

**Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission**  
**September 16, 2021 Meeting Public Comment**

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**Date of Submission:** Wednesday, September 15, 2021 2:46 PM  
**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>  
**Name:** Sharon Worrall  
**Subject:** redistricting maps

I know your hearings are underway in Big Rapids so hope this reaches your hearing in time to matter.

I live in St. Johns(the county seat) which is the Clinton County just north of Lansing. Graham Filer is my 93rd Dist State Representative which consists of Clinton and Southern Gratiot. My U.S. Representative is John Moolenaar the 4th District which covers 13 full counties and about 6 partial counties. A very large area which he can not adequately cover but is a SAFE DISTRICT for him. Runs right up the gut of Michigan and takes in some of Lansing, Midland, Mt Pleasant, Clare and Cadillac to name of a few of the towns and cities in the district. This is way too much territory for one man. His closet office is Midland and the other is Cadillac. Which leaves a lot of area devoid of any personal contact with the representative Oh he sends some person to have a hearing session but it's not like seeing and conversing with your representative in person.

I appreciate that the committee has split Lansing into 2 districts and eliminated Gratiot from the mix. At least with this new map I just might have a chance to have my vote count rather than be marginalized and I vote. I voted in my 1st election when I turned 21 and haven't missed a Presidential election since and less than a handful of local State, County and city elections. I feel this redistricting work is very important to insure every worker to feel like they are having a voice in the future leaders they elect and hold accountable on the issues that concern everyone-not just the few. And no there was no voter fraud in the 2020 election so there is no need for any new so called voting rights provisions.

Thank you, Sharon Worrall

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**Date of Submission:** Wednesday, September 15, 2021 11:19 AM  
**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>  
**Name:** Dan Wholihan  
**Subject:** VRA Districts

Dear Commissioners:

One thing that has not been discussed in the Voting Rights Act districts is its effect in primary elections. If the white and non-white populations vote for the same party in these districts (as Detroit and its inner-ring suburbs usually vote for the same party regardless of race), would minority candidates have a reasonable chance to win the primary election in August?

I highly recommend discussing a 40% "VRA" district effects on August Primary Elections with your legal counsel before finalizing the maps.

Thank you

Dan Wholihan  
Brighton, MI

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**Date of Submission:** Wednesday, September 15, 2021 9:45 AM  
**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>  
**Name:** Geyer Balog  
**Subject:** Draft maps for the State House

Please send me your Most current draft maps for the Michigan House districts. I don't want the 2011 maps or the Federal districts, just the current drafted maps by the commission. Thanks!

Sent from Geyer

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**Date of Submission:** Tuesday, September 14, 2021 7:56 PM  
**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>  
**Name:** Connie M Jones  
**Subject:** Fair and Equal Voting

Dear Commission,  
Thank you for giving of your time for this important work. Voting is the foundation of our democracy and it needs to be fair and equal for all voters.  
My thoughts are as follow: The party that wins the most votes should generally win control of the Legislature -- that's a good definition of fairness -- the Legislature should reflect the majority of the population.  
Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts.

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**Date of Submission:** Tuesday, September 14, 2021 1:50 PM  
**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>  
**Name:** Conner Wood  
**Subject:** Jackson public comment analysis

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your work toward fair maps for all. I know this is a challenging process and I commend you for it, and I hope that you will be successful.

You have thousands of pieces of public comment to sift through, so I thought I would pitch in and do a rough analysis of the public comments about my home area of Jackson -- specifically regarding our state Senate district (current and potential).

In short, I found that about half of all public comments regarding Jackson's state Senate district would prefer Jackson be included with Washtenaw County rather than with Hillsdale (and sometimes other counties to the south). Because there exist two conflicting COIs with roughly equal levels of support, and because one of those COI would help the Commission comply with the partisan fairness criterion while the other would sink Jackson into a safe seat, I believe the Commission should choose the former.

(The Commission could, of course, choose to SPLIT Jackson County and send the western, rural half of the county toward Hillsdale while sending the central, urban and suburban area and the eastern, exurban, lake-oriented side of the county toward Washtenaw. This might allow both COIs to be accommodated with the minimal level of distress for either one.)

Before I proceed, I should note that under the 2011 intentional partisan gerrymander, Jackson County is in a state Senate district with Hillsdale and Branch Counties. 60% of Jackson County voted "Yes" on Prop 2 in 2018 to abolish partisan gerrymandering and draw new districts with COI and partisan fairness in mind.

NOTE: This rough analysis includes only written comments on the portal through 9/10/2021. I haven't gone back and watched the Jackson public hearing -- at which I spoke -- or the Ann Arbor meeting a couple of weeks ago. My recollection is that you received quite a bit of in-person testimony at both events advocating for a Jackson-Washtenaw state Senate district, and my impression is that was unopposed in Ann Arbor and enjoyed roughly 50-50 support in Jackson (relative to the existing Jackson-Hillsdale configuration from the 2011 gerrymander).

I found 73 written comments that (1) contained the word "Jackson" in reference to this area, (2) made reference to a geographic community of interest or district preference, (3) specifically mentioned either Hillsdale or Washtenaw, and (4) did not clearly reference Congressional maps (or, in the case of COI submissions, the COI was not significantly larger than a state Senate district).

Of these 73 written comments, 38 expressed a preference for the Jackson-Hillsdale configuration, and 35 expressed a preference for the Jackson-Washtenaw configuration.

Arguments listed in favor of the Jackson-Washtenaw configuration include much stronger economic ties, the shared Waterloo State Recreation Area, the string of similar small cities along I-94, the huge number of commuters back and forth along the freeway and the state highways in the area, problems with access to high-speed internet, growing diversity, and the desire for competitive elections in the area and partisan fairness more broadly.

To the diversity point, it is worth noting that Jackson County as a whole is over 8% African-American, Washtenaw County is 12% African-American, and Hillsdale County is 1% African-American. The City of Jackson is 20% African-American, for comparison, and is hardly demographically similar to Hillsdale County in this regard.

To the point about partisan fairness, it is worth noting that Jackson County typically votes between 35% - 45% for Democratic candidates and 55% - 65% for Republican candidates. Currently, Jackson is home to two safe Republican state House districts, a safe Republican state Senate district, and a safe Republican Congressional district. Proportionality and the spirit of fairness would suggest that Jackson should have at least one competitive or Democratic-leaning district out of those four, which the Jackson-Washtenaw configuration would do and the Jackson-Hillsdale configuration would not.

(This is also important as a racial justice matter, since Jackson's African-American population is currently unable to elect a candidate of its choice at any level -- state House, state Senate, or Congressional -- it is in fact impossible because all four are such safe seats. Having at least one competitive district at any of those levels would be important for those reasons as well.)

Arguments listed in favor of the Jackson-Hillsdale configuration include a Hillsdale nonprofit that receives donations from Jackson, a Civil Air Patrol club, gun ownership, a commenter who has friends in Jackson and in Hillsdale, the shared Community Mental Health service, a series of hills, neighboring school districts, a shared Community Action Agency, and being in the same regions for several state governmental agencies.

Common to many comments in favor of the Jackson-Hillsdale configuration is the readily disproven assertion that Jackson is a "rural" county. It is true that Jackson County is mostly rural by land area. Because it is human beings (and not acres) who are represented in the legislature, the Commission should be aware that over two-thirds of Jackson County residents live in an urban or suburban neighborhood, not a rural one. Population density in Jackson County as a whole is 228.4 people per square mile in Jackson County, compared to 78.1 people per square mile in Hillsdale County. It is, of course, true that many Jackson County residents live in a rural neighborhood and live a lifestyle that is much more similar to rural Hillsdale than it is to suburban and exurban Washtenaw County. But that is not true of all of Jackson County.

Common to many comments, including but not limited to the state Senate level, is the even more readily disproven assertion that Jackson County is a border county. You can see for yourselves that this is not true just by looking at a map of the state. Some of Jackson County (especially the southern and western parts) is somewhat oriented toward Hillsdale and Lenawee. Most of Jackson County BY POPULATION is oriented much more toward Ann Arbor along I-94 and toward Lansing along 127. Once again, it is human beings who are to be represented, and not land. I encourage you to consider all of this in drawing maps.

Finally, I will disclose (as I did during in-person public comment) that I am the Chair of my local Democratic Party. I hope that you will not disregard my comment for this reason, as I am submitting comment in my capacity as a private citizen and not on behalf of my local party club. If you feel you must do so, I encourage you to similarly toss out the multitude of comments provided by my counterparts in the Jackson County Republican Party (who have repeatedly submitted nearly identical public comments many times throughout this process -- in my tally above, I still counted each of those repetitive comments as a unique submission). All things considered, it is my belief that you would be better served by considering the merits of all arguments, rather than disregarding them based on their source alone.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your work on behalf of fair maps for all Michiganders.

Sincerely,

Conner Wood

Jackson, MI

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**Date of Submission:** Tuesday, September 14, 2021 1:37 PM  
**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>  
**Name:** Dr. Mark Rosner  
**Subject:** Redistricting comments.

MICRC,

It is necessary to split some cities to create fair districts. Thank you for splitting Lansing and Grand Rapids into two Senate districts although the Grand Rapids split could be done more fairly.

Ann Arbor should be split from Ypsilanti to give Ypsilanti its own Senate district.  
Ann Arbor should then be split into multiple districts to create fair districts in Washtenaw.

Please map based on past partisan fairness data and past election results. The purpose of the redistricting that the voters of Michigan overwhelmingly approved was to eliminate the partisan gerrymandering that currently exists.

Thank you very much,