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MICRC

08/20/21 9:00 am Meeting

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>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: As Vice Chair of the Commission I call this meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 9:05 a.m.

This Zoom webinar is live streamed at YouTube at www.YouTube.com/MICHSOSoffice/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. 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 is being transcribed and those transcriptions will be made available And posted on Michigan.gov/MICRC along with the written public comment submissions.

There is also a 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. WoodsE3@Michigan.gov. 517-331-6309.

For the purpose of the public watching and the public record, I will now turn the Michigan 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 state. And unless absence is due to military duty, please disclose your physical location by stating the county, city, township, or village where you are attending the meeting remotely.

I'll start with Doug Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.

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- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.
- >> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?

Rhonda Lange?

- >> 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?
- >> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?
- >> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?
- >> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Present; attending remotely from

Charlotte, Michigan.

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, Ms. Reinhardt. You can view the agenda at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC.

I will now entertain a motion to approve the meeting agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Witjes.

Seconded by Commissioner Rothhorn.

Is there any debate or discussion on the motion? Hearing none it is moved and seconded that we adopt the meeting agenda. All in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All opposed please raise your hand and say nay, the ayes prevail and the motion is adopted.

Without objection we will begin the public comment regarding agenda topics of the meeting with no objection we will go to agenda topics individuals who signed up and indicated they would like to provide in-person commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so. Please step to the nearest microphone when I call your name or

number. You have two minutes to address the Commission and please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer.

The first person to provide in-person public comment is number one. You are invited to address the Commission, so please approach the microphone. And when your allotted two minutes has ended, please conclude your statement go ahead.

>> Good morning.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Good morning.

>> This mission is about a community of interest centered on the Latino population on the so-called Greater Lansing Area, which roughly comprises the also called Tri-county area of Clinton, Ingham and Eaton. On the current situation our area ranges with cracked in at least three U.S. Congressional districts, causing serious loss of ability to be represented to the Latino population in the Greater Lansing Area, which clearly has a significant presence in this area.

Additionally, I would ask that when you are drawing up the maps, starting I think today or tomorrow, that you consider partisan fairness, partisan presentation fairness. And I can say that I think the two parties that are represented here will take care of that. Thank you.

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

That concludes our live, in-person public commentary for the morning. We will now move on to remote public comment.

Individuals who have signed up and indicated they would like to provide live, remote public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so. I will call your name or number and our staff will unmute you.

If you are on the 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. And I will call on your name or the last four digits of your phone number.

Also please note if you experience technical or audio issues or 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 us at www.Michigan.gov and will help troubleshoot so that you can participate during the next public comment period or at a later public hearing.

You will have two minutes to address the Commission. Please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer. The first in line to provide public comment is Mr. James Galant.

>> Can you hear me now?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes. I can hear you, sir.

>> My name is James Galant, Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition. And these are my opinions. And as we saw yesterday, the League of Women Voters

representative Ms. Miller has wrongfully testified that the rules of procedure here include a provision that entertains a motion to effectively to stop the discussion and the debate. I'm not sure how that is her understanding. And that is apparently how they run it in Marquette. And the League of Women Voters told me they go by Robert's Rules of Order. And they are regional up here.

When Robert's Rules of Order includes opposite, the motion second is what starts the deliberations every time.

No debate before if there is a question and with the independent question all the time.

[Inaudible]

And they are to specifically benefit the democratic party because Secretary Benson, who provided you with the orientation, said you have to follow Robert's Rules of Order. And she is supervising the proceedings conducted by the Chairperson, Ms. Kellom who is also a democrat. And we assume is a member of the democratic party. You see, now we still have not verified if these folks are actually members of the democratic party. And yesterday Mr. Woods stumbled through the idea that, you know, they are kind of affiliating instead of these are democrats and these are republicans.

And it appears the staff have also conducted some secret meetings, the ad hoc committee meetings with the policies approved yesterday. And it was all in closed session and it appears Mr. Brace was there and others and the staff and no committee or Commission members. It was not a committee. It wasn't an open meeting. And they drafted the policy.

And then Ms. Reinhardt said, well, she would argue that, well, she is arguing against the Commission for what she created in secret meetings. And are these people democrats? Are they voting members of the democratic party? Your staff. And you should get verification of who is a registered voter, who actually pay money, \$10 a year to be a voting member of the democratic party or republican party, I'm not sure how much it costs.

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

At this time it's my understanding we have a second live, in-person public comment so at this time we will divert back to the people who are in the room and start with number two.

>> Thank you.

Thank the members of the Commission and staff.

I wasn't going to comment, but yesterday's discussion around the dump of the data on the census, it brought back the fact that I know I was personally bothered.

Lead Michigan.

That one of the things we dealt with in the last census was the injection or the attempted injection of the question of citizenship question.

It went to the Supreme Court.

It lost.

But it also won.

It won in the minds of a lot of people who said if I fill in the form and if I submit it, then the Government is going to have my information.

The Government is going to have my address.

We saw it with DACA. The same thing happened, people who filled out the DACA information and then later on now, after the administration changed, they were going after DACA students. And I know you cannot change the numbers that have been provided to you. Those are the numbers. I recognize that. But I also think that we have a significant under count for Hispanics in the State of Michigan and elsewhere around the country.

And even though that was done, when I look just roughly at the data, Hispanics still had a significant increase across the country.

So but I'd like to make sure that as you are deliberating and you are trying to put this hard task together and work for the residents of Michigan, you also keep that in mind that there are some populations that were really negatively affected by the fact of the way the census was mistreated by the last administration in terms of trying to see who counts and who doesn't count. So thank you very much.

I appreciate it.

And I look forward to seeing your work.

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

At this time we are going to bob back over to our remote, in-person commentary. And Mr. Clement is next in line.

Please wait for our staff to unmute you.

>> Yes, hello.

Thank you, Commissioners, for seeing me. My name is Norman Clement, Executive Director of Detroit Change Initiative. I've been in several of your meetings.

I'm expressing concern of the upcoming meetings.

We only have one meeting in Southwest Michigan. Even though with the data dump of the census, there is still more population that moved to the Southeast Michigan instead of the Northern areas of Michigan.

I know we -- you guys have been very flexible about having meetings and meeting with citizens. But we cannot ignore that we have one meeting in Southwest Michigan.

Also, let's take in consideration there are some challenges to the census in the City of Detroit and Mayor Duggan and also with disparities of people who have DTE bills compared to when we took the census and the census was cutoff. And also remind you, I know you guys have a tough, tough challenging task and we know we are all thankful for it, but we also understand please keep communities of interest in mind and also keep our communities intact together.

And also with the map drawing, understand by the Commission you have to pick the best map adequate by all points and all interests are representative.

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Now, you may have representation that may tell you otherwise, but also remember you guys, I know you guys know the heart of the charter. You are representing the people. We have our faith and trust in you, and we know it's a daunting task, but we know you guys can do the job and work together.

Thank you for your time

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission, Mr. Clement. Next in line is Rebecca Islam. Please wait for our staff to unmute you.

We can't hear you, Rebecca.

We can see you, but there is no sound. So it sounds like you are muted.

And I also note for the record Commissioner Wagner just indicated that she has unstable Internet and is shutting down her video.

I'm sorry, Rebecca, please go ahead.

>> Is everybody able to hear me now?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> Perfect. Thank you. Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Rebecca Islam, Executive Director of API vote Michigan. As always, I appreciate the Commission for all their hard work.

And I would like to echo what was said by Norman.

I would like to request that the Commission add more map drawing sessions in Metro Detroit.

Metro Detroit has about half the population of the entire state. So it really requires about half the time and attention of the Commission.

The diverse communities of Metro Detroit will require a lot of the most challenging line drawing work.

So please do consider having more sessions in Detroit. Thank you

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

Next in line is Nicole. I apologize if I'm mispronouncing your name. Please wait for our staff to unmute you.

>> Okay, can you hear me?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can. Please proceed.

>> So I'm here in East Lansing.

And I guess the gentleman who recently spoke mentioned the daunting task. It does seem very daunting.

And I guess my mind usually goes to basics.

It seems like one of the basics that hopefully everyone can agree on is the partisan divide, I think it's safe to say is really -- it's an issue with our entire setup of our interactive Government right now and our democracy because the focus goes there way too much.

So hopefully like one basic is to say like what is obviously been drawn to benefit one party or the other and see how much of that can just be like not in the picture anymore.

So hopefully the idea hasn't been any debate to like save these sort of like clearly like partisan motivations.

Alongside that there is a thought of like, okay, so what do we say like what communities, how they are linked. You know, there is different things people brought up with the census. And the way, you know, are we considered according to demographic? I would like to if there is one asset I think and one resource is we can look at the water basin. So I just want to say the watersheds are something we all share in common.

There's, you know, all they surveys have already been done where it shows communities that even with the smaller kind of watershed. So if there is like a question of like how are people really linked? We are really linked with our need for water. And the flow of it and the health of it and the cleanliness of it. It's not about partisanship. It's about those watersheds. And that is something that seems like a neutral thing that in the future is going to be more and more of an issue. So I just wanted to say that as hopefully helpful thing.

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

All right. At this point we are going to move on to Mr. Totten. Please wait for our staff to unmute you.

>> Good morning, everyone. Thanks so much to all of the Commissioners for taking the time to hear our comments this morning.

My name is Jerin Totten. And I serve as an outreach coordinator and legislative advocacy specialist at LGBT Detroit.

Commissioners, I want to lift up the definition of equity this morning. Being able to make up for wrongs done to certain populations. Detroit over the years has been among the most gerrymandered in the state. Additionally, Detroit has almost half the population, as you've heard several times before, half the population of the state. We request that you take more meetings in the Detroit area, that you may get a better picture of what the people of Detroit are wanting their maps to look like.

Also, we want to make sure that we are keeping representation in the room of different communities when important decisions are made.

Last week Metro Detroit had some flooding, some power outages. And some Commissioners were not able to make a meeting when a very big decision was made. And so we ask that you continue to prove yourselves to be trustworthy by the people by not letting that happen again. Thank you so much.

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

I believe next in line is Judy Daubemier. Do we have Judy? Okay, please wait for our staff to unmute you.

>> My name is -- hello, my name is Judy Daubemier. And I'm from Brighton, Michigan. And thank you for the chance to speak.

I am dismayed by the Commission's decision to hire the firm Baker Hostetler to be your litigation counsel. I listened to many commenters raise concerns about the firm's partisan bias. And I feel as though those concerns were ignored.

Your decision seriously undermines my trust in your decision making.

You spent several meetings debating when and where to have public hearings. And I myself spent a beautiful summer evening when I could have been doing other things driving to Flint to attend a hearing and provide testimony. And now I wonder if my comments are even going to be listened to that night.

I was especially concerned at Commissioner Clark's comments that he was swayed by two conversations he had with unnamed people in Washington D.C. about Baker Hostetler.

I would like to know who these people were and why they count for more than the views of the citizens of Michigan who took the time to comment and who are the ones who voted to set up this Independent Commission.

Commissioners commented how impressed they were with the firm. However, you never interviewed the individual who was the former counsel for the Republican National Committee.

You never asked him about his approach to representing you.

I also was shocked by the comment that you do not expect the firm to be nonpartisan. Well, the people of Michigan do.

And I would hope that you would do the right thing and reconsider your decision and reopen the RFP.

There were other firms who are interested in being your litigation counsel but missed the deadline.

You don't need this litigation counsel for a few months.

You have time.

So I think you should take the time and reconsider your decision.

Our views should count for more than unnamed people in Washington D.C.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you very much for taking the time to address the Commission.

That concludes our first opportunity for both in-person and remote public comment.

Without objection, we will now 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 comment.

Individuals who have signed up and indicated they would like to provide live, remote public commentary to the Commission will be allowed to do so. We will use the same process as the first round.

And first in line to provide the second live, remote public comment is James Galant. Please wait for our staff to unmute you.

>> Can you hear me now?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, I can.

>> James Galant, Marquette Suicide Prevention Coalition. And these are my opinions. And, you know, I would ask this Commission to please consider requesting a written report from your attorneys, Mr. Grossman [inaudible] concerning the rules of procedure and how they are and comparatively these are the rules, Robert's Rules of Order. These are what your proceedings or your current practices are. And I'm finding all over the Internet there is misquoting of Robert's Rules of Order. And to table and what not and it's quoted backwards. And now the League of Women Voters.

So to anybody concerned out there in the state right now, this Commission's decision to hire those attorneys was not conducted according to the Roberts Rules of Order and approved rules of procedure, that could be overturned by a Court of law.

This is the process part of it, okay?

So if you folks -- inaudible.

Who wants to sue them, please consider that they are not following the rules and to get that figured out. And I would ask this Commission to please request a written clarification from the former speaker from Count My Vote of Michigan that said 504123. Personally, their termination of their [inaudible] from Voters Not Politicians and used by the State of Michigan and terminated again. So Voters Not Politicians does not exist as a program anymore, as a policy program anymore. And by Count my Vote, only that. And they also own Voters Not Politicians ballot committee.

So I don't know where all the donations are going, but they are not going to the ballot committee because they are not being advertised as a ballot committee. They are advised as a standalone organization called Voters Not Politicians. And, in my opinion and in my research that does not exist anymore,

Filed and signed a termination of a certificate in January.

So it's kind of inappropriate for them to be thinking they are going to continue being an organization when they are not authorized by the State of Michigan to do so.

And there have been a few reports specially on the subject. Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission, Mr. Galant. That concludes our public comment. I would like to mention that all e-mails and mailed public comment is provided to the Commissioner before each meeting. And Commissioners also review the public comment portal on our www.Michigan.gov/MICRC website on a regular basis.

We appreciate everybody who provides public comment in whichever way that you choose. And we invite people to keep sharing their thoughts, communities of interest and maps with us.

At this time I would also like to note for the record that as Vice Chair, our Chair is absent today. And in the event that I have to step out of the room for any reason, I would like to designate Mr. Commissioner Witjes to act as Chair in the event that I am out of the room for a moment.

All right. Moving down or agenda without objection, I would like to move forward with unfinished business and ask Mr. Kim Brace from Election Data Service to provide information on Agenda 5A, which is census data and also communities of interest. Hearing no objection, please proceed, Mr. Brace.

>> KIM BRACE: Thank you, Madam Chairman. It's good to be with you again. I'm going to share my screen so on that side, make sure everybody can see. It's coming through.

Great.

All right.

Okay, what I'm going to do today is a first part is the continuation of what we talked about yesterday.

We have some more data in terms of race and so I wanted to show you some of the things that we were seeing on this.

We are going to be looking at the racial data by race and what we receive from the Census Bureau from the PL94171.

So starting off if you remember we have had similar maps in previous presentations to you in terms of what is the minority or the various racial group percentages in the state and so we've created these and I'm going to show you all the different racial groups that there are in conjunction to this.

This is the white population.

Clearly it is everywhere from the census side.

The white population statewide is 76% in 2010.

And it dropped by four percentage points down to 72%.

But they are everywhere from that side.

But it was a slight decrease on that side.

We've then looked at all the other racial groups in the same way.

What we are looking for is where are there concentrations.

Okay? So from the standpoint of other racial groups, this is the non-Hispanic African/American population concentrations.

Where are they located? Now, this is slightly different from that majority minority map I showed you last night, which was looking at all of them.

This is just looking at one individual, okay? So this is the distinction on that side.

And, again, if Lisa is on the line, she is watching, she is saying oh, my God look at all the little pockets here.

Some of these are pretty small.

We didn't show anything under 5%.

Okay? Now, this is at the block group level.

So it's about block groups if you remember is about a thousand people per geography.

So this is showing where there are block groups that are more than certainly 5%.

So we basically didn't color anything that was under 5%.

But this is showing you the various concentrations and we were concerned and looking for where there are majority or minority concentrations and where the concentrations are located.

Certainly 75-100% is your darkest red.

You have a majority in 50-75.

The next shade up.

And you can start seeing where those are.

But when you get down below 50%, we've got 25-50 and then 5-25.

So you can look at and see where these concentrations are located.

As we noted yesterday in the majority minority, there were several little pockets, little red dots on the map on the left hand side.

So you can see in more detail where those dots are.

And where some of the surrounding pieces are with what kind of percentages there are.

So this will be important from Lisa's standpoint in terms of looking at racial bloc voting.

At least for the African/American community.

MC?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN:

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead Commissioner Rothorn.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Will we get -- so there is prison populations that may be identified here that we have been told that and I think will you help us know that or find that?

>> KIM BRACE: Yes, that is a good point.

These are any block group that there is.

The prisons are basically a group quarters.

They are probably part of these block groups.

Block groups are a little bit larger than the individual block where the prison might be located.

But certainly if the prison occupies multiple blocks, then the little bit larger territory within that block group, okay? So we will certainly look towards that group quarters question in terms of the race and where that may be in essence coloring these and maybe we are treating these differently because of the prison situation.

The other thing to keep in mind is that this data has gone through the Census Bureau's disclosure avoidance process.

That's another key factor to keep in mind.

Because if you remember the disclosure avoidance it's basically to take where an individual might be able to be discovered down at the block level and kind of spread some of that out.

Now, that's particularly the circumstance and we saw in the early stages of disclosure avoidance, it happened significantly in prisons because the Black population was heavily concentrated in that prison block, that group quarter.

But as part of the disclosure avoidance, some of that got spread out outside the prison. And in hopefully the general area.

We don't know really how far that was spread, the disclosure avoidance doesn't really tell us that.

All we can see is the impact after that process.

And so some of these may be that concentration on that particular block but spread in some of the presumably white areas just around it on that side so we will have to be cognizant of that.

Remember we are going to have data and you will have data well you have already down at the block level.

So you will be able to take a look at that as part of your investigation of the particular area as it relates to prisons and that sort of thing.

What we can do is generate a shape file of all the blocks that have group quarters in them so that it becomes kind of an overlay so that you can end up having that as an overlay and I'm going to show you how some of the overlays can play because that is what we are going to do with the COIs but in the same way we can let you bring in the group quarters overlay to see if that's a circumstance in some area of the state.

Okay? So this is the African/American population on that side.

But we are interested in other groups.

This is where the Hispanic population is.

Hispanics, oh, I'm sorry the African/American population in Michigan decreased by five not 5% a half of a percentage point is the proper way of saying that so African/Americans decreased behalf of a percentage point.

On the flip side Hispanics, which is what I'm showing you here, increased by one percentage point this is statewide.

There were some differences in different parts of the state.

But not a dramatic difference so I did not do a set of maps showing the gradations of what change was.

We looked at that.

But it really didn't tell us a whole bunch of where there was a greater growth of Hispanic versus elsewhere.

We weren't seeing that in the data.

But we were seeing this increase of Hispanics of about a percent, okay? So this is the map showing you where those Hispanic areas are.

Again, in that same gradation, because Hispanics statewide you notice in the upper right hand side statewide 5.6%, we can look at those gradations and so we changed the gradation scale a little bit with just looking at 50% and above is the solid blue and then 25-50 and 10-25 and 5-10.

So you can get at least a little demarcation down there towards the bottom of the concentrations.

But you can see the western side of the state Hispanics are an awful lot of areas out there, you know.

And so that may be some of the factors that Lisa is going to have to take a look at on that side.

Now, you know, some of these are only 5-so -- 5-10% and that is not a lot and we can tell you from the racial bloc voting side it's not concentrated to give you a good indication but that is one of the things Lisa will take a look at.

But certainly understanding where the dimensions are, where these concentrations are is useful on that side.

So this is the Hispanic population.

This is the Asian population.

The Asian population increased by a percentage point.

Across the state.

And but statewide it's only 3%, 3.3% you see.

They are concentrated in the outer areas around Detroit.

You can see on the left hand side.

But there are pockets, a couple of places elsewhere in the state.

So just trying to take a look in where those concentrations are.

With the Asian population of only 3.3%, it's probably going to be a little bit hard for Lisa to figure out racial bloc voting for that particular group.

But it may be possible.

We will just have to take a look and see are there higher concentrations in some areas.

But this is part of what will feed into Lisa's on that side.

And then the native population.

Native American population.

We've kind of looked at the UP as everything as kind of normal and moving very much white.

But you can see that's where the concentrations of the native population are.

So certainly from the standpoint of you thinking in terms of drawing.

Do you remember those maps from yesterday in terms of the districts in the UP that were under populated and you came out to 107 right at the bridge.

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Well, some of that is where there is concentrations of Native Americans.

So you may need to be cognizant of that when you're drawing where that demarcation is at least in the house, you know, of where you kind of part 107 to feed to the other three that were up there.

And what you do across the bridge.

So those are kind of factors that would come into play.

But certainly knowing where the Native American population is, is what I wanted to show you today.

And that's the racial data.

Questions?

>> I don't see any Mr. Brace please continue.

>> KIM BRACE: I'm finished, I told Sue it would be a quick 15-20 minute kind of thing.

Sorry Rebecca.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Let the record reflect that Vice Chair Rebecca Szetela has returned.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Mr. Brace and we will go to 6A beginning mapping this is an exciting day for the Commission.

For the first time ever 13 randomly selected Commissioners will be drawing the Michigan State house and Michigan State Senate districts as well as Michigan's Congressional District.

Today we will begin mapping the State Senate districts in the southeast and south central regions.

These regions include Monroe, Lenawee and Hillsdale Counties and southeast borders of Ohio Jackson, Washington and Livingston and the geographic region we are calling the southeast.

The south central region includes Eaton Ingham in the greater Lansing area and the regions will be a starting point and we are not mapping the entire state at one time.

Regions are not districts and District line also be drawn across regions with the Michigan Constitution.

The criteria in rank order are, one, equal population and comply with the Voting Rights Act and other Federal laws.

Two, geographically contiguous.

Three, reflect the state's diverse population and communities of interest.

Four, not provide a disproportionate advantage to any political party.

Five, not favor or disfavor incumbent elected official or candidate.

Six reflect consideration of the City, county and Township boundaries and 7 be reasonably compact.

The mapping software will assist with population and geographical continuity and visible as all maps are drawn and going down the list in rank order, we will be able to assess communities of interest in the public comment and I would like to ask Kim Brace of EDS

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to overlay the map of one of the communities of interest or as we say COIs in the southeast and south central regions so we can begin an assessment of this community of interest.

Yesterday we approved COI assessment process on pages 21 on 22 of the MICRC process and procedures and a visualization on page 18 in the MICRC redistricting process flow chart.

Without objection I'd like to ask Commissioner Clark if he will assist the Commission in working through the assessment of the COI that Mr. Brace puts up for us.

So Commissioner Clark please proceed once we are able to see the community of interest that Mr. Brace selects.

>> KIM BRACE: If I could start a little bit with showing you some of the overarching COIs.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Sure please proceed.

>> KIM BRACE: We will focus in on that.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Particular ones, yes.

>> KIM BRACE: So let me go back and share my screen again.

I'm going to bounce between two different applications.

For the benefit of some of the education here.

On COIs.

You will end up having COIs that will be available to you.

But that's another piece of the software that Fred is trying to finish.

And it's not quite there yet.

So I'm going to show you what we envision and what I talked with Fred in terms of how people could operate this.

But I'm going to use our view, the basic arc view as that function.

But in the standpoint of edge and the Autobound edge system, when we have COIs, there is the label manager.

Or layer manager.

This button on the far right-hand side that I'm highlighting, that brings up the various layers that are on the screen, okay? And you'll be able to select which layer you want to show.

So I'm going to add a shape file.

I have these already from Moon Duchin's and what process we have done.

What we have from her is we've done some processing but the original one that we got from her is this one down here.

So if I open that up and put that on the screen, this is what we got from her.

Can you tell anything? There is a lot of stuff there.

And that's part of what I wanted to show you.

You can you know Zoom down in and look at how many people did COIs in any given area.

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Now, we will be able to filter these on your side and I'll show you some of that, but I'm going to use our view to show you some of that.

But I just wanted to show you what we suddenly received from the COIs and what Moon has.

So what we have done is we have gone and processed some of these files and processed them out as separate files.

And this will be something that would be selectable from your side in this same way.

Now Fred may do it in a slightly different manner.

But this is kind of the shortcut to show you at least some of what there is.

In the COI information, there is actually a lot of data.

And we yesterday added more data to it.

So I'm going to show you some of what that is and then I'm going to come back to the arc map side, I mean the edge side to show you some of this.

So this is the screen of all of these COIs in arc map.

In arc GIS.

And in those COIs, we can in arc map we can see the attributes of what there are in these.

And this is what you'll be able to see too.

Okay? It's basically a spreadsheet of each of the COIs.

They are identified by the plan ID.

That's the number that she is assigned to it.

So you will be able to track her stuff in conjunction with your stuff by that plan ID.

Okay? Now, ultimately Fred is looking at being able to sort this stuff many different ways.

Basically set up in each of these kind of drop-downs like what I've showed you before of give me different concentrations, give me different whatever the case may be so that you can end up seeing and sorting these.

And select it.

Now, one of the things that we have added to Moon's files is information on the region.

The District is what Ryan called it.

So and the name that you guys have called each of your regions.

So this is embedded now within the COIs so that we can sort on the District column and see where all the southeast part of the state is.

Or whatever the case may be.

This is part of that capability of focusing down in the given area of the COIs that are there, okay? We also have now, as of last night, we added the population data.

You can see to the right-hand side all of the population data with the same column headings that are there on your screen.

And your active matrix across the bottom.

So we can see for each COI what's the total population covered by that COI. What's the white, the African/American, underscore A is the alone categories. And we put in, well, he was putting in the underscore C but I don't see it right now. I know he was working late into this morning to get this first cut. But we will have that, the combo numbers also. So that you'll be able to sort on these, create percentages off of these. All the kinds of things that you will see and you will make use of during the redistricting process.

Chairman MC?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Can you help us understand when there is a statewide map how that might be reflected or, yeah, because that will be part a region will show up.

>> KIM BRACE: Yeah, let me -- right now this is statewide of everybody.

Okay? That is what you are seeing here.

If we go and select off of the region, we need to sort it first, and we have in south central, we have southeast, southwest, south central.

There are 40COIs in south central, okay? So we can go now, since we sorted these, and this is kind of a clue way of showing you this but certainly Fred is doing a little bit more programming within edge to be able to show that.

But we can end up selecting all of these in south central and highlight those.

And since these are selected you can see in south central how all of these COIs kind of go outside of south central, kind of go all over the place on that side.

But you can see what kind of COIs and how they intersected with the regions.

So that was a function that we did to create that subset.

Yes, MC?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Rothhorn.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: To refine the question so when a COI has been submitted and like it's the whole state and it's the State House districts, right, south central is part of their -- so is that also highlighted? I guess so with the whole state that COI that was submitted and represents the whole state?

>> KIM BRACE: Well, if -- no, it was selected for one of those.

So it was more than likely starting with region one and selecting it and if it got selected it would have probably gotten selected up in the first one as opposed to this is region, what, seven down here.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: That is my question is when we have right how are we going to treat submissions, COI submissions? Excuse me it's not a COI that is my issue.

Never mind I just worked it out it's not a COI it's the State House map.

Forgive me I think I just worked it out myself sorry.

>> KIM BRACE: But it is, you do raise a good point and so one of the things that we had thought about in playing with this, this morning certainly we need to identify what region it's in, but maybe a second column that says these are the multiple regions that it's in.

So that we could see that on that regard.

Yes.

So, you know, there is a bunch of different things that we are discussing with Fred in terms of how to implement an arc.

I mean in edge.

So but I just wanted to show you some of this kind of kind of circumstance.

One of those that I did want to highlight, which was pointed out to me, is, let's see, 32841.

So 32841.

This if I select this COI and if you kind of look at this COI, 31841 did, he basically selected areas that spell out the word hello.

So there are a bunch of COIs in this thing.

So be cognizant that not every COI is, you know, something that's important or that is not the right word to say but you know what I mean.

So there are a bunch of different things in COIs.

And we will just have to kind of work through those as we go through each region to take a look at, you know, that sort of thing.

But I thought that was pretty clever.

Yep, yep.

So this is at least some beginning points so that you can see what we're seeing.

And ultimately how we can end up playing with that in edge.

So that you will be able to see and look at more of these.

If you notice in this table, this is again the table of the raw information, Moon has the plan ID, the title, the various tags that she has.

So those will be sortable on not everything is tagged, but that is the user's choice.

So that is there.

You also have this text.

So that whole text field that they have put into what they think in terms of the COI, that is a field now that is here.

So that you can see it and ultimately you will be able to see it in arc map, I mean in edge on what is the characteristics.

On that side.

And then the area text that's there and the other things, the area title that they called. That particular COI was called hello Township area on that side.

So but and then the rest of the stuff is all the stuff that we've added to it.

So these are the attributes that are embedded within what Moon is providing to us.

That you will be able to see and work with.

Fred, I mean, Kent has been playing here to my side with the COIs that Ryan sent to us. And you end up is your screen shareable?

>> I think so.

It's all pretty in the last ten minutes but what we have in there right now is not confusing.

>> KIM BRACE: You will need to share your screen.

>> Let's share this, yes.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: You also might have to stop sharing Kim in order for him to share.

>> KIM BRACE: Thank you.

Now you can grab it.

>> Got to get over here to Zoom.

Here we go.

Share the screen.

So what is in there right now from what I can tell, let me Zoom out a little bit here and it's going to start getting there is your community of interest.

Right now I'm looking how to scale the labels so they don't blot everything out.

The way the data is in there from what I observed and what I know now is so here is community of interest.

You can select this is the statewide community of interest file.

It's all the community of interest there in the data set altogether.

But you can also make it so it only loads a community of interest by the region you're working in.

You would do a query and set it up like that.

I kind of skipped over it because statewide I can just pan around.

I'm not doing you know one county.

And right now what we are looking at, let's get out of here, I hit the information button and this is I clicked on this and this got me a little confused so don't ask too many questions about it but I click right there and I notice a lot of things got let up because I guess the COIs are overlapping each other to a certain extent.

I don't know yet but the starting point is here.

And that here is a comment on that area.

We click down here and there's the information on that District.

I want to get the same.

A little while ago I was getting different -- there we go.

So I zoomed out a little bit.

Now you can see the community of interest.

This is a fairly large area right there.

Can y'all see that? See it blinking down there? Let me turn the labels off.

Bear with me for just one second because I just kind of figured all this out.

Property.

>> KIM BRACE: Properties.

>> Labeling, do not label.

Just doing that and get this out of the way.

Plot changes.

>> KIM BRACE: Yes, and then dismiss it.

>> Dismiss it.

This is just ten regions.

I had the ten regions on the screen right now.

Just the ten regions.

So we come down here, we Zoom in a little bit, dismiss that.

So now there is no titles.

But the one I did information, clicked on a spot and evidently somebody did the whole state.

You can see there is multiple layers of community of interest here.

And only one is popping up right now.

I'm not sure if that is me not knowing how to operate it but these kind of things will get cleaned up over the next -- okay, you can only select -- you could just select a -- so her comment is my name is Julianne Moore, title then the population of you know that area, for what it's worth.

So as you can see there are overlay, they are broke up, we got to figure out a way to organize them and display that data so that it's easier to understand or quicker to hit you rather than kind of going what am I looking at kind of thing.

And where I'm at, yeah, I don't know what is happening now.

It's not showing me any information.

So let's turn that visibility back on.

>> KIM BRACE: Now you turned it off.

>> KENT: Turned it off.

Visibility.

>> KIM BRACE: Down here.

So your columns in here next to SHP overlay, you've got two different columns if you move your -- you have the visibility column and you got the selection column.

So visibility is just turning it on or turning it off.

The selection is where you could end up a particular shape, use that to select the polygons underneath it in edge to start using that to build a District.

So that could be one of the ways that you would utilize the system to start drawing a District given some of the COIs that you have.

But you would use those to select the territory that they have defined as that COI.

Okay?

>> KENT: I don't know what I have done now, it's confusing but I click right here and that's a community of interest.

But then all of that is a community of interest from what I'm seeing and then so these community of interest are obviously heavily overlaid.

>> KIM BRACE: Right.

>> KENT: We need to figure out a way to show them separately.

>> KIM BRACE: Separately.

>> KENT: Or scroll through them one two three.

>> KIM BRACE: That is part of what Fred is working on now so they are selectable, individual records, individual COIs are selectable in alone, a single COI to show that or maybe a combination of COIs.

You know, I did mine sorting by the region to select which COIs are being shown on that side.

So there is a bunch of different functionalities there.

And we are just waiting to see what Fred has worked on and but this is the kinds of things that he and I have talked about as a way of making use of that information.

>> KENT: Sorry I got it out of whack somehow.

But you know just we just got the data in the last couple minutes.

And it's a little bit confusing as to how it's going to work out.

The application has to be edited to work with the COIs.

Even the way we have it now.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Excuse me is there a way that we could sort of tailor down or communities of interest and maybe just look at ethnic minorities and compare that against our census data is there a way to divvy it up at this point or is that not technologically capable?

>> KENT: I think they may have a comment on this.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Not necessarily just is there a way to align identified communities of interest not necessarily ethnic but racial categories and align those with census data based on what we've seen like say you know.

>> KIM BRACE: That is kind of what we have done in terms of looking at the populations on the far right hand of each of the COIs.

So that you have some of that.

The question is how to display them.

You know right now we just have the raw numbers in.

What to do in terms of percentages so then you can play with that sort of thing.

So it's those kinds of functionalities that, yeah, ultimately you will be able to do that.

And use that as selection or whatever the case may be.

>> Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: I think you raise an important point particularly when the Commission is starting with the COI analysis and establishing that cadence of how they will be moving through them.

That it might be a more straightforward approach, particularly for and when I was looking at the list that Mr. Brace's team had compiled, I believe some jumped out as the Hispanic area or so on and so forth.

And so maybe what I hear the thought is, is that if you pull up that community of interest and overlay that, the census data, those tables that, is that demonstrated in the census data? And, if so, and that doesn't get to predominance or any of those issues because we are not making any analysis of the total or what the total means or extrapolating any information, all the Commission would be doing is saying if a group particularly groups that are identified in the census data are advocating for a community of interest based on their -- that that would be a more straightforward place to begin.

>> KIM BRACE: Yes.

I'm going to end up sharing my screen again and show you one of the things that Moon has been working on, and she sent to the team a couple of days ago I think is when I got this.

This is some of the analysis that she is doing in terms of looking at where there are overlaps and how much overlaps of the COIs, okay? So what she is doing is she is in order to synthesize the data, she is looking at how much overlap there is.

And this is for done at the census block level of how many COIs are covered by that area.

By that census block.

And so the darker greens are all where I think she has six different COIs.

And then it goes down to lighter and this is down at one COI.

That is covered in this territory here.

So clearly in this part of the state, there is a more concentration of the COI interests down here.

Now, she doesn't have what caused it to be that.

You know, all she is counting right now is just we have six here as opposed to one down here.

We will have to see what she comes up with to add more information.

Some of what we could end up doing and having some of this to look at and like chairman Rebecca had said, you know, what is the concentrations, where are the concentrations for the racial groups for example.

And seeing some of that information.

So I'm sorry.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: No, I just through the Chair wanted to build on my previous statement about when the Commission is presently moving from the proposed

COIs offered by the community and the end result of the final COIs as map as overlays on the map.

One thing I wanted to highlight was and it ties perfectly in with the racial conversation we are having now.

And not getting into that predominance area that we are very careful to avoid.

If there are, for example, in Asian minority community that has advocating for designation as a community of interest, that that community of interest, again, can be overlaid with the census data for that area and oh, there it is.

Maybe it needs to be a little bit, a few more census blocks based on the census data. Or those kinds of considerations.

But the point I wanted to make was that that COI data may or may not be implicated in a subsequent Voting Rights Act analysis.

Again, may or may not.

Based on Dr. Handley's analysis and then Bruce's excuse me Mr. Adelson's analysis but what it will do is serve to inform your diverse population requirement.

So to really encourage you to think about those kinds of when we are talking about racial data that even if it does not go into a VRA analysis, a formal VRA analysis area, that we have that diverse population requirement.

So that that will be very helpful to the Commission in that regard.

So, again, I think trying to decide where to start for COIs to start being able to start those discussions and have some conclusions drawn by the Commission.

>> KIM BRACE: And I guess the thing I would suggest now, Doug, you have taken a look at the COIs.

If you've got a given COI, ID, I can then bring that up, okay?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: It's what the process indicates and so we will follow that.

>> KIM BRACE: Yep, yep.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Are we ready to get started?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead Commissioner Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: We will follow through the redistricting process and we will start with page one.

We are going to select the region we are going to work with and we will start with the southwest.

>> KIM BRACE: Right okay.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: And now we have to have the discussion on the COIs so if you could bring up.

>> Southwest or south central? We were doing southeast and south central.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Let's do the south central first, okay? Thank you.

And if I have to step out MC is going to be my back up.

>> KIM BRACE: All right that is fine.

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>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: So if you could bring that map up, of the south central, and the surrounding counties because we may need those.

>> KIM BRACE: Yep.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: And bring up the automated COI display.

We are on page two.

If you could bring that up so we can just get an idea and then we will go through the individual COIs to see the relevance.

We don't want to keep hello COIs.

>> KIM BRACE: So I'm going to bring in the regions.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay south central consists of Clinton Ingham Eaton counties for people's knowledge that don't have the map with the county names on them.

And this will include the Lansing area.

>> KIM BRACE: Yep.

So let me bring in the layer of the regions.

That is in another part.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: So while he is doing that, we will go through all of the COIs that Moon has distributed to us.

And that came from the public tool.

We will go through them one by one and see about the relevance.

In conjunction with the flow chart.

After we do that, and we have also have some comments from the public hearings that may or may not be in that public tool.

So we will gather that as well from the individuals here at the table.

And the way we will do that is I'll start, I'll name one and we will go around the table and if you have one to share, mention it.

And if you don't just say pass.

We will go through the Commissioners that way.

>> KIM BRACE: All right, which.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: The south central.

>> KIM BRACE: Right but I need a COI number, okay.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: I don't have the numbers.

>> KIM BRACE: That's the key.

The COI number is the -- that is how these are built.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: This is Sarah with the Michigan Department of State. So Commissioner Clark, if there is a particular map COI in the public comment portal that you wanted to begin with, if you are able to pull up that comment in the public comment portal, the ID number is also listed within the comment on the same page.

>> KIM BRACE: Yes, that is the ID number.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, I'm not logged in to that.

Are you MC?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I am, yes.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay so by doing it this way how are we going to be sure we hit them all?

>> KIM BRACE: You can -- we will be able to bring in multiple COIs.

So that you can look at them.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: MC is working on it at the moment.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Alternatively one other suggestion is to just start at the top of the list and work your way down.

So Kim could open up the very first shape file he has in that folder for that region and you can see what it is and go from there.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay let's do it that way, that will move quicker.

>> KIM BRACE: Yeah, so what I'm going to end up needing to do is now right now the shape files are just identified the shape number.

It's embedded within there is the region.

But the only way to bring it up is doing this.

So I can break that one up.

Got that.

I want to show just one.

So you got to look at -- what is the District number? This is just what is in the shape file. What this person is called.

This is the overarching.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Do you need so some type to work on that and we can talk about while you are doing that the COIs we heard at the public hearing.

>> KIM BRACE: If you can give me individual COI numbers.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I don't have a list of them.

>> KIM BRACE: But MC has access to.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: So I have one we could start with C749.

>> KIM BRACE: 749.

That's not the ID.

The ID is a five-digit number.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Hum, this is what I'm looking at.

Yeah, and then it's true, so I guess I've seen when I printed it out the plan ID does come out differently.

But I haven't figured out how to reconcile that yet.

Yeah, and yeah.

But that is for what it's worth we did receive public comment yesterday and today from the greater Lansing Tri-county the Hispanic community and it's that one.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay, now these COIs that I have is what was there and provided by Moon as of last Friday.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: August 8?

>> KIM BRACE: Yeah.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: This was submitted on June 13th so I think it should be in there.

>> KIM BRACE: It should be in there, okay.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Mr. Brace's point is he doesn't have a shape file for what was submitted just within 24 or 48 hours.

>> KIM BRACE: Right.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair, I think maybe that first chart that Mr. Brace pulled up where they were able to sort and I believe the column header was District when it referred to region and maybe starting with that sort by region and just starting again with the first row from that table, the second row, the third row and moving down in that fashion.

Because that table that I believe that Mr. Taylor built is what Mr. Brace said might be a more organized way to start.

>> KIM BRACE: Yeah, in order to do that we are really dealing with two different software.

That table is coming in through arc map as opposed to edge for right now.

So I was showing you what it looked like from arc map which is what this is here.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Can we just and pardon the interruption please, could we just, again, start with that ID number in the software where we can pull it up? I was just saying reference the table for the map ID numbers.

>> KIM BRACE: Right.

So these are all the south central.

And now I can go over.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: There we are.

>> KIM BRACE: So you see here is the plan ID for the individual ones.

This is what Moon has given to us.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Can we bring those up one at a time?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: If we scroll up to the top of the list, there we are.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: And just work our way down.

Bring them up one at a time.

>> KIM BRACE: 18892 is what I'm looking for.

18892.

Okay this is 18892.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay and does it describe what it is?

>> KIM BRACE: It's over here in this table.

So that is that record there.

18892.

And that's all Lansing addresses and mostly of Waverly School District and half of Lansing school District Sexton.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: So the question in front of us then is do the public comments adequately describe the community of interest?

>> KIM BRACE: Right.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: And the answer to that.

>> KIM BRACE: So what this is, it looks like it's trying to follow school districts.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Correct.

>> KIM BRACE: Trying to see but it may have a couple of school districts.

They are not defined individually but it is the collection as I said all Lansing addresses. So they selected in this area of Lansing plus where the Waverly school District crosses outside of the City of Lansing is the way I would interpret.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: So and I would too.

[Off mic]

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Waverly road is a dividing line between Ingham County and Waverly is the school District on looking at the map the left of Waverly.

Lansing school districts are in on the right obviously.

All the Lansing addresses are signed by the assessor's office.

>> KIM BRACE: Right.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: So while Eaton county has Lansing addresses, they are not the City of Lansing, necessarily.

>> KIM BRACE: That's true, that's true.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: If that helps.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: In the south central region.

So I believe that the data confirms the COI description.

Does anybody disagree with it? Okay, we will take it as a yes.

It does describe it.

And the COI boundaries sufficient to keep intact? I believe so based on what I've seen.

And so we need to consider including this when we start drawing their maps.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Could you clarify what the community of interest is I know what the drawing is but what is the actual community of interest, how is this group they are drawing linked? I'm not following.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: To me it's the school District.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Is it the school District? I was hearing about Lansing addresses.

Everybody with a Lansing address?

>> KIM BRACE: Well, let me show you something here.

They have apparently in that same session it generated three different COIs.

And it looks like Moon's system assigned it all the same ID but then put a minus one and a minus two, okay? So I'm going to show those and I will show that on the map and we will do it this way.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Can you provide the COI, ID number as it's listed in the public comment portal?

>> KIM BRACE: The only ones that I have is 18 or 19892-1-0 and dash 2, those are these three COIs.

And so what that is, you can see the one here to left hand side, that is the one that I brought in.

So they also have this other one.

The eastern side of Lansing.

And then outside of Lansing on that side.

Okay? So if I bring in and now bring in.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: While he is doing that Steve or MC you live in the area or have lived in the area does that represent different school districts?

>> Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: All three of those.

We will take a look.

Here they are.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Jump in MC if you want, we already talked about the Waverly Lansing which would be the west side of Lansing.

The center that you're looking at that says east Lansing would be the east side of Lansing and obviously east Lansing schools.

Then you are moving out Haslett to school District Okemos is a school District bath and Williamson are both separate school districts.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: They have combined them here on the rural school districts.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Williamson and bath are rural the rust of them are urban.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, but the outside is City limits based on Lansing.

>> KIM BRACE: That is what it looks like the 0 and 1 is focusing in Lansing.

And then you have kind of an outside, yeah.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: My assumption is the COIs that have been identified to us through the public comment tool are school districts.

And we have acceptable school District boundaries to utilize them as.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Assuming those are school District boundaries.

I don't know that that is accurate.

>> KIM BRACE: That is one of the keys, you know.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I'm generally saying based on these what's in there.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: So alternative here of one of the options we have is to pull this aside, have the secretary or the Department of State contact the individual who submitted it and get the answer to that.

>> KIM BRACE: Well, it's also a question of is there an alternative source for the school District boundaries? Because as Commissioner Lett says we don't really know exactly.

This is their rendition of what they think it might be.

But it would probably be better since we are going to be dividing and you know this District, that District, this and you know in terms of which District you're drawing, it would be better to have a more exacting shape file of the districts.

If the school District has that.

So that would be the kind of question I think that I would have as a technician of, all right, if I'm drawing there, what is my boundaries that I could make use of? This is a start.

But it's probably may not be complete.

I don't know that yet.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner I always want to promote you. Communications director Woods, did you have a comment?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Can you go back to the table because what I saw on the table was the Waverly school.

And I saw the west or Lansing Sexton which would be the west side of Lansing in the description.

I just want to make sure I read it right.

There it is all Lansing addresses is most of Waverly school districts and half of Lansing school.

Specifically referencing Sexton high school which is on the west side.

And I don't know what the boundaries are but it kind of gives us some type of description in terms of what it's talking about.

Then if we look at the other one it's basically referring to Evert and the east Lansing school District as a whole and the third one would be the bath Haslett and Okemos school.

>> KIM BRACE: Right.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: So I don't know if that helps.

But basically what I'm interpreting from that is the schools that are feeder system to Sexton would be that Lansing one of the schools that are in Lansing school District and the schools that are feeder system to evert and eastern would be another District that breaks up the Lansing school District as well as east Lansing school District then you have all of bath Haslett and Okemos schools.

>> KIM BRACE: So it seems like what they are suggesting is dividing Lansing between school districts.

This set over here, that set over there.

And that would be the suggestion that they were having in terms of if you're going to divide Lansing, this is how you ought to divide it.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Mr. Brace is it possible for you to enlarge the text on this screen since our live stream viewing audience can see?

>> KIM BRACE: Yes.

That is something that, let's see.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: That is the assumption I would draw, Kim, from it. So the decision is to the committee or the Commission do we accept that as the boundaries for the schools? Or do we need to validate that?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: What I hope we are doing in our process is trying to minimize the assumptions we have to make and I think that is part of why we do this process.

I don't think it's a school District I think it's portions of a school District and what Mr. Woods was talking about and I think if we are going to right, we have to somehow go back and find a shape files.

I do have shape files for ISD.

I did find those school District shape files and I'm seeing Mr. Morgan nod his head so if we have ISD District shape files that we can use as an overlay we might get some representation.

But again these are portions of a school District.

I do think there is too many assumptions we are making here.

And I think for me it's important that we sort of and we are setting a precedent.

This is our first one so I feel let's try not make assumptions let's not say try and use the process that we have, yeah, which does say, and read it, we have the flow chart but we have a process here.

Let's see if I can read it.

That COI process.

This is the flow chart but I'm thinking of right the COI process and considerations is there sufficient data available to determine geographic boundary of this proposed community to ensure its inclusion and entirety within the same District.

I think we can -- I mean, it's less, there is population, there is less population.

Like, yeah, it's a small population so we can include it.

It's how we include it or let's say not making an assumption.

>> KIM BRACE: Take a look though if you notice on my screen here, I moved over and there is the total population for each of these three.

So you've got the left hand one, which is this first one, is 18,195 people.

You almost got a House District right there.

The second one.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Apologies Mr. Brace I believe it says 89,000.

>> KIM BRACE: I'm sorry 89,000 you are right.

The second one, the east Lansing side is 10,980.

Then the outside rural parts of what that is is 52000.

So just from the standpoint of drawing and how you could end up utilizing that, this is why we put in the populations so that you can have that information too at the same time.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead Mr. Morgan.

Is your mic on? Problem with mics today.

>> MORGAN: So what Kim was saying is that the populations were added based on the shape file that was received from Moon Duchin.

So the shape file is the shape file he appended the population so it satisfies the request to have population associated with these citizen defined boundaries.

In addition, it might be possible to get the school boundaries as a shape file independent of what the citizen has drawn.

That is an option you can look at that would require extra work asking the citizen to provide it or having someone look at the boundaries through the county websites for example or may be unified school Districts in the census data which may or may not correspond to the actual school districts on the ground.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: One of my favorite things is don't over think this.

We don't have to assume anything.

The person has drawn it.

Period.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Commissioner Lett.

I tend to agree, if we are going to micromanage every plan and try to provide verification, we are never going to get this process done.

I mean I just say this is what people have drawn.

We follow process and accept it and it does not mean at least I don't interpret that we are bound in stone to not split up this particular community of interest.

It has been identified the way I would interpret it.

Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: And keep in mind we can make assumptions.

We have a second round of public hearings we will go through for people to make comments on if they don't think we did the right thing this a particular area.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, I would suggest we don't try to modify or bring assumptions in as well and just accept it as it is and move forward

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: A hello COI how do we when we get to that one how do we deal with that one then? See what I mean? Whatever we are doing now we have to apply consistently.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: The hello COI would be one that we would send back, have the Department of State send back to them and ask them to explain it.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I think we can tell off the cuff that that one is probably not legitimate.

Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Well the hello one or other things like that it does not comply with our other things it's not contiguous and now we can't use that and set it aside and move on.

We have to do this much more concisely because we haven't drawn anything yet and we are running out of time.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Well, I think that to answer MC's query of how we go about this, we were chosen 13 of us were chosen to make these decisions.

We take the information that was given us.

If it wasn't concise enough then we are going to interpret it.

Going to apply it in the most logical way possible and move forward.

We can't, well, we can go back and ask them what they meant.

But we are never going to get them drawn if we start doing that.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Do we as Commissioners have this list? I don't know that I've seen this particular list that you have up right now.

>> KIM BRACE: I don't know if Sarah, did you check in what Moon sent? I mean we can generate -- I mean I can end up generating that and sending it to Sarah in that regard.

But, yes.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay I'm just trying to think of how we can make this process go quicker and more efficiently.

That was my thought if we had the list ahead of time, we can look at it and be like yes, no, maybe so and vote on it and move on.

>> KIM BRACE: I would agree with you.

We are experimenting here.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we are trying to figure it out.

This is all new.

>> KIM BRACE: This we are making the cake and figuring out what the ingredients are.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Remote schooling let's give each other a little grace and we are all learning on the fly.

Okay so, Doug, I think we've discussed this particular COI, what is the next step on our flow chart? We discussed the validity of it and so what is our next step?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I think we are just going through the first one in that we will speed up the process.

We need to accept it or send a note back.

But my assumption is we should accept it.

I think it's got the adequate criteria to use.

And move forward.

So nobody has an objection we can look at the next COI.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Executive Director Hammersmith?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: And then just a comment we were going to flag those so we were going to label them with an F dash and whatever number the EDS team creates so we are not consistently going back to what we've already done.

We know that we are done.

It's F final.

We made the recommendation to accept and move on to the next one.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I think you kind of said this already but I just want to make sure when we say so it's a final one that doesn't mean it's locked in stone.

We will not break that up, right? Because we have a lot more to consider.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Sarah Reinhardt?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you Commissioner Orton.

Per your rules of procedure or your mapping process and consideration document that was adopted yesterday once a COI of the Commission is final can only be altered with a majority vote of the Commission it can be changed, not set in stone but it would require majority vote.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: What does that mean?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: That is what I was just going to ask because we are going to have a bunch of competing ones.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: The only thing that I see that that means is we have taken a look at it, yes, that is a reasonable COI and we will consider it in our mapping process.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: That is the way I understand it too Steve.

>> KIM BRACE: I would raise one other question for you.

Is the COI the three ones combined? Or is it one at a time? See because we have three different COIs, we have looked at here so that is you know kind of if you're going to adopt it, is it all three of them combined? Or one at a time basically.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: These communities of interest appear to be separate submissions particularly in the way that they have divided the ISDs for the school districts as Commissioner Lett indicated between those areas.

So they appear to be three distinct.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I would agree with that, there is three maps.

I mean they are altogether.

But they are three separate COIs and three separate entries and there is three separate drawings.

So we considered all three of them.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: We considered all three at once, does anyone have particular concerns or objection with the COIs or at this point can we say we accept them?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I suggest we accept them as three separate ones and it appears what was submitted and move forward.

>> KIM BRACE: Sure that is fine.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay any objection to that? Otherwise we will just move forward.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Moving on.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Let's look at the next COI and I think we learned a lot from the first one and we will speed this up.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioners.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes Ms. Reinhardt.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: For record keeping purposes before we move on, I do have a few additional questions for the Commission regarding your approach to drafting the COI.

I'll just start with a few of the process questions from the process document that just require a bit of additional clarity and I'll do this on an ongoing basis for record keeping. How did the Commission consider data available to determine a geographic boundary at this proposed COI?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I would suggest that that was from the maps that were provided.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Additional public comments regarding the COI agree or conflict to your knowledge?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I agree.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Is the Commission able to draw conclusions about the COI boundaries based on all available information?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Correct, we were able to do that.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you. You may proceed.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Just to clarify I want to make sure we have this clear for the record that on the spreadsheet that you had, Mr. Brace, this was FID17, 18 and 19?

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>> KIM BRACE: Yes.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I just want to state that for the record and Commissioner Witjes has a question too.

>> KIM BRACE: Let me raise one.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> KIM BRACE: You looked at the FID, okay, that is really not the number that you want to be looking at.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: The ID number, you have to make that bigger for my eyeballs.

>> KIM BRACE: Yes, I agree FID is simply within shape in a GIS, the record number that is in that table.

The most important one is what is being transferred back and forth for Moon and us which is the ID or the plan ID number, okay.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So what is the plan ID for those?

>> KIM BRACE: 18892-0-1-2.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay so 19, 892-0-1-2.

>> KIM BRACE: Right.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay thank you Commissioner Witjes still has a question.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: What happens if a community of interest that we approve now is encompassed by a community of interest that is larger? Because for example I'm looking at the public comment portal right now I'm looking at IDC1988 which is the greater Lansing area.

And a good part of the one we just approved is in here for the school districts.

Does that require that we have to discuss and approve the larger one then and then by default the smaller ones are automatically included at that point?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I don't think so.

I mean everybody can have as we have realized in 18, 16 or 18 public hearings everybody has their own interpretation of what a COI is.

So we've looked at the first one.

Which encompassed three quite frankly and the questions that were asked and answered are you know are they accurate? Are they I'll say legitimate, can we tell what they are? Yeah, we could.

So now we are going to look at another one that is even bigger.

Well, okay.

That's the same questions.

Can we tell what it is, what they are trying to get at? Does it seem reasonable? We will consider it.

How we consider it in the end, that's what the debate is about.

They are going to be all kinds of overlaps unless we go back and say you got to modify your COI for us.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Mr. Morgan?

>> MORGAN: Along Commissioner Lett's lines these conflicting COI may be for an analysis like a Congressional plan if this is a greater area here in the State Senate it's too big for a State Senate District you can use the COI to inform your decision at different levels of mapping.

>> KIM BRACE: Let me share with you one other piece.

We just -- I just turned on the next shape file in that sorted order of what we have. And that is 22028.

And that now shows your boundary of that particular shape file, community of interest. That kind of overlaps with what other people have said.

I turned off those other three.

But you can end up starting to see how things tend to sit on top of each other.

So there's a good example of this in what we have just been looking at.

You know, we can turn back on that one there.

Well that doesn't quite cover as much as what the other one did.

There is different ways of taking a look at these.

And potentially, you know, changing the color on them so you can see the difference.

I mean there is a lot of different tools to help that process.

But what you are seeing is there is two different COIs that somewhat comport in the same way but don't quite comport in the same way.

And that's what you're going to see.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Certainly the boundaries are very important component of this discussion but again going back to the table for that particular, the new shape file that Mr. Brace has activated, again, going I would encourage the Commission to look again at the individual who submitted it, their explanation of it, why it's a COI, what the common interests are.

Or those considerations when the Commission is examining it.

Again, the boundaries are very important.

But when you're considering them, I think the reasoning put forward by the individuals or groups that are submitting them is a critical piece of that analysis.

And we will kind of demonstrate and inform why they selected the boundaries they did.

What the reasons were, what the support was and all of that was you know asked for and requested, getting people to talk about these areas.

>> KIM BRACE: So here is the text that went with this second one that I did for you. Community map, we are sharing is Lansing from the perspective of the young people. We know that these maps will go in effect for ten years.

And we will be by voting age by then.

Our voice is important.

We care about quality.

Racial equality, diversity, healthy lifestyles and the high school dropout prevention.

It's a good observation kind of things.

You know, I don't know why they did it to the I mean it's all of Lansing and some more of Delta Township over here, you know.

I don't know why they did that.

But that is what they are submitting on that side.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: So I would suggest so we can move through these quickly, do we have the boundaries? Do we have enough information to consider it if we move forward?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I agree with that.

And kind of to address Dustin's comments, I think as we look at these COIs one of the things that we need to consider is which ones are incongruent with each other.

Are we seeing a bunch of them that are saying generally speaking just like we are looking at right now.

>> KIM BRACE: Right.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: The first three were school districts.

If you look at this one it's kind of an expanded school District.

So I would say those two mesh.

Now, we are going to get somebody is going to come in and say bologna.

So those are the things that I think we are going to look at in these.

The more COIs are in agreement with one area that gives a lot of weight to us.

If we got ten that are, they may be the same area but for totally different reasons then we got to decide what we are going to do.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Okay I don't even know if I should say this but I'm thinking we're starting the COIs which is third on the list.

And I'm wondering if we are just getting bogged down in that.

It's going to take long.

Would it be possible for us to just draw a basic boundary that is approximately the right population, which is our first criteria and then we can just look and see in there like on the edges there might be some things we would be breaking up and we can take that into consideration and move it a little but the ones in the center we won't be breaking them up.

So we don't need to spend so much time thinking about those.

I'm just wondering if that might be a faster way to go about this.

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

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: The reason we are going through this part of it is to validate that we have the correct information on the COIs before we do any redistricting. Not that doing it your way would be acceptable.

I think it is an acceptable approach.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: But if we -- if some of these COIs are in the middle of the boundary we would create, we wouldn't -- we don't need to validate them.

It doesn't matter if we are not considering breaking them up is what I'm thinking.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I think I'd have to look at the numbers but I think the size of the population in the Lansing area we are going to have multiple districts, probably three.

I would think three Senate districts is that right about? So I think all of these are probably going to be divided in some way, shape or form because they are just too big.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Executive Director Hammersmith?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Sorry I was just going to ask Mr. Brace the population in these three Directors of the region that we are looking at so we have a better sense of how many Senate districts there would be there.

>> KIM BRACE:

>> While Kim is getting that information if you are looking only at the south central it's just the three counties but the we look at both south central and southeast together then it's a little more population than just those three counties.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: I wanted to address Commissioner Orton's suggestion about moving forward.

I just wanted to reiterate, again, that as the Commission develops its cadence and figures out what works, so if the Commission, this document can be amended and updated.

It's your document on your work process.

So if there is a suggestion to as Commissioner Orton indicated, let's see by population what these districts might look like and move forward in that manner.

Certainly that is something that the Commission could do.

And then we would update your process documents as needed.

I just didn't want the Commission to think that it was a rigid or an inflexible.

The mission is mapping.

This never has been done in this fashion in Michigan before.

So you know we are approaching it with grace and patience.

And finding out what works and how the information that you have available to you now can be best used to accomplish the task at hand which is drawing the Senate districts in the southeast and south central region.

So I just wanted to highlight that for your benefit.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, I mean I agree.

Continuous process improvement is perfectly acceptable.

And if we see that we are getting bogged down and we are really eating into our time, then let's discuss changing how we do it.

I think it's an excellent suggestion, Cynthia.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I agree with Commissioner Orton.

I think that if we do it by population, some of these COIs will fall within that.

And like she said we won't even have to worry about them.

We won't have to validate them.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: We will still respect their wishes because the ultimate product will still be, yeah, respecting their wish for a community of interest.

I do wonder and it would be a priority like it's the top priority too so do we want to try to switch now or do we want to do two or three more COIs and like continue with? What is the will of, yeah.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I'm just wondering if we can work through them quicker so that we can decide what we are accepting and what we are rejecting and then we have them.

And then we draw the lines and then if we need to dig deeper into a community of interest so say we want to draw a line here and oh, there is a community of interest we can look more closely at that particular community of interest.

Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Well we have done two.

Let's do ten and see how it goes, see how we do.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Technically we have done at least three so far.

It's the first group was three.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I considered that one since it was dash 0 dash 1 dash 2.

Let's just get a feel for how it's going and then see what we got to do.

That's my suggestion.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I think that is a good suggestion.

I think it's 11 we are supposed to break for lunch at Noon.

I think let's just continue doing what we are doing.

Work through the communities of interest.

And then at lunch we can all take a break.

We can all relax.

Think about it.

And if we decide that process isn't working for us, we can pivot and do something else.

Does anyone have any objection to sort of continuing for the next hour with what we have been doing? Does anyone need a break right now for five or ten minutes for personal needs? Okay so unless there are any objections, I would suggest that we take a ten-minute recess so people can get up and move around, we have been at it for two hours, hearing no objections let's go ahead and take a recess.

It's 11:02.

[Recess]

[No audio]

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Sarah is Erin online?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I am yes

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Commissioner Wagner.

I call the meeting back to order at 11:14 p.m.

For the purpose of the public watching and the public record, I will now turn the Michigan Department state Staff to take note of the Commissioners present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Hello, Commissioners.

Please say present when I call your name. If you are attending the meeting remotely state And unless absence is due to military duty, please disclose your physical location by stating the county, city, township, or village where you are attending the meeting remotely.

I'll start with Doug Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?

Rhonda Lange?

>> 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?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Present attending remotely from

Charlotte, Michigan.

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.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you. We are continuing with new business item which is working on mapping and considering communities of interest.

Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, I think we learned a lot this morning.

And I would suggest through discussions with other people that we take a look at these. We decide if the data is quickly decide if the data is there that we can utilize and make a decision whether we need to go back to the people for more information or move forward, accept it and move forward and just try to do it in two or three minutes for each COI.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Certainly my recommendation as far as going back for more information, it's my understanding that the Department of State had already sent out a communication for people to supplement that data and that the mapping portal contains information guiding individuals on their submissions about naming it, providing the rationale and reasoning behind it.

So I would encourage the Commission to move forward with their determinations based on the information in front of them at this time.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.

I also need a point of clarification because I'm looking at our process document and I notice that it references that is there sufficient data to ensure its inclusion in its entirety within the same District.

And I think something that we've discussed here is that some of these communities of interest are very large, so much so that we would not be able to include them in a single District.

So my question for General Counsel would be is that a limitation on our current COI process or can we just move through the process quickly and approve things even if they might be too large and we might ultimately have to divide them?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair you are absolutely correct if you move through the process and look and the analysis that you're doing now and again you will build your cadence and be able to do this once you're used to the analysis and the process, you're going through for the analysis I think it will go much more quickly.

But again when you get to the mapping point that is when the COIs will interact with other criteria.

So right now the Commission is looking at COIs independently as Commissioner Orton highlighted, that you're looking just at the submission from a member of the public and making your analysis just based on that without the context of the other criteria or the proposed District lines.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay thank you.

All right so I think moving forward what we are going to do is try to be more systematic and pull up a community of interest and look at it, we are going to decide following our process is there sufficient data to determine the geographic boundary of this proposed community of interest.

If there is, we are going to agree on that and then move on.

If there is not, we need to decide if we need to obtain additional information or desire to obtain additional information.

And you know just follow our flow chart and make sure we are answering those questions and moving on quickly.

So Mr. Clark do you have another community of interest you want us to look at by number?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I don't have the numbers.

But the next.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Mr. Brace.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Kim?

>> KIM BRACE:

COMMISSIONER CLARK: As Kim brings these up, I will ask the question do we have enough information to continue on? And if there is no objection we will just move forward.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: And if we decide to move forward Sarah has some questions that have to be answered for each one.

>> KIM BRACE: Our next one is saying the title is greater Lansing community.

Well, that is a good question.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: We did not, no.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: We did not so let's not make a decision on the young people within and sufficient information.

Anybody think we do not? I believe we do.

Okay let's give it over to Sarah and she has got some questions for her documentation.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you Commissioner Clark.

Actually the questions that I would ask are reflected in your process document for step one questions, step two question and step three.

So if the Commission would like to proceed and examine and providing responses to those questions then I can record those, thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I'm sorry do you want us to include the considerations to get to "Yes" or "No" comments? Or just the upper question?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I would encourage the Commission to look through the considerations and if you feel like you want to bring up one of those, for any particular COI, feel free to.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Just to clarify again the considerations and the steps that don't every step doesn't have to be recorded.

Again, if the COI is contiguous, if the rationale and reasoning is there, at this point the Commission is just collecting the information that it needs to move forward with the mapping.

And I think when you get into the mapping and you start it was already raised well what if a community of interest is bigger than the District? Well then, we will need to get more deeper into that analysis and addressing that tension between those criteria of the population and the communities of interest.

And I skipped over contiguity because I know the Commission are not going to draw lines that are not contiguous.

So I would again is what was submitted the boundaries, was the rationale there and have that.

So I don't think each step needs to be captured at this point as closely but this is just the thought process that the Commission should be going through.

That's outlined in the steps.

Certainly if there is something you want to highlight for the record that can be captured.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So we are looking is there sufficient data to determine the geographic boundary? And I'm just trying to understand what are the questions I'm supposed to be asking.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Could you go through the questions one by one Sarah?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Absolutely Commissioner Clark.

So for your COI process and consideration step one is there sufficient data available to determine a geographical boundary of this proposed COI?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: The answer is yes on that.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: As you look through your public comment, for example COI map submitted through the public comment portal the Commission may determine there is enough information there if they supplied the geographical boundary.

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Public comment through verbal description at public hearings the Commission might see if there is additional COI in the public comment describing that or providing geographical boundaries for example alternative data such as ACS or ESRY data or census data to determine what the boundary of that COI might be.

These are just options that are available for the Commission.

So the considerations there are assess available public comment submissions describing the COI and examining through the public comment submissions describing the COI agree or conflict.

And as I mentioned examine other available data if it's available.

And if the Commission would like to do so.

And can you determine if the boundaries of the COI of the community of interest would not be divided between multiple districts if possible.

As Commissioners Szetela mentioned earlier, and as the note underneath reflects some larger COIs may not fit entirely into one District.

Step two is the Commission able to obtain additional information or data about this proposed COI? So that would be if the Commission determines there is no not enough data available.

So step two is examine that other data if the Commission determines that it needs it.

And if there is sufficient data to be able to determine a boundary of the COI you proceed to step three.

Based on all available information the Commission may glib -- deliberate and include final COI and declare final COI in inclusion in the special data layer.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I would volunteer to do this little process so that Sarah can pay attention to what we need to do.

So I would volunteer to read these steps and go through and jump through the hoops.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I'm fine with you doing that.

I'm just wondering for a lot of these based on what we have done already I mean I think I don't think we can say no, there is no conflicting communities of interests out there because we know there are.

So I think maybe if everybody is comfortable with this, obviously I'm just one person that we move through the process by saying, yes, the community is sufficiently defined.

There is no lack of contiguity.

We do recognize that there may be conflicts with other communities of interest.

We also recognize this District could potentially be larger than an individual District.

But we are choosing to accept it as final at this point.

That is kind of my thought on it because otherwise we are for every single one of these districts like one, I'm looking at right now we are going to have to answer no to those questions and based on our process document then we have to go ask for more information so maybe we need some changes in our process.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Let's walk through the one we got on the screen.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA:

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I'm volunteering to do it

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Take it away Mr. Lett.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: We got a map up

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I'm not seeing it on the screen anymore.

>> KIM BRACE: I stopped sharing so I could try to recover what I was in the middle of.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I think we will have the same comment on most of these.

Maybe we should just have a standard set of comments and say we use the standard unless we have an exception.

So we can get through it quick.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: That's what I'm thinking is that we do step one.

We comment on the record that we recognize that there may be conflicts with other COIs and that we recognize it may be larger than the final Senate or House Districts or whatever the case may be.

I think Senate and house would be the only ones that would be implicated nonetheless we are approving it as a final COI.

Did you have a comment Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Mr. Brace, when your screen was up, I saw the file explorer was preventing you from clicking on anything on the Autobound edge.

I don't see the screen anymore but it was a windows file explorer that was keeping you from clicking the buttons in Autobound edge.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Why don't we proceed without it up on the screen.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Just to drop back to number one I don't think we did the questions, the question is sufficient data available to determine geographical boundary of this proposed community of interest to ensure its inclusion in an entirety within a District.

If you recall that was the boundaries that were laid out by the person of the what appeared to be the school districts unless there is some objection that would be a yes and we would go to step three.

Which says based on all available information the Commission may deliberate and include final COI special data layer of the COI for reference during the mapping process if needed and proceed with deliberation and determination of how this community of interest would be considered or included.

We had that discussion.

And we basically decided that we were going to include that one.

So unless there is an objection now, that number one would be included.

I don't have the ID number.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I have the ID number.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: It was three of them.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: 198920, 198921, 198922.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Now we are on number two.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I done have that.

>> KIM BRACE: 22028.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: 22028 was the next one that the map they had drawn and assumes overlapped the first three.

So the question then is there sufficient data available to determine a geographical boundary of this proposed community of interest.

I would say it was since the person drew it.

There is no objection we will go to step three based on all the information.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So we are not addressing the considerations to get to yes questions then? That was where my concern was with do public comment submissions describing a community of interest agree or conflict. So we are going to skip over those.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes, to one you jump to three.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Considerations to get to "Yes" or "No" which is what Sarah was asking me to ask questions about.

These under lying questions.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I don't think you look at those unless there is a no.

>> It's a subset of step one.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: It's a subset of step one that is where I feel we are not following the process because we are supposed to consider the steps to get to "Yes" or "No" and I feel like to answer those questions.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Help me understand there.

Because the process says if yes go to step three.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: It says considerations to get to "Yes" or "No" underneath. That is where I'm concerned that we are not following the process.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Then what you're telling me is we got to go through each one regard less.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: My recommendation to the Commission here is that as you're going through the steps, the considerations you know they are suggestions. Things that you may consider.

I would encourage the Commissioners to be familiar with those considerations as they are going through.

My recommendation might be that you may not necessarily need to read each one aloud but certainly Commissioners read through them, familiarize yourself with them as you are going through and if one of them particularly stands out as a question that

maybe beneficial to raise, that individual Commissioner may pose that to the Commission.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: My comment would be, is, if we go through this process on each community of interest it will take us probably a half an hour on each community of interest.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: That was my point.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: State House and Congressional maps, I'm looking at this it will take us forever.

So we either are going to have to not do that or we are going to have to change the process or we are going to have to accept that we are going to spend all kinds of time only each one of these.

Because we did not consider any of these on the first two.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: That was exactly my point and my concern is that if we have to make a determination that this COI can fit within the districts, even based on the ones we already and proved the answer to that would be no, I'll catch you in a second Ms. Reinhardt and therefore that was why I was saying make that general statement for step one that we recognize that there could potentially be conflicts between other communities of interest and that we recognize that the District or the proposed community of interest could in fact be larger than a Senate or House District however we are choosing to accept it as a final nonetheless to get it on the record we are aware these could be concerns.

We are not going to do a deep dive into it right now, we will do that if we need to once, we start mapping that was my proposal to kind of address the concern of what I'm seeing in the process document versus what is efficient for us to get through the communities of interests.

Mrs. Reinhardt.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you Madam Chair.

Just one additional point I wanted to raise regarding Commissioner Lett's comment community of interest for each region as they are established would be consistent from District type to District type.

So for example, today you're examining communities of interest in the southeast and south central region.

And tomorrow when you come in to map for the State House in the southeast region the communities of interest that you decide upon today would remain consistent through tomorrow on Monday.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Ms. Reinhardt put her mask back up so I think she is concluded.

So a few observations.

Again consistent with my earlier statement that really this process and again the mapping process document can be modified so some of these questions here at this stage we wouldn't be able to have the answers to because there are no proposed districts.

So if the Commission decides to proceed in a manner as Commissioner Orton suggested where there is a District identified and then the COIs are in there it might be appropriate.

What I would offer at this time is that, again, that is there a boundary? Is it easily identifiable boundary? What is the reasoning and rationale that the individual has proffered for the community of interest? And recognizing that and then moving forward to the next.

And then when you're mapping you will be able to get into the deeper conversations particularly if there is a need to split a community or to not keep a community of interest whole.

Again, in looking at it in conjunction with the other criteria right now all the Commission is looking at is communities of interest.

So the question that is supported is there rationale given and does the Commission at this point want to move forward with that community of interest.

So acknowledging that it may be split or might not be split or how big it is or how small it is really that information really only comes into play if you will when you're mapping. And right now the way that it's structured is you are simply identifying and considering the communities of interest put forward before you.

Whether they are going to be over laid into the permanent data structure in the database.

Again, I grant there might be some that are not contiguous and some that for reasons that don't match up with the constitutional framework for a community of interest, that there might be reasons why the community that the Commission excuse me would move forward without formalizing a community of interest.

But that be examined and that might make the process move forward faster.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: We will accept that recommendation unless we have objections and basically have two steps so first step is there sufficient data to determine the geographical boundary of COI or ensure the inclusion within the same District. Step two is did the commenter provide a reason and rationale to support identifying this as a community of interest and if we have those two questions then we can accept it as a final COI.

I got a thumbs up from Ms. Reinhardt so I know I'm back on track.

Okay, so now that we've got COI, 22028 do we agree that there is sufficient data to determine the geographical boundary of this proposed community of interest? Yes.

Any objections? Do we agree that the submitter provide reason and rationale supported identifying that area as a community of interest.

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In light of that we will accept this as a final community of interest to be on our data layer.
Let's move on to the next one.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay the next one is 22199.

And let me bring up sharing.

So 22199.

We turn off 22028.

And so this one is simply our region.

Yep.

So the red there is what that 22199, the next one is.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Is there a description of that other than just Tri-county?

>> KIM BRACE: It is greater Lansing community and it has Ingham, Eaton and Clifton counties makeup the greater Lansing region also called the Tri-county area.

These counties share economic and cultural interests.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So then is there sufficient data available to determine the geographic boundary of this proposed community of interest? Yes.

Yes, go ahead Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I just was thinking maybe it would go a little quicker if well Kim is sharing and we are looking at that and maybe since MC has it pulled up maybe he could read the description so we don't have to switch screens as much.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Does that work?

>> KIM BRACE: I would suggest the other item that you might want to record is the population of this COI.

So I can provide that to you coming from here.

That would give you some idea as you look towards, you know, how big, how small is this thing that somebody has proposed.

So that particular one is 47,320 people.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: That can't possibly be right.

>> KIM BRACE: I'm sorry you are right.

My screen my columns were too small 473,203 people.

You're correct.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, so we approve step one.

Any thoughts or objections on step two which is the reason and rationale identified for supporting the community of interest.

Any concerns about that? All right let's go ahead and accept the COI.

22199, correct? Greater Lansing area.

>> KIM BRACE: 23666 is the next one.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: The description for 23666 is the area I have mapped out should be a foundation for a District within Michigan.

These communities all have heavy economic ties to the Lansing Metropolitan area additionally this area is demographically similar to the overall demographics of Michigan as a whole.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I can't really tell what they have included there.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: You don't have it up yet.

>> KIM BRACE: You can, yes.

23666.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: 23666.

>> KIM BRACE: Yes.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: 23666.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay, this particular one, I will turn off the previous one, so 23666 is encompassing more area than our region.

Okay, I've turned on the blue outlines are our regions.

Okay, and so this one except for this little Township down here.

>> Not sure why it did that.

>> KIM BRACE: This is a little bit more encompassing than our whatever we are calling this region.

But that's what this COI is.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Additional information in District R it's not in the spreadsheet but says this community of interest is a group of various cities, towns and Townships.

No more information.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: They expanded in Shiawassee County and picked up Owosso and north up into Ionia County.

Why they eliminated the southwest corner of Eaton county is beyond me.

Maybe that's where Cynthia might live.

And said they don't want Cynthia.

>> KIM BRACE: Yep.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Then they are over on the east side, I don't know where that is.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Almost to Howell, yeah.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I mean theoretically.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Fowlerville.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Going to Lansing or going to Detroit.

>> KIM BRACE: Yeah.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Following our process step one is there stuff data to determine the geographic boundary? Yes.

Is there reason and rationale to support? I think there is because they explained why they drew those lines so let's move on to the next one and approve this as a final COI.

23666.

>> KIM BRACE: The next one is 24320.

24320, yep.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: This is the Tri-county COI and Commissioner members. Thank you for your important work and includes Clinton Ingham and Eaton and they are a formal planning region in Michigan and for good reason and there are diverse from quite urban to quite rural the entire area is centered on the Lansing Metro area.

Indeed each county contains part of the urban and suburban complex of Lansing and the region economy is highly linked particularly to state comment GM and large University and hospital entity the in the area and Charlotte, Mason, St. John and Eaton Rapids all have large proportions of their workforce commute to those areas, the area's large employers as well as others in the core.

This region is formerly, is currently fragmented into various districts and thus has diluted the area's political voice. Keeping the region together would address this problem.

Disclosure, I'm a professor at Michigan State University in this region.

I'm sensitive to the great, local, diversity within this region, areas and most if not all parts of the state. Still I think keeping these areas together is unbalanced. Rather than splitting them as a region works, large community of interest across several key characteristics.

And that is it.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Is that the shape file with the red lines?

>> KIM BRACE: It is.

Let me turn off this one.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Looks to me like it's that.

>> KIM BRACE: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Tri-county.

>> KIM BRACE: Yes

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> KIM BRACE: 24320 so it's a duplicate of what somebody else had submitted basically.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So then as a duplicate do we want to accept it as well. Step one sufficient data to determine the geographic boundary I think that is clear from the map.

They have a nice clear map.

Step two there was a very lengthy reason and rationale that as you provided.

So I think unless there is any objections we can go ahead and accept this COI as a final COI and that is number 24320.

Next one.

>> KIM BRACE: Next one is 29546.

Back to I think what we have seen before.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: This is called the Delta Township Lansing Township this District would provide community continuity between Delta Township and either ton county and adjacent Lansing Township in Ingham County both have similar racial socioeconomic and voting attributes.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I can just as a little background information on why that may be submitted Lansing Township is a separate governmental unit and Delta Township is a separate governmental unit and it will be interesting to see when this map comes up because Lansing Township is not contiguous.

>> KIM BRACE: Let's see here.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA:

>> KIM BRACE: Okay here we go.

So it's basically Delta centered and Delta Township and a little bit part of Lansing over here, pulling out some of Delta Township.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: It looks different than what is in District R that is shown in District R.

>> KIM BRACE: Really.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Yeah, it's got that little.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: On District R they are showing what I said was not contiguous which is Lansing Township, Township, so that little part over there. While they are showing that is probably 496 to get over there.

They are totally separate.

>> KIM BRACE: Separate, okay, all right we will have to investigate why that is on that side who lives where, right? Right.

It may be.

I mean they are not showing all of that down there.

But that is possible.

But it's a little bit different.

So we will have to see why that is.

I don't know why that would be.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: The answer is easy General Motors had plants in Lansing and Delta Township so they had the tax base and wouldn't come into Lansing.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay, okay, so 29546.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Step one do we have a defined geographic boundary? Any concerns that we do not? And do we have a reasonable description that was provided? And reasonable description for step two for map number 29546? All right everybody is comfortable accepting this as a final COI.

Let's move on to our next one and see if maybe we can get one or two more done before lunch.

>> KIM BRACE: This is 29618.

Map of central Michigan farm community.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Small towns farms should not be included with Lansing.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark go ahead with your comment.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: While we are waiting for this what I'm seeing when we are bringing these up and we are approving every one and have sufficient data so I question the value of time to move forward doing that.

And take a look at Cynthia's approach to things.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I think the concern with that would be constitutionally we are required to consider communities of interests as our number three ranked criteria. And I'm worried that we would be deviating from that, that process if we don't consider before we draw the maps.

And I think it might end up resulting in more work down the line if we don't even get these overlays on the map.

Go ahead Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Would it be more efficient and would it be allowed if we maybe each Commissioner as homework goes through and we can look at them and if the lines are there and if there is an explanation, then that's fine.

If we find some that aren't that's what we can bring to the meeting so that we can just say, yes, we each approve each of those except this one, not for this reason.

This one not for this reason.

Maybe.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I think that makes sense.

I just I know when like Mr. Brace is pulling these up like I have the spreadsheet but I don't know maybe I'm not looking at it right but I don't have them tied to particular regions like you do so I feel we need the regional information because I did a sort by submission area but I'm still like I don't have a nice, pretty list like you have that is what I would say.

>> KIM BRACE: And you know we are also caught right now with waiting in terms of what Fred is going to do in terms of implementing this.

So it will be easier for you and certainly from the standpoint of looking at them individually and in your own you know you have the first 20 or whatever in this region kind of a thing.

You should be able to you know next week get through these individually yourselves would be the ultimately the goal and then we could do what Cynthia has said.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Sort of get the list in advance so we can look it over.

>> KIM BRACE: Yes.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

You give a lot of homework.

You are a terrible professor.

I'm just teasing.

All right looking at 29618 it's on the screen now so this is quite a bit north of Lansing and I think that's Dewitt this there possibly.

As the major town.

So does this provide sufficient data to determine the geographical boundary? And MC I believe you had read off the description to us already.

So do we believe that the reason and rationale support identifying as a community of interest? Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: This is a personal opinion but I don't consider southern Gratiot county part of the greater Lansing area.

So by that alone, so the community of interest may be nixed because it's saying it has to do with the greater Lansing area but my opinion is Gratiot County is not part of that.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead Commissioner Rothhorn then I have a thought too.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I'm not sure where the Gratiot county is coming up, do you read that somewhere?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: There is a blue line right there.

>> KIM BRACE: The blue lines are your regions.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: That is it right there.

That is Gratiot County line Clinton Township.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: They have drawn the small town farming area they identified with it and separate from Lansing so I guess, yes because she is describing it in the description as Clinton County that is why I brought that up.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Sorry I'm just reading this comment.

Okay, any comments about step one? Is there sufficient data to determine the geographic boundary? And so that's a yes on step one.

Is there reason and rationale to support identifying as a community of interest? Is this all part of the same comment? It just says small town farms should not be included in Lansing is that the only comment we have for that?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: The only other one is farming, small towns, not the Lansing area.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, to me that's not even identifying a community of interest.

That is saying I don't like you and don't want to be there to me that is not a community of interest.

A community of interest is my group that are together.

So I find that one a little odd.

And I would caution us to be careful to not accept things like that in communities of interest.

Because saying I don't want to be with those people, that's not saying you have a community of interest in my humble upon.

Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I would agree that one sentence there is just saying keep us separate so I would not include that if that was my decision.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I read it a little different.

I looked at it as rural urban argument that we've heard from all these public hearings.

And this person is focusing on the farming areas.

And maybe because of the way the verbiage is.

Negative about the Lansing area.

But really, it's negativity about urban area.

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

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I agree with Commissioner Clark.

Because we've heard you know the themes throughout our meetings and certainly one is urban versus rural, City versus farm.

This one clearly is our community of interest is small farm community cities, not Lansing.

That's our community of interest.

We may not think it's a good community of interest.

Or a bad community of interest.

Or whatever but it's their community of interest and they can define it.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Well I mean my point on that is it's not that they can't define their community over interest.

That is different.

Saying this is my community of interest is different.

Saying I don't want to be included with somebody else, that is not a community of interest.

You can say I have a small farming community but anybody who is identifying their community, that does not include a right with it to have your own little exclusive District.

That is just your group.

I mean these groups are going to be combined and so it gives me pause when someone says here is my community of interest.

I'll give you that.

Small farm, fine.

But then say and I don't want to be included with them because your community of interest does not guaranty, we are going to draw maps that way.

You can have a rural population and still be included with urban and a Hispanic population and still be included with non-Hispanics.

Your community of interest says put us together, not keep us away from other people.

So that is what concerns me with that comment go ahead Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Further I mean if we keep going down that line, we will approve every single one of these.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I think we are.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: What is the point of doing this? Because.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: To look and see what people are saying their community of interest are so down the line when we start drawing maps, we then can consider whether that is going to be included or cut across or whatever we are going to do with it.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, General Counsel?

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

So the Commission and part of its community of interest outreach did have tell us what your community is and tell us what your community isn't.

So that was part of the guidelines.

And you know, certainly not in reference to the comment that or the proposed community of interest that is before the Commission now, but you can extrapolate a whole host of assumptions based on the inclusion or the exclusion of potential areas. Again, this purpose, the purpose of what the Commission is doing right now is to identify whether it's the reasoning and the rationale is provided and the boundaries are set. I think that more in depth kind of consideration and look and those excellent questions that MDOS staff prepared in that particular Section regarding COI considerations, they are excellent deliberative questions for the mapping portion.

So when you get to a -- again I'm not relating this comment to the community of interest before the Commission on the screen, generally speaking when the mapping comes up and a you are doing that evaluation of how that community of interest fits in to that District that's being proposed, that will require a more in depth analysis.

So that would be for purposes of where the Commission is at this moment in time with the data capture of the COI information, the information that I would give.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Forgive me, but we keep saying when we are in the mapping portion.

Aren't we in the mapping portion today? Like don't we need to be drawing these things along District lines?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Ms. Reinhardt I see her waving her hand do you want to go first General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Certainly Commissioner Witjes is correct the Commission has solidly moved in the mapping phase but what we are engaged in right at this moment is simply evaluating the COIs that have been proposed.

In order to put them on the shape files on the overlay so that when you start drawing that Senate District the COIs are there and then when you're deciding oh, based on the

population what needs to happen and you're engaged in the active mapping process, so you are in the mapping phase but again the way that the process is scheduled is that you address the COIs first.

And then you map the Senate and then again when you move to the house and the Congressional districts all the COIs will already be there.

You're only engaging in this activity once for each region when you initially go there and then I would like to note as well for new COIs that are dropped into those areas they would need to be addressed in the future.

However, for the where the Commission is now is how we are mapping and that is addressing the COIs then moving on to actual line drawing so hopefully that distinction was clear.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: It does but the way I see it or the way the schedule is that we approved yesterday states as I read it says that we are supposed to have districts drawn for the Senate in both the south central and the southeast regions by the end of today.

We are halfway through our meeting right now and we haven't drawn a single District. So this is not working.

Whatever it is that we are doing is not working.

And that's just my personal belief here.

We need to be drawing something and then encompassing communities of interest because if we just keep going and doing this it's going to be 4:00 before we even have one particular line drawn and then we are just going to be put behind by days if not hours if not days to get this whole thing done for the Senate or all three maps drawn. I mean I feel like what we are doing right now is creditably insufficient.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Ms. Reinhardt?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you Madam Chair.

The only thing I wanted to add is just regarding the conversation around COIs.

As your General Counsel stated, certain considerations might be best considered during the actual drawing of District lines.

But one thing that I just did want to point out is that while on your public hearings there was a slide presented to the public about what does the MICRC want to know about your community of interest.

And one of those bullet points presented to the public was are there nearby areas that strengthen or weaken your COI, thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Ms. Reinhardt.

One second.

Any additional comments about Commissioner Clark I'm sorry you had your hand up.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes, I wanted to mention that the way I view this is that we are taking a look at the requirements that the public has given us.

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And all we are doing is validating at this point and saying we are going to consider them when we start the mapping.

But I think we need to go through this.

And get rid of the you know the public comments that are not relevant.

And being not relevant is not having enough data to consider.

So I just want to mention that.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I would like to move that we go to lunch break and we can each think about this while we are on lunch and.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I was going to suggest we have already done step one with respect to 29618, let's unless anyone has objection to step two, I'm going to go on the record and say that I think that's a really, really weak rationale for a District because I don't think it's about their community.

I think it's about who they don't want to be with.

But I think everybody else is fine with approving this.

Are there any objections or concerns for 29618? Okay Commissioner Witjes is telling me he shares my concern so let's go ahead and approve 29618.

We had a scheduled lunch break at 12.

We are now at 12:07.

So let's go ahead and say we will be back here at 1:25 barring any objections.

Okay barring any objections we are taking a break for lunch.

We will be back at 1:25 approximately.

Thank you everybody.

[Lunch recess]

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Good afternoon I call this meeting back to order at 1:03 p.m.

For the purpose of the public watching and the public record, I will now turn the Michigan Department state Staff to take note of the Commissioners present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Hello, Commissioners.

Welcome back.

Please say present when I call your name If you are attending the meeting remotely state during roll call you are attending remotely and disclosing the location stating City, Township, County or Village and the City you are attending.

I'll start with Doug Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?

Rhonda Lange?

>> 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?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

Sorry one moment. I'm checking to see if Erin is present.

All right, I'll move on and come back to her.

Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Nine Commissioners are present and there is a quorum.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you,

At this point we are returning and we are still on our agenda item new business but I believe our Executive Director and General Counsel wanted to make some comments.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Madam Chair apologies for the interruption for the record Erin indicated she is present but her microphone is malfunctioning.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you very much.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Absolutely.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right, so Executive Director Hammersmith and General Counsel I believe Executive Director Hammersmith you had some next steps you wanted to cover.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: I would suggest that General Counsel was going to cover what we might do this afternoon with the remaining time we have, then I was going to talk about moving forward if possible.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Fantastic General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you so much Madam Chair so during the lunch break that I hope everyone enjoyed, staff and your consultants discussed recommendations for moving forward this afternoon.

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So what staff would propose that we do today is to start in both regions, the southeast and south central together that EDS would display the regional shape file layers for those two regions.

What that will do is display all of the data in the matrix.

So it will be the key data racial data, voting age population data, the City and county boundaries and population all of that data will be visible.

And then the Commission can determine where to start within that region with mapping. This again would be a first District cut.

It's a broad start that will be further refined.

I know in the past it's always worth reiterating all of the lines are interrelated and will change.

There is inherent flexibility in the lines as data is brought forward as new information is received so that as the Commission would be moving forward this afternoon again with the District mapping considering the homework, the public comments not only in the portal but that the Commission has received verbally and written to date in those areas, considering themes.

An example from this morning's session would be the Tri-county theme.

Briefly touching on community of interest this morning which was productive for our first mapping session of the mission Mr. Brace had indicated that EDS is creating a filterable list of COIs that will show the themes, tabs, regions.

And you will be able to evaluate the COIs much more efficiently on Monday with the ability of that aspect of the software being added and incorporated.

So again the COIs will be incorporated.

The recommendation from staff would be again to start with the equal population criteria, looking at all of the census data for that region, starting the mapping and then going to COIs.

Based on today's experiences, in real time that we experienced this morning, staff will over the weekend evaluate the mapping process document to place those COI considerations, questions that the Commission identified this morning as very detailed as to mapping and how it is integrated and interacts with the proposed lines.

So staff will be moving that to the appropriate place in the collaborative mapping process.

And providing the Commission with a red line document to demonstrate those changes for your consideration.

If there are other suggestions for changes in that mapping process document that those would be e-mailed to Executive Director Hammersmith so that staff can consider those in our meeting this weekend.

I believe I covered what our recommendation is to the Commission for consideration for this afternoon.

Again, it is more in line with what Commissioner Orton had suggested earlier this morning.

And we appreciate your time and consideration as indicated Executive Director Hammersmith has some next steps to outline and I believe communications director Woods had some comments as well.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: I would say my next steps which most of which Julianne covered and then I will take the homework when we get to that point, so I will defer to Edward next.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Are there any question for General Counsel or Executive Director? Wonderful.

You know, how they say the eyes have it? They say that in more ones and different ones. What it means is by your eyes we can tell because some of us are in masks whether you feel dejected, mediocre and even excited. And we want to remind the public that this is the first ever in the history of Michigan process where we are actually doing maps.

This is the first time we have ever come together and actually looked at the process that the Commission identified and actually executing it.

So there is going to be some growing pains.

There is going to be some challenges.

But guess what? Rome was never built in one day.

And so to the public we will always have critics.

Because some of the critics do not have the mandate that you have.

You are the only body in the State of Michigan that can draw maps.

No one else can do it.

But not only are you drawing maps, you have a mandate by more than 61% of the voters in Michigan that wanted a new process.

And you have a serious responsibility that you're not rushing through but trying to make sure every voice is heard and that we are doing it to increase effectiveness and efficiency.

So you should be really excited right now because guess what? This is the first time this has ever happened in an open and transparent process where the public actually has a chance to evaluate and make comments.

It's easy to make comments when people are watching something.

But it's a whole new different story when they are in your seat.

And so we want to applaud this Commission for the outstanding job that it's doing despite the growing pains.

Because history is being made.

Rome was never built in a day.

And you have the ultimate responsibility in drawing maps.

So for that raise your right hand and wave to everyone and say success is on the way.

Success is on the way.

Thank you so much.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Witjes did you have a question?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I was going to move we accept the proposed changes put forth by Julianne Pastula.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA:

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I'll second that.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right any comments or discussion on the motion made by Commissioner Witjes and seconded by Commissioner Rothorn for the process presented by our General Counsel? I know Mr. Adelson you had a comment and I will let you go ahead and make that now.

>> Mr. Adelson: Having been in states in my career and I remember and comes back to me as we've talked about before everything changes.

All and everything is flexible, being as flexible as possible is beyond important.

Because that's the nature of redistricting.

There is all kinds of information that we don't have yet.

There is information that you will receive going forward that may inform some of your decisions.

So this is the chaotic process that's very a part of redistricting.

As I said I've seen that many, many times in many, many states.

And that's part of the process.

So I'm glad I can be certainly a part of it with you but I did want to add the inherent flexibility is absolutely essential.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Mr. Adelson.

Any other comments or discussion on the motion? At this point we have a motion on the floor to adopt the recommendations of our General Counsel.

All in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Opposed raise your hand and say nay.

And Commission Wagner if you could either in the chat or verbally if your speaker is working let us know what your vote is I would appreciate that.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I voted aye.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you very much. All right, the ayes prevail and the motion is adopted. So we are moving forward with this new process.

Bless you.

So at this point I'm assuming we are going to start drawing some districts for the Senate in the central what were we calling that south central region which is the Lansing area?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Pulling both the southeast and south central regions together in a shape file and the reason for that is as Mr. Morgan provided the information that one of those regions would have less than two districts and when you put them both together it would be above five Districts to be drawn so I think when the Commission sees the data overlay that Mr. Brace will provide, that that will, again, be able to assist the Commission in determining where to start by looking at the data by analyzing that data and keeping in mind the public comments that the Commission received and has reviewed in preparation for its work today.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay that being said how do we start from here? Yes, Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, I understand that Commissioner Eid who is unfortunately not here today has submitted a map and maybe we could take a look at that and get some ideas before we get going.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: I think that what has been contemplated is that the Commissioners with individual maps would present those maps to go through. Again, the rationale, the explanation, the deliberation, how the lines were determined to be placed, what the considerations were. And really giving the Commission the full benefit of that thought process when looking at that map.

And, certainly, the Commission will be mapping again Monday.

That could be a portion of that meeting to give Commissioner Eid the opportunity to present his work product and suggestions to the Commission.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: That's fine.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay so does anybody else have a map for this region that we're looking at they want to submit to the Commission for consideration? Okay, so considering that, do we want to just start drawing and how do we want to do that process? Do we want Mr. Brace to start drawing a first District for us? Or a Senate District? Or do we want individual Commissioners to begin drawing based on input from other Commissioners?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair I would recommend again I know the staff recommendation for this afternoon was to shift the integration of communities of interest into this process.

However, that is the focus of our recommendation is shifting that.

So I would redistrict the Commission to the collaborative mapping process in the document, which, let me give you a page reference number, begins on page eight, the collaborative line drawing session.

And, again, the indications of proposed community of interest will be addressed on Monday as part of the agenda on Monday.

But I think the -- if Mr. Brace has those shape files, with that information pulled up that he can display for the benefit of the Commission and the public, that the process set forth in the mapping document can proceed.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay so basically, we are going to I think Commissioner Clark is first in alphabetical order.

Looking at my map.

So then following this process Commissioner Clark, lucky you, would be selected to share his screen.

And begin drawing a District in the region that we are talking about.

So since we don't have any precreated District maps, if you're comfortable with that, Commissioner Clark otherwise we can jump to the next person in line but you can start drawing.

Go ahead Executive Director.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: My understanding is we were going to have one of Kim's people do the map drawing.

We were just going to direct them.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Exactly and he has got data he can show you. So before you start drawing, you probably need to know how many people are in the counties.

He can show you the matrix, the active data matrix that shows you some of the information that you're going to want to know when you look at those areas.

So it gives you a base line especially in the area of population and then you can look at racial data, et cetera.

For each of those counties that we are looking at so here we do.

>> Can I make just one general suggestion for y'all to think about? You can't go out into the lake to get population.

You can't go outside of the state to get population.

So rather than starting somewhere and pushing that a way, you know, you could start around on the border because you can't for example if you started with Monroe over there or any of them, start somewhere around there and then work your way in ward where you have plenty of options.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay.

>> KIM BRACE: So what I have brought up here is the regions that we have previously defined and in the spreadsheet in the active matrix you have all the demographic data for these.

So, for example, in the south central, no, this is the southeast.

This is District two in the regional shape file.

That's why it's got a number two on it.

So that has been basically pulled together, all the counties and in that set of counties there is one million and 26,468 people.

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Now, what you'll see, one of the things that we've seen is the Zoom resolution is not as great unfortunately.

You get a little bit better resolution on these monitors that are on the tables here.

But that's one of the circumstances.

And I'm not certain whether or not we can increase the size.

Of that spreadsheet right now.

One of the things we're going to end up doing is having on Monday probably having a second monitor on my computer.

Because what you will see and you will see when you draw, if you have a second monitor is you can pull some of these as I told you before, you can pull parts of these on to a second monitor.

And then you can increase the size of those.

But that is a full scale computer, right? A monitor, okay, cool.

Sure.

I mean, yeah, we will have to figure out how we can.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I think can Zoom if you change the view to standard, it gives you a floating bar and you can turn it to a single small bar which will open it up a bit.

So go up above where the pictures of everybody talking are.

You should have an option there to change that to standard.

>> KIM BRACE: I was going to say I'm glad it was not me that did that one.

Well it was a try.

Really, okay, okay, good.

All right.

Okay, well, so for District two or the southeast region, as I said is 1,026,000 people. It is 79% white and 6% African/American, 3.7% Asian, 4.7% Hispanic.

That's in terms of total population.

And in terms of voting age population it varies, but you have on the other tabs, you have all the various factors.

So for example, total populations are setting in tabs one through three.

Or one through 3A.

And then starting on tab 4 you are voting age population.

So in District two the voting age population is 818,000 people compared to the total population which was 1.026 million.

So you start seeing the difference that happens by looking at population and voting age population.

Voting age population is clearly a subset of total population.

That's always it.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton, I think you had a question?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I do have a question about some of these totals that are below.

For the what we consider when we are making a District is total population, right? So I don't know what is voting age population do for us?

>> KIM BRACE: Okay total population is what you do to define the one person, one vote criteria.

That is the number of people that are ultimately in a District.

The voting age population is utilized to help evaluate the effectiveness of the District.

Because if you remember the steppingstones that I told you before, there is different racial compositions at each level including the difference between total population and voting age population.

So you'll see that dimension here.

So, for example, in District two under total population, it is 81% white and 6% African/American.

Under the voting age population, District two is 82% white and 6.00%.

So you've got little drop downs and differences that happen.

And that's why it's useful to look at the various tabs as you're drawing to see whether or not, yes, I created something that's got enough people.

So that is the first criteria.

But I can also evaluate and look at the various racial components to see what might be more encompassing and effective in terms of for example the racial.

Now I know Julianne is going to say it so I will say it to begin with there is a whole bunch of evaluations that take place on what is really effectiveness.

On that side but the first factor is looking at what is the drop down that happens in the strength of the racial groups between pop and VAP.

Indeed there is all the other things that Lisa will be doing and all of that in terms of effectiveness but that is really a first cut that you'll have as you draw in essence is what you're saying.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, ma'am.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: May I offer, it feels like we are so close and the next question is which data overlay would the Commission like to start with to have displayed as I believe the Chair indicated Commissioner Clark where would they like to start looking at some of that data in those areas to determine how to proceed?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Do you mean between south central and southeast? Is that the question? And then does he want COAs on top of that or just.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: I would think for starting with the first criteria equal P population and kind of examining where the census data lies with voting age population and minority populations might give Commissioner Clark an idea of where he would like to begin to start directing the mappers to go.

Mr. -- if and the Chair if it's possible, I don't know if it's possible to get a data overlay within those regions or if it's just in the displayed in the active matrix to begin?

>> KIM BRACE: There is a couple different ways that you can end up playing with this.

First off, you asked me to bring in the regions and see what the racial components are, so that is what you see here.

That's information that's there for the regions.

And everyone will have a regional shape file so that you can have that information there.

Now, what you end up wanting to do is starting to draw districts and that's where Commissioner Clark will be going and so what we are going to do is we are going to create a new plan, okay? This is the plan of regions.

And so we are going to go and close this plan.

We will save it of course.

It is saved automatically but I always save just in case.

We are going to close this plan and start afresh, okay? So we are going to create a new plan just like what you've all been creating.

And so what are we going to call this plan? Because that's the name.

That is part of the naming conventions we have been talking about.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: I apologize for the interruption and based on the data is in the active matrix it may benefit to pull up the census maps for those areas that kind of display where the minority population was located and the voting age population and kind of more the summary overlays to give the Commission and the public the ability to visualize where, how to visualize the data that's in the active matrix.

>> KIM BRACE: Yep, all right.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I would also like to see the population displayed for probably by county, yes, initially.

>> When you go to label it, they will all be labeled and as you Zoom in features will, the name and population for the smaller features so counties then you Zoom in and start showing you the Township population.

If you Zoom in further, it will show you the population once he turns on labeling.

>> KIM BRACE: Yep.

So there is your African/American map.

In the area.

Let me bring up, this is the PDF and I will bring up the JPG up on this because it's more Zoomable.

Okay so what we are talking about down in Monroe, in that area, it's where the African/American population is.

Let me bring in and what do we want to call this plan so that we've got a blank plan to start with?

>> South central.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, just southeast.

>> KIM BRACE: Southeast, okay.

And we are drawing State Senate?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> Rebecca.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes Mr. Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I'm thinking one of the things I feel like we have been trying to decide and thinking about the naming convention and seems like if we are going to try to draw competitive districts or draw districts we will have to take or carve out pieces of the democratic cities, right, spread them with the rural republicans in general.

And the other and feels like that is one sort of way to go about it.

And it feels like the other way to go about it as a plan is to try to actually one of the things that the communities of interest have tried to respect, we also want to have cities whole and rural areas separated.

So I guess what I'm thinking about it feels there are two ways to go about it and thinking how we might want to, yeah, I guess I want to try two different ways to do it and see if we can like what it looks like.

I guess I'm thinking about it right now and may be useful to sort of set that up or think hey we are doing to draw two different types if you will.

Like we are going to try to achieve I don't know, I don't want to call it competitiveness because that is not a criteria, we are trying to go for but I do want to try to respect what the public comments are which is to draw as many competitive districts as possible something like that and we are thinking of the plan names.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: No disproportionate advantage to any political party which gets in the concept of competitiveness so I wouldn't say that it's not something that's in our criteria.

It's just below communities of interest.

And I think that makes sense to have like two versions.

One that is more focused on incorporating communities of interest and also maintaining a partisan balance and then also one where we are focused more on possibly focusing more on the communities of interest at the expense of partisan balance.

I mean do two plans and General Counsel is saying no.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: I hit my red button so fast.

It was I think that is the fastest I've ever done it when Commissioner Rothhorn started talking about the partisanship issue.

So again the criteria, the ranked criteria in the Constitution the equal population, the contiguous, the diverse population communities of interest and the partisan fairness analysis being the fourth criteria, I would strongly encourage the Commission to not even consider that until you've already worked your way through the higher ranking criteria.

Because that's what will be guiding your District drawing decisions.

And then when that data layer is activated in the active matrix for the partisan data, then you will be able to see kind of where you are and what modifications may be required or discussed that might be modified.

And I do know that we've had discussions with Mr. Morgan on the partisan fairness issue.

And the importance of being able to weigh kind of where you are.

But as that criteria comes up.

So the fear would be or the reason that I wouldn't recommend doing kind of those kinds of alternate maps is because you don't want them to be competing against the data competing with one another.

So if you view or if you approach the mapping with the criteria in the ranked order you just keep adding more and more data to what you are doing to assist you in your efforts. And for partisan fairness, that's one, again, that is measured more on the statewide level.

The responsiveness of the maps, if the maps are symmetrical so it's looking at it by District doesn't give you the full picture of how that measure is normally calculated.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead Executive Director Hammersmith.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: At one point and somehow it disappeared we had the naming conventions and the quorum document.

So what we had suggested is the first number would be the region number that we are working in.

The type of District then the Commissioner initials or in this case it would be the committee and the version.

So this would be the naming would be 5 State Senate Commission 1.

So because that's the region we are in.

Oh, it's two I'm sorry.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Are we starting with five or two.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: It's two I'm sorry.

I'm with you now it's two, I had two choices and I picked the wrong one, right? So, yes, two State Senate COMM for Commission. I mean we can abbreviate one.

And then you can go home and look at that one and say, do you know what? I like that but I think it would be better this way.

And then you would add your initials and version one.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead Commissioner Rothhorn I'm sorry Orton.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Will we as Commissioners have access to what we come up with here, sorry, will we as Commissioners have access to the map we come up with each time? That we can change on our own?

>> Answering for Mr. Brace I'm under the impression yes you will be able to share the results of whatever today's drafting process is with all the Commissioners that should be fairly easy.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Then we could clone it.

>> That's right you can make your own copy to work on, to make suggestions and adjustments and then you could share those directly or you could just share the results of your own inquiry without showing a map.

You can say I looked at this, go back to the original map and say how about if we change it in this way.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, so it looks like we have some labels up at this point.

>> KIM BRACE: Yes.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: The colored circles are African/American.

>> KIM BRACE: Yes

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Can we layer on Hispanic community as well or are we sort of stuck with one or the other?

>> KIM BRACE: I think it's one or the other but I will have to check with Fred.

I think he has some multiple possibilities.

Now this is at the Township level.

If I drop down to the precinct level, then the precincts show up, okay? So we start seeing where the concentrations are.

Now from the standpoint of what we have done is we have done thematically using the percent African/American is what we are showing and we are showing those pieces of geography, those voting precincts that are since the Directors that are set at more than 5% of African/American in total population.

So these are the precincts that are more than 5%.

Now, if we change the threshold, we only want to see where there is a majority African/Americans up at 50% then you see it's only concentrated up further up within into Wayne.

But if you keep it down lower, like 5% or so then you can see a lot more.

On that.

Now, the same is possible if you want to do the Hispanic areas, okay? So if we take out the Black and look at the Hispanic areas.

There is Hispanic as the main field.

Now you see where the Hispanic concentrations are.

Now, this is at 5%.

Maybe you bring it up a little bit to see the precincts that are over 10% of concentration, okay? So thematically you can start seeing where your concentrations are depending upon what scale you want it to be.

And that is through the thematic mapping component on the menu with the checkmark checked, okay? But this lets you then see wherever you're mapping at whatever geographic level you're mapping with, where your concentrations are.

And you get up to a larger geographic level and it doesn't show it.

So if you're looking at precincts you need to Zoom down in, okay? If you were at the county level, then you could see where those are.

But that's at the county level.

So at the precinct level now we can see where there are concentrations of the Hispanic population.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark where would you want to start drawing your map in this area?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Can I have the population displayed, please?

>> KIM BRACE: Okay, the map is going to end up showing as you start building the District.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay I want to start in the far southeast corner of Monroe county.

And the reason for that.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead, Kent.

>> KENT: You can bring up the locality layer and bring up a plan that is empty. You don't have to create any districts and show the populations at each of your workstations while he is drawing the districts.

Would that help?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: It would help individual Commissioners but it's not helping the public.

But I think if we just start drawing some districts, we are going to start seeing the populations as we select and draw.

And that way the public can see that.

Mr. Morgan?

>> Mr. Morgan: I think Kim can bring up the population and the name of the counties if you want to see it by county first if that is what you are asking Commissioner?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Correct, yes.

>> Mr. Morgan: You can bring up the same information in the spreadsheet as well as the map if that is of interest.

>> KIM BRACE: Precinct numbers on it this is showing the number of Hispanics in each precinct.

Right with the label.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Madam Chair?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, Executive Director.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: I just wanted to remind people that in the massive materials that were sent for yesterday's meeting, there was a data sheet that showed all the counties.

So you've got that reference point if you want to look at county population and the other data that goes along with information for that county.

You might not have printed it out.

It was a 40-page document.

But you can go in your computer and look at that any time and you can sort it to print what you think you might want to see as you begin drawing.

John has a comment.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead Mr. Morgan.

>> Mr. Morgan I can bring up the spreadsheet if you like.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: He's got it.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: So I took a look at Monroe county's population it's 154,900 and I looked at Lenawee which is next door and that is 99423 so that exceeds I believe the Senate District so let me add that real quick.

2-1.

So that is 254332.

And our target is 265.

Yeah, so what I would like to do as a beginning as we map this is take all of the Monroe and all of Lenawee counties and make that a Senate District.

And I think that's a reasonable thing to do.

They are both rural districts so they have that in common.

And the population begins to fall in line with what we need to do, so I'd like to start with that.

>> KIM BRACE: You're selecting Monroe.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: And Lenawee, both entire counties.

While they are drawing that, are there any comments on that approach?

>> KIM BRACE: Yeah, okay, so for this, these two counties it gives you 254,000 population.

So you're within the 5% margin.

You see across there 4% under populated.

But that's within the five.

And these two counties end up being about 5.79 Hispanic, a little bit less in terms of African/American.

It's mostly white.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay one of the things I'm going to track as we go through this is the over under and right now we are under.

>> KIM BRACE: We are under 4% so we are under 10,000.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: 10,961 so we can use that some other place.

>> KIM BRACE: Right.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay, so that is my solution to that.

>> KIM BRACE: Use it some other place.

Define that.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Now?

>> KIM BRACE: Well what I'm saying is what this is -- when you're under populated in theory you need to add.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Correct.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay if you were overpopulated then you would need to get rid of.

That's what I'm saying.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Is that Milan in Monroe County that is being cut in half? That probably would be a good place to add, Doug, with the upper -- see where the mouse is? If you Zoom in a little bit, if you look at the upper edge of Monroe county yes that is Milan you have it cut right in half so Milan crosses the border of Monroe and Washtenaw County but it's a City so it might be a good spot to pick up people, I don't know what the population is half of Milan.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Milan is south.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: South of Ann Arbor yeah.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I would recommend let's we will try that County or Township I believe.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: It's probably not going to give us enough.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay so now.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I don't want to get up into Ann Arbor because that is a whole different.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay in order to get the rest of Milan, okay, keep in mind that right now it's not paramed for City boundaries to be a separate selecting because City boundaries as you know appear in this state go all over the place and people, pieces are all over the place.

So what we need to do here is we can end up dropping down below the county level and this is where ultimately, we are going to go down to the block level, okay?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton do you have a comment?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I think cities do work when I'm on the Township level it will do just the City.

>> KIM BRACE: Just the City, all right.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Cities in there.

>> KIM BRACE: Yep, you are right.

There you go.

So with that so you're 7,000 low still.

But it's 2.63.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah.

>> KIM BRACE: So you could add a little bit more or if you are comfortable.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Can you shrink it down a little so I can take a look at that? Okay that's good.

So then I think what I would want to do.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Can I give you some advice in that area?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Correct.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So if you look at the northern boundary of Monroe County as well, so Sumpter, Dexter those are all largely rural communities with somewhat low population.

So Huron too.

When you start to get into browns stone that is where the population pops up so you might be able to go a little bit into Sumpter same with Augusta if you keep rural together or if you go further over you can pop up into Manchester, Manchester is also somewhat rural of a population so some thoughts.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Let's try Sumpter.

That is another almost 10,000 so that is going to put us over.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So we are looking for 7,000.

>> KIM BRACE: Looking for 7,000.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Augusta.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Augusta is 7.

>> KIM BRACE: That is right at 7.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay you are 13 under people.

That's not bad.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Can we get 13 people?

>> KIM BRACE: I would not worry about that yet.

Don't paint yourself in a corner as I said before.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I understand.

I think that is where I'd like to stay.

>> KIM BRACE: Yep.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: A little clapping, all right.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Good suggestion Rebecca.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: And now I believe Mr. Brace will be able to populate the and demonstrate what the key data shows for that very first draft District, that again will likely shift in our future, in the Commissioner's future work.

But be able to display that data in addition to population to kind of gauge where the Commission is.

>> KIM BRACE: So what you have is on your spreadsheet your active matrix down there you have the racial and demographic characteristics and the overview tab. And then the individual racial groups in the other tabs.

So if you wanted, again, it's the option of how you wanted to see race.

Remember what I've said before, so if you want to use a combo or the maximum it could be in terms of for example the African/American compared to the alone category of non-Hispanic African/American, here is where you start seeing the differences here. So on the alone African/American is 2.7%.

In this District that you have drawn.

But in the combo, it's 3.86%.

So you see how the different definitions of your racial groups change.

And that's sometimes is important to recognize on that side.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Can we get Lisa's assessment and then Bruce's assessment of this District?

>> KIM BRACE:

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Mr. Chair?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: General Counsel Pastula.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: And Mr. Brace has the racial census data displayed and the percentages that correspond to the draft District that's displayed.

The analysis from Dr. Handley and Mr. Adelson will, in fact, come later, after, again, I believe Dr. Handley is scheduled to give her presentation on September 2nd, which will be again a statewide look and then focusing in on the areas with significant minority population to analyze whether there is racially polarized voting in those areas.

So that data will come later.

I think one thing and I know Mr. Adelson has taken off his mask, the largest cue that someone wants to speak in these meetings, but I would also say that moving from the racial data aspect of it just momentarily is if the display if we could see the voting age population just of total population the voting age and some of the other categories for this proposed, this draft District excuse me the draft District that is displayed.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

>> KIM BRACE: So in the voting age population you look at this one, voting age of alone is 2.67 and of voting age of combo for the African/American is 3.24.

So it's not as much of a difference on the voting age as it is in total population on that side.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Mr. Adelson?

>> I wanted to address Commissioner Clark's comments about the analysis.

Big part of the analysis is election results and analysis.

That's not here.

I know that that's something that Dr. Handley is looking at and she and I will be talking about.

So to your point, I agree that that can be a very significant part of the analysis.

But that's part of the data that we talked about earlier that isn't here yet.

When it comes, great.

But also just keep in mind anecdotally in looking at voting act rights issues and ability to elect candidates of choice that often involves looking at what is the size of the minority age population is it 10%, 20%, 40%, 50%, the higher you go the likelier, the greater the opportunity for minority voters to be able to elect candidates of choice.

That all is part of Dr. Handley's analysis which we will then use in various ways but it's kind of a good thumbnail.

The smaller the population anecdotally for now is probably less likely that that population generally will be able to elect candidates of choice.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right where to now Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: You want me to continue with this?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I didn't know if we were going to pass the baton.

That's what I was thinking Hillsdale is 45746 and Jackson is 16366.

Okay, so I want to get those two counties.

>> KIM BRACE: Hillsdale.

We will put this into District two.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yep.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay, and Jackson.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Correct.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Can you clarify if you started drawing the second District? Is this the second District?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: It is.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: It is.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Just to clarify and the Commission can proceed how it wants but the drawing of the second District the subsequent District would move on to the next person in alphabetical order.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So we will move on to Juanita? Juanita wants to pass, so that brings us to you, Commissioner Lett.

I know you only have ten more minutes left so you will have to be speedy, I guess.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Hillsdale and Jackson highlighted.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Microphone too.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.

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>> COMMISSIONER LETT: That will leave us a little short.

>> KIM BRACE: 59,000 light.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Hillsdale doesn't want to be with Jackson.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Is that right?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Put Washtenaw in there and see what we look like.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: You're not going to be able to get the whole Township of Washtenaw in there you will go way over.

>> KIM BRACE: See the green numbers under the county name that is the total population that is 372000.

That is way too much.

You only need 59,000.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Steve the comment in the public hearing at Jackson was we are fine going to the east but not all the way to Ann Arbor.

We want to stay.

>> KIM BRACE: Stay away.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: That is what MC.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: U of M?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: That is okay that is a separate District probably.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: You could try to pull in Manchester that is the little City I mentioned.

See where the number two is Manchester right there.

>> KIM BRACE: So you see what I just did is I dropped down to the Township level and now my Township names and the populations of the Townships show up on the screen.

When you're zoomed at the appropriate scale.

That is one of the keys here.

You can't see those when you're all the way zoomed to the entire state.

So what you have is you've got you know we are 59,000 light.

You certainly have a bunch of territory here that end up could still end up going, that's not.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Not a ton of population.

>> KIM BRACE: Yeah, I mean you could get part of the way into Ann Arbor and then go someplace else possibly.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Well go down with the two rows of Townships and see what that ends up.

>> KIM BRACE: See what that does, okay.

So if we go and use the select box.

Okay so we are still missing 27,000.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: You know south of Saline is more rural than suburban and fits into the scenario of what you are working with.

I'd take a look at those Townships.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: What is 11,000?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: You need 27,000.

>> KIM BRACE: 27,000 light.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Look up there Scio it's 17.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: That's because you are grabbing part of Ann Arbor though with Scio Township.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: That is okay.

>> KIM BRACE: Actually not in the City.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Not the City itself.

>> KIM BRACE: Say for example if you select Scio and you assign that you're 9,000 light.

But see we haven't selected City of Ann Arbor.

So we are selecting the outside of Scio or the Scio Township outside of the City of Ann Arbor.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Go down and include Lodi and whatever is below it.

>> KIM BRACE: 1291 light.

That's not bad.

You're less than a half of a percent.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: So comments? From people that know that area.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I think Lodi and Scio consider themselves part of Ann Arbor and do not consider part of Jackson at all.

At all.

>> Making this more rural and less urban.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Rothhorn can you turn on your microphone, please.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: My apologies I would agree with what Rebecca said.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I think you would be better off shaving Scio, Lodi and Saline and grabbing Webster and going north and west if you are looking for similar communities because like I said Lodi, Scio, Saline Township those are all everybody in those areas considers themselves part of Ann Arbor for the most part, that their subdivisions is going up there.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Having reigned from Ypsilanti I can indeed agree with that.

For example I mean, I had a where I worked, I worked at a building that was basically in Saline that had an Ann Arbor address.

So they definitely do consider themselves part of Ann Arbor.

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So I would personally I would say Scio, Lodi and Saline would need to be removed from this particular population.

>> KIM BRACE: In order to do that if you remember having played with the software you select unassign as a District number as opposed to District number and then just simply unassign.

>> KIM BRACE: That is where it was.

Okay.

Okay.

So now you're going to assign you're still 27,000 light.

Okay, you're in a circumstance that you're seeing the impact of regions don't always follow what we are thinking of.

We created the regions before using whole counties, but now you're starting to say, well, in this District too maybe we do go across the regional boundary and go out west.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Or east.

>> You know where I was going with this just a second is you are pinning yourself in a corner Ann Arbor is a large population area.

If you wrap all the way around Ann Arbor, and you get in there and you can't do what you need to do, what you would like to do, then you're going to be coming back and changing one and two.

So just keep in mind that you know you're not nailing it down now until you go into Ann Arbor.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Microphone.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT:

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark did you have a question?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: No, I agree with Steve to go west.

I view Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti as more Detroit oriented than the rural oriented and I would tend to push that towards that direction when we get to it.

But I think going west is the appropriate thing to do here.

>> KIM BRACE: So you do have a bunch of Townships with low populations along the western border here.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I would start putting in Homer, Albion Township and City and share it and see what that does.

>> If you take Clarence, Sharon, Albion and Homer 259633.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: The cities.

>> Locale and cities all four Townships in the City gets you to 259633.

That is four vertically.

Best to show it right there and get you to 259633.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: We push ourselves too much further west, remember the lake is over there and we might get ourselves in a corner over in the southwestern part of the state.

>> KIM BRACE: Right.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: So I would tend to look to the north a little bit.

Or somewhere else.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: How are we underneath here, do we have anything at the bottom or are we at the state line?

>> KIM BRACE: We are down to the state line.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: What about pulling next to Coldwater and start dancing that way.

>> KIM BRACE: We could do that.

Just take the first row of Townships along that way 12000 light.

Get you a little bit but not very much.

But you could do, for example, go over and pick up these two and now I'm 192 high.

That's not bad.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: As I look at this and analyze it, now we've got this District and in three different counties.

And I don't know if that is an issue but with the City clerks it might be.

>> KIM BRACE: Five counties.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Is it five counties.

>> KIM BRACE: Yes, two whole and pieces of three others.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: That's right, I miscounted, yeah so, I don't know if that is an issue or not.

>> KIM BRACE: Well from the standpoint of election administrator you are picking up whole Townships and whole precincts.

That's what they would like.

You know, yeah, don't split me from the County but if you are going to select part of me, do it at the Township or the precinct level so I'm not having to figure out where the heck is the census block you said you selected.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: We need to keep them in mind as we go through this too.

>> KIM BRACE: Exactly.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Mr. Morton?

>> Based on what you have done here, if you don't like the way this has gone with having five counties, you could take more of Calhoun County and none of Branch if you wanted to.

That would reduce your county footprint to four counties if you want.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So Commissioner Lett are you happy with this District two? Tickled pink.

All right so now we will move on to the next lucky person on our list, which is Commissioner Orton.

Actually do we want to try to do a third District or do we want to just stop for today? I know Commissioner Lett has to leave now.

And Ann Arbor is going to be tricky so maybe we should just pause here. Saved by the bell.

All right so let me find somewhere in here I have an agenda.

So we are going to pick up where we left off on Monday.

We will continue to begin drafting districts.

Our next item on the agenda would be the homework assignment is there something you want to clarify on that Executive Director Hammersmith?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Yes.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

One of the things that we're going to ask you to think about is all the different types of public comment.

So today, for example, we were only working with the public comment that came through the portal.

There are also three other sources.

There is a list that Sarah Martinez our executive assistant assembled of written and e-mailed comments.

And those were put on a spreadsheet so you can go back to there is always a date.

So there is a date of the meeting which those are under, if you want to go back and get any further detail.

But again look through those.

And find the districts that you will be working in.

There is also public comment in the Commission meetings.

Sarah also was working on that list.

I'm not sure how quickly that will be ready.

And then, thirdly, there is your public comments from the public hearings in the areas that you were in.

So you want to get some themes in those areas, general themes, consistent conversations.

So things that you heard consistently keep these three counties together, we always work together or whatever those comments may be and create a list for your work on Monday and Tuesday when we will be in the same regions.

And then hopefully we can look at, again, continuing to draw collaborative maps that we can utilize in the process.

So that's really the homework.

Public lots of public comment.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right thank you very much.

All right Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Just a quick question Mr. Brace.

We are getting shape files the one we just created, correct?

>> KIM BRACE: We can, certainly.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I just want to be able to load it and play around with it.

>> KIM BRACE: Sure.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Mr. Brace.

Okay so on Monday we have not finished our new business which was drawing Senate Districts in the south central and southwest region so we will continue that on Monday. Moving through the rest of items on our agenda before we leave, we do not have minutes to approve so we can move through number 7.

We also don't have any staff reports today from either Executive Director General Counsel or communications and Outreach Director.

Michigan Department of State do we have any updates from you today?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yes, the only thing I wanted to say was that I forwarded the list of the full export from MGGG in excel to you all.

It had been supplied earlier and forwarded as well before today for your review. Just for your knowledge in that excel spreadsheet the first column you'll see ID numbers.

That is the ID number that is used on the public comment portal.

So for COIs typically they begin with a C and then the numbers.

But the letters are not listed there.

Instead the type of public comment is listed in the type column.

So if you're looking for one of these public comments on the portal, they are not at the moment searchable by ID.

I would recommend searching for them by either the author or the date.

MGGG is currently working on adding an ID number search filter so that should be added soon.

And then the last column that is the ID number that Kim uses in his software.

So I just wanted to differentiate between the two different ID numbers you see in the spreadsheet and what they mean and certainly if anyone has any questions feel free to reach out and I'm happy to help.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Ms. Reinhardt.

All right correspondence received in advance of our meeting today was provided with written public comments to the Commissioners in our meeting agenda.

I do want to clarify too for the public and the Commissioners that what we have worked on today are draft maps and that they likely will be revised maybe they will, maybe they won't but they are certainly not permanent.

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They are certainly drafts and we will continue to work on these as we move forward. Without objection I'll ask Executive Director Hammersmith to share about future agenda items.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: I have no more to report at this time.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Fantastic any announcements Mr. Brace?

>> KIM BRACE: I would also note for the audience watching we have assigned District one and District two.

That's not the final District number.

That's not any connotation.

This is just going in order.

And they will be able to be changed at whatever point in time.

So if you are an incumbent in District one, you're suddenly not going to be moved someplace else or whatever.

There is no connection there.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Mr. Brace.

Any additional announcements or comments? Executive Director Hammersmith?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: I have one announcement.

The people that helped you install your software are not the tech support people for DTMB.

So please do not call Wayne, Gerid or Jake who helped us this week.

You should call the DTMB help desk and if you want that number, it's 517-241-9700 so that is who you should be calling.

If you have a technical issue with your computer in any way.

So thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.

All right and just a reminder to the public as well that the maps that we work on today the draft maps will be posted on our website for comments by the public as always, we are happy to hear those comments and look forward to receiving them.

As the rest of the items on the agenda are completed and the Commission has no further business the motion to adjourn is in order may I have a motion to adjourn.

So moved motion made by Commissioner Witjes and seconded by Commissioner Rothhorn in favor raise hand our say aye, opposed your hand and say nay.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Can we ask Commissioner Wagner to confirm your vote.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Wagner can you conform your vote?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Aye.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: The ayes prevail and carries and the meeting is adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Thank you very much everybody.

Have a nice weekend.