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## MICRC

09/30/21 5:00 pm Meeting

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>> CHAIR SZETELA: As Chair of the Commission, we will bring the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 5:00 p.m.

This Zoom webinar is being live streamed on YouTube at the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission on the YouTube channel.

For anyone in the public watching who would prefer to watch via a different platform than they are currently using, please visit our social media at Redistricting MI to find the link for viewing on YouTube.

Our live stream today includes closed captioning. Closed captioning, ASL interpretation, and Spanish and Arabic and Bengali translation services will be provided for effective participation in this meeting. Please E-mail us at [Redistricting@Michigan.Gov](mailto:Redistricting@Michigan.Gov) for additional viewing options or details on accessing language translation services for this meeting.

People with disabilities or needing other specific accommodations should also contact Redistricting at [Michigan.gov](http://Michigan.gov).

This meeting is also being recorded and will be available at [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC) for viewing at a later date and this meeting also is being transcribed and those closed captioned transcriptions will be made available and posted on [Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://Michigan.gov/MICRC) along with the written public comment submissions.

There is also a public comment portal that may be accessed by visiting [Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://Michigan.gov/MICRC), this portal can be utilized to post maps and comments which can be viewed by both the Commission and the public.

Members of the media who may have questions before, during or after the meeting should direct those questions to Edward Woods III, our Communications and Outreach Director for the Commission at [WoodsE3@Michigan.gov](mailto:WoodsE3@Michigan.gov) or 517-331-6309.

For the purposes of the public watching and for the public record I will now turn to the Department of State staff to take note of the Commissioners present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Good Evening, Commissioners.

Please say present when I call your name. If you are attending the meeting remotely, please disclose you are present and you are attending remotely.

I will call on Commissioners in alphabetical order starting with Doug Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Attending from Detroit Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

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>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.

Brittini Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Present; Attending remotely from Detroit, Michigan.

Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Present from Reed City, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

<< CHAIR SZETELA: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Present; attending remotely from Charlotte, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: All Commissioners are present.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Point of personal privilege.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Certainly Mr. Lett.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: As you are aware we made several changes in our upcoming schedule, one of which is going to change the public hearings schedule. Edward Woods, III has had an opportunity to review that and I would ask that if he could give us an update on that schedule at this time, please.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Director Woods?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Sure, for the purpose of the public let me go ahead and remote in so everybody can see my screen if that is okay.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Certainly.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you.

Recording in progress.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you for your patience.

I had an opportunity and I want to make sure I'm getting everything correct because your staff has been working quickly to get this.

Okay, hold on just a quick second.

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All right, the Commission at the end of its meeting I just want to share with what I have and provide background the Commission seeks to draw fair maps with citizen input in compliance with the 7 ranked criteria.

Knowing that quality super seeds preference the MICRC resolved to engage the public during the second round of public hearing remains undeterred.

MICRC director of Outreach Director to bring back a recommendation to the Commission for the five public hearing locations.

And consultation with MICRC and MDOS staff here are the recommendations.

Host of public hearings at the following location TBD to be determined and Detroit and look at August 26 and Flint is TBD but looking at the 20th and in Gaylord it says dates they had two dates available but they just called and they only have one date available. Which is the 25th.

Grand Rapids and Lansing are the existing dates that we have on the calendar that would coincide with the timeframe approved by the Commission of October 18th, to the 26th.

So we do not have dates yet for Detroit or Flint.

But for Gaylord they do have the 25th available.

For Grand Rapids they have the 18th available.

And for Lansing we have the 21st available.

One of the things that we do have and that we would strongly encourage and push is remote participation by following our remote process as offered through the...our meeting notification where people can call for phone calls to make comments to the Commission as well as going through Zoom.

I did have a chance to get an opinion from our General Counsel with regards to simulcasts and I would like to turn it over to her to share that opinion.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA:

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Who were you turning it over to General Counsel, please.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you so much Madam Chair I received a query about a half hour ago about this idea, so I thought it was coming back tomorrow.

So, no, the public hearings must be noticed and held conducted per the normal course of the Commission's operations.

And I do not recommend using any alternative methods for the -- they are not required or necessary.

The MICRC already provides sufficient opportunities to provide remote participation and public testimony already exists through live testimony through remote testimony through the public comment portal.

So hosting or partnering with organizations goes outside of the nonpartisan charge and the MICRC particularly if this is being associated with our official MICRC meetings.

This could well let me not read that part, so my recommendation is that the five public hearing locations throughout the state be selected by the MICRC and those hearings be noticed and held as the MICRC has consistently done in the past.

Would be my advice to the Commission.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you General Counsel.

Mr. Woods I will turn it back to you.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: [ Off mic ]

I just heard back from Flint and so Flint has the 26th available.

So let me just update the slide.

So that everybody can see what we're talking about in real time.

Hold on.

All right so working through texting is possible but Flint says they do have the 26th available.

Gaylord is only available on the 25th within the prescribed timeframe.

And we already have Grand Rapids and Lansing reserved for the 18th and the 21st.

So we would be looking to go to Detroit on either the 19th or 20th based on what's available.

And the reason why we wanted to present just so we are on the same Page is so that we are on the current news cycle so that the information is reported.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Mr. Woods any questions or comments?

Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I have a motion we approve these locations and have Edward give Edward the flexibility to change the dates depending on availability of the facilities.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Second.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Motion made by Commissioner Clark and seconded by Commissioner Lett to approve the locations of the five public hearings that are currently displayed on the screen Detroit, Flint Gaylord Grand Rapids and Lansing with the dates to have flexibility as required by Mr. Woods.

Is there an any debate or discussion on the motion?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: The clarification if the Commission is adopting the dates that Mr. Woods was able to confirm, and then the Detroit date it's my understanding that the Detroit date would be the one that would need to be adopted. I've got a computer.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: I'm sorry I can't see you.

19th or 20th would be the only days that would suffice.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Perfect.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: So I just need the flexibility to go between those two dates.

And if there is a preference by the Commission, please instruct me to let me know.

But I just don't know what is going to be available at the TCF center.

Just for the purposes of publish in Detroit we are TCF at Flint we are Dort center and Gaylord tree top Resorts, Grand Rapids we are at the Amway Plaza hotel in ambassador board room and in Lansing we are at the Lansing center.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right, any debate or discussion? I can't see anybody who is online other than Commissioner Curry so if you are online and have a debate or discussion on the motion please verbally indicate.

All right. Hearing none let's go ahead Commissioner Eid I'm sorry I almost forgot about you.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I'm just wondering what everything thinks about Lansing because we are in Lansing for our weekly meetings quite a bit. So do we think do we want to include Lansing in these five public hearings or would we rather have a different place around our state?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Any thoughts, comments, questions?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I guess I'm just thinking about the ability for our director to actually do this and I'm just thinking like I know it's short term and I know we have to turn this around relatively quickly.

I do appreciate your concern Commissioner Eid and it makes a lot of sense.

And I guess I would just I really offer it back to Director Woods.

Is it even an option? Do we have that flexibility?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS:

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Mr. Woods?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you Commissioner Eid and Commissioner Rothorn through the Chair, the basis and identifying the sites was looking at regions, not necessarily considering where we meet.

And so what is feasible in terms of getting the population centers to these meetings. So that is the purpose of it.

Granite yes, we do meet in Lansing and yes, we do meet in Detroit, but that was not the purpose of it.

It was looking at the regions that we have and what would make the best, the most sense with the four sites that are no longer being that are being recommended.

So just so you will know it was not looking at where we meet every week.

But what does it make sense for Michigan residents in terms of coming and participating.

So I hope that helps because Lansing if we look at it, we are now in Detroit is number one media market, Flint is I don't know if it's third or fourth because it's Lansing would be the third or fourth.

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Second obviously is Grand Rapids.

And then the lesser media market is Gaylord which is Northern Michigan so we actually covered each media market that's really based within the state.

Obviously, we have Indiana and Ohio for those border Michigan territories.

But we now have all five media markets covered with this plan.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.

Any additional questions? All right if not let's go ahead and vote all in favor we have a motion on the floor to adopt these dates for public hearings.

With the caveat that I'm sorry, adopt these locations for five public hearings with the caveat that Edward will have flexibility around the Detroit meeting as to what actual date that will occur on.

We have a motion by Commissioner Clark seconded by Commissioner Lett.

All in favor of the motion please raise your hand and say aye.

All opposed please raise your hand and say nay.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Nay.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So by a vote of 12-1 the ayes prevail and the motion is adopted. Thank you very much Director Woods.

All right continuing with our meeting as a reminder to the public watching, you can view the agenda at Michigan.gov/MICRC. I would now entertain a motion to approve the meeting agenda.

So moved. Motion made by Commissioner Witjes. Seconded by Commissioner Lett. Is there any discussion or debate on the motion? Seeing none we will now vote all in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

All opposed please raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes prevail and the motion is adopted.

Without objection we will now begin the public comment pertaining to agenda topics portion of our meeting. Hearing no objection, we will now proceed with the public comment pertaining to agenda topics.

Individuals who have signed up and indicated that they would like to provide in person public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so.

Please step to the nearest microphone when I call your number. You will have two minutes to address the Commission. Please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer.

First in line to provide public comment is number one and you are now invited to address the Commission.

>> Number one I'd like to address the communities of interest.

I've been to other and I watched online and it seems to me that most people want to keep their village, their City, their Township, their County as whole as they can.

And from what I see of the maps you're starting out with that seems to be the last thing that's on your mind.



I would encourage number one I understand we have to follow Federal requirements first.

I would encourage you to just take and have an AI program, draw the maps, and then tweak it as you want to after that.

I mean, just move a little bit here, move a little bit there.

Because from what I can see, you're going from a republican gerrymander to a democrat gerrymander.

And that's not the voice of this people.

That's more or less what our Secretary of State has in mind.

Again, the communities of interest from what I see is Village's, cities, Townships, Counties.

If you can follow that, make that your primary instead of maybe a secondary, I think that is the will of the people.

I will let it go at that.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Number two.

I didn't give you my name Jonathan and I live in Warren I'm sorry Waterford, Michigan.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Mr. Lapaski.

Yes, go ahead.

>> Good evening, Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission and all who are in attendance my name is JJ I'm a union member out of UAW local 228 at the Ford axle plant and also a political science mayor here at Oakland University.

I come before you to urge the Commission to redraw lines that facilitate and should translate into politics, we are not seen in Michigan for quite some time.

We need winners determined by the new ideas and policies they have and how much work they put into public service rather than simply depending on their party affiliation and whether or not their District also leans heavily for or against those leanings.

As such fairness needs to be the top of everybody's mine on this Commission a priority.

We cannot draw lines first and find if they are fair later approach and the leans need to be drawn with true and deliberate intent to change the elections that makes every candidate to earn the people they want to represent.

It will result in more competitive elections and result in a higher standard for all political candidates to have to meet in order to win.

The only way to create this atmosphere of fair and competitive elections is for the Commission proactively make sure we are creating districts that do not favor one party or the other either way and to double check that and to triple check that otherwise the voters not politicians drive the people of Michigan have their voice heard when voting in favor of the ballot initiative a few years ago and time and money and resources on forum to administrator the change will have been for nothing.

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Getting rid of two opportunities in Metro Detroit for public comment from areas that are densely populated Warren and Livonia when that region makes up 50% of the state give or take might be slightly suppressing the citizens of Michigan given their input on this. Do what is necessary and do what is right and thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Number three.

>> Hello, can you hear me my name is Connie and this is my husband John and thank you for giving us the opportunity to speak to you today.

We've been residents of Rochester for approximately 16 years.

We love the community and that's what I'm here to talk about is specifically Rochester, Rochester Hills which I think makeup the criteria for a community of interest.

We have the same school District.

The same library.

The same downtown.

The same senior citizens center.

The same trails the same municipal park.

You don't even know when you are going from one town to the other.

So all people who live in Rochester and Rochester Hills have a common interest in exactly the same things.

And it makes absolutely no sense to carve out part of Rochester Hills as it is right now or to break up the two cities.

So I just want to ask you to not break them up and thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Number four.

>> Hello, my name is Anita and I'm a retired IT project manager and I have lived in Rochester Hills for over 40 years.

And my first concern is similar to the one you just heard is that Rochester and Rochester Hills are currently not in the same District.

Most of us do regard it as one community.

And those folks listed a whole bunch of things that we share as part of that community.

We just have separate Governments.

Now, Rochester itself is almost surrounded by Rochester Hills.

So what you said it does not make sense to carve out a piece in the middle and put it in a different District.

It just doesn't make sense.

And both parties are represented -- for the District.

And I understand there could and should be more seats for Oakland County than the drafts show.

Southeast Michigan is more densely populated than other parts of the state which I'm sure you understand and you are aware of this.



People are represented in our legislatures, not geography.

My second concern is about partisan fairness.

As was discussed before too.

We need you to reconsider the maps that are currently drawn to ensure that this principle is applied.

I understand that the current drafts are pretty much all leaning towards one party.

And that's the republicans.

This is contrary to the criteria established for the Commission and cannot stand.

Those elected from such districts whether they are one party or the other dominant will not feel as compelled to take into consideration conflicting sets of opinions and to be willing to compromise on legislation.

And that's what we have going on now.

Now, this is a major reason why many of us voted for the proposition, so we are asking you to please work harder on this point. Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Number five.

>> Hi, can you hear me all right? Is this good? Hey, everyone, my name is Max and live in Wayne County and thank you to the Commission I know this task is complicated and difficult and thank you for your time and dedication on it.

I was here this afternoon and compelled to respond to something.

The Commission was told they cannot use partisan data while making the maps.

But I just want to say that is nowhere in our state Constitution.

That prohibits saying that you cannot use partisan data while making your maps.

I do understand there are some partisan fairness measures such as the efficiency gap that you need a full complete statewide map of districts to use.

But let's not kid ourselves.

The current draft maps as they stand are heavily favored towards one party over the other and tomorrow's analysis is going to show that.

So the question I have for the Commission is: How are we supposed to un-gerrymander the current draft maps if we are not able to use partisan data while you are actually making the maps themselves? I know there was a lot of fun metaphors earlier this afternoon I want to try one for myself.

This is like saying that the Constitution is requiring you to bake a cake and yet you are also being told the Constitution prohibits you from measuring ingredients or taste testing the batter that you simply are supposed to put it in the oven and hope it turns out great.

Which it begs the question then what? Like what are you supposed to do for the next cake do you want to guess and check and do trial and error? To me it sound like a waste of cake baking and map drawing time.

Just like everyone else I want a delicious slice of fair constitutional cake.

I think it's something that we all want hair but I just want to know, you know, that if you're not using partisan data while you're actually checking your maps you are just hoping to get lucky.

I how open I'm the one misunderstanding something here and also hope you all can solve the state Constitution and see there is nothing prohibiting you from using partisan data as you make your maps thank you all very much and good luck.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing this, Commission.

Number six.

>> Good afternoon I hope you can hear me.

Thank you for the opportunity as well.

My name is Evelyn from Oxford Michigan and a precinct delegate and I'm here to encourage the Commission to place Oxford's precincts three and five in District 47 with the rest of Oxford and Addison because they, we share one single school District. And that unifies us whether we are republicans, democrats or independents and we all like cake as well.

We are hoping that you do this as another example, not just that we share the same schools, Oxford and Addison and precincts three and five, I do teach at a local church.

And we have students from all of those Oxford precincts including three and five.

And in regard to our schools, even our sports teams are unified.

Including three and five.

And that makes us whole.

We know the people who compete with each other, against each other and it's a unifying thing.

Not only that, our local Governments work closely together, so in Oxford village, Oxford Township including Addison we all work together.

And it's another unifying part.

So I just wanted to express that this is the will of our entire whole Oxford District.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Number seven.

>> History doesn't repeat itself but it sure does rhyme and I have not been paying attention until recently and saw we were using racial statistics to segregate out the various communities.

It's kind of funny I heard that happen before and never seemed to work out well for anyone.

If you want to empower the communities keep the communities together.

Make sure that everybody has their equal representation.

If you want to be antiracist stop the segregation.

If we have a system requirements that require discrimination based on race, congratulations.

You can take a stand against systemic racism.

Now from my particular nitpick keep Oxford Clarks ton Lake Orion together for a community over there.

There is a weird C shape thing for District 30 that goes from Lake Orion down Auburn Hills and under Pontiac I have no idea what that is about but you all right have a community with Pontiac and Auburn hills with a community there in the industrial area. So keep the communities together please.

And regarding this racist stuff, well...

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Number eight.

>> When I spoke before I forgot to introduce myself my name is Gary more head and I live in Auburn Hills.

I want to give you some insight maybe on the proportion of the ingredients in your cake as you go forward.

I love that analogy.

I also want to call it a good idea the Commission is working with, which is the idea of spokes.

If you think of Detroit as kind of like a well if you draw a semicircle around downtown, at some radius like maybe about 12 miles out or so, you'll encompass the minority, the voting age Black population that you're looking to package into districts and looking to put them in with nonminority people.

I think there might be something like 700,000 voting age bloc population and if you are going for a 45% in the districts, that means you're going to need to mix in about 800,000 nonminority people.

In order to have a circle that expands out and collects like about 1.5 million people, well you can go on redistrict R like I tried to do but ran out of time to do before this and you will probably draw a semicircle that goes out about 12 miles.

I grew at 12 mile and Madison Heights and know what 12 miles out from downtown looks like I lived at Royal Oak and 14 mile so same thing so 12-14 miles out your spokes may need to extend.

That is a rough calculation.

Don't make maps based on that but just take the idea that maybe you've got this semicircle that fans out from downtown.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Number 9.

>> Hello, my name is Mercedes.

I live in Oakland Township and I'm here to speak on behalf of dear friends that I have known for many years that live in Oxford.

And Oxford is a beautiful village.

And the Township and you really want to keep precinct three and five together because of the families and the young people and the businesses.

They collaborate, they get together for festivals.

It's a very united community. You want to keep the families and the relatives together.

They attend the same churches and you really want to do what is best for a small town economically.

For all the businesses to be able to get together and see what is best for its community especially during the times that we are in with the economics that we want to make sure that we support our businesses.

And therefore I really want you to keep precinct three and five together with District 47.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Number ten.

>> Hello, my name is William Asher I'm a present delegate from Royal Oak.

Democratic precinct delegate.

I want to take this opportunity to reiterate the importance of the redistricting process to create fair maps.

To me a fair map will produce the following result: If majority of votes are from wound political party for majority of the seats in each legislative chamber and the Congressional districts will be occupied by candidates for that party.

The 2011 gerrymander produced the opposite results, democrats received majorities of votes in recent years mostly.

But republicans have received most of the seats in the legislature.

You're probably aware that the Michigan AFLCIO has produced proposed maps of State Senate and House Districts.

They produced these maps with strict regard for the 7 constitutional criteria.

So resulting districts ended up being safe democrat districts others are safe republican districts.

The rest about one-third are competitive.

These competitive districts will make it possible to produce legislative majorities for the political party that obtains the most votes over all in the state.

While it would be impossible to achieve the ideal of making all house and Senate districts competitive having as many competitive will reflect the true will of the majority of the state, I believe AFLCIO maps achieve this goal.

And they did not come up with a recommendation for the 13 Congressional districts.

I tried that myself this afternoon.

And came up with a map using their criteria with three republican districts, two democrats and the remaining ten were competitive.

Which again is going to result in a fair election.

The conclusion the spirit of the constitutional amendment that created this Commission was fairness.

Please keep fairness as your top priority thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Number 11.

>> My name is Ali I'm a resident of West Bloomfield.

First and Foremost I'd just like to thank you all for stepping up and taking this duty to ensure that voters are choosing politicians and not the other way around.

Particularly I would like to thank you and comment you for the 25th District, 25th State House District which you drew, which encompass all of west bloom many field and/or charred Lake village and Keego Harbor and Sylvan Lake and portion of Commerce these municipalities are a clear community of interest and share City services and share for the most part West Bloomfield school District and have very similar demographics across the board.

Personally as a young person and somebody who is the son immigrants, I've got involved engaging voters who are typically not likely to get involved with the process and it's very difficult to do with the gerrymander sliced and diced this community and it's very difficult to do when people don't know who their representation is.

And so this proposal to keep the 25th District together of West Bloomfield and the surrounding municipalities would be phenomenal to ensure that communities which have historically been underrepresented are able to have a voice and are able to voice their concerns and know who their state rep is when they have something that needs to be or when they have a concern, they want to voice in the state legislature.

So once again I thank you for your stepping up and taking this role and I hope we can reach a reasonable solution which values democracy.

Thank you so much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Number 12?

>> Hi, my name is Chris, I'm a resident of West Bloomfield Township.

Everything Ali said as far as the map and District 25 and right now we are pretty sliced and diced.

You know, I have neighbors north of me who are in one District, neighbors south of me who share their District and I'm in the middle and I'm in a different District than either of them.

Just to give you an idea of because the other thing is because of the way the State House is different than the politics of our State House districts are different than the politics of our City West Bloomfield so we are working on a water supply issue in our community.

We have a private well.

We are trying to coordinate with both the City, the County and the state.

And there is not a lot of bipartisan cooperation in Lansing so it's tough for us to go to our democratic Congress person, our democratic Township Commission and then our republican and state legislature to get consensus on our community water system so that is just one example.

In 25 it's all of West Bloomfield and Sylvan Lake and Keego Township as the other gentleman said both on a Congressional District, we are not being split up but from a state legislative District we are not being split up.

So having those two things together is certainly good.

The other thing I would like to say and I was with Voters Not Politicians I don't see so I do see in the criteria you can't give a partisan advantage to one party or the other as far as outcomes.

It does not say don't intentionally do it.

It says don't do it.

Like that is a criteria.

So I'm not sure how you don't do that without hypothesizing what the outcomes are going to be.

We are not arguing against the VA P and proposal there is no gerrymandering it's all through self-selection.

And self-selection is a thing.

So we can look at anticipating how the elections are likely what the outcome is going to be and measure those against the maps and urge you to take partisan politics what the outcomes would be in order to meet the criteria of the Commission thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Number 13.

>> Hello first I'd like to thank everybody as part of the Commission for doing the work that you're doing.

I know public service is not easy.

My name is Ashley I'm from Keego Harbor, Michigan and elected to Keego City Council in November 2020.

I'm here today like the two people before me to speak about the draft of House District 25.

Thank you so much for putting the City of West Bloomfield Township, Sylvan Lake, Keego Harbor and Orchard Lake altogether.

Currently West Bloomfield is the only large town in the state to be divided into two House Districts, two Senate districts and two Congressional districts.

This makes no sense for the community at a local level.

From my home in Keego Harbor, if I drive two miles in any direction, I will have a new Congress person or a new State Representative.

It makes sense for all of these communities to be together and to stay together.

Including keeping West Bloomfield together as an entire Township.



Additionally I'd like to say I know that the communities all share services at the local level.

West Bloomfield Keego uses West Bloomfield school District we share West Bloomfield police dispatch and also share West Bloomfield fire department.

We are a part of the West Bloomfield greater Chamber of Commerce as well as the greater West Bloomfield cable Commission from the local level all of these communities are work with one another and are meant to stay together and hope you recognize that at the higher levels as well thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.  
Number 14.

>> Hello, my name is Usef from Troy. I graduated from Oakland University with a computer science degree not very long ago.

Now I'm only speaking for Troy and Rochester Hills and Sterling Heights and other districts so forgive me if I don't know about other communities and districts.

I want to thank you Commissioners all of you for the great nonpartisan work you are doing so far.

I especially like grouping Rochester Hills, Troy, with Sterling Heights.

We do share common grounds and Madison Heights and Warren would be more represented to District 1.

A word of advice if you find republicans and democrats on your case and unhappy with your redistricting it means you are truly do a nonpartisan work.

As soon as either one of them are happy I call on the independents especially Commissioners to change things a bit.

So both parties are unhappy again.

As of now I hear both not like the proposal maps which is good.

The current Districting to communities into account and not political parties.

And I repeat so far, please don't deviate at all from the current proposal of grouping Rochester, Troy, Rochester Hills, Troy and Sterling Heights.

Please do not use a computer to do this.

As a computer scientist I know software can be manipulated.

Just one suggestion consider grouping Macomb as well in District 6.

I first was worried about this, thought it would be more influenced by either one of the parties but so far you guys are doing an excellent nonpartisan work and thank you all.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.  
Number 15.

>> Hi, my name is Linda Cook.

I've been a resident of Warren for 42 years.

I was a school bus driver for 25 in Warren consolidated school District.

And I just want to say I think I have some insight as to what it takes to make a community and a big part of it is in the schools.

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First, I want to say that I was very active in getting signatures for the petition to get proposal two placed on the ballot.

I wanted to have new, fair maps drawn up.

That would represent the will of all Michigan voters.

I felt the current maps did not meet the standard of fair maps.

I feel the Commission has created plans for the State House, the State Senate and Congress that heavily favor republicans again.

They appear to be slightly less of a gerrymander than the old maps were.

When you divide up school districts and you don't keep communities together, you are dividing up communities of interest.

Schools such as Livner of Madison Heights, Hazel Park, Warren consolidated Fitzgerald et cetera are communities of interest that I feel should be kept together.

I represent -- they represent neutral income levels and housing types.

So I'm asking the Commission to please take everything into account and make changes to get their maps as close to zero political bias as possible.

This would ensure the voters of Michigan that the Commission is doing everything possible to create a statewide map that will reflect the partisan ballots of Michigan as a whole.

And thank you very much for hearing me, appreciate it.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Is that 15, is it? All right, that concludes our in person public comment for the evening.

At this point we are going to move to remote public comment.

So individuals who have signed up and indicated that they would like to provide live, remote public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so. I will call on your name and our staff will unmute you. If could are on a computer you will be prompted by the Zoom app to unmute your microphone and speak.

If you are on the phone, a voice will say that the host would like you to speak and prompt you to press star six to unmute. I will call on you by your name.

If you experience technical or audio issues and we do not hear from you for 3-5 seconds, we will move on to the next person in line and then return to you after they are done speaking.

If your audio still does not work, you can e-mail [redistricting@Michigan.gov](mailto:redistricting@Michigan.gov) and we will help you troubleshoot so you can participate during the next public comment period at a later hearing or meeting.

You will have two minutes to address the Commission. Please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer.

First in line to provide public comment is Don Jordan.

>> Hi, thank you.

My name is Don Jordan and I'm calling in today from Northville where I live.

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When I and so many others across Michigan voted for prop two, we were demanding District map that were fair of the state voters and values.

It was not a partisan thing it was the idea that partisan politicians should be removed from the process in order to create something better.

The maps as they have been presented continue to heavily favor republicans and do not meet the standards of fair maps.

What has happened so far is you've created a bunch of republican districts and packed democrats into just a few places.

The missing piece as others have noted is partisan data.

Which is absolutely critical to achieving fair maps with this little political bias as possible. Partisan data would help to clarify how many republican and democratic seats you are creating.

You would also have a better understanding of where folks live so you can create maps that include proportional representation.

As Commissioners if you don't have this data readily available to you, demand it.

How can you otherwise do your job when you have one hand tied behind your back? I hope you have all had the chance to read the bridge magazine Article from earlier this week that explained how your maps could give republicans a bigger advantage than when they drew the districts themselves.

This is very troubling in terms of fair reputation for a state that leans democratic.

How does that empower our voters? Commissioners, thank you for your service to our state as others have said and taking part in something that is so critical.

I know that your burden is heavy but you have to get it right.

Representative Government in our state is at risk.

Please move forward using partisan data in your process.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next in line is Veronica Adams.

>> Hello.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can hear you.

>> Hi, good afternoon thank you for your hard work to all of you.

And I we need to correct this gerrymandered situation that has the most gerrymandered state in the country that has created a permanent majority despite how the voters vote.

I have a concern that my understanding there has been a lot of packing of the online comments, the written comments, pushing, encouraging you all to move the last criteria number seven maintaining town and County lines up which obviously will make your jobs a lot easier.

But you know I think the harder route is what has to be done.

And you know the communities of interest has got to be a real sticking point and a challenge for you all and I sympathize but communities of interest are like town and county lines.

There is a historical way they were shaped.

And it has to do with red lining and some deaths where it was whites only after dark.

That is just historical facts.

That is why you have certain communities, there is a homogeneity to them and but change has got to happen.

And I live in Detroit.

We are willing to break up our voting block just to make things fair.

All the way around. We don't want either party favored.

I know the fair maps project was able to make that happen with their test map using your software.

But anyway thank you, consider that about a communities of interest.

And thank you again for your work.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you very much Ms. Adams.

Next in line is John Flynn.

>> Hello good afternoon my name is John Flynn I've attended school at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor for the past four years and lived in Ann Arbor community for 20 years and participating in a college student redistricting fellowship with the campus vote project.

An organization that is empowering college students to have a vote in their state's redistricting process.

Today I'm asking you to keep the University of Michigan Ann Arbor community together. University of Michigan campus community is located near the center of Ann Arbor and the north end of the City nearest to the campus is thrift into two partially connected areas and we are next to downtown where the bulk of student housing is north campus is north of Huron river towards the northern edge of Ann Arbor while our compass community is in the same Senate districts the north is split between House Districts 53 and 55.

Specifically State House District 55 a large portion of residents from fuller to the south and 11 to the east and to the north and Plymouth road to the west are students.

This community should be joined the rest of our campus community in State House District 53.

The split is problematic because the students living there are similar to the urban core of Ann Arbor and how state District 53 versus the more suburban in 55.

In conclusion the University of Michigan Ann Arbor campus commute few must be kept together during this re-Districting process.

In particular the entire campus should be drawn together in one State House District.

I want to thank the Commission for hard work and hope you take my testimony into account and more college get involved with the state redistricting process and looking for the final results from your hard work with fair districts throughout the State of Michigan thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Joan long.

>> Good evening can you hear me, okay?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> My name is Joan long I'm a lifelong resident of Grand Rapids and Kent County Michigan.

My comments tonight are in regards to the Congressional District centered around the Grand Rapids area.

The required voting population of 775,000 people automatically dictates that a larger geographical area will be needed compared to the State Senate and House Districts. Grand Rapids Metro area is the center of activity in West Michigan.

Grand Rapids is the second largest City.

The voting population of 657,000 voters in Kent County where Grand Rapids is located is almost a District in itself.

All of West Michigan is focused around the greater Metro area of Grand Rapids.

It is the busy center of Commerce, urban, suburban residential population entertainment healthcare higher education, cultural venues, air and land transportation as well as employment and shopping in this area.

As the Congressional District is currently drawn the District expands out of Kent County and into the very rural area of Ionia along with farming Townships.

To be consistent with the communities of interest of greater Grand Rapids, expansion to pick up the extra population that's required for your Congressional District would need to go west into the similarly busy Ottawa Township and Allendale, Tallmadge as well as Georgetown and Jamestown at a minimum. And then Grand Valley University and the busy suburbs Hudsonville and Jenison would be included in the greater Metro area of Grand Rapids. Thank you so much for your time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Phillip Reed.

>> Okay, can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can hear you.

>> All right my name is Phillip Reed and I live in the Clarkston area of north of Oakland County and I'm referring to map 187 Congressional districts of 929 of this year in regard and in regards to the District as proposed.

North Oakland County consists mainly of bedroom or communities have strong associations with Flint and Genesee County.

Has little in common with the northeastern part of the state.

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I believe Skula County which has much more in common with the thumb area than north Oakland County has and I would recommend you revise the CD maps with this in mind. That's it, thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.  
James Gallant.

>> Yes, James Gallant Marquette, these are my opinions.  
And I'd like to first agree with the former speaker there that you should be trying to make both parties unhappy.

That could be the goal. And then we know that they are booing. And it's not all about the parties. And it's not about the partisan.

But also on your rules of procedure, it's...I asked you to do some due diligence, you know.

And ask some experts for some opinion on this, you know.

You have the, what is that, center for civic engagement here. You have Grossman.

You have Ibeko. You have all these people at your disposal but you just won't do none of it.

And, you know, a registered parliamentarian would be the way to go. They are in the State of Michigan. There are several. There are some good ones at the top. There is probably half a dozen.

And get a little opinion.

You know, it's...I think this is too close.

It's too personal, you know,

Your attorney is not willing to call you out on your dirty deeds, you know.

It's just not happening, you know.

She is, I guess, worried about her paycheck more than the people of State of Michigan because this is about us.

This is our Commission.

It's not your Commission.

you don't get to do just what you want, do your polar model. You know, it changes every day, whoever is here. You know, this is not what this is supposed to be.

And so and I guess you folks just are just doubling down, and I guess I will see you in Court.

Have a nice day.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next in line is Rexinaldo.

Nazarko.

>> Hello, good afternoon.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Hello.



>> Thank you for giving me the chance to speak my name is Rexhinaldo-Nazarko I'm here to ask the Commission to consider the maps submitted by N gauge which seek to keep the Muslim community together.

Their plans ID are P3644P4107 and P4108.

So M gauge is an organization that represents the broader Muslim community in the state.

And they have drafted these maps very carefully to ensure the fair and proper representation.

So I again encourage that the Commission look at these maps when they are trying to draft a District that seek to keep the Muslim community together.

I'm sure other people have spoken on the importance of this and the need for this and many similar intersectional challenges this Muslim community faces but once again please look at the maps submitted by M gauge.

To ensure that fair representation for the Muslim community and I'm going to repeat the ID plan one more time it's P3644, P4107 and P4108 these are the densest areas in the state for Muslim community and the maps were carefully drawn out.

For the last 30 seconds as a resident of Troy I'd also like to encourage the Commission to keep Troy in similar districts with towns like Madison Heights and not its northern counterparts.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Kathy Cantor.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Reginaldo.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I think he hung up.

>> I'm all set.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Are you still there?

>> Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Can you turn on your video for just one moment.

>> Sure.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you, during your last couple of sentences would you mind repeating that, you cut out.

>> Would you remind me which part I cut out during, was it when I was speaking about the City of Troy?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, about the City of Troy.

>> Yes, so I was just encouraging the Commission to try and keep the City of Troy and in an area with towns like Madison Heights and not its northern counterparts so yep.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you.

>> Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.

Kathy Cantor.

>> Hello, my name is Cathy-Cantor a West Bloomfield resident for nearly 40 years. I watched carefully as maps were submitted to the Commission during the past year during the initial phase of information gathering and submitted testimony supporting the maps, I felt were best for my community.

I'm here to thank the Commission for creating draft maps that reflect the shared interests of my Township of West Bloomfield and surrounding areas.

The proposed House District 25 brings West Bloomfield back together and joins us rightly with our surrounding communities with whom we share interest Orchard Lake Sylvan Lake and Keego Harbor and part of eastern Commerce.

In 2011 West Bloomfield was divided in egregious partisan and deliberately gerrymandering move into two house and two Senate districts and two Congressional districts.

The maps you've proposed have re united us and we will be in a position to elect legislatures who will be responsive to the voting majority in our area.

As a West Bloomfield resident I strongly support your proposed redistricting maps for my community and urge you to keep these maps without revisions as your final maps. Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Mary Sanford.

>> Can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> You don't have my video okay there we go hi my name is Merry Stanford and I'm a resident of the east side of Lansing.

I'm a self-employed clinical social worker in private practice and I care really deeply about the youth and my neighborhoods.

Thank you for breaking Ingham County into multiple State House and Senate districts. We've been packed in the past.

And the State Senate map particularly is a big improvement overall.

I understand that the draft State House map still has Lansing and East Lansing too packed and creates too Stark of a division between City and suburb.

Part of East Lansing is in Clinton County for example so why separate them so Starkly. That does have the appearance of partisan packing unfortunately.

I'd also like to ask for a tweak to the State Senate proposed map.

My husband and I lived on the east side of Lansing since 1974.

And past years our neighborhood was involved in a dispute with the City over a park when the mayor cut down the trees of the park to build a road to the local golf course.

This deprived our children from outside play and any kind of group play since they don't most of them have the money to participate in sports clubs.

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I'm only sharing this to underline the fact our neighborhood is used to being disenfranchised and ignored with serious consequences for our youth.

The proposed map your most recent proposed map has cut out this a tiny east side bit which includes our neighborhood and lumped it in with East Lansing and Williamston and the cut out is too small for having an impact in unpacking the District and District 30 more accurately reflects our community of interest.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Kenan Kabbani.

>> Hello, can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> Awesome my name is Kenan-Kabbani, resident of Bloomfield Township. And wanted to talk about two things. The first is maps made by M gauge, which is a Muslim organization and highlight where the Muslim communities are and really keep them together.

I really encourage the Commission to use these maps to keep the Muslim communities together.

These maps, these M gauge maps are P3644, P4107 and P4108.

This is important to keep these Muslim communities together.

They have been consistently underrepresented and they need that common representation.

The second thing I wanted to speak about as a resident of Bloomfield I wanted to echo what the resident from Lake Orion mentioned earlier regarding District 30.

Bloomfield Township doesn't it does not make sense to pair it up with Lake Orion, it should be put together with Pontiac or Birmingham the Lake Orion is just really odd to be frank.

So I'll just repeat the M gauge maps I'm endorsing again the numbers P3644, P4107 and P4108 and yeah thank you for your hard work and I hope you have a nice day.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Aletha Smith.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: For those Aletha is number 12, thank you.

>> Hello.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Hello.

>> Hi, I'll start the video, okay, hi everyone.

I currently reside in Trenton, Michigan which is one of our Down River cities and I'm a native of Detroit.

I am here and I am a part of the Detroit Down River 8 Randolph institute we are a constituency group that is a national organization.

It's the oldest constituency group within the AFLCIO.

We are nonpartisan.

I'm here to voice my concerns about the division or the proposed or potential furthering of the division between the Down River communities and Detroit.

As also an auto worker I know firsthand what it is to commute from and work in a Down River City.

And vice versa and live in Detroit.

As well as live Down River and work in a -- in the City or the urban area of Detroit.

The neighboring Down River cities of Detroit and the City itself should not, should not have lines of division.

I'm going to tell you why.

The socioeconomic status and the commonalities we share in the places where we live, raise our families and grow are essential to the outcome and the voice that we have through our elections.

If we divide these communities, then it will be less than beneficial for the citizens that live there.

So I ask you to try and make the best effort to not divide the Down River communities and the City of Detroit.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Shani-Saxon.

>> How can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> Turn my camera off perfect thank you very much good afternoon, Commission.

My name is Shani-Saxon I'm a resident of East Lansing. I'm a self-employed mental health clinician and my work with youth and community is important to this discussion. I also work with global a community organization in Lansing whose mission is to transform communities so that our children experience justice, opportunity and abundant health and wellness where they live.

I'm also a native of Lansing and have seen some of the redistricting changes over the years as they relate to Lansing and Tri-County areas, I commend you from breaking Ingham into multiple Senate and Senate districts as it has been packed in previous years drawing the maps around Lansing and preserving the try County area at the Congressional level also splitting it apart at the Michigan Senate and house shows fair representation.

In my opinion the state map is a significant improvement.

So I'm commenting today because voting districts serve as the foundation of our democracy and ensuring fair maps now means we pave the way for a decade of more accurate equitable representation of political power.

The draft State House map has East Lansing tightly packed and it creates increased division between City and suburb for example part of East Lansing is in Clinton County.

I don't understand the extreme separation because we should be inter dependent and unfortunately it looks like partisan packing.

So today I'm asking for a reshifting of the borders to address this disparity.

Thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Is Arlene Allen.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not currently present.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay Anthony S.

>> Sorry about that can you hear me?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Good afternoon, Commissioners. Anthony S, lifelong Wayne County resident.

I would like to begin quoting the second president of the United States who said in 1780 that, quote, there is nothing which I dread so much as division of this republic into two great parties, each arranged under its leader concerting measures in opposition to each other. This in my humble apprehension is to be the most dreaded, greatest political evil under our Constitution. And so I would therefore like to say not only for the Commission but the public, it's time to take D and R out of the driver seat, which would require a change to Michigan law, which limits the state to designate two and only two political parties as major ones with all the benefits and privileges and advantages that gives to democrats and republicans.

So I'm pretty sure myself that it's time to kick the circus out of town by no longer voting for elephants and donkeys. And the strongest coalition is the nonvoting one because this process and our whole life structure favors two parties above all else or independent.

So, therefore, onto the mapping, I'm strongly opposed to your Congressional map. The one and only draft you have been working, only for what it does to the Down River areas of Allen Park, Melvindale, and River Rouge and Ecorse, similarly to what the person from Trenton just said. I don't, to me it just feels like an afterthought and undeniable community of interest. But part is with Macomb County and part of it is grouped with part of Jackson County.

It does not really make much sense to me.

And then in terms of all the maps, I think, you know, like the one gentleman said, you could very well draw an AI map, artificial intelligence or, you know submit other ones or M gauges maps, whoever. I think you should throw them in the mix for public consideration during the hearing process. Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Ian Robinson.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not currently present.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, Kathi Harris.

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>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: For the public watching Kathi Harris is number 17, please allow us a moment to unmute you.

>> Kathi.

There I am.

Good evening.

My name is Kathi Harris and I'm a lifelong resident of Grand Rapids and president of the president Randolph institute which stated earlier we are senior labor constituency and Executive Director R of proactive and retiree of UAW our mission for our organization is to work together towards a common goal and make sure our people in our communities voice is heard.

I'm coming before you today again via Zoom to express our support of keeping Kent County whole and expand Kent County to the west to gain more population.

Our primary goal is to form a new Congressional District and by keeping Kent County whole it will keep our community of interests together.

Grand Rapids is in the center of most activities in West Michigan and there are so many things that are necessary and important to our community especially for the people of color.

Particularly the schools and healthcare facilities.

Expanding our District to the west will be growing our community and growing with other communities we have commonalities with other going in that direction more so than going any other direction.

Currently our County is near the population for a single District by itself so going west will add enough of the population to create a whole new District.

Thank you for your time and please consider combining our District to the west to increase our population so that we can have our whole District.

Thank you and thank you for taking the time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Keinan Hares.

>> Hello Hares.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I can hear you.

>> Hi name is Keinan-Hares from West Bloomfield Michigan and when I looked at the current maps, I noticed there was not a real good Muslim community and keeping the Muslim community together and group the Muslim representation.

And so I really like the maps made by which are P3644, P4107 and P4108.

I just believe you know with we have such a large Muslim community here in Michigan with Dearborn and Dearborn Heights we should keep these communities together and I really believe that the maps made by M gauge really give the Muslim people good representation.

So thank you.

Again those maps are P3644, P4107 and P4108.



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I believe those maps give the Muslim community great representation.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Numbers 19, 20, 21 and 22 are not currently present.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.

We will move on to number 23.

Dipita.

Dipita.

>> Hello, my name is Dipita and raised in Banglatown, which is right inside of Hamtramck and little outside of Detroit.

I want to leave a comment on the current Congressional District.

So I do live in Detroit and noticed that the new map that was created did keep the communities of interest together so I do appreciate that.

You all have kept constituents of Banglatown together however I noticed it expands a little in mock comb county and best not for go past 8 mile allowing Hamtramck and Detroit residents to stay in its own lines and District so again thank you for your time and I hope you do take this into consideration.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Lainey-Frydrych.

>> Thank you, Madam Chair. My name is Lainey. I'm a resident of Royal Oak.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: We cannot hear you.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: We still cannot hear you.

I'm going to turn off your video and move on to the next participant. And I will message you in the chat to look at your technical issues.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We will move on to Alyssa Diebolt.

>> Good evening MICRC members.

My name is Alyssa Diebolt and live in Eastpointe, a community at the southern edge of Macomb County.

I grew up in the UP. And when I describe can I live now, I always say we are a tiny city sandwiched between Warren, Roseville and St. Clair Shores. And somehow even folks 500 miles away recognize one of those Macomb communities.

I'm here to share how important I think communities of interest are.

In addition to so much water and sewer infrastructure City services such as recreation, and senior center and the Chamber of Commerce and the suburban library cooperative, the people here really work together.

I am Chair of a City Commission in Eastpointe and we regularly reach out to our neighboring communities to possibly partner on programs and really sometimes just steal ideas too.

To be honest.

East point works incredibly close with Roseville and really kind of feel Warren is our big brother to the west.

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But even reaching into Oakland County Hazel Park and Eastpointe have a public safety authority partnering them together through a millage.

As small communities we have similar needs and I think it's incredibly important that those elected to represent us for Congress, for Senate and for house rep are not divided among several districts but united under one.

Thank you for the time tonight and good luck to all of you on the rest of this exciting journey.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Did we get Lainey sorted out.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yes, I believe she has audio.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Can you hear us? One more time can you hear us?

>> Can you hear me now?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Looks like we are still having audio issues we will move on to the next participant and continue troubleshooting.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Lisa pierce.

>> Peers hello can you all hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Thank you very much.

My name is Lisa Peers I'm a resident of Birmingham and I want to thank everyone on the Commission for your dedication to making our voting districts fair and reflective of our current communities and the issues and concerns that we share.

But I am concerned right now about how the proposed map divides Oakland County and denies us fair representation in Lansing and in Washington.

It currently does not make sense.

We have no fully contiguous Congressional seat and only one fully contiguous State Senate seat to advocate on our behalf and this risks leaving Oakland County the second largest County in Michigan without the representation that reflects our economic and our community interests.

It also risks leaving minority communities without adequate and fair representation and political impact.

Times have changed.

Oakland County has changed.

The map must reflect this.

We must leave the days of gerrymandering in the dust and create maps that ensure no party disproportionately benefits over the other.

That's why I canvassed for Voters Not Politicians and that is why I support the work of this Commission.

I appreciate all you're doing and thank you very much for your time and your commitments.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Tonya Lundberg.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I think we actually have Lainey's audio working.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We will try Lainey again.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I'm so sorry we still cannot hear you.

Want to check your phone and make sure that your phone settings are not muted?

>> Okay.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: There we go very good okay.

>> I'm sorry I hope this is worth it Sarah.

Commissioner.

Thank you all. My name is Lainey-Frydrych, a resident of Royal Oak.

In order to get proposal two on the ballot I spoke with literally thousands of voters across the state gathering so many petition signatures that I was in top 5% statewide.

I also spent months canvassing in the rain and the cold and the snow in Macomb and Oakland Counties because those communities are so important to me.

The concern of voters which I've heard over and over and what they supported with their signatures and their yes vote is for our mix of elected officials to represent the mix of the voters of this state which is about even not unfairly skewed.

Their voices were quieter, more thoughtful than the loud noises that have been hurled by a tiny amount of voters and did not put the Commission in place for reduce the distortion they put it in place to come as close as you can to eliminating it.

You have the technology and resources available to you to ensure that.

Your work is vitally important and I think for your commitment to it.

I'm here asking you to honor the outcomes desired by the more than 2.5 million voters who passed proposal two which is governed by ideologies that are weighed evenly like the way our state votes and would like to ask the Commission to add a second hearing to the great City of Detroit given the significant population of Metro Detroit including Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties.

Thank you for honoring their voices and votes sed Szetela thank you for addressing the Commission.

Are we on Tonya I just want to make sure Lundberg.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Correct Lundberg.

>> Hi, can you hear me?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Thank you thank you so much for giving us an opportunity to speak with you and for your service on the Commission.

My name is Tonya Lundberg and I live in Northville Township Michigan Wayne County. I want to echo many of the people who have spoken tonight. I've been listening since 5:00 and I've been sitting here thinking how can my voice make an impact.

But I think the most that I can do is to be emphatic in the point I would like to make and that is that it is extremely important for the Commission to have partisan data in front of them as they are drawing the maps.

It does not make any sense to wait until after the maps have been drawn to look at partisan data when as many of the people have spoken before me pointed out the voters in Michigan spoke a couple of years ago and said we want fair maps and we want them drawn to be competitive, to not give advantage to one or the other party. And this is what we want from the Commission.

I know that your job is very difficult.

It is not possible for you to fake make everyone happy but at the end of the day you have done your best to draw fair, competitive maps then we will have to live with the result and be happy with the work you have done.

So again thank you very much for the opportunity to speak.

Thank you for your work.

And good luck as you wrap up this process.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

28, Carla Wagner.

>> Hello, can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Hi, my name is Carla Wagner and I'm a resident of canon Township near Rockford and north of Grand Rapids.

I'm a Realtor and I have bought and sold properties all over the State of Michigan and especially in Kent County.

I appreciate the work this Commission is doing for the people of the State of Michigan. But I'm very concerned as no one that is serving on this Commission is from the West Michigan region.

Out of all of the public comments being submitted in the portal and at these meetings please take additional time to review the comments specifically made from individuals who reside in West Michigan to help you with your mapping process.

The Congressional District drawn yesterday that includes the cities of Grand Rapids with Kalamazoo prove this point.

These two cities share very little in common and should be the anchor for two separate Congressional districts.

The suburban areas of each City are excluded from the map and are drawn into neighboring rural districts.

And instead please consider drawing Kent County as one Congressional District with the neighboring counties of Ionia, Barry, Montcalm and Allegan which are very rural as that would be a far better representation of a community of interest.

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Additionally I ask the Commissioners to revisit the State Senate districts drawn for Kent County and ensure that the Rockford area stays whole within a District that is separate from Grand Rapids.

The City of Grand Rapids is large enough to be within one State Senate District and the Commission should not be breaking municipal lines unless the municipality is so large to be within its own District.

Please consider drawing the cities of Grand Rapids, East Grand Rapids and Kentwood together to form an urban State Senate District that will allow for a diverse candidate to serve in the State Senate.

Thank you for all of the work that you're doing and thank you for your consideration.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not currently present.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank your number 31 Elizabeth Johnson.

>> Hello, can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> I don't know oh, start my video okay hi, I am my name is Elizabeth Johnson and a resident of Algoma Township and it's a rural community and here is a community of interest with Rockford area the Rockford area community of interest also includes Townships of canon, Plainfield and Portland.

Many of the individuals in these municipalities lived, work and share in the same school districts.

I can attest to this as I sit on the board of one of those Townships as a trustee.

Currently the State Senate maps drawn for Ken County divide Rockford areas in two Senate districts I implore the Commission to keep the City of Grand Rapids whole with one with the neighboring urban of East Grand Rapids and Kentwood which would allow for the more rural District that includes all of the Rockford area.

Additionally I ask the Commission to reject the draft map drawn yesterday that includes Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo.

These two cities have little in common and should be with their suburbs within their own respective Congressional District.

For Grand Rapids please keep Kent cone whole with one Congressional District.

I also would like to mention that I have heard a lot of public comments about using partisan data in their in your analysis but that is actually talking out of both sides of the mouth as we want a fairness.

The fact that they are bringing partisan politics into their analysis shows they are not seeking what is fair.

I ask that the partisan politics remain out of it.

Let's have a fair map.

And that would not include any of the partisan politics.

And that's just how the cake is baked.

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I would ask the same thing and reiterate if both parties are not happy you know that it is fair.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Carl Baxter.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Madam Chair, number 16 Robinson has now joined.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We were going back I forgot.

>> Thank you, Commissioners. Can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> All right apologies for missing you'll earlier.

My power went off just a couple of minutes before number 17 was scheduled.

So good evening my name is Ian Robinson.

I'm a resident of Ann Arbor.

And the president of the Huron valley area labor federation.

We represent about 17,000 union members living and working in Washtenaw Livingston Jackson and Hillsdale Counties.

I and other union members drove to Jackson to address you near the start of your public hearings process.

Back tonight because our initial testimony didn't seem to have much impact on the maps in our area.

Your current State Senate map packs all of Ann Arbor into one seat.

As I suspect you did that because you think Ann Arbor share a community of interest and indeed, we do.

But what are the relevant common interests? Most Ann Arborites like our local movement want to race and class justice in the state and believe in an electoral system that lives up to the principle of partisan fairness.

In November 2018, 77% of Ann Arbor voters voted yes on prop two to end gerrymandering in Michigan.

Right now our maps remain highly gerrymandered or at least they reproduce the effects of gerrymandering.

On this understanding of our common interests the best thing you can do for Ann Arbor is to stop packing all of our votes into one Senate District.

You can do that by splitting our City with the west side of Ann Arbor Jackson and the territory in between and a Senate seat remembering the east side of Ann Arbor Ypsilanti and Township.

Which don't want special favors we want our votes to are the same weight cast by other concerned citizens in the state.

Vote packing gives more weight in the legislature.

Partisan fairness say the parties seek distribution in each chamber to mirror the statewide vote for the party and the corresponding chamber.



>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Carl Baxter.

>> Hello.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We can hear you.

>> This is not Carl, but do you want me to go?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Who is this if this is not Carl?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Trenton 33 apologies we went a bit out of order.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, Trenton please go and we will go back to Carl when he is on.

>> Hello, Commissioners, my name is Trenton Barry from Midland, Michigan.

As many of you have heard, people of Midland are very split on where Midland should end up in the Congressional District.

I'm here to say that Midland should be with Bay City, Saginaw and Flint.

Many want to keep Midland County whole so here is my option to keep it whole with being part of the Tri-Cities and Flint. Commission Weiss is from the Saginaw Area and I would like to encourage him and other Commissioners to keep Midland County whole and put Chafin, Marian, Plainfield, Jonesfield and Brady and Grant Townships from Saginaw in with the Central Michigan District.

This District -- this would mean that District 11 in which you guys have numbered would only include all of Bay, Midland and Genesee as well as most of Saginaw County.

There are many common issues in which we could keep Midland County whole. But I believe that Midland should be with Saginaw, Bay and Genesee Counties. I would like to add that with many common and the floods that happened in Midland last year, districts that should take that in consideration and should be our state legislature District, and not the U.S. Congressional District.

I like the state and house for Midland and Midland County. Thank you for your time, Commissioners.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

This time we will try for Carl Baxter.

>> Good evening, Commission and thank you very much for convening this and listening to our public comments.

I am Carl Baxter, a precinct delegate in Detroit and part of the Randolph institute, a nonpartisan group.

My comment today is in regards to keeping Detroit and our brothers and sisters that are in the communities that are and sent of Detroit Down River such as River Rouge Ecorse Allen Park, Melvindale and Lincoln Park.

And the reason why is because we have a lot of similarities and commonalities, okay such as our education system, and the needs of that education system, the economic households and that are in those communities.

And the fact that a lot of the residents in both of the City of Detroit and those communities actually travel back and forth amongst each other as we work and do things such as shopping and go about our days.

So in relationship to how the Congressional maps in particular are drawn, we feel that and I personally feel that it's important that as you look at those that Congressional map and that those communities stay in line with Detroit, so that they can continue to be served by groups such as ours Detroit Down River Randolph and our partners that are in that area.

So I do thank you for your work.

I do thank you for the opportunity for allowing me and others to address this Commission.

And God speed.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

I lost my list.

RJ.

>> RJ.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: For the public watching RJ is 34.

Please allow us a moment to unmute you.

>> Okay, all right.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We can hear you.

>> Fantastic hey thank you Commissioner for all the work you're doing my name is RJ I'm a third Congressional District state committee man and resident of Grand Rapids Township.

And I would just like to voice my opposition to the draft map which includes the City of Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo into the same Congressional District.

As a resident of Grand Rapids Township I would consider myself and individuals in the surrounding Metro Six Region of Grand Rapids residents of the Grand Rapids region. We should not be divided into two with majority of the Grand Rapids suburbs being tied with the Congressional District that stretches all the way to Midland.

Please consider keeping Kent County whole with one Congressional District.

You can use surrounding Counties like Ionia and Barry that have similar characteristics with Kent County to supplement Kent County to create a large enough District.

Additionally, keep the City of Grand Rapids whole with one state Senate District currently the City is split at Fulton Street with a northern half being tied to a rural part of Kent County and Ottawa County.

The State Senate District should be an urban one that unites the City of Grand Rapids and combines other urban areas such as East Grand Rapids and Kentwood.

Thank you for your time and dead case to the people of the State of Michigan.

Have a great evening.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Kristina Vann.

>> Christina, Vann.

Thank you for allowing me to give public comment I'm a resident of the City of Rockford and also a student at Grand Valley State University.

I would like to express my opposition to the draft map drawn yesterday that includes the City of Grand Rapids and the City of Kalamazoo into one Congressional District.

These two municipalities share little of the same characteristics and form entirely different communities of interest.

Instead I would ask the Commission keep Grand Rapids Metro six region all within its own Congressional District and not exclude suburban areas of Grand Rapids such as Rockford Ada Cascade and Lowell with a completely District that is drawn all the way to Midland.

Additionally I would ask the Commission to revise a District map for Kent County to keep Grand Rapids within one District, not split up because that dilutes the City's representation in the State Senate and thank you for your consideration.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Our last in person for first round is Thomas Nemcek.

>> Hello, can you hear me Szetela sed yes, we can.

>> Okay thank you.

All right, as I'm a resident of Kent County Michigan and I've been following as often as I can and maybe I missed but have not seen a reference as drawing a map and someone spent several weeks learning the District R software and drawing several map proposals, I sent to the Commission this is very disappointing to me.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: It's a little difficult to hear you.

It sounds you may be too close to your microphone.

>> Close or far.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Probably a bit too close.

>> How is that?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: A little better thank you.

>> I'm opposed to the draft map that puts the cities of Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids into one United States Congressional District this map excludes much of the suburban area of Grand Rapids with the rural District that stretches all the way to Midland which is two hours away.

We should stick with Grand Rapids for its own Congressional District.

I ask the Commission to keep Kent County whole within one Congressional District.

And you asked someone from Kent County where they are where they are from, they say Grand Rapids not Midland two hours away.

Additionally I'm opposed to the State Senate District drawn by Cascade Township to Southwest Michigan.

Southern Kent County shares very little in common with the lakeshore.

I would implore to direct Cascade and Kent County with Allegan for State Senate District with fair better representation of my community of interest.

Many individuals that live in Kent southern Townships have school districts and work in northern Allegan communities of Dorr and Wayland and vice versa. We identify with Allegan, not with Southwest Michigan.

Thank you for your time and consideration tonight.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Now, that the first opportunity for in person and remote public commentary has concluded, without objection we will hear from individuals seeking to provide a second two-minute public comment.

Hearing no objection, we will now proceed with individuals seeking to provide a second public two-minute comment.

Individuals who signed up and indicated they would like to provide live, remote public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so. And we will do the same process as the first round.

First in line to provide public comment is Mr. James Gallant you have two minutes to address the Commission.

>> Thank you. James Gallant, Marquette, Michigan, these are my opinions.

First of all, I'd like to give a big shout out and thank you to the map makers. They are doing awesome, keeping track and dancing as fast as you can, I guess. And all the chaos that is going on here. And I do appreciate that.

And I also thank you to the Commission for posting the transcripts. You know, they are two weeks behind now. And that is just a list of the words shown on the screen right now, so that shouldn't be any problem, really, to keep those up to date. But I do appreciate that.

And I'd like to speak to your proposed motion to discuss.

That's a completely -- that is a straw polling.

This is what you do the whole time.

You want to discuss it so you can straw poll each other. And then you can turn around oh, now we agree. We got consensus and now we are going to make a motion. You do it all the time, you know, as much as you possibly can.

So Page 407 of Robert's Rules of Order, your parliamentary authority manual, under straw polling, Line 11, it says straw poll is not an order.

A motion to take an informal straw poll to test the waters is not in order because it neither adopts nor rejects a measurer and hence is meaningless and dilatory. If the assembly wishes to discuss and take a vote on the matter without the vote constituting final action of the assembly, it may, instead, vote to go in a community of a whole or quasi community of the whole. Under these procedures, the assembly considers the matter as it would a committee. And its vote while in committee of the whole or quasi committee of the whole serves only as a recommendation to the assembly, which the

assembly is free to reject as it would in the case in regard of a report of any ordinary committee.

And this is the rules.

This is what you are supposed to be doing the whole time.

I think you folks are all got your mindset on this making new rules and resetting and rebooting the system.

You're not supposed to be doing that.

That is unconstitutional. And that's not part of your charge here.

You were supposed to pick up those rules from the Commission on legislative apportionment. And they were supposed to be handed to you by Mike Brady. Mike Brady is the one at fault here.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission, Mr. Gallant.

Anthony S.

>> Hello.

I wanted to start video that is cool.

All right, good evening, Commissioners. Anthony S, Wayne County.

I don't think it was a very good idea to reduce the number of public hearings that there were.

But, I mean, I guess I see if it was a balance between making good maps in your view and doing that then I guess it had to be done.

But it's also kind of weird too the way the motion was made, it had so many adjustments in one fail swoop.

It was like decisions to switch certain meetings, public hearings to adjust the schedule before, during and after what you are going to do.

And to cancel certain hearings all of those were made in one motion and vote and I don't know it seemed I don't know it just seemed like a not healthy way to run it.

But that is just my opinion.

And then you know during that discussion actually Commissioner Rothhorn said we've been we are slow or something to that effect and it's kind of right.

The maps have been kind of slow so much so I think there has only been one Congressional draft other than what Commissioner Eid has proposed.

And that's why I think you know you should incorporate other ones that other people submit even yourselves and put those all out there for the public hearing consideration officially.

To give people more options to consider.

And I'm not in favor of your Congressional map the way groups like Down River and Wayne and Jackson County seems pretty weird to me thank you sed Szetela thank you for addressing the Commission.

This concludes our public comment.

However, I'd like to mention that all e-mail and mailed public comment is provided to the Commission before each meeting.

And Commissioners also review the public comment portal on our [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC) website on a regular basis.

We appreciate everyone who provides public comment in whatever way you choose and invite you to keep sharing your thoughts communities of interests and maps.

.  
So without objection I'm assuming everybody would like a ten-minute break. We have been going for two hours so we will recess stand in recess until 7:10 p.m. General Counsel did you have something before.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Not if the Commission is recessing.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We are going to take a brief recess everybody come back at 7:10.

Thank you.

[ Recess ]

>> CHAIR SZETELA: As Chair of the Commission I recall the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission back to order at 7:17 p.m. Will the secretary please call the roll?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Absolutely.

Commissioners, please say present when I call your name. If you are attending the meeting remotely, please say you are attending remotely and disclose you are present and you are attending remotely.

I will start with Doug Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Present; attending remotely from Detroit, Michigan.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: We can only see the accessibility screen.



Now I can see into the room.

Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Present; attending remotely from Reed City, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present, here.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Present; attending remotely from

Charlotte, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: All Commissioners are present.

And there is a quorum.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Ms. Reinhardt.

All right we are going to move on to unfinished business agenda 5A without objection to continue draft mapping adjustment but before we do that our General Counsel did have a comment for us or something for us so General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: So much Madam Chair I will be brief because I know the Commission has lots of work to get to. And I did want to do for the benefit of the listening public as well as the Commission a brief compare and contract again on the issue of partisan data, partisan fairness and maps.

The compare and contrast is between proportionality, which Ohio and Missouri have the statewide proportion of districts based on statewide elections during the last ten years favor political parties that correspondence closely to the statewide preferences of the voters.

So that is proportionality the seats have to be proportional to the election results of the past.

Contrasting it also with competitiveness which is another theme the public is urging the MICRC to follow.

Competitiveness is when they have even partisan balance making competition more likely than not to happen.

Competitiveness is also achieved by looking at election data during the drafting process.

There are five states that have competitiveness in their redistricting criteria Arizona, Missouri has it for legislative only, Colorado, New York and Washington state. So and Arizona their competitiveness, they just selected at the beginning of August the metrics they are using to determine competitiveness.

One uses the results from statewide races over the past three election cycles to determine how closely average vote is.

Proposed District would have been and the other uses measurements to see how the pro-districts would have changed hands between democrats and republicans.

This is what the Commission is being advocated to use.

This is not what is in the Michigan Constitution.

The language in the Michigan Constitution and again the courts have held that using election results to determine partisan fairness is improper.

It is not acceptable.

What the Michigan Constitution has is a partisan fairness requirement.

And not only does it have the language of districts shall not provide a disproportionate advantage to a political party it specifies to be measured using accepted measures of partisan fairness.

They have specific legal meanings.

These are specific tools and metrics that have been approved by the courts used to determine that on statewide plans.

So again what is going to happen tomorrow is the Commission's expert Dr. Lisa Handley will come and present the partisan fairness measures that she has run on the statewide maps that the Commission has been working on.

Obtain the results and then the Commission will be advised on how if there is a disproportionate advantage how that can be remedied or mitigated or reduced.

And so that is the plan.

But I did again really for the benefit of the public to highlight that the Michigan Constitution does not allow for competitiveness, proportionably and MICRC has to adhere to the language in the Michigan Constitution in its work and will continue to do so to bring the written word of proposal 18-2 to life as it was adopted by the voters.

Thank you so much Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for that explanation, are there any questions or comments for our General Counsel? All right so at this point we are going to return to our mapping.

I believe let me see where is my chart, I thought Commissioner Lange was next yeah, Commissioner Kellom just finished so Commissioner Lange would be next.

Commissioner Lange on?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'm here.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Since we are working in the Detroit area and I'm not familiar and we are going down to the block levels, if the Commission would humor me, I would like to give my turn to Chair Szetela since she already has something prepared so we can look at what she has prepared.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Not a bad idea here.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Then Chair Szetela would you please take my turn?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Sure, is everybody okay with that? I'm not sure if I can show what I worked on though.

That is the thing.

That is why I'm thinking we should just do it tomorrow.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Is this the alternate house draft submitted?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That draft is posted so you are free with displaying it.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: You are so good.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Does our mapper have it?

>> MR. MORGAN: I posted one thing that I was given today that I was told to post but I'm not sure the other one was posted.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: The Congressional posted but I'm not sure the house.

>> MR. MORGAN: I was not instructed to post that.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: The house draft has posted on the mapping data Section of the MICRC website.

So the file is available for download.

>> MR. MORGAN: I did not post it so somebody else must have.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I'm confused do you have it or not have it.

>> MR. MORGAN: I'm also confused.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Do you want me to send it to you again.

>> MR. MORGAN: I can take a moment and download it if it is there, I have not seen it there yet.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I e-mailed it earlier today so you should have it in your box, there were two one Congressional and one house.

>> MR. MORGAN: Give me a moment to get that from the e-mail.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay.

>> MR. MORGAN: My understanding is it was posted to the Secretary of State's portal but it's not on the my Districting Page.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I was going to say I don't see it out there.

>> MR. MORGAN: It's not there.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I sent it to you again so it is right at the top of your e-mail.

>> MR. MORGAN: Give me a moment.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: We don't have anything else.

Yeah, so you know the next 20 minutes.

All right so I'm prefacing this map saying I know it looks a little funky but the goal is to reduce the numbers.

Of the voters in the range that Dr. Handley is looking for us to do.

So this is just one, I just did this really fast on the fly.

During the lunch break, yes go ahead.

>> MR. MORGAN: Two questions on this, just as we had before where I could bring up the plan you're working on and bring yours as an overlay or I can just upload your plan straight into the program.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I would upload it because I'm particularly interested in Mr. Adelson's view on the numbers.

Because the whole point was to fix the numbers and I think we can adjust lines where needed.

But I really want to know what his thoughts are from a VRA perspective with the numbers.

Because I've got some pretty big reductions in concentration within over a broad variety of districts and I'm hoping they are more in line with what he is thinking and that if he is and he is happy with it perhaps we can continue to tweak those lines to make them less you know less dividing communities, less dividing communities of interest.

It is certainly not a perfect map.

I don't want people freaking out about it online.

What did you say?

>> MR. MORGAN: Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: In addition to Mr. Adelson's evaluation for break down for populations you have been able to reduce I think it would be good to look at the break down of the Dearborn districts because they are going to change.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, I agree.

>> MR. MORGAN: I have the plan uploaded can you confirm what you think is the correct plan.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, that appears to be the correct plan.

All right like I said some of these districts are crazy.

They are long, they are narrow and skinny but 16 and 21 but if you look at the percentages for District 1, District 1 was not the big issue District 2 was originally 60.73%.

Voting age population African/American it's now down to 46.

3 was 28 and I brought it up to 40 so it's a little more balanced.

6 was 64%.

It's now down to 48%.

8 was 52% it's now down to 35%.

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14 was at 59% it's now down to 49%.

15 was at 49% it's now down to 42%.

And then 18 which was one of our big problem districts was at 76% and it's now down to 38%.

So I have on that list three districts that are above 50, a 53.24 which is 4, 51.9, 50.89 but everything else is below 50%.

So like I said it's just a thought.

I mean I think we can accomplish what Mr. Adelson is suggesting we do.

It's just going to require a little creativity and like I said I certainly don't think this is a final map.

We could definitely move some of these lines make things a little fatter or skinnier to make them not look so long and skinny but the point is I think it's a little closer to a VRA compliant plan than what we had.

>> MR. MORGAN: Madam Chair if I could just respond briefly.

I agree I think you just look the numbers often tell the story so the numbers in analysis really reveal what you have been doing is moving in the direction you said.

You've made some pretty significant compliance alterations and to your credit, I think no question just looking at the numbers you can see what the changes are.

And I agree.

I think that the...there will be opportunities to make additional changes, additional changes as you suggest.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I do want to look particularly at 3 and I think it's 7 for the Arab American and looks like I have dis-continuities and 3 and 7 Arab American of interest and they were good in the last map but would like to see the voting breakdown if that is opportunity to elect District 4 Arab Americans because I did make some changes there but focusing on VRA because that is isn't one but Arab American is also a VRA issue. Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, when you put this configuration together, did the approach you take was to extent the spokes north and west both.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I had to create a couple new districts so District 5 and 9 if you notice those are not what we had before so I changed the way 9 was going and added in the new District 5.

And I thought there was one other one I added too.

Lark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: You did not create but reconfigured.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: In the process of reconfiguring I created a new District that was left over from the reconfiguration.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: We only have 110 districts is the reason.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Ideally, I would like to get 21 and 16 looking more like 10, 11 and 12 in terms of their thickness if we could.

Reality is it's just really hard in that northwest region of Detroit.

It's just highly concentrated.

And you know you've got Southfield on top as a buffer and also Oak Park so it requires stretching further to you know and this also again achieves that goal of what I was trying for with Livonia.

We received a lot of public comment about Livonia being split into five.

In this plan it's three.

Redford versus being split into three is now two.

Which is still a split but it's better than three.

So you know I think the takeaway is just we can accomplish this.

It's just going to take some creativity and some willingness to cross that 8 mile border and you know cross the telegraph border to come up with something a little better.

Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I think you wanted to look at election results for the Arab American community.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I would love to.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: After that I would want to acknowledge what we are trying to figure out is how to do this.

I think because we are moving, it sounds like we are in a compliance phase I think all of us are trying to understand how we do this but are familiar with our mapping phase.

And so because of what Commissioner Szetela is trying out here on Commissioner Lange's turn I think it's important to try to help us understand it feels like mapping still. But it's different and that's what help us understand what we are doing differently.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Think of it in a way Commissioner Rothhorn it's mapping with an edge.

The edge is compliance.

Now we've been talking about compliance for a while.

But this is like the final substantial compliant check.

It's almost like if you are in Court and you are going to trial, you check your oral argument before you go into the courtroom to make sure everything is good.

So in a way this is the same thing.

You're doing that final substantial check, doing the checkmarks so you can move on to additional considerations.

So you're mapping in the sense and obviously making alterations but think of it as mapping with an edge with the edge being compliance, the edge meaning that there is an even tighter focus, more specific focus because we are working with something now.

You have the districts and you've been experimenting and trying various ways so you are much more familiar with the area, you are much for familiar with what is possible.

And then what is that issue that over hangs what you're doing.

It's compliance to the you know to the degree that we need it to be.



>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for that and apologize because I do want to get to the mapping excuse me the election results that were requested.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: You may have said this Commissioner Szetela but when you were creating this did you start with the one, we already had and change it.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

So I started with the one we already had.

And sort of focused in on the areas where we had the biggest issues which was 6 and 4 and then that 18 and so as a result of trying to fix that then I think 17 was also pretty bad too I started moving the existing lines so these are all tweaks of our existing lines. Except for that number five was a new that I filled in.

And so these are tweaks of existing lines and just moving things around to balance things out, looking at the population, looking who lives where.

And trying to balance things in a more equitable manner to reach that compliance goal that we have.

Commissioner Kellom?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I just wanted to quickly say that I at first glance this looks really good to me particularly districts that little strips you have 18, 8, 10 and 12 I like what you did in the area with the consideration of 9 and 5 as well and I echo 21 would be hard because of that concentration so just lifting you up that you did that first glance it looks like you did the best that you could do with this area especially being familiar with Detroit and Metro Detroit.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Commissioner Kellom.

So John do you have the election results we can look at?

>> MR. MORGAN: Sort with District 3.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay, so it's 89% for Biden.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: More specifically interested in the primary the gubernatorial primary with Thanedar and El-Sayed and Whitmer.

>> MR. MORGAN: District 3 I'll say 50 Thanedar 26 and Whitmer 23.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: What about 7?

>> MR. MORGAN: 50, 11 and 38, 50 El-Sayed, 11 for Thanedar and 38 for Whitmer.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I think it preserves that voting community.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I agree Madam Chair.

Just to make sure I understand 3 and 7 are the districts that have the larger Arab American population.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, and a little bit of 15 so we should probably look at 15 too because a little bit of 15.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Yes, that is a great idea.

>> MR. MORGAN: District 15 is El-Sayed 40, Thanedar 25 Whitmer 35.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Candidate of choice El-Sayed Arab American community wins in all three the margins vary a little bit but the margins tonight have to be 5, 8, 9 points.

In the first districts you looked at the margins were pretty substantial and that includes that is winning the District over the eventual democratic nominee of future Governor Whitmer so they all do elect the candidate of choice which we refer to the Arab American community.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right any comments from anyone else? Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Well done.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.

Commissioner Clark and then Commissioner Orton.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I would like to get a copy of the map and the stats so I can go through the active matrix this evening when I get home.

>> MR. MORGAN: So would you like me for publish this as part of the normal proceedings for the day's maps?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, I mean can we cleanup that dis-continuity in 21 right now.

>> MR. MORGAN: Yes.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Let's clean it up then we can put it out there.

It's obviously not a complete map because I was really trying to focus on the Detroit area so but I definitely I definitely want other people's feedback.

I'm trying to propose a solution to the problem we are facing.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I just need a little time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: There is room for improvement but think we are moving in the right direction.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Did I hear you directly you did address 4 and 6 the Grosse Pointe area?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay.

>> MR. MORGAN: So the dis-contiguity here is probably the.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Water I'm guessing.

>> MR. MORGAN: Let me try to fix that.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton did you have a comment?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I was just going to suggest that we clean it up a little bit.

>> MR. MORGAN: I think I need a passport to take this walk here.

[ Laughter ]

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lange, did you have any comments? So technically it's your turn.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: First thank you for taking the turn for me.

Like I said, I want what's best for the Detroit area also.

And I feel like the Commissioners from the Detroit area now that we have to tweak the maps down so much to the block level are definitely a key part of the mapping right now.

And I'm going to put my trust in the Commissioners from that area.

Because I think you guys will know best.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Just echo that Commissioner Lange.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I would say let's get this cleanup and we can post it and everybody can look at it.

I'm sure we are going to get lots of feedback about it.

But again the point is compliance.

This is not because I love this or think it's the greatest thing in the world.

It's that I'm trying to reach that compliance goal.

Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, I mean the biggest thing I see with it is that we took these spokes and went so far north and so far west.

I think that maybe one of the big comments.

But it's a tradeoff.

I mean we have to get compliant so we have to do something and we made the decision to go the route with the spokes.

Which I think it was a reasonable thing to do at the time.

So it's all about tradeoff at this point.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Tradeoff and meeting our constitutional obligations.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Correct that is our number one priority.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, exactly.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yep.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: It still wants to keep you in the water doesn't it John?

>> MR. MORGAN: Yep, and also just double checking that you intended to split Grosse Pointe shores this way.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

That is the only way to get the balance.

Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So going from here what do y'all think? We do have this analysis tomorrow.

And it would be nice to have an analysis nor Dr. Handley's partisan analysis is what I'm speaking of and nice to have one on this but we can only do that if it's a completed map.

So do we want to like maybe merge this with the other one that we completed? And have her look at that tomorrow? Or what are y'all thinking to go from here? Lange Commissioner Szetela?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Could we have the two so they are evaluated, the one that like the Commissioner Kellom was working on earlier and then do a copy of that and put your overlay on so they can both be evaluated, is that a possibility?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, I think so but honestly like I don't know that these changes are going to make a big change in partisan fairness.

Because this area is predominantly democratic.

I'm sure almost all of these districts are 70% democratic.

So I think just having her look at the house map we have in place right now is probably going to have the same analysis just because this area is just so democratic in the Metro Detroit area.

There just isn't -- none of these districts I would expect to vote republican at all.

And I don't think there is I don't think that will vary between the first map we started with and what I changed here.

Now what I will try to do is because I worked on this, I will try to meld it in with our existing map and then resubmit it so that John and Secretary of State can repost it. So that we have a complete map that we can look at.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: When I said I wanted to do analysis I was thinking about a complete map and not just thinking about the Detroit area.

So we don't have that at this point.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: No but I will definitely work on it tomorrow and over the weekend if I need to so.

>> MR. MORGAN: So this dis-contiguity is a block between two districts. So you would either put it in 9 or 16.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Put it into 16, please.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Cynthia, Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I'm thinking since you used the other map that we are working on to do this if you merge them and it shouldn't take much to fix up around so it would be great if we could have it analyzed.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: If you can put that into 16 part of 21 into 16, please. Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: What I'm thinking about is tomorrow morning we will be here no we will be in Novi in Troy sorry we will be in Troy tomorrow at 9:00 or at 10:00 okay at 9:00.

So I'm just thinking about that is an awfully late night and early morning for you. Okay, thank you for your service.

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>> CHAIR SZETELA: I'll try, I can't guaranty it will be ready at 9:00 in the morning.  
That's all I'm saying.

>> MR. MORGAN: Dis-contiguities are adjusted.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay all right so yeah then I would post that out on the website so everybody can look at it.

Like I said I'm sure we are going to get lit up with comments about it.

>> MR. MORGAN: Generally any plan you work on during the day we would post at the end of the day.

So I think that is the procedure.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yep, then we can get that feedback which I'm sure will be abundant and everybody can look at it and we will go from there.

But beyond that we are at 7:51 guys so and we have a 9:00 a.m. in the morning so let's wrap up our agenda and move on.

So we do not have any new business to discuss at this time.

There are no minutes to approve and no staff reports.

Without objection, I will ask Sarah Reinhardt from Michigan Department of State if she has a report.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I do not.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: No report.

Correspondence received in advance of our meeting today was provided along with written public comment to the Commissioners in meeting materials.

It's my understanding there is no future agenda items to share.

Are there any announcements? All right, seeing none, as the items on the agenda are completed and the Commission has no further business, a motion to adjourn is in order.

May I have a motion to adjourn? Motion made by Commissioner Witjes. Seconded by Commissioner Lett. All in favor, please raise your hand and say aye.

All opposed please raise your hand and say nay. The ayes prevail and the meeting is adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Thank you, everybody.