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MICRC

09/20/21 10:00 am Meeting

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>> CHAIR SZETELA: As Chair of the Commission, we will bring the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 10:06 a.m.

This Zoom webinar is being live streamed on YouTube at www.YouTube.com/MICHOS office/videos.

For anyone in the public watching who would prefer to watch via a different platform than they are currently using, please visit our social media at Redistricting MI to find the link for viewing on YouTube.

Our live stream today includes closed captioning. Closed captioning, ASL interpretation, and Spanish and Bengali and Arabic translation services will be provided for effective participation in this meeting. Please E-mail us at Redistricting@Michigan.Gov for additional viewing options or details on accessing language translation services for this meeting.

People with disabilities or needing other specific accommodations should also contact Redistricting at Michigan.gov.

This meeting is also being recorded and will be available at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC for viewing at a later date and this meeting also is being transcribed and those closed captioned transcriptions will be made available and posted on Michigan.gov/MICRC along with the written public comment submissions.

There is also a public comment portal that may be accessed by visiting Michigan.gov/MICRC, this portal can be utilized to post maps and comments which can be viewed by both the Commission and the public.

Members of the media who may have questions before, during or after the meeting should direct those questions to Edward Woods III, our Communications and Outreach Director for the Commission at WoodsE3@Michigan.gov or 517-331-6309.

For the purposes of the public watching and for the public record I will now turn to the Department of State staff to take note of the Commissioners present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Good morning, Commissioners. Please say present when I call your name. If you are attending the meeting remotely, please disclose your physical location as well. We will start with Doug Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK:
Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.

Brittini Kellom?

Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Present from Reed City, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: 10 Commissioners are present.

And there is a quorum.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you. You can view the agenda at Michigan.gov/MICRC. I would now entertain a motion to approve the meeting agenda. So moved. Motion made by Commissioner Witjes. Seconded by Rothhorn. Is there any discussion or debate on the motion? Seeing none we will now vote all in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

All opposed please raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes prevail and the motion is adopted.

Without objection we will now begin the public comment pertaining to agenda topics portion of our meeting. Hearing no objection, we will now proceed with the public comment pertaining to agenda topics.

Individuals who have signed up and indicated that they would like to provide in person public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so.

Please step to the nearest microphone when I call your number. You will have two minutes to address the Commission. Please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer.

First in line is number one.

>> I'm from Haslett. Thank you for your hard work to end gerrymandering.

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Michigan voters passed proposal two to end a redistricting process that predetermined which party won seats and which party controlled the legislature and Congressional delegations.

This was established long before the votes were cast.

Voters were effectively prohibited from electing democratic majorities even in the bluest of years like 2018.

Michigan's redistricting gave republicans an extremely unfair partisan advantage.

Your Senate draft maps give republicans a medium size unfair advantage.

This is unacceptable.

With the draft Senate map the probable outcome is that even if Michigan voters reelect Gretchen Whitmer and Goslin and Jocelyn Benson and cast more than republican the minority will still have a majority in the legislature.

This is not how democracy is supposed to work.

I'm disappointed that despite hundreds of hours talking about communities of interest you set aside 20 minutes today to talk about partisan fairness.

I haven't heard what your goals are or standards for determining that.

You have the ability to fix the districts that you have, make them better and the obligation to do it.

Don't settle for less unfair maps.

Create the fairest ones.

It may require moving precincts or even blocks.

And if you can't do it, set your maps aside and pick one submitted by another group that creates better fairness.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Did we have more than one today? How many? Two.

Number two.

>> Hi, my name is Emily and I'm at 10481 in Livingston County and first of all I want to thank the Commission for keeping Livingston County whole and retaining the contiguity with Ingham County which made what is Michigan's most competitive Congressional District up to now.

Ties between the two counties ranging from sharing the I-96 corridor Ingham school districts like Stockbridge and parts of Livingston County and large number of Livingston high school grads choosing MSU and MSU extension provided to Livingston farmers down to the Fowler news and views circulating in eastern Ingham.

I ask that other Congressional districts be adjusted for the following reasons.

After the work of voters not politician volunteers they put into fixing gerrymandering it's extremely disappointing to me as one of those volunteers that the draft map of Congressional districts lacks partisan fairness, something required by prop two.

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Recent statewide election results show Michigan is democratically leaning state and purple blue but not marine.

This draft would eliminate democratic District and give republicans an advantage not in keeping with statewide voting results.

Measuring of gerrymander and gap and partisan buy us shows heavily republican and this map was drafted the second reason this draft this map was drafted without voters Voting Rights Act analysis and third it's unfortunate that we lost a Congressional District the population dropped in north central Michigan so that is where I think the lost seat should be absorbed by surrounding districts thank you so much for this opportunity to speak.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

So at this point we are going to move to our remote public comments.

So individuals who have signed up and indicated that they would like to provide live, remote public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so. I will call on your name and our staff will unmute you. If could are on a computer you will be prompted by the Zoom app to unmute your microphone and speak.

If you are on the phone, a voice will say that the host would like you to speak and prompt you to press star six to unmute. I will call on you by your name. Or the last four digits of your phone number.

If you experience technical or audio issues and we do not hear from you for 3-5 seconds, we will move on to the next person in line and then return to you after they are done speaking. If your audio still does not work, you can e-mail redistricting@Michigan.gov and we will help you troubleshoot so you can participate during the next public comment period at a later hearing or meeting.

You will have two minutes to address the Commission. Please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer.

First in line to provide remote public commentary is Mr. James.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: For purposes of the public record, the first three signed up for remote public comment are not present.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We will move on to Jerry Hall.

>> Hello, can you hear me?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> Okay great.

Good morning my name is Jerry Hall I'm Vice Chairman of the Genesee County Black caucus and reside in Flint Michigan and I've been a member of the community for over 40 years on behalf of many African/American residents in the City of Flint and Genesee County I would like to emphasize the communities of interest comments are at the top of your list of redistricting considerations.

In reviewing the current proposed maps for Congressional districts 10 and 11 many of us feel the COIs were not adequately considered.

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Flint Saginaw and Bay Counties identify as a community of interest.

We respectfully request that they be included in the same Congressional District.

Flint and Saginaw are both predominately urban, African/American communities.

It appears no consideration was given to African/American communities as it relates to the COIs when drawing these maps.

We share I-75 industrial corridor immediate where out lets and familiar communities.

Please consider Flint Saginaw and Bay Counties as a community of interest.

And show these counties in the same Congressional District.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Our one through three on at this point or are they still? Okay, all right we will move on to Ms. Williams.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: For the purposes of the public record that participant and numbers hold on, 5-8 are not currently present.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right we will move on to Topea.

>> Hello, can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> Hi good morning my name is Loida and I'm from Detroit Michigan. I'm here to make you aware there are some inconsistencies and miss information on your website www.Michigan.gov/MICRC with regards to public hearings dates and times.

On your website under meeting notices and materials if you click on the 2021 meeting and hearing scheduled for October it currently does not list the location.

The link under meeting notices and materials under the www.Michigan.gov/MICRC mapping process document states wrong hearing dates as well.

The only place to find correct information is listed in the agenda for today's meeting.

And you have to scroll to the second Page.

Your website currently states that the hearing on October 11 in Marquette is the hearing on October 11th is in Marquette when I know that the hearing on October 11 is in Flint at the Dort center because of updates by Mr. Woods.

I'm trying to help you organize communities to attend these public hearings to provide public comment and yesterday at event in Flint I kept repeating October 11 hearing.

My copanelist pulled up your website and it states October 14 in Flint when the official site states the wrong information it's hard to build trust with communities.

I urge you not only correct the information on your website but also create a social media campaign starting now to promote these hearings.

And correct the miss information that is currently out in the public.

Communities are not hearing from you and they feel left behind.

I know you will have people in Flint show up on the wrong date and organizations that are currently organizing around the wrong public hearing date.

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I want to ensure the public is aware and I will continue to support your work and organizing communities to attend your hearings but I need your help. Please correct the information on your website and build trust in communities and urge you on the timely posting of partial maps and full maps. The Commission is still weeks behind in making maps available to the public. I want to thank you for your most recent update on the excel document you posted last week but it only.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Pastor Martin.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not currently present.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Is 11 here? Denise?

>> Good morning.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Good morning.

>> One second, I'm trying to figure out where I'm at.

I was trying to get on.

So first of all thank you very much for all your hard work.

But I still don't think this is complete, far from it.

Genesee County I just found out about this yesterday.

And I don't think we have enough participation in this.

There needs to be fair representation of everyone.

When we make these little blocks, it has to include people of all race, color, and religious backgrounds.

I would really like for you to be more open.

Somebody shouldn't have to try to run around finding the right spot to go.

I actually got my computer up and the phone on not enough detail.

We really need to find a place to see this map and not try to hide where people can't find it.

Thank you very much.

I look forward to looking at the maps.

And you should be looking listening to a lot of groups.

I do agree with the up north, northern part.

Maybe fix that problem because losing Genesee County it looks like or north or Oakland County is just clearly wrong.

Thank you.

I will continue to listen and hopefully somebody will contact me how to get more information for all these meetings because they are kind of in secret thank you very much and have a great day.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you very much for addressing the Commission.

We will now move on to Anthony.

>> Different Anthony.

>> Hello, Commission, good morning how are you doing, new day, new week, new everything, so hope everyone is feeling good.

I just want to note that you know I fell blessed to be in Michigan and even when it seems like the state is falling apart there is no place I would rather be.

All right, let's see.

I'd like to agree with Ms. Topia who said to do a social media campaign and a budget to that so people can get engaged I think that is a great idea.

I'm bummed that Mr. Galant is not here to make his comments because I tend to agree with most everything he says, so process.

I just think that is important.

And then on to the Congressional map that was being drawn the other day, I think it needs to be thrown in the trash.

I don't think it's salvageable.

The Metro Detroit the one Detroit District is way too packed with you know two thirds of the City in one District.

And you have like Warren in the east side cities with southwest and Down River cities like Mel van Dale and Rouge it makes absolutely no sense to me is that is my opinion, thanks.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not present.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: What about Don? Don?

>> Hi this is Don.

I just I think that your draft Congressional map is a great start.

Improvements made.

I think that in looking at the map it seems to unnecessarily divide counties a lot like two Congressional districts, so St. Clair County, Midland, Bay, Jackson and Berrien Counties and unnecessarily Macomb afforded racial districts only really two are required.

And then it just creates this really unwieldy District 500 miles from the far region.

The peninsula down to southern Saginaw County and I hope that the Commission in doing its work would you know try to tie the counties together and looking at the other end of the telescope from the Metro Detroit area and trying to keep those communities together.

It does kind of complicate things.

But I just emphasize that you could have a much simpler map here and divide only two counties inside the Detroit Metro area and Gladwin Counties instead of having eight counties.

And between two Congressional districts one of which is entirely within Macomb County and also just the northern most part of the Lower Peninsula, keep from having this District.

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So my map is at P37 but I see there is other maps out there as well that do a good job making the District more compact.

Thanks.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Royce Stevens.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Mr. Stevens, if you can unmute yourself, you are free to address the Commission.

>> I'm sorry hello.

Good morning.

I am Royce Stevens and the maps drafted but I the Commission there are obvious considerations that need more attention.

First Bay City Saginaw Flint are all communities of interest and should be kept together. These communities are connected by the I-75 corridor by I-75 in our economically intertwined.

Genesee and Shiawassee Counties have large number of auto workers.

Makes it logical to keep these communities together.

All three of the communities that I mentioned earlier Flint Bay City and Saginaw share regional airports, as well as transportation hubs.

They also share media markets.

These commonalities should be reflected by a map that keeps these communities together.

It is my understanding that the Commission DRA expert was not in attendance when drafting this map.

I do not know for sure but maybe this is why the fact that Flint and Saginaw share so many demographics and would benefit from shared representations was ignored in constructing of this map.

It is my belief that it is in the best interest of these communities of interest to have Flint Saginaw and Bay City represented in a single Congressional District.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Lee.

>> Hello good morning.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Good morning.

My name is Charis Lee and I'm echoing the sentiment of the other individuals from Flint on the call.

I have taken a look at the map and I do believe that there are more changes that need to be made.

I really want to I don't want to inundate you and repeat comments and I really want to focus on what has not been said and Saginaw, Flint, they both have significant African/American and Latino populations and so when we think about that we need to

make sure that we don't break up communities and put them in two districts with very rural and different parts of the state that they have little in common with.

I know that you know Saginaw, Flint, Bay City these are communities of interest.

That need to be kept together.

And if you take a look at the map now the way that it's broken up you know it takes away our voice and it takes away us the ability for us to be you know to be collectively representing or having representation that represents us as a community.

And you can focus in on what is important to us when you look at our media markets, you know such as ABC12 is you know a Saginaw Flint and Bay City it makes no sense for our communities to be broken up you know in different blocks with different representation.

You know most people are going to in those areas are going to be able to you know travel within those areas along I-75 and really be able to you know work together when you think about the auto workers and you think about the number of unions that we have along those corridors.

So I really appreciate you listening to my public comment today and I hope that you take a significant look at this area and keep Genesee County and Shiawassee County together thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

We will now move on to I believe it's I'm sorry McKenny, Jasmine McKenny.

>> Good morning.

My name is Jasmine McKenny and I'm a resident of the great City of Flint and speaking to the City and County we reside.

As many of you remember in a not so distant past the City of Flint was impacted in a great way by the decisions of elected officials that lacked compassion and understanding about the dynamics within our City.

And here we sit today facing a similar dilemma.

I come this morning to ask you to reconsider the maps you have drawn for my community.

As a community of interest you have proposed to connect our area with Lapeer and north Oakland County which would drastically impact our representation.

This map was drafted in just a few hours and does not give the proper consideration of connecting our community with Bay City, Saginaw and Flint.

Which are all communities of interest and should be kept together.

As attorney Lee just stated both Saginaw and Flint have significant Black and Latino populations that would benefit from shared representation in a single Congressional District.

I am imploring you to take another look at this map.

Our community cannot survive a lack of representation in this area that does not understand the needs of our minority populations.

I'm imploring you to do this.

We are the ones who supported the proposition to even have an Independent Redistricting Commission.

And so we shouldn't be left in the dark.

I'm thanking each of you for all of the time that you have spent but we need to spend some more time on these maps.

Thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

We will now move on to I believe it's Charif.

>> Hello. My name is Nayyirah, director of Flint rising in Michigan.

Our organization endorsed proposal two which was which created the Independent Redistricting Commission back in 2018.

And we did a lot of education in getting like our community excited about that.

And when I saw the draft version of our Congressional map it just really felt like a slap in the face.

Because in my opinion the map is straight trash.

You guys need to go back to the drawing board.

In addition to what previous speakers have said and I don't necessarily want to be labor and reinforce like I totally reinforce what they already said but you cracked, you know, Congressional the current Congressional District number 5.

And even looking at Saginaw like that is even more offensive because like Saginaw the City of Saginaw does not have anything in common with northern Macomb County which is now that is part of the new proposed District.

The City of Flint even though like I've been to Lapeer, and I've been to Clarkston and proposed Congressional District number ten which is what my new District would be if we go forward with these maps like Flint doesn't really have anything in common with Clarkston.

Or with a piece of Huron County and we really need to make sure that you don't dilute the African/American and Latino voice outside of Detroit because we matter too.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next in line is Pamela Pugh.

>> Good morning. And I'm a lifelong resident of Saginaw, Michigan, where the percentage of African/American and Hispanic residents in the City is 44% and 15% respectively.

And the median household income of Flint is two times less than the state and persons living at or below poverty is three times that of the state.

Flint and Saginaw residents have both experienced disparate health conditions at a much higher rate whether we are talking COVID infant mortality and asthma and child cancer and the list goes on. Michigan is the fifth worst for school funding. And

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African/American children in Michigan are over 70% more likely to live in high poverty areas like Saginaw and Flint where schools lack the resources to meet the needs of all students.

Michigan is the state where even though over 65 years after brown versus Board of Education children still had to sue their Government for right to literacy.

Schools with teacher and classrooms with books school buildings with heat and air. And we know that nationally statistics show the dropouts are 3.5 times more likely to be arrested than high school graduates and Black is 50% of Michigan's prisoners and 14% of all over population.

And let me just speed up.

And so I want to make sure that you all know that I'm here today because the Congressional districts 10 and 11 as currently drafted will further weaken the voice of a community of interest yet crying out for equal protection by their Government systems to protect our health, our water, our air, our land and ensure us access to an equitable education and economy.

I'm imploring this Commission to take more time to act upon the commented and dire needs of these communities of interest whose lives depend on representation that speaks up for us Flint, Saginaw and Bay City.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

We will now move on to Jerry Hall.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: This is a duplicate of earlier.

We have two Jerry Halls on the list but Jerry was not present so is she not here as well? She is here or is not? Okay.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Jerry you are unmuted and you may proceed to address the Commission.

>> I'm Jerry Hall.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: It appears Jerry may be experiencing some technical difficulties so we can move on.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, all right, Dan M.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not present.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: What about Steve 22?

>> Good morning.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Good morning.

>> I appreciate the hard work that the Commission has done already and thank you for it.

And looking forward to the hard work you have in front of you.

My issues today are specifically around what is now known as District 5.

I think it's by changing that to District 10 it's going to change or cause a large amount of confusion.

I'm also worried about the demographics of the new District.

By adding Lapeer and November earn Oakland County in.

I echo the sentiments of sister hall and brother Stephens and the rest of the folks that Flint Saginaw Bay City are urban areas, industrialized areas and changing the District would do more harm than good.

I also am worried that with the urban areas the new District works out to about 85% of white.

I don't think that is fair and going along with the communities of interest I just ask you to please relook at the District ten with and it may be redraw some lines to make it a little more fair, thank you for your time, thank you for your effort, have a great day.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

All right we are now going to move on to Steve.

>> I'm sorry that was Steve.

Brewer.

>> Good morning.

Can you hear me okay.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Good morning my name is Fonda Brewer from Eaton County and my comments are of my own and as a member of the executive committee of the Lansing Branch of the NAACP.

Thank you so much to the Commission for generously providing opportunities for interested parties to engage in this transparent and important process.

Map wise we are very much in support of Ingham Clinton and Eaton Counties remaining together as one Congressional District.

We share common interests in terms of residents supporting businesses regularly in all three counties.

It's easy for residents to shop, eat, work and attend K-12 schools even through their school of choice program.

And municipal regionalism is commonplace especially in terms of 425 agreements, policies, business development and the same utility companies service our counties and so many other resident beneficial reasons support us wanting to keep these counties together.

And lastly but equally important is the rich diversity of our region.

We share and we want to make sure that our voters in the unrepresented and marginalized areas in the Black and Brown communities voices are heard.

And represented in terms of legislative matters that are of importance to our region.

Thank you for allowing me to comment today.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

We will move on to Art Reyes.

>> Can you hear me, okay? Reyes.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> Good morning and thank you for holding these hearings. My name is Art Reyes and I'm a resident of Genesee County. I feel we are better served with the communities of Saginaw and Bay City than Oakland and Lapeer. I live in the fifth, the current fifth. It's my opinion that having partisan, competitive districts are a way to get us on the path of having our Government to accomplish more of people's business. Political fairness is a community of interest and us continuing to stay with Saginaw and Bay City allow for that. The draft maps which have been distributed do not do that. There is clear questions on how one and how the Voting Rights Act would view these changes and the current T fifth being broken up the way it is divides clear communities of interest demographically as well as an economic base. Genesee, Saginaw and Bay Counties do meet these criteria as well as offering diversity. We cannot allow for the voices of those who have traditionally been underserved to be further diluted. Please take our comments into serious consideration and redraw the Congressional District with fairness in mine. Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

We will now move on to Judy D.

>> Hello, my name is Judy Daubenmier from Genoa Township in Livingston County. I want to thank the Commission for all your work on redistricting and on this draft Congressional map. I know you realize you have a lot more work to do. To make sure it meets the criteria for partisan fairness and Voting Rights Act concerns. Parts of the map really need to be redone to make sure it eliminates any partisan bias that plagues the existing map. But I am pleased that the Mid-Michigan District looks very compact and keeps the try County area of Ingham Eaton and Clinton Counties together. And I'm especially pleased all of Livingston County is being kept with Ingham. Ingham and Livingston County form a community of interest in many ways. Many people commute from Livingston to Lansing or East Lansing to work at the state capitol or Michigan State University. I still have many friends in Lansing from the 9 years I spent commuting from Livingston County to Lansing. And I keep in touch with them. I'm very comfortable going to meetings there. You know prior to Zoom that's what we did.

We drove to Lansing for meetings on civic matters.

And for many years my healthcare providers were all in the Lansing area.

Our local newspaper Livingston daily press is edited there. So many of the voices we read in editorials and guest opinions come from Lansing residents. And Lansing TV stations cover our County as well. So we are part of that media market.

There are so many ways in which our community and I am pleased we are being kept with Ingham County and I hope it stays that way as you continue to correct the flaws that are in other parts of the map including those that have been referenced, that I've heard about today and Bay City and Saginaw.

So thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Mark Craig.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not currently present.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: What about Carol Heron.

>> Can you hear me? Heron.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> I'm Carol Heron I'm a resident of Bay County and I have been for the last 38 years.

When I presented to you last week to thank you for hearing us when you were drafting State Senate map one, I was probably taken for granted that similar thought would go into drafting our Congressional District map.

But today I'm afraid I have to express my disappointment in Congressional District 11 map.

I know the Commission comprehends the consent of Tri-Cities as a community of interest.

You demonstrated that.

I had believed that you would hear a similarly regarding Flint Genesee County as being part of a community of interest with the Tri-Cities.

Or if population does not admit it at least with Saginaw and Bay City.

Comments from earlier public hearings clearly explain to be represented in a Congressional District Bay County Saginaw Flint and perhaps Midland City need to be together.

There are maps that have demonstrated this.

It's all on the portal.

People have spoken about this.

I know you know.

I saw great pains taken by Commissioners drawing the Detroit Lansing and Grand Rapids areas last week on Thursday.

I saw you considering VRA requirements.

I saw you considering communities of interest for all of those areas.

I can't say the same for draft map Congressional District 11.

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Tri-Cities in Flint are not part of the thumb and they do not belong with those counties. Please redraw the map, a better map to more better equitably offer the Tri-Cities and counties and Flint Genesee County the possibility of electing a representative from one of the four counties.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Sandra Jones.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not present.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay do we have number 29? Okay handy.

>> Good morning. I'm LaCracha Handy, a Genesee County resident. We are better served with counties of Saginaw and Bay City rather than Oakland and Lapeer. Partisan fairness is a community of interest and we need to keep that in mind. That is why the people of Michigan voted for the proposal that created the Commission. The Commission has Flint and Genesee County in a new Congressional District which is 85% white.

Come on now let's be real for a minute.

People of color will not have their voices heard even though it is our right to be heard. With that being said, as a Black female resident of Flint Township and Genesee County and registered voter in the State of Michigan I'm urging the Commission to be fair.

Keep Flint Saginaw and Bay City together.

Our communities work well together.

And we need fair representation.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Angie Miller.

>> Good morning are you able to hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can hear you.

>> Thank you.

My name is Angie Miller and I'm a lifelong resident of Saginaw County.

First of all I'd like to take the opportunity to thank the Commission for all the work you're doing.

I'm speaking to you today to request that you reconsider the Congressional map the as it is drawn for Saginaw and Genesee Counties, together they are a community of interest.

I-75 connects the two counties.

The top two employers in both counties are in auto industry and healthcare.

Covenant hospital in is Saginaw County and genesis in Genesee County.

When reviewing the Alice population which is often referred to as the working poor the counties are similar.

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Approximately 43% of Saginaw County residents are at an Alice or poverty level and 41% of Genesee County residents are at an Alice or poverty level.

Lastly both Saginaw and Genesee Counties are diverse communities and the minority vote of both counties would be diminished as separated.

Please consider and draw a map that would put both Saginaw and Genesee Counties in the same Congressional District.

I appreciate your time and consideration thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

All right we are at John Frederick.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Participants 31 and 32 are not present.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.

So that brings us to 31 and 32, 33.

Isra.

>> Hello. Good morning, everyone. My name is Isra from Genesee County. Thank you so much for your work thus far. And I want to comment about the way the map including Flint has been drawn. And thanks and shout out to everyone who has gone before me. And I'm satisfied so many folks see the same issue, so similar to the fellow commenters saying the predominately Black City of Flint is not reflected in your current map and has a high Latino population I too think that communities of interest have not been considered adequately and I think it's a bad map.

It's not repetitive of the communities of interest that exist.

As someone growing up in Genesee County, I know that there are several communities of interest that makeup our region and to have Flint lumped in with rural areas is a huge disservice to not only Flint area community members but also the rural area community members because our needs are different and differ a lot.

Furthermore as someone who comes from a community of interest the Arab American community in Genesee County and one whose ethnicity is erased in census data as we are considered white it makes it different to give a population size and compounds the problems we face.

And the flawed map would compound issues and if it stays, we would be among liked ones again with our Black and Latino community members and we would be drown out so I strongly urge you to redraw the map to be more fair and representative as Flint has more in common with Bay City and Midland than it does with the thumb and Congressional representation needs to reflect that.

A minor comment about anyone who joined late I did not get the Zoom link so if you could call on the people that were supposed to speak in the beginning.

Thank you so much for giving me this time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Anthony.

>> Test test

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can hear you.

>> Good morning I'm Anthony I had an opportunity to visit my childhood friend and hang out with his child in teenage years.

During a talk about the future I heard him say you have to think, dream and envision bigger in order to achieve success in this world.

I understand your daunting tasks of proposing the new conditional districts.

I would like all of you to hear that valuable lesson and implement it in your thoughts in order to think, dream and vision bigger in a sense you have to start with a good foundation. Strong foundations are started by shared history and connections such as Flint's history with the Tri-Cities, Bay Cities of Bay City Saginaw and Midland.

Flint is a community of interest, has more in common with the Tri-Cities of Bay, Saginaw, Midland than it does with rural areas it's paired with in your draft map.

This is reflected in many of the public comments heard at the hearings.

We share the same media markets, the same regional hospitals, and a shared history of industrial production background.

We also share common interests like water shut offs, ongoing environmental crisis and environmental justice issues. With these maps and issues and so many more that affect our cities, we have to dream bigger and think harder and deal with these issues that were presented before us today.

The Congressional map as drawn on Thursday does not give the people of Flint an opportunity to send somebody to Congress who will represent the most important issues to them like water shut offs, and environmental crisis issues, and environment justice issues. So when I think of what is best for communities I serve in, I have to think on a big scale of and challenge my vision to answer that question of what the success looks like.

You will have to expand the shared common issues and causes to the issues.

Success does not look like the loss of representation on matters that affect us the most. Congressional District five demands representation that understands the issues effecting us and comes from shared history and understands our issues and vision of what tomorrow brings.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Susan Hendricks.

>> Hi. I'm Susan Hendricks, Grand Blanc in Genesee County. And I've been adoption of proposal two in 2018 creating the new MICRC. I got signatures and went door to door contacting thousands of citizens. 201 and equal representation one person, one vote, weighted equally. And wanted to know their elected officials represented the voters and that their votes count equally. They especially wanted to know the elected legislatures political affiliation matched that of Michigan citizens. As I

look at the proposed maps, I'm concerned that this most basic and primary issue of the voters is not being met.

We will have accomplished nothing in forming this Commission if we are not represented fairly if our citizens, communities of interest and race have no seat at the table.

If we end up with legislatures that do not represent their citizens, we will still be gerrymandered. If we vote say 40% orange and 60% purple but end up representation of 50, 60% orange and 40-50% purple we will still be gerrymandered.

An independent citizens Commission, our independent citizens commission, must not let it happen. And would urge you also to look at the AFLCIO maps, which are filtered for partisanship. I ask you as an agency to protect all of us to make sure we are represented fairly, one person, one vote.

Thank you. And thank you for all your hard work.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Ms. Hendricks.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not present.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Sorry, Judith.

>> Hi. Good morning. Can you hear me?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> My name is Judy-Maiga I concur completely with the previous caller, Susan Hendricks. And I worked hard on proposal two and listened to hundreds of people complaining about not being represented in their District as I gathered signatures for proposal two which passed with 61% of the vote in Michigan.

The maps were not fair before.

It is very important that time is taken to make sure that they are fair. And I know that is what the goal is of each and every one of you. But the way things are progressing right now, it's hard to see it coming out that way.

I agree with the previous callers.

Also that the District that was proposed last week, that links Lapeer County and northern Oakland County into Genesee County creates a District that completely disenfranchises the people of color that live in Flint, Saginaw and Bay City and does not allow for their voices to be heard.

That District needs many changes.

I also ask that you look at a reference point to the bipartisan effort through the AFLCIO fair maps project.

They spent a lot of time. They got input from a lot of democrat, republican and independent groups and members. And the maps that they have complied with the VRA, they comply with the equal population requirements, they are contiguous.

They reflect Michigan's diverse population and they do not provide a disproportionate advantage to any political party.

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That is the fourth constitutional requirement, that and currently the maps that I'm seeing most definitely do give an advantage to the republican party specifically.

So please continue to do what you do.

Please continue to use the VRA expert and please look at the AFLCIO maps they are a great reference.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

We will move on to Joyce Ellis McNeil.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not present. However participant number one has now joined the meeting.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right. We will go back up to the top which is Mr. James Galant.

>> Can you hear me now?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> Okay. This is James Galant from the Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition and these are my opinions.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Mr. Galant, we can barely hear you.

You are breaking up quite a bit.

>> Can you her me now?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> James Galant, Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition and these are my opinions. And seeings we are just having people streaming up here saying how proposition two of constitutional amendment created Commission and that is not true. The house report from November 6, 2020, stated the Michigan Supreme Court has determined that this is a revived reiteration of the Commission on legislative apportionment from 1980.

You know, you keep saying the gerrymanders. Well, that was the legislature. They followed the rules, the rules of the legislature, the actual legislature in Michigan, right? Now in 1980 they had their rules of procedure.

I already provided them to you.

Please ask your attorney to give a written report about this issue of the fiscal house, the house fiscal agency stating that this is a reiteration.

This is not an inaugural Commission that was created on the fly like you folks seem to think you just want to make up your own fundamental principles of parliamentary law. And it did not.

So please get that report.

And, you know, we are not really sure how the deliberations are going to start here, you know.

I mean, you said next week, the week of the 27th deliberations are going to start. And yet people are also saying, and it's in the bridge magazine, that you published draft maps.

People are talking about them right now.

You are supposed to do draft map 45 days, public period, right. Wait a minute, but you didn't vote though. You didn't vote on these maps. So these are not really the draft maps, are they? Or are they? And why is this not deliberation? You're in the middle of deliberation on what you are going to do create the maps, right? So this is not really working out real well. And it's going to be interesting to find out how you folks are going to...

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Now, that the opportunity for in person and remote public commentary has concluded, we will hear from individuals seeking to provide a second two-minute public comment. Hearing no objection, we will now proceed with individuals seeking to provide a second public two-minute comment.

Individuals who signed up and indicated they would like to provide live, remote public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so. And we will do the same process as the first round. And, Mr. James Galant, you are invited to address the Commission.

>> Can you hear me again?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, sir.

>> James Galant, Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition and these are my opinions.

And oh, yeah, remember before you said if I get that last one and then I get this first one, I should get four minutes continuous like the other people did.

And, you know. This is exactly what we're talking about.

This is the Constitution of the United States, remember.

This is not like you makeup news and then only ten people show up at the meeting are now making up the rules.

You mean the ten people amended the Bylaws on how to elect a Chair when you already had that voted in every six months to elect a Chair. No, and nobody decided, nobody has a copy of the rule book, do they?

That is why.

This is just completely illegitimate. And this has to be addressed in the Court. And it will be, I believe.

So please address you side bar rules, you know. In the rules of procedure it says that Robert's Rules of Order and laws and rules of guidelines and any other rule.

What are these other rules you're talking about? Because we seem to have to mention, Commissioner Lange said you voted on them, Commissioner Witjes said that, you know, he called a point of order and then apparently the rule is that he gets to answer his own point of order as a Chair yields to the member. And, you know, everybody keeps asking questions.

[Can't hear]

Wait a minute.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Mr. Galant, we can no longer hear you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I can barely hear you. You are very distant and sounds like you are talking in a tunnel.

>> How is that?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Much better.

>> My phone keeps switching on me.

Okay. But, you know, as I have been saying, is these members of the Commission keep asking for Commissioner Secretary of State Benson. You ask question and ask for clarification but then Hammersmith and Reinhardt and then Mustafa Rasheed. And you ask for the Secretary of State. And you did it several times. And Rothhorn answered that, Secretary of State and then, boom, all the sudden it's not where is Secretary Benson.

She is the one that is supposed to be making the determinations.

I think that the board of canvassers....

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission, Mr. Galant.

This concludes our public comment for this morning.

However, I'd like to mention that all e-mail and mailed public comment is provided to the Commission before each meeting.

And Commissioners also review the public comment portal on our www.Michigan.gov/MICRC website on a regular basis.

We appreciate everyone who provides public comment in whatever way you choose and invite you to keep sharing your thoughts communities of interests and maps.

At this point we are going to return to our unfinished business agenda 5A and would like to continue with the draft mapping of our Congressional districts I believe we were on your turn Commissioner Weiss at the last District and we sort of sped up and just put something on paper so did you want to continue with your turn and work with those districts or did you want to move on to the next Commissioner?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Thank you Madam Chair.

Obviously, I chose a District what I believed I listened to the comments of community of interest.

I was under the impression Traverse City would like to be by themselves and with the cost line and of course we have the coastline on the east coast.

And a lot of the talk at the meetings and public hearings was to throw out the old map. So what I did rather than going straight across I went down the coast.

And obviously this is just a suggestion.

It's not a definite map and I guess I would like to move on and let somebody else make an adjustment to this or we start with those two districts differently.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, we are going to make adjustments to this I have two points to make.

One I'd like to have it as a clone.

So we don't disrupt this.

And, secondly, I think we should just concentrate on the northern part of the state because Bruce is going to come in here at 1:00 and give us his analysis of the VRA for all the districts.

And so I would suggest we do that and then hold any further changes after that, after we understand what his analysis is.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Anthony did you have a comment too? Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Thank you.

In looking this over I certainly advocated for this arrangement last week.

And in going back and looking at the MGGG comments and the comments on the portal and looking at the map, I have since come to change my mind that coming down the west and the east coast is probably not really workable because in order to do that, we have got to come too far south on both of those.

So I think realistically we need to probably reexamine that and go with the northern Lower Peninsula and the UP as one District as it is now, making whatever necessary adjustments are for population et cetera.

So I agree with Commissioner Clark and Commissioner Orton.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark again?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: As we progress through this, I'd like to get Rhonda's opinion on the east-west split compared to a north-south split. She is more familiar with the north area her and Steve are the most familiar with this area.

So if I could get your opinion, Rhonda.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lange did you have a comment for Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: So right now this is considered a north-south split or east-west what am I looking at right now.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: East west.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I definitely think north-south makes more sense just because you're getting too far south like Commissioner Lett said and when we are talking about areas that identify with each other it would just make more sense to go the other route.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Rothhorn did you have a comment?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Everyone is speaking to it and like Commissioner Weiss said we heard earlier to throw the old maps out but I think what we just heard from so many commenters was that District 5 actually serves the people in the Flint area better.

And so in order to actually look at something similar to District 5 the Congressional District 5 right now we would have to, yeah, do a north-south split like everyone has said so I just wanted to acknowledge that would actually allow us to take into account the public comment that we just heard.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Well I think so I think we could do a couple of things.

I think we could redo this map to change 12 and 13 to be north-south.

And then with that version of the map I would then create like a third clone.

And see if we can put Lapeer with Saginaw Bay City Midland like we have right now and see where we are at on population because I'm not 100% sure it would work but I think if we add Flint in and take the rest of ten and wrap it around the thumb, we would be respectful of the comments we received today and we can have multiple maps which we can have comment on which I think makes sense.

The old District 5 goes up quite a bit up the coastline as well, yeah, and I don't know that we necessarily have to do that because we heard a lot of public comment when we were in Saginaw area around the more rural areas not wanting to be put with Saginaw so I think we can try to draw it a little differently maybe and see where the population is. So Kent are you drawing today? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, I am.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Did you create a clone for us.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This is a copy of the plan you all completed last Thursday.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This would be the starting point.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I think the starting point is and Commissioner Witjes I'll let you drive if you are comfortable doing so is we want to turn 12 and 13 into I believe 12 having more of a north-south split and then 13 filling out the balance.

So Commissioner Witjes I'll hand that over to you to draw if you would like.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Commissioner Witjes would you like to start by unassigning most of 12 and in this area?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I would say for north-south split I guess the easiest way to check to see where we would draw it would be to just remove 12 and 13 completely and start at the top and work down.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, sir.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I worked this out population wise so I can give you a good starting point is that all right?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: That is fine.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So if you take these counties and everything north, Manistee, I'll let you get in there.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Let me get it halfway set up. Is that enough with 12 in there?

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>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Yeah, that is close so would it be Manistee straight across.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Manistee straight across except for the two middle ones Ross common and Missaukee would not be in it.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: That is close to something I was looking at too let's do that Manistee County and Wexford the entire line of Manistee except Missaukee and Ross common and everything north.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, sir.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Is Commissioner Orton.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Does that look right.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Yes.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We can't hear you.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: If you just take that one Township out that is the let's see let me see, Ogemaw that bottom Township on the corner, so right where the 12 was there.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'm going to get the labeling up there.

I did not realize it was not on.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Okay.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: You want one Township off of Ogemaw so go to the east. Edwards or below Edwards?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Edwards then it will almost be perfect.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Unassign Edwards.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Unassign Edwards? Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: What is the total population of 12 now? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 89 people under.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Good.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I can get closer if you like.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We can go into blocks.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I will leave it here.

Thank you, Cynthia that is pretty close, to what I was drawing as well.

So in regards to reasoning, just taking into account public comments received in regards to the Upper Peninsula area as well as public comments received this morning in regards to adjusting the Flint area.

And taking into account the diverse population that lives in that particular area of the state.

It's going to make it easier for us to work there.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right thank you.

Are we good? All right at this point we will move on to Commissioner Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Before we do that can we fill in the rest of 13? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, sir.

That takes some away from 11, no.

Let me check to be sure I didn't leave something unassigned.

That is a water block.

You can tag it into 11 or into 6.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Put it into 6 I think that makes sense.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: While he is doing that Cynthia are what did you have as the population of 12 and 13 not what is on the map but from your calculations? Because I'm 2000 off.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Here is another little piece of a block. It's in the middle.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I would put that one to 11.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, ma'am.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: To answer your question Doug my 12 is quite different than what is on the map now because it's on the districts we corrected but I had it down to 0.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Which one down to zero?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Both using you know a few blocks and things.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Is that what we want to do here?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Not yet I don't think.

We decided that once we have VRA analysis and everything we can move the little bits.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: I understand, okay.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I would like to note for the public comment that Commissioner Kellom has joined for the public record can you designate where you are at.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Hi everyone this is Commissioner Kellom and I'm attending remotely from Wayne County Michigan.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay so we want to leave the map as is.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Leave this and create a clone and try to fix the Flint issue.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: I would too.

So from a clone standpoint from clone standpoint I would wait for adjustments until we hear from Bruce.

So I will pass and let Commissioner Eid take it over.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay well.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'm making a clone now or something else.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: That is fine.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Commissioner Eid this is a copy of what was just created.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Well, we had quite a bit of comment telling us to essentially start over.

So over the weekend I submitted a different map that I'd like to take my turn to talk about.

Kent, can you pull that up? It's the one with version four.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Version four, okay.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay, and I also have a little to help me talk about it since we are saving time since I don't have to draw it, I put together a little PowerPoint so I was going to share my screen so the public can see it as well.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Commissioner Eid, this is the V4 up in the name.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Wonderful thank you.

Department of State will it mess up the Zoom if I share my screen?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: It will not, but just so you know you can't screen share two things simultaneously.

So sharing of the PowerPoint will supersede the sharing of your map.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I see.

Okay well let's look at the map real quick and then I will share my screen then we can go back to the map.

So you know the two Districts that were just drawn for districts one and two here match up pretty closely with what I did on my own so that is really nice to see.

And I went ahead and renumbered the districts to be the closest approximation of the Districts that are currently in place to limit confusion.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, my only comment relative to renumbering is all the public comment we get they reference the numbers that we've been using here. And not the old ones.

We see a lot of that.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Oh, that is very true.

I didn't think about that.

I guess they could reference a specific option because this just going to end up being an option or we could go ahead and renumber them too, that's fine.

They are just numbered.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: I think we should renumber them but not until the very end.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

Okay so here is what came up with.

Spent a lot of time working on this but first get stuff out of the way and there were comments after Thursday saying we adopted a map.

We have not adapted a map and no maps are final until we all vote on it.

The purpose of this map is so that we can have something to discuss and be edited as a group and also to generate positive sorry to generate public feedback.

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Also I'm not a VRA or racial bloc voting or partisan expert.

These measures have to be analyzed by our staff and consultants that we've hired and are subject to change until that point and I also wanted to list data sources I used to M coup with this.

I used Autobound edge software, the MGGG community of interest report, the public comment tool, plans.org and Dave's redistricting.org.

So there are a few futures this map has.

Here I wanted to state pictures and embed it in while I'm doing this so we have two VRA compliant districts.

Both at 45%.

Black voting age population.

We have a low population deviation all within plus or minus .37% and many of them are much lower.

I think there are five that are below 0.05%.

It maintains many of the communities of interest.

It has a relatively even split politically.

Only 10 of 83 Counties are split meaning 73 remain whole and it's relatively compact.

The first District is very close to what we drew.

It contains Northern Michigan and the UP.

I think it might be helpful to look at the MGGG report of the heat maps while looking at this because I really tried to overlay these maps to the heat maps that were drawn.

So this part of the map contains cluster A1.

The core Upper Peninsula A2.

The upper Mitten A3, rural northeast and a four Mackinac.

It would be a solid republican District.

And I also wanted to include in this you know potential for the rest of y'all to examine.

I know Thursday Steve had talked about you know an east-west split versus a north, south split.

And that is something that can be examined if you want to examine it.

I know we just kind of undid that.

But we can look at it again if you want.

District two has western and central Michigan again it's pretty close to what we drew just now.

It has clusters A28, A33 and A33 within it.

It's a solid republican District.

Potential to examine again we have that east-west split I was just talking about and I think of importance is where we put Muskegon.

We could either you know leave it here, maybe change it to be with Grand Rapids or to be with the rest of District 3 on here.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Anthony can I stop you for a second.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So I know a lot of us have worked on maps and I know at some point we were planning on discussing each other's maps.

But I'm just not really sure this is the point where we should be looking at your map.

And I just kind of want to take a check if everybody is okay with this because we have limited time and I know we would like to wrap up that Congressional map.

So if this is not -- this is not collaboratively mapping.

This is you showing your map and talking about it which is great.

I think it's a good map, no dislike of it I just want to make sure everybody is comfortable with that because this is not a collaborative map.

Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I would have to disagree with you completely it's his turn to show a map if he chooses to and he can do that.

He is not we are not making any adjustments if we want to make adjustments to it after he presents how he did what he did to make this map it becomes is collaborative mapping so I think it's perfectly fine.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Anyone else have any comments? Ms. Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I agree with Dustin.

I think this is the proper time for Anthony to show his map.

We are drawing the maps.

It's his turn to draw so I mean he could go on the fact we have and make all the changes.

Because it is his turn.

So.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right I just want to make sure.

Go ahead Anthony.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I'm not going to take that much more time.

I just thought it would be faster than going and making a clone and redrawing it.

By myself.

And then you know having to do all that.

But here is the did you have something to say? Did you have a hand? I thought I saw you raise your hand.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Very briefly it is part of the mapping process document.

So the Commissioners may either have the mapping expert assist them in drawing their alternate map during the session or as Commissioner Eid has done map that on their own, submit it for posting and then cover it during their turn but I think it was adequately addressed but it is part of the mapping process.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay well so we have now this is what I call District 3, contains urban Grand Rapids and grand P haven MGGG and it was more of a toss-up

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and the potential to examine is Muskegon and could be used to gain better or worse partisan fairness.

We have District 4 here it's the same one we drew in our collaborative process on Thursday.

It's Greater Lansing and the Tri-Counties.

I think this was one of the really good ones that we drew on Thursday together.

It includes clusters A21, A25 and A31.

And when I was looking at cluster A21 there was a really big emphasis on the suburban and rural farming communities ties to the Greater Lansing area which I think supports you know drawing a map like this and this is another competitive District.

District 5 would put the Tri-Cities of Saginaw and Flint together.

They have a significant minority population that I don't think should be split.

If you look at the numbers on this map which we will take a look at in a little bit as 23.73 minority voting age population and of course some of the clusters we have A23, which is the Flint and I-75 corridor.

A29 the Tri-Cities aren't a little bit of A30.

For the central college zone and while this is a competitive District important was leaned democratic.

We have District 6 of Southwest Michigan and Kalamazoo and Holland and includes clusters A23, A35 and A36.

This would be another competitive District.

And some things to examine here would be that split between Kalamazoo and Battle Creek.

District 7 is very similar to what we drew in the collaborative process on Thursday.

It kind of extends Monroe all the way through the border and also includes Jackson.

It includes the clusters A22 of Hillsdale.

A23 of the southern border counties and A20 the Eerie shores and Monroe area and this would be a solid republican District.

We have District 8.

This one is more of a suburban District with also including Ann Arbor and the University areas.

We have clusters A16 focused around University of Michigan for employment and healthcare.

A33 and A17 we also have an A16 that was later merged into A17 according to MGGG report.

And this would be a solid democratic District.

We have District 9, this is another suburban District also includes Pontiac according to the clusters it would include A7, A12, A13, A14 and A15.

This would be a solid democratic District.

We have District 10.

Which kind of is similar to what we drew but because District 5 includes Flint with the rest of that I-75 corridor, had to move it around a little and move it down in the northern part of Oakland County that is a potential area to examine.

If we had a 14th District, I think that northern part of Oakland County probably could be where we put it.

But we don't have a 14th District unfortunately.

We have District 11.

So this is working class people of Oakland, Grosse Pointe and St. Clair shores includes A5, A6, A7, A8, A9 and a competitive.

We have District 12 a VRA and 45% Black voting age population and a 54% minority voting age population.

It would include A17 and A18 and be a solid democratic District.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Anthony Rhonda has a question for you.

Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Actually I have a question for our General Counsel.

In regards to the e-mail we received about competitiveness.

Can you please tell me exactly again? I'm concerned about if some of the statements being made could hurt us, I guess or if I misread the e-mail.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: General Counsel?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you so much Madam Chair.

Certainly the Commission has heard me say numerous times that competitiveness is not a criteria in Michigan.

We cannot add criteria to the Constitution.

And while I acknowledge that there has been public comment focused on the competitiveness or partisan fairness or a lot of the terms much like the VRA terms are being used somewhat interchangeably which is not competitiveness is a different analysis, is in a different criteria than partisan fairness.

Partisan fairness looks at statewide maps and translating seats to votes comparisons. Competitiveness would be a different analysis.

And the important part for the competitiveness and partisan fairness for both of them that the data that is currently in the active matrix does not support the analysis for any of them the partisan fairness algorithms are separate for compactness there is a ratio test that is done.

So again that I think you get an idea maybe on the political composition of an area or a proposed District based on the disagree gaited election results that are present that are used for VRA compliance analysis.

But again that at this time that data is not there, that the algorithms are not there to run the partisan fairness analysis.

That the data is not there and nor is it a criteria to consider competitiveness so I would encourage that the Commission focus on running the partisan fairness measures the

three that Dr. Handedly has outlined and in her presentation in July the lopsided margins, the mean median and the efficiency gap.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA:

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I'm not an expert on these topics, what I said in the beginning.

We need everything analyzed by our consultants and until that happens you know it's not written in blood and are subject to change.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Anthony what I think our General Counsel was asking and I think the reason that Commissioner Lange also pointed it instead of using the word competitive explain it toss up District that seems like better and more appropriate language.

>> COMMISSIONER EID:

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Did you have something to add General Counsel?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: The only thing I would add and it's not solely directed to Commissioner Eid's statement for the benefit of the entire Commissioner but competitiveness is not a criteria so it really should not -- the thrust and the intent of the constitutional amendment was to take the political to make it as nonpartisan as possible and the work of the Commission would be approached in that fashion so it really wouldn't be analyzing it.

The drafters of the constitutional amendment let me say it a different way the drafters chose the partisan fairness criteria and did not choose competitiveness they did not choose any other host of different language they could have inserted such as nesting or I think another example I highlighted in the past was maintenance of core districts. None of those things are currently in our criteria.

So not only do we not have the criteria we don't have the data necessary to be able to make those to make those conclusions thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I think we are back to you Anthony.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I will continue, I'm almost done.

This is another VRA District.

It combines Detroit with Down River.

46.64% Black voting age population, 62% minority voting age population again these numbers need to be checked by our VRA expert.

I think we should really take a hard look at cluster A19, it has the Down River Area.

I know there was some discussion of this on Thursday's meeting.

If Down River should be with Detroit or not.

We then ended up drawing Down River with some of Ann Arbor I believe.

And I personally think it has there is more in common with Detroit and Down River and I think that is supported by the cluster which has it going all the way down to the Monroe, Wayne border.

But that's a place to examine.

Like I'd said before we need to edit this.

We need to go over it as a whole body.

I did run some numbers on this via the plan score.

That does go over some of the data that is in the criteria that we've talked about in the past but this is from a third-party source so we need to reexamine it from our experts, but I think it gives us a good cursory look at where this map would take us and how it could be improved.

You can see the efficiency gap would be 4.2 plus republican versus the current map which is 11.5 and the mean median is 1.8 versus the current map which is 6.1.

And I think this would give us a proportional map and it would probably end up giving us a 7-6 split with majority being with whatever party is able to achieve the most votes.

But again it what's to be checked later.

As far as County splits I got this from City Gate and analysis function only ten counties are split.

Meaning that 73 are kept whole and only 7 municipalities are split.

So mostly everything is whole which I think you know is something that the public has said and finally for compactness, we I ran it using our EDS software.

It has the Palsby Popper score being 0.3934 versus the current map which is 0.2865.

With this unit of measurement the larger numbers are better so this is a more compact map than what's currently in place.

And I think you can probably tell that just by looking at it.

So areas to improve.

I'd like to try to get that partisan measure closer to zero.

Even though I think this would generally be a proportional 7-6 map that number still is above 0 and I think we should try to get it as close to 0 as possible.

We could look at areas that were listed to examine for potential changes and we can clean up the borders to get the deviation down.

And that is about all I got.

So let's stop sharing this and we can pull up the map on the drawing tool and y'all can have at it.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: When we finish with this can we get a shape file this evening so we can take a look at it and evaluate it? Individually?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Our staff has it now so I think they can I believe it's going to go on the website probably.

So.

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COMMISSIONER CLARK: I wanted to get the shape file so I can import it in our tool and take a look at that.

Can we take another look at the Macomb Sterling Heights District and then the thumb District? And could you talk about some changes you made here?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Kent, I'm wondering if you could change the lettering to the normal black so we can read it.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'd like to.

I have not been able to figure that out.

If somebody knows please turn me on to it.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: What was your question, Doug?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I want to look at Sterling Macomb District then the lakeshore going up into the Mitten or into the thumb.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: The thumb one was above this.

This one that we're over in kind of the Peach color had most of the County and Macomb with Troy which are two areas that said they wanted to be together.

It also kept the five points with St. Clair shores.

So yeah, take it away.

What do you want to look at?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Talk about the changes you made from the original map we had.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I started from scratch with this one.

So I didn't -- the only things I took from the map that we drew together was the border District and the Lansing District.

Everything else it was kind of incongruent with what I was going for.

So this one was drawn after the two Detroit VRA districts were drawn.

But I think you know what we are going for here is supporting communities of interest.

I mean you have Sterling Heights with Warren together.

You know these are all you know working class communities.

And it also keeps the Grosse Pointe the five Grosse Pointe areas with St. Clair shores which is something we've heard they wanted.

And it's a cross over into is East Point a little bit for 13 in order to allow Kentwood to be with the points.

But yeah, what I was going for was you know kind of what you see here.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: I would contend that even the first map we factored in communities of interest.

I would not want to say we redid this one just because of that and we did a lot of work with that.

I tell you I know the central focus is around Flint from the conversations we've had with the public and in the comments.

But I'm looking at Pontiac and I think it just doesn't fit into the areas that it's in at all. This is how I view Pontiac, like Flint, it's got not a lot of manufacturing for example when I talked Pontiac, I'm going to talk auburn hills as well and Flint you have the truck Plant up there.

Look at Auburn Hills and you have the Orion assembly plant Pontiac a metal fact plant and you have all of the just in time suppliers in both of those areas.

So I see that very similar too.

I see no difference in taking Flint and moving it in the Saginaw Bay City and not including Pontiac.

I know there is a population issue doing that but I see no difference in that.

And so the people in Pontiac could have the same argument as the people in Flint.

I can see that coming.

So I think that's one thing we got to rethink.

About how we do that.

I'm not 100% in favor of moving Flint into Bay City and Saginaw.

And then leaving Pontiac out here as an island.

Maybe those two should be combined.

They are both on I-75 corridor and that is one of the arguments from the folks up in Flint.

So I'd like to have some more discussion and get the comments from the Commission on that.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: On Pontiac specifically or in general?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Pontiac specifically and why it's not in with Flint, you know.

Rather than Bay City and Saginaw.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, I'm personally curious as to why like what your thought processes is on Down River with Detroit.

Because I don't recall ever hearing anyone in Down River saying that they felt they were affiliated with Detroit particularly the east side of Detroit.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So I think with let's address Commissioner Clark's question first.

I think that the people of Flint are very specific with what their community of interest is. And I don't think any of them have ever said that Pontiac is a part of that community of interest.

But I do agree with much of what you're saying.

I mean Pontiac is kind of an island.

But it's an island within the suburbs.

Right? Which is why I kind of drew it within the suburbs.

I think part of the problem with the current map how it stands is they have Pontiac drawn with Detroit.

And I think that is something that we heard at our Pontiac public hearing that really is something that gets on a lot of people's nerves.

I think that drawing it with Flint would also get on a lot of people's nerves.

That's just my opinion.

As far as Down River goes, you know we got to put it somewhere.

And I think this doesn't split it up.

It keeps all of Down River together and it follows the heat map that we have.

A19.

That heat map does include all of Down River being with all of that whole County.

I mean, in my opinion there are similarities.

I mean it's in the same County.

It's pretty close geographically.

There's a lot of manufacturing that happens Down River that travels up to Detroit and vice versa.

But you know that's why I put it as an area to examine.

You know if you can think of a better place to do it, I would welcome that and I would love to see it and I think that is exactly what we should be doing.

Trying to come up with the best idea.

I did try a few other configurations.

But none of the configurations had had the numbers as far as efficiency gap and mean median difference.

None of them were as close to 0 as this one.

This was the best one I came up with as far as those objective measures.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So you also split the Bengali community into two different districts because you have Detroit in one and the Warren area and the other.

And then you also have Bellville Van Buren Township split in half which I think is kind of an o choice.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Why don't we focus on one area two areas have been brought up and the Down River which we can focus on then the Pontiac area and from what Rebecca said I'm looking at the first map we did.

And we have drawn the City of Detroit from Hamtramck up into the Warren and to support the Bengali community of interest.

And it looks like here you've split the two back again.

Where the Hamtramck is in the City of Detroit.

And not going up into Warren where the remainder of the Bengali community of interest. So I would like Rebecca I would question that.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So Kent, I see you adding a layer on here so what is this layer that you're adding on? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This is the layer you finished the day with last Thursday. Or the original what we started with before it was changed.

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>> CHAIR SZETELA: Can you scroll down to District 13 so we can see the statistics on that one?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: The whole other part of the Bangladesh community is now moved to a different District and it's split between 11-13 which is I think one of the things we were trying to avoid.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Right.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: We can totally take a look at that.

Maybe moving 13 up.

That the only thing is with population you know where would you get it.

Also for minority population, it probably would work.

There probably is a configuration that could work.

When I was drawing 13, I really did go District I mean precinct by precinct to try to figure out what the best way to keep that voting age population of the African/American population two at about 45 to 46% and it was done in a precinct by precinct fashion as we have been advised to do.

And but yeah, I mean let's examine that.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, there is also the LBGTQ community is split into three districts.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I agree there are things that are going to be split here.

I do think something of note though is it keeps most of Detroit together.

I think probably the biggest community of interest in Michigan is the you know Detroit is the Blackest City in the country and I think that is something we take into account when making these maps Szetela se Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: One of the things we tried to do in the original map was to you know Detroit was 95% group and we tried to disburse that out.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Right.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: And go with the spoke concept that we used.

The Bangladesh community was one of those spokes in my mind.

And then the others were dealing and coming out from the District 12.

Out into the suburbs.

So.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, I'd like to see Bruce's analysis on this map because I'm worried you packed Detroit quite a bit.

But we will see.

He is the expert on that.

Because I understand trying to keep Detroit together but when we drew our map, we were deliberately trying to break it up a bit based on Dr. Handley's report, about coalitions and how we didn't given the you know cross over voting and the general demographics in the area that we didn't need to have as high a percentage in order to have a minority majority District because of cross over voting.

And so I think like that 49% might be kind of high but we will you know I will leave that to the experts on that Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, what appears to me when I look at this, the Bangladesh area going up into Warren took some of the white population from what we originally did and then you took Grosse Pointe and separated that off.

And that took a lot more white population.

So I think we may be back where we started from in the Detroit area with the V RA problem.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I welcome changes.

You know if anyone wants to edit this, copy it and edit it and let's try to come up with something better.

This is not the best version.

It's just what I came up with.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I personally like our map better honestly but go ahead Commissioner Lett.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Well, sitting here listening because I'm listening to the Detroit experts and one common theme that I'm hearing everybody say is let's see what our expert Mr. Adelson has to say.

So it's close to the Noon hour.

He is supposed to be here by at 1:00 I believe I read somewhere.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes 1:00.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I agree we break for lunch and when he gets back let's go back to this so that we have his input.

We may be trying to change something that won't do us any good to do that without his input.

So that's what I would suggest.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Wise as always Commissioner Lett.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: And I can confirm, my 1:00PM estimated arrival for Mr. Adelson was of course conditioned barring travel delays and I'm very happy to report there were none and he is in route so he should be on that mark.

And he has reviewed the maps that were drawn last week.

He has not had the benefit of viewing the map that Commissioner Eid is looking at now but I'm sure he would be happy to do so thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right.

Go ahead Commissioner Eid.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: When before I made this, I did put the collaborative map that we did on Thursday through plan score and the numbers were not as close to 0 as this map just from an objective standpoint.

But there are definitely more things to consider than just those numbers.

But I just wanted to make that point.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right any additional comments? Okay so without objection we are now going to start our recess.

We will start five minutes early so it's 11:55 and we will all be back here at 12:55 at that point hopefully Mr. Adelson will be here and he will be able to provide a presentation on his VRA analysis.

Thank you, everybody.

It is currently 11:55.

[Lunch recess]

>> CHAIR SZETELA: 1:08 and I call this meeting of the Michigan independent citizens redistricting back to order at 1:08 p.m. will secretary please call the roll.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Good afternoon, Commissioners. Please say present when I call your name. If you are attending the meeting remotely, please disclose your physical location as well. I will start with Doug Clark.

>> >> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.

Brittini Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Present, attending from Wayne County, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Present from Reed City Michigan.

Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: 11 Commissioners are present.

And there is a quorum.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We are waiting for our voting rights expert and is walking in the room and to be efficient with our time while we wait for him, I will go back to present his map if people have questions and comments about it so let's return to Commissioner Eid and once Mr. Adelson gets here, we will start up with his analysis once he has a moment to settle in.

>> COMMISSIONER EID:

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Kent, would you mind bringing Anthony's proposed Congressional map back up?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I said everything I want to say about this already but if there are questions or anyone else during their turn wants to take this and make some edits, I would welcome that.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, so the deviation falls within the .5 perimeter on each of the districts.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yeah, if you look at, if we look at the deviation there, they are all well below .5.

Most of them.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: I see the rest.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Most of them are within .01 actually which is nice.

It's not perfect.

There are a few that go a little bit higher into the .3s like District 1 and District well actually looks like only District 1 on there.

So, yeah, I'd say it's definitely close enough.

We can adjust lines to make them better.

I think that might be a discussion we want to have.

Like we have this legal variance we are allowed to have.

But I know some Commissioners have expressed warning to get it close to 0, do we do that if it means crossing over into another County? Just issues like that.

So you know we can discuss that.

But, yeah, the variance is well within the range that it's needed to be in.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right any other questions? If not, I think we will move on to Commissioner Kellom for her turn.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Okay, can we go back to the old map? The old by the Commission's version of the Congressional.

Commissioners, I would like your input because I had to join late in terms of what I should be taking into consideration for these changes.

I get the sense that the discussion during public comment was to include Flint with Saginaw.

I have done that on my own.

And thought that it kind of whited out the area so I was anxiously awaiting Bruce's analysis, so admittedly I'm a little shaky on making any changes.

If someone has some insight, I would appreciate it.

Other than that I will just go into that area.

Kent I'm sorry I can't hear you.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I was making sure I was getting the right one up here. We want to start with the plan we had earlier where y'all had the north-south split? Or do you want to start with the plan from last week?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Brittini you may have missed that part this is what we had a discussion around before you may have joined us and I do believe we like this north-south rather than east-west Commissioner Lange weighed on that Commissioner Lett there were several Commissioners that weighed on it and yeah.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Okay, I'm actually going to pass my turn then. I will watch for my turn.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'm kind of getting close to what Brittini is saying about passing the turn.

Because there is a whole map here.

There's one that I'm not comfortable with, and that is the Midland.

We've had a lot of public comments since the map has been done about Midland being with the Bay Area or I don't remember exactly how they put it.

And there was a lot of public comment from the Midland, one with concerns about flood recovering from the flood and the different areas within the County that have done that.

So as this map is now, I would lean more toward putting Midland kind of where the Tibawassee flows through which would be the counties up.

But I don't want that would cause a huge change to the entire map which I don't think we want to do at this moment so I will probably just do my own map.

So with that I'm going to pass.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I think maybe we do want to do that with this map because 13 was kind of left over so we should take those things in consideration and try and improve.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Most of the flooding took part in Sanford over in District 13 now.

The flooding didn't take place in Midland itself.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Part of it did because it flooded Dow chemical part of it did.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: But it's highly industrial and we have Dow that employees a heck of a lot of people there.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We can create a clone map and have you pull out Midland in 13 because we received a lot of public comment about putting it in with Saginaw and Bay.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Can we do that.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Just move things around.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This is a copy of what was worked on this morning so whatever you want to do with this it will be its own version.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: If you don't mind, I just didn't want to screw up the entire map.

So Kent if we could take all of Midland County and add it to 13.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay.

That would be this County right here.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Correct.

The little part of Bay County I believe it is to the north is that Bay County that is in 13 I would like to put that back with 11.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So go north.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Garfield and Frazier.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Pinconning what is left in the Bay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: The whole County the remainder of that.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes, please.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 11 is 50,000 light and 14 is 46,000 high.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: .

Can we go out a little bit so I can get a whole view? Is that, okay, yes where your pointer just was is that Saginaw County? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is Saginaw.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: St. Charles that is by Saginaw County.

Yep.

Somebody help me direct, yes, that area there, add that entire County to 11.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 23,000 light on 11 and 19,000 high on 13.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Anybody got suggestions for me at this point.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Rhonda I'm looking at the current District 5.

From 2010 that current District five has Bay Saginaw Genesee area and what we heard in public comment this morning so that is the only piece I was going to try to offer is it is somehow bringing in and seeing what it might look like and I think Anthony was trying to

do that earlier but using our current map I think it's worth trying just to see if we can get Bruce's read in it.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Genesee in the Bay and Saginaw County is what you are saying?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Genesee County in with number 11.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Then you are going to have to pretty much move everything else in the thumb into 10.

Yep, orange. Have Genesee right there.

That is Flint.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That was 400,000.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE:

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Tuscola, Huron is that what you are saying I need to do Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac in ten.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: That is what people were asking for during public comments basically.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Tuscola.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All the stuff that is left over in 11, yeah.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I kind of like what it is that we are doing here but part of me feels uncomfortable with taking Midland and separating Midland County from Bay and Saginaw Counties.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: We've had a lot of public comment that says that, that they do not see themselves as Tri-Cities anymore or anything. And we've got two sets of public comments that are saying completely different things. Once the last maps were drawn, we received a lot of public comment from people that actually lived in Midland County and they were saying the opposite of what we did. So it wouldn't be unheard of to do two maps to get input from both sides and kind of weigh what the population vote is, but I'm trying to listen to everybody and Senate map were done putting them with the Tri-Cities. This is Congressional. So now I'm trying to listen to both sides.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Witjes is giving you a thumbs up. So, yeah, I agree.

I feel like we have gotten very mixed commentary from Midland.

We've got people from Midland City saying they want to be with Bay and Saginaw and we have people from Midland Township saying they don't want to be with Bay and Saginaw.

I feel like we have gotten a lot of kind of conflicting information there about where Midland should go.

So I certainly don't think it hurts to make multiple maps.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I agree so ten we are still over, 11 we are down now so I would be happy with some input because we are kind of getting out of the area, I'm familiar with so if anybody could kind of help me with this region.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right anyone want to offer some input? I was going to ask you Richard go ahead.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: I believe if you scroll down a little bit and take Arenac County the rest of that and put it into 11 that might help.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Shall I do that?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: If you would for me looks like it helped a little bit on 13 and a little bit on 11.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: What if we put Tuscola with 11 and I think it would help even out 10 and 11.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: My memory this morning, one of the comments was that Shiawassee and Genesee has a lot of auto workers. But feels it's the first time I heard that. So, yeah, instead of I guess what I'm saying, I don't have an understanding why Tuscola wouldn't also be good. But I do remember that public comment saying Shiawassee may be a good place. And 68,000 is a little bit over; but, yeah, it's more than Tuscola.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: And we have to be within .5?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Well, yes. But we were also when it got close, we were kind of leaving it because we know we are going to adjust some boundaries to get closer to 0 as the time comes but we have been stopping when we are pretty close and we are below the .5 so don't feel like you have to get to 0.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Right now we are pretty darn close on all of them, correct.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 11 is .86 low and 13 is .57 high.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Commissioner Lange I think since you added to 13 and took out from 11 you might need to add a little bit more to 11 from 13 in a different area. So would any of those areas between 11-13 would those be good places? I mean we don't need to it's okay if we go into the County a little bit.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay.

What is the Township if we go to the north?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: This is Commissioner Orton.

I don't know the area real well but I'm wondering if you could scroll down to Flint just so I can see, keep going south, Kent, a little more, yep, there you go.

There it is.

And let us see to the east a little bit.

I'm just wondering if some of those what look like they may be more populated around Genesee County may fit in better.

I don't know but.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Are you asking fit in better than Tuscola or fit in better than what?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Tuscola or up north where we were looking if we are trying to keep that more densely populated area together, just a thought.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Lange if you want to ask for those dots or the diversity the demographics that may help to decide which.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay yes if you can put up the dots, we will take a quick look at those.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Which ones Hispanic Black?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Can we do to at one time? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: No we can't.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Let's look at the African/American first, please.

And can we go out some so I can get an idea of the surrounding area.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Let me change the color of those dots so it shows up better on this.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay thank you.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I don't know if that is any better but you can see Oakland, Macomb, and Genesee it's 20% approximately Saginaw is approximately 18.

This is at the County level.

And Townships.

And you can see a little more outlying areas.

This area is in three and I don't know how well you can see the colors.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Those areas are good as it stands so I don't see if taking from either side how it's going to affect those just looking at the dots.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Agreed Commissioner Lange.

Looking at the dots it does not look like if we added more suburban areas, we would add more African/Americans to the District.

It does not look like that.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Eid, did you have a comment?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: It might help to look at the community of interest overlay.

This one is cluster I have A29 apparently, it's C29 now and that is all in the Tri-City and if this African/American population doesn't help it may be another tool to use when deciding where to go with this, just a thought.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: With the community of interest I understand the Tri-Cities, but again I'm looking at the other side of the coin.

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Should we say where we received a lot of public comment the other way because of the flood resources and what have you so I don't know where that's going to come into play. 11 and 13.

Why don't we take just to kind of score it up can you go to the north just a bit? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I kind of want to get a view of 11 and 13.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 390, 126, 829, 1700, 5300.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: And then scroll down to the south, please.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is 2700.

75, 1609.

Wheeler is 2612 can you read these numbers.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I can read them just fine yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'm sorry.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Rhonda you can take the last two Townships that were just on the edge of Midland and put them in 11 and that should get you pretty close what were they? I mean they are not huge Ingersoll and mount Haley.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'm trying to leave Midland whole because of where the rivers flow and that was another one about the comment about the Tibawassee so I'm trying to I can see the different rivers and watershed was another one.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: What about Wheeler which is just south of the screen right now in the pink? Wheeler and then Lafayette.

Lafayette doesn't have a lot of population.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I was thinking about taking those last.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Alba Hamilton.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Why don't we try that Kent, if we could, please.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes.

.06 low for 13.

.23 for 11.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Pretty good Rhonda.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: At this point until we have evaluation, I would leave it how it is at the moment.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Department of State staff do you have questions for Commissioner Lange?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Hi Commissioner Lange.

I do have just a few questions.

And I did record quite a bit as you were going so thank you for kind of describing your decisions as you were going.

Could you describe any additional community of interest that were taken into account?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: We had the community of interest.

There was a lot of public input about the areas that have gone through the 2020 floods and keeping them as a community of interest.

We had public comment about the watersheds and the Tibawasse river so trying to take that into account.

Also as far as VRA goes in keeping groups together, we looked at the points as far as like for the African/American and making sure that we did not split up those communities.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you, that's all I have.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right thank you Commissioner Lange.

At this point we are going to move on to Commissioner Lett.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I don't have any changes for this map until we hear from our VRA account.

I just demoted him.

Give him a dual.

So that's where I'm at with this map.

We want to do to the House District maps and do something there we can do that.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Before we do that, I do want to propose the alternate that Rhonda had kind of touched on for this map if Cynthia do you want to take a turn or do you care if I do this? So really quickly just save a clone and we are just going to add the City of Midland in and then this is going to give an alternative that people can comment on because we have received that split commentary.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: And I'll just.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I would just add that Midland is one of those tricky cities where there is a lot of discontinuities so there will be a lot to cleanup if we are doing that.

>> CHAIR SZETELA:

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: And I think as we make the change like I just want to offer this is where we want to look at the demographics to see how the demographics shift or if there is a significant shift and that may be where we can provide our rationale.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Right.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: In terms of VRA analysis and in terms of keeping the African/American population together if there is a change.

There may not be a significant change.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Chair, we prepared.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So can you put just the City of Midland into 11.

Wednesday just the City.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I know there is a bunch of discontinuity.

That is the Township.

I know there is discontinuities there and it's for people to look and comment on so I don't know if we need to necessarily tidy all those up right now.

Okay and then where does that put us budget wise.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 40 high and 42 low.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Let's go below Saginaw and take those areas and try to shift them back into 13.

So those four border Townships and then we had probably eight on the edge of Saginaw County that we had as well and see if we can get that population back.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Put that back in 13.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Put it back in 13 and hopefully we don't need to do much more but we will see.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Where was the other place?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So those eight Townships right inside the western edge of Saginaw County that are purple right now so reassign those.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Right here?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yep.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Maybe you can consider Tuscola instead of that area.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We could but we have to readjust the thumb District as well.

That is what I was worried taking from there.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: And now you are 21,000 high on 11.
23,000 low on 13.

So you need more.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay what about the upper County that is at the top of the Bay Area? Just take the whole County and put it back into 13.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 15,000.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Put that back in.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 6500 high, 1188 low on 13.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Can I see the northern Bay Counties or northern Bay Townships.

So if you could grab, I think Gibson, mount forest and Garfield and see where we are at. We might need to grab Pinconning.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 11 is .31, 13 is .6.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So let's put Pinconning in and then we will stop there and I think that will kind of give to alternatives that people can look at and provide feedback on.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Right at .15 and .14.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: If we save it as alternative, we have one map with Midland out and one map with Midland in and people can kind of provide comments on which they think is the better option.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: All right.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I think that is good so we do have our expert here at this point, Mr. Adelson has arrived are you ready to go? Had a moment to settle.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: It's good to see you in person and I regret the mysterious Zoom darkness last week.

So I'm glad we have the opportunity to be here in person.

Do you have something you would like me to address right away?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Well it's my understanding you've had an opportunity to look at the Senate maps we drew last week and you might have some feedback for us on those.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: And I looked at the Congressional maps I think over all of course what I'd like to see is how they match up with the elections.

The election results.

And I have a couple questions about some of the percentages, but I think the first step would be if it's okay to look at the election results in the two Detroit area, the two primary Detroit area districts I think that is 1 and 2.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay so I think Kent is pulling that up on the screen for you.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay is that what we are looking at here? Not quite that big.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: This is currently the Congressional do you want the Congressional or the Senate or does it matter because this is currently the Congressional.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: We can start with the Congressional that is fine. I looked at particularly one and two I was curious a little bit about the configuration but I wanted to see the election results first.

Kent, can you scroll to the left past the Stabenow James election? Thank you. Let's just go all the way.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Do you have one in mind?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I wanted a quick.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I ball.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Thank you very much.

Could you go back to the left for two, please? District.

It looks like the top line is District 3.

Am I reading that.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: No the top line is for some reason it's off here.

The top two lines are that is one and two right there.

Let me keep them lit up and maybe it will be easier to track.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Is this what we were looking at? Or right in there?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Could you go all the way to the right, please? Looking at the election results the election results look pretty good for the election of candidate of choice.

And I was curious about just the geographic configurations of one and two and what was the marly two, what was the geographic thought process.

Because two's minority Black population is lower than one.

But it looks like the population in this District they are still able to elect so I'm curious because the percentages I think it's about 20 points difference so I was just curious if you have particular areas that you put in two that you thought would really strengthen and protect the ability to elect?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, so my thought process when we were drawing this because I'm pretty sure this is the District I drew, is Dearborn and Dearborn heights have a high Arab American population it's the highest in the County and Taylor, Romulus, Westland, Wayne, not so much Taylor, but they have a significant African/American population as does Redford tend to sort of be the white community there tends to be cross over voters where they would support minority candidates as well.

Livonia is a little bit more or less African/American, less minority.

But still tends to vote primarily democratic so it was trying not to pack African/American community into a huge District while still giving them the ability to elect people based on similar demographics and similar lined voters.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I mean I think when I first looked at this yesterday one of the things that struck me was the difference in the minority population.

I had noticed that Dearborn was in two but what I find is particularly notable is it's approximately 35, 37% Black, which is that's pretty good.

Now I know that in one the Black population is higher.

I think it's in the mid-50s so you know I think that I would suggest that is something to look at additionally.

But you know I mean to be honest I looked at two several times last night and I thought that has to be a reason why the Black population is at 35ish percent and I appreciate what you're saying.

That's kind of what I assumed.

But I think for now I think two looks pretty good.

What I would suggest with one is seeing ways we might be able to ameliorate the Black population so we ease off a little bit on the disparity, are there other districts that you, Congressional Directors that you created that you feel are opportunity to elect districts beyond these two?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Did you have a comment? MC?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I think maybe three.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Let's look at three.

Could you give me a little background please about the area in three and why you think that is an opportunity to elect District?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: It's your turn MC you are on.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: This is not my area and I'll do my best but the reason I thought so, yeah, and I haven't looked at the numbers as much but while you're here and because you asked is there another area that was the one that I remember. I don't think we are in Novi so and do we have Troy in this District too is this also the Troy area?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: No. But I believe has Pontiac in it. Does it have Pontiac? Yes. So Southfield have pretty significant African/American populations. So we were pairing those together on purpose to sort of keep those communities together. I'm not sure if you just caught that. So Pontiac and Southfield have significant African/American populations. And then it's surrounded by on the eastern edge sort of more middle class, blue collar neighborhoods that tend to also align and vote democratic.

So Royal Oak, Pleasant Ridge, Ferndale, Oak Park. Ferndale and Oak Park in particular have a very strong LGBTQ population. And Oak Park has a large Jewish population. And all of those communities they sort of align democratically. And West Bloomfield has a pretty strong Chaldean and also Jewish population as well. So we were trying to group those together. Also there is a significant Asian population in the areas. And overall it tends to sort of vote democratic and vote for minority candidates where we thought we might...we may be able to leverage that combining these communities together.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Is there a District of Flint, Saginaw Area District or District on the west coast that you feel similarly might be an opportunity to elect District?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I'm not so sure about Grand Rapids and Saginaw. I think with what we redrew today for District 10 we have Flint and Saginaw together where again you have the concentrated African/American communities.

I think this might be the older map. So we just did a proposed redraw on District ten and District 11 and combined Saginaw with Flint in response to a bunch of public commentary we received about that so the population was 17% African/American.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I was going to offer it would be useful to look at and compare because we did draw this for public comment and we redrew it and it would be good for analysis on both and help us understand what you are reading in the first one and reading in the redraw.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Let's look at the election results for ten, please.

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>> MR. KENT STIGALL: District ten will be highlighted want to go to the right?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: No. I want to take this a little slower than the last one.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Go to the right, please.

And hold on.

Okay, that is enough.

Okay. Now, go all the way to the right, please.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Kellom, did you have a comment or question?

You have a hand to explain.

There we go.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I didn't put my hand up.

It's not showing on my screen.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Are we all the way at the end? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, sir.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: You know what is interesting about in this is one of the districts I had on my list to ask about because I had thought about the possibility of having a District with both Flint and Saginaw.

So I think that once again we seem to be on the same wavelength across the hundreds of miles.

So yeah, this is not just looking at the election results doesn't seem to be as strong an opportunity to elect District.

But the election results are mixed.

So, you know, as you know, it's not like you need every election result.

So this might be something that are there ways to strengthen the minority population?

Because now there is, there does seem to be somewhat of an opportunity to elect.

So often when that's discovered or tried, then once you have it, then you protect it.

So yeah, I think that that is something that I would suggest that we look at a little bit.

But I think that looks pretty good.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We did do an alternative map which included Flint with Saginaw and that is based on public comment we got today.

That was pretty strongly against this configuration.

So people did not like it.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: So do you mind with the comments of people wanting to unite Flint, Saginaw in one District where were they coming from what was their rationale?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: People from the African/American community who said that we were disenfranchising Flint by doing it this way so.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: That is pretty big.

So, yeah, when we have an opportunity, we can look at the alternative.

But to your thinking is the alternative have a stronger opportunity to elect than this one?

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>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I think we should look at the other map because we had changed it so we should look at the latest version.

Let him see it.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Sure, thank you.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Shall I close this and open the last version.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Do we want to open the one with Midland or without Midland? Why don't we do the last one we did with Midland because I think that is going to have the most concentrated population.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: What I saw is the white population increased. So I'm not sure if it will -- that is what I mean when I looked at it but I'm not sure.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: If we can do the one without Midland, I feel like we kind of all agreed on that and then it was changed so.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, so pull up the one without Midland.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I think this is it.

If not, we will make it happen.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So that has Midland; but, yeah, that doesn't have...

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is not the one would want to look at?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: That is not the one it does not have Flint mixed in either we are challenging your organizational skills today because we keep having you change maps now that one now that one.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I had it, I know that and figuring out where it's going to show up.

I saved them, they are work plans and when we finish, I would export them with the proper name.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, that has Midland.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Is this what you wanted to see?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Cynthia wants to see the one without Midland.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: So just the north-south split?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: No. See in District 11 you have that little carve out for Midland, that little thing out there.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: What we just had out there.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah. Right, before that there was a plan that did not have Midland in it. And she wants to see the one that Rhonda Lange had worked on where she had pulled Midland out. And we pulled Midland in. We pulled Midland out.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay. I will have to load that in.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, that is the right one.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: District 11 is the one I assume you're interested in.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Uh-huh.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Could you go to the right, Kent?

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: And to the right again.

And one more toggle.

Thank you.

It seems the election results do provide for an opportunity to elect.

Again, it's not all the elections; but it doesn't have to be all the elections.

I'm curious beyond encompassing all of Flint and Saginaw, you have that jog to the northeast at the top of the District.

Is there -- what was the thought process behind that?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I think we were just trying to get population without grabbing Midland, that was kind of because if you go into the thumb area, it's very sparsely populated and very different demographically from the Saginaw, Flint area.

So, you know, if you take Midland out, you kind of have to go up a little bit. Go ahead, Commissioner Rothhorn.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: And another note, Bruce, before or after adding Tuscola we looked down in the southern part of Genesee County in what is now District 10 or we did see it and the suburban areas if there was Black population or African/American population to add. And there was no significant, yeah, so.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Well, also, you know, just our conversation is a great example of justifications for the record.

Because it's very clear why you did what you did.

And I think that's really helpful.

I think 11, again, it seems like it's a good opportunity to elect District.

It's not as strong as the Detroit area districts.

But most of the elections the candidate of choice of the Black community is elected, so I think that is very positive.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: And then what about the Grand Rapids, Kent area? Do you want to go over there? Go ahead, Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: When we compare the two maps, that one District in the two maps, what is your assessment of the strength relatively equal or slightly different or what?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: From the perspective Commissioner Clark of electing candidates of choice?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: From what you are assessing yes.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: If I had to choose between the two, I think at this point I would lean towards 11.

This version that we are seeing.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: This version.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: With all the conversation from Commissioners Szetela and Commissioner Rothhorn about why you took Midland out and why you did that little jog to the northeast from a population perspective overall population but also subtracting out a population that you believe would not necessarily support candidates of choice.

I think that is pretty strong justification.

So I would lean towards the one we see now.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay this one.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Yes.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Can we take a look at the one with Midland or Anthony has got a question first.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Eid and then Commissioner Lange.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yeah, that is exactly what I was going to say Doug.

So you're saying you prefer this to the one that the previous one that had Flint with suburbs, we have not looked at it yet.

This 11 compared to the 11 that has Midland as part of the Tri-City area.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I think that I lean towards this at the moment because of the decision to take Midland out of the District.

And look to the northeast for population.

Now, that being said as we certainly we all know by now things change a lot.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: So excuse me one thing that I'm always keen to do with redistricting generally is it's like it's show me.

Show us about and let's see what you got and we just compare them with the do the election results and look at some other communities.

But so that's my initial thought in addition to I would right now lean towards the one without Midland.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Midland actually has a population the City of 42,387 people.

Out of that 1645 are African/American.

834 are Hispanic.

So it does not have a significant minority population.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Okay thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lange did you have a comment or question?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I do.

But mine is I'm waiting for him to bring the map up because you guys said you were going to go towards Kent County because I have an issue that I think Bruce might want to look at too with the map on that side.

Particularly Muskegon.

We had a lot of public comment about Muskegon Heights and Muskegon having for the area a fairly high amount of African/American population.

And I think by putting it in the District how you have it right now that is probably going to disenfranchise their vote.

And I don't know if maybe there's a way to work it in to an area that might have more. So that is something that I wanted to possibly have him look at if possible.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Thank you Commissioner Lange.

And that is a great point about communities with barge minority populations and some public comments that might express some concern about vote dilution and is Muskegon currently in District 13.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Sitting below where the 13 is sitting that is Muskegon.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: What is the minority population in 13?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I believe it's about 30% let me look.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Non-Hispanic white is 86 so the non-Hispanic black is four that is the District known as Muskegon.

>> Population of Muskegon is 38,000 applicants American is 3500 and Hispanic is 13,000.

So pretty strongly Hispanic.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Can we see election results for 13 please.

Looking at the elections this is not the same for District 11 the Flint Saginaw District. So this is not an opportunity to elect a District is there Commissioner Lange or is there another District that adjoins this higher opportunity to elect quo sent.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: The only thing I can think of possibly, and the other Commissioners can correct me if I'm wrong, we have Kent County, is a pretty diverse County that may have a higher population as far as diversity. And I'm not sure about Ottawa.

But when you are looking at Newaygo, Mecosta, you know, Osceola and Montcalm, there is not a large population. So that is why my concern because during public hearings they talked about the population.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I talked about this earlier in my presentation and should figure out a way to look at it. And there is a configuration that connects Grand Rapids with Muskegon, and which might turn it into an opportunity to elect a District.

But we would have to draw. And see first with like either what we have now with 14. Or with the other alternative having Kent be with Ottawa. And having Kent with Muskegon might produce something different.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Shall I bring up the thematic of the Black population greater than 10%?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I think that would be helpful. Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: One thing we want to avoid in Kent County is breaking up the Metro six, which for your knowledge is the six individual communities in the Grand Rapids area. And they were pretty adamant about keeping those together.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Okay, thank you.

I think generally speaking without addressing the map that is on the screen if you do have a community that is has a significant minority population and significant can vary depending on the size and the voting patterns.

Then that would be something that I would typically suggest including in a District where there is the possibility of an opportunity to elect District because that always is a kind of an it's a standout.

And that is why I think you know it's just that your decision to combine Flint and Saginaw makes sense in a lot of ways.

Particularly since they were two counties that Dr. Handley analyzed and they have large African/American populations.

So I think that just generally speaking that that's kind of a good, best practice to look at as you move forward with Districting.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Demographics going by Townships, out of 198,000 in Grand Rapids it's 18.8% Black.

And Muskegon is 34% but it's only 38,000 people, 13,000 Black.

Same way.

This is you know a 73% but it's only 7200 out of 9900.

So per percentage wise it's up.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: The locations are somewhat desperate and Muskegon it's not like it's sitting right outside the District so that is an issue too.

But I also think that frankly as far as creating a record, if you have situations like this and they just don't work, whether it's from a population standpoint or extending a narrow strip to connect a District to a City with a large minority population, those are always viewed unfavorably by the courts because it's just like high school textbook gerrymandering.

You are just extending that little finger essentially just to grab some minority population.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, and Muskegon most of the minority population is concentrated right there in Muskegon Heights as you can see it's 73% African/American so it's just that kind of one little community and around it.

So we would have to be kind of doing a tend roll into that.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Aside I added up the Grand Rapids and Kentwood and up here and Muskegon and Muskegon Heights and it was roughly 67-70,000 people so that would be maybe 10% of the District.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: That is African/American people; is that correct?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: One of the things that Commissioner Lange I think one of the reasons we are looking at this and I think Commissioner Lange is bringing our attention to it is there is also Hispanic population and the opportunity to elect includes a coalition District and I think that is what we want to explore if we can get the dots that show the Hispanic population too.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I feel the Hispanic population is so distributed through the coastline particularly Ottawa County and upward and I know we talked about that with Newaygo that it's much more distributed that keeping with Muskegon where it is like we took that into account when we drew this District and trying to grab the areas with the higher Hispanic population to make that District more concentrated.

And I think.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Muskegon is 9% Hispanic about 16.5% that is 25%.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I was going to ask in Kentwood because I recall seeing comments about Kentwood or hearing comments about Kentwood so I wouldn't sure what the minority population is.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Hispanic is 10%. If I remember right the Black population was 17.

I will go and look at it.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Oh, really.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 19%.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: It seems like Kentwood might have among the higher minority populations in the Townships around Grand Rapids, am I right about that?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I think you are right, yeah.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: That is something to look at as well from a dilution standpoint.

That if there is it seems like almost 40% between the Black population and the Hispanic population possibly.

That that also is something to consider because if you have a large population like that in a Township or a City surrounded by a community that is of a different demographic and most poignantly the election results differ that is something to look at from a potential dilutions standpoint.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Do I want to try to summarize is that what you said? I'm trying to find my map that has the Hispanic population that is what I'm looking for because I know Bruce provided us with that lovely or not Bruce but Kim provided us with a lovely map that showed the spread and I'm trying to find it.

You got it.

There you go.

Bruce, I know.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Five letter names beginning with B, right.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: You don't have the Hispanic.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: These are the only ones I got.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right I got to find it Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, Bruce, you made the point that or the comment that Muskegon is not right next to Grand Rapids so it may be difficult to integrate the two.

It may be the way I look at it, it does.

Particularly with the comments we got out of Grand Rapids that they want their six Townships together.

And the southern part of Grand Rapids has got a lot of minorities in the northern part, I think it's the opposite from what I understand.

Would you suggest trying to integrate Muskegon or not?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I think that is a great point.

It does seem that I agree and I agree with Commissioner Szetela that it does seem like you're just going to have to stretch out and a narrow finger like projection.

However, I think it is important, it is more than important for record purposes to try if it doesn't work then we can show that why it doesn't work.

Because that's often one of the red lights with gerrymanders and redistricting.

If you are reaching out deliberately to capture a large minority population and add it to another District, that always raises issues.

So trying it I think is important.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: And then documenting why or why not it would work.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Absolutely because if it does seem like which we are all supposing there is just this narrow strip of a District that is reaching out then that is likely not going to be advisable.

And it's something that I might caution against because of the prospect of it being is it a racial gerrymander.

But I really do applaud the point that trying whether it works or it doesn't work it's making or trying then explaining either way, I think is vitally important.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: One of the key points we got out of the Muskegon hearings was they want the lake side.

That is the most important thing on their mind and that is what we got them with the lake side people on this District.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Sure.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: That's basically the only thing that was on their mind.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I remember when you were out in the western part of the state Grand Rapids and Muskegon that hearing many comments similar to that.

So yes, I think that overall as I said I think that the -- your thought about trying is really very, very important from a records standpoint and Madam Chair if you don't mind if I could digress for a couple minutes.

Because that reminds me of something I did before I came out here both this morning early this morning and last night.

I looked at the attorney privilege files that I have from the Arizona redistricting.

And because I wanted to see what was happening around the same time.

And then of course subsequently.

But one of the files that really stub out to me was the deposition file.

And the deposition preparation of the Commissioners and talking about various justifications and whether or not the records substantiated that.

So I wanted to add that as a point in going forward that this is not a fantastical notion that of course when there are substantive challenges and challenges proceed that there are going to be depositions.

And I think that it's really important to Commissioner Clark's point if there is something that you're thinking about even if you think it doesn't or it may not work, try it.

Particularly when it comes to the Voting Rights Act.

It's like show your work is what we talked about initially.

I also wanted to mention briefly a concern that I have just again generally and I think that this is inspired by looking at the Arizona file.

I think I certainly agree for many reasons that public comment is very important.

And hearing to M the community, hearing from voters is absolutely significant.

But I have to caution that voters, the people who are commenting, their comments may not be necessarily legally compliant.

And that came up in Arizona.

It comes up with all the redistrictings that I do.

I really think that that's an important cautionary note to be careful about comments suggesting whatever they are suggesting.

They may not comply not only with state law with Federal law and that also raises what I've seen a lot in public comments and in media articles the whole idea of competitiveness as a criterion.

Competitiveness is a criterion in Arizona, spelled out in the state Constitution.

But it's not here.

And to here it's the proportionally disadvantaged with the criteria number four.

And I may be mixing my words up a little bit but that is very different than competitive so I understand there may be people out there who are talking to you, talking to the media, posting on social media and I've been reading a lot of that, who would like competitive districts as that is legally defined.

The difficulty is that's not in state law.

So there is no basis for doing that.

The proportional, not disadvantaging one party more proportionately than another that is something as you recall Dr. Handley talked about, I think in July when she did her short little memo and mentioned the Court approved tests for judging disproportionate

favoritism and that is something as you know with General Counsel and I do agree with that.

The courts support that.

I think that is a much safer ground and that is one of the things that is always operative for me.

Being able to justify whatever choices are made and there is just I don't see any justification legal justification for citing what so many people are advocating outside of this room.

Competitive districts.

It's the Constitution is not worded that way.

It is in Arizona.

But it's not here.

So I think this confluence really got to me last night.

And again this morning before I went to the airport as it's really important to -- it's you know like I tell my law students you just follow what the law says.

The law doesn't say it, I understand people may want it, they maybe they can amend the Constitution and we can discuss this in ten years.

But right now I just don't see a legal basis for doing it.

So I wanted to share that.

Those are just some thoughts I had after looking at some media articles, social media and reading some public comments so thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Look that was great information for sure.

Are there any more questions on this map? Because if we have time before moving to the Senate map, I had an alternative configuration that I went over earlier and I would love to hear what you think about it to compare.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Absolutely.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Hate to put you on the spot.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I'm on the spot all week.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Well, I just wonder I may have missed something.

I was trying to take it all in but with the numbers that you saw, it sounds to me like you think it would be worth trying to put Grand Rapids and Muskegon in a District and see what that looks like?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Yes, Commissioner Orton.

I think it's worth trying.

It doesn't look on the surface as if it's legally feasible.

But I think it is really important and as I said I admit that I'm very influenced by my looking at the attorney/client privileged information from Arizona.

And looking at the import of creating a record particularly concerning the Voting Rights Act.

So I would say, yes.

It is worth trying.

Excuse me.

You may all be surprised about that.

We may not.

Because I think we all are looking at this as that may be somewhat of a stretch and just creating this tendril of a District to reach out and grab Muskegon.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Well, there is a way to do it.

Shall we try doing that? Or do we just want to go on with evaluation? I don't know what we want to do at this point.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Let's go on with evaluation but have you weighed in on Grand Rapids by itself? Without considering the Muskegon District Four?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: As I recall District 4 the election results are not dispositive as far as saying, yes, this is an opportunity to elect a District.

That why I was also raising that I thought I had remembered public comments and work that you had done earlier on the State House districts.

I thought I remembered that Kentwood had a pretty good sized minority population which surprised me.

And I think that there were when you were doing the House Districts, I mean frankly I was surprised at a few of the districts because I did not know that the population was there.

I think that one of the difficulties comparing the west coast to Detroit, there are a lot of very heavily populated minority populations and to use Dr. Handley's phrase there are homogenous precincts, they are overwhelmingly of one minority race.

And I don't think there are precincts like that.

In the western part of the state so it makes that type of analysis either harder or impossible and more requiring some degree of imagination so that is why I was surprised to see some of these districts if I'm remembering right when you were doing the State House District.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: All right so do we want to open up Commissioner Eid's map and we can take a look at his districts? Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Could we go back to the first, the Saginaw Midland thing?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark wanted to see how adding Midland so Kent the map before that has Midland how that changes the analysis on 11, he asked about that earlier, I'm sorry.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Get your opinion on that then we go to Anthony's.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: The map with Midland.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Midland put in.
Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: This is for Bruce.
And Bruce we will look at a third map over in the Saginaw Bay City and Flint area.
I think this supports what you just talked about over in Muskegon.
Now we've got three different versions we are looking at the versions and assessing each one.
And documenting each one.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: That is a great idea.
COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay so we will do the last of the three here.
>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Let me change the colors so it's a little more obvious as to what we are looking at here.

So 11 is the has just the town of Midland.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yep, that one.
>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Can we see the election results for that, please? And move to the right a little bit, please.

Okay and to the right again.
So this is the District with Midland am I correct? Can you toggle over Midland? I think John did in the last time I was here.
To see not I know you don't have it in the graph like you do at the bottom but just to see how Midland performs in these elections.

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>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Here they are in a cryptic form.
Was it one particular election?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Why don't we look at Governor 2018-2019.
>> MR. KENT STIGALL: There is 2018.
>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: 9856 figure is that the democrat candidate or the republican? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Republican is 9856.
The democrat was 9281.
>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Okay and 14, please.

.
>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Let me look downward I don't know these as well as I could.
There they are.
The top one is the republican.
The lower one is the democrat.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: And just one more and you know I can extrapolate from that.
And let's look at the 2020 Stabenow Peters U.S. Senate.

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>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Is it Peters.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Right.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'm thinking, I see president, Senate, State House, somebody sees it speak up.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: This is pretty cryptic.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Field names of the database.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I think Peters was running for Senate.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I'm sorry it was Peters-James, yeah, yeah.

Yeah, that was James ran for Senate last year.

So there is a 2020 race and that was against Peters.

Is that SENR20 could that be it? R being republican and D being democrat? Okay, okay, thank you.

So to me the biggest difference is that although 11 in the current configuration seems for the most part to perform, to elect candidates of choice, Midland is an outlier because Midland not only does not the three elections, we looked at it I'm surprising in others, not only doesn't support candidates of choice but overwhelmingly doesn't support candidates of choice.

So my thought would be what would be the compelling reason for putting Midland in? Midland does have a somewhat of a dilutive because it potentially dilutes the minority. Voting strength what would be the compelling reason to include it? To me there is more of a compelling reason not to include it because it has from what we saw with the elections a dilutive impact.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you that is very helpful.

All right so we want to go to Commissioner Eid's map? Yeah, Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, all the comments that Bruce were making being documented as we go along or? If so, where?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Definite maybe.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Everything is being recorded and transcribed.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Yes, and I have a feeling that Sarah Reinhardt will be -- is she I very much appreciate her Scribner abilities and I'm very confident she is nailing this.

[Laughter]

It's true though.

Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So let's open the other map real quick and I will try to be quick because we want to get to the Senate maps, we drew last week.

I hope this does not become known as my map.

It's just an alternative map that I happen to draw.

You know.

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>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Nice try Commissioner Eid you presented that with a lot of authority.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: You're not getting out of this.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: We are one Commission.

One voice.

Okay, let's see, so let's Zoom in on 12 and 13 here the major difference here with this loaded configuration that's Detroit is that both of these districts have a Black voting age population about the same at about 45%.

So if you were talking about a disparity between the two numbers and the other configuration, what do you think about the numbers being closer together at this amount? One is about 45%, the other is about 46%.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Based on Dr. Handley's analysis less than 50% Oakland whine, Saginaw Genesee where she found racially polarized voting and analyzed the percentage by which minorities would be able to elect candidates of choice by white cross over vote.

So to me the closer you can get to those numbers if disagree gaited election results confirm that minority candidates can elect here, I think that's good.

I think that is a preference because it gives you a stronger justification concerning the whole packing versus unpacking.

So if they work, then if the minority population, the Black population is in the 40s, in the mid-40s, that has the potential to be okay.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: So that was my question.

Maybe because we only got her analysis for the Senate threshold for the Senate and the house.

You didn't get one for the Congressional but is that your understanding we can use similar thresholds for the Congressional?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I think in this part of the state, yes.

In the western part of the state, no.

Because there are no homogenous precincts there and just the minority population is very different.

Now, that doesn't mean there are not Voting Rights Act issues of course as we know. But there are not these large populations.

85, 90% majority, minority precincts out west.

So there are other issues in a way it's more nuisanced than in these but, yes, you can rely on what Dr. Handley did for the legislature in those Counties that she analyzed.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I just want to make sure these two are okay.

So do we have to look at like election results or what do we need to do?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Can you name the two districts the numbers.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes, thank you, 12 and 13.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: And these are -- this is also Congressional?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes, these are Congressional.

It's we are still in Detroit.

Yeah, you can see the configurations a little different Detroit and took it Down River. 12 is similar to what we had in that area before it's a little expanded but it's similar I guess with Dearborn and Dearborn Heights being included in it.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: We talked about that either last week or the week before and it looks like this is also both 12 and 13 or strong opportunity to elect districts. And I think like we also had talked about there is Dr. Handley confirmed in just looking at the numbers and extrapolating from them there seems to be strong cross over support certainly in 12 you have the Middle Eastern population.

Which because of census decision making is not included as a separate racial group. But you know where they live.

We talked about you getting a great public comment that really spotlights the area.

So again I think that we can extrapolate from that.

So that as you know Dr. Handley is doing additional election analysis.

And this is an ongoing thing.

So I think that just looking at the elections that I'm looking at now it does seem that these are good opportunities to elect districts.

For the moment I would agree with you.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay can we just -- okay just two more to examine real quick the same two we went over.

Let's go to the Flint area.

So this is very similar to what we went over a second ago.

It has Midland, Bay and Saginaw together as in the Tri-Cities with Flint.

Any thoughts? The configuration is a little different because the other one had Tuscola County with it while this doesn't.

But I know previously you had said that Midland being in there might bring up a problem.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Well, Midland because the election results, we looked at in Midland do not show support for the candidate of choice, then those are not close elections.

They were -- the gaps were pretty big.

So typically if I see something like that, I'm concerned about it diluted impact.

Because again we get this for ten years.

The populations are going to change.

I'm cautious about including an area in a District that on its face is dilutive and of course there is no way we can know what will happen in seven, eight or nine years so that is a thought.

The election results here are close.

And what is the minority population on your map? On this map? For District 5? I don't recall.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: It's at 23.73 minority voting age population.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Let's talk a little bit about that too.

Dr. Handley's analysis focused on the Black population because it's the largest.

I don't believe we currently have information on answering the question do Black voters and Hispanic voters in any given area coalesce are they cohesive do they have the same voting preferences? So and I agree the minority population is what you're saying but that does not dispositively in any convincing way to me show that the voting patterns align so that the by having a 5% Hispanic population and 13% Black population that means both populations will vote similarly.

We just don't know that.

That is something that I believe Dr. Handley is going to be pursuing.

But for now the only analytical certainty concerns the Black population as far as election results.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I think that is about 14% for this District.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Is Black population about the same then on this map and your map without Midland?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Didn't you say there wasn't many Black people in Midland?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I don't know.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Tuscola is heavily white and when we were in that map, I didn't write down so I don't know.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I wrote down the mine the but not the Black percentage so 26.5 so with Midland out it was 26.3 with the map that we had drawn collaboratively and with Midland in it was 26.6 with the one we were looking at currently is 26.5 so it's very like we are hovering around the same.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Tuscola is not in the District so they kind of balance each other.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I think this is one of those issues where it may just the bottom line may come down to the election results.

And literally comparing the election results in each map and then my having to resolve for myself the dilutive impact of Midland.

But when you have populations that are that close, the election results are not overwhelmingly like in the Detroit area districts showing strong opportunity to elect. So I'd want to look at the election results side by side and then go from there.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Wonderful.

Now let's just move on to the Grand Rapids area.

You can see again it's similar to what was on the screen before, but it takes in more of Ottawa County and splits it up a little less.

Let's see, I don't believe there is a high Black population here.

But when I was looking at the election results it was quite close so I don't know if that makes a difference or not.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Quite close as number of elections where the candidate of choice won?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I believe so and I think we can display that as well.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Okay, so just looking at the ones on the screen I think it's similar to the Saginaw, Bay City, Midland area District.

Literally looking at them side by side.

And then coming up with some type of determination.

Because the results are close here and I'm just looking at a few that the minority candidates did not win.

So this is not the same as 45% Wayne County District.

So that you know that factors into it too.

But the best way to look at it to me is just comparing looking at the election results side by side.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Thank you.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Sure, thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: For what it's worth looking at those two comparatively looking at the election results for the one map, looking at election results for the other map we're not going to be able to do it in one of these open meetings sessions so I think somehow, we have to reconcile because there is a theory there that we're not going to be able to practice unless we can.

And so I'm putting that out there.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Well, Commissioner Rothorn that is a great point.

I would say we can.

As long as somebody can however it's displayed or whether we use the pen and paper, whatever it is.

Just the election results for each one side by side to just look at them.

But, you know, again, I have to, you know, keep in mind that in this area, because the minority population is much different than it is in the Detroit area, the calculations are different. And Dr. Handley did not study racially polarized voting here because there are no precincts that have large enough minority populations the way they are in the greater Detroit area.

So the calculation is different.

But it would be instructive to have them both side by side in whatever format to examine.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: This is just a question on something I've been struggling with a little bit.

How do we reconcile this information, the racial data with measures of partisan fairness like efficiency gap because they might not necessarily go together.

You know you might make one better for racial bloc voting reasons but that might make a partisan fairness values drop or in your experience do they usually go together if you improve one does the other improve as well?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: One way for me to answer that is what I remember the Chairwoman in Arizona said.

This very question came up multiple times.

And her response was the Voting Rights Act is a priority number one consideration.

If we can create for them competitive districts, for you it's of course a different quotient than we can.

But we can't create a competitive District she said and have a retrogressive or dilutive effect can't do it.

And people were not happy about that but it was clear the advice of counsel.

And it's not a close call in that perspective.

So similarly I would think the same is true here the Voting Rights Act and one person one vote and that's number one.

So if you can achieve other goals that are lower down the list of criteria, that's a policy choice for you all.

If they conflict, the Voting Rights Act, the 14th amendment win.

If they don't conflict, then that's a policy choice for you.

Okay thank you my colleague reminded me about the importance of realizing I'm using the term retrogressive applies to Section five of the Voting Rights Act, Section five was alive ten years ago so we had to make decisions based on retrogression and that is not in play now as a legal principle when it comes to evaluating what we're doing because Section five as we know according to the Supreme Court was held at least the formula for including jurisdictions is unconstitutional.

So that retrogressive legal requirement is not the same today so retrogression if you look for a keyword to replace it is vote dilution.

Vote dilution is retrogression in a sense because it's the key term in Section Two of the Voting Rights Act and retrogression does not come into play the way it did ten years ago.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: If we are moving away from this map Cynthia had a method in which we could combine Muskegon and Grand Rapids.

I would be interested in seeing how that is done.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I think it's my turn any way so can we so what map are we looking at right now.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: It's still Eid's map.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Can we go back to a copy of the last the last Congressional map we worked on collaboratively this morning.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I guess it would be the one without.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Without Midland that would be great.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is never good.

That is not it.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Madam Chair if you don't mind while we are waiting.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: General Counsel Pastula has a point about retrogression and thinking about election results reminded me I had read some comments about election results and evaluating the fifth criterion or fourth criterion about disproportional disadvantage.

These election results of course as we know these are Voting Rights Act analysis election results.

They were not pulled or used for any other purpose.

The courts I've never seen a Federal Court decision that endorses the use of just looking at election results for to determine fairness.

Competitiveness, possibly.

Voter registration which you don't do here.

You don't register by party.

In Arizona they do.

So we would use information like that concerning competitiveness but not on the fairness side if that makes sense.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I want to summarize what was say and if you don't mind when my students tell me I'm speaking to confusingly or obtusely 2014 rates for desegregated election results has no bearing and cannot be used for determining the fourth criteria about fairness for competitiveness possibly because you don't have her and everybody out there saying look at that and we can use that, no.

That is not what the courts say.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: That kind of begs the question that means that the data we can use or am I wrong.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Well the data you can use for what?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: To measure fairness.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: No. The fairness tools are what we talked about over the summer.

That will happen in a day or two. Use those because those are the ones the courts say you can use. So the election results are just for the Voting Rights Act.

The fairness tools that Dr. Handley endorsed in July, I think she endorsed in her memo that we agree with those are the tools that are supportable because the courts have endorsed them.

>> KIM BRACE: It's the data on the fair spreadsheet and labeled full minority ones. But it's statewide races. And that is what is going to be used in the competitiveness analysis.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: We don't have competitive and all is.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Measures to evaluate the fourth criteria so. So it's Commissioner Orton's turn.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Going off of that, could we please be pulled when all of those tools are ready for us to be able to use to analyze that fourth criteria.

>> KIM BRACE: I'm waiting for Lisa and Fred to get back to me on that. But, yes, we should know that.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Okay. We will see what this looks like when we try to incorporate Grand Rapids and Muskegon into one.

I'm not real familiar with the area, so what District number?

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That four and 13.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So please choose Grand Rapids the City.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is in four.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I will have to unchoose and would like to deselect and you can put them in District is 13, all of the Townships. Okay, just to start where Coopersville, that little town to the left, keep going left.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, I see it.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: That and all the Townships to the right.

That are in four.

And everything up that can all go in 13.

This is just a copy, right?

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Okay Ada Township.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Where is Ada?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: To the right Ada and Cascade and down and everything in the right that is in four can go to 13 and I don't know where it's going but 13 for now.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That area?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes, please.

Oh, one morrow over.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'm sorry, yes okay.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: The three bottom Townships.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: These three?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes, for now go ahead, MC.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: We did get public comment about when we were in Allendale about Grand Rapids and I think Ada Township and Cascade really, I think there was something about the airport and how they really identified with Grand Rapids. I do think you're drawing an alternative so I just wanted to mention for help, yes.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Caledonia too.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Keep that in mind I'm not sure we would be able to get clear over if we do that so okay now just a second.

Could we put the theme on that has the African/American population? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, just one moment.

It's really Madison heights the only thing I noticed is Madison heights in Muskegon.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Muskegon Heights.

Okay there are different ways to do it and I don't know which Townships would be best but choose Allendale.

That is in nine right now.

The top of nine.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'll just select them.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: To get us there choose Robinson and Grand Haven.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Sorry to interrupt Kent can you switch back to the population display in the active matrix? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, I'm sorry.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you.

And go up the shoreline and choose Muskegon and Muskegon Heights.

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>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Something like that with Muskegon.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes.

I think so.

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>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Something there a precinct.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Not that right now but Roosevelt Park it looks like.

Then choose Fruitport.

Okay scroll out a little bit.

Yes, assign that please for now.

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>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You need another 100,000.

We left this hanging out down here.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Right, so I have a question for Commissioners.

We can go down and get the City of Holland, no, or we can go around Grand Rapids more.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So my view on this because this is where we summer every summer is that if the intention is to add Muskegon with the point of adding more

African/American votes into Grand Rapids I would not go up and go through Grand Haven because then you are just completely diluting that vote because Grand Haven is almost uniformly white so I would go north and grab over because you are grabbing less population which is still primarily white but you are grabbing less than you will grab growing through Grand Haven and be able to tie it in that way and it will give you a weird looking District but I mean that is kind of the way it is.

The going out to Grand Haven and up you are basically negating the impact of adding Muskegon entirely.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So let's then unassign or reassign that from the County there at Spring Lake down and over.

So maybe through Allendale.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Unassign all this?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yeah, or put it in 13 for now.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: All that area to 13?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes, please.

Assign so okay we have African/American dots on.

So do Wright Township which is, yes, that one.

And then the one above and then go over to the other Section, yeah.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Assign that?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes, and we can change that a little bit if we want.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yeah, I got to back up, I'm sorry okay now.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Add in Ada and Cascade and there was one other Township that someone mentioned.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Caledonia down below.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Assign that?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes, and I think those next three Townships.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: These three?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: No, down below.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: James town Byron and Gaines?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Is that Commissioner?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes, we are how much low.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 63,000.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Okay input where else should we add?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Plainfield Cannon Alpine that is kind of what I was thinking.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Okay let's do those.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: And Cannon.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Should get you pretty close.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: And Rockford.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: And Rockford.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That puts you .57 over.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Okay that is good enough for now just to evaluate, I think.

So could we see whatever Bruce wants to see with this.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Let's look at the election.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Highlighted is District 4 which is what she just created.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Okay thank you.

And go to the right, please.

And to the right again, please and one more to the right.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is far right as it goes.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: The Zoom screen just got there so this is not an opportunity to elect District the way the districts we were looking at before in Wayne County seem to be.

Largely because the minority population just is not as large.

However, it does seem that this could be what would be considered this a nonpolitical way as a swing District in that the election results are relatively close.

So it's not like it favors one party or the other in any significant way.

But because this is not really an opportunity to elect District the concern that I always have with situations like this is diluting minority vote.

Particularly in communities that are...have relatively sizable communities.

And on the other hand that this is it's not as narrow a reach as I thought it might be to bring in Muskegon.

So I very much appreciate your creativity.

Because I did not see that.

That being said, I think that, yes, it can be done.

I think that I'm not sure I would advise doing that because it is just that one strip.

If this were a District that had a 48% minority population where all the elections were lining up, and that was largely because of Muskegon without that narrow reach that would be different.

But it's not.

So for the moment I think that you know I would throw it over to you all about how you evaluate it and whenever it comes to the point if this is something that you know you want to consider, then I can certainly give you a specific opinion but just keep those things in mind.

It's not the same as Wayne County.

Minority population is not as high.

I speculate that the cross over support is not the same as the districts we looked at in the Detroit area.

You are reaching out to the west.

To grab a large African/American population which is always a matter for me of thought so I wanted to explain the difference was.

If this is something you decide to move forward with or seriously consider we could talk more about that.

Is that okay?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: It's hard to predict what is going to happen in ten years.

My hunch though is that the District the way it's drawn there will not be significant minority growth there.

Where there will be an opportunity to elect or increased opportunity to elect.

Especially because we did, I'll say sacrifice the sort of the Grand Rapids or the Kent County area, with I may actually have a more cohesive and an opportunity to elect kind of growth in the next ten years.

So I'm throwing that in because that is I think it's worth and I'm glad that we tried it.

And I think it's worth doing.

I'm not in favor of it the way that it's drawn.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I'm not in favor of it either although I appreciate the work.

I kind of view it as maybe a little different.

We are reaching out to Muskegon and we are diluting the Black vote by doing that.

So I look at it from that perspective so but I would rather keep a bigger population round the City of Grand Rapids like we had before.

I think that would be more beneficial.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I think if we did this you probably want to be narrower than what we have but I'm not sure we would want to split Muskegon in half.

So because you could do it narrower and I think it was Muskegon Heights in the southern shore of Muskegon Bay there, I can't remember the name of the lake there, I'm drawing a blank, that has the primary African/American community.

So I think we could definitely go with a narrower string.

To kind of avoid that dilution, but yeah, I think it's a difficult population to sort of rope into Grand Rapids based on the distance and the geography.

One more Commissioner Clark and then Commissioner Orton.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Dustin you seem to know a lot about Muskegon what is your opinion on this?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Well I know a lot about Muskegon because a lot of my friends live in Muskegon and I go there quite a bit.

I can tell you that Muskegon and Grand Rapids do kind of go together.

However this seems kind of awkward to me.

This design.

But I'm only there a couple weeks a year so if that.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: I'm not sure you can make the design much different.

It's just which Counties or which Townships you choose.

Commissioner Eid? I'm sorry Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Well I was just going to say I'm also not a fan of it but if we are moving on if we could Zoom out and see 13 is coming way down so I don't think this is the map that we were last on.

Can we Zoom out further?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I think you might be right.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Well maybe I guess it is.
12 and 13 are kind of switched I guess but okay.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I was going to say I'm not sure if I'm in favor of it or not and I think to assess that we would have to run it through the measures of partisan fairness we talked about and see if it had an impact either way and then that would give us more information to decide on if it's something that we should look at or not. One point I would add to that is I certainly agree with Commissioner Eid about evaluating this and I think everybody does, using the partisan fairness measures because that is number four on the list.

But please keep in mind that and I want to focus on any particular District.

But if you do have a narrow strip that is reaching out for the primary reason of capturing a minority population, regardless of partisan fairness, equations or results, is that consideration would Trump that.

So and that is important in any District that if you are reaching out with it's not the sole purpose, the primary purpose to capture a large minority population, that can be problematic, put it that way.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: So help me understand over in Saginaw and Bay City we reached out to Flint to do that so what's the difference?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Commissioner Clark that is a great, great point. I think the difference is in a way and again I don't want to focus on what Commissioner Orton just did.

If you look at the size of the overall District which includes various either majority or minority or plurality minority cities that's not the same as just like I'm reaching my hand out, I'm grabbing this water.

And let's say it's an emblem of the population that is the only reason I'm doing that that is different than having a larger District that encompass multiple cities or municipalities so that is really it.

In a way sometimes it can be the smell test in a sense.

If you can intuit wait a minute, why are we doing it and when we were talking earlier when Commissioner Szetela mentioned the bringing together Flint and Saginaw in the same District and that was something that I had thought of two because not doing it is that suggestive of vote dilution because those are two sizable cities? But she didn't do that or didn't talk about my water analogy.

All I'm doing is stretching out for that.

Only.

When you have something like that, that always alerts me and kind of a good rule of thumb best practice to look at going forward that if that's your primary reason and you just have this relatively narrow strip of territory then that may indicate something to avoid.

I mean does that make sense? Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right I think we are ready to move on to the Senate map so if you can bring up our last draft of the Senate map.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: There were two versions.
16B and 16A.

I'm not sure which one would be that.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Does anyone remember off the top of their head what the difference is.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: We did B.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We did like an alternate I know.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I will open them up and look at them.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Trying to remember.

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>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 2023.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I remember what the difference is so we drew Kalamazoo differently.

One breaks it into two, one has Battle Creek and Kalamazoo together.

So which ones do we want him to look at guys? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Y'all want to take a brief look at the other one as well.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: With both of them.

Let's start with this one because it's open.

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>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I believe y'all would have to look at it.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: This is.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Want to look at the other plan?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We will start with this one because the differences between the two were the Kalamazoo Battle Creek area.

If I remember correctly.

So do we want to start in Detroit, Bruce?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I'm at your disposal.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Let's go to Detroit and look at Detroit and tell us what you think there.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Let's look at the population for 12, please.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 12, non-Hispanic white is right at 75%.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: And 17? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 17 is right at 44.5% non-Hispanic white.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Now this is the -- 33% voting age Black population.

So can we look at the election results, please? And to the right.

Thank you.

All right well based on the election results the minority candidate of choice wins very handedly in all the elections.

Now, this District does not appear to be packed.

It's not a majority of one minority group.

So I'm curious if someone can help me with the geography.

Are there areas that were included in 17 that have U believe good cross over potential?

Are there particularly large minority areas in 17? What is your sense?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So the areas that are down at the bottom of the map, which are actually outside the City of Detroit are Lincoln Park Allen Park Melvindale and Ecorse they all have a very high Latino population and that population crosses over into Detroit as well.

So we were trying to keep that community together.

And then also going up into Detroit to grab some of the African/American community which tends to vote similarly to the Latino and trying to avoid packing in as many African/Americans as had been previously packed into some of the Detroit Districts so we were trying to create a balance between minority populations without overpowering the District and making it packed.

I would say that is actually true for all of these Districts in the Detroit area as we were trying to avoid packing while balancing with similar populations who tend to vote similar ways.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Thank you it seems 17 has the ability to elect opportunity to elect District.

Are you -- do you think that 12 has not the same depth of opportunity but do you view 12 as creating some opportunity to elect?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Can you Kent can you scroll out and see where 12 goes? I think this includes Ann Arbor.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, it's Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti.

No it does not it's Van Buren.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: The rest of the Down River Area.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Rest of the down river area.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I did not realize it went there.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yep.

So kind of why we drew the line there was South Gate and Wyandotte is that sort of where you see a pretty significant drop off in minority population.

And then those Down River communities asked to be together.

So we were trying to honor that.

And then also Van Buren Township and Sumpter Township asked to be placed with downriver so those are kind of our Down River communities.

And I would not really, I mean they do have some minority population but I don't know that it would rise to a level of significance.

I'd have to see the numbers so I'm looking right now.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: This is 28% minority total population.

But the election results are not as dramatic as 17.

So this to the extent there are 28% minority population here, not voting age population, that this does the District look at election results that supports candidates of choice.

Now the margin is not as great in part perhaps the minority population is not as high.

But the election results do show that 12 does support the candidates of choice of the minority.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I remember that you were looking at 6 and 8, 5, 2, I mean what are -- what are your thoughts on 8 and 6?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Want to go?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: So one of the reasons so I'm going to start on sort of the St. Clair shores area that was a community that was particular around ecological interests that we drew to try to, yeah, keep them together.

As a community of interest.

And then we moved from the lakeshore from the you know St. Clair shores area west and I think we did start with six you know starting in the southern part of that seven so we did use I think we may have actually drawn eight next because I think that is where the Bengali community, we tried to keep them together as a community of interest and that was a particularly long District.

I think we were using a theory at the time because we were trying to do spokes and Detroit has spokes that head out so there was a geographic kind of like I say very theory that we were foaling.

And six sort of filled in and five also filled in between those.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Any recollection is from what I saw last week with six and eight that the election results worked out pretty well.

That these are strong districts.

What and then nine is the District is the only District of the ones that we've been looking at so far.

That is still over 50% GAP.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: You examined 7 and were surprised of the cross over voting or the opportunity to elect.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: That is the lakeshore District.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: That's right I remember that.

That I was very surprised at the election results and again I'm just presuming a lot of cross over support.

That is clearly not an opportunity to elect District.

It's like the District you were looking out west minority population is low compared to six or eight.

However, it does not appear that the minority population is being diluted.

And seven and eight and six and seven, that there is support for minority candidates of choice.

So I think that as you may have encountered with other maps and I'm sure you will encounter with the house map, they are going to be like little surprises like that.

If you had just told me off the top that this is has the potential to be a District where that supports minority candidates of choice pretty substantially, I might have been surprised about that going up the lakeshore.

But it does.

So I think you will encounter similar situations.

So I think that it seems that six and eight are the election results look good.

And five you did not create as an opportunity to elect districts I don't believe.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: No.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: That is correct we did not create it potentially.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Did you want to look at something or another District specifically?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: 13 and 9 we were both trying again to use some of the population of Detroit without packing them into a District and balancing them with similar communities.

Southfield also has a significant minority population so yes so, we were trying to like MC said we were trying to sort of balance out the districts pulling into the ring suburbs while not packing people in and overloading and then also looking at election results to see they were sort of aligning people who would support minority candidates of choice.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I remember that and watching some of the recorded sessions from last week and remembering when we were together, I think on the 14th that you've brought the numbers down from what they had been.

If there is an I would suggest if just like we were talking with Commissioner Clark and/Orton and trying to see what can work.

And because the 57% is a little on the high side.

It is significantly lower than what it had been.

The same in 9.

So if there is a way to reduce that population without diluting minority voting strength, I would suggest that.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: In order to try to rationally or intentionally sort of pursue that, right, not dilute, we would look at the recompiled election results, correct? In a different.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: To things work all districts that majority.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Microphone, please, sorry.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I was being so good with it.

Any District that has majority-minority VAP I think you should aim to let's see what we can do to kind of unpotentially unpack that based on Dr. Handley's analysis.

So looking at the VAP the voting age population of the primary minority group because again we don't have specific analysis of cohesion among groups and then the election results.

The election results are confirmatory.

And they may outweigh in a sense the population.

Because just as Dr. Handley said if you can elect 35%, 40% then why would you add 40, 50% minority population? You don't need to do that to protect the right to vote.

The minority of populations, opportunity to elect.

So it's twofold.

Look at the VAP.

And then look at the election results.

And remember it does not have to be all of them.

If it's most of them, then I think I'd feel pretty good about that.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Sorry one more follow-up because of communities of interest, 13 was drawn in particular to preserve communities of interest as an LGBTQ community there.

And therefore right there is a number of it's been difficult to then draw other districts.

So thinking about communities of interest and what I heard you say was to try.

And because of that community of interest as a number 3 the Voting Rights Act is number one.

It's worth trying.

It's worth trying.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I agree.

Any time there is a voting rights act implication it certainly is worth trying.

To your point about now remember you are talking about the LBGTQ community of interest.

I think looking at communities of interest very broadly, whether it's sexual orientation, cultural, religion, athletics in that sense, that is what communities of interest can be.

So my suggestion is that having that, and I remember reading the comments about the LBGTQ community.

I think that that's an important goal because it is a one of myriad diverse factors.

It's maybe not what people typically think about when it comes to diversity but it clearly is part of that.

So if excuse me like I was talking to Commissioner Eid about before concerning partisan fairness, if that works and you're not creating a situation with the Voting Rights Act of the 14th amendment, then go for it.

It only becomes a red flag issue if the Voting Rights Act and one person one vote are negatively impacted.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Maybe the more concrete question here is because District 13 is at 57% voting age population Black, non-Hispanic Black is that a justification right the community of interest does that justify having that high of a percentage? What I think I'm area hearing you say is no try to get it down that is what I'm hearing.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I'm more comfortable with doing that because since Dr. Handley's analysis shows the Black population can elect at much lower than 57, so I think that you know as in a way Commissioner Orton and Commissioner Clark established the try narrative.

Try.

And let's see what happens.

But because of that population is a little hydrogen, it's a lot lower than it used to be so that may suggest well maybe it can be done.

So, yeah, at that number I would agree.

It definitely should be tried.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right, where do we want to go next? You want to keep working in Detroit go ahead Commissioner Orton.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: My question is with this information should we try on some of these? I mean it's going to be a domino effect of course.

But if not now than when? I just wonder when are we going to try?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Amen.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Well just and I don't know if this has come up before but I'm here all week until about 6, 6:30 on Thursday night.

So I am at your disposal for the next three days.

If that is helpful.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yep.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I would suggest we try on any adjustments we want to make on the Senate and Congressional maps while he is here and while Bruce is here and then start on the house maps after that.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton and then Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I agree with that.

And I believe we've done some house but we haven't done any in the Detroit area so maybe we can get to that while he is here as well.

Just try and do all of those areas while he is here.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Do you see anything that jumps at you that might be like a red flag in this map or any area we should pay particular attention to where we may have messed up or drawn something inadvertently or anything like that?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Economic Eid you love asking these open ended, general questions for me.

There is nothing that snacks me in the face looking at the configurations.

I think taking a deeper dive Commissioner Rothhorn we are talking about with the Black population in District 13, there is a 50.27 Black voting age population in District 9.

So it's not like the configurations on the screen are jump out at me as a concern.

The minority population, the Black VAP populations that I mentioned are right now from what I've been looking at or been asked to comment on, those are the ones that I think need the biggest tries.

Szetela sed Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: So I'm wondering if -- I like the idea of actually drawing the house.

I think we do well when adjusting districts has been I think we have done it.

I'm not going to say we have not done a good job but I feel like if we yeah, my hunch is we should start drawing the house.

And I'm looking at I'm just looking for people okay so I'm getting some nodding heads.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We are about to take a break in four minutes any way so that might be a good place to start.

I feel like the solution to this problem is to post some of District 13 into 19 and readjust 19 and then possibly readjust 9 a little bit out.

I feel that is the easiest way to adjust it because 19 is a little light.

And so I think that's kind of the way to go.

But I'd rather just kind of.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Sorry a little light in population or skin color? Sorry I don't know if that was supposed to be a pun.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: It was not intended to be a pun but the African/American population in Dearborn or that District is about 26% so they could take a little more out of Detroit because they already have the northwest sort of portion of Detroit so we could pull a little bit there to sort of reduce down 13.

And then maybe peel a little off of that District as well.

So and then same thing with nine.

Like rebalance those three districts the consolation there.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: The 9, 13 and 19.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: 19 and possibly 10 and 11 but I feel that is something I would want to sit at home and spend some time playing with before trying to do it live because I feel like it's going to take some juggling.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: All right do we want to.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We are supposed to take a break at 3:45 but it's 3:40 so we don't we take a break and when we come back, we will start reconciling our house maps.

Does that sound good? I don't know.

We will figure that out when we come back.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: When do we come back what time do we come back.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Let's come back at 3:50.

Hearing no objections we will take a recess for ten minutes.

It's currently 3:40.

Hearing no objections I will see everybody back at 3:50.

[Recess]

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I call this meeting of the Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission back to order at 3:52 p.m.

Will the secretary please call the roll?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Absolutely, Madam Chair.

Commissioners.

Please say present when I call your name. If you are attending the meeting remotely, please disclose your physical location as well. I will start with Doug Clark.

>> >> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.

Brittini Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Present, attending from Wayne County, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Present from Reed City Michigan.

Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: 11 Commissioners are present.

And there is a quorum.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right we will continue with our unfinished business where we are moving on to reconciling our State House maps.

And so I think the question for everyone is where do we want to go with these maps? I believe we have not drawn the Detroit area yet.

So I don't know if we want to take advantage of having our expert here to start trying to draw the Detroit area or if we want to start further up and try to reconcile and move our way down.

Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I think we should do the Detroit area with house and then everything while we have Mr. Adelson here.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay all right so go ahead Commissioner Eid.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So I'm just trying to think about how we are going to do this because I mean the population density African/Americans is so high in Detroit it's probably going to cause a problem with packing unless we have some districts that people may view as oddly shaped so I'm just wondering what are everyone's thoughts on that.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I completely concur with your assessment which I'm glad Bruce is here because I don't really know what to do because the Senate districts you saw we sort of stretched them out and I don't know how to do it with House Districts and I don't know how we can avoid having house directions that are going to be like 75, 85%

African/American so we could certainly use your guidance on that because I feel it's going to be a challenge.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Absolutely I agree that the challenge with the House Districts because the population is smaller is different and so but I also think there are going to be some surprises like you saw with the State Senate districts for example or some of them.

I expect there will be some surprises with the House Districts.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So Kent did we have we didn't do anything in the Metro Detroit area yet for House District did we? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: The closest we came I have them up here but, no nothing.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So this is just some of the house plans we've drawn.

I've loaded up five or six so far.

I still have five or six more to find.

But if you recall we kind of stayed away from the Saginaw, Detroit line.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I haven't loaded anything from up here.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So the green is one set and the blue is another set? Is that.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes.

This is you know these are one, two, three, four, five, six plans.

And I think there is that many more to go to stack on top of these because that is a hole right there.

All of the north.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We have the ten regions right we had ten regions.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Turn all this off while you do Detroit.

But I just wanted some of this so you can see the where and how far.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Can you Zoom in so we can see the edge along Detroit.

So we, okay, we went up to Canton down to Romulus.

Down to browns town.

Took Salem.

Okay.

All right so I believe it's...was it your turn? You went.

So it would go to MR Rothhorn so where do you want to start at? Do you want him to start with a map we have drawn and start filling in that one or do you want to completely blank slate it?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I don't think it's wrong it's useful to keep the shape files up and just the shapes but, yes, I do want to start in Detroit and I do want to try to start with the community of interest I suppose.

I'm going to try the Latin X community sort of in the Ecorse.

Oh, and I got to pull up my computer here.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Ecorse is right in here I believe.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes, you got it so we are looking at southern Detroit yep along the river there.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Right there.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yeah.

So where to start? Does anyone have that community of interest up? Can we get the shape file potentially? The shape file for the community of interest? That would be the quickest way to do it and I'll see if I can find that.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That's the neighborhoods.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Neighborhoods would be a useful overlay, yes, please.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'm going to make sure.

We have three different ones.

I'm just trying to remember which one was it.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I'll see if I can find the actual ID.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Let me give that a unique color.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: You don't happen to have that shape file by chance do you, that community? Latin X and the northern.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay are.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Are you looking for the shape files? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Trying to load up everything so we can see what is going on.

So I do have a number for you.

For a COI go ahead.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'm trying to make the COIs in pink.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay I think the COI I'm looking for has a number maybe 34961.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Is that the right COI? Making sure I got the right one 34961.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: That's what I'm reading on the MGGG report.

>> KIM BRACE: Is that a consolidated number or an individual COI number?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: It starts with a P.

Oh, not a COI dog gone it.

But I know they did, okay, here is the C, sorry, I knew they had done it a second time sorry.

25164 please is the actual, yeah.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'll have to load in another COI file.

Let me load it up.

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>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay.

This may be useful for folks here.

This map this Latin X community COI it's a region of southwest Detroit with the largest Latin X Hispanic population.

It's a region with deep common roots on language the region used to be the Hart of the 8th District of the Michigan house of representatives.

In 1999 Bell DaGarza was the first Latin X immigrant to represent this District.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: What was that number again?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: 25164 without the apostrophe.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Let me try another 25164.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I wish I knew this better.

Sorry.

It is in cluster maybe I have cluster C10 but I think that may be A10 for you all or what you have there maybe.

Does that help? No.

Doesn't help.

Okay sorry.

It does say community four.

So maybe that 425164.

Yes, that is the area.

Thank you.

And so I suppose let's just fill in the area and see what our population looks like and if we need.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Shall we start with District 1 or how do you want to.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: That is a great question.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This is a new plan, an empty plan there is nothing in it.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: What do you think y'all? I mean, I don't know where else to start.

Let's just start with one then.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Might as well.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Assign, I'm going to assign these Townships. Then I guess go into precincts and start doing the precincts.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes, please. So at this point just do precinct level.

And if it goes outside of the red line that is okay.

We will do a rough population.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I will go to precincts now.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I said precincts sorry.

Oh, yeah, Townships will be too much, never mind.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Rothhorn can you read the COI number one more time for the record.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes, it's 25164.

Do you want me to give you the plan ID like the C? Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Commissioner Rothhorn you can see this red line was the area of interest.

These are the precincts.

They cross over.

You know a little bit here and there.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Looks like we are still under population about 7,000 almost 8,000.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: We can go to the block layer and match those lines precisely.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Not yet at in this point there is another community of interest 2841 P like a zip code and I want to find that to see if there is another, yeah, include this one but see if there is another one we can include.

So I don't have I'm not sure this is a COI layer.

So I don't think you can pull this up Kent for me so what I'm going to do is I am going to try to read and it's also southwest Detroit.

And yeah, we can't pull up zip code areas.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: We don't have zip codes.

You need about 8,000 people approximately.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: So the communities and this is where the layer the neighborhoods layer maybe the Detroit neighborhoods layer would be useful.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Neighborhood layer is in there as a dark gray.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: We have spring wells, Corktown, but there is Corktown and north Corktown so we may, yep, do you see that north Corktown? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Right there.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: We want to include all of Corktown so let's do that.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This area?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Correct.

We have Hubbard farms in there.

We have okay.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I think so I think it's it right there Hubbard something.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Then it says downtown Detroit.

So I'm going to say that is the heart Plaza right.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Where everything intersects.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I think we are going to be over population.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Maybe.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: And we are.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: We went outside that north Corktown a bit.

We can do blocks and make it perfect.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Let's try to stay with yeah so let's move to the block level, thank you, yeah.

Move out of the precincts.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Want me to unassign what was brought in by that precinct?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes, please.

Okay Kent we are going to so.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: We have this is the red line that you started with.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: So we are going to remove everything to the east of that red line meaning this neighborhood, which is glad stone corridor maybe, what does it say? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Remove all of that that is east of the red line.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes, we will just stick to that boundary, uh-huh.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: That is Chadsey Condon.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I can't read it.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: It's Chadsey.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: This is breaking up a neighborhood but it does preserve the community the Latin X community and it's not Chadsey of a neighborhood is not part of 48217 community of interest. I'm trying to draw or include here so apology for Chadsey for breaking up your neighborhood.

Brittini are you familiar with any reason that I should keep it together?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: So one of the things about, well, I will speak for myself minimal native Detroiter. We don't often use some neighborhood names that are not as notable so for my benefit to support you through this process Commissioner Rothorn I would have to see street names I see grand Boulevard and Warren but I would literally have to look at it looks like it's kind of by Martin Luther king high school but I'm not sure based upon my computer screen what I'm looking at.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Kent can I ask you to take out that window on the upper left the layer name? We can make take that off so we can see more of the map, please? Thank you and that developer use only window too maybe.

Yeah, that one.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: It takes a minute because we are going by blocks.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Sure and I think to help Commissioner I want Commissioner Kellom to help me out here so if we can maybe turn off the yeah, we want to get to The Street level.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I think you will be fine but I just want to double check because on Zoom we have a Zoom screen plus the desktop border plus the matrix and then the map in that little strip.

And I apologize for the train in the background.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Choo-choo, all aboard.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay I believe that is where you want it to be. If it's not there is north Corktown all included.

Red line is here.

This red line is down here.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: You've got it, Kent thank you.

So at this point what we want to do is Zoom into the Chadsey Condon so Brittini can help me I want her to be able to See Street signs or names or did you say you thought it would be okay Brittini? You thought it would be okay, right.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I think it will be okay but unless I see like a Particular Street or we Zoom out I'm just trying to figure out what area.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Grand Boulevard west and Martin Luther king.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Where my cursor is Jackson Street.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Okay, okay I know where this is.

Yeah, you should be fine.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay thank you.

So we are still about 75,000 short.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 7500.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: 7500 so this strip so what I want to do is I'm heading into downtown Detroit.

And I want to take all of it if I can but there is this strip along the river front that looks like it may belong to downtown.

Yeah.

Let's do that.

Just make sure we are contiguous there.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Did you say assign this area?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes, please.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Where are we going from here?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Highlight the precincts in downtown Detroit.

Like I said about 100,000 people there.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is a precinct.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Where we are at? We are just under yep so don't go any more.

Oh, no, sorry that is not a 0 that is a 6 so I think we are at 3,000 yep so keep going thank you.

We are not going to include Greektown.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: So assign this we have highlighted?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes, we can assign this one.

Thank you.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: We are 4400 light.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Assign everything except Greektown if we can.

Yep.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This area in here.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes, please.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is a precinct and I will clear that and do it by blocks.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLUM: MC sorry just as a thought if you were going to not break up the Chadsey Condon neighborhood what is the alternative to doing that?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: What I'm trying to do with this District primarily is respect the boundaries that are a two COI boundaries.

And the first COI was the Latin X community and they had that portion of Chadsey Condon.

So they didn't include the whole thing.

And the second COI I'm calling it the 48217 or they named it the southwest Detroit 48217 redistricting proposal.

And they included downtown Detroit and they did not include the Chadsey Condon neighborhood in full, they did include other neighborhoods like still well and Corktown.

And so that's why I'm preferring to try to include because I want to include that second community of interest which overlaps with the first.

So my intention here is to not go over population too much and get both COIs represented in one House District.

That's why I was splitting it.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLUM: Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: How much more are we going around in here?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: We are not because oh, wait, actually we are because we need more population yes, please.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Across here or how do you want to approach it.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yep, we will stay within the neighborhood boundaries and we are not going to include Greektown unless we need to.

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>> MR. KENT STIGALL:

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: 3,000 so we are going to be pretty close.

We are still under.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: It's slower when it works at the block level so I'll continue doing this area, this area.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK:

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Your mic is not on.

Your mic is not working.

There it goes.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Commissioner Rothorn why don't you want to include Greektown?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Because it's separate from downtown.

And that's yeah so but I'm seeing spaces from Brittini and looking at you and you are thinking Greektown and downtown are the same.

So, yes, we will definitely do that if the numbers allow us to do it.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Just to give you some thought on that.

Are you familiar with the GM building? Greektown is like a walking distance like where the river walk so for Detroiters that is kind of like a central point, that is still considered a part of the downtown.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: By overwhelming consent we should include Greektown please.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Sounds like it.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: If we think about putting Greektown with midtown okay different conversation.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: It's not downtown.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I was down there the other week.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay, I have learned a thing or three.

Greektown is downtown.

No matter what the layers say.

And we are doing all right with numbers or population rise.

What are minority percentage, 73%, 74% minority.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Ideally you are 13, 1400 more people.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: We do have a high percentage of Hispanic almost 47%.

And do we have all of we got a little bit of river town there.

Let's take that little piece of river town out.

Unless.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: It's not really, it's one census block that runs from right here all the way up so there is a spike coming down or it's a park. Whatever you want to do.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Let's leave it. It's not possible to see population there, is it? Like with the census block population is?

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'm going to assign these water blocks just so it we don't have to come back and do it later.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yeah, at this point I think yeah maybe these neighborhood maps this overlay is not as truly representative as I would like it to be. Learning that Greektown is part of downtown. So let's just leave it there, Kent.

And the population we are a little bit under we do have a large Hispanic majority not majority but 47% and 27% non-Hispanic Black. 73% minority.

It's still pretty high.

So Bruce so I'm just going to say that is what I'm looking at.

I think I have given my rationale why I have drawn it the way I have drawn it.

And at this point I don't know that I'm going to get a lower percentage because I want to preserve those COIs.

I've got two of them in there, I think.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I agree Commissioner Rothorn. I think your justification regarding the communities of interest I think is pretty clear.

Yes, the minority population is high.

Remember Dr. Handley did not analyze Hispanic voting patterns.

So the fact that this is an over 70% VAP and over population minority District while that is not necessarily my favorite number.

The fact it's not 70, 75% of one minority group is a little different because we don't have analysis to show the level of cohesiveness between the two groups.

So my other thought is that I get keeping communities together.

I don't know because the map is obviously just starting, are there other minority populations of Hispanic populations in this part of Detroit that can be part of another plurality minority District? Could you take population from this District to add to that District? But that is just speculation.

Because nothing has happened yet.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Let's see if we can look at some of the data, some of the dots to see if the Hispanic population is around there.

Thanks, Kent, for.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: We are at the Township level. Let's see if we can get something at the precinct level.

Okay, this is Hispanic over 9% so 10% and higher.

For example.

That is 8 that dot is 80%.

That size dot there is 30%.

The tiny dots are plus 44 it's the number of people.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay, so, yeah, it might be because we are under populated what if we included Melvindale? Added Melvindale what would that do to our numbers, population numbers I should say? That is what it would be.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Precincts 2500, 2900, 2500 so you could take one or something.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I think there is another District here that could be drawn another you know with Hispanic population District that could be drawn or argued for.

And so just listening to Bruce I think at this point there is a good District.

We are under populated and we understand the Hispanic community where yeah where that heads down south into the what is it called Down River? That is what it's called.

All right, so I think I'm done.

Check.

Put away the pencils and erasers.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay so I feel like this is where this gets really hard because I think it's going to be very different to not end up with a 70% District.

But we are going to take a stab at it and see what happens.

Okay, so if we could go to the top of what MC drew so we are going to basically just trying to figure out the roads here.

So I think that's -- I'm trying to figure out what the roads are.

Wait.

The major roads.

The freeways.

So I think we have like the lodge.

There is the lodge okay the lodge is in the center.

And then we have what is that? 96.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: 94 I don't know where you're looking.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: The one that is going kind of north-south.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: That is 96 Jefferies.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: 96 coming down so can you go back to the other view? I basically want to try to take the area that MC didn't take in between the lodge going up to I believe it's 94 going across or is it 375 one of the two, whatever so let's kind of fill in the areas he didn't get.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This area in here.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: That area in there and see what the population is and then from there if we can we are going to go across to Wayne state and try to go in the DMC area.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: No.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Over population.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: How do I do that?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I wanted to confirm the way it was drawn that the District number one that I did there was very little that I would learn if I were to look at the voting, the recompiled election results based on the District.

So it was okay to sort of skip that based on the minority percentages in that District number one?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Commissioner Rothhorn I think that is a great point. I think for purposes of what we are doing now, yes.

When it comes to a greater, more definitive evaluation, then we will look at them to confirm.

But I think that from what elections we have already looked at in the same general area of Detroit, I think for now I agree with you that we can move on and we will look at them later to confirm that everything is okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Continue.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Just continue to fill that in.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: All this area as well.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: How far under are we 89 try to grab all the way to the freeway and we will see what we end up with I'm not sure what the population is.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You only picked up 2500 people so you are 89,000 people short.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay so keep going.

You can just grab that whole area.

Okay so I just want you to yep continue to fill in that area and you can yep little lines to pick up.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Should we put that over here in one or in two?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: There is no population so it doesn't matter.

You can put it in one.

Yeah, put it in one.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Looks better in one.

This whole area in here?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay I can do that.

Inexplicitly so we will see where it comes back.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: It happens.

Go ahead MC.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Bruce I have one more question while they are pulling that up in Lisa's presentation or in the PowerPoint one of the things it says here is in terms of complying with the Voting Rights Act it says if such a District already exists you know a District that is based on racial bloc voting analysis has been determined it's racially polarized and candidate is by margin and usually defeated by white voters if such a District exists and minority candidates are winning because they exist the minority districts must be maintained.

Should we identify those? Do we know those already? Or do we just draw and then sort of wait until after what we have drawn to sort of understand if we needed to maintain a District?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Well that is a great question.

I think that you know the issue with the House Districts in addition to the packing that Dr. Handley clearly identified areas where Black voters are electing candidates of choice and that ability is despite racial bloc voting they overcome racial bloc voting because of minority population combined with cross over support.

Now are you required to draw exactly the same District? I would say, no.

It's more that and in a way, we have kind of addressed this in different ways today in looking at other areas of the state.

If the population is electing candidates of choice, then you don't dilute or weaken that ability.

You maintain it, potentially strengthen it, give it potential dynamics.

So I would be aware.

And that is why that map in her PowerPoint is very instructive where these districts are.

And as I recall at least the packed Districts are along the Oakland County line. I think it may be Macomb too.

So being aware of those areas but also you have the benefit of having done the Senate districts.

You have kind of a good foundation for populations that support cross over voting.

Populations that are all right electing candidates of choice.

So in the worst case scenario in a way if you carved out that Tri-county border area, and just decided do you know what I'm going to make this so that essentially Black voters cannot elect candidates of choice, that would be a concern.

So I think it's more like that because if you think about it if you have to create the exact same District then how do you relieve packing? If the District is packed, and you have to have the exact same configuration, then you're vetting and continuing potential packing issues.

So it's more people knowing the general area.

So that you're aware that oh, this is an area where voters are electing minority voters are electing candidates of choice.

We can't dilute that ability.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Still little pieces here but we will get them.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We will get them later.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Where do you and to go?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So all right so can you Zoom into the area where we have chopped out on the eastern edge of it? I want to see if that is Wayne state.

A little higher up.

I think that was a precinct.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I want to look at the white space so what is that area there? So Zoom in forest park.

Is that DC Anthony? That is forest.

Back out.

I see Warren.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: We can cut in the area photography if you want to see it.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Take that block to make it continuous right there.

If you can Zoom out to see what we have left around here that would be helpful.

So we are still way under population so let's just continue to move up but I want to move up on the western edge eastern edge of direction one western edge of the direction so go over to the precincts just left of where your cursor is that area over there just start filling it in and quite a few precincts because we are quite a bit under.

Just keep going just keep highlighting precincts and going north and west to fill out that area.

.
>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Here or here? Sed.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So at this point I want you to grab the precinct immediately above the end the little point that is jutting out.

Yep, both of those are fine.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This one.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Carry it across and select the precincts across and let's see what the population is.

.
>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That would add 12000.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I still need 50 so just keep going.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Like 40 so we will go this area.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Just keep going across, yep.

So that is 21 approximately so throw that in.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That included some.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Some of that, yes.

So we are at.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You are at 30,000.

So you got a little precinct hung out between there.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Grab that and I think we can problem take Highland Park but I want to leave Hamtramck.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This leave that precinct.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: And pull some off the edge to so I don't want to split the Bengali community. So add in Highland Park.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Looking at the number on it all of it?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 25,000.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: What is the population of Hamtramck? 28,000 and I'm under by how much? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Under by 19776.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, so let's I want you to go to the west of Highland Park and grab those other precincts.

Yep.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This little piece was an extension of this precinct.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: That is okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You are down to 4500.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So continue to if I'll up to the box corner and we will see where we are at.

Okay so but now the problem is it's 77% African/American.

I think that is where the challenge is.

So is there anything I can do about that? I mean.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Really it depends as you go east, west, and north from two for example.

What is the population there? And can that population be added let's say to two? You know, I think that because of the size of the District, you're limited in how far you can go. Because it's about 90,000 people.

So that limits you up to a point.

But what I think that the in exploring the other areas around this District and downtown and greater Detroit there may be other populations that either you could include, you could take some of two and add them to other parts of the City.

But I think like we talked about earlier, it's important to try and see what is possible.

And then we just go from there.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So I'm wondering if we reconfigure this a little bit to take off Highland Park and follow that line.

Kent, I'm asking you to do that so go ahead and do what I'm asking you to do so pull off Highland Park and the precincts I had you grab and let's pull in Hamtramck.

Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: What if you continued north to Royal Oak and Ferndale? I'm curious about this spoke idea and how narrow we could make the spoke or how narrow we have to make it.

And then right the idea that Hamtramck could be another spoke heading north to you know preserve that Warren and Sterling Heights.

That's just the, yeah, if you're willing, I mean I agree Hamtramck will dilute the Black population.

I shouldn't say dilute right.

It would be more balanced.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Uh-huh.

Oh, no.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yeah, just trying to play with it because I think we will come up with in two or three or four more times in Detroit. Just to not continue to go east but continue along the Woodward spoke if you will.

>> KIM BRACE: Madam Chairman, in Chicago we called them chimneys is the concept of taking them and going up and out of the City.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah. So I mean even making that change makes a difference. It brings down it to 54% African/American from where it was.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You still need 5,000 it does not take much to influence 91,000 District.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I'm over by.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: A little over.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: The current and it's not exactly the same current District goes up the river.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: District 6 is that what you're looking at?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

That might be a possibility.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You are 4300 over.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So I want to take that area between Hamtramck and the rest of it, add that in then we will take off some of the precincts on the far northwestern side. You can tell it's been a long day and we are supposed to be stopping, aren't we? In about five minutes, okay so yeah just add that little precinct in there, the one that is sort of looks like a little hook at the top.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Unassign there.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, unassign there.

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>> MR. KENT STIGALL: To get the balance.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yep.

So take off that, yeah, that right there.

Too much so yeah add back in, add in the 16 and the 1200 let's put those back in.

That was a little too much.

Do that a thousand and I think we will stop there.

All right, so, Bruce.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You can probably still take this one and kind of.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Add that in.

So putting in Hamtramck.

Which has a high Asian population, I was able to bring it down to 52% African/American and now it's 10% Asian.

So it's a little more balanced, still 71% minority but a little bit more balanced than it was.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I agree it's more balanced and did a substantial job with percentage of the Black population.

It kind of shows you that there are ways to approach it.

Wherever you find the population east, west or north because I mean you brought it down, I think almost 25% without doing too many adjustments.

So I think that you'll find other ways going forward so that the with this concept of whether it's going north or whatever direction I think you will be able to find population to balance the District.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT:

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Which one for African/American or Asian.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: The thematic?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> KIM BRACE: Unfortunately there is only one Hamtramck in the City of Detroit.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yep.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This is at the Township level so that is the idea behind it.

But we can go to the precinct level.

The problem with that is it gets.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: See.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: We can actually make these smaller dots I believe.

And maybe see better.

But you have to keep in mind you are changing your perspective if I click on the right button.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: If I may if you look at the southwest corner of your District there is fewer Blacks population in the southwest corner of District two right so what I'm concerned about is that Hamtramck is yeah like it's a unique island we may need for other districts.

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And I do just right because we have a unique island or excuse me because of that, yeah, heading but I also think that right we are done for the day potentially. But that's my rationale rather to sort of continue west of Highland Park and north rather than.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yep, I agree but I also think that having this more balanced it is sort of like a base point for those chimneys to come off of.

You can see Dearborn like you can see just the change in population when you cross that line.

So we can have a chimney there too, yep.

Spoke.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Detroit has spokes.

We don't want to follow Chicago, they can keep their windy City to themselves.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: You can keep talking and I wanted to ask Kent to Zoom in on District 2 just to see the neighborhoods.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Zoom in on where?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: The Detroit neighborhoods overlay on it so she can see it.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Can you read that? It's not easy.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I can read it.

I have normally good eyesight I just wear glasses so it doesn't get worse.

Okay, yeah, my thoughts as you were drawing this Chair Szetela is I actually kind of like Hamtramck being included.

I like the switch out.

But that doesn't this is just two districts.

So it wasn't necessarily to take a turn.

I just wanted to see this in whatever else you all wanted to save to keep going.

I just wanted to see while we were talking.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We can also preserve some of these neighborhoods too by kind of shifting the lines a little bit to make more, make sure we are including the whole neighborhoods because I see we have a few splits but not too bad overall.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: First glance it doesn't bother me and I like the idea of us trying to create this kind of chutes and ladder aspect when it comes to Detroit. Because before Kim said chimneys I was like chutes and ladders.

But just be careful of like the tips of with that mindset with things that are more north and more south just kind of throwing those communities together especially when you're thinking of the Metro Detroit and Detroit area.

But of course I'll be here to add input to that.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right so it is actually 4:54 and we were supposed to stop at 4:55.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, again I'm pro meeting you Sarah Reinhardt.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: One quick question for you on this District. Can you describe what communities of interest you took into account when drawing this?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So I'm trying to draw a District that is compliant with the Voting Rights Act by not packing the African/American community which we know is there. So I added them in with the Hamtramck community which has that strong Bengali community so we have the Bengali community included as well as the African/American community.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Without objection I will ask our General Counsel to provide information on new business item 6A partisan fairness assessment. Please proceed General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Good afternoon thank you Madam Chair. The partisan fairness assessment I know earlier in the meeting and for a period of time we've discussed how that tool and how those methodologies will be used. What I am presenting today is the potential for having the EDS contract expanded to provide another addendum for Dr. Handley and the first being the partisan fairness Dr. Handley has indicated that she can undertake the excuse me partisan fairness analysis for the Commission. And the second item would be the expansion or the additional work of regarding analysis of voting patterns. So when we were going through the voting rights act discussion in particular when Dr. Handley was presenting her racial bloc voting analysis, the conclusion one of her conclusions was that the minority populations in certain areas were not sufficient to run a racial bloc voting analysis. And so what the proposal would be, and this would all be provided to the Commission in writing for consideration. But I did want to raise because of which the urgency that the information is needed, that the sooner that it was raised the better with the Commission. But the second piece and the second work again would be studying the voting patterns and analyzing that data by race and ethnicity to determine whether there is any potential disenfranchisement against separate and apart from the RBV, VRA analysis. And this would -- this additional scope of work both adding on partisan fairness as well as the analysis of the voting patterns would require additional funding to support that work. And that would be not to exceed 50,000 billed at her rate under the current contract which is \$350 an hour. And if the I'm available to answer any questions. And I'm sure that Mr. Adelson might have some thoughts on how particularly that expanded analysis regarding voting patterns might inform his work as well.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Any questions? Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: This is to Mr. Adelson.

What's the significance of voting patterns? And how is that going to help us as we move forward?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: It's very significant.

We were talking earlier today about not knowing how whether there is the Asian population Hispanic population, do they coalesce are they cohesive do they vote and support the same candidates? Right now we don't have any analysis that would help your analysis and help your valuation of voting rights issue and also the diversity component.

But right now we are just I don't want to use this word we are surmising potentially about how different populations vote and behave electorally.

I don't like surmising in contexts like this.

So I think as we were talking about earlier Commissioner Rothhorn had asked about looking at election results in I think it was the Senate District 1.

And surmising based on other or doing the work for the Senate.

We have a sense of what the election is.

Election results are.

But to the main point we really don't know whether Hispanics and Blacks vote for the same candidates.

So the surmising is different than no.

And you know as you know I prefer the no.

I think that informs your work much better because then you have the analysis and you can rely upon it.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: This allows us to drill down into the data and get the answers that we need.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: It's a great way to describe it.

It allows you to drill down into areas you can't drill in now because we don't have the analysis.

Sure.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Well I think that this is a good idea.

We seem to have been asking for this information all day.

And therefore I would move that we expand Dr. Handley's or EDS contract as it pertains to Dr. Handley of an amount to up and increase of 50,000 to include the partisan fairness and voting patterns analysis to be added to that contract.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I can see you were about to second it Commissioner Witjes.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Let him have it.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We have a motion on the floor by Commissioner Lett, seconded by Commissioner Clark.

I will let Commissioner Lett restate his motion for everybody rather than try to repeat that.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Forget that I suffer from CRS, right? I move that we expand the EDS contract for an amount up to 50,000 to expand Dr. Handley's analysis to include partisan fairness and voting patterns in the EDS contract.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Is there any debate or discussion on the motion? Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: There was General Counsel you suggested that there would be sort of a paper that we would be given something.

I'm just wondering would that affect this motion? Or should we -- can we proceed with this motion and know that right we will, yeah, what can you tell us about the paperwork we might receive?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: So the paperwork thank you very much Vice Chair Rothhorn.

So the paperwork you would receive is that corresponding appendix that would be used to amend the contract.

So the language in the motion is in keeping with that addendum and certainly the Commission can approve the motion.

But I would be submitting the actual language in the appendix.

Today I was raising it to gauge interest and to make the Commission aware that this was forthcoming.

And I know in conversations with the Executive Director and Mr. Brace there may be other modifications needed to the contract so if the Commission wanted to run excuse me wanted to submit this one separately, I have that particular addendum already drafted.

That was one of the fun things I did on the weekend.

So I can certainly the Commission can vote.

I can submit the language or the Commission can wait for the circumstance -- circulation of the language and ask specific questions about that specific language as it's drafted.

I was raising it as an issue today.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I just want to give my two cents.

I would prefer to see the language and read it before adopting it.

That's just my preference.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I feel the opposite.

I feel time is of the essence for us to get her under contract and that we should just move as quickly as possible.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Any additional debate or discussion on the motion? All right oh, Commissioner Orton you waited until I looked away.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: This might be more of a discussion than we want to have but where does our budget stand? Would this be next fiscal year or do we have money left over?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Executive Director Hammersmith or General Counsel if one of you want to weigh in on that, do we have budget right now to pay for this?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: I anticipate the majority of this work will be during the next fiscal year and there is money in the budget to cover it. Or there will be.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: When is the end of our fiscal year September 30?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: I it's September 30th I'm working with Sarah Martinez who received Quickbooks last Friday and is in the process of putting everything in Quickbooks to make sure she and I are reconciled on the budget and I hope to get that out later this week to everybody.

so you will have a chance to look at the budget as it stands cause of August 30th.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: The radio for what it's worth was reporting this morning that the state is anticipating trying to resolve all the budget issues within the next week or two.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, this is to our Executive Director.

Once Sarah gets the chart of accounts in Quickbooks can we get a copy of that so we can see what that is? Okay thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right I think we are ready to vote again we have motion by Commissioner Lett seconded by Commissioner Clark to I'm not going to restate it to approve the General Counsel's request, all in favor please raise your hand and say aye. All opposed please raise your hand and say nay.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'm abstaining because I don't have enough information.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We have one abstention and we have so the ayes prevail. The motion is adopted.

Without objection I will ask Executive Director Hammersmith to provide information about new business item 6B, COVID-19 self-assessment for Commissioners staff and consultants please proceed Ms. Hammersmith.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair I apologize for the interruption. I wanted to acknowledge Commissioner Lange's abstention, that the reason is proper and that if any member abstains a roll call vote is required.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Department of State staff can you call a roll call vote for us.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Absolutely Commissioners please state your support of the motion with a "Yes" or "No" when I call your name.

I will call on Commissioners in alphabetical order starting with Dustin Witjes.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Doug Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry? Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID:

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom? Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Abstaining due to lack of information.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Brittini indicated in the chat she had stepped away.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I returned.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Leaving for the day.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: My vote was yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you.

Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> Janice Vallette? Yes Richard Weiss, yes by a vote of ten yes 0 no and one abstention the motion carries sed Szetela thank you very much Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I would like to move we proceed forward without reviewing the contractual language so that we can meet the timeliness we need to have her services.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Commissioner Clark, the language has already been drafted.

I will circulate it among the Commission and then be available for any feedback or questions.

In the meeting tomorrow morning is a morning meeting so it can be addressed if it needs to be.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay I will withdraw the motion.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right thank you.

Okay, Executive Director Hammersmith COVID assessment please proceed.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Thank you Chair Szetela.

Presented for Commissioner consideration is a daily COVID assessment for any of the Commissioners, consultants or vendors that are participating in our meetings.

We felt this was important especially as we get into the very busy public hearing time, we are all healthy.

So we want to make sure of that.

And the assessment that you do for the state I'm told that a lot of people don't really do that.

And beside we have no way of knowing if somebody has been exposed.

So I think we just want to make sure that everybody is kept safe.

And this is being presented as a basic assessment similar to what you have been signing when you go to the universities for the meetings that we've been holding there.

So I would accept any questions you might have.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: What format will this be in? Will we need to fill it out on paper? Or and hand it in each day?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: What I sent to you is a PDF.

It's not a fillable PDF.

I will provide it in a word format you can fill it in and either e-mail it to me or we can take paper copies.

It does not matter.

I will do my utmost.

I promise to you to keep everything safe, that information safe.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right any other questions? So do we need to take action on this? Suann or?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: If this is something the Commission chooses to do to keep the health and safety of everyone at the forefront, we should have a motion to then approve the use of this document.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: So moved.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Motion made by Commissioner Lett to approve the document.

Seconded by Commissioner Eid. Is there any discussion or debate on the motion?

Seeing none let's go ahead and vote we have a motion on the floor to approve the COVID policy self-assessment motion made by Commissioner Lett and seconded by Eid. All in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

All opposed please raise your hand and say nay.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Nay.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Four nays. We have -- so wait a minute, we are going to have to do a roll call on that one.

Department of State staff.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Absolutely.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I think that might be five to four but we need to verify.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Certainly.

Commissioners please indicate your support of the motion with a yes or a no vote when I call your name.

I will call on Commissioners in alphabetical order starting with Doug Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Nay.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom is she still here?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I think she might be.

She says she can hear us but I think she might not be able to vote because she is partially logged off.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I see, okay.

Well I will move on and Commissioner Kellom if you are still present feel free to indicate your vote.

Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Nay.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin wagon? Apologies she is not present.

Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: It is a tie vote.

So the motion fails.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay.

All right, without objection we will proceed to the approval of minutes from the September 8 meeting.

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Are there any proposed edits to the draft minutes that have been provided? All right hearing none may I have a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held in East Lansing Michigan on September 8, 2021? Motion made by Commissioner Witjes. Seconded by Commissioner Lett.

All in favor of approving the meeting minutes from September 8, 2021, please signify by raising your hand and saying aye.

All opposed raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes prevail and the motion is adopted.

All right at this point we are going to move on to staff reports Executive Director do you have any updates for us?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: We are still working on everything for this week and next so I think we will have it together by tomorrow.

We are just waiting on some return phone calls right now.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you without objection I'd like to ask Edward Woods the third to provide a report.

Please proceed, Mr. Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you. I just want to update you and thank EDS and team we are working to update the website that we will have just the regular files that are easy as well as the shape files.

We already have a test out there for the Congressional maps.

As well as the Senate maps and we are scheduled to have everything up and running by Wednesday.

So just wanted to thank them for their collaboration and partnership and update the Commission as well as the public as to where we are on the process.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, thank you very much.

Without objection I will ask Sarah Reinhardt from the Michigan Department of State if she has a report, please proceed Ms. Reinhardt.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you Madam Chair.

Just a note to encourage all Commissioners to complete the state required health assessment form when you log into your computers.

It is very important that you complete that and it is state policy.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.

Correspondence received in advance of our meet today was provided with written public comment to the Commissioner in our meeting materials.

It's my understanding that there are no future agenda items to share at this time.

Are there any announcements? All right hearing no announcements as the items on our agenda are completed and the Commission has no further business a motion to adjourn is in order do I have a motion to adjourn motion made by Commissioner Witjes seconded by Commissioner Lett all in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

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All opposed please raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes prevail, the motion carries, the meeting is adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Thank you very much everybody.