

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission
November 8, 2021 Meeting Public Comment

Date of Submission: Friday, November 5, 2021 9:54 PM

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

Name: Quehl5

Subject: Dennis Quehl testimony at Lansing Nov 4

My name is Dennis Quehl, and I live in the city of Midland. Thank you for the opportunity to present. Over half of OUR community voices have been completely dismissed. Please give the City of Midland a congressional district that puts Midland County back together and in a separate district than Flint. You have provided alternative maps in areas where you have received multiple competing comments. You have not done this for Midland. This commission has shown partisan bias by putting forth maps that local Democrats have asked for. Midland and Flint are vastly different communities. Midland's population is 40,000, Flint's is nearly 100,000. Midland is focused on dam repair and flood damage repair to homes, businesses, and infrastructure, Flint is on its water crisis. We have competing airports, MBS vs. Flint Bishop. We have different health care delivery systems, MidMichigan vs Hurley Medical, and/or McLaren Health.

- MidMichigan Health was the FIRST healthcare system approached by the prestigious University of Michigan to be affiliated with. I worked there for over 43 years.

A large reason was that we have multiple hospitals in Clare, Gladwin, Alma -Gratiot County, which have worked together serving patients for decades. They saw the large area we serve with commonality of practice. As healthcare is one of the top concerns of people in all the states, this is a huge community of interest. We don't refer and/or send patients to the Flint hospitals. There are statements out there that state that our hospitals are something we have in common. We do have hospitals, but the communities they serve are totally different and we do not "work together" in any collaboratively effort that links us together as a community of interest.

Different Industry - Chemical vs Auto and you talk about highway corridors, Midland is on US10 and Flint is part of the I75 corridor. The City of Midland should not be in a district with Flint. I ask you to not split up cities/counties and to provide a tweak to one of your 3 Congressional maps to keep the City of Midland and Midland County in a separate district from Flint.

Date of Submission: Friday, November 5, 2021 7:04 PM

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

Name: Miles, Gary

Subject: Closed meetings of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

Dear Commissioner Szeleta,

Please see the attached letter regarding The Detroit News' grave concerns over the MICRC doing business in closed meetings in contravention of the Michigan Constitution.

Regards,

Gary Miles

Editor and Publisher

Date of Submission: Friday, November 5, 2021 4:25 PM

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

Name: Richard Williamson

Subject: Meeting Minutes Question

I was reviewing the meeting minutes. Why do they not accurately reflect the list of public commenters? There are individuals who made public comment but they are not listed in the minutes. My name, for instance, is not listed in October 22 or October 26, both of which hearings I made public comment.

Date of Submission: Friday, November 5, 2021 12:31 PM

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

Name: Wanda Brieger

Subject: Senate-State-districts

Dear Honorable Commissioners:

I am a resident of Jackson County, Summit Township. I am writing today to request that you rethink the way you have split Jackson County and put less than half of our county in with Washtenaw County. This is Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti..

I visit Ann Arbor often. My brother lives there. He has parties and his friends do not think the same as we from Jackson think about many subjects that have come up. I think we have more in common with Hillsdale, Lenawee, Battle Creek, I do not understand what you think is our common communities of interest. They are liberal and urban. We are agriculture, manufacturing blue collar. They have a large college we have small colleges.

They are a magnet of restaurants and entertainment. We do not have that here in Jackson. The people we attract to each area is very different.

Many of the doctors in Jackson live in Ann Arbor. That is because we are two very different communities. They don't want to live in our community because they belong to the Washtenaw community.

PLEASE DON'T PUT US TOGETHER. How can we elect a person that would be of one mind with us? On both sides of the issue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Wanda Brieger

Jackson, MI. 49203

Date of Submission: Friday, November 5, 2021 11:41 AM

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

Name: Mary Jo DuRivage

Subject: Where are the most current maps for people to look at?

Thank you.

I did not notice the button "Proposed Maps".

When does the 45 day comment period actually begin? Will we hear on Monday?

Date of Submission: Friday, November 5, 2021 10:33 AM

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

Name: Melissa Kempf

Subject: Redistricting concerns

To whom it may concern,

I'm deeply concerned about the news I heard today. The Republican Party (to be honest any party for that matter) should not have any part in helping coerce constituents to sway this mapping in their direction. This is absolutely gross and negligent. The mapping should be done in a manner that gives bi-partisan capability. If we can not do this in that fashion then these decisions should not be left to a public group!

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.nbcnews.com/news/amp/ncna1283296>

Thank you for your time.

All the best,
Melissa

Date of Submission: Friday, November 5, 2021 10:28 AM

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

Name: Psalm91warrior

Subject: Redistricting Jackson County

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

I am a resident of Jackson County. I am writing to you today to oppose part of Jackson County being redistricted into Washtenaw County. I do not want these two counties put into one Senate district and I do not want Jackson County divided. I live near Washtenaw county and frequent both counties often. I believe there is nothing good to come out of dividing up the counties; it will only cause more division among the people and we do not need that. If it is not broken why fix it? There are many more pressing matters that need to be addressed besides redistricting counties that will profit politicians and not the people.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Emily Mathews

Sent with ProtonMail Secure Email.

Date of Submission: Friday, November 5, 2021 9:22 AM

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

Name: Don and Mary Sprague

Subject: Redistricting map impact involving Midland city

Commissioners,

We are residents of Midland city. We ask that you do not place Midland and Flint together in the same congressional district. This makes no sense whatsoever.

We lived through the floods of 2020 here in Midland. We helped our community thru our church reach out to many families that were in dire need. Our local & state reps showed up and knew the needs of this community.

We ask that you leave Midland city and townships in the current congressional district. Midland has serious issues to face regarding the floods that we will have to deal with in the near future and beyond that involve other communities in our current congressional district, with congressional representatives who are familiar with these issues!

Please keep us moving in unity with our partners to the north!

By changing our congressional map you are doing the same thing that the ballot initiative was suppose to stop. Gerrymandering, therefore we have no representation!

Don & Mary Sprague

Sent from my iPad

Date of Submission: Thursday, November 4, 2021 7:54 PM

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

Name: Bob Snyder

Subject: Gerrymandering

I was born and raised in Midland. This community and county have survived several floods and disasters. Gladwin and Midland Counties need to be represented by the same persons in Lansing and in the U.S. House to maximize the coordination of our continuous problems with our Dams and lakes and rivers. We have nothing in common with Bay City and Saginaw. The city of Midland is the county seat. It makes no sense to separate the city from the county.

Be real and honest!

Robert Snyder DO

Date of Submission: Thursday, November 4, 2021 7:48 PM

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

Name: Mary reif

Subject: Please read 11/5!

To whomever will read this:

I am strongly opposed to redistricting Midland County.

Flint and Midland clearly have different needs. It would be a mistake to combine them.

Mary Reif

Sent from my iPhone

Date of Submission: Thursday, November 4, 2021 7:14 PM

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

Name: Anthony

Subject: Commissioners: public comments

Dear MICRC Commissioners,

It's pretty interesting when one hears a certain commissioner vocalize a philosophy of representation that places COIs above partisan fairness in the state Senate maps, but then asserts they (COIs) don't really matter in Congressional maps because it's all about the benjamins, "at that level."

It's even more interesting when the Commissioner who holds that political philosophy drafts your Congressional district . . . I can clearly see the logical outcomes of those ideas embodied by your Detroit Congressional districts. Do you?

It would also be interesting to get in-touch with some commissioners in 10 years' time in order to assess together the consequences . . good or ill . . . of the representation you'll be leaving us with, born out of these philosophical prejudices. I think I have an idea about where that assessment could land..

Of course we see this process differently because we're not from the same areas. We probably have different perspectives & we will not all be equally affected by the results of your collective choices.

While I think some work created by the commission is "Ok," I think the balance of what you've done is harmful enough; but what you've failed to do is even more alarming. There's no rug big enough to sweep-under the areas which you've evaded & relegated in your 'One-&-done' Congressional drafts. I assume commissioners thought this particular map-type would be easier than the others because it's only 13 districts. Requests for "wholesale change" that were promised to be answered at an October 18th press conference soon turned into a "stalling" tactic employed by many commissioners, with excuses of "complexity" given for failing to change lines in our locality.

It was not easy witnessing this group misalign our communities, falsely claim a sense of familiarity with them, impose their archaic political philosophies upon & display such regular contempt for the public and their (highly solicited) input. The best to be said about the process that unfolded is that it was "interesting"... I fear that its consequences, however, will not be.

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Anthony Scannell
wayne county, mi

Date of Submission: Thursday, November 4, 2021 7:11 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Matthew Bright
Subject: Proposed changes affecting Midland County

Dear Commission,

I need to briefly express that I strongly DO NOT support the potential redistricting moves which would divide up Midland County. Midland County should be left intact. There is no good reason for slicing it up. Many community programs run county-wide and could be negatively impacted by the division of representation.

The separation of Midland County from Gladwin County is also a concern. Both of these counties share similar interests related to the restoration and maintenance of the dam/lake system of the Tittabawassee River watershed. Breaking this long-standing connection also has a strongly heightened potential for conflict and an overall negative impact resulting from split representation.

The needs of a city the size of Midland are very different that the needs of a city the size of Flint. I believe that lumping the two together would not be wise. Being a resident of Midland County, this especially concerns me, as the needs of Flint would be a major distraction away from the needs of Midland. Flint has a very different industry base and socioeconomic climate than does Midland. Neither is better or worse than the other - just different. Because of their differences, they need separate representation. The two have been independent for many years. Let's leave it that way.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns.

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Matthew Bright

November 5, 2021

Commissioner Rebecca Szetela, Chair
Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission
P.O. Box 30318
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Commissioner Szetela:

I write on behalf of *The Detroit News* regarding the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission's decision to hold a closed-door session to discuss voting rights issues with legal counsel during the Commission's meeting on October 27, 2021. It has been brought to my attention that the Commission intends to again meet behind closed doors, perhaps as soon as Monday, November 8, 2021. I write to ask that the Commission reconsider this decision and conduct all of its meetings in open session, as required by the Constitution and by general principles of fairness and transparency. I also request that the Commission release any documents discussed and minutes taken during the closed session on October 27, 2021.

The Commission's decision to act in secrecy is deeply concerning. As an initial matter, the Commission's actions appear to be unconstitutional. The Michigan Constitution provides that "[t]he commission shall conduct *all of its business* at open meetings." Art IV § 6(10) (emphasis added). This language is unconditional: it does not permit the Commission to meet for any reason in closed session. More fundamentally, the Commission's actions contradict its own public commitments to conduct a transparent process. To meet in secret to discuss issues of such vital importance—including historic discrimination in voting in Michigan and compliance with the Voting Rights Act—threatens to erode public confidence in the Commission's crucial assignment.

The Commission's efforts are of grave importance to the citizens of this State, and they should be undertaken in public and under the observation of Michigan's press and other concerned observers. I have reached out to additional media entities and other organizations who share *The News's* concerns to discuss potential avenues to challenge the Commission's actions, and I intend to continue these efforts. *The News* hopes that the Commission will conduct all further business in open meetings, as the Constitution requires. If it does not, *The News* will consider all appropriate legal options to ensure transparency.

Sincerely,



Gary Miles
Editor and Publisher

cc: *(via e-mail)*
Suann Hammersmith, MICRC Executive Director
Edward Woods III, MICRC Communications and Outreach Director
Dana Nessel, Attorney General
Sen. Jeff Irwin
Sen. Ed McBroom
Kevin Hardy
J. Michael Huget, Esq.
Andrew M. Pauwels, Esq.