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MICRC

08/26/21 1:00 pm Meeting

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>> CHAIR KELLOM: I call this meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 1:16 p.m.

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

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

Our live stream today includes closed captioning. Closed captioning, ASL interpretation, and Spanish and Bengali and Arabic translation services will be provided for effective participation in this meeting.

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. He can be reached at 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:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Commissioners, please say present when I call your name. If you are attending remotely, announce you are attending remotely. And unless it's due to military duty, state the county City Township or village and the state from which you are attending. I will 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?
- >> CHAIR KELLOM: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?
- >> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Present; attending remotely from Reed City, Michigan.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?
- >> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?
- >> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?
- >> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?
- >> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?
- >> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

Commissioner Wagner, I can see you are talking but we cannot hear you.

Can you try again? I'm going to mark you as present but we are still having audio issues and we will connect offline and help resolve those.

- >> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?
- >> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: All Commissioners are present.
- >> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Michigan Department of State. As a reminder to the

public watching, you can view the agenda at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC.

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

- >> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: So moved.
- >> CHAIR KELLOM: Motion made by Commissioner MC Rothhorn. Seconded made by Juanita Curry. Is there any discussion or debate on the motion? Hearing none, all in favor please raise your hand and say aye.
- >> Aye.
- >> CHAIR KELLOM: All, I'm sorry, all in favor raise your hand and say aye.
- >> Aye.
- >> CHAIR KELLOM: All opposed raise your hand and say nay. The ayes have it and the meeting agenda is adopted.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Madam Chair, before we move on to agenda item four, public comment, pertaining to agenda topics, I would like to take a second to address something real quick if that is okay.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Can we wait until after public comment?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I think it's better before.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay, go ahead.

>> Interpreter is having a hard time hearing.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Pardon me? Oh, the interpreter is having trouble hearing.

Okay, so let's speak slower and enunciate, lips teeth and tip of the tongue.

>> The microphone might have been too far away is all.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay, go ahead, Anthony. We are too far away.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I would like to take a moment for an ill-advised and a tweet I made on my personal account the other day. The tweet was an answer to a question about a citizen about our policies, but my response was not clear and ill-advised and for that I just want to say I'm sorry.

It was not my intention to critique anyone here, any of my fellow colleagues or throw anyone under the bus.

You guys know that is not what I am about. And shortly after I made the tweet, I deleted it. And it was made public. And after the meeting I had a conversation with Commissioner Kellom where we worked it out and addressed the issue.

I think as a Commission we are an Independent Commission so it's important that we hold ourselves accountable. And part of that is myself holding me accountable when I make a mistake. And that is what I did.

So I just wanted to say sorry about that to all of you, but especially to Commissioner Kellom and Mr. Woods, who definitely got the brunt of it.

During this process, as we move further along in it, I think we are going to have a lot of people who try to tear us apart. And we are one team. And it's important we keep that in mind and stick with it. And my relationship to each of you is very important to me.

So we can move past this. And I'm going to be more careful in the future.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much, Commissioner Eid, for that heartfelt apology, to both myself and the Commission.

I would say that it's an honor to be a part of not only a Commission but the great State of Michigan where you can, you know, be a caregiver. My mother currently is in the hospital and I'm at the meeting. She was rushed to the hospital. And you can have a full-time job as a Commissioner and try to do an awesome job with your fellow Commissioners. So it's great to be a part of the group in the state where that is a sincere understanding and people don't try to tear you down in the process. So it's a pleasure to sit with you all and to be back. And let's get back to business.

Without objection, we will now begin the public comment pertaining to agenda topics portion of our meeting.

Hearing no objection, we will now proceed with public comment pertaining to agenda topics.

Individuals who have signed up and indicated they would like to provide in-person commentary to the Commission will be allowed to do so. But I don't think today we have in-person comments, so it will be remote public comment.

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

I will turn the floor over to Michigan Department of State staff who will facilitate our remote public comment.

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

Our first remote public comment participant is a Mr. James Galant. Please allow me a moment to unmute you.

>> Permission to speak, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes.

>> Hello, yeah, okay. My name is James Galant. I'm with the Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition.

And these are my opinions.

And I, for the clarity of the public, I have no idea what Commissioner Eid was talking about. And I think that that needs to be added to the agenda. It had decision made by this Commission. And see this is the problem that is happening right now.

The Chair just seems to figure that she was going to take it upon herself to unilaterally, well, not unilaterally, with Mr. Woods, to resolve the issues with the Commission.

No, no. Under our Constitution, in your oval office, all decisions are to be made in public, at a public meeting, under the Open Meetings Act. And you are supposed to have public comment. One at the beginning and one at the end. There is two. That's so there can then be people say something during the meeting and then the public gets a rebuttal. That is the way it's supposed to be working here.

I asked you to please do that.

And, you know, this process about the collaborative mapping process, I believe this is what Mr. Woods is talking about.

This is going to be the model process, is that except for that circumvents the [inaudible] constitution because and it appears that members were unilaterally placing blame.

Mr. Clark placed several lines and nobody could object in real time. So the members are being denied their rights to object in real time and to participate in real time.

Everybody should be participating all at the same time. And so reminder to everybody who does not understand this collaborative, you know, deliberative democracy thing is they got to give a reason.

So somebody gives one reason and it's like cookie cutter reasons you are giving.

But especially to your colleague, Commissioner Lange. Just give a better reason to change it and then you get to change it unilaterally because you gave a better reason. This is really a theme that is going on here. And Commissioner Vallette was bullying. This is the bullying because she kept using the hearing no objection thing. So she is assuming everybody agrees. No, no. You have to vote yes to mean yes in this concept.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Your allotted two minutes has ended, Mr. Galant.

Thank you.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Our next public comment participate is Chris Andrews. Please allow us a moment to unmute you.

>> I guess I was unmuted, I'm sorry.

I appreciate the hard work that this group is doing and it's important to the future of our state.

I'm from the Lansing area.

I want to thank you for dividing Ingham County into two districts to reflect the integrated nature of Ingham, Eaton and Clinton Counties.

It makes sense to add Shiawassee to the region to complete the two districts.

To have fair maps you need to be considering the partisan makeup of the districts both individually and the maps as a whole.

I haven't seen that.

I hope it becomes I think it has to become part of the process.

Voters amended the Constitution because we were harmed by gerrymandered districts that were written by politicians for partisan advantage.

It was an intended consequence.

I would hate to see an unintended consequence of maps that individually are not competitive and don't reflect the makeup of the state as a whole.

I'll give one quick example.

In the Lansing area, the House maps put Delta Township in Eaton County and has the effect of making one extremely republican District and one extremely democratic District.

When -- if you went the other way and took part of Waverly School District and put that into Eaton County along with Delta Township and Grand Ledge, you would have two competitive districts. And I think that's the kind of thing that you want to do.

I wish there were a better way to be able to follow what's going on.

I spent a few hours trying to watch the mapping of Lansing and in the House and the Senate was very instructive and I appreciate your work.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much for taking the time to address the Commission.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Our next remote public comment participant is Jonathan Gonzales.

Please allow us a moment to unmute you.

>> Hello. Can you hear me?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes.

>> Okay, thank you.

To begin I'd like to express my gratitude to the MICRC for providing me this opportunity to speak.

Second, I'd like to emphasize that the MICRC has divided the state into regions and assigned a similar amount of time to map each region.

I believe that the time assigned is inopportune time for the Detroit Metro reason.

This time period I believe is inappropriate due to the fact that over a third of Michigan's population resides in the Detroit Metro area.

Detroit Metro also has the highest level of participation in the redistricting process with residents submitting numerous communities of interests, State House, State Senate and Congressional maps.

I believe that every voice should not only be heard but also considered during the redistricting mapping process.

One day of mapping for each of the District maps in the Detroit Metro is insufficient.

It's an insufficient time to hear and consider every voice.

And I want to thank you again for this opportunity to speak.

And I hope you will consider giving Metro Detroit additional time to map.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Jonathan, we thank you for taking the time to address the Commission.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That concludes our first round of public comment. We have one individual who has requested a second remote public comment, that individual is Mr. James Galant. Please allow us a moment to unmute you.

>> Permission to speak, Madam Chair? Hello.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Hello. We can hear you.

>> Yeah, I have to get permission from the Chair. It's in the rules, okay?

Thank you. My name is James Galant. I'm with the Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition and these are my opinions.

And, as I was saying, we were talking about this, I see this all across the nonprofit sector, you know, and it's bullying.

It's this collaborative process. They call it that. The facilitator makes the rules. Every one of these Chairs, like the Chair when Commissioner Szetela was presiding she had her unique little thing. And everyone yielded to it. And she facilitated it. And now Commissioner Kellom, thank you. In fact thank you, Commissioner Kellom, for showing up. You know, you had a no call, no show for a while there. And, you know, I don't

know if you were working behind the scenes like apparently you were because they just said you were, but not coming to the meetings.

This is important.

And this is supposed to be a motion pending right now.

It comes on the agenda, map these maps, motion to approve the map.

And then discussion, yes.

Then draw the lines, yes. And at the end call the question, that is what is supposed to be happening here. And this is I think a deliberate effort to change the decision-making process, to change the rules and reboot the system. And I hear this all over the Internet. And it's like a wave now that people try and do. I believe some of you here have been recruited. You have to remember Voters Not Politicians recruited a bunch of people to sign up for this. And there is no reason to believe some of you are not affiliated with that organization, and you signed up because of them.

And, you know, you folks have partisan issues, too.

I mean, you democrats, republicans, right? We don't know that.

Now, some of the documents say you are democrats and republicans.

And some don't.

Some say you just affirm to affiliate.

We need to verify that.

Because at the end you need to have democrats, republicans and neither to be voting on the final map. So we need to verify that. I think we need to have everybody here step up and say are you voting members of these organizations or not. And if you are not, then I don't think you are affiliated because the democratic party gets to determine who is affiliated with them. You don't and the republican party --

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Your allotted two minutes has ended.

Thank you so much for everyone who contributed to our public comment portion for our agenda.

And that concludes the extent of our public comment for this afternoon.

I would like to mention that all mailed and e-mailed public comment is provided to the Commission before each meeting.

And Commissioners also review the public comment portal on our www.Michigan.gov/MICRC website on a regular basis so we appreciate everyone who provides public comment in whatever way you choose and we invite you to keep sharing your thoughts, your communities of interests and maps.

Without objection, I'd like to move to unfinished business, Agenda Item 6A, reflections on the southeast and south central State Senate and State House draft districts.

These regions included Monroe, Lenawee, Hillsdale, Jackson, Washtenaw, Livingston, Ingham, Eaton and Clinton Counties.

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Before we move forward with today's business, I would like to ask my fellow Commissioners if they have additional thoughts regarding these draft districts or any alternate drafts they would like to propose? Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Well, I think my biggest reflection on the process that took place earlier this week is that these maps are very preliminary right now.

They are only -- were mainly only using one well really two or three pieces of data that was being population, contiguity, and, you know, District lines.

District and county boundary lines since we can see those on the map.

But that's not the order that our Constitution has it.

And, because of that, as we get further along in this process, they are going to be changing. So I just hope the public knows at this point these maps are extremely preliminary and they will be changing as we incorporate both community of interest data, which I think we are going over later today in new business and also political data.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Commissioner Eid.

Any thoughts, additional thoughts or any thoughts on what Commissioner Eid has shared? Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Well, I'll just second what he said, that this is just the beginning.

We know we are going to have go back when we get further information racial data, political data and consider the communities of interest.

So it's not set in stone.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I'm of the same opinion Commissioner Orton that is why I didn't add that much to it.

Anyone else? Okay, moving on to new business, without objection I would like to ask Moon Duchin from MGGG to provide updated data on communities of interest from the public comment portal.

Hearing no objection please proceed, Dr. Duchin and hi how are you nice to see you.

>> DR. DUCHIN: Nice to see you hi everyone, so excited you're getting started with your line drawing.

And I want to show you today we have been working really hard to synthesize all that great public input that you got into a form that will be as easy as possible for you to use. So I want to show you some of that progress.

And I'll share my screen and get started.

My plan for today I will keep it pretty brief I want to show you how the synthesis is coming along and take any questions that you have.

So here is a document that I'll show you now.

I'll start with the PDF document, that is the COI clusters for Michigan as of today.

This document has also been shared with Commission staff and it's a pretty big document.

As you can see it's 159 pages.

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And I want to explain what it is, how it was made and how it will assist in your process. So you heard me talk before about some of our data science process for distilling all those hundreds of submissions into clusters or emergent communities of interest that come out when you take overlays of all the different areas that have been painted by members of the public.

And for this document we clustered before 36 clusters and happy to take questions of how it was done and 36 if you want to change the number just ask.

And we have put together tentative names and short descriptions that summarize the submissions and so for instance this cluster called A1 it's called A1 because it's the first phase we will have a second phase that will start with B1.

This is core Upper Peninsula and supported by submissions and this is a heat map showing terrain that was covered by both 7 submissions.

Next is something we have nicknamed upper Mitt ten east of course all these names are up for grabs and you should feel free to weigh in on those supported by 30 submissions so you see a darker color here in the heat map.

The next we call rural northeast and so on.

One of the things I want you to see is that even though these overlaps substantially the algorithms we are using to separate out both the geography and the meaning of the submissions picked these out as distinct clusters.

If you go through you can scroll down and see one at a time what the clusters are, how many submissions support them, the nickname we gave it, the short description.

But what I think and I hope this will help as you scroll through and think about how the submissions reinforce each other but what I think you will find especially useful is if you zip ahead to the end of these first there is just a gallery where those are all shown next to each other.

You will see three of them are crossed out and just because they were merged into other clusters or in one case you had a submitter say the whole State of Michigan is my community of interest.

There that is.

I want to emphasize for you that we are not doing any filtering at all.

This document represents every single piece of input you got from the public.

We are doing our best to cluster aggregate distill and describe it to make it more usable for you but no vote, down vote, nothing like that.

Okay after you get through the gallery here is the part that I think you will find especially valuable.

Maybe I can make my screen a little bigger so we can -- so now there is a series of tables and this is why this runs to 159 page document.

There is the supporting data for each of the clusters so you can actually just page through this and see what people had to say in their own words.

The ones that were extremely long and then a...so this document did not are unto 400 pages, but you can -- you will see there are live links next to each of these.

And if you click on one of those links it will open up the detail page and the gallery so you can easily toggle back and forth like scroll around and see the painted region and what folks had to say about it kind of side by side with this document.

So I'll just you know so here is cluster A3 it was only supported by a few.
Here is cluster A4.

And you know some of them run to be pages and pages long.

And you will see some members of the public of course as you know because you have been reviewing the portal yourselves some members of the public are extremely gone at great lengths to try to give you lots of local detail and others are extremely succinct.

That's my quick tour of this summary document.

Let's -- let me take questions about that and then explain the rest of the process for giving you something that we hope you will be able to really fold into your line drawing process.

But I will pause here to take questions if anyone has any.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Moon you must have read my mind because MC has a question for you.

Commissioner Rothhorn, you have the floor.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Moon, thanks would you explain the 36 how you arrived at 36?

>> DR. DUCHIN: Sure absolutely.

So we, okay, so actually I'm going to switch my screen to the document that shows a little bit more how we did this.

And why 36.

But I will say as a preliminary point while I'm pulling that up and what we used is a standard clustering algorithm.

I think I showed you parts of this notebook the last time I joined you for a meeting.

We are calling standard clustering packages from scientific computing.

And I believe then it just processes through the data.

And what it does is it creates this kind of agglomerative clustering hierarchy.

The point I want to make about this just is what this picture is telling you if you wanted to Zoom out and get the most broad clusters, you could cut this figure it's called a dendrogram and cut it near the top and give you 23456 and take all that testimony and cluster it into six pieces.

If you cut across this figure a little bit lower, you will see those start to Branch.

Right and you get a larger number of somewhat smaller clusters.

Then the lower down you cut it if you cut this all the way at the bottom every piece of testimony will be its own cluster just on its own.

So the art of clustering is finding a height to cut this at which you're getting rich enough testimony to support common themes and at the same time you're not creating too many clusters for the users and that is you.

So we played around with different heights that you could cut this in and decided that at 36 there are a few singleton clusters the ones I crossed out in the report that you saw before because those got merged into other places, but for the most part that was giving clusters of a nice size with a very rich description that we thought would be usable to you.

If you were to request us to give you something with 60 or give you something with only 20, since this is all precomputed that would just be a matter of slicing at a different height and we could turn that right around for you so 36 was our recommended sweet spot where we think you will still find them understandable.

You will be able to see them and say, yeah, okay that is the Hamtramck area and people talking about some of the same things.

But 36 won't overwhelm you when you are making your maps.

Please do, I invite you very sincerely to just ask for the clustering back at a different level of resolution and we can turn that right around since I said all this is precomputed. Did that make sense? Is that helpful?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: That is helpful thank you and I'm tempted to ask you we have those ten regions and it seems like they are incredibly useful to sort of figure out which of those 36, yeah, and how many of those 36 are in each region and so if you could go over that that seems, yeah.

>> DR. DUCHIN: We did initial comparison that is right. And actually for the most part many of our clusters fall squarely in a single region. But of course as you would expect some of them bridge between regions. Let me pull the visualization back up to show you that. So this is where we thought it would be quite useful for you to be able to see just the gallery. Let me flip back to it so you can page through these more easily and get a feeling for them.

So you can see for instance as I remember your regions, they sort of divide the upper Mitt ten into an eastern and a western part if I remember right so you will see some of these really cross over that.

And others fall squarely inside.

So since you were starting your mapping in the southwest and the west, we started paying attention to the Grand Rapids area and the Benton Harbor Battle Creek Kalamazoo area.

You can see I actually used to live in Michigan for three years but I've gotten to know Michigan geography a whole lot better in the last couple weeks.

So I would say it's a mix.

Some of our clusters here fall in the regions and some straddle a little bit but I would be happy -- these figures show you the counties because we thought that would really help you orient to where they are but I would be happy to give you alternate heat maps that show your regional split instead.

So really you know we've got a great data team.

We have been working hard to build a good pipeline so that we can slice this data any way you want to see it so please don't be shy to make requests.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much, Moon.

I think we also have a question from Kim as well.

>> KIM BRACE: Yes, thank you, Moon, for this.

I just wanted to review for the Commission what we had received from you so far and ask you some questions on it.

>> DR. DUCHIN: Sorry just is this Kim Brace? Hi Kim.

>> KIM BRACE: Sorry about that, yes.

We got from you last night.

>> DR. DUCHIN: Yes.

>> KIM BRACE: The set of the COIs like you had sent to us before.

>> DR. DUCHIN: Great.

>> KIM BRACE: So we processed those.

I've created a new spreadsheet for everybody that shows all of that information including the additional pieces of information that we have like what we had sent you before in terms of the COIs.

>> DR. DUCHIN: Perfect sounds great.

>> KIM BRACE: I'm talking to the Commission here.

We sent them that kind of a spreadsheet so that they can sort your COIs in any which way they want including having which region of the COI is in as well as the population and racial demographics of the COIs.

So I have a new one of that spreadsheet for everybody in the Commission.

Based upon what Moon had sent us last night.

And so that I'll be able to distribute to the Commission today.

And so my question back to you, Moon, is now you've got some new things.

I understand where you are going on this, which is great.

The question is: How best to let some of these come into our system.

>> DR. DUCHIN: Yep exactly.

>> KIM BRACE: So I'm wondering whether or not I mean if you are coming up, with 36 clusters is the acceptable number or however you're going to treat these, can we get shape files of those individual cluster A21 or A22s so we can see what you're seeing and we can bring that into the system so that they can work with that within the Autobound edge system.

>> DR. DUCHIN: Yeah, you bet.

So thanks, Kim.

What you got from me last night was up to the minute so that included everything people had submitted right up to yesterday, late afternoon.

And that actually kind of segues into the timeline part of my remarks today.

Because I'd like to kind of make sure that I'm on the same page with you, Kim, and with the Commission about when we are going to finalize these clusters and whether this size looks good.

I would love for folks on the Commission to have a little bit of time to look at these, take a look at our descriptions, look at how the descriptions are supported by the entries here.

And if you all collectively can give me the feedback that this looks like a good level of detail and a good level of resolution, then what I propose to do is to just flip the switch.

I don't think you need to turn off collection in the portal from the public.

You can keep that going or you can turn it off.

That is an independent decision.

But at some point there is going to be a last there is going to be a cutoff for when the aggregation ends.

And so my suggestion is you opened up in early March.

My suggestion is close it at the end of August which is just a few days from now and then we will if you tell me 36 seems like about the right number we will rerun the whole pipeline, redo the aggregation, change the pictures, if you know update them to include all the August submissions.

What you see here includes everything through July and the first few days of August when we started doing this aggregation process.

So I think the question of what comes next is a crucial one.

And that's where I want to make sure I'm on the same page with EDS and with the Commission about when to finalize this.

So in my mind the next steps are Commissioners please take a look at this.

It's available to you now.

And it's fully public.

I'm happy to have it's been handed off to the MDOS and I'd be happy to have this shared on the Commission's website.

And if you tell me that everything looks kind of good in terms of the level of detail and the level of resolution, then we will kind of prepare to hit the big red button that finalizes this process and takes into account all the latest input.

Kim every time we do a new round of these you will immediately receive the shape file that goes with it.

There will be no lag time when we produce the clusters and when you get the shape file.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay and I see in these new COIs that we are now up to 595, COIs.

>> DR. DUCHIN: That is a great point I forgot to mention.

So what you will notice if you go through the submissions here, you see, can you all see this shared screen pretty well?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Since you enlarged it.

>> DR. DUCHIN: Good you can see most of these this is C274 submission this means this person who wants to tell you the UP is a community of interest they submitted it as a COI.

But what we noticed when we were processing these is that some people submitted Districting plans and I'm going to look for one now that I can show you.

Here is an example.

So some people submitted Districting plans with just a single District.

And their description of that District explained why it should be considered a community of interest.

This person is telling you this should be considered a community of interest.

So we reviewed not only the COIs but also all the Districting plans with just one District.

So to see whether the inclusion as a COI.

And you can tell the difference when you scroll through this by whether it's marked C for community or P for plan.

So that's why the number if you go in the portal and you ask how many COIs, the number that we were able to include in this aggregation process is greater than just the ones that show up as COIs in the portal because it turned out there was lots of great information in the singleton Districting plans.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay so we've got plans plus we've got COIs then on that side, so that we've got two different ways of looking at the data you are feeding to us.

>> DR. DUCHIN: Sorry let me clarify that is not two different ways of looking at it it's two different sources of data either people submitted as COI or sometimes people submitted as a plan but they only painted one District and told you about it so we thought that was really valuable COI testimony.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Madam Chair I wanted to alert you that Commissioner Wagner.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes, I see Commissioner Wagner and I know MC also has a question but thank you, Kim go ahead.

>> KIM BRACE: So I just for the clarity for the Commission I just wanted to make sure that if indeed there is a plan, can that be coded a little bit differently so that we can show that differently than the COI just trying to understand how you have got them so that we can properly interpret them for the Commission and bring them in properly.

>> DR. DUCHIN: We are giving them all to you as individual polygons whether it came from a singleton Districting plan or whether it came from a COI, you're getting them the same way Kim and there is no need to distinguish them.

And you're getting them with all the raw data attached.

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So the data pipeline already has processed these singleton Districting plans as COIs. You already are in possession of all of those.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: We can connect offline to further iron out exactly how the data will be migrated.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Sorry, Kim.

We will get those answers to you.

So I'm going to jump to Commissioner Rothhorn and then Commissioner Wagner. Actually MC can I have Commissioner Wagner first? Thank you. Commissioner Wagner, you have the floor.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Thank you, Commissioner Kellom.

Dr. Duchin could you clarify for me.

You had mentioned shutting down the portal.

Is that for public comment or is that just for the COI portion?

>> DR. DUCHIN: This is completely up to you.

So when you instruct us to shut it down for COI submission we will do so.

When you instruct us to stop taking any submissions we will do so.

I was only pointing out that is an independent choice you can make. And when we complete our aggregation, it does not force you to stop collection at that time it's just up to you how you would like to handle that.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you Commissioner Wagner.

Commissioner Rothhorn, please.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Dr. Duchin I'm thinking of the 36 Districts are helpful.

Not districts sorry the 36 clusters I think what would be helpful for me and maybe the public is on each State of Michigan map when it's a cluster is shown on the state if we can have sort of an outline of the ten regions.

>> DR. DUCHIN: Sure.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: And again the 36 feels like they might work just as well and then yeah, we can see the definition with the ten regions, thank you.

>> DR. DUCHIN: And what you will see when you go through this, this report that I have been showing you is that there are a few in here that I think are good candidates for sub splitting.

So instead of kind of cutting that dendrogram lower there are just a few big clusters that I think might be good candidates to break down a little further.

But I have been -- I and my team have been working really hard to make this a fully transparent objective process.

And we so we hesitate to sacrifice that by making by imposing decisions.

And would love to take your direction on that.

So if you read through, there are a few places where we put in as a question this could be split further.

And I'll be looking forward to any responses from Commissioners as you take a look.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much, Moon.

Any other final comments as she has wrapped, a big hand from Sarah Reinhardt.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you Madam Chair and I just want to emphasize to Commissioners as I've talked about these emerging COIs or clusters, we kept you updated on the developments there, I know I've mentioned this before, that it is up to you all how to use this.

It's certainly an easier for you to wrap your arms around 36 clusters rather than 500 some COIs.

But that's not to say that the individual COI information is not also available to you, it is. So you can consider this another tool in your toolbox that you can use, that can assist you in this process, thank you.

>> DR. DUCHIN: Absolutely I want to say I couldn't agree more.

I think these are best used by giving you an ability to flip back and forth between individual submissions and trends.

But that you shouldn't take the clusters to replace the value of individual submissions. And that's why we have provided within the report tables where you can read what people have to say in their own words.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you, Moon.

Okay and it doesn't look like we have any questions from inside.

And I don't see any questions from Commissioner Wagner either.

Oh, Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: As far as having an end date on communities of interest because that is something y'all does anyone have any thoughts on that? I mean, my gut reaction is to actually not have a date where we stop taking community of interest data until it's late into the process as possible.

I think as we move forward in mapping, we are probably going to get even more input on our public comment tool.

Anyone have any thoughts on that?

>> CHAIR KELLUM: General Counsel, please.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Yes, thank you Madam Chair and as others have indicated and the Constitution is clear and public engagement will be on going throughout this process so the use of the portal is certainly a convenient way for the Commission and the public to engage whether it to be provide written comment or potential COI submissions or potential map submissions.

So that decision, again, would not need to be made at any time soon, that should be continuing throughout the mapping, the active mapping procedure as well as the period

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where the Commission will be receiving public comment namely the 45 days in between the publication of the proposed maps for final adoption and map final vote.

So it's a very, very useful tool I think not only for the Commission but the public, thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much General Counsel.

Any other final thoughts before? I'm sorry Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Thank you, Commissioner Kellom.

I was just going to reiterate what Anthony said.

Hearing that, I was very uncomfortable with shutting down the portal with as much push as we all and are eagerly awaiting for it to show up I hate to cutoff the public's voice in that manner.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: All right Dr. Duchin I don't think we have any more final thoughts for you.

>> DR. DUCHIN: Great. Well, then I will just thank you for welcoming me back again today.

And ask that you consider whether you would like the next round to include all the August submissions and be delivered to you in early September.

That's our current thinking on the timeline but we are happy to speed it up or slow it down as you prefer.

So if we don't hear from you, we will proceed with that plan.

But as always are looking to best serve your needs.

So nice to see you all today.

And take care.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Nice to see you too.

Take care Moon and we appreciate you.

Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So as far as incorporating these heat maps into the software, where are we on that? Is that something that is going to be possible or are we going to have to kind of look at them and maybe print it out and consider it with the software? It would be better if it were in the software.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Sorry quickly I think Sarah has indicated that she would talk about how it's going to be aggregated together. But I can turn attention to Sarah to clarify. Mr. Morgan and Kim, I did not mean to cut you off but I wanted to jump in there and get that out.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you, Madam Chair. And, yes, Commissioner Eid and the MGGG and your mapping consultant and ourselves will work together to make sure that the data is incorporated in a way that is helpful for the Commission.

And our goal is to have this to you by your meetings next week.

And we will certainly keep you updated on that timeline.

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>> COMMISSIONER EID: Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you MDOS, thank you Commissioner Eid.

Moving on to new business item 6B, without objection, I would like to ask General Counsel Julianne Pastula to cover litigation counsel budget and modify contract.

Hearing none please proceed.

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

Again, the Commission has before it proposed resolution 2021.08.20 to establish a total cost of litigation counsel RFP and modify certain contract terms.

As the Commission will recall, when Baker Hostetler submitted their proposed bit, they drew attention to the liquidated damages clause and also a disclosure clause of active proceedings against individuals in the firm.

So the resolution has before it removal of paragraph nine the liquidated damages clause the Commission would have the ability in through the civil process to pursue those types of damages.

And for point two modifying paragraph 28 of schedule A to reflect the following that the notifications will be given for key personnel, that the disclosures excuse me key personnel that are the subject of any publicly filed litigation related to the performance of their professional obligations of the firm.

So this is also in keeping in recommended by your General Counsel to update those two contract terms.

The other update would be to add a total cost not to exceed 750,000 to that contract.

And one term that was just confirmed just today would be instead of having the contract term run through March 31st of 2022, which has been consistent with other contracts that the Commission has accepted, the recommendation would be to add after the word costs in the paragraph the first paragraph of the resolution, quote, with the initial contract term unless terminated expiring on August 31st of 2022.

Again, this is your litigation counsel.

So we will need these individuals past March of 2022.

So therefore I would recommend that the resolution with the addition of the contract term expiring on 8-31-2022 be adopted.

That way the notice to award can be moved forward and this contract can be executed prior to the expiration of August 2021.

Thank you and I'm available for questions.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I just want to move that we approve resolution 20210820 to establish the total cost of litigation counsel and modify the contract terms for Baker Hostetler.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Motion made by Commissioner Witjes.

Is there a second? Second made by Commissioner Orton.

Sorry Commissioner Lett.

So I saw Cynthia's hand first but I heard your voice.

Is there any debate or discussion? Commissioner Clark please.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, Julianne, you indicated to extend it to August 31st, 2022.

Why wouldn't we extend it to September 30th, end of a fiscal year?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: That is excellent through the Chair to Commissioner Clark that is actually an excellent question and what we are doing is the contract language as presented currently states one year initial term.

But that's not reflected in the date.

So the date it would be one year from the effective date of the contract which we would expect to be at the end of August.

We expect to have it fully executed at the end of August.

So that one year initial contract term would again match up with the effective date of the contract and run for one year.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Any other questions for General Counsel? Okay, all in favor raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: All opposed raise -- all opposed raise your hand and say nay. The ayes prevail and the motion is adopted for the resolution to establish total cost of litigation counsel and modify contract terms with expiration date 8-31-22.

Moving forward to new business item 6C, begin mapping drafts for the northwest, northeast and Upper Peninsula State Senate districts.

The regions in which the Commission will be working at this time provide a starting point so we aren't mapping the entire state at one time.

Regions are not districts.

So District lines will be drawn across region lines as the Commission meets the criteria listed in the Michigan Constitution.

Starting with equal population.

We will continue the roll call order and pick up where we left off on Tuesday.

Commissioner Vice Chair Szetela if you would like to facilitate, you are more than welcome or you can rest if you would like to, okay, and Michigan Department of State staff Sarah Reinhardt, can you assist with the roll call order?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Absolutely.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I believe we left off last time with Commissioner Witjes.

And so we would circle back around.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I think there are some murmurings that it might have been MC.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I believe our records indicate we left off with Commissioner Witjes but certainly if the Commission wants to start with MC, we can do that.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES:

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: My notes reflect Commissioner Witjes as well and as I recall Commissioner Witjes opened up a very collaborative session with regard to that particular District that Commissioner Rothhorn was a very big part of that discussion. But my notes reflect Commissioner Witjes as well.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay, I was just letting them start their own phase.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: So next up would be Commissioner Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Thank you John could you bring the map up for the UP so we will be working on the State Senate District.

>> I disconnected my computer to the HDMI cable so let me share the screen and hopefully we can all see this.

So before moving the map this is just the total population of the three regions for your consideration and approximately again the total population for the three regions is 780,781, 289 which is approximately three Senate districts.

So the three regions that you're considering are the UP, the northwest and the northeast and here is the UP.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I would like to start on the west side of the UP please.

>> MR. MORGAN: After a brief discussion with Kim Brace we were going to suggest that we start again with District numeral one even though we used numbers in other areas it would just be consistent to start each region fresh.

That is open to the Commission of course.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Just clarifying why wouldn't we just continue moving on with the Senate maps that we've already created and adding on to.

>> MR. MORGAN: Let me defer to Kim on this.

>> KIM BRACE: What you have so far on the Senate districts you are up through 1-7 or 8 I believe.

Then you are jumping way up to the UP.

So you could start with 38 up there, but that's where existing 38 is and I did not want people to be confused that you are changing something that people know up there so that is why we were looking at the potential of we will be able to mesh them better at that point in time so that is why our suggestion was to try to start a fresh at this point with districts 1-whatever then when we get them altogether then we will be able to renumber them with all of your help in terms of that.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: A grand new file in Autobound.

>> KIM BRACE: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: We can merge them altogether.

>> KIM BRACE: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Then it does not matter.

>> MR. MORGAN: Just to be clear this has no districts in it at this moment so it's a completely different plan and we are focusing on the region, okay? Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: That makes a difference, it's a different plan now I look at it.

Yeah, I want to start in the western part of the UP, please.

And let's start and there is an island up in the far western and let's start with that.

That is part of that county so then let's proceed east with all the counties.

So I think there are two alternatives here one is go along the east the shoreline and split it horizontally or vertically so I think that is two choices and I would prefer to keep the whole western Section together as one.

So all those counties below it I would do those.

>> MR. MORGAN: Keweenaw, then Houghton, Ontonagon.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: I can't say some of the names.

>> MR. MORGAN: Ontonagon.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Baraga, Iron, Dickinson, Marquette, Menominee, Alger. And Delta and let's see where we are at number wise.

So.

>> MR. MORGAN: We have the Porcupine Mountains in there, Delta.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, go ahead with that one.

>> MR. MORGAN: School District.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Where are we at number wise?

>> MR. MORGAN: So it's 240 out of 265 is the ideal. Negative nine and population is 24,000.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: What about the one below that, yeah, the county below the purple.

>> MR. MORGAN: Schoolcraft is 8,000.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: How far are we short?

>> MR. MORGAN: Short 24 with that it will be short 16.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: We will have to do that one and then oh, boy.

>> MR. MORGAN: 5,000 and loose and 10,000 in Mackinac and 37,000 in Chippewa.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: So if we take those two the 5,000 and the what 10,000 you said.

>> MR. MORGAN: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: That gets us close to 255.

>> MR. MORGAN: It does.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: But.

>> MR. MORGAN: But.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, that leaves us.

>> That won't work.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: That won't work at all.

Boy that is where we are going to get stuck.

Cynthia want to give us some help?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I worked on this one last night and I think you just have to take part of Chippewa County and part of Mackinac County and end kind of right before the bridge.

Otherwise you cut yourself off and it can't be contiguous.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes.

>> I agree.

>> MR. MORGAN: Shall I take all of Mackinac out while you decide how to look at the Townships or County populations?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes, let's take it out because it's a problem the way it is.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay I'm going to Zoom out just a little bit once I can.

There we go.

Oh, boy, one moment.

Doing the Hokey Pokey with this one we are in and out.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: In Houghton it's the Houghton-Pokey.

>> MR. MORGAN: Fair enough so the two counties I can make the selection layer Townships and this will give you the population of the Townships.

And again the southern county Mackinac the northern county Chippewa.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: So we are short how much?

>> MR. MORGAN: Currently short 11,204.

Although I will point out it's negative 4.22 as drawn.

So that's what the number is now.

If you were to not take any new the District.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Still within the correct deviation if we didn't do anything.

>> MR. MORGAN: Yes.

If plus or minus 5 are the outer bounds then, yes.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: And we have not gone across the bridge yet.

>> MR. MORGAN: Correct.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I would almost want to stop here.

Yeah.

Because we have a significant population but not enough, I believe, on the other end of the peninsula.

And then a lot of the Native American reservations are on that side as well so that would keep them together go ahead Cynthia.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Then I have Commissioner Eid to jump in, go ahead Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Would it be possible the other day, Kim, you showed us a heat map of the racial data and there was something right up in this area. Can you show us where that was?

>> MR. MORGAN: I'm going to stop sharing my screen. And turn it over to Kim.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I think that is where we saw a lot of North American reservations and that is why I would want to keep them together, leave it so it could stay together if possible.

And I also know there is a prison over in Chippewa county at the far end, the eastern end so it may elevate that population as well.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Kim I have it open if you want me to share it if it would be easier.

Through the Chair is that all right?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Absolutely.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I don't like having that big of a deviation but in this type of situation I don't know how we can avoid it.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Can everybody see that?

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, that whole eastern part is heavily populated that way.

So I think I would want to leave what I suggested in place at this point even though I don't like the deviation being that high.

We don't have much population to deal with up there.

So, yes.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: That is what I would like to suggest.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay, all right, Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID:

COMMISSIONER CLARK: So I yield back at this point.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Can you explain why you started where you started?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, I started in the far northwest portion of the Upper Peninsula so we would not get boxed in up there.

And then I moved east and we had to move further east than I anticipated but we did that because we had to make sure the population is in the appropriate deviation.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Next is Commissioner Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'm sorry I have a question and I don't think anybody was able to see my hand.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Please Commissioner Lange go ahead.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'm curious about leaving that open I understand Mackinac and Chippewa and I have done my research and I have very large populations of Native Americans. But also, if you look to the east, you have, and forgive me if I pronounce it wrong, I also do Baraga County that also has a large community of Native Americans.

So with leaving two areas with that big of deviation, would it not help if you added the larger population, which I think, I could be wrong in my research, I thought it was Chippewa County to include that then you would have the Native American population in Baraga County which might I mean I doubt if it would be enough to give them their voice.

But it might be closer to making them if you rather than leaving the two blank I guess is what I'm saying.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I was going to suggest something kind of similar.

If you, in this District that we are naming number one for now, if you put in just the upper parts of Sault St. Marie and like the City of Sault St. Marie and just connect it with what you have with Lapeer is it Lapeer County you get the population and then you can have all of Mackinac County with Cheboygan and the rest of the eastern part of the upper Mitten.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I think by doing that you keep the lake sure community intact up there as well.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: You do.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Vice Chair Szetela?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Isn't that going to throw you over population thought?

Doesn't the Sault have 17,000 people on it?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: On mine I'm over 2% so it's pretty close.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes.

>> MR. MORGAN: I think on the map here this may be the tribal designation, this faint outline here, this may be a tribal area designation on the map.

And I'm mousing around that area.

Is that something you were discussing?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: It looked like you were hovering over most of Mackinac County.

>> MR. MORGAN: Sorry, this portion of Chippewa, I was talking with Kim here, and I think this on the map is a tribal designation.

If you see it's outlined.

And you can see it on your own screens possibly as well.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Does that extend all the way into like the tip of where Sault St. Marie is?

>> MR. MORGAN: No. It looks like the City is on the border with Canada. And these are more sparsely populated Townships, which I think that corresponds to the Native American concentrations that you pointed out on the map.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So, right, what I was suggesting is if you Zoom in and go to Townships, and add White Fish, Bay Mills, Sault and Sault St. Marie, that puts you at the correct population.

And then everything south of that is that reservation you are talking about which can go in a separate District.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: That doesn't make Sault St. Marie contiguous, I don't believe.

>> MR. MORGAN: Do you want me to click the Townships in, Commissioner Clark? Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes, let's see what it looks like.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Witjes did you want to jump in now? Or did you -- you want to wait, okay.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: So I don't know if I would bring them now or not but I what I submitted a map basically to EDS to state and our staff forwarded you last night. I got the population down for that District to deviation of 1755 people.

We are basically doing what I have at this particular point but I left Sault St. Marie out of District 1 in this case and I split up one of the counties towards the bottom.

And it seems to work because then you would have the Native American populations on the Sault sorry the east side of the Upper Peninsula altogether and then going down across to the bridge.

I don't know how I would go about showing this.

At this particular point.

I guess I could go into Zoom and do it that way if anyone wants to see it.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: We would have to back off of what we just selected given -- let's do that.

Let's back it off and put in what Dustin said.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Want me to pull it up real quick.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: See what happens.

Can you put it in as a separate District what Dustin said?

>> KIM BRACE: Can you link in?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I can link into Zoom, it will take me a minute to do so.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Let's do that.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Commissioner Witjes.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I also got mine that I was working on last night down to 1.39 under percent under so while he is getting his up, I can share mine if anyone -- if you want to see it and we can compare.

Hum? No.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Okay, so let's see here.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I think it would be beneficial to work with two districts up here to see if we can balance the population.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: We have to screens up right now it's kind of nifty. So the one with the two and the green area filled in is the one that I had submitted to the state Election Data Services and our staff last night.

This would be placed on our website for review as well if anyone wants to take a look at it and comment.

But I also did a little bit more outside of what we are doing.

However, this seemed to match up nicely for the Upper Peninsula as well as going down into the upper Lower Peninsula plus taking care of both the northeast and northwest of the Lower Peninsula as well.

So this was just my thought on how to split the west side and east side of the Upper Peninsula and allow it to go down.

This little area right here in purple we could probably potentially use blocks to cut it along I-75.

But feel free to give any comments if anyone wants to give their thoughts.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Vice Chair Szetela?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: My only concern with this is how much you are cutting off the Native American population in Chippewa because the area that you have in purple right now and then the area that you have in green, the area in purple has I this I 50% Native American and then the area right next to it has 25% to 50% so you are basically like splitting that community in half.

So that would be my only concern.

So consider that entire region of Chippewa like a concentrated Native American population and when you split it up like that you are splitting up that population.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: So would you rather see the upper area of the green Section move further to the left and then have the purple go down and eat into the bottom Section?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Then it gets really tricky because if you do that, then those bottom precincts that you have in green, if you bring the purple in to them, then you're cutting off the bridge.

So I ended up having to do blocks.

Like I started out with this but I ended up having to take blocks and go back a little bit into the center to sort of accomplish what you did here without cutting out population. So it's really the two precincts just to the left of where you have the green line.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: That makes sense too and you can use blocks all the way to, what is it, the west side of 75 and use blocks on the east side of 75 and use 75 as a dividing line.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: If that the morph into it.

Again, these are just my thoughts here.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: When you did yours Rebecca, did you on the green portion, the green District did you bring that down into the Lower Peninsula?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, you have to.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: That's what I see.

But you did bring it down as far as Dustin?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: It probably was.

The bigger issue is those three little precincts that are just to the left of where he juts up with the green pulling those in you have to balance and you have to take something from the purple to make it balance out and the only way I can accomplish that based on how the lower precincts are all lined is to switch the block level.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: But the purple we are getting pretty high on the deviation at that point.

>> MR. MORGAN: Yeah, at this point just what is on the screen on the left are what is in the plan that we are working on.

It is still holding without any Mackinac or Chippewa.

So it's 11,000 under before taking anything else in.

I'm holding that there.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: 4.5% of whatever.

>> MR. MORGAN: 4.2.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: For the benefit of the public and so Commissioners are aware only the map is being screen shared through Zoom and it's viewable by the audience watching remotely.

So if you begin referencing the map that is displayed in the venue to your left, my right, I would advise screen sharing it so we can allow the remotely viewing audience to view it as well.

Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: See, go ahead.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Go ahead Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Sorry, train of thought just derailed in my head.

So I'll yield back.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yeah, I think what we were doing, fixes what Commissioner Szetela was speaking of. Because if you include White Fish, Bay Mills, Sault and Sault St. Marie everything below that and then to the right of the bridge, which also includes those Native American populations that Commissioner Lange was speaking on can all be in one. And it works. So I don't know if we want to try that. And see what happens. Or we were kind of about to do it. Or stop.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yep, Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I guess I was always under the assumption of trying to get the deviation as low to zero as possible. I guess I'd have to ask all of you if you would be willing to have a deviation so high in one particular area knowing that is going to potentially cause issues later on down in the state.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Can our Commissioners with the radio voices, the deeper voices can you all talk louder so that the folks over here can hear you? Just repeat the last thing you said Commissioner Witjes, please.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: If we are, hold on, are we going to be comfortable having a deviation so high in one particular District knowing that that's going to potentially cause more issues further down into the state once we get there?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I'm willing to try it.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I'm willing to try it.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I will too and they are preliminary maps.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: That's what I was thinking.

These are not the last maps.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: So I would recommend keeping the purple as it is at this point and then when we begin to refine these districts then we can move forward.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Could someone state what we have right now? Like because I can't really see it from here and I'm not seeing it on my Zoom. So where -- what is our current count in District one let me put it that way and make it easy?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I have it up currently 253,989. With a deviation of 11,204 people short of ideal.

>> MR. MORGAN: Yes, that is what I have on the map here.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I mean why we leave such a huge variation when we can just grab a few precincts and try to bring it a little closer.

>> KIM BRACE: Madam Chair I don't think we are caught up on this system that you're seeing up here on the screen versus what Dustin has.

So we were waiting for you to decide moving in Dustin's direction or what.

>> MR. MORGAN: Or Commissioner Eid's direction or Commissioner Clark's direction, there is three different alternatives that are being discussed here.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So my clarification for Doug is which are you talking about going with, what we have here on the screen or what Dustin was proposing?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: What I originally proposed which I believe left Chippewa and Mackinac Counties out.

And that left us with a deviation of 4.5%.

>> MR. MORGAN: 4.22, 11,000 ideal.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Which can very well change when we begin to look at the racial data and the political data.

We may adjust it here or there at that point.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Vice Chair Szetela?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Why not add a few more precincts to that to get it a little closer?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: One of the comments we got out of the public hearings is keep the counties together and that is one specific one I got out of the Mackinac public hearing.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: But that is actually I think number 7 on our list of constitutional criteria.

Number one is equal population.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: It is but it doesn't mean you ignore it and if it's it to the public, which you could also say it's part of community of interest to keep the counties together.

So you could look at it a couple ways.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Then we will end up with 11,000 people short somewhere else.

Or 11,000 people too many.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: We have to makeup 11,000 somewhere else.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I think I would go with the option that leaves us with less to fix. But that is Commissioner Kellom perspective and would like to have less to cleanup on the back end.

I understand and see both discussions and both perspectives.

But that's my current thought, that I'm continuing to listen.

Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: How about we put a pin in this now and move on to Commissioner Curry because I believe it's her turn next.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: So, yes, but I think we should maybe make a decision here about just for the sake of John and Kim and wanting to sort it out a little bit.

>> MR. MORGAN: Would this be a time you want to take a break and think about it? Or continuing?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: You're a wise man, Mr. Morgan.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioners at your pleasure would you like to have a.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Do you see a high deviation as a problem going forward?

>> MR. MORGAN: You will find a way to balance it and some other Directors could be over so from strictly a mathematical point of view one District at this level I don't think is significant.

But to the point of the other Commissioners you could also adjust it.

They are just different perspectives and different options.

>> KIM BRACE: This is also part of the reason why I talked about trying to do a complete plan so you end up getting to the other side of the state and figuring out oh, okay, this is where my high District is going to be or whatever the case may be. So it's you know as you move along, you can have different variety of different circumstances on that regard.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Lange do you have your hand raised?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I do.

I'm just on with Doug at this point looking at it since there are so many different possible options, I say we leave it as the Commissioner that drew it wanted it.

And we can address it later once we have more data.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I wanted to add even though I did bring up the deviation issue we are within the deviation window whereby definition complying with the first criteria of equal population because that's what the deviation allows for. So even though it would be potentially high, and I don't necessarily like it, as far as I'm concerned, we are still in compliance with the first part of what we are supposed to be doing.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Anyone have any other final thoughts regarding moving forward with Doug's?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: No, I would just say I would keep it like this at this point.

I don't like the deviation that high either but we can adjust it down a level at some point. And if not as Dustin said we are in compliance.

So I'd leave it and let's move on and see what develops at this point.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay, Vice Chair Szetela?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, I would just say we are making more work for ourselves down the road.

You're going to have to adjust it at some point so why not spend five minutes pulling off three precincts now and have it be closer rather than get through 36 and get down to 30

and get down to the Detroit area and be like gosh now we have to go all the way back and all these other districts we did all the way down.

It just doesn't make sense to me but it's your District Doug so but it is going to have to be adjusted at some point so.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: I'm curious and maybe I missed this in the back and forth and Kim and John do you have anything decisive that could add perspective to this?

>> MR. MORGAN: Sure when you say it has to be adjusted, you know if you think about moving forward with 37 other districts, you have 37 other opportunities to adjust for this.

You don't have to specifically adjust this District.

It's the overall deviation that you're talking about.

So if this one is under you have 37 other opportunities to have some of them over.

And to Commissioner Szetela's point of view yes you could adjust this one to make it closer to zero or you know, even population.

But it probably wouldn't require you going backwards through the entire state to adjust this single District.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you, John.

It seems that we are at a bit of an impasse.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Let me suggest we take a yes, no vote real quick and whether we want to keep it like this or not and have further discussion?

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you Commissioner Clark you took the words right out of my mouth, literally.

So I entertain.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I will put that forth as a motion.

>> Second.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Motion made by Commissioner Clark and seconded by I missed it Commissioner Witjes.

Any discussion or debate on the actual motion? Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yeah, I just think it's premature to vote on anything now.

I mean we are still and we haven't done that thus far yet with anything that we've done.

As far as this process that we're undertaking.

I mean, this is the first District in this area that we are drawing.

And you know, for all the precincts we went around the table and got everyone's opinion and posted all of them.

So I really don't think there is a need to take a vote.

Instead, if you know when we get to Commissioner Curry's turn or my turn or Commissioner Szetela's turn just present something differ or Commissioner Witjes present something different and go up on the website and give us ideas and we will go from there.

I think voting on something now it's going to change.

If we vote on every preliminary District, we put up we will be taking a whole bunch of time.

I don't think it's necessary at this point.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you Commissioner Eid.

Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Keep many mind we are not voting here on setting something in stone.

We are just voting on leaving this alone and moving on and drawing continuing at this particular point so we end the discussion on this particular District.

That's it.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: We don't need to Commissioner Clark says he wants to leave it as it is and it's his turn and we can move on to someone else and if they want to add something or move it, they can.

That is what we have done the whole time.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Vice Chair Szetela then General Counsel please.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I was going to echo what Commissioner Eid said.

What is the point of voting on it if the next Commissioner who comes along can change it.

I say let's move on but I think we have a motion and a second at this point so we need to vote but.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I'd like to withdraw the motion, please.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay, General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: So to withdraw, the question is properly before the body.

So the ability to withdraw would also be granted by the body so I would recommend taking a vote on withdrawing that motion and now that I've kind of given some guidance on that let me also say the mapping procedures that have been adopted kind of anticipate this.

The other on Tuesday there were and Monday there were instances of where the map was saved and then the next person in line made some modifications to it.

And both of those would have been presented to the public on the website as work product of the Commission.

Again, there is no formality in what the Commission is doing at this moment.

So I would recommend that the collaborative mapping sessions go forward per the procedure where the votes are not taken until the proposed maps are being decided upon for publication.

And that way the FLUIDITY of this process and the ability of the Commission as a whole to react to data and feedback can be maintained.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you General Counsel.

Do we have a motion to, I can't think of the word, help me you all withdraw, there we are.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: That would be made by Commissioner Clark.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I was eying Commissioner Clark.

Motion made by Commissioner Clark, is there a second?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Second.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Second made by Commissioner Lett, thank you.

Any discussion or debate on the actual motion? Hearing none all in favor of withdrawing the motion please say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: All opposed please say nay.

The ayes have it and the motion is withdrawn.

Okay, Commissioner Curry we gave you a big introduction.

So please proceed.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I'm looking at this map and I'm trying to decide, I'm trying to decide whether with are through with that little block right and we are going on to Chippewa and Mackinac, okay.

And together they are short of the 265,000.

>> MR. MORGAN: Yes, by quite a bit.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: All right, so then can I drop down to Leelanau, Charlevoix and Emmet.

>> MR. MORGAN: I know, sorry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay, got it through Emmet, Charlevoix, Antrim or something else?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I'll say Emmet, Charlevoix, and Antrim.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay, you have Kalkaska, Grand Traverse and Leelanau.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Leelanau that has 22,301, so let's add that.

I'm still short, right?

>> MR. MORGAN: Yes, short 111,000.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Can we go with Grand Traverse?

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay, now it's short by 16,400.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay, let's take.

>> MR. MORGAN: Kalkaska.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Kalkaska. Now we are a little over.

>> MR. MORGAN: Over by 1500.

It's okay, so you want to stand there?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I'm going to stand right there.

>> MR. MORGAN: All right.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Curry, can you provide explanation why you drew the map the way you did?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I think they are all contiguous and contiguous and we are just only short like 1500 people, so we can kind of make that up somewhere.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you. Next, I believe is Commissioner Eid.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, could you explain why you went to the west instead of the east when you got to the Lower Peninsula?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Because the population was equal on that side.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Just a minute.

I want to take a look at a map I've got.

What is in my head is when the current maps, the current districts went to the east and not the west.

I just want to verify that.

And then I was just kind of wondering why.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: This is the current map for the Senate and it pretty much goes.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay I was wrong.

Okay, perfect, thanks.

I yield.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: You are finished Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: For the moment.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay, next Commissioner.

One second you all.

I don't have it, Anthony Eid, Anthony Eid you are the Commissioner to draw.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So I kind of had a little bit of a different take than where Commissioner Curry took the map.

So I'm not sure if we want to like copy this and do another draft or like how we did the other day? Because I don't want to get rid of what Commissioner Curry or Commissioner Clark drew.

But I do have a little bit of a different take on it that I would like to show.

>> KIM BRACE: So what we can do is we can save this off now as a separate plan and then we can use that as a copy for the Eid's alternative on that line so that we've got two different copies of this UP and upper Michigan area.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Is that okay with everybody? What are you guys thinking? Okay, so to clarify are you asking me to open a blank plan or to keep this and then you will make adjustments from it in a new saved plan?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: It does not need to be blank.

I do -- it does follow District 1 like I was saying previously when we were discussing it.

It just goes instead of going to the west, it goes to the east.

>> MR. MORGAN: So I will make a copy of these two districts and then you can make adjustments, okay, one moment.

Okay. Commissioner Eid, I made a copy for you.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I would like to point out the -- while we are engaging in this collaborative process, I would like to point out clusters A1 to A4 that we just got in this report because it kind of goes with what I'm thinking here and it also works out.

We were just talking about Indian reservation and how they start below the City of Sault St. Marie and go to the eastern side of the state, if I have that correct. And that what Commissioner Lange pointed out, right? So what I would say is let's actually start with Mackinac County, which right now is in green.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay. So Mackinac and do you also want Chippewa in this District too?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: No.

>> MR. MORGAN: No.

Sorry is this a separate District three? Or are you redoing.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: You can make it a separate District 3.

That actually works out quite well.

So you can add Mackinac and Chippewa to that.

Okay now we can add the entirety everything to the right of the bridge, so Cheboygan, Presque Isle, Oswego, Crawford.

>> MR. MORGAN: One moment. I'm going to add the regions back in. With the new plan, the regions need to be readded.

One moment.

Cheboygan and Presque Isle.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Everything in there.

>> MR. MORGAN: Everything in that region?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Everything in that region.

>> MR. MORGAN: The population is 251,171.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I would also add the if you Zoom in on Wexford County right there.

There is Missaukee and Wexford.

So add Missaukee.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay.

Now that is 30 people off.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: And add -- so if you look at Wexford, it's a four by four grid essentially.

You adjust the you split it down the middle, add the eight blocks that are to the right.

So.

>> MR. MORGAN: Including Cadillac?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Including Cadillac.

And the next four to the left of that.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay, that is 291,000.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Now I would go back up and unassign, so Chippewa County.

And I would unassign let's see unassign all of that northern part so, so County, Sault St. Marie and if we go to the left Bay Mills and White Fish.

Actually instead of unassigning them, I would actually add them to District 1 because it would bring down that population difference and also respect those Native American communities and also reflect what's in clusters A1-A4 in the community of interest report that we got earlier.

Now if we Zoom out, we can -- I don't know what we want to do with Sugar Island.

I would defer to ask what everyone else thinks about that because I'm really not too familiar, but if we Zoom all the way out, yep.

Keep going and scroll down a little bit.

I believe now Districts 1 and 3 are right. And if we just -- so if we add the rest of the northwest region to District 2, it would also be okay population wise.

I'm not saying to do that because that would be moving on to a new District.

So maybe the next Commissioner can do that.

But that is kind of my thinking.

>> KIM BRACE: Commissioner, you have a noncontiguous piece here right now.

>> MR. MORGAN: It's the sugar island.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: 634 people in it.

>> MR. MORGAN: That is right.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: It's discontinuous with 1 so put it with 1.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So I have two comments.

First a question, if you could Zoom in to the Sault St. Marie area where we just were, I played with this on my own but I felt that that was between Bay Mills and Sioux. I felt that was noncontiguous because it's only connected by water, those two pieces of land. So I would like clarification on that.

And also my second comment is I felt like since the population is so sparse and it's such a large area, if we are going to go over and under, I felt like we should go slightly under in population to not make it even bigger than it needs to be.

But anyway what do people think about the contiguousness of those two pieces?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: It looks to me the counties are contiguous with each other but I don't know how that works with the land, which is exactly what you're saying. I have not seen that.

But the you look at the county boundaries of Bay Mills and Sioux those border each up there so I'm not quite sure how that works.

>> MR. MORGAN: I don't know if there is guidance from that in your criteria.

There may be.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioners the Constitution states that island areas are considered to be contiguous by land to the county of which they are a part.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: But this is not an island, this is two pieces of land.

>> KIM BRACE: If General Counsel if you want to -- what you have here is the Census Bureau is attempting to show what it had to the extent that it had.

You are pointing out a correctness in terms of the land on that side though.

>> MR. MORGAN: These are the Township boundaries.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: It is part of the same Township so it's part of the same Township.

It's not you know across the water.

It's in the same County.

It's in the same County but it's the same Township right if you click it.

>> MR. MORGAN: Yeah, this is Bay Mills Township there, going across the Bay.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: All one Township, correct?

>> KIM BRACE: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: It's contiguous do you see what I mean one Township.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Is that what contiguous means? I want clarification on what contiguous means.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Contiguous means it does not refer to the political boundaries at all, it's that area is not disjointed.

So it's not so that you can't have an area here and then an area on a different area of the map.

And island areas are considered contiguous with their corresponding County on the mainland.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So to me this kind of seems discontinuous because if any voting area is in a certain area I would have to drive through, I could not get through my voting precinct unless I drove through another District.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, we had that comment up in Marquette.

There is one area over toward the west where they had to drive 70 miles to vote and we have basically the same situation here.

>> And they don't like that.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Orton I had a feeling.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: The problem could be solved by using census blocks to go around there and hook them together but maybe that's not the best solution. Maybe there is another solution.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Vice Chair Szetela, are you ready to, I'm sorry.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: To Zoom back, in Mr. Morgan.

Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I wonder if it would help us if we could see the population of that little portion if it is populated in terms of voting.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair, as I understand the question, and becoming familiar with the visual that Mr. Brace and Mr. Morgan are showing, my understanding is the question is whether the island area can serve as the mechanism to make two portions that are separated by water on the land.

If the island is part of the same County, that is acceptable.

That is in the same District.

>> KIM BRACE: This is not an island.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Can you Zoom out a little bit further.

It's a little further east so go down.

A little bit further down.

>> KIM BRACE: That is an island there.

But here is all land connecting here.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: That is not contiguous so the mainland is split between the one, the purple one and the what appears to be gold to me number three. Those two, that is not contiguous.

The island is clearly part of the one, the purple shading.

But that break in between the land mass would not suffice.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay the next Commissioner to draw is myself, Brittni Kellom and I'm going to pass for right now and then that would make the next Commissioner to draw Rhonda Lange.

Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay can we go back to the previous map?

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay so this one.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: I would strongly recommend the noncontiguous nature of that particular District be addressed.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you General Counsel for the recommendation.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: If I may.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: To fix it or if we are going to keep adding it that is fine but I would take superior County out of 2 and put it into 1 for now.

Superior Township.

Sorry.

>> KIM BRACE: Switch back to.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay switching back.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Kim don't forget about your microphone, please.

No, you are fine.

You were talking about superior Township to the south of Bay Mills, yes?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes, that fixes the contiguity problem.

So that is good.

Yeah, my whole idea with this was trying to make it so that the -- this part of the UP goes with the right side of the you know the top of the right hand of the Mitten rather than the left side which you know is -- can be pretty much everything we have already identified in our northwestern region.

So that is the reasoning behind it

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I think the other advantage of what you just did, Anthony, is now we have the lakeshore altogether in one District.

And that was one of the comments we got out of Marquette as well.

And that was important to some people.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: My only critique of my own thing I just drew is I don't know. And it would be nice once we got further into this, we had an Indian reservation overlay. And I don't know. It's somewhere in superior. And I don't know exactly where it -- and I would not want to take their population out of it.

I'm sure we can get into the block level later and figure it out.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you, Commissioner Eid.

I would add one of the comments I received at a public town hall that we had with respect to the Native American community was that 80% of Native Americans don't actually live on the reservation.

So that individual cautions me and my fellow Commissioners who were at that town hall to not simply look at reservations to look at the census data because the reservation data does not reflect the entirety of actually it reflects the minority of the Native American population.

Commissioner Lange? You wanted to switch to the original map is that accurate?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: That was what I requested, yes.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay so can we save this map and then go back to the original map for Commissioner Lange so that she can draw her District?

>> MR. MORGAN: Yes.

Okay go ahead Commissioner Lange.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Can you see that Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: No, I need it to go up more so I can see the vacant areas a little bit better.

I see the UP.

There we go, that is better.

>> MR. MORGAN: One moment. Since we switched plans, I need to add the regions back in.

One moment.

Okay Commissioner Lange you can see the regions now, yes?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I can see the regions and is it our goal to stay within these regions? Because I honestly think that there is some areas within the regions that would go better with other regions that we're not doing.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lange this is Vice Chair Szetela so the regions are there as guidance to help us in mapping.

If you want to cross a region you are absolutely free to do so.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay thank you.

Can we go up a little bit further?

>> MR. MORGAN: How is that?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: That is better but the region I'm looking at I don't want to cut somebody off for the next one.

But based on public comment and knowing the area, if I was going to do a District, I would start with Wexford County.

>> MR. MORGAN: We have two districts so this would be a District 3 in this version. So Wexford which is Cadillac.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Correct.

And keeping in mind public comment about people wanting lakeshore districts, I'm going to stay away and start heading east, so Missaukee.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Ross common. Crawford.

And this is where it would dip. Actually I wouldn't go up.

I think these areas more gather in together, so I would also look at other regions such as lake, Osceola, Clair, and Gladwin.

These are all very rural areas.

>> MR. MORGAN: All four of them for this District?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Correct.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: And I still need 180 so could we add in I don't want to go too far into other districts you guys or other regions.

And I know there were comments about keeping, there were some flood areas and I don't want to go into that Ogemaw and Oscoda.

And then again, we have the lack shore and we need Newaygo and Mecosta.

>> MR. MORGAN: Putting both of those in Newaygo is 50,000 and Mecosta is about 39 so now it's 295 over by 29.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay, Newaygo could go with the lakeshore. I know they have a lot of farming District through there as is Oceana County.

>> MR. MORGAN: About 25,000 off.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: This is harder than it looks. Take Mecosta County off, please.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: What do we get if we add Oswego and Montmorency?

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay, now it's off by about 25,239.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: So I need to add population?

>> MR. MORGAN: Add approximately 25,000 to bring it close to the ideal.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay, let me take a quick peek. Give me just a moment.

Add Cheboygan, please.

>> MR. MORGAN: All right Sheboygan that is 20 people off the ideal.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay I will stop there.

My reasoning is we had a lot of public comment about people living on the shoreline that wanted districts that comprised of the shorelines and we had a lot of public comment about keeping rural districts rural so that's why I drew what I did.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Commissioner Lange at this point we are going to move on to Commissioner Lett.

Sorry Commissioner Clark, did you have a comment?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Can you hear me? I have a comment based on the logic of using the lakeshore.

I think it applies more towards the house than it does the Senate.

And I think it restricts us from drawing the Senate boundaries if we apply it there.

And the house is a lot smaller, probably 30% smaller than a Senate District.

And they could get their representation on the lakeshore through House District rather than the Senate District.

I yield.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Commissioner Clark. Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yeah, I got to agree with my colleague.

I see what Commissioner Lange I see what you are trying to do and I think it's well warranted but I don't think the numbers actually work out.

Because now if you put all those lakeshore communities in one it's not enough people to make a Senate District.

But I do believe this kind of idea would work for the House Districts.

Like Commissioner Clark said.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Commissioner Eid.
Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I guess I will agree as well.
But actually no but if we were to go into and go down the lakeshore now on the east side of the state, you're going to have to get into Bay County and that was one of the regions that the individuals from Midland Bay and Saginaw stated that they wanted to as best as possible be together in not only Congressional but also the Senate and if at all possible House Districts as well.

As best as possible.

And this I think would bust the Senate right open so they wouldn't be able to be in there together.

At least the cities, I guess I should say at least the cities of Bay City, Midland and Saginaw City proper, not the whole County so if we can figure out if this would potentially work isolating those three cities and then going and making a District around them, then I see this particular plan working.

If that's not going to be possible then I don't know if it would or not.

If anyone has any thoughts pertaining on that particular line of reasoning feel free to let me know.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay any additional thoughts on the District that Commissioner Lange has drawn? Okay, as we said these are draft plans and we are moving and changing as we move forward so we are going to continue to move on to Commission Lett.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Well in looking at what's available, I don't know how to draw either the east or the west side without making them look gerrymandered, without making them look like a snake.

Well, I will start at the top and go to number four and start at Presque Isle County and come down the east side.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay, so I've gone down to losco.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Very good.

>> MR. MORGAN: Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Want to take a shot at the next one.

>> MR. MORGAN: Arenac.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Give me that one.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Could we just change the color?

>> MR. MORGAN:

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So we can see the...

>> MR. MORGAN: No problem so currently it's 92000 so down about 172 towards the ideal.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Give me Bay.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: What about Midland.

>> MR. MORGAN: That is 14,000 over, positive 5.4 deviation.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: There is two problems with this District.

Number one, Flint, Saginaw and Bay have expressed a desire to remain together.

So that splits those up.

It does solve kind of one problem in that we are now 14,000 over which kind of off sets the 11,000 under in District 1.

The other problem is I don't like it.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: So I'm open for suggestions.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Sorry, the Presque Isle specifically gave us public comment that said they are so rural that I just hesitate to include them into the large cities along the south there.

I think it's, yeah, it's a long District and it's challenging like you said, Steve, but Presque specifically there is more than one comment.

They said they are very rural and something like there is only one stoplight in the whole county.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I don't disagree but I can't leave them up there all alone.

Then I have got to have population.

Unless we change something.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'm fine with you changing my areas.

I was trying to see based off from what was drawn already what it would look like to try to get some of those rural areas together so by all means you can change mine.

I won't be offended at all.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: We have bursting hands I saw Commissioner Orton's hand first then I think it was Commissioner Eid and I'll go after that.

Figuring out the order after the first two.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Well I just wanted to reiterate what Commissioner Clark pointed out.

I think many of the public comments we heard in communities of interest work better for House Districts or work better for Senate districts.

We need to take that into consideration.

Because this is just not working.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: And Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Commissioner Lett given that you do live here, I also would feel free to edit or give your opinion on the one that I drew too.

I really would like your expertise on it considering that one area in the northwestern region was left unfinished.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Vice Chair Szetela?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So I worked on a Senate map over the weekend and it should be available online.

But the way I sort of solved this problem is I went a little differently than how we have gone on this map.

So for the second District coming off of the Upper Peninsula I veered to the right And grabbed, you know ,I think it's Cheboygan, Presque Isle, Alpena, and a few surrounding Counties. And then I put Traverse City into a separate District coming out a little bit similar to the green -- the Lower Peninsula green portion that we have right now.

And then I tried to put the rural areas into their own District wrapping around Midland because we received a lot of public comment about the areas surrounding Midland being rural and wanting to stay together.

And then by doing that I was able -- I didn't get trapped sort of the way this is and was able to put Midland, Saginaw and Bay City together.

So it's not perfect, but I think the way that Anthony was going might be easier for us to after void getting trapped. And I'm happy to share my screen and show you what I did. And you guys can pan it all you want.

But it might solve the problem we have gotten ourselves in to.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, I would like to see solutions Rebecca.

Can we get it on the screen? Se Szetela it's not perfect.

I'm not saying it is.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: No need to be bashful.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Rhonda feel free to move my rural districts around if you don't agree with them because you are the expert there.

I'm trying to share.

It's not letting me.

I think you guys need to probably stop sharing so I can share or did you already? Let me try.

Oh, there we go.

I got it.

Can you guys see it now?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: No.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: That's it right there.

I sort of divided the same way on the UP and brought up Sault St. Marie together to cross the bridge.

Grabbed these communities here which are more cost line then I didn't quite have enough population so I had to go in here and pull a little but I did not do the whole county.

Pulled Traverse City and the surrounding counties then again, I had to veer up into here a little bit just to balance out this population in Midland but that allowed these counties altogether that are all rural who said they wanted to be together to be together.

And we could possibly group this in by kind of rebalancing here but it's just a suggestion so go ahead Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I like it.

The only thing that stands out to me is Petoskey and Charlevoix are more in line with Traverse City than they are the eastern side of the UP.

Or the Lower Peninsula.

But other than that, I think it is a good approach.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: If you can see I was able to get Bay City Saginaw and Midland together and pull out the counties around it that are rural who said they wanted to stay rural.

So just a suggestion.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Madam Chair Commissioner Lange's hand is raised.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Actually I put it down, but I appreciate how Rebecca drew this but I would have to disagree.

When you look at Osceola and lake County and then you look up like Grand Traverse and the lakeshore, there is really no similarity whatsoever in things.

I don't know.

I just don't foresee them being the same.

But that's my opinion because I live there, I guess.

So maybe I'm a little bias.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I remember just about everyone speaking that they wanted more rectangular blocks than snakes or funny designs.

And so if we could try to keep it as this is coming from just about everywhere we went, they would say keep it rectangular, keep it square, keep it even so if we can just kind of work around that we will probably be pretty good.

I mean we don't have to keep every but you know most of it pretty rectangular.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Any other thoughts? Steve are you -- how do you feel about what you have drawn? Okay well, yeah, or do you want me to go on? I'm sorry that you don't like it.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I will leave mine where it is.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay we have next to draw Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So we have a little bit left in these regions that we are talking about, right?

>> MR. MORGAN: Benzie and Manistee County are not included from the region. There are four districts. And the regional population was for three, but by going this way we've added Midland and Bay and basically created that fourth District.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So can we Zoom out a little bit and see down state a little bit, please?

Zoom in a little bit now, sorry.

Okay.

Start with Benzie and Manistee Counties, please.

And the next number.

Mason and Oceana.

>> MR. MORGAN: Let me put the population back on for you.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes, please.

So this is 98,000 people.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So my thought on this is, I believe, so we wouldn't be able to fit all of Muskegon County. And I believe that Muskegon County wants to stay together and is more associated with Ottawa County than with these up above.

So but I'm kind of out of places to go.

So any thoughts anybody? Doug?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Are you trying to get the lakeshores together? I mean I would almost take those and merge them into Rhonda's orange ones and I think that's more appropriate.

I don't like the lakeshore approach on the Senate side.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I agree.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: On the house side I think Rhonda is right on we should take that approach.

So I would suggest merging those in with what Rhonda did and take another look at the lake Huron side.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: The only I agree except then we are kind of causing a problem in the middle of the state there.

We are going to have to go back and redo three and four, I think.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Vice Chair Szetela?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: How about we redraw that green District which I think is two and bring it up and straight across so like right now it's kind of coming down one side.

What if we grab Cheboygan and Presque Isle and take off Grand Traverse and we will have a little bit more population to deal with.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: John, can you make a copy of that and try it on that one since it will be changing it so drastically?

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>> MR. MORGAN: Also, we left District 4 overpopulated, so we will just hold this plan partially. Okay, one moment.

So this is a copy of the plan we were just working on.

And, again, I'm just going to add the regions for reference.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Thank you.

So for District 2 let's try what Rebecca just suggested and do the top three counties and Cheboygan and Presque Isle to Emmet and Charlevoix.

>> MR. MORGAN: So I'm going to add before I take out rather than do one for one?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Right.

>> MR. MORGAN: You want to go all the way to Alpena?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: No.

Just Presque Isle.

Then will you take out.

>> MR. MORGAN: That is 40,000 over at this point.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So will you only 40,000.

Okay, please take out Grand Traverse, Leelanau and Kalkaska.

I unassigned them because there is so much flex with other districts, I think you were contemplating unassigning them.

So the District to is 95,000 under.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So this is going to 3 and 4 as well.

But take from Antrim, take everything to the east.

Just straight across.

Those three.

So Alpena, Montgomery.

>> MR. MORGAN: Into 2? You want those into 2 or into 3?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I want Otsego, yeah.

And, yes, straight across.

>> MR. MORGAN: Into two?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: We still need 32000 so let me look.

So the problem I see that this is, I agree that probably Charlevoix and Antrim would be better with Grand Traverse and Leelanau.

So I see that as a problem.

What about Emmet? What do people think, do you think that goes with that side as well? Okay.

>> MR. MORGAN: That is Petoskey, yes.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Well this will change the whole thing.

Okay, so right where we have the region line for Emmet Charlevoix and Antrim can you unassign those, please? Thank you.

Okay, so, now please assign to District 2, yeah, but we are on unassign right now. So.

>> MR. MORGAN: You're catching things.

I love it.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I have this really good teacher.

>> MR. MORGAN: Because we took out Emmet Charlevoix and Antrim there is a larger deficit.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Go one more row down those three counties.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Michigan Department of State staff Sarah Reinhardt?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yes, thank you Commissioners.

For clarification purposes, John, can you tell what county Mackinac Island is in?

>> MR. MORGAN: I believe Mackinac Island is in Mackinac County.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Got it, thank you.

That's my recollection.

I will Zoom in to double check.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: You are correct but you can double check.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair that is correct.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: I'm sure I have fewer screens open than Mr. Morgan so I'm happy to help.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Same General Counsel.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Okay so.

>> MR. MORGAN: So now it's off by about 15,000.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So there is a County right there your cursor is on.

>> MR. MORGAN: Missaukee.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes, will you add that?

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: And that should be.

>> MR. MORGAN: Back to 30 person off the ideal.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I'm going to have Commissioner Eid jump in is that okay really quickly?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I feel like I can say this is very similar to exactly what I drew a little while ago.

Which is good.

Or right obviously I think it's good, I drew it, but this is not the only map we can work with.

We have comments on that one or on Commissioner Szetela's map I feel like we don't want to get too much tunnel vision into working with just one when we have multiple things.

I think Szetela's is quite good and this is quite good and going in the same direction at that map if you want to compare them.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: John?

>> MR. MORGAN: Yes, since you're drawing this and you reconfigured several District does you want to unassign the partial districts that are just left hanging there? Like that 5?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Please unassign those.

And also, I'll just say I don't know if we want to move forward with this, if you want to go back to the one it was copied from.

I feel like we were kind of at a stuck spot so to me I like this one.

And I do like that it leaves the west portion of the upper Mitten to be together.

But it's on to the next Commissioner or if anyone has any input.

>> MR. MORGAN: So just a comment on this.

It appears that basically we redrafted a 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 are partials so you want me to remove those for the moment? Or is that what you would like?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I think it would be less confusing if they were removed, or unassigned for the moment.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Sorry John you were giving me eye contract and I didn't have a particular preference at the moment.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: At this time it's 3:51 and we had a stop for our mapping process at 3:50.

Yep.

So Commissioner Orton has left us kind of at a little cliff hanging point but that is okay because we have good work to continue.

So thank you Commissioners who drew today.

And all the good discussion that took place.

At this time we would have approval of minutes but there are none to approve at this time.

So I will move to staff reports but there are also no staff reports for today.

So.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Apologies Madam Chair before we move on Commissioner Orton, can you provide explanation for some of the changes that were made to the map?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes, so population is one reason.

Trying to -- trying to I don't know how to say it, keep -- I felt like we were breaking up areas that wanted to be together.

And that had more in common.

So that's why I started over here and went down the east side.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: So you could keep communities together.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes, keep communities together.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you, again apologies for the interruption.

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>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you, Commissioner Orton and Michigan Department of State staff.

We now will move to MDOS updates, if there are any.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: No updates.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Okay, and for correspondence, correspondence received in advance of our meeting today was provided along with written public comments to the Commissioners in our meeting materials.

And it is my understanding, if I look at the agenda and go to item 11, future agenda items that there are no further agenda items to share at this time.

Are there any announcements? Okay, hearing no announcements we will move to adjournment.

Because the items on the agenda are completed and the Commission has no further business, a motion to adjourn is in order.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: So moved.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Motion made by Commissioner Witjes.

Second made by Commissioner Rothhorn.

Is there any discussion or debate on the actual motion? Hearing none, all those in favor of adjournment please raise your hand and say aye.

All those opposed raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes have it.

Meeting is adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Thank you.