

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission
August 26, 2021 Meeting Public Comment

Date of Submission: Monday, August 23, 2021 3:18 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Julie bauman
Subject: Redistricting comment

Dear Commissioners,

I would like to make a comment regarding the future redistricting. I am a resident of the city of Allen Park. Our small city consists of 3 school districts: Allen Park, North Allen Park/Melvindale (Mel NAP) and Southgate. School district budgets are decided on by the Legislature. I feel that the areas that share school districts should be placed within the same representative district and in the larger picture same Senate district. For our current Senate district, we are one of the small communities lumped in with Detroit. As j a small suburb placed with a large metro city, Detroit, I don't feel that our Senator listens to the needs of our community. We never see him and he is busy with Detroit. I think the Downriver communities should be placed together in one district. I think our needs and concerns would be heard better.

As for our Congressional District (CD12), it would be good to maintain having all the Downriver communities in one district. We currently encompass Wayne and Washtenaw Counties but if it could be all downriver communities and other Wayne County cities, I feel that we would have more in common.

I know that you have a big task ahead of you in drawing the districts. I do appreciate the time you have taken to listen to many comments at the public forums as well as read through all of the comments that you receive. Good luck in your task.

Thank you for taking the time to read my brief comment.

Sincerely,

Julie Bauman

15089 Belmont Ave.

Allen Park, MI. 48101

Date of Submission: Monday, August 23, 2021 6:49 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>

Name: Adam Pottle

Subject: Unethical partisan conduct from Commissioner Eid

Hello,

I noticed during today's live session, which produced extremely questionable splits of the Ann Arbor and Lansing communities of interest, that Eid was engaging with partisan Democrats and discussing partisan election data on Twitter while in session.

I fear this is a grave violation of the MICRC's mission. The maps produced yesterday must be redrawn and Commissioner Eid must step down.

Thank you,

Adam

Adam Pottle

CEO

Tidal Heritage Development

506.721.6447

Date of Submission: Monday, August 23, 2021 6:57 PM

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

Name: Deandre Millurs

Subject: Keep GR City Together

Keep the city of grand rapids together, please.

Don't split up grand rapids city like Antony Eid tried to do to lansing city. And don't let him mess up the maps by himself again. This is a COLLABORATIVE thing. Please keep GR together, thanks you.

Date of Submission: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 5:46 PM

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

Name: Tony Daunt

Subject: Important Questions for the MICRC & Staff

Attachments included at the end of the document

Hello -

Attached is a memo that I am kindly requesting you to forward to each of the 13 members of the MICRC as well as to Executive Director Suann Hammersmith, General Counsel Julianne Pastula, and Communications & Outreach Director Edward Woods III.

If anyone has any questions regarding this memo, please reach out to me by email or phone. I eagerly await your response.

Thank you,
Tony Daunt

Tony Daunt
Executive Director
FAIR Maps
517-812-4134

Date of Submission: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 9:25 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Lindseymariah7
Subject: Low Democratic Voices due to Absences

Hello members of the MICRC,

My name is Lindsey Mariah, I am from Detroit, MI. I recently submitted this comment on your public comment portal but it was removed. I copied it to this email below:

I am gravely concerned that the MICRC does not have enough Democratic voices due to the fact that your chair, Ms. Brittni Kellom, has been absent ever since the public hearings ended. By my count, she has now missed over half of the total meetings of the MICRC.

While I understand that you have busy lives and are traveling, all of you also excepted this job and are getting paid a good salary (35% of the governors salary, or about 55k/year) to do said job. Because of Ms. Kellom's absences, there are less democratic voices available to give input on hires and mapping decisions. This is especially disheartening as she is your chair, and should be taking those responsibilities seriously. It makes the integrity of the commission. The only Democratic commissioners that are at every meeting are Commissioner Witjes and Commissioner Rothorn. We are supposed to have four democrats giving input, not only two or sometimes three.

If Ms. Kellom cannot fulfill her oath of office, I ask that she resign and give someone else who is a democratic the opportunity to do the job that she does not have time to do. If she refuses to take stock of her own availability and push her responsibilities as a commissioner on the MICRC to a higher priority and volunteer resign, I call on the commission to execute its rules under its code of conduct and vote her out.

This comment is not personal, Ms. Kellom seems like a wonderful person from what I have seen watching your meetings, but she is not there and she should be.

Lindsey Mariah
Detroit, MI

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Sent with Tutanota, the secure & ad-free mailbox.

Date of Submission: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 4:01 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Susanprakkensmith
Subject: Suggested Schedule for Allocating More Mapping Time to Detroit Metro
Attachments included at the end of the document

August 25, 2021

MICRC Commissioners

Dear Commissioners,

As you know, several organizations and individuals have expressed their concern that the MICRC Mapping Schedule does not allow enough mapping time for the Detroit Metro Region, compared to other regions in the state.

Those organizations have asked the League of Women Voters to convey our concerns to you in the attached document.

The document includes a Proposed Revised Mapping Schedule that allocates mapping time for a given region based on its relative population.

Under the Current Mapping Schedule, for example, the Commission would have to draw 43 House Districts in one day. Under the Proposed Mapping Schedule, the Commission would have to draw half that number, 15, House Districts in a single day.

We offer this Proposed Mapping Schedule as one example of how the Commissioners' mapping time could be allocated to a given region, based on its relative population.

We appreciate and support the work of the Commission as well the staff and offer this suggestion in that spirit.

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



TO: Suann Hammersmith
Julianne Pastula
Edward Woods III
Members of the MICRC

FROM: Tony Daunt

DATE: August 24, 2021

RE: Questions & Concerns for MICRC

For nearly two weeks, Michiganders were led to believe that the MICRC would begin the map drafting process on August 19, 2021, with the Michigan State Senate and proceed to the State House and Congressional Districts as each portion was completed. Unfortunately, what they got instead was hours of debate over a confusing 30-page document dropped on them at the 11th hour by staff, which completely upended their earlier comments and decisions. This is unacceptable.

Sadly, this isn't the first time confusion and the lack of consistent application of your rules and previous decisions has occurred. In light of this development, I am submitting this memo seeking clarification and guidance on several actions taken by this commission so that Michiganders who wish to participate in this process know what to expect moving forward. I kindly request your response to these questions by September 1, 2021.

- 1) What triggered this sudden change from the previously discussed plan of beginning with State Senate maps and debating a ridiculously confusing 30-page plan?
- 2) Were any outside groups or Secretary of State staff consulted during the drafting of this new plan? If so, who and will you release those conversations to the public?
- 3) Are you aware that on May 10, 2021, the Michigan Freedom Fund submitted a Freedom of Information Act request to the Secretary of State's office seeking communications between members of the MICRC; communications between the MICRC and representatives from the League of Women Voters; communications between the MICRC and Jocelyn Benson and her staff; communications between the MICRC and representatives from Voters Not Politicians; and communications by the MICRC pertaining to "Communities of Interest?"
- 4) Are you aware that on June 2, 2021, the Michigan Freedom Fund received a response from the Secretary of State's office indicating the expected cost of locating and then REMOVING any communications from that request they deemed "exempt" from disclosure is **\$257,125.20**?
- 5) Does that seem like a violation of the spirit, if not the letter, of the law of full transparency that VNP promised when they created the MICRC? If not, why not?
- 6) Do you believe it is a violation of the Open Meetings Act to not provide the Zoom chat or text conversations between MICRC members that have occurred during their numerous public meetings and hearings? If not, why not?



- 7) Why was it determined that utilizing the 2-1-1 Michigan feature to assist Michigan residents who wished to participate in the “Community of Interest” public hearings was necessary only after the stops in the more rural areas of the state had occurred?
- 8) Can you please explain why the MICRC is so eager to accept guidance from left-leaning individuals and entities such as Jocelyn Benson and the University of Michigan’s Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP) but won’t extend that same courtesy to those with alternative positions such as former Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court Stephen Markman and Hillsdale College? Are there only certain viewpoints that are worthy of discussion and debate by this commission and its staff?
- 9) Do you believe it’s appropriate for members of the MICRC to provide presentations to openly partisan groups such as the Washtenaw County Democratic Party?
 - (See link here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwEgmZ_AQEA&t=731s)
 - Doesn’t this violate the MICRC’s own rules regarding openness and transparency of their proceedings?
 - Can you please provide a record of all meetings or presentations of a similar nature that members or staff of the MICRC have participated in?
- 10) I have noticed that multiple “Town Hall” type meetings or forums have occurred across the state with many of them being held in Democrat specific locations such as local union halls. Does this seem appropriate to the members of the MICRC?
 - How were those meetings publicly noticed to the public?
 - Do you think it’s important to provide consistency when noticing meetings or forums of any sort, regardless of the specific requirements of the Open Meetings Act? If so, why have you not done that?
- 11) Has anyone affiliated with the MICRC (members, staff, Secretary of State staff, or vendors) removed any COI submissions from the citizen portal? If so, please provide those submissions.
- 12) As the MICRC has finally set about drawing maps, why aren’t the associated “shape” files referenced during the meetings being made available to the public for review?
 - In addition to the “shape” files, there appears to be a lack of knowledge and transparency provided to the public regarding COI data sets and so-called “heat maps” that have been referenced during the meetings. Can you please provide those and make sure they are put on the MICRC website in a timely fashion moving forward?

Thank you for your timely response to these important questions.

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

I'm writing this Commission to request that you make changes to the allotted time given to each mapping Region.

According to your approved mapping schedule, from August 20th - September 22nd you are conducting mapping sessions based on region and district type. It is clear that the division of time allocated to mapping is predominantly based on regions, which are not proportional to population.

When evaluating the amount of time dedicated to each region based on its population rather than geography, you have in fact, allocated the same amount of mapping time to Regions 1, 2, and 3 (comprising the UP and Northern Lower Peninsula) as you have designated for Region 10 (Detroit Metro). Your current plan is to spend the same amount of time for a population of 813,301 in northern Michigan as you will spend with a population of 3,949,171 in Metro Detroit.

The Metro Detroit Region comprises nearly 40% of Michigan's population and you have only allocated 17% of your time to map it.

Redistricting at its most fundamental level is a data-driven process. The number of hours dedicated to mapping must be consistent with the number of districts needed to be drawn. In your first three days of mapping sessions, you drew 18 State House districts and 7 State Senate districts. According to your own schedule, you have allotted the same number of mapping sessions for drawing in Metro Detroit, which has a population large enough to draw 5 Congressional districts, 15 State Senate districts, and 43 State House districts.

Given the truncated timeline, I am proposing a solution that is practical and justifiable. I request that this Commission revise your current schedule in order to add one additional day of mapping for each of Detroit Metro's district types; for a total of 3 additional days of mapping.

To ensure that you will be able to finish your initial drafting sessions by September 22nd, I've provided you with a proposed schedule that re-allocates more time to mapping in Detroit Metro without altering the dates or length of your meetings.

Please take the opportunity to reconcile the balance of mapping time to population so that fair maps are drawn across the state.

Proposed Revisions to Mapping Schedule

Date	District Type	Region of Mapping	Population	771,303	265,193	91,612	Districts/Day
2021-08-30	State House	UP, NE, NW	813,301			8.9	8.9
2021-08-31	Congressional	UP, NE, NW, SE, SC	2,313,972	3.0			3.0
2021-09-01	State Senate	Detroit Metro (part 1)	1,974,587		7.4		7.4
2021-09-02	State Senate	Detroit Metro (part 2)	1,974,587		7.4		7.4
2021-09-07	State House/Senate	Southwest	783,273		3.0	8.5	11.5
2021-09-08	State House	West	1,626,731			17.8	17.8
2021-09-09	State Senate	West, East, East Central	3,030,252		11.4		11.4
2021-09-13	State House	Detroit Metro (part 1)	1,974,587			21.6	21.6
2021-09-14	State House	Detroit Metro (part 2)	1,974,587			21.6	21.6
2021-09-15	Congressional	East, East Central	1,403,521	1.8			1.8
2021-09-16	Congressional	Southwest & West	2,410,004	3.1			3.1
2021-09-20	State House	East, East Central	1,403,521			15.3	15.3
2021-09-21	Congressional	Detroit Metro (part 1)	1,974,587	2.6			2.6
2021-09-22	Congressional	Detroit Metro (part 2)	1,974,587	2.6			2.6

MICRC's Current Mapping Schedule

Date	District Type	Region of Mapping	Population	771,303	265,193	91,612	Districts/Day
2021-08-30	State House	UP, NE, NW	813,301			8.9	8.9
2021-08-31	Congressional	UP, NE, NW	813,301	1.1			1.1
2021-09-01	Congressional	Southeast and South Central	1,500,671	1.9			1.9
2021-09-02	State Senate	Detroit Metro	3,949,173		14.9		14.9
2021-09-07	State House	Southwest	783,273			8.5	8.5
2021-09-08	State Senate	Southwest	783,273		3.0		3.0
2021-09-09	State House	West	1,626,731			17.8	17.8
2021-09-13	State Senate	West	1,626,731		6.1		6.1
2021-09-14	State Senate	East, East Central	1,403,521		5.3		5.3
2021-09-15	Congressional	East, East Central	1,403,521	1.8			1.8
2021-09-16	Congressional	Southwest & West	2,410,004	3.1			3.1
2021-09-20	State House	East, East Central	1,403,521			15.3	15.3
2021-09-21	State House	Detroit Metro	3,949,173			43.1	43.1
2021-09-22	Congressional	Detroit Metro	3,949,173	5.1			5.1