

**Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission**  
**June 15, 2021 Meeting Public Comment**

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**Date of Submission:** Monday, June 14, 2021 10:30 AM  
**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>  
**Name:** CYNTHIA M. DENARDIS  
**Subject:** comments

I would just like to add to the comments that everything you decide - just be VERY FAIR to the people of Michigan! We are SO tired of the partisanship.

Thank you for all your hard work.

Cynthia DeNardis

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**Date of Submission:** Friday, June 11, 2021 4:20 PM  
**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>  
**Name:** Margaret Leary  
**Subject:** A Community of Interest: an area with many former residents are in prison



Ann Arbor MI 48103

June 11, 2021

Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission

By email to: [RedistrictingMichigan.org](mailto:RedistrictingMichigan.org)

Dear Commissioners:

I write to urge you to join eleven other states which have ended “prison gerrymandering” by counting incarcerated people not where they are incarcerated, but counting them where they lived before incarceration. Specifically, I urge you to ask attorney Pastula to confirm that you have the power to count prisoners in a different place than the Census Bureau has; and that you then take that step.

The problems with counting prisoners where they are incarcerated is that those they left behind are under-represented—and people living where prisons are located are over-represented. And rural areas with prisons gain an advantage over rural areas which don't have prisons.

A recent New York TIMES editorial board opinion makes the case for counting prisoners where they were living before incarceration concisely.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/11/opinion/prison-gerrymandering-census.html>

The Census Bureau has long used its “usual residence” rule to count prisoners where they are incarcerated. They did that in 2020, in spite of this fact stated in the above piece:

In 2018, the bureau asked for public comment on the usual residence rule. Of the 77,887 comments it received about prisoners, 77,863 — 99.97 percent — said they should be counted at their home address. Despite the virtually unanimous consensus, the bureau didn't change the rule, although it agreed to provide states with access to data that make it easier for those that want to reduce the impact of prison gerrymanders.

Eastern Michigan University Professor Kevin Karpiak has measured the impact, on residents of Wayne County and Detroit, of counting prisoners where they are incarcerated. He found that the ratio of prisoners to all adults is as follows: 1 in 38 adults in Wayne County are imprisoned; 1 in 25 adults in Detroit are; 1 in 22 on the east side of Detroit; and 1 in 16 in the blocks around Brewster Park.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/kevinkarpiak%40gmail.com?projector=1>

I believe that the residents in those areas (and others in Michigan including Flint and Pontiac) constitute a Community of Interest, that they live in identifiable geographic areas, and that the residents deserve to be fully represented because state and federal legislation and regulations affect them so strongly.

Below I provide links to more information on this.

Sincerely,

Margaret A. Leary, M.A., J.D.

## RESOURCES

[https://www.prisonpolicy.org/research/prison\\_gerrymandering/](https://www.prisonpolicy.org/research/prison_gerrymandering/)

<https://www.prisonersofthecensus.org/>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2019/12/31/761932806/your-body-being-used-where-prisoners-who-can-t-vote-fill-voting-districts>

<https://bipartisanpolicy.org/blog/ending-prison-gerrymandering/>

<https://www.prisonersofthecensus.org/toolkit/>

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Margaret A. Leary, Librarian Emerita, Michigan Law School

Ann Arbor MI 48103

Author, Giving It All Away: The Story of William W. Cook and His Michigan Law Quadrangle, 2011, \$25 from Amazon.com

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**Date of Submission:** Friday, June 11, 2021 3:16 PM

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

**Name:** Richard Metcalf

**Subject:** U.S. Congressional Districts

I wish to offer a few suggestions for consideration when redrawing district lines for the U.S. House seats.

1) Midland, Bay City and Saginaw have common issues and interests and should be grouped together. If the population in these cities is insufficient for a district, Mount Pleasant would be a better choice than Flint, which has more in common with Pontiac.

2) Harbor Springs, Petoskey, Charlevoix and Traverse City are logical choices for inclusion in the same district. In order to meet population requirements, continuing south along the Lake Michigan shoreline continues to include areas of common tourism and fruit production interests.

3) Likewise, the Lake Huron shoreline area makes sense to be included together. Cheboygan, Alpena, Oscoda, East Tawas and Tawas City are cities with common interests and concerns.

4) The Upper Peninsula presents a problem due to lack of population. Including the area between the shorelines districts, down through Gaylord, Grayling and perhaps as far south as Clare and Gladwin would keep the "up north" areas in a single district.

5) Huron, Tuscola, Sanilac and Lapeer could be grouped with other counties to the south, if necessary, to keep farming interests together. Some townships in eastern Saginaw and Bay counties would fit nicely with this area as well, as the Reese to Indiantown stretch, Frankenmuth, Munger and the stretch from Essexville to Quanicassee are in primarily farming townships as well.

I am not as familiar with southern Michigan, so I'll leave these comments as my 2 cents' worth. Thank you for encouraging input. Good luck with the entire process!

Richard Metcalf

[REDACTED]

Midland, MI 48640

[REDACTED]

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**Date of Submission:** Wednesday, June 9, 2021 3:27 PM

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

**Name:** Chris Conroy

**Subject:** Participants submitting comments need to be residents of Michigan!!

Please make sure you are only listening to Michiganders. Require all comments to include name and mailing address of submitter.

Sincerely,

Chris Conroy

[REDACTED]