

**Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission  
February 11, 2021 Meeting Public Comment**

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**Date of Submission:** Wednesday, February 10, 2021 11:46AM  
**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>  
**Name:** Robert McKay  
**Subject:** Publishing Agenda Ahead of Meetings

Hi,

I am writing to ask that the Commission include either a copy of the meeting agenda or a link to it in the emails that are sent out informing interested parties of upcoming meeting times and access procedures.

I do not feel as though I can be properly and fully prepared for, or engaged in, meetings when I don't know what will be discussed and therefore not able to submit agenda-driven public comment or other input.

-- Robert McKay

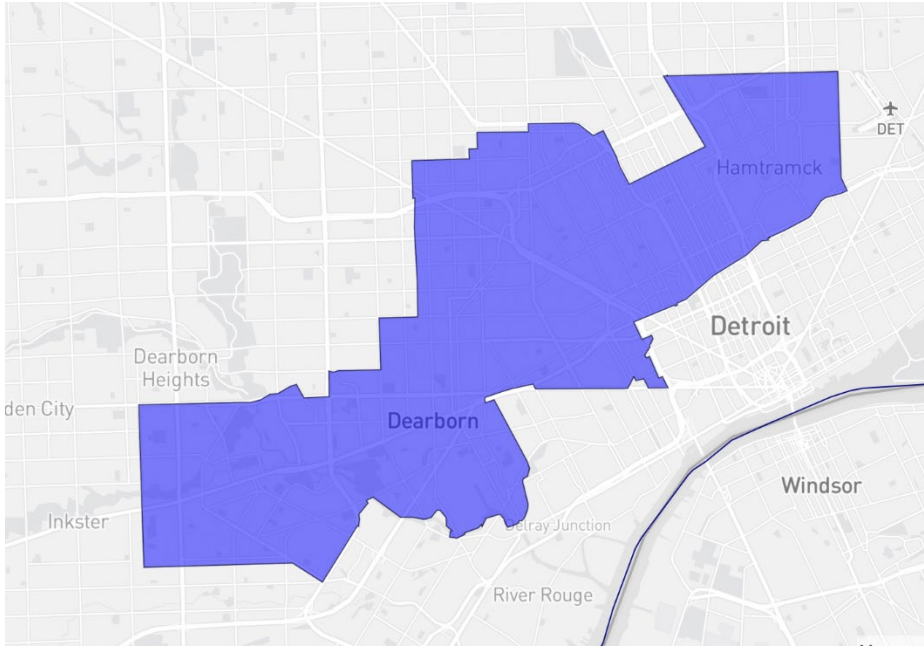
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**Date of Submission:** Wednesday, February 10, 2021 3:03AM  
**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>  
**Name:** Ali Allam  
**Subject:** Hamtramck + Dearborn COI

Good Morning,

I am writing to express my support for a state senate district which includes both Hamtramck and Dearborn. While Arab-Americans are considered white on the census, they make up a large portion of both Hamtramck and Dearborn. The two cities clearly share a Community of Interest and putting them together would allow the community to have a voice in the Michigan State Senate.

Below is an example of such a state senate district:



I hope the commission considers this configuration.

Thank you,

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Sincerely,  
Ali Allam

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**Date of Submission:** Thursday, February 4, 2021 10:41PM  
**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>  
**Name:** Marlene Romzek  
**Subject:** A not-so FAQ about communities of interest

Hello,

I am a Michigan resident that has property in northern Michigan. I am attempting to gather interested people to form a "community of interest," and then present you with our ideas and potential maps that would serve us well.

The area is mixed, with more vacation cabin owners (not voters in the area), and fewer year-around owners (that do vote there).

Both groups would benefit from being united in a new district.

In the process of getting the group formed, it occurred to me that I should find out who you want to hear from as "The public".

So my question to this commission is :

Should I focus only on the voting year-around residents, during my attempt of forming "the community of interest," before speaking to you?

Thank You,

Marlene Romzek  
[REDACTED]

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**Date of Submission:** Thursday, February 4, 2021 4:29PM

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

**Name:** Steve Redmond

**Subject:** Current Gerrymandered Districts - Representative District 72 and Senate District 26

Dear Committee Members:

I live in the City of Kentwood. My residence is across the street from East Kentwood High School which is rated as one of the most diverse high schools in Michigan. I am familiar with the City of Kentwood having lived here on and off for approximately thirty years, as well as serving as a Kentwood City Commissioner-at-Large. One of the reasons I live here is that I enjoy a diverse, urbanized area. Also, I enjoy living in Kent County the fourth largest county in the State, and contains a large urbanized area that includes Kentwood.

So when I look at my representation in the Michigan Legislature, I can find no reason how this would make sense to anyone other than I highly partisan Republican. My State Representative lives in the predominantly white and rural county of Allegan. My State Senator lives even farther away in Van Buren County, a tiny, predominantly white county. Myself and my two representatives reside in areas so different that I question if they have any idea of the issues I find important. It has not been lost on me that in the 2020 election my State Representative had fewer votes in Kent County than his Kentwood-residing opponent. I also noticed right after the election my State Senator thought it was appropriate to tweet out his glee that an affirmative action proposal in California was voted down. I am sure that point of view is supported in a rural county where working with others from different races rarely exists. As opposed to here in Kentwood where we work, play, and raise children from different races and backgrounds every day.

What is clear is that this district was drawn to counter the Kentwood urbanized diverse population that tends to vote Democratic with a larger rural population that tends to vote Republican. I consider these districts the reason why the citizens of Michigan voted to establish your Commission and bring about more fair and better representation.

I do think both of my representatives do give honest efforts to represent us, but there is just too much difference in our residency for us to be properly represented. I write this for your information as you strive to ensure all Michigan residents are fairly represented. To consider the tremendous differences between urban and diverse living areas and rural and predominantly white areas. I appreciate the job you are doing and best of luck to you as you move forward in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Steven Michael Redmond  
[REDACTED]

Kentwood, Michigan 49508