

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission
October 1, 2021 Meeting Public Comment

Date of Submission: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 8:59 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: bobm140
Subject: Livonia

I would first like to thank the Commission for their work on fairly setting up voting districts. Although I realize it's impossible to make everyone happy, I applaud your efforts.

My name is Bob Moriarty and I am a citizen of Livonia. I write to you today to request that as you redraw these districts I, that you leave Livonia the way it is with just one member of the House of Representatives. If we had more than one representatives it would make it difficult for our city leadership to approach more than one representative to help address our local issues. Therefore I ask you to keep the number of representatives for Livonia the same as we presently have. I hope your response is affirmative.

Thank you for your time,

Bob Moriarty
Livonia, Michigan.

Date of Submission: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 7:28 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Jacqueline Stewart
Subject: Mason

I am not sure if you finally separated Mason from the East Lansing area. I wrote about this earlier. I think you may have broken up Mason School District. Aleidon school is about half way between Mason and Okemos. Please consider this.

Thank you,
Jacqueline

Date of Submission: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 6:02 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Katherine E. Higgins-Luthman
Subject: Redistricting and gerrymandering Livonia

I am outraged at the thought of our city of Livonia being divided into up to 3-5 different state representatives. We have worked hard to pull together as a community and we have become involved in forming relationships with our entire community as we have worked to elect our mayor and are now working to improve our city council. Our Democratic Club has grown from nothing to a vibrant

community of volunteers who socialize and team up for many projects at the local level. This group has sponsored and supported community based projects and outreach beyond the ballot box. In a city with no downtown, these maps could once again alienate us and lead to partisan divide for nonpartisan city government. How is it possible to expect work as a group if we are thrown into this untenable situation.? Our city is divided by I 96 and I 275. My neighborhood, Rosedale Gardens, was the first suburb of Detroit. There are already inequities in services on either side of the freeway/industrial corridor which the city has spent much effort to improve. Please don't divide us in this way. I support nonpartisan redistricting but I feel that a city of our size should not be sliced into small pieces. Voters not politics should not ignore communities of diverse neighbors.

Thank you,
Katherine Higgins-Luthman

Sent from my iPhone

Date of Submission: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 5:18 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Lori Shuk
Subject: Please do not cut up my city

Thank you to the Commission for the difficult task you are undertaking. I am Lori Bell Shuk and I am a resident of Livonia.

Current proposed redistricting maps are cutting the City of Livonia into pieces and gerrymandering the currently politically balanced City of Livonia.

I am asking the Commission to resist the pressure to draw maps for SE Michigan that would split apart our City of Livonia into numerous house districts and actually cause, rather than solve, further gerrymandering. Please keep the contiguous community of interest that is the City of Livonia intact as a state house district.

Sent from my iPhone

Date of Submission: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 5:08 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Leeann Hinchman
Subject: Livonia

I appreciate the work being done to provide fair and equitable local districts in Michigan. But as a citizen of Livonia, I am concerned that Livonia maybe broken up into several different districts. Livonia is an equally balanced city between the two parties and we are a community of interest. I feel that dividing up Livonia would make it unnecessarily difficult for our state lawmakers to work with our Livonia city officials.

I worked tirelessly to collect signatures for this commission, and would like to know that my hard work would create fair districts that would keep communities of interest intact.

Leeann Hinchman

Date of Submission: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 2:28 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Barb Iovan
Subject: Redistricting

The proposal to divide Livonia, MI, a city of 93-95,000 into five segments is preposterous! We are finally getting the public to understand and trust in utilizing Absentee ballots. Most don't know who their legislators are, their precinct number and/or location. Rather than create partisan fairness- it would simply create total confusion.

I've held such faith in this process, but now can only shake my head.

Thank you,
Barb Iovan
(she/her/hers)

Date of Submission: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 1:49 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Tami Banter
Subject: Plea for partisan fairness

I am writing to urge the commissioners to draw the new district maps with as close to zero political bias as possible. I believe this is the whole reason we as a state voted to create this independent commission. Commissioners should be drawing the maps with partisan data available to them so fair competitive districts can be created. Thank you for undertaking this very important task.

Tami Banter
Northville

Sent from my iPad

Date of Submission: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 12:24 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Can you send me via snail mail a better copy of Precinct 7 showing road names.
Subject: New Districts

Hello:

I am very concerned about the what the Commission is doing regarding

the drawing up of new districts after the 2020 census. I would like you to draw districts with a close to zero political bias as possible. That was the intension of "Voters Not Politicians" vote in 2018. In MI we knew that after the 2010 census the districts were created with a bias for one party. We need fair elections for all Michiganders.

Thanks,

Pam Westerhold

Sent from Mail for Windows

Date of Submission: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 8:27 AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Mitsymorris
Subject: Redistricting Livonia

Dear Redistricting Commission:

Thank you to the Commission for the difficult task you are undertaking. I am Mary Morris and I am a resident of Livonia.

Current proposed redistricting maps are cutting the City of Livonia into pieces and gerrymandering the currently politically balanced City of Livonia. I'm asking the Commission to fulfill their mission to prioritize partisan fairness. Please draw districts with as close to zero political bias as possible.

Livonia is a city of about 95,000 citizens, just a little bigger than the ideal size for one contiguous state house legislative district. In the past four years, our mayoral and city council elections have all been decided by margins of a few hundred votes out of thousands of votes cast. The last state house legislative race was won by only 237 votes out of 58,667 votes cast. The winning margin was only .004%. That is the definition of a balanced electorate.

I am asking the Commission to resist the pressure to draw maps for SE Michigan that would split apart our City of Livonia into numerous house districts and actually cause, rather than solve, further gerrymandering. Please keep the contiguous community of interest that is the City of Livonia intact as a state house district.

I also ask the Commission to keep western Wayne as one Congressional District, including Livonia with Canton, Plymouth, and Northville. I would also hope we could include western Wayne south of Livonia in that Congressional district.

Thank you for your kind attention in this matter.

Mary Morris

Date of Submission: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 8:27 AM

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

Name: Peter Dale

Subject: Livonia

Dear Redistricting Committee,

Please keep Livonia as one district in all your work. We are one community and having more than one district will hurt our city-wide identity as well as our unity.

Helen Hench

Date of Submission: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 10:19 PM

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

Name: Fred Rolf

Subject: Map 179

Map 179 is a US congressional district map. Map 179 encompasses all of Midland County. Midland county is a very tight knit Community and a diverse County. For example, the Midland public schools have significant household income diversity. Residents of the City of Midland and close environs provide significant financial and in-service support for not only the schools in western Midland County but in Mount Pleasant, Clare and Gladwin. An example of this financial support is the combination of the Midland Area Community Foundation and the Gladwin Area Community Foundation. One major endeavor of these foundations is to provide scholarships for students in Midland and Gladwin County.

All of Midland County is impacted by the Titabawassee and Chippewa River systems. These rivers and the Lakes formed by the rivers in Gladwin, Clare and Midland Counties experienced record flooding in the spring of 2020. The flooding impacted the city of Midland and virtually all of Midland County. Working together to combat and prevent future floods is a community of interest for all of Midland County. Having one congressman being able to focus on this major environmental issue is important for the residents of Midland County and Gladwin County.

Lastly, while Midland does have contacts with Saginaw County and Bay County they also have close social and cultural contacts with Isabella County, Clare County and Gladwin County. The 5 Midland County High Schools are strong feeder schools for students at Central Michigan University. Many Midland residents support the various entertainment venues offered at the Soaring Eagle Resort/Casino.

I could list other common cultural communities of interest between Midland and counties to the west and directly to the north. These common bonds are historic and are much closer than the ties to Saginaw County and Genesee County.

Respectfully submitted,

Ramon F Rolf

Sent from my iPhone

Date of Submission: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 4:20 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Amy Chajl
Subject: Community of Interest analysis

I am concerned about the commission's use and analysis of community of interest proposals. Commissioners often cite a community in very broad terms, do not give evidence or explanation for the consideration extended to the community, and fail to offer an explanation for discounting an opposing viewpoint. Is there any published methodology this commission utilizes to evaluate a COI for veracity, logical argument, or partisan interests?

Kim Brace mentioned a commissioner could overlay a COI with racial demographic information. I have not seen a commissioner use this feature. Perhaps if one had that Lake St. Clair COI, which captures all the white population on the waterfront and excludes the minority population directly west of it, would have raised some red flags. Grosse Pointe has built barricades along Alter road to divide the suburbs from the city of Detroit. Roads and sidewalks which use to connect are now dead ends. Historically, redlining and physical violence was employed to prevent minorities from living along the lake. Should COI proposals be used to enshrine this division in political districts for state and federal government? I ask the commission to explicitly justify this.

The commission has been very concerned about creating separate "rural" and "urban/industrialized" districts. Some Livingston County residents requested they be kept separate from the surrounding area. The rationale is they are "rural." Livingston County land area in agricultural use as a percentage of total acres is 24.7%: Washtenaw County 39.6%, Ingham County 50.1%, Jackson County 35.7%, Lenewee County 80.1%, Macomb County 24.0%. Measurable data from USDA Census of Agriculture suggests Livingston County is not particularly rural. Another example is Ms. Rosemarie DeLoof's assertions.(DeWitt Township plan w5523)(Community of interest w427) Her address is a housing development in Dewitt township in Lansing, MI. Google maps lists it as a 13 minute drive from Sparrow hospital in downtown Lansing. East Lansing High School serves her community yet she claims she wants nothing to do with Lansing and lives in a rural area. This is a bald-faced lie. I expect this commission to sort through these COIs for gross inaccuracy and misrepresentation. I ask the commission to justify sorting communities by rural and urban distinctions based only on one person's "agrarian feeling." I also ask this commission to explain to the public how it arrived at the conclusion urban and rural areas cannot share any political interests.

I worry this commission is deciding who has a right to political interests when designing districts. At a federal level all Michigan residents are concerned with federal policy affecting the Great Lakes. How are lakeshore residents the only group entitled to an opinion on legislation? Interstate commerce and regulations are pertinent to all Michigan residents. Businesses beyond the "border" district created by this commission are impacted by federal regulation of commerce. A resident in the middle of the state will get just as ill as a "border" resident by consuming contaminated lettuce regulated by FDA. I ask the commission to justify, explicitly, why they are prepared to reconfigure political maps based on COIs designed to assert only one population has a right to a specific legislative interest.

Community of interest proposals have apparently reprioritized the importance of local and county lines and boundaries per the constitution. Many people have been asking for their county, township, city, school district to be kept whole. During the September 1, 2021 meeting several commissioners said local boundaries should be important because that is what people defined as a COI. Counties, townships, municipalities and school districts all have local governments structures. Residents can vote in local elections to direct local community decisions. I ask this commission to explain why these local governments are insufficient for some communities thus necessitating replication at the state and federal district level. I further ask the commission justify why other local communities don't deserve the same consideration.

Finally, I worry this commission is not being diligent in analyzing partisan bias creeping into some of these COI proposals. There are individuals, who have a political affiliation interested in the outcome of these decisions, prolifically inundating the commission with their proposals. The commission recently congratulated itself on giving one of these individuals the community of interest legitimacy he feels he deserves. He is also a political consultant with a resume linked to the Republican Party fundraising and political action committees. He is the former chairman for the county Republican Party. He is entitled to his opinion and should be able to petition for a COI as much as the next person. This commission, however, is not entitled to use his sloppy premise rife with logical fallacies and misrepresentations as evidence to support a redistricting decision. I ask this commission to provide more evidence than "people said" or "many comments" when drawing lines and validating communities as distinct.

Without more information and measurable data, communities of interest can easily become a racial and political pitfall for this commission. Commissioners should delineate their decisions with greater care. The public will not, and should not, trust the redistricting outcome as fair if there is no evidence-based analysis of the communities being proposed.

Thank you,
Alice

Sent from my iPad

