

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission
March 5, 2021 Meeting Public Comment

Date of Submission: Friday, March 5, 2021 12:35PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Theresa Mitchell
Subject: Feedback on Proposed Regional Meeting Locations

Hello Commissioners,

I ask that you NOT approve the new list of hearings without adding at least five more urban and suburban areas.

Respectfully,

Theresa

Date of Submission: Friday, March 5, 2021 12:26PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Octavia V Smith
Subject: Feedback on Proposed Regional Meeting Locations

Greetings,

I am a resident of Inkster, MI. I would appreciate having regional meetings in or near my City. This can be Inkster and/or Detroit

We truly are a huge part of redistricting, we need to have our voices heard, have access to all logistics, know what is available or slotted to our City.

Don't leave us out!!!

Sincerely,
Octavia Smith
Inkster Resident

Date of Submission: Friday, March 5, 2021 10:56AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: johan cawood
Subject: Public comment

Honored Commissioners,

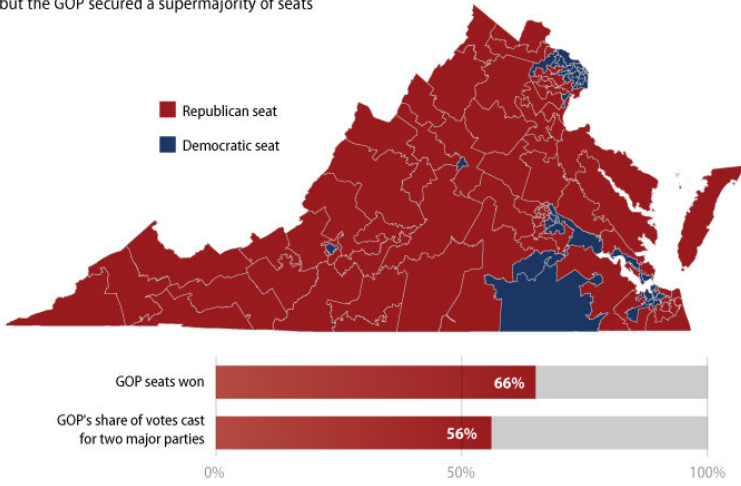
You recently heard from Kimball Brace from Election Data Services.(EDS) This brings up a few questions.

1) EDS was part of the redistricting of Rhode Island. According to the Associated Press, Rhode Island had the 4th highest efficiency gap. This resulted in Republicans winning 35% of the vote in 2012, but only received 13% of the seats. 2016 was slightly better, but still showed a large disparity.

FIGURE 3

Distorted districts in Virginia

Fifty-six percent of voters chose Republican candidates for the Virginia House of Delegates in 2015, but the GOP secured a supermajority of seats



Sources: Ballotpedia, "Virginia House of Delegates elections, 2015," available at https://ballotpedia.org/Virginia_House_of_Delegates_elections,_2015 (last accessed September 2017); Virginia Department of Elections, "2015 November General, Official Results," available at <http://results.elections.virginia.gov/resultsUAT/2015%20November%20General/Site/GeneralAssembly.html> (last accessed September 2017).

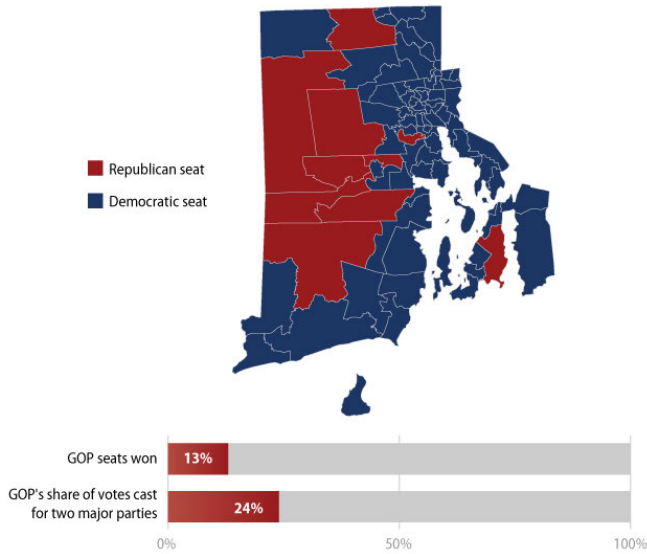


2) EDS stated that they worked in the state of Virginia. Virginia had its maps struck down by the Supreme court for violating the rights of African American voters through packing the districts. What role did EDS have in making those maps?

FIGURE 5

Distorted districts in Rhode Island

Almost one-quarter of voters chose Republican candidates for the Rhode Island House of Representatives in 2016, but the GOP only secured 13 percent of the seats



Sources: Ballotpedia, "Rhode Island House of Representatives elections, 2016," available at https://ballotpedia.org/Rhode_Island_-_House_of_Representatives_elections,_2016 (last accessed September 2017); David Lieb and Meghan Hoyer, "Redrawing America: an Efficiency Gap Analysis" (New York: Associated Press, 2017), available at <http://data.ap.org/projects/2017/efficiency-gap/>.



3) If the Michigan Districting Commission set a goal of achieving the lowest efficiency gap, could EDS tailor a map to achieve those goals?

4) If set up a matrix for scoring maps was determined to be used, what performance metrics could EDS support?

I sincerely hope you ask these questions of EDS the next time you meet.

Sincerely,

Johannes Cawood
SGT USA(Ret.)

Date of Submission: Friday, March 5, 2021 10:47AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: johan cawood
Subject: Public comment

Honored Commissioners,

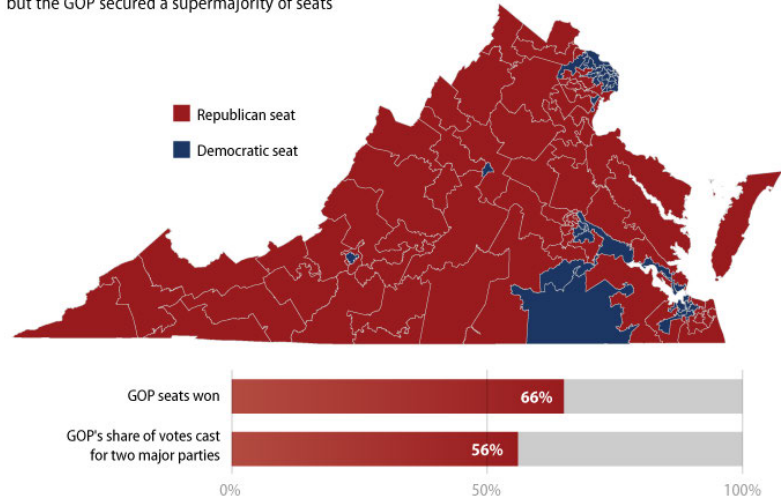
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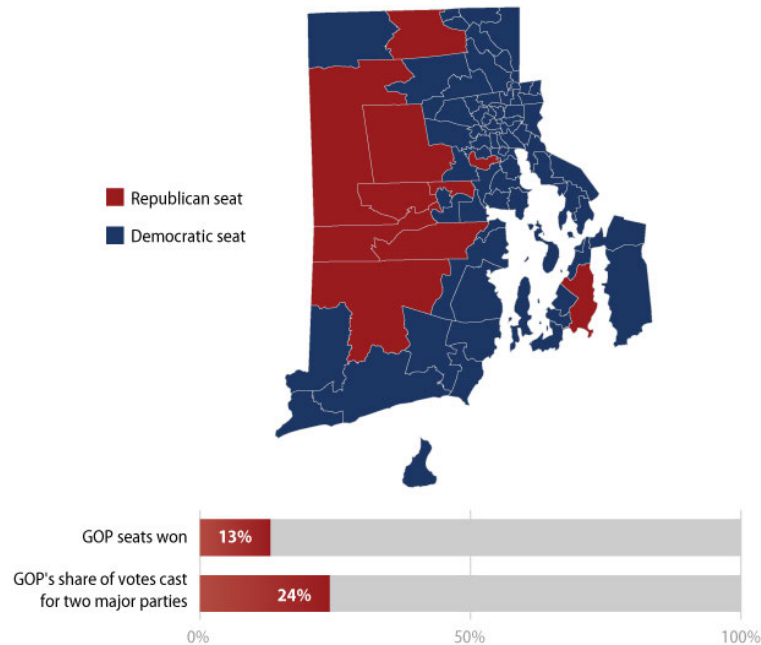


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I sincerely hope you ask these questions of EDS the next time you meet.

Sincerely,

Johannes Cawood
SGT USA(Ret.)

Date of Submission: Friday, March 5, 2021 9:45AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Nancy Wang
Subject: Public comment for March 5, 2021 MICRC meeting
Attachment included at end of document

To the members of the MICRC,

Please see our letter dated March 5, 2021 with attachment.

I look forward to addressing you this afternoon.

Sincerely,
Nancy

--

Nancy M. Wang
Executive Director Voters Not Politicians


w: www.votersnotpoliticians.com

Date of Submission: Friday, March 5, 2021 9:12AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Jennifer Jones
Subject: Redistricting Hearings

Being that each congressional district has roughly the same population, it is important that each congressional district have the same number of public hearings and that we do not allow one district to have disproportionate input.

This redistricting plan was created to end the gerrymandering that has put a disproportionate number of members of one party in the MI legislature as opposed to the actual political make up of the majority of the people of MI.

We continue to demand that our local, state and federal representatives actually serve the people of their districts, not the ones that have the most cash to give to their campaigns.

Jennifer Jones Barnes

Ypsilanti, MI

Date of Submission: Friday, March 5, 2021 9:10AM

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

Name: Bob King

Subject: Hearings

I strongly urge you to hold hearings based on population. Since each congressional district has roughly the same population, it is only right & fair that each congressional district have the same number of public hearings. If you do not hold hearings based on population, urban and suburban areas will be unfairly underrepresented at these hearings.

Thank you,
Bob King
Michigan resident & voter

Date of Submission: Friday, March 5, 2021 9:05AM

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

Name: Alyssa Feenstra

Subject: public comment – uncomfortability and braveness

My name is Alyssa and I am writing from my home in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

I am writing to address something that has been bothering me since watching the March 4th meeting where commissioners voted to use EDS as their consulting agency.

Rebecca raised a concern about EDS' moral integrity and their ability to serve the commission and Michiganders well. While I fully agree with her wariness, what concerns me most right now is not that EDS' was ultimately chosen by the commission, but rather the way the commission responded to Rebecca's comment.

First, one commissioner suggested that Rebecca's comments were out of line, and that it made this commissioner uncomfortable (e.g. heart palpitations). I would like to stress that uncomfortability is not only likely to occur regularly in this space, but that it is good. If everyone feels comfortable all the time with what's being said, to me this is evidence that the commission isn't digging deep enough into important issues such as race, which as you know is a central concern when drawing lines and an underlying reason for this commission's existence.

Second, there were comments made to the effect of 'getting back on track' or handling our emotions to move past them and onto what matters. This also concerns me. Rebecca's concerns were not only valid and logical, they were also sentiments echoed by the public in comments received. Of course the public will feel things. Commissioners should too. The redistricting process is not one void of emotions or morality; indeed, the process of redistricting is inherently these things, or else it's not being done with enough intention and attention to equity, the VRA, history, or gerrymandering and its insidious effects.

Commission, I have faith in you! Please don't be afraid to continue to "dig in" and say the hard things. And when someone says something that makes you feel uncomfortable, thank them, and then look inwards instead of outwards. Why am I feeling this way? What does it say about me or what concerns me most right now? And, don't shuffle past or hurry conversations around morality and emotions as "lesser" things. Indeed, a focus on data and facts may obscure the truth*.

Warmly,
Alyssa, an engaged citizen

*line inspired by Maya Angelou quote

Date of Submission: Friday, March 5, 2021 7:41AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Jake W Smith
Subject: Feedback on Proposed Regional Meeting Locations

Good morning, I think it's important that a public meeting be held in Battle Creek and would like to strongly advocate for it being added to the list of locations where public forums will be held. The City of Battle Creek offers a unique blend of urban, suburban and rural neighborhoods and would provide an excellent opportunity to hear from such a diverse group of citizens.

--
Jake W. Smith
Calhoun County Commissioner
[REDACTED]

Date of Submission: Thursday, March 4, 2021 9:55PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Debbie Salatin
Subject: Public hearings regarding Redistricting

Hello,
I am writing to request that any public hearings you hold around the state on redistricting proposals be based on population. Rural areas should not get more representation per capita than urban areas. Each Congressional district should get an equal number of hearings. We are all entitled to be heard and included.

Thank you,
Debbie Salatin
[REDACTED]
Brighton, MI. 48116

Sent from my iPad

Date of Submission: Thursday, March 4, 2021

Method of Submission: Surveymonkey public comment signup form

Name: Megan Matyjasik

My name is Megan Matyjasik and I am writing as a resident of Sault Ste Marie in the UP. I am obviously interested in rural areas of MI, and have joined the Communities of Interest Task Force through the League of Women Voters to do that work. However, today I want to remind the Commission that Detroit is Michigan's largest city in terms of people and land area, and the only hearing scheduled is on one edge of the city--this is an accessibility issue for the hundreds of thousands of residents of our city. I have lived in several urban areas, including Cleveland, Columbus, Phoenix, and Denver, so I can relate to the lack of a voice for urban communities. We need a public hearing in the 13th Congressional district. Some Congressional districts have multiple hearings scheduled in them, but the 13th district has none: that's not fair. Locations of hearings should be based on POPULATION-- half of Michigan's population lives in metro Detroit, so we need to be sure metro Detroit has half of the public hearings. Right now, there are more hearings outside of metro Detroit and that is biased. If there are more rural hearings, please make sure there are also more hearings in our metro areas. Thank you for reading my comment about equity for all Michigan Voices in this vital process. As a rural resident, it is just as important to me that Detroit and other urban centers have just as much voice as I do.

Date of Submission: Thursday, March 4, 2021

Method of Submission: Surveymonkey public comment signup form

Name: Elizabeth Zuppann

My name is Megan Matyjasik and I am writing as a resident of Sault Ste Marie in the UP. I am obviously interested in rural areas of MI, and have joined the Communities of Interest Task Force through the League of Women Voters to do that work. However, today I want to remind the Commission that Detroit is Michigan's largest city in terms of people and land area, and the only hearing scheduled is on one edge of the city--this is an accessibility issue for the hundreds of thousands of residents of our city. I have lived in several urban areas, including Cleveland, Columbus, Phoenix, and Denver, so I can relate to the lack of a voice for urban communities. We need a public hearing in the 13th Congressional district. Some Congressional districts have multiple hearings scheduled in them, but the 13th district has none: that's not fair. Locations of hearings should be based on POPULATION-- half of Michigan's population lives in metro Detroit, so we need to be sure metro Detroit has half of the public hearings. Right now, there are more hearings outside of metro Detroit and that is biased. If there are more rural hearings, please make sure there are also more hearings in our metro areas. Thank you for reading my comment about equity for all Michigan Voices in this vital process. As a rural resident, it is just as important to me that Detroit and other urban centers have just as much voice as I do.

Date of Submission: Thursday, March 4, 2021

Method of Submission: SurveyMonkey public comment signup form

Name: Elizabeth Zuppann

Thank you for the work you are doing. I am writing to ask that the commission base the number of public hearings on population, as you have done with your initial list. Further I'm asking that if you add hearings in rural areas, that you add the same number of additional hearings in urban and suburban areas. Finally, I ask that you specifically add a hearing in Kalamazoo county. Thank you.

Date of Submission: Thursday, March 4, 2021 5:58PM

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

Name: Dessa Cosma

Subject: Feedback on Proposed Regional Meeting Locations

Dear Redistricting Commission,

I'm emailing to request equal access to hearings across the state. Specifically, please base the number of hearings you hold on the population as you have previously determined. If you add hearings in rural parts of our state, please also add the same number to urban and suburban areas. One way to do this is to ensure that each of MI's Congressional Districts get the same number of hearings. Cities like Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, Pontiac and Saginaw need additional hearings.

Thank you for your time & attention to this,

Dessa Cosma
Detroit Disability Power, Executive Director
www.DetroitDisabilityPower.org

Date of Submission: Thursday, March 4, 2021 5:51PM

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

Name: Alexander Dewitt

Subject: Public input request, written for 3/5 meeting

Hello

This is my formal request to have a message read aloud to the independent redistricting commission for the 3/5 meeting. My statement will be below and in quotations for easy separation by the representative reading comments.

Name: Alexander Dewitt

Organization: Get Accountable Bay City

Address: [REDACTED] Bay City, MI 48706

email: [REDACTED]

"Hello independent redistricting commission of Michigan. I am unable to join your meeting today, but I want to say that I appreciate this body's work to try and get the job of redistricting done on time and correctly with the shocking constraints being put on the census data release from the what is in my opinion a botched census release from an administration in Washington that worked to undermine the integrity of one of our oldest constitutional requirements.

When this Commission finally is able to decide on the Town Hall locations are decided I hope that you are able to choose Bay City as a reasonable location for one of them. I would enjoy having the opportunity to have my town play host to a critical moment in Michigan history, just as our town hosted the first rally of Theodore Roosevelt's Bull Moose Party.

As the leader of Get Accountable Bay City, striving for transparency at the local level I enjoy seeing the opportunity for transparency of a bedrock item of our national and state politics. I look forward to continue following along with this commissions work."

Please reply if you have any questions or requirements to change.

Date of Submission: Thursday, March 4, 2021 4:25PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Dmlloyd
Subject: Suggestion

I think the committee should consider that each Congressional district get an equal number of hearings.

It makes more sense that decisions are based on where people live/population; not land area.

Where can voters get a list of public hearings?

Thank you,

Donna M. Lloyd


Date of Submission: Thursday, March 4, 2021 2:54PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Cathy Brockington
Subject: Mapping Software Deliberations

Dear Commissioners,

I respectfully disagree with the criteria the commission relied upon to select EDS as your map drawing company. The process of redistricting has been completely revised with the new emphasis on Communities of Interest as the 3rd most important criteria.

EDS has ZERO experience in working with Communities of Interest.

Also, the discussion about prices leads me to assume that you are concerned with the cost of the services over the performance of the services. The problem for me is that you all raised your salaries very early in this process, before any staff or consultants had been hired. Arizona commissioners were not paid.

Taxpayers want fair and competitive (when possible) maps, no matter the cost. Haystacq has provided these services successfully and the results are legally strong. To compromise the budget with personal remuneration is a distinct problem. Michigan citizens shouldn't have to compromise 10 years of votes because of penny pinching caused by decisions beyond their control.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Catherine Brockington

[REDACTED]
Saugatuck, MI 49453
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Date of Submission: Thursday, March 4, 2021 2:49PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Marianne H. Darnell
Subject: Public meetings

We are requesting that Muskegon County Residents have adequate representation in the in person hearing this year, We will not be left out, it's very important that we are included.
Thanking you in advance

Marianne Darnell, President
Black Women's Political Caucus of Muskegon County, MI

Date of Submission: Thursday, March 4, 2021 12:06PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: don roberts
Subject: Public meetings

The public meetings need to reflect the general population and be held equally in every federal representatives districts.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Date of Submission: Thursday, March 4, 2021 12:01PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Elizabeth r. benyi

Subject: Choosing Vendors-Public Comment for inclusion in Record

I attended the meeting of March 4 2021 and was shocked to see serious consideration being given to EDS as the vendor for drawing and maintaining redistricting maps. They are the Picasso of Gerrymandering which they readily acknowledge and wear as a badge of pride. They are so partisan that the Courts in Virginia ordered an outside consultant to fix EDS gerrymandered maps...not once but twice. Courts of Wisconsin also had to order outside consultants to redraw key voting districts because of gerrymandering. They are also heavily engaged in racial gerrymandering which they readily admitted. When asked about the built in biases and racism of their algorithms and programs they failed to adequately demonstrate steps that would be taken to counter the biases. This would lead to expensive lawsuits which the burden would fall on taxpayers to pay for and mire the ICRC in being able to meet their pledged duties.

The contract should NOT go to EDS.

Thank you

Elizabeth Benyi

Calumet,MI

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone. Please excuse typos and autocorrect.

Date of Submission: Thursday, March 4, 2021 11:57AM

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

Name: Conn Quinn

Subject: Redistricting

Dear Michigan Redistricting Commission:

I am writing to request that any public hearings you hold around the state on redistricting proposals be based on population. Rural areas should not get more representation per capita than urban areas. Each Congressional district should get an equal number of hearings.

Thank you,

Janice Karlovich

[REDACTED]

Brighton, MI 48116

[REDACTED]

Date of Submission: Thursday, March 4, 2021 11:56AM

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

Name: Conn Quinn

Subject: Redistricting

I want any of the district information meetings to be based on population so that we have a fair hearing from the citizens of Michigan

Date of Submission: Thursday, March 4, 2021 11:55AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Brenda Lindsay
Subject: Unbiased

Thank you for what you are undertaking. It is admirable.

My concern relates to the number of hearings that should be based on population, I'm concerned there is a recent cry to have rural areas over-represented? Should each Congressional district get an equal number of hearings? Just curious how this is being handled.

Thanks,

Brenda Lindsay
Howell, MI

Date of Submission: Thursday, March 4, 2021 11:45AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Ryan Bates
Subject: Feedback on Proposed Regional Meeting Locations

Dear Commissioners -

Thank you for your work on behalf of the people of Michigan.

It is incredibly important that your hearing schedule be equitable by population. This is especially true given that the current districts disproportionately dilute the votes of the residents of large cities.

For example, you could hold one hearing per congressional district. This would ensure roughly equal representation of the state's population.

Sincerely,

Ryan Bates, Executive Director, Michigan United

--

Ryan Bates
Director, Michigan United

[REDACTED]
www.miunited.org
4405 Wesson Street, Detroit, MI 48210
Text "Justice" or "Justicia" to 69866 for instant action alerts!
<https://www.facebook.com/MichiganUnited>

Date of Submission: Thursday, March 4, 2021 11:22AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Hurley Coleman
Subject: Feedback on Proposed Regional Meeting Locations

I participated in a number of meetings in advance of the Redistricting group being assembled. In those meetings, I gave intentional effort toward making sure that this committee not only had diverse representation in every measure, but specifically geographically. One of the most challenging issues that the future faces is making sure that the urban centers are not only represented, but have public comment opportunities. So much of the gerrymandering specifically impacts the urban centers, diminishing the power of that vote. Please ensure that every urban center, city, and region has multiple opportunities for input. I would be willing to help arrange opportunities in Saginaw, and will participate in the promotion of such. Please feel free to contact me.

Rev. Hurley J. Coleman, Jr.
World Outreach Campus Church

[REDACTED]
Saginaw, MI. 48602
[REDACTED]

Date of Submission: Thursday, March 4, 2021 10:43AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Laurie
Subject: Redistricting

Good day,
A note to ask you to do this the proper way and schedule public hearings based on population, with an equal number per congressional district.

Thanks so much! It is time we restore some balance and honesty to this process!

Laurie GlogoskiOlson

Date of Submission: Thursday, March 4, 2021 10:05AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Sharon Sperow
Subject: Public Hearings

I heard that you will be holding public hearings in a few months and I'm excited about this (as well as all the work you are doing). I'm hoping that the location of these hearings will be based on population, that each district will get an equal number of hearings. This would be the fair way to do it. For my district it seems like it would make the most sense to have the hearings in Saginaw and I'm hoping to see you there.

Thank you,
Sharon Sperow
[REDACTED]
Grand Blanc, MI

Date of Submission: Thursday, March 4, 2021 9:44AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Andy Helmboldt
Subject: Feedback on Proposed Regional Meeting Locations

Hello Commissioners,

I am writing to urge you to select Battle Creek as a location for public hearings. Battle Creek and Calhoun County have been heavily victimized by partisan gerrymandering during recent cycles, and so folks here are very interested in a more fair process.

Battle Creek is also a centrally-located community along I-94 that is easily accessible by folks from other communities in all directions.

Thank you for your consideration,

Andy Helmboldt
[REDACTED]
Battle Creek, MI 49017
[REDACTED]

Date of Submission: Thursday, March 4, 2021 9:30AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: REBECCA JESS
Subject: Public Hearings in May and June

Commissioners,

I understand that public hearings will be held in May and June to discuss redistricting in the State of Michigan. I request that the number of hearings be based on population, to avoid having rural areas over-represented. Each Congressional district should get an equal number of hearings. It is vital to locate hearings based on where people live and that they be based on population, not land area.

Thank you.

Rebecca Jess

[REDACTED]
Swartz Creek, MI 48473

Date of Submission: Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Method of Submission: SurveyMonkey public comment signup form

Name: Tami Rey

I am asking that the commission base the number of hearings on population, which you have done with your initial list.

- If you add hearings in rural areas, you need to add the same number in urban and suburban areas.
- Also, we specifically want to add a hearing in Kalamazoo.

Date of Submission: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 7:49PM

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

Name: Samantha Magdaleno

Subject: Feedback on Proposed Regional Meeting Locations

Hello,

I am emailing to request the commission to base the number of hearings on population, which was done on your initial list.

If you happen to add hearings in rural areas, please add the same number in urban and suburban areas.

Personally I feel all Congressional districts should get an equal number of hearing.

Reviewing what is out right now, I would like to suggest to a specifically add hearings in Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, Pontiac, and Saginaw

Thank You,

Samantha Magdaleno

Executive Director

1 Michigan for the Global Majority

For more infor

Date of Submission: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 7:19PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Patricia Murphy
Subject: Redistricting Hearings

I understand there will soon be hearings on redistricting. It is important that each congressional district gets an equal number of hearings and that the number of hearings be based on the districts population. This is so that urban areas are not short changed.

It is so very important that the redistricting be done in a fair and relevant process.

It is also important that —although some voices are very loud and aggressive that— even the quieter voices are heard. So I would urge the commission to ensure that there are multiple ways for citizens to be heard. And of course multiple ways to ensure that the voices are from valid residents of each district. Thank you for taking the time to hear my voice,

Patricia Murphy

[REDACTED]

Howell 48843

Sent from Patricia Murphy's I pad

Date of Submission: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 7:04PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: paul richardson
Subject: Redistricting Hearings

Dear Redistricting Board of Commissioners,

Fairness in representation is of the utmost imperative in the redistricting process.

For this reason it is critical that minority communities in high population density areas be adequately represented in the redistricting hearings, and process for proportionate, and fair representation for all.

A proportionate number of hearings must be held in Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, Pontiac, and Saginaw, as well as in all communities of Wayne county to ensure that these districts are equitably drawn.

We urge you to embrace your responsibility to equally distributed representation for all voters, regardless of party, socio-economic status, race, ethnic origin, religious affiliation, or disability.

Be certain that the review of this process once completed will show that your work was free of bias, and complete in equity.

We are watching, and your diligence is appreciated.

Yours truly,

Paul W. Richardson

[REDACTED]
Brighton, MI 48116
[REDACTED]

Date of Submission: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 7:00PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Gayla Reuter-Alm
Subject: Redistricting

Regarding the scheduling of public meetings. Please distribute the meeting locations according to area population. More densely populated areas to be sure to be covered adequately.

Thank you.

Gayla Reuter-Alm
Livingston County

Date of Submission: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 6:33PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: marie joppich
Subject: Redistricting open meetings

Dear Members

Please base the number of hearings both on population and rural areas so we can have fair representation across the state. I would like to see each Congressional district get an equal number of hearings. This way all districts all are being treated equally.

Thank you
marie joppich

Date of Submission: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 6:04PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Lisa Woj
Subject: Redistricting

I am asking that the commission base the number of hearings on population, to avoid over-representing rural areas. I suggest that each Congressional district get an equal number of hearings. I would especially request hearings in Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, Pontiac, and Saginaw.

Sincerely,

Lisa Wojciechowski

[REDACTED] Howell, MI 48855

Date of Submission: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 5:25PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Glen Miller
Subject: Redistricting Public Hearings

Hello Commissioner's,

My name is Glen Miller and I am writing you concerning my thoughts on keeping this process fair for all. Republicans, Independents and Democrats. I am told that there will be a number of hearings spread out geographically around the state. Please hold the meetings in population dense areas such as Flint, Battle Creek, Saginaw, Pontiac and Kalamazoo as well as areas that are a little more rural. Or a different metric would be to hold two hearings for each congressional district. I believe that by doing so all voters in the state will be better and more equally served by this process. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to making certain that this process is fair for all.

Thank You and Be Well
Glen Miller

Sent from my iPad

Date of Submission: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 5:11PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Timothy Schnelle
Subject: Redistricting Public Hearings

Dear Commissioners:

This communication is being sent to urge you to locate your public hearings geographically in a manner such that the locations do not create a perception that they are weighted to more heavily consider the opinions of certain parts of the State over those of other parts. In particular, I urge that the Commission base the number of hearings for the different geographic regions on population, to avoid over-representing rural areas. If I may respectfully make a suggestion, it seems to me that each Congressional district could benefit from receiving an equal number of hearings. I also believe that it is especially important that there be hearings in areas where there have been questions in the past

relating to the appropriateness of district lines, such as in the areas of Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, Pontiac, and Saginaw, among other areas.

Thank you for your consideration and thank you for your service.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Schnelle
Howell, Michigan

Date of Submission: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 4:06PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Christopher cummins
Subject: Redistricting Public Hearings

Thank You Sarah. I found it. Looked at it.

Many thoughts, but two suggestions from me.

1. I'm an Oakland County resident and think you should have a public hearing located in Pontiac (its our County Seat). Maybe in lieu of the Southfield hearing or in addition to what is proposed.
2. You really should consider having a public hearing in Traverse City - its widely recognized as the epicenter of all things "Up North".

Thanks again.

Regards,

Christopher Cummins





MICHIGAN LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS | *Ed. Fund*

March 4, 2021

Dear Commissioners,

Thank You for your service, dedication and hard work.

We write to comment on the critically important public hearing phase of the community input process. We appreciate the Commission's careful consideration of where the minimum of 10 hearings in the first round of public comment will be held and applaud the interest in potentially expanding the number of hearings above 10. Should a decision be made to increase the number of hearings, we urge you to base the decision on population as has been done with the initial selection of 10 hearing locations.

We also noticed that the proposed location for the Detroit meeting in May is TCF Center in downtown Detroit. At the present, Covid-19 vaccinations are taking place at the TCF making it more difficult to navigate, especially as you arrive by car. There are also concerns of parking and other logistics that would make TCF not a conducive place to hold the meeting. In addition, having a meeting in the neighborhoods may be easier for Detroit residents without access to a car. We would suggest using an alternative venue such as one of the city's recreational centers be used. Thank you for your work and your consideration of these important issues.

Sincerely,

Mark Payne
Democracy For All Coordinator
Michigan League of Conservation Voters Education Fund

March 5, 2021

To the members of Michigan's Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission:

Since the 2018 election, Voters Not Politicians has dedicated itself to defending the redistricting reform amendment in court and supporting community mapping so that Michigan will finally have fair district maps and unrigged elections where every vote counts. VNP is facilitating conversations, conducting hands-on training workshops, and producing resources to make sure underserved and disenfranchised communities in particular, which are not usually part of the redistricting conversation, have the support they need to give input and actively engage with the Commission.

The voter-centered redistricting reform amendment provides time for robust public engagement by the Commission before Census data is released, and continued engagement around maps drawn with Census data. The Census Bureau's recent announcement that 2020 Census data will be further delayed, perhaps until September 30, 2021, is not ideal. But we see it as an opportunity for the Commission to hold extensive hearings to take public testimony about where communities of interest exist. The only adjustment needed is on the other side, when the Commission engages the public around maps drawn with 2020 Census data. After consulting with national and state redistricting experts, we would like to offer an adjusted timeline for your consideration.

We would propose that the Commission take appropriate legal action to seek a limited extension of the constitutional deadline for approving final plans from November 1 (current) to December 20, 2021. Relatedly, the deadline for the Commission to release for public comment the proposed state House, state Senate, and U.S. Congressional districts they will vote on should be extended from September 17 (current) to November 5, 2021.

These adjustments would give the Commission 5 weeks to draw maps with 2020 Census data and hold a minimum of 5 hearings for public input, which is an adequate amount of time if it has prepared by using all of the data and products available up to that point. By moving the start of the public comment period to November 5, the public still would have 45 days for public comment before the Commission's final vote on December 20, 2021. **We strongly recommend that the Commission NOT vote on district maps drawn without the new Census data.** Final approval on December 20, 2021, means the maps would become law on February 18, 2022, which still gives candidates a full 60 days to file before the April 19, 2022, statutory deadline; which we believe to be a sufficient amount of time. **Please see the attached chart for a side-by-side comparison of the current and proposed timelines.**

We understand that some people are urging the Commission to delay the new maps even beyond December 20, using the Census' delay as an excuse. We submit that any further delay would betray the 61% of Michigan voters who voted for Proposal 2 and are counting on the Commission to approve new maps as soon as possible.

Voters Not Politicians volunteers and staff also offer the following recommendations to improve the accessibility of the proposed public hearing schedule currently being developed by the Commission.

- **Kalamazoo/Battle Creek:** Given the extended period before 2020 Census data is available, the Commission will be able to hold more public hearings. An estimated 396,000 residents live in Kalamazoo and Calhoun counties. Adding a public hearing in the City of Battle Creek or Kalamazoo would directly serve those communities and increase access to numerous rural communities in the area such as Branch, St. Joseph, Van Buren, Hillsdale, and Barry counties.
- **Remote testimony:** Allow live public testimony at every public hearing via Zoom or other remote video conferencing tool.
- **Night & Weekend accessibility:** If two hearings are held in a city, the commission should strongly consider hosting at least one of them in the evening (between 4-8 PM) and/or on the weekend to accommodate residents with daytime responsibilities.
- **Services for non-english speakers:** Translate meeting materials and content into multiple languages, particularly in communities such as Dearborn, Muskegon, Grand Rapids, Detroit and Warren with a substantial number of non-English speaking residents.

Thank you for contributing your time and talents to this historic endeavor. We deeply appreciate your commitment to ensuring all Michiganders have ample opportunity to make their voices heard during the redistricting process.

Respectfully,



Nancy Wang
Executive Director, Voters Not Politicians
nancy@votersnotpoliticians.com

Voters Not Politicians - Proposed Michigan Redistricting Timeline with Limited Extension_Submitted

	Constitutional Amendment	No. of days	No. of months	Proposed Adjustment	No. of days	No. of weeks/months
2020 Census data release date	3/15/2021			9/30/2021		
Release for public comment proposed plans, drawn using 2020 Census data, that will be voted on	9/17/2021	186	6 months	11/5/2021	36	5 weeks
Commissioners vote; deadline for approval of final plans	11/1/2021	45	1.5 months	12/20/2021	45	1.5 months
Final maps become law	12/31/2021	60	2 months	2/18/2022	60	2 months
Statutory filing deadline for candidates	4/19/2022	169	5.5 months	4/19/2022	60	2 months
Primary Election	8/2/2022	105	3.5 months	8/2/2022	105	3.5 months