

***Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission  
September 1, 2021 Meeting Public Comment***

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**Date of Submission:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 7:54 AM  
**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>  
**Name:** Susan Miller  
**Subject:** citizen input on redistricting maps

Dear Commissioners,

I worked hard to pass Proposal 2 because of my great concern that current Congressional and State Senate districts have been drawn to achieve higher representation for the minority than the number of minority voters justifies. I am concerned that draft maps of new districts retain that unfairness.

As much as humanly possible, maps must be drawn that create districts with a partisan balance so that, in any given election, candidates from either party have a good chance to win if they appeal to voters as the stronger candidate. Races will therefore be competitive and parties will be motivated to field strong candidates. This type of map-drawing can be done while rationally joining communities of interest, for example, people from the same county who would benefit by having a particular federally-funded service such as broadband installation fairly distributed across the county.

I am a very long-term Ann Arbor resident, a Clinical Psychologist who lives and works in the city. Ann Arbor is a heavily Democratic city and packing all Ann Arbor's Democratic votes into a single district results in unfairly wasting the votes of a large number of individuals (who become irrelevant in elections due to this efficiency gap). Ann Arbor should belong to districts that pair it with Republican-leaning areas within the County, (which include those in Western Washtenaw) for the US House, which need not split the county. For the Michigan State and House districts, Ann Arbor should be divided and paired with areas inside or outside Washtenaw County in order to create the partisan balance Proposal 2 calls for. This type of map-drawing will lead to balanced districts and competitive races, as Proposal 2 requires. Large numbers of votes will not be predictably made irrelevant by vote packing. Michigan is less likely to end up with 8 or 9 representatives for a minority party and much fewer for the majority party.

Map-drawing will proceed best if it begins with the high population areas of Detroit and Flint. Otherwise, oddly drawn districts are likely to result in more rural areas.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. In your important job, I'm sure I can trust that you will abide by the requirements of Proposal 2 and aim for districts with partisan balance, not districts that pack the voters of one party for reduced electoral impact and split the voters of another party for maximum electoral advantage.

best wishes,

Susan Beth Miller, PhD  
Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County