

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission
November 4, 2021 Meeting Public Comment

Date of Submission: Thursday, November 4, 2021 8:19 AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Brad Blasy
Subject: Stop the Gerrymandering, Keep Midland Intact!!

Redistricting,

The separating of Midland County from the City of Midland and separating Midland from Gladwin, Isabella, Clare and Gratiot cannot happen. Keep Midland joined with the counties to the north and west of Midland, as they have been for decades. The proposed placement of the City of Midland with Saginaw, Bay City and Flint is wrong and cannot happen.

Thank you,

Brad

Brad D. Blasy, President / CEO

Blasy Electric, Inc.

[REDACTED] . | Midland, MI 48640-5701

[REDACTED] | www.blasyelectric.com

Date of Submission: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 7:04 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Barbara Markowski
Subject: Redistricting Jackson County

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am voicing my objection to the proposed dividing up of Jackson county into four separate districts and for annexing us with Washtenaw county/ Ann Arbor.

We are separate communities with unique qualities. Jackson will essentially have no united voice in the senate and the House. It is obvious to me that this is being done to eliminate the united conservative voting block in Jackson county.

This move is not only being conducted behind locked public doors, it is HIGHLY IMMORAL, PARTISAN and CORRUPT. You are intentionally disenfranchising thousands of voters who will be silenced by lumping us in with a much larger liberal community.

I WHOLEHEARTEDLY stand in protest to this "sleight of hand" and corrupt maneuver of the most evil kind.

Barbara Markowski

[REDACTED]

Parma, MI 49269

Date of Submission: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 5:37 PM

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

Name: Forddiesv8

Subject: Jackson area redistricting

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

I am a resident of Norvell Township in Jackson County, I am strongly against the proposed Senate district map that is not only splitting Jackson in half but combining both with areas of Washtenaw that include areas of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti.

A majority of Jackson County is rural and agriculture communities and manufacturing based areas, while the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti areas are college and urban communities. These communities hold vastly different interests and I feel would result in the rural/agriculture areas not [being] adequately represented.

The Ann Arbor area is dominated by the University of Michigan and the university staff, faculty, students, along with other residents that reside in the that area due to the ideas and interests of that area. Jackson County is made up of rural farming communities and manufacturing areas that have very different cultural values from the Ann Arbor areas.

The Jackson area has more in common with the counties of Hillsdale or Lenawee. Having Jackson in with either of these other counties would give them a better representation.

Jackson already has strong ties to the counties of Hillsdale and Lenawee with originations like the Region 2 Area of Agency and Disability Connection. These counties also service tourism based places like the Irish Hills, Michigan International Speedway. Allowing the Washtenaw area to influence these areas of Jackson County could be detrimental to the well being of future events in the tourist areas of Jackson County such as races at MIS or the Faster Horses festival. While Jackson and Washtenaw have their value and points of interest mixing the two would not be beneficial to one another.

In conclusion, I hope that these points will make you reconsider the Senate district map proposed for Jackson County.

Respectfully,

Andrew Haystead

Norvell Township, Jackson, Michigan

Date of Submission: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 5:33 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Jackie Leslie
Subject: Jackson County

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

I have been a resident of Jackson County, Michigan for 54 years. I am sending this email today to express my concern about the redistricting process.

I do not want Washtenaw and Jackson put in one Senate District and I do not want Jackson County divided.

Please do not split or divide Jackson County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jackie Leslie
Blackman Twp
Jackson County

Date of Submission: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 4:57 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Brenda Humphrey
Subject: Redistricting

Hi. Please, we do not want Washtenaw Co & Jackson Co. put in the same senate District. We do not want Jackson divided either.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Date of Submission: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 4:37 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Lori Ann Scouten
Subject: Redistributing

Dear commissioners I am a resident of Jackson County and I'm concerned about the redistricting I do not want Jackson County combined with washtenaw county. We are two different separate unique counties with different needs and different people involved in different amounts of people so it's important that Jackson have a say in what is going on and that we have an opportunity to elect our own representatives

for that area thank you for your listening to this concern Lori Scouten

Sent from my iPhone

Date of Submission: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 3:55 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: becky Marie oexler
Subject: map

As a concerned Jackson County resident, I am voicing my resistance to redistricting Jackson with Washtenaw and Ann Arbor. Way too democratic for me. I am a staunch Republican. Leave us alone!!!!

Becky Oexler

Jackson, Michigan 49203

Date of Submission: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 3:20 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Cheryl Ellison
Subject: redistricting Jackson County

Dear Honorable Committee,

I am a resident of Jackson County and have lived in Jackson County for most my life. Please rethink splitting up and redistricting Jackson County with Washtenaw County. As a life long resident of Jackson County I believe Jackson County has more in common with Hillsdale and Lenawee County than with Washtenaw County. Ann Arbor houses UofM and is a huge college town whereas Jackson is more rural and manufacturer based which contributes to entirely different cultural values. I'm concerned that based on population disparities Jackson County would no longer have the opportunity to have local representation. Please consider keeping Jackson County with the Irish Hills region which is the best fit for our county.

Thank you for your consideration,

Cheryl J Ellison

Sent from my iPad

Date of Submission: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:49 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Annahicks66
Subject: Jackson county Senate redistricting

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

Text and I am a resident of Jackson County. I am concerned by the proposed senate redistricting line.

I believe very strongly that Jackson County should not be divided. Much more, it is vital that we not be combined with Washtenaw County. The two counties could not be more different. The people have different concerns and needs. I have worked in both Jackson County and Washtenaw county and have seen these differences firsthand.

I implore you to refrain from dividing Jackson County in your redistricting effort and from combining any part of Jackson County with Washtenaw County.

Sincerely,
Anna Hicks

Sent from my iPhone

Date of Submission: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:31 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Eugene Weber
Subject: Washtenaw and Jackson Combined

Dear Jackson County COmmissioners:

I am a resident of Grass Lake since 2003.

I am writing to you today to request that you do not approve Jackson and Washtenaw counties from becoming one. I have lived in Grass Lake for 17 Years, and I am happy and proud to be a resident of Jackson county. I am really proud of what my commissioners stand for and the impact they are making on our community.

Thank you for you considering my request

Sincerely,
Eugene Weber



Date of Submission: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:09 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Bboyer1002
Subject: Redistricting Map

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

I am a resident of Sandstone Township in Jackson County, MI. I am writing to you today to request that you do not move forward with approval for the current redistricting map as proposed. I was born and raised in the Jackson community. I have and continue to visit the Washtenaw community often. It is also a fine Michigan community. However, our two communities are not very similar. Please do not combine the Jackson and Washtenaw areas as a common Community of Interest (COI).

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Brian Boyer

Date of Submission: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:49 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: James Gallant
Subject: Post Meeting Transcripts please!!

MICRC & Secretary Benson,

Will you please post the meeting Transcripts on your website for the benefit of the public who are participating in this redistricting process?

The Transcripts are missing back to Sept. 16, 2021.

Thank you, James Gallant, Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coa

Date of Submission: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 10:50 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Quehl5
Subject: Dennis Quehl comments made 11 02 2021 aound 10:30pm

My comments that I put in at 10:30 pm tonight have not shown up yet. My wife's Mary Quehl from the same email address, but at her PC not mine, has shown up. I did mine over an hour after my wife put hers in as it has been a problem previously. I did not save my input, but contact me if I need to do a new one and have you put it in for me.

Thanks,

Dennis Quehl

Date of Submission: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 9:47 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: marcia curran
Subject: Michigan State House map

I was unable to access your comment portal, because the message said that it was not available. I am a Michigan voter now for more than 18 years. I would like my voice to be heard on this hugely significant matter the results of which we will have to live with for 10 years. It needs to be fair and balanced.

I would like to comment on the proposed Michigan State House map, in particular the 102 district that creates a completely one-sided partisan district. This result is contrary to the priorities for the map

drawing. This should be a more competitive district and the Commission must work to address this mistake. I live in Benzie County where the Democratic Party has been growing in importance, but your map drawing puts my county into a district which would be a super strong GOP district. That is unacceptable. Competitive districts are how we get to a more balanced society and polity. Please honor that important consideration.

Marcia Curran

[REDACTED]
Frankfort, MI 49635
[REDACTED]

Date of Submission: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 9:08 AM

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

Name: Charlie Beall

Subject: Voters Not Politicians – Review of Public Comments Regarding Partisan Fairness

Honorable commissioners,

Please see attached.

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Charlie Beall (he/him/his)

Data & Targeting Director

[Schedule an Appointment](#)

votersnotpoliticians.com

Public Comment Demands Partisan Fairness

November 2, 2021

Voters Not Politicians provides this summary of the public comments made during the second round of public hearings held October 20-26, 2021, by the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC), in order to support the MICRC's work during this critical time in the mapping process.

Public comment made in person and virtually during the five public hearings on the MICRC's proposed draft maps reveals that
Michiganders demand more effort from the Commission to ensure partisan fairness.

Background

In 2018, Michigan made history by putting power back into the hands of the people and creating the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to draw legislative and congressional maps in a fair, nonpartisan process. For months, the public has been able to witness Michigan's thirteen commissioners working to create districts that should ensure all Michiganders have an equal voice in our democracy. On the week of October 11th, the MICRC published their draft maps for public input.

Overview

At the five public hearings held by the MICRC October 20-26, 2021 -- in Detroit, Lansing, Grand Rapids, Gaylord, and Flint -- a total of 862 Michiganders provided feedback on the proposed draft maps. Many individuals provided specific commentary on changes the Commission needs to make to ensure our communities get what they voted for: fair maps.

While the Commission has made some progress towards fixing Michigan's previously gerrymandered maps, its work is not done. **Substantial changes need to be made to ensure Michigan's new legislative maps do not merely meet the legally acceptable standards for partisan fairness, but go beyond the bare minimum to provide every Michigan voter with an equal voice in our democracy.**

Public Comment

“Do whatever needs to be done to get the partisan efficiency gap down to zero. That partisan efficiency gap is the single most important measure, that number, by which this commission, your maps, our entire movement is going to be judged to see whether we have been a success or not. That is a bright line between whether we are going to have fair elections for the next 10 years or whether our elections will still be unfair and we need fair elections.” - Nancy Wang, Executive Director, Voters Not Politicians / Flint Public Hearing

Partisan fairness was a common concern throughout the public hearings. 453 of the 862 Michiganders (53%) who commented during the second round of hearings raised the issue of partisan fairness. 317 out of those 453 commenters (70%) did not believe the Commission’s proposed draft maps delivered what voters were promised: fair maps.

The Commission should not be afraid to make changes to draft maps to improve partisan fairness. While the geographic distribution of voters across Michigan can be seen as disadvantageous to Democrats, it remains that the Commission can, and therefore must fulfill its mission to draw fair maps.

53% of all commenters raised the issue of **partisan fairness** of the drafts.

70% of them think the MICRC’s proposed maps are **not fair**.
They urged the MICRC to prioritize partisan fairness and **get partisan fairness scores to zero**.

Constitutional Requirements

The Constitution states:
“Districts shall not provide a disproportionate advantage to any political party. A disproportionate advantage to a political party shall be determined using accepted measures of partisan fairness.”

Partisan fairness scores for current districts

The scores are based on 13 federal and statewide general election contests held between 2012-2020

	Lopsided margin	Mean-median difference	Efficiency gap	Proportionality bias
U.S. House	13.1% +R	5.5% +R	21.2% +R	16.6% +R
Michigan Senate	8.6% +R	5.1% +R	10.9% +R	7.6% +R
Michigan House	10.1% +R	6.1% +R	11.6% +R	6.8% +R

NOTE: “+R” indicates a Republican advantage

Table: Clara Hendrickson • Source: [Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission](#) • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Source: [Detroit Free Press](#), October 12, 2021

Michigan's previous maps unfairly benefitted Republicans to an extreme degree and while the Commission's proposed draft maps lessen that unfair advantage, they do not eliminate it. The Commission's own expert, Dr. Lisa Handley, concluded that the Commission's proposed maps tip the scales towards the Republican Party, as shown by all four measures of partisan fairness.

While the Commission's current draft maps, according to Dr. Handley, are likely legally acceptable, the Commission should strive for maps that advantage neither party. The people of Michigan did not vote to create this historic Commission for maps that simply meet the bare minimum legal standards. The people of Michigan want partisan fairness, meaning zero bias and no advantage to any political party, as the Constitution requires.

For any given geographical area, there is not simply one community of interest; each Michigander belongs to many simultaneously. As national expert Ruth Greenwood of the Harvard Law School has discussed, overlapping communities of interest and conflicting opinions are to be expected. When the Commission is faced with conflicting communities of interest, **the people of Michigan expect the Commission to prioritize partisan fairness**. There are tens of thousands of maps the MICRC can create districts that meet the federal requirements *and* reflect Michigan's diverse communities of interest *and* are fair. Reflecting Michigan's diverse communities of interest is not an excuse to pack voters of a particular party into fewer districts, creating unfair maps that advantage the other party. Nor should partisan fairness be sacrificed to preserve legal divisions of land such as counties, which historically have been used by Michigan politicians to justify gerrymanders.

Conclusion

***"The closer you get to zero, the more fair the maps are, and I think you should make them as fair as possible,"** Sue Smith, Vice President of Advocacy for the League of Women Voters of Michigan.*

Partisan fairness is at the heart of why Michiganders created the Commission in the first place. No person should have more voting power than any other person. The public has placed our faith in the Commission to ensure that our maps no longer unfairly advantage one political party over another. In 2018, the overwhelming majority of voters made clear that the party that wins the most votes should win the most seats, and the public has echoed that message in their public comments on the MICRC's proposed draft maps.

Partisan fairness is the **single most important criteria** to ensure that this state can move forward with confidence that our election maps are **fair and impartial**.