

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission
October 5, 2021 Meeting Public Comment

Date of Submission: Sunday, October 3, 2021 7:20 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Gaye Terwillegar
Subject: Public comment from Midland County

Redistricting Commissioners,

Thank you for providing this opportunity, to provide very important information, so that you may best serve each of our Michigan counties.

Best regards,

Gaye Terwillegar

District 4

Midland County Commissioner

Sent from Mail for Windows

Date of Submission: Sunday, October 3, 2021 6:37 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Quehl5
Subject: Map #191

TO: Redistricting Commissioners

FROM: Mary Quehl


Midland, MI 48642

RE: Map #191

Dear Commissioners,

I approve of Map # 187 that was recently put up on your site. It is a fair map in regards to community of interest as it keeps Midland whole by including the city of Midland with Midland County. As well it includes Isabella and Gratiot Counties with us as we are all rural communities.

I would like to bring to your attention the recent map on your site #191. I have significant concerns with this map.

First of all, we have no shared community of interest with Saginaw and/or Flint. This seems to be against the constitution which calls for aligning community of interests on maps. There is no way that the citizens of any of these communities would state that we have anything in common. I have not seen any comments in which people think that Midland should be connected with Flint on the same map.

If you were to ask any of the citizens of Midland, Midland County, Saginaw, and Flint what they share in common they would all say there is nothing that we have in common. Saginaw and Flint are larger metro areas, and we are definitely not. We are a rural community, not big city.

I would also respectfully ask all commissioners to look into who suggested this map and put in on the portal. To think that anyone would say that there is any resemblance in community of interest is absolutely ridiculous. The question should be asked what was the reasoning and motive behind putting these dissimilar cities and counties together? As my dad used to say, "something smells fishy".

I have three friends that have property within the city of Midland, Sanford, and in Beaverton, and Isabella counties that have been impacted with the flood of 2020. Two of them have property right on the water, or where there was water. They have all suffered unbelievable loses with the flood. For each of them to be represented properly to recover, map #187 would have to be used, not #191. Saginaw and Flint have no vested interest in representation in this matter and as a result the ongoing effort would suffer significantly. The estimations are that it will be at least 5 more years to repair and/or build new dams that have been damaged.

My husband has relatives that have a 1000 acre farm in Midland County, just 5 or 6 miles from us just outside the city limits. There is no agricultural footprint in Saginaw and/or Flint. So again, proper representation for them could not happen being on the same map with them. Midland County is full of farmlands.

In summary, please investigate who recommended this map and take any appropriate action that may be necessary, and do not dilute the representation of Midland and Midland County by linking us with Saginaw and/or Flint.

Thank you so much for looking into this for me,
Mary

Date of Submission: Sunday, October 3, 2021 4:28 PM

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

Name: Keith Mixer

Subject: non-partisan district lines, please

The districts need to be drawn fairly and without regard to partisan affiliation. Democracy only works when those in power represent the wishes of the people. Faith in government is what is at stake here. Twice Republican presidents have assumed the presidency who have not won the popular vote giving us Supreme Court justices who have to bizarre conclusions that "corporations are people" and should be given Constitutional protections.

District boundaries should be drawn wholly free from partisan bias. A failure to do that represents an admission that one side's plank is so unpopular that the only way to garner a majority of votes is to cheat.

Keith E. Mixer

Novi MI 48375

Date of Submission: Sunday, October 3, 2021 10:55 AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Heather Fowler
Subject: Livonia resident here

I am expecting politically competitive districts AND that the overall map doesn't give either party a leg up.

This is too important. Do not let us down. Level the playing field and let the people select the winners.

Heather Fowler

Date of Submission: Friday, October 1, 2021 8:34 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Rose Weleski
Subject: Midland County remaining as is

I would like to make a comment concerning the re-districting of Midland County. Please do not split it up. We need it intact as a part of the Gladwin & Isabella County which share mutual concerns, especially the watershed concerns. We do not need to do this to include a portion of Midland County. For what purpose would this be? I see no sensible reason for doing so. And what I have heard is not adequately explained.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Alan & Rosemarie Weleski - Midland County (Mt. Haley Twp.)

Date of Submission: Friday, October 1, 2021 10:46 AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Diane Smith
Subject: Redistricting Fairness

Dear Board,

My name is Diane Smith and I live in Novi; Oakland County. After working hard, for Voters Not Politicians, for two years, I am saddened to see the proposed maps. They aren't fair. They still favor the Republican party. Michigan hasn't elected a GOP Senator since 1992 and has only gone for a Republican President once in 32 years. Yet, the proposed maps are still favorable to the GOP. Please do the right thing and correct them.

Thank you,
Diane Smith

[REDACTED]
Novi, MI 48374

Date of Submission: Thursday, September 30, 2021 11:03 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Amanda N. Oster
Subject: No to map 191

This map ignores the communities of interest of Midland and Gladwin for flood recovery and watershed management; as well as the agricultural community of interest that benefits from representation that understands the importance of agriculture here in Midland and Central Michigan.
Sent from my iPhone

Date of Submission: Thursday, September 30, 2021 10:19 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Marlene L. Katafias
Subject: Redistricting

Hello,

My name is Marlene Katafias and I have been a resident of the City of Livonia for almost 69 years. I live in the same house my parents bought back in 1951. I voted to stop gerrymandering in Michigan and I understand this is not an easy task for the Commission, but please draw districts as the voters urged and make them as politically unbiased as possible. Livonia is only 36 square miles with a population of about 95,000 and it politically unbalance us if your proposal to divide us into 3 to 5 districts at the state legislative level. It's hard enough now for Livonia citizens to figure which district we are in for County, State congressional and senate districts and then Federal congressional and senate districts. Livonia elections have always been fairly close, which makes us a balanced electorate. Please don't allow yourselves to be pressured or bullied into dividing up the City of Livonia. As a matter of fact, I believe the western Wayne county should be one Congressional District and included Livonia with Canton, Plymouth and Northville.

Once again, thank you for the task you are taking upon yourselves.
Marlene Katafias

[REDACTED]

Date of Submission: Thursday, September 30, 2021 9:14 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Ninadabrams

Subject: Develop maps that are partisan fair

Use maps submitted by others to answer the hard questions of implementing the VRA and create fair maps at the same time. Prop 2 was passed in 2018 to eliminate gerrymandering that favored one party over another. Partisan Fairness must be a core tenet of MICRC's maps. Compare submitted maps, test for partisan fairness and size, please. Well drawn maps will increase the diversity, quality, and wealth of our state by letting everyone's views be heard.

Date of Submission: Thursday, September 30, 2021 8:00 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Connie M Jones
Subject: Fair and Equal Voting

Dear Commission,

Voting is the foundation of our democracy and it needs to be fair and equal for all voters. A good definition of fairness is that the Legislature should reflect the majority of the population – the party that wins the most votes should win control of the Legislature.

Mapping should be done with partisan fairness and using past election results. The unfair lines that have been drawn for decades should be done away with, so that the voice of each voter is heard in proportion to the majority of voters.

Date of Submission: Thursday, September 30, 2021 6:08 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Bryan Watson
Subject: MICRC – please concentrate on Zero Partisan Bias in Redistricting Maps

September 30, 2021

To the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

Dear Commissioner,

Zero partisan bias - that has to be the end product of this commission's work.

The reason for redistricting is to ensure that our government is representative of the people who are governed. The people measure that by looking at the political makeup of the elected representatives - in the legislature and in Congress - compared to the political leanings of the people. When they match up, we have partisan fairness. When they don't - as they haven't for most of the last twenty years - we have a partisan bias - we have gerrymandering.

So it surprises and disappoints me to hear some argue that partisan fairness need not be reflected in these maps. Michigan's nearly 50-50 balance among voters is matched today in Congress with a 7-7

partisan split. That's zero partisan bias. Some would have that zero bias fall off to as much as 9-4. An imbalance of that magnitude should never make it to "draft" status.

This is not a scholarly or academic question. It is not resolved by clever wordsmithing or obscure reasoning and obtuse math. For the people, it's a matter of looking at the resulting numbers - how people across the state voted, and how the legislature or Congress is made up - and finding balance. Finding fairness. Finding zero partisan bias.

Michigan voters tried to make the process non-partisan in the belief that a non-partisan process would produce maps that have zero partisan bias. We may not reach a perfect zero, but once every 10 years, that must be the target for redistricting. Zero partisan bias is the first, last, and best measure of a redistricting map's partisan fairness.

I urge the commission to measure every map by how it does - or does not - move us toward a representative government - toward zero partisan bias. You must correct or reject any maps that fail that test, whether they fail on purpose or by happenstance.

Zero partisan bias has to be the end product of this commission's work. That's what Michigan voters expect.

Thank you.

Bryan Watson, Highland Charter Township, Michigan 48357

Date of Submission: Thursday, September 30, 2021 5:47 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Jerry Oljace
Subject: Public Comment on MICRC's Redistricting and Mapping Process

First of all, I want to express my gratitude, and extend a big thank you, to all the Commissioners for the very important work they are doing. And, I applaud the MICRC on its stated Mission and Vision:

Mission: To lead Michigan's redistricting process to assure Michigan's Congressional, State Senate, and State House district lines are drawn fairly in a citizen-led, transparent process, meeting Constitutional mandates.

Vision: To chart a positive course for elections based on fair maps for Michigan today and for the future.

As I've been following the Commission's work, it is this "fairness issue" that has caused me the greatest concern. It is my understanding that the Commissioners do not have the necessary partisan information which presents a significant challenge in successfully accomplishing its mission and vision.

I would like to see the Commission prioritize partisan fairness as an integral part of the mapping process. I request that the Commission draw the districts with, as closely possible, zero political bias.

Accordingly, I believe this requires that the Commissioners have the partisan data in front of them so they can properly assess and evaluate partisan fairness throughout the mapping process. And, finally, at the end of this process, our ultimate goal must be the establishment of competitive districts across the state.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns and requests.

Respectfully,

Jerry Oljace

Northville, MI 48168

Date of Submission: Thursday, September 30, 2021 4:42 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: MYRTLE W. Ferrande
Subject: Response to redistricting

To the commission I would like to see mapping with partisan data in front of the members so that they can evaluate partisan fairness throughout this process to assure that it will be a democratic process.

I am asking that the commission to draw districts with as close to zero political bias as possible to assure a democratic process.

To assure fairness we need equatable distribution of districts across the state.

Myrtle Ferrande, MSW

Date of Submission: Thursday, September 30, 2021 3:48 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Dave and Nancy Osborne
Subject: Redistricting maps carve up City of Livonia

Hi,

We live in Livonia. We believe in the work of the redistricting committee. We supported the ballot proposal to appoint a non-partisan commission. We know you folks are working hard. But, the most recent proposed maps show Livonia being divided up into 4 or 5 different House Legislative Districts. This is nuts. It seems the antithesis of "communities of interest".

Right now we are primarily one district., District 19. With one small corner in another district. That makes sense. Livonia is not a city that's spread out. It's a compact square block. Dividing us up 5 different ways will be chaos at election time. It will be worse trying to figure out who to call in Lansing if we have an issue.

Please reconsider your maps.

Nancy & Dave Osborne

[REDACTED]

Liv. MI 48154

Date of Submission: Thursday, September 30, 2021 2:22 PM

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

Name: Richard K.LaBurn

Subject: Livonia, MI

We are Livonia residents, lifelong taxpayers in Michigan and have recently heard the rumor that you plan to split Livonia into 3, 4, or even 5 state house representative districts. This would be terribly hard for the city to manage and not at all fair to the residents. Please reconsider this terrible plan.

Richard and Susan LaBurn

[REDACTED]

Livonia, MI 48152

My name is Gaye Terwillegar. My community of interest is Midland County. I live in Ingersoll Township, which is in the southeast corner of Midland County. And I am a 4th generation resident of Midland County. My great Grandfather, Edward Ostrander moved to Midland in 1870. We are a community sustained long ago by the logging industry, utilizing our famous river system. With myself as a County Commissioner, as well as other Midland and Gladwin County Commissioners, we are diligently working toward our priority, to guide rebuilding of Sanford and Wixom Lake communities. The Commission needs to recognize the significant devastation to Midland and Gladwin counties by May 2020 flood. Both Counties are currently working as a team and are in strategic planning stages of Sanford and Wixom Dam financing and reconstruction, as well as future flood mitigation. **It is essential for our residents in Midland County to stay on our current course of action with our current leadership, that is very familiar with present and future needs of our community. For these reasons, is imperative for Midland to remain as part of District 4.**

From: [Weiss, Richard \(MICRC\)](#)
To: [Reinhardt, Sarah \(MDOS\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: State House Districts
Date: Monday, October 4, 2021 12:59:34 PM

From: Jackson Ingalls [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 12:49 PM
To: Weiss, Richard (MICRC)
Subject: Re: State House Districts

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Great, thanks! I understand it may not be exactly possible to not cross the bridge when doing the congressional district or the state senate district, but please take county lines into consideration and please please please use those lines in the U.P. and Northern Lower Peninsula.

THANKS!

- Jackson Ingalls

On Fri, Oct 1, 2021 at 11:28 AM Weiss, Richard (MICRC) <WeissR1@michigan.gov> wrote:
Thank you for your email. Will check this out.

From: Jackson Ingalls [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 11:25:28 AM
To: Weiss, Richard (MICRC) <WeissR1@michigan.gov>
Subject: State House Districts

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to abuse@michigan.gov

Hello Mr. Weiss,

First, thank you for taking the time during the lunch break to talk with me.

I am from St. Ignace, and I am wondering if there is any way when you are drawing the State House and State Senate lines to not cross the bridge? Petoskey and St. Ignace, the only time those two see each other is at sporting events (and St. Ignace wins, of course). The U.P. is very different from Petoskey/Charlevoix/Harbor. I mean it's not even comparable.

Another thing, that I am not sure if possible, but is it possible to always take an entire county

or not take that county at all? Counties seem to be mostly squared off already.

So that would be my suggestion, is when possible, do not cross the bridge when drawing districts, and to either take an entire county or don't take it at all.

Thanks!

--

Jackson Ingalls

Freshman Student

Student Senator

I.M. Supervisor & Official

[REDACTED]

Grand Valley State University

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Jackson Ingalls

Freshman Student

Student Senator

I.M. Supervisor & Official

[REDACTED]

Grand Valley State University