

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission
October 22, 2021 Meeting Public Comment

Date of Submission: Friday, October 22, 2021 9:05 AM

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

Name: Joseph Sova

Subject: Midland County – Redistricting Impacts Local Safety, Watershed, Environment

-Begin-

Redistricting Impacts Local Safety, Watershed, Environment

As Midland County Drain Commissioner, former Utilities Director for the City of Midland, and life-long member of the Midland community, I'm uniquely qualified to speak on behalf of the watershed connecting Midland and Gladwin Counties and to advocate to the Michigan Redistricting Commission about the importance of unified representation at both the state and federal level.

As a Midlander with over 20 years of governmental service ensuring the responsible operation and maintenance of water, wastewater and storm drainage systems, I have seen first-hand the natural interaction and mutual dependency with Gladwin County.

Experience allows me to confidently say Midland and Gladwin Counties in their entirety are best served by being put in the same State House, State Senate and Congressional districts, to best address our watershed needs. There are three specific reasons: Public Safety, Flood Recovery & Mitigation, and Environmental Protection.

Our watershed and drainage systems are intricately connected to one another. On a basic level, when there are heavy rains in Gladwin County, Midland County is put on alert. We know increased water levels are headed towards the Tridge in downtown Midland impacting our water system all along the way. On a larger scale, in 2020, our direct connection with the Tobacco and Tittabawassee Rivers in Gladwin County led to catastrophic flooding and the successful evacuation of more than 10,000 residents in Midland County.

Those who live here know how greatly our safety and livelihoods depend on one another. We cannot afford another 2020 disaster, which is why Gladwin County, the City of Midland and Midland County are working together in recovery efforts and flood mitigation planning. But recovery and future planning projects aren't cheap. The amount of resources Gladwin and Midland Counties need will require coordinated funding assistance at the state and federal levels. We are stronger advocating with a unified voice in Lansing and Washington, D.C.

It's important to recognize working together and mitigating flooding is also critical for environmental quality. As the County's Enforcing Agent under the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Act, it's imperative for Midland and Gladwin Counties' shared ecosystem to prevent soil erosion and to control the amount of sediment and contaminants reaching our waterways.

I ask the Redistricting Commission to keep Midland and Gladwin Counties together in a State House, State Senate and Congressional map. The needs of our shared watershed are vital, and our counties are best served together.

-End-

Joseph Sova
Midland County Drain Commission

Date of Submission: Thursday, October 21, 2021 10:44 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Jim Chris
Subject: Midland Redistributing

I would like to voice my support for keeping the city of Midland with the county and to include Gladwin. This area has mutual interests that would not be represented if the district is somehow added to Bay City, Saginaw or Flint. Please allow us to address our issues with flooding etc. as a whole.
Christine J Harper

Sent from my iPhone

Date of Submission: Thursday, October 21, 2021 6:14 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Judy Oake
Subject: Question and Request

Hello,
I am wondering who the MICRC "reports" to? I have logged in several times to participate in the Commission's hearings via Zoom. I have noticed several times that one of the commissioners (Rhonda Lange) who usually participates via Zoom. It is very frustrating and uncomfortable to watch her smirk when one of the public speakers states their concerns and apparently do not agree with her beliefs. I believe she is one of the Republican commissioners. It is VERY hard to believe a commissioner is unbiased and non-partisan when their facial expressions seem sarcastic, condescending and smirking. I'd request that SOMEONE speak with her and remind Ms. Lange that she is supposed to represent ALL of Michigan. This is a VERY important task the MICRC is doing. Please don't screw it up!
Thank You.
Judy Oake

Date of Submission: Thursday, October 21, 2021 12:21 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Jack Pfenniger
Subject: Redistricting proposal

Hi!

Michigan made the USA Today!! (See above.) Guess it's pretty obvious to the country, not just to those of us involved. The redistricting plan you have developed separating the city of Midland from the rest of the county is not appropriate.

It would have been better had there been 50% Dems and 50% Reps vs the so called "Independents" making up 1/3 of the commission.

Please reconsider your recommendations.

Thank you.

John L. Pfenninger, MD

[REDACTED]

Midland, Mi 48642

[REDACTED]

Date of Submission: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 2:57 PM

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

Name: Lesleymiller52

Subject: Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Public Comment

Dear Commissioners:

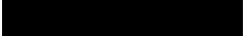
Michigan voters overwhelmingly supported the creation of a non-partisan redistricting commission in order to ensure that every vote matters and that our political districts fairly represent the will of the voters. In your final maps, I strongly urge you to fully consider partisan fairness measures. The goal ought to be to create maps with as close to zero wasted votes as possible.

Fair, non-partisan redistricting means that if one party gets 60% of the votes in a statewide election, they should get 60% of the seats in Congress and the state legislature. While communities of interest are important to consider, they should not be considered at the expense of an undue amount of wasted

votes. The goal is one person, one vote - wasted votes do not benefit any community or our state as a whole.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,
Lesley Miller


Applegate, MI 48401