

***Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission  
August 20, 2021 Meeting Public Comment***

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**Date of Submission:** Wednesday, August 18, 2021 3:56 PM

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

**Name:** sussanprakkensmith Smith

**Subject:** League of Women Voters Public Comment re MICRC Agenda Item

Commissioners,

Thank you for this opportunity to address the Commission.

I'm Susan Smith, Vice President for Advocacy for the League of Women Voters of Michigan, a non-partisan organization.

As you know, the Commission invites two types of Public Comments, both of them legitimate expressions by the public.

One type of Public Comment relates to proposed maps and written testimony, especially as they relate to Communities of Interest.

A second type of Public Comment relates to agenda items. These comments have been welcomed by the Commission since it began meeting last September.

Originally, these written Public Comments about agenda items could be emailed to the Commission.

Now, however, the Public Notice of the Commission's meeting instructs the public to submit written comments via the Public Comment Portal.

As a result, unless a Commissioner happens to review the contents of the Portal immediately prior to the Commission meeting, he or she won't see the written comments pertaining to the agenda item until after the meeting is over.

The League requests that Public Notice of the Commission's meetings be changed back to instructing the public to submit their written comments re agenda items via an email to the Commission, rather than through the Portal.

Such a change would allow Commissioners to read them in a timely manner before considering the agenda item during the meeting.

Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Smith  
Vice President for Advocacy  
League of Women Voters of Michigan

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**Date of Submission:** Wednesday, August 18, 2021 3:13 PM  
**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>  
**Name:** Roth Jr. Toby  
**Subject:** Redistricting Great Lakes Bay Region

Dear Commissioners,

As the Citizen's Independent Redistricting Commission develops its redistricting plan for the state, Central Michigan University requests the opportunity to continue to vote together with the region we have worked with — and continue to work with — daily to improve lives and communities.

The Great Lakes Bay region, comprised of Isabella, Midland, Saginaw, Bay, Arenac, Gratiot, Gladwin and Clare counties, is our home. It is a home we share with a distinct population of individuals with shared cultural, historical and economic characteristics, and the way in which we choose our elected officials reflects who we are as a community.

In addition to the tremendous number of students, faculty, staff and alumni living in the area, we have built numerous collaborative partnerships here designed to improve these communities. We are more than a collection of counties voting for state and national representation, we are an area united by our efforts to work and grow together.

Here are just a few examples of the way CMU works together with partners throughout our state and congressional districts for the betterment of our region:

The CMU College of Medicine has a footprint in both Mount Pleasant and Saginaw. Our partnerships with organizations such as Covenant Healthcare, Ascension St. Mary's Hospital, Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center, Great Lakes Bay Health Centers, HealthSource Saginaw, and MidMichigan Health foster collaboration for the transformation of health care in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

CMU holds long-standing partnerships with Dow including collaboration on projects with our engineering faculty and students, the founding of The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow College of Health Professions, and more. Mobile Health Central, a gift of The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation, also travels the Great Lakes Bay Region to promote interdisciplinary practice and education in under-served areas.

The Central Michigan University Research Corp., a business incubator with locations on CMU's campus in Mount Pleasant, as well as in Bay City and Saginaw, is the number one SmartZone in the state for job creation and companies formed.

Together with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, our long-time neighbors and partners, we are working to protect and promote Indigenous culture and heritage through collaborations such as the preservation of the Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School and annual Celebrating Life Powwow. We also work together to address complex health and wellness challenges impacting our region, such as work by the CMU Interdisciplinary Center for Community Health and Wellness targeting opioid use and adverse childhood experiences.

This region is central to our purpose and our identity as an institution. We ask the commission for its hand in allowing this community that works together to vote together, as we have for many years.

Sincerely,

Central Michigan University