

***Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission  
September 7, 2021 Meeting Public Comment***

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**Date of Submission:** Monday, September 6, 2021 5:53 PM

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

**Name:** Bonoone

**Subject:** Protect the independence of Michigan's Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

Dear Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission,

In 2018, the people of Michigan voted for an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to ensure a fair redistricting process.

I believe that independence will be severely undermined if the commission moves forward with hiring the law firm BakerHostetler. This firm has a history of defending extreme partisan gerrymanders.

We need to protect the independence of our state's commission and redistricting process, and that absolutely can't happen if the MICRC hires BakerHostetler for litigation counsel services.

I'm urging Michigan's Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to protect the independence of our commission by hiring an independent, nonpartisan law firm instead.

Michigan voters asked for an independent commission to protect our maps and we won that battle back in 2018. Now it's imperative that we do everything in our power to safeguard that independence.

I hope the commission takes these steps to ensure the people that the redistricting process is fair.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Matt Brzezinski

Saint Clair Shores, MI 48081



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**Date of Submission:** Sunday, September 5, 2021 11:38 AM

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

**Name:** Jacqueline Stewart

**Subject:** Nesting House Districts

I realize you made a decision earlier in the process not to force nesting of House Districts within the boundaries of Senate Districts. But I can see some of the assignments made are purely done by population at this stage, and they sometimes seem arbitrary. If you are going to be arbitrary then you might well view the Senate map already made (or alternative Senate maps) so that when you get down to choosing counties and townships for the House districts you at least can SEE what you previously

decided for the Senate. I am not asking that you add another criterion but that you pay attention to the overview of previous decisions.

Jacqueline Stewart

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**Date of Submission:** Friday, September 3, 2021 6:28 PM

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

**Name:** Chris Andrews

**Subject:** Quirky Lansing Township shouldn't drive map

As you saw in the map-making, Lansing Township is a bit everywhere. It's a quirk. A small one with just 8,000 people spread out in 4 tiny areas surrounding Lansing. Keeping them together works against good maps.

Many people who live their just say they're from Lansing. The largest part of the township, on the west side makes up about half of the Waverly School District (the rest in Eaton County.) They feel more connected with Waverly than with a few thousand people adjacent to other parts of Lansing.

Commissioners shouldn't make keeping them in a single unit a priority. If you do, it could make for a lot of illogical maps and unintended bad consequences.

Best wishes

Chris Andrews



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**Date of Submission:** Friday, September 3, 2021 6:03 PM

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

**Name:** Chris Andrews

**Subject:** Competitive districts, competitive state maps

So far, most of the attention has been on Communities of Interest. Your commitment to the next priority, not giving undue partisan advantage to one political party, is equally important. If you don't do that, then the whole effort is a failure.

Republicans for 30 years wrote state House, Senate and congressional maps that virtually guaranteed them majorities, even though Democrats collectively won more votes. This means by definition, that the will of the people is being disregarded.

By putting political considerations toward the end of the process, it creates at least the appearance that partisan advantage can be fixed in the fine-tuning of the maps. It may take more than that. Voters want fair representation -- even when it doesn't come in neat squares.

Thank you for your service and commitment to creating a fair political system for the first time in decades.

Chris Andrews  
Haslett MI

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**Date of Submission:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 8:43 PM  
**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>  
**Name:** John Lindstrom  
**Subject:** Competitive districts

To the commission:

During the 2002 redistricting exercise one of the legislative Republicans working on the plan told a Senate committee that the, "ideal redistricting plan would ensure in a Democratic year, Democrats win, and in a Republican year, Republicans win."

There is no better definition of what a competitive district and a fair redistricting plan could be than that. The Constitution stipulates you avoid undue partisan interest in drawing district lines, that too is a definition of a competitive district.

All the parties are eager to fight fairly on the field, and will accept the results on the field if they know they have had the same chance to win. It is unfair for anyone to come to the arena to see the score is stacked against them 30-0 before a single play is made.

I commend you for your efforts thus far to draw competitive, neutral districts, and I encourage you to continue fully in that effort.

Remember the goal: in Democratic years, Democrats win; in Republican years, Republicans win. All sides have a fair chance. Accomplish that and you will have served the state well.

My best to you.

John Lindstrom,  
East Lansing