

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission
November 18, 2021 Meeting Public Comment

Date of Submission: Monday, November 15, 2021 11:45 AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Amy Chajl
Subject: Double-standard

Commissioners,

I am not affiliated with any political party. This commission should know that I contacted and encouraged the Washtenaw County Democratic Party to ask interested members to speak up about their community and the shape of the maps for our area. My communication with WCDP officials preceded (9/8) the Facebook post Republican partisans have been complaining about as a “fake” influence.

The truth is I had to argue to several WCDP people about what I suspected was a coordinated, and successful, partisan Republican effort to influence “communities of interest” considered by this commission. Democratic Party officers were worried about scripted messaging and had great trust commissioners would be rational and fair in their dealings with the public. I believe Republican Party advantageous draft maps released at the time helped to convince them otherwise. An NBC news article from November 5 subsequently vindicated my suspicions.

When Commissioner Orton claims, “Brighton doesn’t want to be with Ann Arbor.”; I hear Meghan Reckling the Livingston County Republican Party chair talking. I see Dan Wholihan, former three-term LCRP chair, posting and reposting about how Livingston County has nothing in common with Washtenaw County, but it is OK to add some townships as long as Republicans can be assured they can outvote the few pieces of Washtenaw you do place with Livingston County.

When a commissioner expresses satisfaction with creating a CONGRESSIONAL border district to take care of all those inter-state trade wars not actually happening and conveniently forgets criticism against it(Grand Rapids public hearing); I hear Carol Knoblauch, Lenawee County Republican Vice-Chair and \$23,000 plus campaign donor to Tim Walberg, congratulating herself on designing a safe political seat for her preferred candidate by manipulating disparate communities into a questionable COI.

Anyone on this commission who wants to now discount comments from people in Ann Arbor and its surrounding environs because we are not “legit” or genuine had better be ready to defend a double-standard which allows Republican COIs and scripted influence but not Democratic feedback or COIs.

Sincerely,
Alice or Amy Chajl

Sent from my iPad

Date of Submission: Thursday, November 11, 2021 1:43 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Pkkevin
Subject: Redistricting Comment – Midland Count/Midland

Redistricting Committee,

I am advocating for a State House, State Senate, and US Congressional maps that keep together Midland and Gladwin Counties. It makes zero sense to separate the county seat of any county from a district, including and specifically The City of Midland and Midland County. One of the proposed maps that pulls the City of Midland away from Midland County and combines it with Bay City is particularly concerning. Midland and Midland County along with Gladwin County share common interests and challenges including commerce, education, hospital systems, local waterways, places of employment, infrastructure, etc. In the recent pandemic, and flooding caused by dam failure, we experienced first hand the advantages of how our district is currently drawn. This allowed us to seamlessly work together with state and federal representatives to provide relief and funding to our district.

Please keep Midland and Gladwin Counties together as a district and do not succumb to politics by pulling the City of Midland away from Midland County. This does not represent the intent or desired outcomes of this voter supported project.

Best regards in your important work,

Kevin Noble



Midland, MI 48642

Date of Submission: Monday, November 8, 2021 10:46 AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Amer Zahr
Subject: Don't fragment the Arab American community

Also, I have drawn a State House map that reflects a non-fragmentation of the Dearborn Arab American community at <https://districtr.org/plan/77216>

Again, I beg you to give us at least one option that doesn't unnecessarily fragment Arab Americans.

Thanks, Amer

Date of Submission: Monday, November 8, 2021 10:33 AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Amer Zahr
Subject: Don't fragment the Arab American community

Michigan is home to the nation's most concentrated Arab American population. While we are unfortunately not denoted in Census numbers, we are a flourishing and contributing community. Estimates from the Census Bureau put our numbers in Michigan at 278,000 Michiganders, while the Arab American Institute has conducted its own studies that put the population at closer to 500,000. Dearborn is our national community's unofficial capital.

It is essential that our central communities in Dearborn and Dearborn Heights are not fragmented in the making of legislative districts. I'd like to thank you for achieving this important goal in the proposed congressional and State Senate maps. Those maps preserve the voting rights of the Arab American community.

However, the Pine State House map and others fail in this regard. This map distributes Dearborn, our center, among three districts, number 3, 4, & 6. Dearborn, with a population of approximately 115,000 persons, should be distributed among no more than 2 districts. Luckily, the fix for this is very simple.

The section of east Dearborn that is located in District 3 can be redrawn into District 4. This section happens to be the heartbeat of the Arab American community. I am speaking of the area bounded by Ford Rd. on the south, Greenfield Rd to on the west, Tireman Ave on the north, and roughly Wyoming to the east, plus a few blocks in the northeast end. To offset this gain, the sections of Detroit's Franklin Park neighborhood currently in District 4 could be given to District 3. This would avoid unnecessary fragmentation of the Arab American community of Dearborn in District 3, while making District 4 more heavily African American. This change would help two disaffected minority communities at once, and keep communities more intact.

Without this important change, the Arab American community's votes will be diluted by fragmentation in violation of the Voting Rights Act. Please propose at least one State House map that doesn't fragment Dearborn so we may comment on it.

Thank you, Amer Zahr

Amer Zahr
Comedian, Writer, Speaker, Professor
Adjunct Professor, University of Detroit Mercy School of Law


<http://www.amerzahr.com>

Date of Submission: Monday, November 8, 2021 10:32 AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Bon Chunn
Subject: No Fair House Maps to Vote On!

Dear Commissioners,

We are nearing the end of the process and have a good selection of Congressional and Senate maps to discuss and vote for but not one fair house map.

I recognize that your data suggests Hickory is a decent house map but it is not! Our test of the map against the 2016 Presidential Election has a seat count of 46D to 54R with a Republican majority and in the 2020 Presidential has a seat count of 53D to 57R with a Democratic majority. This is not fair and is the best of the bad choices given.

Analysis agree that yours is off. Dave's Redistricting, PlanScore, NextVote, DistrictR

Promote the Vote made a fair map that has more VRA districts and correctly flips from a Republican majority in 2016 , 51D to 59R to a Democratic majority in 2020, 60D to 50R. It also has an additional VRA district and many VRA districts, which are stronger than the ones in Hickory.

I hope a commissioner will submit Promote The Vote's map as their individual one so there is some choice!

You can find it here: <https://www.michigan-mapping.org/submission/o6250>

Sincerely,

Bob Chunn
President, NextVote LLC

Date of Submission: Monday, November 8, 2021 10:31 AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Quentin Turner
Subject: Fair House Maps

Hello Michigan Independent Citizen's Redistricting Coalition,

I am submitting this message on behalf of Common Cause Michigan and our over 10k activists and members. I am also submitting this message as a lifelong Michigander and voter who supported the creation of this commission and eager to see it succeed in its constitutional duty.

Currently, the commission has no House maps that have achieved a satisfactory level of partisan fairness. This is clearly an undesirable outcome of the mapping process and should be resolved before proceeding on the vote for final maps. That is why Common Cause Michigan supports your consideration of Promote the Vote's Fair and Equitable MI State House Map; Map ID 06250 on your public comment portal.

This House maps achieves greater results in fairness in several ways compared to the current House maps created by the commission. These improvements are as follows:

Analysis by NextVote shows, if this map was in place in 2016, it would have resulted in 51 D seats/59 R seats; in 2020 it would have resulted in 60 D seats/50 R seats. This is the definition of responsiveness, which is what you want in a fair map. (<http://nextvote.us/MapY.aspx?mapid=2297>)

This map has 20 VRA districts; each at 40% or more in minority population. Greater than either Hickory or Magnolia.

This map splits only 16 cities; compared to the 19 in Hickory and Magnolia maps.

The simple fact is PTV's Fair and Equitable MI House Map is well crafted and achieves the desired criteria of what MI voters want from a district map better than current Commission drafts. We at Common Cause urge you to put this map in the selection pool today, either as a collaborative map or as an individual submission.

Thank you for all you have done and for taking the time to consider our request.

Sincerely,

Quentin Turner

Quentin Turner (He/Him)

Common Cause Michigan

Program Director



Twitter: @CommonCauseMI

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/commoncausemichigan>

Date of Submission: Monday, November 8, 2021 10:19 AM

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

Name: Loida Tapia

Subject: Correspondence for Commission Consideration

Dear Commissioners,

I want to bring to your attention that there are currently no fair house maps that have been submitted for consideration. All your house maps have leaned in favor of one party over another.

I would like for you to consider Promote the Votes O6250 comment and P6784 Map. As this map is a fair house map.

O6250 and P6784 House Map cuts only 16 cities, as your Hickory and Magnolia maps cut through 19 cities

O6250 and P6784 House Map has 20 VRA Districts that are stronger 40% or more than your maps in which Magnolia only has 19 VRA districts at smaller VRA percentages.

O6250 and P6784 House Map analyzed against 2016 election data would lean 59R/51D and analyzed with 2020 election data would lean 50R/60D because it includes more competitive districts in comparison with your maps.

Please consider adding O6250 and P6784 House map to your house pool as it would ensure that a fair and competitive map is a part of your final pool.

Thank you,

Loida L. Tapia