in Washtenaw County are not covered by the Voting Rights Act, therefore packing Ann Arbor voters together is a partisan gerrymander. Given the language in the Michigan Constitution – “districts shall not provide a disproportionate advantage to any political party” – we urge you to unpack our City.

As a possible dividing line, we encourage you to explore separating Ann Arbor along Main Street – east and west. The western section of our City could be grouped with Western Washtenaw County and the eastern section with surrounding suburban communities. This proposed unpacking concept would respect local communities of interest, as the broader Ann Arbor metropolitan area stretches across Washtenaw County to include southern Livingston County, Jackson County, and parts of Monroe and Lenawee counties.

We, the undersigned, feel as this is a reasonable request, as you have unpacked similar cities to Ann Arbor, such as Grand Rapids, Warren, and Lansing. We request that you do the same in Ann Arbor.

Proposed State House Districts

The proposed State House districts that comprise parts of the City show an even greater imbalance – of the ten elections that occurred between the two districts since the current legislative maps were enacted demonstrates that the winning candidate won by an average margin of nearly 54%. Further, **we do not feel that the draft state house maps for Washtenaw County properly reflect our communities of interest.**

Under the draft maps, the city of Ann Arbor is split in two nearly equal parts, with southern Ann Arbor

being included with Pittsfield Township and Saline. This does not make sense for several reasons. Many residents of Pittsfield Charter Township and Saline attend a different school district than Ann Arbor residents. Additionally, the U-M campus, near campus neighborhoods to the south, and our downtown are split in the proposed map, dividing our urban core into two districts, weakening the impact of student voters in our elections, and minimizing the voice of near campus residents in the district which comprises most of the University.

For these reasons, while we value our neighbors to the south, we believe Pittsfield Township and Saline should be included with other townships south of Ann Arbor, but not with the city itself.

We propose that the House maps be drawn in a manner similar to our proposal outlined above for the Senate maps: the eastern 2/3 of Ann Arbor should be one district, keeping the U-M Campus, our urban core, and near campus neighborhoods together in one district, and the western 1/3 of Ann Arbor should be a separate district that includes townships to the north and/or west where the majority of residents are part of the Ann Arbor Public Schools.

Thank you for seeking to provide independent, fair and representative legislative districts. This task is certainly not easy, and we appreciate your work on behalf of the residents of Michigan. We hope that you will take our concerns into consideration and make modifications to ensure that Ann Arbor residents are properly represented in Lansing.

Sincerely,

Christopher Taylor
Mayor, City of Ann Arbor

Lisa Disch
Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 1

Linh Song
Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 2

Kathy Griswold
Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 2

Travis Radina
Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 3

Julie Grand
Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 3

Jen Eyer
Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 4

Erica Briggs
Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 5

Andy LaBarre
County Commissioner, District 7

Katie Scott
County Commissioner, District 9