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MICRC

08/30/21 12:00 pm Meeting

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>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: As the Vice Chair of this Commission. I call this meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 12:04 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Members of the media who may have questions before, during or after the meeting should direct those questions to Edward Woods III, our Communications and Outreach Director for the Commission. 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: Hello, 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.

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>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?

>> 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 WEISS: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present.

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

And there is a quorum.

Commissioner Weiss, can you state your location, please?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes, I'm sorry about that. I kind of made a mistake this morning. I'm in Saginaw Township and Saginaw Michigan. And for the record I have to leave quarter after 1:00. I have an eye appointment at the doctor, so I wanted to tell you that up front right now.

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

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right. For the remainder of the public watching, you can view the agenda at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Rothhorn and seconded by Commissioner Lett. Is there any discussion or debate on the motion? Hearing none, it's moved and seconded we adopt the meeting agenda. All in favor raise your hand and say aye.

All opposed please raise your hand and say nay. The ayes prevail and the motion carries the motion is adopted.

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

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

One second.

Okay,

Individuals who have signed up and indicated that they would like to provide in-person commentary to the Commission will be allowed to do so. Please step to the nearest microphone when I call your number. And please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer. And first in line to provide public comment is number one.

You are now invited to address the Commission.

>> Good morning, Madam Co-Chair. My name is Sarah Howard. I'm an attorney here on behalf of the AFLCIO fair maps project.

Thank you for having me again here during the public comment today.

It's nice to see all of you again.

I've come today to again, express our appreciation for the work you are doing here. We support the work of this Commission and we are very hopeful for a fair map that results from this process.

As you know, it's our belief that there is a number of ways to come to a fair map that complies with the law and all of the seven criteria you are required to look at.

But it's our strong belief that that process has to include looking at all of those criteria and being intentional about all of them.

In particular, the partisan data during the process of drawing the maps.

We believe that the most important missions of this Commission is that the Commission finishes on time, with a fair map.

That there is a public appearance of a fair result so that the public has confidence in the work that you are doing.

And actually getting a fair and nonpartisan outcome from the maps you are drawing.

It's our view that all of those things can only be accomplished by intentionally looking at all of the facts and all of the factors as you go along.

To the extent it's done later, if you try to fix issues that exist with one or more of the criteria after you have drawn all the maps, there will only be questions from the public about why those changes were made.

Any side that is disfavored will cry foul at that point.

And it will destroy not only the ability to get a fair and nonpartisan outcome but destroy public confidence in the result, neither of which we want to see.

We want the Commission to be successful in the result that it draws for Michigan citizens.

Thank you.

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

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Individuals -- that concludes our in-person public comment today. So individuals who have signed up and indicated they would like to provide live, remote public comment to the Commission will now be allowed to do so.

I will call your name and our staff will unmute you. If you are on a computer, you will be prompted by the Zoom app to unmute your microphone and speak.

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

Also, please note that if you experience technical or audio issues or if we do not hear from you for 3-5 seconds we will move on to the next person in line and then return to you after they are done speaking.

If your audio still does not work you can e-mail redistricting@Michigan.gov and we will troubleshoot so that you can participate during the next public comment period during a later hearing or meeting.

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

First in line to provide comment is Jamie Lyons Eddie.

Please allow a moment for our staff to unmute you.

>> My name is Jamie Lyons-Eddy and I submitted a longer version of these comments into the portal.

I was a volunteer when I organized 4,000 volunteers to circulate the petition to end gerrymandering in Michigan.

The idea of a group of real Michiganders working across political divisions to draw fair maps inspired thousands of people to stand outside collecting signatures in the heat and in the cold for hours on end, week after week.

All of us at Voters Not Politicians, including those thousands of volunteers, plus the millions of Michiganders who voted for fair redistricting are all out here cheering you on and are deeply invested in your success.

In so many states District maps are being manipulated behind closed doors by politicians and partisan operatives working for their own benefit. And we are so glad to have you standing up for us instead.

Of course there are 13 of you tasked with representing all of us.

If you take the 10,077,331 people in the State of Michigan and you divide that by 13, that means each of you represents 775,180 people.

Each and every one of your voices is extremely important.

First, because you each have your own different experiences and backgrounds and communities; but also because each one of you represents more than three quarters of a million of us.

That's why it's so important that each of you dig into every aspect of the process and make your voice heard.

As you get to work on the map drawing process, which may be challenging or even contentious at times, I want to thank each one of you for your commitment to collaboration and impartiality, for speaking up for more than 775,000 people who are not there to speak for themselves and for your historic service to the state.

Thank you so much.

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

Next in line to address the Commissioner is Mr. James Galant.

Please wait for our staff to unmute you.

>> Can you hear me now?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, I can, Mr. Galant.

>> Okay, this is James Galant. I'm with the Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition and these are my opinions. And concerning our conversations about rules of procedure and Robert's Rules of Order, I hope that the fair map folks and the last speaker would be considering that, you know, what would you think the reason why a suicide prevention guy would be here in the first place, you know? Why am I talking about rules with you?

Well, first of all it's the voters expectation that the rules were provided to you by Secretary of State Benson, Robert's Rules of Order, will be followed. And what I found is that generally inconsistencies in life increases the risk for suicidal behavior generally. And so Robert's Rules of Order provides that consistency for our country and for our children.

And if you followed framework in the tools that have been provided to you by the Secretary of State, of course. And the children have to navigate these inconsistencies all day, every day. And it causes constant stress and anxiety and depression in their lives. And this Commission is contributing to that by not following the rules as they are provided.

Now, the immediately pending questions saying in Robert's Rules of Order is what provides that consistency. You make a motion and you second it and know what you are talking about.

It's already an exercise in immediate collaboration.

According to Webster's dictionary there is three kinds of collaboration.

And the third kind is what you do, which is like a library in an Intermediate School District would collaborate to provide literacy services in a community.

They do it separately, but they are both doing the same thing. Just like you Commissioners own the maps while --

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Mr. Galant, can you hold on a moment. We are having audio issues. I will pause your time for you and you can resume when we fix the audio issues in the room.

>> Sure, thank you.

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>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Mr. Galant, you are free to resume with 30 seconds remaining.

>> As I was saying it appears your side bar interpretation of the rules of procedure, which is explained in the transcripts from January 30 of 2021 about hearing no objections is a formal vote (?)

You see, that clearly helps the democratic party and detrimental to the republican party because you use it separately for Commissioner Eid, hearing no objections to support his position and Commissioner Clark, oh, we have no support for your position and your recommendation so you lose. So she did it both ways.

Commissioner Szetela bullied everybody into both ways on the same rules. She goes both ways. But, you know, that is okay, but not on the rules.

The rules are supposed to be motion, second, discussions, vote, Roberts Rules every time.

Period.

In America.

And this is not a collaborative, immediately collaborative process you're doing here.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission, Mr. Galant. Next in line to provide public comment is Judy Daubenmier.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: For the purposes of the public record, that participant is not present.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you very much. We will move on to Abby Clark.

>> Hi. It skipped out, so I don't know if I got called on.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: We can hear you.

>> Great. Thank you so much. My name is Abby Clark. And I am a Michigan citizen who is very grateful for the opportunity to address the Commission while you're doing the unbelievably important and difficult mapping work that you're doing right now. I wanted to comment because the job you have been given is so difficult and challenging, and I am getting nervous about the time.

Since the extension wasn't granted, I -- as I watch you draw the maps, I'm particularly concerned that the -- I've been fortunate enough to see you give trainings about your work.

And I know that you have criteria that the Constitution says you have to adhere to in order.

And I've noticed that while you draw the maps you do use the sixth item, which is county and Township and municipal boundaries. But you are not looking at the third and fourth criteria while you're drawing the maps generally.

And it makes me concerned that there won't be enough time to go back because what if there is an issue with COIs and partisan fairness after the fact? It doesn't seem like there is enough time to redo Districting on the timeline that you have, especially

because you haven't even gotten into Metro Detroit yet and so many of the communities of interest and population density and line drawing has to be done there.

So I just wanted to give comment to encourage you to, A, take a hard look at the schedule and the -- your own criteria in order as you draw so that we can see that those things are being factored in real time and that nothing will have to be redone. And the citizens of Michigan can have confidence that you're factoring in all those items and not leaving them aside and putting other things ahead of them that are in that order in the criteria.

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

Now that the first opportunity for both in person and remote public comment has concluded, without objection, we will now hear from individuals seeking to provide a second two-minute public comment. Hearing no objection, we will now proceed with individuals seeking to provide the second two-minute comment.

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

We will use the same process as the first round.

First in line to provide public comment is Mr. James Galant.

>> Can you hear me now?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: One second, Mr. Galant. Did we have a second in person public comment? Okay, all right, so go ahead, Mr. Galant.

>> All right. Thank you. I'm James Galant, Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition and these are my opinions.

And as we were just conversing about was the fact that you have no motions and second pending here.

Every map is supposed to be individual, the motion to approve the map.

You get to the end of the day, you motion to postpone and pick it up next time, at the next meeting. That is why Commissioner Eid was so confused about what we were going to vote on.

All the sudden when Commissioner Clark wanted to vote, oh, no, no, no, we will not finalize the maps. He was confused. And it's in the introduction of the last previous edition 2011 edition of Robert's Rules of Order. In the introduction at the beginning of the book it states very clearly that the biggest reasons for confusion at meetings is that the people don't know what they are going to vote on next.

So Commissioner Clark was, he didn't understand either.

He thought he would slip right in there and approve his maps, that is what is going happen now. You're going to have 20, 30, you will have all the maps rolling at the same time in different configurations and different phases. And your staff can't even keep who is next on the roll call vote.

Remember, the attorney wasn't keeping track, who is next, who is next here. The Secretary of State Benson knows. She is not here. She is MIA. She is required to be here, the secretary without a vote.

I notice that Sally Marsh in January stated on the record that the department of state is the secretary without vote. She didn't say Secretary of State. Secretary of State was there, I mean apparently. So this is all been confused. And I suggest you go right back to the beginning and start at the beginning and you get your litigation lawyer to write a report. You didn't follow the rules. And you're not following the rules. So this is going to be the litigation.

You did not approve the rules of procedure according to the rules. You have to use the rules effectively to change the rules. Start with a codification of Roberts Rules at the beginning, which Mr. Brady stated very clearly you must follow the Roberts Rules. And but didn't really put that to you. What is Roberts Rules? And your attorney now stated on the record that she created her draft, Roberts rules of procedure, by current practices and watched a video.

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

At this time it's my understanding we have a second in-person public commentary so we are going to pop back to the in person same rules as before you will have two minutes, please feel free to address the Commission.

>> Good morning again. Thank you very much for the opportunity to address the Commission for a second two minutes.

My name of course is Sarah Howard. I'm an attorney for the fair maps project from the AFLCIO.

It's important I think to look at an example from the set of maps that this Commission has just drawn.

You spent a great deal of time and made a great deal of effort on the Southeast Michigan Section that you just completed.

In that population according to partisan data it ran in the last ten years about 52% democratic voters, 48% republican voters or 53, 47 depending on the year. But those Senate districts in the same period were consistently held five to two republican to democrats under the prior intentional gerrymander.

Now, without even trying, without looking sufficiently at the partisan data the maps that were just drawn by the Commission came to this same result as the intentional gerrymander.

They are going to result in a five-two republican to democrat seat assignment based on the voting population numbers that we know exist.

Based on the voting population numbers in those areas, those seats should typically come out four-three democrat to republican if they accurately reflected the partisan preferences of those voters in the average year.

If you pack urban and rural areas and crack suburban, it will violate communities of interest also and leads to an unintentional partisan gerrymander, which I know you are trying to avoid. But without being intentional, without partisan data, you can't come up with that.

There is many ways to get to fair maps.

Our proposal is only one way, but there is no way to do it without looking at the data of partisanship.

Thank you again so much to all of you for your service.

We really appreciate it.

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

That will conclude our public comment for this afternoon. However I would like to mention all e-mailed and mailed public comment is provided to the Commission before each meeting and Commissioners review the public comment portal on www.Michigan.gov/MICRC website on a regular basis.

We appreciate everyone who provides public comment in whatever way they choose to do so. And we invite people to keep sharing their thoughts, communities of interests and maps.

Without objection, I'd like to move on to unfinished business agenda item 5A review of the maps drafted for the northeast, northwest and Upper Peninsula and any alternative proposed maps. So at this point we are just sort of pausing to see if anybody has any comments, concerns, feedback they want to provide about what we have done to date. Okay, seeing none, we are just going to move on with our next item on the agenda. Did you have a comment, Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Yes, sorry, I was listening to the feedback, sorry. Yes, so I guess this seems like this is the part where we have to somehow figure out right is there feedback or is it just me?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: No. There is definitely feedback and playing what I just said two minutes ago.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Sorry about that.

What I'm thinking about is how we do this.

Right, it feels like there was public comment over the weekend that I read right, we got comment on how we draw some of the maps and feels I'm not sure if now is the right time to do that.

I don't want to not comment or I don't want this opportunity to go by without sort of figuring out if we use this time to revise our maps or should we yeah is that will that come at a different time? Do we know yet?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton and then Commissioner Witjes.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I feel like we know we will have to go back and revisit and we did get comments as well as previous public comment about the areas. But I don't feel like we have all the information yet.

We don't have the political data or the racial data yet at our disposal to revisit everything, I think.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I would tend to disagree.

I would say that if this would be the prime time if we have a whole bunch of public comments come in through the portal discussing what it is that we did the day before or even a couple days prior, and if it was actually addressed and read and looked at if you have something feel free to bring it up, that is the whole part of the reflection process in my opinion.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, I tend to agree with Commissioner Orton.

I mean we are coming back to do these maps at some point in the future because we just don't have the data that we need to follow all of our process.

But certainly if someone has a comment at this point feel free to go ahead with it.

I mean I don't think it what's to be an either or so if someone has some sort of specific change they would like to make or some comment please feel free to bring it up otherwise let's move on go ahead Commissioner Rothhorn.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I think it's wise, I will tend to wait but want to acknowledge there was some great public feedback and just want to keep that coming in, thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay all right so seeing no additional comments let's move forward to new business item 6A second round of public hearings.

Without objection I'd like to ask communications and Outreach Director Edward Woods III to make a presentation and before he proceeds, I would like to indicate our Chair Commissioner Kellom has arrived and I will continue to Chair until she has a few moments to set up and get settled.

Commissioner Eid did you have a comment or question?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes, on the last part of business is that okay.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: On the what?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Last part of business.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Sure.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I have to agree with Commissioner Witjes.

You know, my confusion lies with when are we going to start using these other measures of data because we have the heat maps now from the community of interest. We got that on Thursday or Friday.

And I believe we do have some political data that we can start using.

It's just a question of you know are we going to move forward throughout this whole process with population and then come revisit it? With the other criteria if that's what we are going to do, sure, that could work but the other option is to like Commissioner Witjes said to review it in the time we have allotted now.

So if someone could clear up that confusion for me, I would appreciate it.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Well I think the intention according to our mapping process and Executive Director feel free to weigh in on this because I saw you raise your hand over there we were going to start with equal population and do that first and then go back and focus on community of interest which is three and look at other considerations the political.

My understanding is the software does not still have that fully incorporated yet so we cannot conduct that analysis yet any way.

That is my understanding Executive Director did you have something to add?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: That is correct.

I have been informed this morning that the COI overlay by EDS that they have imported the information from MGGG and have it now incorporated into the software which needs to be uploaded to our mappers' computers.

So we are very close.

And hopefully then tomorrow we can start incorporating communities of interest based on the mapping process.

So we will go back and catch the areas that we have not been able to do up until now because we did not have that data overlay.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: General Counsel? Pastula.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you Madam Chair and for the Commission the racial bloc voting analysis will be presented to you this Thursday from Dr. Handley and as a reminder per partisan fairness the three measures the software is going to review that is on a statewide level.

That's how you test for symmetry.

So those, again, it's a natural progression through this process.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Just going back to that, unfortunately I would say we have 30 minutes here to review and go over things that we drafted last week.

I don't see what the difference is with having someone have proposed a map and bringing it up or us looking what we did do and see if there is any rediscussion visions to make.

If 30 minutes and to brush it off in 30 seconds seems like the wrong thing to do.

Unfortunately I also feel that please don't take in the wrong way but not doing it and just it's going to sound really weird to say this, just skipping off and saying you know let's move on to new business and not look at it seems kind of like a unilateral decision to me.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So I would say that people have different ways of working and different ways of processing things and I understand there is a desire it seems on the part of Commissioner Eid and Commissioner Witjes to do a deeper dive at this point.

You were given an opportunity to do that.

And you didn't actually bring anything up so now we are going back up the agenda after we just moved on but I mean I would say the same thing I said five minutes ago.

If you have something you want to bring up, bring it up.

When I asked you that five minutes ago you didn't bring up anything.

So we moved on.

If you want to do that go ahead.

It doesn't seem that there is an interest at this point from the rest of the Commission, it does not seem like anyone else wants to bring anything up but if you want to bring something up knock yourself off no one is stopping you.

>> I'm concerned we get to four and five the partisan ship we have public comment that says stick to the criteria follow it and don't skip to six and seven we have to get to three so let's wait to get to three and let's make sure we are doing our homework but I would you know suggest that it's okay to move on.

We have moved on and I do think that we will be I think we will be able to get there revised but it's individuals and doing our homework and not getting to the partisanship until after we get to the number three.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Well and I think as General Counsel has indicated we can't actually analyze the partisanship until we have the rest of the maps drawn because you need all of the districts to do that analysis because it's a statewide evaluation.

All right, so going back to our new business let's move forward to new business item 6A second round of public hearings without objections I would like to ask our communication and Outreach Director Edward Woods III to make a presentation. Mr. Woods please proceed.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Can you hear me? I want to talk a little bit about the second round of public hearings.

We received a presentation last night, a PowerPoint presentation and want to have the ability to go over it with the Commission so there is a clear understanding of what is happening, so we have enough lead time for publicity and thank the Commission in advance for approving some of our contracts earlier and now we are trying to get in the nuts and bolts so we can authorize our Executive Director to sign the contracts.

As we go throughout our negotiations.

Does everyone have a copy of the presentation that they received last night? Okay great and it will also come up on the screen quite shortly as well.

For our second round of public hearings we are looking at the following locations. These spots have been reserved but contracts have not been signed so we want to get moving.

Location on Monday, October 11 is the Dort center in Flint.

The location on Tuesday, October 12th is the tree top resorts in Gaylord.

The location on Thursday, October 14th, is Northern Michigan University in Marquette.

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On Monday, October 18th, we are looking at the Grand Am way grand Plaza hotel in Grand Rapids.

On Tuesday, October 19th, we are looking at the Radisson Plaza hotel at Kalamazoo center.

On Thursday, October 21st we are looking at the Lansing center in Lansing.

Monday, October 25th, the Macomb community college we will be at the John Lewis conference center in Warren.

On Tuesday, October 26th, we are at Schoolcraft college in Livonia.

And on Thursday, October 28th, we will wind up at the TCF center in Detroit.

The public hearing draft schedule is we are going to ask the Commissioners to arrive at the location at Noon.

Doors open at 12:30.

We want to make sure we take the time like we did in the past to introduce ourselves and create that warm and friendly environment.

At each of the meetings from 1-3:30.

You have a meeting where you debrief which you gleaned from the night before and then also go into the public hearings.

If you look at our times 1-3:30 and 5-8 it accommodates different work schedules whether you work first, second or third shift there is an opportunity for you to provide comment to the Commission.

We will be doing a break at 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

And then there will be a press conference that we will have in front of the 5:00 news at that time.

The doors open again a half an hour before the public hearings so we ask that you be back to create that environment and then we will have the public hearing 5-8.

Obviously, you know if people have signed up, we will not end at a hard stop of 3:30 or 8:00.

We will wait until the last public comment is done.

Usually in the past we have stopped taking public comments an hour before the scheduled time.

So at 1-3:30 we will stop at 2:30 and 5-8 we will stop at 7:00.

Public hearing schedule in terms of what would take place we would have welcome and introductions by the host Commissioner.

Call the meeting to order by the Chairperson.

Why we are here by Suann Hammersmith our executive director.

Public hearing would be Michigan residents and you know those would either be in person or remote because you can speak at any public hearing not just where you are located at and have acknowledgments by Executive Director Suann Hammersmith and then adjournment by the Chairperson.

Host Commissioners at each site for Flint, Commissioner Richard Weiss.

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Gaylord, Commissioner Steven Lett.
Marquette Commissioner Janice Vallette.
And Grand Rapids Rebecca Szetela.
Kalamazoo Commissioner Cynthia Orton Lansing.
Commissioner MC Rothhorn Warren.
Commissioner Anthony Eid, Livonia.
Commissioner Doug Clark in Detroit.
Commissioner Brittini Kellom.

If you notice we are trying to be balanced and fair and so we have two democrats, two republicans and the five independents.

Changes from the first round we will have a public comment portal station where people can provide direct feedback regarding proposed districts at each site. So next to the registration area you will see a public comment portal station where laptops will be set up where people can instantaneously provide comment if they have time or don't have time or want to provide it verbally, they can actually do it also at the station.

And that will be staffed with our volunteers from the statewide organizations.

Security will be based on the facility but there will now be two in the room. One by the registration area, one in the hallway and one on the parking lot depending on facility size.

So we will have the security that will be taking place and then enhancements. We are going to seek ways to increase engagement and efficiency to maximize the public hearing experience.

So we want to make sure the screens can show the maps so people can clear are -- see them and the audio is great which was a concern before and looking at timing and scheduling we want to make sure there is an area if the Commissioners need to eat or have catering, we can do that so we can have a seem less process to maximize public engagement.

So you will be hearing about the enhancements as we move along.

Kristin Taylor has already started working as of Friday in terms of doing that. But we want to make sure that we are maximizing the public experience in terms of public engagement as relates to the maps.

So these are some of the changes from the first round as well.

If there are any questions, I can take them.

Madam Chairperson at this time.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Are there any questions for Edward? MC?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Thanks Edward I appreciate this and I want to make sure with then enhancements one of the things we have done to enhance public engagement is town halls and I'm looking at the schedule and I'm feeling like it's going to be tiring and I want to make sure that we are somehow not going to do town halls or if

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we are going to do town halls we try to get them on the schedule as soon as possible so that it's clear which Commissioners are going to do town halls in addition to the meetings and the public hearings.

That is what I'm thinking about.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: After September 30th we are not really doing town halls unless they are on the schedule.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Wonderful.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: We have minimal.

During that time your responsibilities will be doing mainly radio interviews.

Op-eds in terms of consideration and other things but it would be more media related not outreach related.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Wonderful.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: The focus is to drive everyone to the public hearing.

So that we can have it in the Open Meetings Act and on the record.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I just want to move we approve the resolution in front of us for the second round of public hearings and locations.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Motion made by Commissioner Witjes second made by Commissioner Rothorn is there any discussion or debate on the motion? Hearing none it is moved and seconded 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 we approved resolution 2021.08.22.

Second round of public hearings locations and logistics.

Moving forward to new business item 6B draft mapping of Congressional districts. Without objection I would like to ask Executive Director Hammersmith to facilitate discussion on this topic.

Hearing no objection please proceed Ms. Hammersmith.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Good morning again everyone.

I wanted to have a little bit of discussion this morning.

According to our mapping schedule, we were supposed to be in the UP and northeast, northwest Michigan, the tip of the Mitten today.

We did that work last week when we were in Traverse City.

So the next items on the agenda were to map two Congressional districts.

I'm not sure that makes sense.

Certainly we could start in the north and sweep to the south.

Or the Commission may want to wait to do Congressional districts until we have the larger picture of what the state looks like, we have the racialized polling data to know how to sweep through the state to do the Districts.

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It's your choice and your schedule you adopted you can work on the two Congressional districts today, one of the two.

Or if you wish to move forward with mapping, we could start in the southwest area of the state, which we have been told is an area where we will not have to consider the racially polarized voting.

So it's up to you to make that decision where you feel your time would be most productive today.

But if you wish we could start either with the Congressional districts or we can move into the southwest area and work on the Senate and House Districts there.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: You have a question Executive Director from Commissioner Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, not a question but a comment.

I personally think that we are better off doing all the Congressional districts at one time rather than piecemeal it across the state.

And one of the reasons is I think it brings us more continuity in doing the mapping.

The other reason is we are going to get stuck and not be able to do Southeast Michigan until we hear back from our voting rights attorney and our...the racial polarized voting analyst.

So until we get a complete picture of all that data, I don't think it's to our benefit to start this and then have to start it, stop it and then restart it.

So I would suggest that we pick this up after we hear back from Bruce and Lisa on the complete data for the state.

I yield.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Commissioner Clark.

Vice Chair Szetela?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I don't have a particular preference either way.

I think it's going to take us all of two seconds to draw the Congressional districts for the Upper Peninsula because it's just going to come all the way across and down and I'm fine with waiting as well.

It's only 13 districts we are drawing and so I think especially as we move through the state and we talk because I even found so far the discussions we've had so far with Commissioners who have knowledge of those areas in addition to the public comments we received have been very helpful and sort of conceptualizing where lines should be drawn for the different areas we covered so far and I think that those additional discussions will be helpful as well as we move into House Districts and Senate districts and other areas of state and that will all inform and lead into our drawing of Congressional lines.

So.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Any other thoughts or, okay, Commissioner Rothhorn? Oh, Commissioner Eid.

My apologies.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: It is rather hard to do the Congressional districts without knowing first how many VRA seats that we're going to need to have.

But then again, we also need that information because they are VRA seats and take into account VRA seats with the house and Senate districts which is why we have not done Metro Detroit and Grand Rapids yet.

And we are going to get that information later this week is what I heard earlier.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: It's my understanding that that information has been produced by Fred Hedges master of the Citigate Autobound edge software so they integrated the community of interest.

Our mappers have not yet downloaded that so they need an opportunity to download that and test it and make sure it all works well and then as soon as that is available, we will bring that to the Commission and go back and work on communities of interest.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Can I put forward we skip the Congressional that was on the agenda, item whatever item it was and move to the southwest house and Senate?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Second.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Motion made by Commissioner Lange second made by Vice Chair Szetela.

Is there any discussion or debate on the actual motion? Hearing none all in favor of skipping or coming back to the Congressional districts until we have more data and moving on to draft mapping item 6C under new business please raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: All opposed raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes have it at this point we will be moving on to new business 6C, draft mapping.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Madam Chairperson.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I'm sorry.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Apologies.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Curry can you please indicate your vote?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY:

>> CHAIR KELLOM: All in favor -- so we voted on at this time coming back to the Congressional districts until we have more information, the data that we need and at this time doing the draft mapping for southwest State House and Senate so Michigan you have to turn on your Mike to indicate your vote.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I said aye.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: So the ayes have it and at this point we will be moving to draft mapping southwest State House and Senate.

Again for the public watching regions are not districts.

But instead start a geographic regions for drafts which are not bound by regional areas. I would like to ask Commissioner Szetela to continue facilitation for our draft mapping even though you can say no you can choose.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: It's fine.

I will take care of it.

All right so does anyone recall where we left off last week with what Commissioner did we leave off with.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I believe we left off with Commissioner Lange. So we would proceed to Commissioner Lett.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: We will be moving on to Commissioner Lett. And I believe we're going to start with the Senate. So let's start with the State Senate for the southwest region.

Yes, Kent?

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: If you want to start with the map or make a copy of southeast or south central and go add to that or a combination, empty or reference?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I validated you now Mr. Morgan?

>> MR. MORGAN: To Kent's point you can start with an existing plan or start with a blank plan and see where the conflict is because you may want to use population in one region and in the other and that is a conflict that, you know, would be created. But if you put the other map up, then you're going to be constrained by that when you start. So that is something to consider.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton and then Commissioner Witjes.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Go ahead.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I believe last week we started with a fresh map when we started working in the north and Upper Peninsula so we should probably stick with that and do the same thing.

>> MR. MORGAN: Also if you wanted to reference that other map you have copies of it, it's on the website, I can also bring it up as a shape file, not as a District so you can see the boundary without committing to using or not using the population.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Now Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I would like that.

To be able to reference it I think that would be helpful.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So are you Commissioner Orton wanting to start with a new map or do you want to just work off of that map?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Like Dustin said we should probably follow what we are doing so I'm fine with a fresh map but I just think I would like to see it for reference so that we don't get ourselves.

>> MR. MORGAN: The same way we put the regions up and the previous District crosses the regions, it will bring the previous plan up as an overlay.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: We didn't do that last week either with bringing up an actual another map showing where districts are.

My only fear then is that we are going to be looking at those lines on the shape file and creating another mental block for us saying you know we are not going to click here because it's going to be running into a District we already drew.

What I envision happening is starting new maps for each time when we are drawing then at that point put it altogether and see where we need to make adjustments.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So to clarify when we did the Senate maps and started in the lower part and then the upper regions, we did not draw that on the same map we had two different maps?

>> MR. MORGAN: That is correct they were drawn on separate maps completely starting from a blank map to Commissioner Witjes' point, however, there were no overlaps because you were in a completely different area of the state with the UP but in this instance there may be overlaps.

And I guess what I would say is if you start with the blank map, you're doing your best effort in that region from a starting point of nothing being drawn and then you can revisit the conflict a little bit later.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Based on your experience John which approach would you take?

>> MR. MORGAN: Well, again, in the same way that the regions are not really meant to bind you, you crossed the regions in many different places, at this stage it's probably okay to just put your best foot forward, starting fresh from each region.

You know where the conflict is going to be.

You can look at the maps and say well you know we already assigned that population to a different District.

But it's probably a good idea to just see what you would do from this as a starting point. In the same way you just said for the Congressional districts there is 13 districts you are considering any way doing them all at once.

Here you're doing each region and again putting your best foot forward for each region and then seeing where they conflict and making informed decisions about the conflicts.

>> KIM BRACE: Madam Chairman this is Kim Brace coming to you from Manassas.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Good afternoon Mr. Brace please go ahead.

>> KIM BRACE: I would tend to conclude or confer with what John was just saying. It's better to be clean with each of your regions and then as Commissioner Witjes says we can come back and we can look at them in totality when we get each of the regions done and see how we want to adjust those.

By doing it that way you have separate plans that kind of keep you for each day what you have done and that way we can provide stuff to Edward and to the website and everything else of what was the Commission's activities on this day or that day.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, thank you, Kent? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I have to be contrary with my coworkers only because I'm looking at the Senate and the Senate District number three in the southeast is most of the southwest region.

So the minute you start on it, I mean, I'm looking at it, we all could look at it. It's there.

That's all I'm saying.

House Districts is a little different.

House Districts are pretty much contained in the previous regions.

So when it comes to the Senate, I mean it's just an option.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Mr. Morgan?

>> MR. MORGAN: Yeah, and this that sense basically you are drawing the same District so Kent is right to point out the Senate District 3 that was drawn in the south central and southeast goes a considerable distance all the way into Kalamazoo which is the heart of one of the hearts of the southwest.

So if you come at this from the other direction, you're probably going to draw something very similar to District 3 that you already drew.

You will end up having the same population and you're going to have roughly that same District paired with something else.

And you will basically have drawn a District that's overlapping but very similar.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: General Counsel?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Just going to weigh in but I think we established very early on in the conversation that what the Commission has been doing to date is starting blank in a region.

So I would strongly recommend that you continue that practice moving forward in each of your regions and then addressing the interesting overlaps or conflicts as your experts have indicated at that time.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay so in the interest of moving us forward what I would suggest at this point and what I would entertain is a motion that we do a roll call vote on radio wise where we are choosing either to start with a blank map or choosing to work off of the map of the Senate from the southeast region.

Is someone willing to.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: So moved.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I don't know if we need a vote so it's the provocative of the next Commissioner.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Up to Commissioner Lett.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Who has been waiting very patient will.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Let's give it to Commissioner Lett and I wanted a decision made so we don't spend 20 minutes talking about this.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: We have a motion on the floor.

Do we have a second? We have a motion on the floor.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: But we don't have a second so would you like to withdraw your motion.

>> I'll second it.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, so now we have a motion with a second.

All right are there any discussion or debate on the motion? All right well then let's go ahead and vote and Department of State staff I'm going to ask you to do a roll call vote and this is going to be either you are starting with a new blank map or you are in favor of working off of the State Senate map from the southeast region we have previously drawn.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: With a yes vote.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: So let's do the blank map first.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Do you want to start with a blank map.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: A yes vote would mean you are in favor of starting with a blank map nor the southwest region.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: That would be correct.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioners please indicate your support of the motion with a yes or a no.

I will call Commissioners names in alphabetical order starting with Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner apologies she is absent.

Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Doug Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: No.

- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry?
- >> COMMISSIONER CURRY: No.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?
- >> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?
- >> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?
- >> COMMISSIONER LANGE: No.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: By a vote of 8 yeses to 4 no's the motion carries.
- >> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So we will be starting with an entirely blank map.

A Senate map.

And we will be starting in the southwest region with Commissioner Lett directing as to where those first lines are going to be drawn.

>> MR. MORGAN: So I brought up a blank State Senate plan. And just for reference these are the counties that are in the southwest region area Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joe and Van Buren.

And that put the County populations as well.

Can show you on a spreadsheet or the screen.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: The screen is fine.

Does this include all of Berrien County to start with.

Okay so that is 154,000 and about 58% of the seat.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Put Cass in.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay 205, 205,000 down 59,288.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: And put St. Joe in.

>> MR. MORGAN: That is 266, 265.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I'm good with that.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Commissioner Lett, if I may, can we discuss what you drew now or would that be appropriate? I just want to point out at our Kalamazoo public hearing we had a number of individuals who gave testimony talking about specifically for a Senate District combining Cass County, Berrien county and Van Buren County. Specifically we had public speaker number seven public speaker number eight who specifically said not to include St. Joseph with those two.

Number 13, number 28, number 30, number 40, number 46 and I think a few more.

So could we -- I don't want to change your District but is that something as a Commission we want to talk about to see if we want to do that?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Go ahead.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'd like to point out those three counties together would be 281,492 people roughly, 6 or 7% over.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: There have been public comments that Van Buren and Allegan Counties should be together, so we have conflicting.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I'm thinking of comments we got related to the shoreline communities and that St. Joe and Benton Harbor and up the coast maybe where we want to, yeah, we may want to, yeah, just thinking about that, that the urban areas so the north part of Van Buren may be recognized differently than the south part mostly because of that shoreline or that industry that is, yeah, tourism and vacation. So, yeah, third option.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Any other thoughts on this or for Steve or any suggestions? Commissioner Witjes you look like, yes, Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I'm curious, I'm not from the area.

How different, well, that's going into the third criteria anyway so it really doesn't matter. I was going to say a sliver draw to line the townships that are next to the shoreline from like maybe half the county so you get the shoreline District drawn but I don't know if all the Townships that are going to be further east would more align with not being next to the water or not.

But then again you would have a District that's basically one long sliver going up to who knows.

So it would be like the first couple townships on the left or the, sorry, the west most side of Berrien Van Buren and Allegan and potentially even Ottawa county and then the balance of those counties being their own separate District.

I don't know how that would work.

But that's something to potentially think about as well.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, I'm going to go back to a comment I made last week.

I think we are better off dealing with the shoreline in the house rather than the Senate.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Curry did you have a comment, was that your hand up? Commissioner Curry? Okay, I'm sorry I'm just coming back in and looking at this.

So what was the thought process behind putting St. Joseph with Berrien, is that just population? Population? Yeah, I'm just concerned because I thought we had specific public comments from both those communities saying they did not want to be together. Because they are very rural, Benton Harbor has a significant minority population and they didn't want to be diluted by the inner regions go ahead Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: And when we were on an earlier map, we were looking at a border community Ohio I guess that is the Indiana border with Michigan. Yeah, and just thinking that there is I wonder if we can sort of take Berrien, is it Berrien?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Berrien Benton Harbor.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: So the northern tip of Berrien and St. Joe and townships around it and sort of include from Bridgman and Berrien springs south as part of the border community if you will.

And then from the top or the upper part I'll say when I said border is the counties along the southern border that those may be more identified with the borders that we've drawn, that border community and then that the northern part of Berrien County may identify more with sort of the, yeah, the recreation.

I don't remember if the public comment was Berrien County split? I don't remember getting any like details.

It's like Clinton County we have Clinton County but there are portions that are suburban but my hunch is I don't know if there is a good way to do it but I do feel like the borrow communities and a large part of what we received public comment and shoreline.

And I agree with Commissioner Clark it may not be that it's important for the Senate and maybe harder. But I just recognize when we did draw the house, we were not able to get that so every time we can try it. It feels like it's worth trying.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I would also just clarify when we are talking about this for the public so there is a City of St. Joseph just south of Benton Harbor and there is St. Joseph Township so I just want to make sure the public is clear that when we are talking about St. Joseph and Benton Harbor and St. Joseph is the inland rural community asked not to be included with the shoreline and the shoreline asked the rural and farmers in the District.

I wanted to be clear because it is a little confusing.

Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Two points one is a point of reference.

The Senate District that Steve drew is exactly the same as the current Senate District so there is no change in that.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark one second Department of State is waving at me over there.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Sorry for the interruption go ahead Commissioner Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay let me repeat.

The District, the Senate District that Steve drew is the exact same dimensions as the current one.

So there is no change in that.

And the other point I wanted to make is we are over on numbers for this.

I think how many people, 10,000? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: It's .62, 1651, .62% high.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: As far as we are over is a benefit because we were short up north so that begins to eat at that gap that we had.

Even though it's a small number.

Because we do need to reduce that gap that we've got.

So I wanted to make those two points particularly the first one.

I yield.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Can you Zoom out a little bit? Somewhat and Commissioner Clark said that this was the same District as is currently and while I looked at those districts previously, I did not look at them today and kind of my thought process in going across the lower border with Ohio or Indiana, was that the southwest corner, even on the coast seems to be distinct from the upper part into Van Buren Allegan and Ottawa County.

And I've looked at the comments also.

And while I agree that the ones that Commissioner Eid cited certainly say that, I've also looked at others that don't say that.

So that was kind of my impression of what I thought would be appropriate would be to go across the border rather than up where we have more population.

But I'm not married to it.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay Commissioner Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes, as per my conversation in roll call I need to leave for my doctor's appointment and I will be back as soon as possible if that is okay.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay thank you very much Commissioner Weiss.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Would it be since this is collaborative mapping would it be appropriate to make a clone of this real quick and see if there is a way to include Van Buren Township and then switch between the two which we would like best or most or either?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I don't see any reason why not.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: My suggestion would be to remove St. Joseph and add in Van Buren and carve out a piece of Van Buren Township.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Along Kalamazoo.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Kalamazoo.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yep.

Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: But we had many comments putting Van Buren and Allegan together.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: We're not going to be about to pull Van Buren and Allegan together in a Senate District that is 200,000 people you are right, I was thinking house.

Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I mean as Commissioner Lett would say I'm not married to the idea of adding in Van Buren or removing St. Joseph just a thought I had.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: My concern is this is exactly what they have now and I don't think everyone was in favor of keeping exactly what they have right now. So but I mean we can also just move on and let the next person make changes. I think Commissioner Lange has her hand up as well.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I do.
Just a couple of comments.

If you do Van Buren and then start slicing off another county, we've had multiple, multiple comments about trying to keep townships, counties as whole as possible. So the idea of having to carve up one needlessly I don't like that.

Because out of all of our public comments, that seems to be the one comment that has gotten a lot.

And then we did have a lot of comments about keeping the border counties to the border because they face different issues with competing with Indiana, Ohio, as you would have it.

So I don't mind this one.

But I understand what people are saying too about it being the same exact as what we previously had which thank you, I did not even realize that.

But then again, some people did say that they liked how their districts currently are. I don't know about this particular one.

So it could be a 50/50 for me on this one.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: As far as carving up counties go, keeping counties whole is not a criteria at all whatsoever.

It's yes people say that and yes, it is something that we should potentially take into account but that should not be something that we are worried about in regards to sticking with our seven criteria.

It's not part of the contiguous or the compact item in my opinion.

So if we need to contact or we need to split up a county to get population, that is far more important than keeping a county whole

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark then Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: One suggestion which would accomplish two objectives is take the two lakeshore townships and Van Buren and somebody had mentioned that they were concerned about lakeshore being represented, that would be one way to do that.

And I would add some population too which helps that deficit that we've got in the population.

So that is one alternative.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Well let's try this, take St. Joe out.

Then go down to townships.

And let's go up to the shoreline to and take in all of South Haven and if this doesn't do it.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay so that's.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: There is a little piece of South Haven across the blue line there.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yep.

Oh, wow.

>> MR. MORGAN: Do you want that, that is in another county if you want.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I don't want to split South Haven even though it looks ugly.

>> MR. MORGAN: So do put that portion of South Haven in with this District or don't?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: We will come back to that.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Let's go back down and we are 48,000.

Zoom out for me a little bit.

Okay let's take the up with Keeler, Hartford and Bangor.

>> MR. MORGAN: 39,000 off the ideal.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Put the town Bangor in.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Zoom back out for me.

What are we looking at along the three townships directly north of the border there that we don't have yet? Let's put those in, please Zoom back out for me.

So roughly 30,000 short, so I will can the Commission do we want to go north or do we want to go east?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Rothhorn and then Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I'm trying to help myself answer that question

Steve I try to characterize each District I'm drawing when I'm practicing so I feel we have a mix.

So I would either say stay south along the border because it's a border District I'm trying to draw or I would sort of say I'm going north to create a shoreline District and what I mean is I think you have a little bit of both here so I'm not sure how to help you.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I'm asking for your opinion.

I think that is what I asked which way do we want to go.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I think you have both here, it's a both District so I'm not sure I would either stay with the border.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Zoom back out for me please.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I was just going to ask to Zoom.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Go further.

There, not that far I can't see.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: What is that little county or Township right where you have that sort of the very top? How many people are in the Van Buren Township that is, yeah, currently empty? Geneva Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So just for speed according to the numbers, if you chose Cass, Berrien and Van Buren altogether you just need to take a couple townships out.

>> MR. MORGAN: If you were to go back and take the entire county of Van Buren instead of Cass.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: We can try that.

>> MR. MORGAN: Sorry St. Joseph.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: So you're talking about putting Van Buren, Cass and Berrien and then removing some out of Van Buren; is that right?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: That works mathematically.

>> MR. MORGAN: Or Cass because either one is on the edge.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark then Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Going back to Steve's original question do we go east or north, I would avoid going east because Kalamazoo the numbers in Kalamazoo look like that's one Senate District all by itself.

So you may get blocked in if you go east.

And so I would almost think.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: When I say east, I'm going east off of Cass County I'm not going north.

I agree with you I don't want to go east off of Van Buren because then we are getting into Kalamazoo with a lot of population.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Actually it's the population that is just a little bit over the Senate number that we're trying to match.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I would think we would want to go east off of Cass because it's rural.

We have taken in -- regardless of whether it's we've got two districts, two shoreline and border.

You're going to have shoreline and border down there regardless one way or the other.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: You made a District out of Kalamazoo County that gives us a bit better picture of what is left to work with in that area, I think.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Well I also think that you could I know you don't want to but I'm just suggesting it you could fill out the rest of Van Buren County and take off the one Township closest to Kalamazoo and you should be pretty close to your numbers. Go ahead Commissioner Witjes.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Two things I was just crunching numbers with the actual calculator here and we can get it down to 120 in the negative so under 20 less

than ideal and keep in mind going into Kalamazoo County wouldn't be a bad thing to do because of the overwhelming comment that we received that Kalamazoo and Battle Creek should be together in the Senate District.

I can show you what to highlight to get down to 120 number but it's mostly in Van Buren. In fact, the remaining townships you would choose would be in Van Buren.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, I prefer to defer the conversation to Cynthia. She lives in that area and I think she could give us the best idea of what we're dealing with.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Who is not here?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Well, that's a lot of pressure.

Well.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Since I'm drawing the map.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Bring me up to townships and back into Van Buren, take the two on the north and east.

So there is four.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay did you want to put the whole county in and take away? Or do you want to continue to go Township by Township?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Piecemeal it in take the two north and east.

>> MR. MORGAN: Two north about 6,000 and about 5,000 the two south.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Is Paw Paw I assume that's the City.

Paw Paw is the Township and the City.

>> MR. MORGAN: Yeah, the City is encompassed within the Township.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: It is within?

>> MR. MORGAN: According to what we're seeing here the yellow line are the voting precinct lines.

So in this case it's not a separately incorporated City as a like as a census.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Put Paw Paw in.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: And Waverly, Bloomingdale.

Anybody know anything about Gobles, what.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: What do you want to know.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Do they want to be with pine Grove or Bloomingdale.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Numbers wise if you are in Van Buren county you will have to choose almost all the townships except for two and the two that, I think.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: You need to take your mask off I can't hear you.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: If you stay in Van Buren county you will need all but two townships and the two that I think most closely associate with Kalamazoo if that is the direction you're going would be Antwerp and possibly Alameda.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Zoom out.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: If you add in pine Grove and Gobles that should get you pretty close.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: If I had in Antwerp and take out some, I will be close. Antwerp is too big.

What is Antwerp.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Antwerp.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: 13,000.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: A pretty significant population.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Pull out Bloomingdale and Waverly.

>> MR. MORGAN: That is about where you end up.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Are you under right now by 6,000.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Put in Antwerp and take out Bloomingdale and Waverly

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: She says Antwerp associated with Kalamazoo.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: What

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Antwerp and Alameda associate with Kalamazoo.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: The town of Mattawan.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I have not heard what you said, I'm having a problem hearing you, I will work on my end.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Mattawan is highly affiliated with Kalamazoo, and that is what she was saying, that Mattawan and Antwerp township, Mattawan that little town there on the right and Alameda are more closely affiliated with Kalamazoo. Pine Grove, Gobles, the township to the left and the one right below it are less affiliated with Kalamazoo. Is that correct, Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: We don't want to do that, I agree.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So if you take out Antwerp and you select the three townships above, so go up to where Gobles is then you should be pretty close like maybe off by a thousand, I would think.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: And pine Grove and without Antwerp, .97% from my PO.

>> MR. MORGAN: That is what you were talking about doing?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: That is what Commissioner Orton was suggesting.

>> MR. MORGAN: That is what Commissioner Lett asked me to do as well.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Well the purpose of this exercise is to see if everybody liked this configuration versus my configuration of the start which was across the border region.

So I guess the discussion for the Commission or my question for the Commission would be is this something that we want to consider or go back to my original?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I would consider this one.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So I wonder if we could see what we did before when we were doing the border counties.

I wonder how far we came over or if we just do not want to look at that?

>> MR. MORGAN: Did you want to bring that up as a layer or not?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I would like to see it unless others object.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: By bringing it up as a layer it just lays on top of this; is that correct?

>> MR. MORGAN: Yes, just a moment I will see if I can do that.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I think that would be helpful.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Are you asking about what you created weeks ago? Or his earlier number one District?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: You're asking me? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: The three counties.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I was talking about what we created before.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: What we created for the southeast region how far over did we go, right, that is what Commissioner Orton is asking for.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Commissioner Lett was asking for the District 1 he drew originally, right?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Whatever they want is what I want.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Sounds like collaborative mapping.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'm pretty sure District 3 I was looking at it includes St. Joseph and Cass Counties.

Okay, I'm going to bring up the layer.

Okay so the outlines in red are the districts from the other time of drawing.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So my comment is I think we're going to have to redo that District that runs in to what we're working on right now any way because we received a lot of public comment about that.

And it doesn't look like what the public comment wants it to look like.

And the way we are going about things I'm not sure when we go back to redo that.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Well I quite like what Commissioner Lett drew as it stands now with the assistance of the advice from Commissioner Orton.

We are definitely going to have to go back because it goes into that.

But I think we will have to go back and do a lot of these, many, many different times going forward.

So you know, I'm sure our mapping consultants here have some sort of way to kind of asses the differences between these different overlays and you know help try and figure out a way to piece them together.

So we can get as many pieces of that puzzle correct, sorry get as many of those pieces correct like how we are doing now might make it easier moving forward.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: In my opinion when you look at these two overlays you guys are going to have to make a decision.

There is large areas overlaying.

It's just 100% up to what you guys want to do.

And this is I think you will have this any time as you start finishing up the state this is going to be fairly frequent.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right so I would seeing no additional comments at this time Commissioner Lett, I would hand it back to you.

It's your District, you can draw it as you see fit so which one do you want to go with this District or the initial one you drew and if you are happy with it, we can move on otherwise you can continue to tinker with it and decide if you want to do something different.

But it's I think back in your hands at this point.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I don't think I have drawn any that I'm happy with. But this one will be acceptable for now for me.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Could you provide for the Department of State before Sarah asks you because I know she is going to what your thought process.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Madam Vice Chair Commissioner Lett provided ample explanation as he was drawing so I have recorded so.

That you may proceed.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right.

Are you we are good at this point? Goodish? Okay, all right, so we are going to move on to Commissioner Orton so now you get to make the changes you want to make.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Okay, well, so I guess we will move to District 2. Can you choose Kalamazoo County?

>> MR. MORGAN: That is 261.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Okay so we need to get those townships, Alameda and Antwerp left.

I think that will put us over though.

>> MR. MORGAN: Yeah, that will be over.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON:

>> MR. MORGAN: So it's 15,000 over.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Okay.

Zoom in a little more so I can see the Township name.

Okay can you remove Climax and the one under it?

>> MR. MORGAN: It's over by 11,500 at this point.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Okay, remove Brady, please.

So I have a question for the Commission.

Ideally, I think we should get the deviation below 1% on all of them eventually.

But we know we are going to have to make changes.

So do you feel like we should try to get it precise now or is this good enough for now and we move on? Thoughts?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, to answer your question I say it's good enough for now.

I mean the tolerance is good.

It's what 2.6% over.

And going back to my original comment we have a deficit we got to makeup as far as population and this helps in that respect.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Rothhorn and then Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I think it's good enough because we are using the first two criteria.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Utilizing the first two criteria but not connecting Battle Creek.

Isn't that something that people were talking about a lot about?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yeah, there is just too much population.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Too much people.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Here we go again in trying to keep counties whole.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I think people were talking about Congressional District.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Okay.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, my only thought on this one, just something to consider, feel free to say, no, that bottom Township you have, that's right on the border between the purple and the blue that has 2300 people in it.

If you wanted to take that out because it's quite rural then you can wrap it down into the two counties below it St. Joseph County and I can't remember what the other one is called.

I'm drawing a blank.

The one with three rivers is it Branch?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Three rivers is in St. Joseph County.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Something to consider if you want to bring the population down.

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>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Which Township are you talking about?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Prairie Ronde, it's pretty rural so maybe has more in common with Flowerfield and Park and bring your population down just a touch.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Do that, please.

>> MR. MORGAN: At this point I'm just unassigning it.

I did not put it into the District 1.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So that gets you below 2%.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Okay I think we will stay there for now.

And for the reasons, my original idea was to choose all of Kalamazoo County because the population is almost perfect.

But since we needed to grab the two Townships so they would not be dis-contiguous we had to take out the few border rural Townships.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right we will at this point move on to Commissioner Rothhorn with the next District.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Thanks so John let's do District 3 and let's start up in Battle Creek.

So in that and we will stay within the you know the County so to speak which would be Calhoun county so let's select the county we are 134,000 over.

Select the whole County and what will we do? We will ask Cynthia.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Did you say you think you are over because it's under.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: It's roughly a half.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Thank you so let's add more.

Which means my memory is that there was a desire -- I think I want to go east towards Jackson and we are looking at 130 so that would be all of Jackson County.

And we would be over and then I would take, yeah, so let's select all of Jackson County and remove the eastern three Townships please until we can get closer to the population we want.

Hum actually, yeah, I'm looking at, yeah, hum.

Okay, so rural, I'm focusing on sort of that a more rural District and not a border District. That's why I'm staying above in the northern tier of this region.

And I'm tempted to go up into the other like above this region.

Can you give me the overlay again from the John can you give me the overlay for the districts from last time? Yeah, that one.

Thank you.

Hum, I need help distinguishing which.

I guess I divided.

>> MR. MORGAN: The red lines are the districts from the other drawing.

And then the dotted lines are the county lines.

I took off the regions just because there are a lot of extra lines.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: And these are, yeah, this is Senate districts, okay.

>> MR. MORGAN: That is right.

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

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: MC, I would consider adding the two townships to the left of Calhoun County because that includes Climax and I believe they are associated more with Battle Creek.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Will you do that please, Climax and Wakeshma.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I would suggest not including Jackson and going south to the border instead to see if we can get population that way.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Yeah, because I don't like but I do remember does anybody else remember public comment that said Jackson and Battle Creek are more similar than Battle Creek and Kalamazoo?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I think that might have been talking about Congressional just because there is too much population.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: We have seen comments that say Calhoun County with Branch and Hillsdale is that what is beside.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes Hillsdale.

But would those communities...would Branch and St. Joseph County I mean would they align with Battle Creek? Or would that but I mean, I guess.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Those numbers are helpful, John. Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I guess we have limited space and to some degree they may just have to be combined together.

>> MR. MORGAN: I brought up the spreadsheet pointing out within the region it's about three Senate districts.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: If there is a town related to the border District I'm wondering if I wonder if Jackson is more sort of like the town that goes with the border like where the bigger population is or is it Battle Creek that is more the town that goes with the border? And whoever wants to comment I would appreciate it report.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I think the comments I read recently listed Jackson with the border.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So most of the people, I'm reviewing the notes from our Kalamazoo public hearing and when it comes to Battle Creek being with Kalamazoo, most of those individuals were speaking about it in terms of a Congressional District.

We do have a few people when talking about Senate districts who say don't include Battle Creek with Kent County up in Grand Rapids which we have not done yet. And then we are kind of split as far as the people who think Battle Creek should be with part of Jackson versus more south as Commissioner Witjes was saying. So I think it's just one of those times where we are going to have to you know decide either like decide which public comment we're going to go with somehow or you know go from there.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Thank you for both of those.

In I other thoughts?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I know some people up in Battle Creek and Kalamazoo and they like it pretty much together.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: For the Senate District it's too much population.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: It's too much population.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Yeah, too much.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Over how much?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Well in each, gosh, it's 134,000 in the county.

So it's 52000 almost 53,000 in Battle Creek.

And then the City itself and then we've got the surrounding areas, you know, gosh, 10, 20, 30, so we have about 80, almost 90,000 in Battle Creek and the surrounding area. The suburban areas and then if we go into Kalamazoo, we've got 73, yeah, if we draw that District Kalamazoo and Battle Creek together, yeah, I feel like we got a strong urban corridor but I think it is a mixed bag.

I think we got people who really see they are together and want to be drawn together and I think we have people who strongly don't want them.

Have strong feelings about keeping them separate.

So I'm hesitant to, yeah, separate or keep them together because we've got District number 2 already drawn.

John I'm going to ask you to unselect or unassign Jackson and let's move sort of down to Branch and St. Joseph.

And fill in around 2 and then try to which is a border.

Gosh but that is Battle Creek.

Okay yeah that's it thank you.

>> MR. MORGAN: Do you want these two as well?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Yes, up to 3 and then we don't quite have enough.

So.

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

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I think this is what you're going to, but if you do what you're doing now with Calhoun, St. Joseph if you go up to Barry the population fits.

Now you are crossing that regional border but it also gives a chance for those other southern communities to the right of St. Joseph Township that we did last time to stay on their own as a border community.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Say that one more time, please.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So if you go up to Barry.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Kalamazoo.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: North of Battle Creek.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Above Battle Creek, the county right above it, if you take the whole county, wait a minute.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Barry County.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Take all of Barry County and Calhoun County and St. Joseph and those four districts that left in Kalamazoo, the numbers match up.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Okay.

Yeah, let's try it.

>> MR. MORGAN: So you're talking taking Branch out at this point.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Is that what we are doing?

>> MR. MORGAN: I think that is what Commissioner Eid was suggested.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: It's your map but what we drew the other day had Branch with Hillsdale and the other border communities.

So if you took it out the numbers would work.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Thank you I do want to do that because I want to have Jackson somehow associated with the border communities and so, yeah, this is helpful.

Thank you.

Then we are at the population we need.

I may have provided enough detail already.

Is that accurate? Cool.

So I think we are good.

Thanks for helping me out.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Are you satisfied with this.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I'm going to check to make sure I didn't draw the same sort of Senate District as before.

>> MR. MORGAN: At this point you accounted for the vast majority of the region with the exception of Branch County.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I am satisfied.

Are we good to stop for the region or?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So Department of State has he stated his rationale for you?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yes, he provided sufficient explanation.

Thank you.

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>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay so that means it moves on to me but I have no idea what to do with this because I've got 44,000 people and there is no way to make that a District.

>> MR. MORGAN: The point is you are looking at this as a region and you went out of the region to get Barry County and you took Branch in another way so you could stop here and you know just say you accounted for three Senate districts and stop there if you wanted to.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: It is accounted for in other you know draft maps that we have.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: It is what I'm sorry.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: That particular county Branch County is accounted for just looking at the overlay it's not that it's you know unassigned so to speak.

We have you know, a draft in something that includes that county so if you wanted to stop and not draw it, it seems like it's okay.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, but the other District like significantly overlaps what we have.

So I don't feel like that is a great solution either.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Do you want more information before you start drawing or do you feel you have enough information.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I just done like this map at all.

I don't think it makes any sense.

Okay so I'm going to work with District 3 and I'm going to change some things.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So probably can we just make a duplicate or a clone.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I'm okay if you want to change this.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: No, let's just make a clone.

It's just easier.

Can you Zoom in to Calhoun so I can see it a little closer.

>> MR. MORGAN: Yeah, one moment.

Okay so I want to grab excuse me grab Branch County below then I'm going to take some stuff off Calhoun.

>> MR. MORGAN: You want to leave Barry in or take Barry out.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Let's leave Barry but in Calhoun I want to take off a three by four grid of townships.

Does that make sense? Three by four, three by four.

There you go.

Oops.

>> MR. MORGAN: Sorry I was selecting the county.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: That's all right.

I've done it myself.

So I'm 12000 over.

Can we go up to Branch and I want you to take off the upper left, so Middleville, Thornapple, take off Thornapple.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: For reference we are in Barry not Branch.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Sorry going the wrong way.

And I would just leave it there.

That way we are not blocked in on that lower part.

How much is in that top county what is the name of the county again? Barry.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Barry.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Manilow.

>> MR. MORGAN: 68,000 approximately.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: 68,000.

>> MR. MORGAN: Sorry 62.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Can you select for me the population that I unselected from Calhoun? I'm just wondering how close to 62 it is.

I know you can do the select box and I will show you in the corner how much the selection is.

Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: What if we take another Township off of Barry?

Keeping it as it is when you took the top left, I can't see the name unless you Zoom in real quick.

Thornapple.

If you take off Irving as well if it would be pretty close.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: It was 20,000.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: 20,000 so if we add that in, we would have to take more off of Barry or I keep calling it the wrong name I'm sorry.

All these people.

>> MR. MORGAN: No it's Barry.

Branch is to the south.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Why don't we fill out the rest of Calhoun and only go up a bit into Barry County and see if we can make that work maybe a little better.

Because we already have Jackson assigned on our prior maps.

>> MR. MORGAN: Well if you keep Branch in like you've done and if you take all of Barry out as a starting point you might only.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay let's do that.

>> MR. MORGAN: At this point you are only down 14,000 you could look at balancing it out with the two other districts if you took one of these or you take some here or wherever.

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>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Kalamazoo is over by 4 right now.

>> MR. MORGAN: It's over by 4,000, yes.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I feel like that is so populated though.

But let's see what we can do.

We have Brady.

So let's pull Pavilion.

>> MR. MORGAN: Instead of Schoolcraft?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton on Pavilion versus Schoolcraft?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: My thought is it affiliates with Portage.

I'm not familiar with pavilion.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: We can possibly do Charleston as well we will see where we are at.

>> MR. MORGAN: At this point there you are.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: 8,000 under.

So can you scroll up a little bit or Zoom out so I can get a better feel.

So I'm over by 3% so can I see the Township?

>> MR. MORGAN: You are under by 3%.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Under, yep, but I don't want to take any more from Kalamazoo so let's look above Battle Creek the Townships above Battle Creek.

So I'm under by eight.

So we could grab Johnson and hickory corners.

No way I'm looking at different names than you are.

I have Township.

So.

>> MR. MORGAN: All three of those.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Assyria and Jones Township.

>> MR. MORGAN: All three.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Grab all three and see what numbers we come up with.

All right that is really close.

All right I'm going to stop there and again, the basis for that is I'm trying to align the population as close as possible, keeping well not eating away from other districts that we've already tentatively drawn.

So that is kind of my thought process there.

Any comments? Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Actually never mind.

I'm good.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Just being dramatic.

All right, well, if there are no other comments, that actually tentatively completes our Senate map.

Does everyone like that maybe a little better because we are not leaving that District by itself at the bottom? All right so that's our draft Senate map.

Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, I want to go back to what we originally talked about starting from a blank map and starting from an existing map.

See we can get ourselves in a lot of trouble for example, the county next to Hillsdale if we use that in a previous map now, we've got this big conflict that we're going to have to go back and resolve.

And it's almost like starting over in my mind.

I yield to MC.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: We are still trying with the first two criteria we will have three, four, five and more information and will help us resolve the conflicts in a way that is more appropriate Doug.

So I hear what you are saying but we still have just limited information and we are still getting used to it and practicing but we will be able to resolve it better with more appropriate.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right guys so we were supposed to take a recess at 2:30.

We are 15 minutes ahead on our schedule.

Do you want to start the house map or do we want to just take our recess now and I think that is probably is a logical break so we can shift gears in our heads.

So unless there are objections, I propose that we start our recess now and come back at 2:30.

All right, hearing no objections let's take a recess.

We will come back at 2:30 and we will start with the house maps for the same region at 2:30.

Thank you everybody.

[Recess]

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Michigan citizens Redistricting Commission back to order at 2:34 p.m.

Will Michigan Department of State staff please call the roll?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Hello Commissioners please say present when I call your name, if you are attending the meeting remotely, please disclose your physical location while you say present.

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?

Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.

Attending remotely from Saginaw Township and Saginaw Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: 12 Commissioners are present.

And there is a quorum.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay at this time I'm going to turn the floor back to our Vice Chair to continue the discussion of our draft mapping.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you very much so we are going to be starting with the house maps at this point for the southwest region.

And I believe we are starting with Commission Vallette.

So please indicate whether you want to start with a blank map or whether you want to start with one of the ones we worked with the other day and feel free to direct Kent as to where to draw the lines.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: A blank map is like there is nothing and the other one has what we have already done?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, so the draft map we have two draft maps for the house at this point one that is the Upper Peninsula region northeast, northwest and another one that is the southeast region that we worked on previously.

Or you could just start with an entirely new blank map which is what our one of our experts recommended, the other said start with a partially drawn map so you can do whatever you choose.

We will leave it up to you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: So what is this on the screen right now? Is that a blank map?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Is this a blank house map.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This is a totally blank house map, nothing up there.

I just brought it up because that is the way we started the last session.

And I have the previous outline of the districts available to turn on-and-off like we did last time, if you want to use them as a reference.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Is there an advantage of doing one over the other?

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Not so much.

I do think you know like here is the southeast right here.

I will turn that on.

And you know there is the outline.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: In the red.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: In the red so you can start with a blank map and just have that sitting there when you want to glance at it or we can start with the previous districts and add and change them or do whatever you like.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Well then, I will start with this blank map.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I guess I will start at the border with Branch.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: And Hillsdale.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: And Lenawee.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That right there is almost a House District in and of itself.

We are doing House Districts now and it's only 91,000 people.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Okay.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Remember we are doing the southwest region.

So the western side of the state.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I'm sorry would you repeat that.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: We are doing the southwest region.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Okay I'm sorry I thought you said southeast.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I thought you might have miss heard or misunderstood what I said and why I'm repeating it.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Southwest region includes Branch.

That was also done you know Branch was included when they did the southeast so however you want to do it.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Okay well I guess I thought that the red was the regions that we were doing.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: No, the blue is the -- let me clear it up a little bit.

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I'm going to turn off the previous districts.

What you are looking at in blue are the regions.

And we were doing number three Calhoun, Branch, St. Joseph and Kalamazoo and Van Buren.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: We are starting with the southwest.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Correct.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: So I'll take Branch.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Thank you.

Keep in mind though that these lines are you don't need to stick to them.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Pretend.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: If you want to do what you did originally and put Branch with Hillsdale if that works for you as a House District you know you can.

You're not locked into these lines.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Okay thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: For what it's worth Branch Hillsdale is the current House District as it stands right now so that is how the House District is drawn.

That's number 58.

It's Branch and Hillsdale.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Well if I take St. Joseph that puts me over, right? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, by roughly 14,000 people.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: So I'll take Hillsdale instead of St. Joseph.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay and that District is?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 1.1% under ideal or 1,000 people.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Well, I guess I will stop there.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Vallette, can you provide an explanation for why you started where you started and why you joined up these two areas?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: At first, I was looking at the population.

Trying to get as close to the 91612 and then I was trying to be contiguous.

So the two went together.

And that's it.

Population and being compact.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: You're welcome.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Any comments or discussions? Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Excuse me when looking at Hillsdale County that is in the southeast region.

But you've combined it over to the southwest as well.

What was the rationale on that? Yeah numbers.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Numbers, population, do you know something that I don't know that Hillsdale wants to be with Jackson? Or.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: My assumption in the southwest region we included Hillsdale in another house seat so my approach would have been to try to keep in the southwest one of the southwest counties somehow.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'd like to bring to the Commissioners attention these red lines are the map done for the southeast.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So she basically just redrew a District we already drew?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Both of the counties are in if southeast.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: No I'm saying when the southeast was drawn one of the Commissioners chose to put Branch with Hillsdale when southeast was done.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay, all right, I yield back.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right next on our list Commissioner Wagner is unavailable today so we will move on to Commissioner Weiss.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Thank you.

All right, I'm thinking I'd like to continue with this map.

And I believe I would like to take all of St. Joseph County.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 60,000.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: That takes me obviously to about 61.

So it looks like I'm going to go I think to Cass County and take at least maybe the first four townships.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: First four townships of what county?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Of Cass.

Just the first four.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Half of it okay I'm sorry.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes, half.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Let me get that unassigned and get right on it.

Is that representative what we wanted to do.

Go from half of those and my first county to the left, the first, take those three off.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: It did not show up on my computer until just now.

So what I would like you to do now is add, let's see, we are about 30,000.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Roughly 23,000 short.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: All right. Let's add the next four straight across.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: These four, Mason, Calvin, Penn, Volinia, that will add 7600.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes.

Can you move it over a little there so I can see what the next counties are, please?

Thank you.

We need 15.

Try the next Wayne, LaGrange and Jefferson. And what is the bottom one? I can't quite read it.

Just had my eyes done.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Those four localities, townships add up to 15,857 and puts you right at ideal within a few hundred.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes.

Let's try that.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That puts you at .68% over or 622 people.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yeah, I think I would like to stay with that because we have a little minus on the previous District so this will take some of that down, make it a little closer in population for the two.

So I think I'll stay there.

Any comments front -- from anybody else now.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Weiss can you provide any explanation of the District?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: If we do more blank maps, we might create more work down the road so I decided to take the existing map and add to it and try to keep our population as close as possible without breaking up too many of the Directors even though it looks like I had to break up a county.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Commissioner Weiss.

Just for the record Commissioner Clark and Commissioner Curry gave you thumbs up and I think this is a nice looking District so we will move on to the next person.

Commissioner Clark, it is your turn.

I'm sorry Commissioner Witjes I skipped right over you I'm sorry.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Okay, I guess we can select the remaining balance of Cass County.

And then I would like to work on the lakeshore.

So the entire bottom of what is that county called, correct.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner or Orton go ahead.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: There is a strange part of Niles.

I think there is also some dis-contiguous parts around Dowagiac.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: There is a couple little pieces that I guess were part of the remainder of LaGrange and Wayne Townships.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: We can adjust those after the fact and scare it up.

I want to continue to get the population along the lakeshore.

So we can Zoom out for me, please.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Excuse me sorry I couldn't hear you.

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>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: If you could Zoom out for me, I will deal with those in a minute.

Let's select the next layer of Townships above.

Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That will add approximately 71,000 to your 20 and it will make it an ideal District.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: So let's grab is that pipes stone, I can't read it, let's grab the pipes stone Township.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay you are now over approximately 2400 people.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Over, let's take silver creek and pipe stone off.

Let's just add silver creek and we will call it good at that.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You will add in silver creek.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Yes.

There we go.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is 284 without fixing the little stray pieces.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: That should be fine and then we can adjust those to just whichever one surrounds the pieces the most.

Go ahead and add those two.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I missed a little bit here.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: We can add those two areas into four.

Niles and.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: See how they.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Part of the airport.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, let me go ahead and get those now.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Witjes while they are addressing the incontiguities can you provide an explanation for your District?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I sure can so I wanted to start working on the actual lakeshore.

However, I had to move west from the District that was just drawn by Commissioner Weiss as I did not want it to create a pocket of Townships that would just be a straight line.

So moving west grabbing as much of the lakeshore as we possibly could in this particular District so that the hope is moving up north at this particular point would be a lot easier.

And getting to the exact population.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Around the town of Dowagiac we have pieces of two broken up within.

You have pieces of four kind of in two.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: All right so let's block 4029 and block 4022 just do a switch on those.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I will put this in four.

Put all of this in two?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Correct.

And we can add that block, the one below it 4051 and 4087, we can add that to four.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 4087 to 4?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Yep.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 4051.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: To four and the one above that to District 4 as well.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Then we have these pieces in and around.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I will take 4024 and 5029 and add them to District 4 as well.

I believe that is a big jut out of five.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I would like to note.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Keep that as it is. And we can keep that block as it is too.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Is that it?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Yep.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You want to leave it just like this.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Works for me.

And the rationale for those changes is just to fix the contiguity errors and I will call that a day for that District right now.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: We have one more little piece here.

It appears this area in here was part of two and now two is low.

Did I miss assign some area in some way?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I don't believe so.

We can add that one little green piece though to District Four since it's surrounded by it on all sides.

But I'm not sure where the big change came that would have.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Did we move much out of two into four is that what we did?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Doesn't look like it because we started at region 4 District 4 rather with 284 over and now we are 330 so not much changed but there with was a significant decrease in two.

That is strange.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Wondering if it's those little blocks around the City like even though they were small blocks maybe may are densely populated.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Since two got a little out of whack let's just try adding a few Townships to the north of District 2 to see if we can get population to come back into where we want it to be.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I think what it is we were under like a little under 5% so I think we just had yeah, a couple variants but yeah, the difference is.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Let's take Decatur and porter Townships.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Decatur and porter.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: That should get it closer.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes.

Skip District number 3 inadvertently.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: We are doing three now.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Or next.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right is that good Dustin?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Yes.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Now we will move on to Commissioner Clark for District 3 because we jumped over District 3.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay, let's take a look, if you could Zoom in on Kalamazoo area.

I want to take a look at that, please.

We get the precincts so we can get the numbers.

It says 73,000 and some and 22000 so we can put that sum together.

Okay I'm going to somehow reduce this around 4,000.

And can we get the numbers at a level below this, please.

Correct.

Can you scroll up a little? I'm sorry down a little? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This area?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Let's take the two precincts in the lower left hand corner.

And unassign those.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That puts you within 879.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay, let me ask somebody that's familiar with Kalamazoo is it logical to take the southwest corner or is it another area that it would be better to take? Don't know? Okay let's leave it like this.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Clark you provide any additional explanation?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, I wanted to get the Kalamazoo area as intact as possible.

And eliminate it to the precincts that are down in the southwest corner of the Kalamazoo area to make the numbers match.

Could we go back to the precincts of all of Kalamazoo? I want to look at the upper left hand corner.

What is the numbers on that white spot? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 1926.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: What would happen if we added that.

Would we still be in tolerance? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 2% is approximately 1800 plus people.

Well, 18,000.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I'm sorry I did not understand.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 2% is 1800 people so you would be adding in a little over 2%.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, let's do that.

Let's add that and try to keep Kalamazoo intact.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: When you chose the City of Kalamazoo it did not choose Parchment because that is not part of the City so you took out part of the actual City and put in something that is not actually part of the City.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yep.

That yellow area is Parchment City.

It's not Kalamazoo.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: So you think we are in line doing it this way?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Well, however you want to do it but I just think you added in something that isn't part of Kalamazoo.

You took away.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Let's leave it as is, Kent.

Okay you got what you need Sarah, documentation?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yes, I do.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right we are on to Commission Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Let's see where we are.

To get over there I need to see more of the western part of the map.

Okay can you put the numbers on too for me? Can you add the numbers on it to, please? Okay and I need 91,000? Let me play with this for a minute and let me have Lincoln.

Beg your pardon.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: The region that it's in may be blue.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: The region that it's in.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Navy blue.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I don't see Navy blue, okay.

So you got -- can you bring this down? Okay, I mean right here? Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: We can start anywhere and move it back and forth to start. I said we can just start with one and add and move and they can move around.

You don't have to figure it all out at once.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay, give me Lincoln.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Lincoln.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Royal ton, St. Joseph, is that two St. Josephs? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Give me both of them.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You got all of it.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Give me Benton Harbor or is that a City? Can I get Benton Harbor? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That will bring you to 61,000.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Let's keep going.

Give me might as well put Sodus on there and Hagar.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Hagar.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is adding 5,000.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I need 5,000 more.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You need 25,000 more.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay, take pipe stone, Bainbridge, Coloma.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: And the town I suppose.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I can't hear you.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: All of Coloma.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: That is good, can I do that? Can I take the town as well? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes Coloma.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I'm short.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You can be short 13,000.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: All right, okay, give me Keeler, Harper, both the Harpers.

Watervliet.

That should be it.

What did I do.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 1.52% under.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I'm still short? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: No ma'am.

You are under 1300 people but you are at 1.52.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Can I be under 1300? Or I can just pick up Hamilton.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, you can.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: That is perfect almost.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That puts you 24 people under the ideal.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Good job Juanita.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Curry can you provide explanation for your District here?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I was trying to get as population as close to the total population as possible for the what is that a District? And also, it's contiguous.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right any comments, questions about what Commissioner Curry has done? Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I like it a great deal Juanita and if we are going to try to do a coastal region this would be the time to try it.

And so going up you know going up from Paw Paw towards South Haven to see how that looks, could be the right time to do it but and take away Hartford and Keeler but I think what you have looks good so you don't have to do it but if we try to do the coastal regions now is the time.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Are we good Commissioner Curry? All right moving on to Commissioner Eid.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So for the House Districts I did have that lakeshore community in mind.

But the one that I would draw runs from South Haven all the way down to the border which cuts into what Commissioner Curry drew and what Commissioner Witjes drew. So I believe we could do that and keep those districts mostly the same.

Just adding population here and there to them for the more inland parts of them.

But it would kind of mess up both of those two.

So do you guys think that that is something we could do for these lakeshore communities or should I start somewhere else?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Make sure you are raising your hand so I can call on you so you can turn on your mic so I can hear you and I'm hearing a bunch of rumbles and I'm sure the interpreter is going crazy right now because she doesn't know who is talking.

Anyone have any comments? Turn your microphone on Commissioner Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: It's time for me to go home because I'm getting silly. It seems like we shouldn't mess up anything.

Let's try to keep it going, Commissioner Eid.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: But we did hear a lot of people wanting lakeshore together.

So you can make a copy maybe and make a District and see what it looks like.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay let's do that then.

Let's make a copy.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: It's a copy we saved so we continue editing this.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So let's make a number six then.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I'm going to try to do this in a way where it doesn't completely mess up the other two numbers 4 and 5 and we can add more to those to add up for the population lost from the shoreline communities.

So let's start with South Haven.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: And covert? Is that appropriate.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes, and covert.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Just an observation, if you took Hagar Township away and added Lawrence on the other end to what Juanita had done, her population balances and then you accomplish your objective.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay so let's take Hagar.

And Benton Harbor, the Township of St. Joseph.

And the City of St. Joseph.

Lincoln, and then those two to the right of it as well of the river and then Benjamin and Lake and going more south.

So let's connect it all the way down to the border so let's take right there and then New Buffalo Township and New Buffalo County.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That gets you at minus 2.31.

Is there more?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

Must have missed one somewhere.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Higher.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Did we get to the right of Hagar.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Coloma.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: But to the left of that river that is over there.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Right like here? That area.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Exactly.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay.

And now you are over approximately 4,000, 4 point Eid aye now we are over Kent Ken over 4402, 4.8%.

5 is down 73,000, 4 is down 12000.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So what do you guys think we can remove from this lakeshore District to add in to one of the other two to get the population back up to where it needs to be?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I'm not sure I know but I'm looking at the river and because we've heard so much about you know watersheds I'm just wondering if

there is a way to add 4 and 5 and try to, yeah, keep the, yeah, something similar to the watershed that resembles the watershed.

I'm not sure exactly how that works but yeah.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Where are you talking about?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Can you scroll out a bit so we can see the top? There we go.

Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Anthony I'm looking at 4 and 5. And, yeah, I'm not sure that Watervliet, Buchanan and Niles have much in common. I do know that Dowagiac and Niles are on a rail line, that makes a lot of sense to keep them together. I don't know that I have anything for you.

Sorry.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, Anthony what if you went north up the lakeshore? What is the population look like up there?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Well there is too much in there right now.

We have to take out some.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I'm sorry.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: There is too much population.

We have to take out about 5,000.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: 5 and 4 are way under too because 4 is under by 12000 now 5 is under by 91,000.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So 5 can probably be fixed bid a -- by adding to it what is around there but I'm not sure about 4.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Well.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Excuse me let me recover what I just did.

I did an undo.

Which removed Coloma.

I'm just going to put it back like it was.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: This does not help the problem of over population.

But I think there is a little part of South Haven that is up above the line.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Now we are back.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Did it get it? No.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I personally would take Colomo off myself.

Coloma is like a small town, kind of rural.

Some industry a little bit.

But like maybe take off Coloma and the actual City and leave that upper precinct.

If you want to leave any part of it.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Let's try it.

Do we want to add it to 5 in that case?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, you would have to add it to 5.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Let's add it to 5.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This lower Section of Coloma but in 5?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: By precinct.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: You can probably just do the whole thing.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: If you do the whole thing you are removing, 6400 so then you will be 2000 low.

But we will do it right now.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, do it by parts then so do precincts.

So Coloma the City and the precinct that is immediately around it and see where we are at.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: It would be that area.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yep.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 6 is ideal or close to it and.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So I guess the first thing we want to think about is do we like this lakeshore District? If we do, we can then add to 4 and add to 5 to make both of those work or do we want to go back to what was drawn before?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Witjes and then Commissioner Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I guess my only thought is how far do you consider the lakeshore to go in land.

Is it only the one Township? Or is it the first two or three Townships of the county are to be east of Lake Michigan? One Township going up all the way seems a little weak to me.

Because I would guess most people that are living in the two or three Townships over from the lake have the same points of view about the lake and they consider themselves to be part of the lakeshore.

Now five or six Townships in, maybe a little bit of a stretch.

Keep in mind that majority of the Townships are six mile by six mile square.

So each one add six miles in whenever you want to make the educated guess on when the definition of lakeshore would end.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, I want to add on to what Dustin just said.

You know, we've got if we accept this, we've got one lakeshore District, House District. We did another one last week.

We did the Leelanau Traverse City which is lakeshore as well.

And that is too.

You're not going to get the whole length of the lake.

But if you take the next populated area, which is probably Muskegon, and make the third I think we satisfy as best as we can the comments from the public regarding having lakeshore represented.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: These are excellent questions.

And I'm wondering Commissioner Lange, you were trying for a minute to try to do lakeshore districts too.

Do you have any thoughts on this?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Honestly, I would think that it would go over a little bit further, the narrow strip I'm not feeling it but that's just my opinion.

Along the lines of what Dustin was saying that just Townships even though they are not directly on the lake I think they still might identify with the issues of the lake as Dustin said.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Do we have Commissioner Wagner on now? I can't hear you.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: She has joined the meeting and we are still getting her connected to audio so when she joins, I will prompt her to disclose her location.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, I just saw her for the first time and thought oh, there is Commissioner Wagner.

All right any other comments? I mean my feeling is our ability to draw these House Districts is going to depend on the population.

And I think in this lower region of Michigan, it tends to be a little bit more populous so you are getting this very narrow District which I don't know necessarily makes a lot of sense.

But I think when we move further up the coastline especially once you get to Holland and Grand Haven and Ludington the populations are lower and we can probably create a District that's a little more robust looking.

And still meet those populations and pull a couple Townships in.

So I think the problem here is and maybe you can solve it you know by making this District a little wider or expanding for back out how it was and doing a separate six starting above Benton Harbor or at Benton Harbor but I think it's just a function of the population Benton Harbor St. Joseph because it's so close to Chicago it tends to have a little more population than you do further up the coast.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: This is Sarah Reinhardt with the Department of State, Commissioner Wagner is present in the meeting.

Commissioner Wagner can you disclose your physical location by stating the county, City or Township and state from which you are joining the meeting?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I can do that I'm attending remotely from Charlotte, Michigan.

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>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.

Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: On the 6 that Commissioner Eid has drawn, proposed, I mean if you look at it, it looks like stair steps going up the coastline.

It looks like a snake.

I don't -- it doesn't present well number one.

More importantly I think we may have a Voting Rights Act or a racial profile voting problem or issue with St. Joe, Benton Harbor area.

Which is in there.

And if that proves to be true, then there is a question of what are we trying to do by just taking a very narrow strip of that side.

So I think those are my comments.

Whether or not they prove out to be true I don't know.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: How about we go back to the copy then and we can move on from there.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Do you still have a comment Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: The only comment I had is based on what Steve said, we've got a customer not a customer but a citizen requirement that has been pretty significant up against the lakeshore that we are trying to resolve.

So, yeah, I don't know if it looks like a snake or not.

But it's not the normal type of District configuration you may want.

But it satisfies a requirement we are getting helps satisfy a requirement we are getting from the citizens.

.
>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'm referring to version one.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I saved that so if you need to copy back to it, we shall.

So here is version one that we worked on before Commissioner Eid's.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay so let's get that South Haven area.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Was our District 2 originally that over? Yeah, two is over by 6,000.

I don't remember it being over that much before.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: It was.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay all right Commissioner Kellom is reminding me we left it that way on purpose.

So it was just a question so carry on Commissioner Eid.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Let's try to fill in the rest of that County and see what happens.

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>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That right there is 60,000 and that fills out the County.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay let's assign that.

Now since District 2 is a little bit over, do we want to take off portions of Porter and Decanter Township to try to even that out.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 6143 would be removed from District 2 which would make District 2 ideal or close.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay let's do that.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: District 2 is .63% and District 6 needs approximately 25,000 people.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay so this gives us two choices.

We could either go north above the region line that we said and get more lakeshore communities in there.

Or we could go east into the Kalamazoo area that is left unassigned.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'm separating the color of two and three, two and six.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for doing that.

I was just going to ask you the same thing.

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

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I was saying it leaves two choices we can either go north to get more of the lakeshore communities that border Lake Michigan or we could go east to get more of the communities around the City of Kalamazoo.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: The Township right next to your eastern border there, Dorters corners has about 23,000, yes, right there.

Osh, whatever Oshtemo.

Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: If you go north then it satisfies two things that we've heard a lot of which is lakeshore and Van Buren and Allegan want to be together.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: If we do that, it might let us put the areas around the City of Kalamazoo into their own as well, which I would assume that they would have less in common with the lakeshore than Allegan County would.

So let's do that.

Let's take some of Allegan.

Let's move up.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Casco, Ganges that is 5,000.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay let's move up to Saugatuck.

And let's also do so let's assign those.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Excuse me.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Assign those, please.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, that leaves you 13,843 short.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Let's take the counties to the right of what we just drew.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This area?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That area is 10,922.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Then let's just take that county on the border right there, yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Teshire.

That puts you approximately 710 people light.

.78%.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Can we Zoom out to see the whole thing? I'm wondering what my fellow Commissioners think of this.

It sprawls a little bit but we have the lakeshores in there at least more of the lakeshore than the City.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: My only suggestion would be the it goes a little too far east in my opinion.

I feel like we could work with the lakeshore a little bit more.

Take those potential eight or nine Townships from Bloomingdale down south and see if you can work north.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I don't really want to go in the Holland area at this point because Holland is kind of its own thing being Holland you have a high polish community.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Dutch.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Dutch I'm sorry like a completely different community of interest.

So that's why I didn't go that far north.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Yeah, that makes sense.

I do like the District.

It was just a thought I had but I like it.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay I'm good.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Kellom it's going to go to you but I think did you do your explanation yet? Because you did one then you redrew it and so I don't know maybe you should do it again.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So the explanation or the rationale is to maximize the lakeshore community of interest.

While still making population work.

And not going into the areas around the City of Kalamazoo.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.

Commissioner Department of State did you have a comment? No.

Commissioner Kellom, your turn.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay can we reset the area so that I can see what's what? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Lower?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: That is fine.

I can see what is happening.

You can Zoom in a little bit.

Okay, so I'm very collaborative so you all definitely jump in.

Don't sit there and be silent because I want input from folks who are familiar with the area and I'm not married on any idea that I have so don't feel like you have to be super polite.

I'm not like that.

Can we start, no, I'm not.

It's insane.

We can just talk as a group.

So what did you say? Say it again.

I did not hear you.

Yeah, Zoom out again, I'm sorry Zoom out one more time.

Okay can we just start against District six then, what we have drawn for six.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 7.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Start against so prairie Ronde and I don't know if Kalamazoo wants to be nestled in the way I'm about to nestle them in but oh, well. Texas.

Oshtemo.

What is that Alamo? I can't see the letter Ala.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay Portage and Schoolcraft.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Portage and Schoolcraft, I'm sorry.

That will be close.

We have a voting precinct that has been wrapped around.

That is over by 14,000 and we created a little hole.

Doughnut hole.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Say that again I couldn't hear you.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: There is a doughnut hole on the edge of Kalamazoo or Portage and you're 14,000 people over.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay let's undo Portage.

Whatever created that doughnut hole undo it.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: If you take away Alamo on the top left, left corner you have the southwest suburbs and that makes sense in my head.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Let's do that and take away Alamo.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: And now you are 10,000 over.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Undo the last suggestions I had I went too fast.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Then fill your doughnut hole and see where you are at.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Really these do need to go either to 7 or 3 to repair it. Like this or not? That is 2000 in this voting precinct 1858 in this and I suspect those are census blocks so.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay, I need to either what is the 1858 can you select that? That would be over never mind.

I'm not saying what is, what does it stand for.

Commissioner Clark, come talk to me.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I will.

The doughnut hole he is talking about is 4,000 people.

If we added that in to 3, I know we would be over on 3.

I don't know if it would be under the 5%.

But that keeps Kalamazoo County almost intact.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: If we added that to 3, to add it to 3?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: It's going to get added to three or it's going to get added to the one you are working on.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I think it should be added to 3.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: See what happens with 3.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: We add it there.

Yeah, that is too much.

Take -- there is a piece,

Subtract that and see where we are at.

Are we looking at this? It is contiguous.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: There is no population.

A handful of people.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: That was just an idea to do that to help you out.

Okay, I reverse it back.

I would put it back to where it was.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You want it back?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes, undo it, yes.

I appreciate you, Commissioner Clark.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Shall I put that area in 7?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: With that adjustment 7 is 4900 people high or 5.4% high.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Are there some Townships that we could like Zoom in and extract?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Bottom one next to Schoolcraft is 2300 people.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Say it again.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Prairie Ronde, 2300.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I can unassign that.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: And that makes the 7th District 2600 high or 2.84% high.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So if you look up top two, Oshtemo, see that kind of puzzle piece one looking one at the top? There is 1600 in that precinct. So scroll out a little more.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I appreciate you. I don't have my software up and running.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: By the corners, that little jig-jag part, see that is 1600, 1678.

So over to the left.

Right there.

Yep, that right there.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Unassign that?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Do you want to? And that gets you down.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: District 7 is 922 high.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay, Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, before you did that, I didn't see any problem personally with having a deviation of 2.6%.

And then it keeps the rest of that County intact as well.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I understand what you're saying.

I thought similarly; but I just feel like and I know that we can go back.

My personal feeling is I don't want to create a situation where we are constantly having to go back and just going along with the nice deviations that we've created so far in this mapping session.

But I don't know.

That is just my rough draft thought on that.

Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I like what you did because I do think it's a suburban District. And I think there is voting mentalities that feel like they are good. And I think the precincts that are highlighted, those are the orange ones, right, Kent, what we see on the screen there?

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, sir. They are the voting precincts.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: When the voting precincts are tighter, that tells us this is suburban so this is not bad. And taking away the upper one even though it separates the Township, it seems like there is different part of that Township to more suburban and less suburban.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Unless I hear something else, I'm okay with what I'm looking at visually because it keeps with the population.

I think I use the word nestled originally. And I kind of wanted that to happen around Kalamazoo.

So yeah, Vice Chair Szetela?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I just want to highlight again that keeping Townships together is not one of our seven constitutional criteria.

So we keep going back to that.

But that is not one of our criteria.

We have to consider Township boundaries, but there is no requirement that we keep things together.

And as it is right now throughout this state there are voting election managers who are perfectly capable of handling different precincts, having different ballots. And they will just because we could not keep all the Townships together if we wanted to.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: At this time I did a check for dis-contiguities.

And it found an unassigned, well not unassigned but a 0 population block from District 7 inside of District 3 right here, in the airport area.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: We need to fix that.

We can assign that block.

Let me assign this block here, block number 2036 to 7 or we can assign 2037 to District 3.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Assign it to District 3.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay, now it's nice and clean.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Tada.

Yes, Department of State, Sarah?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yes. Commissioner Kellom, could you provide any additional explanation of your District?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I knew you were going to ask me that. And I was sitting here trying to think of something extra other than what I said.

The contiguous piece population, and I believe that what I've drawn, seven, creates an opportunity for those close to the Kalamazoo Area.

It provides Kalamazoo the opportunity to keep its shape, but it provides those close, as I agree with Commissioner Rothhorn for voting purposes.

Does that make sense?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yes. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I have a question.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: What is that little out liar at the top?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Parchment, that area.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: It says Westville on mine.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I take back what I said.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Not there. It sticks into the left west side that.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is part of District 3.

It is a --

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Witjes, I think you left that.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: It's part of precinct. This precinct here.

I'll blink it and you can see.

That is all one precinct.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Okay.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Any other thoughts before we move on to the next Commissioner? Commissioner Orton, please.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: There is one other little part on the southeast corner of 3.

Just that little square where there is an -- I think it is contiguous because it has a tiny little line, but I don't like it.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I believe that is part of the Kalamazoo Township.

We shall check right now.

It is.

That is part of a Township.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I think we should do something about it.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Are those boating docks? What are those little slits, that is what it looks like. Is that buildings? What does that icon mean when you Zoom in for that? What does that stand for subdivision, what? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'm going to look right now.

Just need to do it correctly.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay, houses.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That looks like homes. It looks like a neighborhood.

This neighborhood is part of this Township.

This neighborhood is part of this Township.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I like the idea of assigning that 3 to 7.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I'm sorry, MC, what did you say? The orange square, put it in 7?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: To make it a gray peninsula, you know, next to the right of the airport instead of having just that number, that little block of 3, that orange square, yeah, I would like to, yeah.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Add it to 7?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Add that to 7.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Can we add that to 7, please? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Love to.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: And thank you, Commissioner Orton, for flagging that.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I feel better now.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay, I think we are ready to move on. So Commissioner Lange is next.

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>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Can you scroll out a little bit more for me, please.

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

Which way do you want to go?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Just make it, okay, right about there, just so I can get an overview.

Okay. Scroll in for me now.

Let's start with Prairie Ronde, I think is how you say it, in Schoolcraft.

And Brady and Lakeshma.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Pavilion and Climax.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Can we move it in just a little bit so I can see to the east?

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: To the east?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes.

Then make it a little smaller for me so I can get an overview.

Sorry to be so bossy.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is fine.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Take in Athens, Burlington, Newton and Leroy.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Did you include Newton?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes, I did.

Okay, I want to keep heading east.

So Fredonia.

Tekonsha.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You need 54,000 more people.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Take in all the rest of the east there.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That block right there is less than 10,000.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Right, right.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: We need 44 more, 44,000 more.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay. Let's scroll back to the west.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: As soon as it assigns I will.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Can you go just a little bit to the east so I can see the numbers in the corner? To the east.

Your little block with the number thing is blocking my view.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yeah, your little population box is blocking my view of the ones.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Great, sorry about that.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: It's fine.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Is that okay? Can you see what you need to see?

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>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I need it more towards the west so I can see the whole region.

Okay, I may have to redo this.

Make it a little bigger.

And now we are going to start, gosh, that is going to look horrible.

We are going to start up in the top west corner of it that is empty.

I can't read, yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Charleston, Galesburg, Comstock.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I can't read it, yes, right there, no, no, the Ala, I can't read.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This area?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes, please.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Alamo.

We have made a little hole here.

This is a prevoting precinct.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Take that hole.

So once it processes, do the one next to it.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I included Richland. Is that correct? We need to get two more.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: A piece of Parchment.

Richland and Comstock, please.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That will add 23,000 and you need 27,000.

Galesburg has got to be in there, so it's.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is 1.3% low or 1308% people below ideal.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay, and there is no little Townships that have that amount that would be contiguous I'm assuming.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I think Richland Township and Ross Township, as well as those on both sides of Galesburg really associate more with each other.

So if you could add those in and take some of them that are clear to the east off.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay, add Ross and Charleston and take off Albion and Homer, please.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Alamo and Cooper?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: No, no, Albion and Homer.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Now you are 1.5% high.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Eckford and Clarendon, the next two.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Eckford and Clarendon.

Yes.

That puts you 1.12% low or 1022 people below ideal.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Add Clarendon back on and that would be over, correct?

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, you are 159 people high.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Comments for Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I think it's good.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lange, can you state your rationale?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: It's hard when you get down to a certain area.

Basically they all look like they would be fairly rule and all contiguous so the main thing is keeping it altogether

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you. All right. Looks like we are going to move on to Commissioner Lett with District 9.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Scroll to the map to the west.

So stick in Battle Creek.

Springfield and Bedford.

Pennfield and Emmet.

We need approximately 3800 people to reach the ideal deviation.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Let's assign those.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Excuse me.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Assign those, please.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: They are.

Just a moment.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: It just reconnected all of a sudden.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: It's your Wi-Fi and kicked you right out.

I saw it fussed at my earlier.

Go ahead.

Yep.

Where were we?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I don't know.

Now I'm trying to get rid of something.

So.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: District 9 needs 3876 people to be ideal.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Okay.

I want to take out Pennfield, add in Marshall Township and Marshall City.

.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Your District is now 2678 people short of ideal.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Well that really doesn't work because I know Battle Creek and Pennfield Township are pretty close together, right? Put Pennfield back in.

>> Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I'm thinking.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: If you wanted to take a portion of Marshall meaning canvas and a portion of the western half of Marshall rather than all 3,000 you know from the Township you could leave this sort of the eastern half of that Township around the City of Marshall and just take a portion of the Township and maybe just the voting precinct to try to get your canvas and that portion of Marshall Township to get your numbers right.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Well, here is the problem that I have with that, and one of the things that we heard repeatedly was don't split Townships.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'd like to bring to the Commissioners' attention there is only one precinct in that Township.

It's that right there.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: One of the things that caught my attention was get rid of the Marshall and the precinct Marshall was in.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: You have to speak in the mic, Doug.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Clark do not say one more thing unless you speak in the mic.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I'm looking at the map and talking and I'm away from the mic.

Delete Marshall and the precinct Marshall is in.

And I'm sorry, delete those two and then go north and get the three counties that are just outside the region.

Barry, Johnston, Assyria.

Yeah, Assyria so that is adding 7,000 and you are subtracting and you're subtracting 10,000.

That may not work.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Zoom out, please.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Have you considered dropping Marshall and Marshall City and then adding in canvas and Lee? It will take off 10, you will add back on, you will be four under then you will be add back on two, 2500 and that will get you pretty close.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: We can try that, pick up Marshall and the City.

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

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Just that that's pretty much how it is on the current house map.

It's Battle Creek, Bedford, all the way to Clovis and Lee.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Commissioner Lett did you ask me to unassign Marshall and Marshall?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Marshall and Marshall City.

- >> MR. KENT STIGALL: 3876 people below ideal or minus 4.23%.
- >> COMMISSIONER LETT: Put in Clovis and Lee.
- >> MR. KENT STIGALL: You are 1.43% below ideal.
- >> COMMISSIONER LETT: Okay, I'm good.
- >> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I think that is good.

Any comments? Commissioner Clark?

- >> COMMISSIONER CLARK: It looks to me like we just boxed ourselves in.
- >> COMMISSIONER LETT: I don't think so.
- >> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: You have room to move around it.
- >> COMMISSIONER LETT: I don't think so.
- >> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: No.
- >> COMMISSIONER LETT: If I have gone over another one it would have looked

worse.

- >> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I can't remember what we did the one county to the north coming outside Lansing.
- >> COMMISSIONER LETT: Zoom in please.
- >> MR. KENT STIGALL: At this point right here?
- >> COMMISSIONER CLARK: The one that has Charlotte in it.
- >> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: That is north though, yes, north.
- >> MR. KENT STIGALL: Where do we want to Zoom in?
- >> COMMISSIONER LETT: That is good, that is good.

You were good.

- >> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Rationale Commissioner Lett?
- >> COMMISSIONER LETT: What?
- >> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Rationale?
- >> COMMISSIONER LETT: Hold on.

We may unrationale it.

There could be some rationale for going north.

- >> COMMISSIONER CLARK: My point was I think we already did that went we did that region.

We used.

- >> COMMISSIONER LETT: Did we already use Johnstown and Assyria before do you know?
- >> MR. KENT STIGALL: I don't believe so we have not gone before Bedford and Pennfield.
- >> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Can you bring up the shape file from previously.
- >> COMMISSIONER LETT: Paying attention to it any way.
- >> MR. KENT STIGALL: So the red lines are what was previously done and nothing has been done in this area.

That is south central.

So maybe I should add that rather than southeast.

Okay, yep, so this has been assigned as part of the south central.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: You turned yourself off.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: What if we took out everything we have done so far and started at the bottom of that County and worked our way up so that we can if we need a plus or a minus, we can use the counties to the north or the precincts to the north? So use the precincts that are in the white that we haven't touched and start from the bottom up.

And see if that will work.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: For nine are you talking about?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: For nine, yes.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I'm not clear you want him to scratch nine that he draw drew and start with an entirely new one or what are you asking him to do?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: If we start from the bottom up, we won't lock ourselves in then we have the northern precincts to work with just a thought.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I don't see how we are locked in because the entire east side is open and the entire north side is open and area to move through.

That blue line is not locking us into anything.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: But on previous maps we used those precincts.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: However, I think Zoom in so I can tell you what to do.

We will do it any way.

Take out I want to take out Clovis and Lee and put in Assyria and Johns town.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 1.04% high or 957 people.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Now we are not blocked into anything.

That's where I want to be.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Commissioner Lett.

Commissioner Orton? We will hand off District 10.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Does Sarah want more explanation? Okay, basically I'm looking at the population of Battle Creek and the surrounding areas though I don't believe we were locked in on going to the east, along the top row of Townships.

I think we give ourselves better opportunity with Marshall and the other Townships but taking it to the north with a more rural above Battle Creek, going towards Hastings which obviously will be coming down.

So that was and obviously to get the population numbers right, close, thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Okay, let's start with Homer Township.

Down at the bottom.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: District 10?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes, please.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'm sorry start with what?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Homer down on the bottom the lowest unassigned.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Let's try taking the rest of that County and see how much it is.

.
>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Just waiting to see what happens here.

Not sure where we are at, what it's doing.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Can I ask you to move the matrix down a tick so I can see what is happening.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yeah, I'm not sure.

Caught up I suppose.

So District 10 still needs 60,000 people.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Can you Zoom if on Marshall? I think there might be a few.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, I saw that.

There is two pieces.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Okay assign those please to 10.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Put those in 10.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I'm going to call you the catcher.

.
>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Then I think we will go to the east.

.
>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'm sorry what was that?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So do that line of four Townships to the east.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: To the east.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Straight up and down.

.
>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Gives you 10,000 more people.

You need approximately 50,000.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Okay, one more row.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That's 18,000 and will leave you about 32000 more people.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Okay can you Zoom out so I can see? Okay I'm not quite sure what to do because I know we worked on everything to the north.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Wondering if it's because it's around the Charlotte area if Commissioner Wagner has any input.

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>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Commissioner Wagner, do you have any input?
About going to the north?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I don't see how close it is based on where we are now.

If you can pan in a little.

I think that yeah Olivet, Bellevue and Charlotte Eaton rapids were all pretty close to each other.

So how far are you?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So you're saying if we add some, we should add all?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Pretty much.

I mean Bellevue is only honestly Cynthia you're only about 25 minutes away from me. So and Eaton rapids is five minutes to my east.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Okay so go ahead.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I would say if you're going to add to the north if you're going to capture Bellevue and Olivet you need to capture Charlotte and Eaton rapids.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Okay let see.

How it will work if we take Bellevue and all the Townships to the right including Hamlin.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You need 20,000 more people.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Take Carmel or the village of Charlotte and Eaton and eat on rapids Township and town.

.
>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is 37,000.

That puts you approximately 6,000 high.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: High, can you Zoom out? Okay so Zoom, there we go.

.
>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You are approximately 5,000 high.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Hanover and Spring Arbor associate with Jackson, so if you can take them out.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Spring arbor is 8,000.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Those two together are roughly 12000.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Okay take out Spring Arbor.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 3463 low or 3.78% low.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Okay, let go back up north a little bit.

So Commissioner Wagner, do you think Kalamo, I'm not sure how to say it on or Onondaga.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I would put Kalamo with Onondaga.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Sorry, what was that?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I said I would try Kalamo with Onondaga, but I think that you will be a little high that way.

That would put you about 1,500 high maybe.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yeah.

Well, put Onondaga, please, Kent

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Altogether they 4762. Onondaga?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yeah.

Just a moment and let me catch back up with myself.

That puts you 466 people below the ideal population.

District population.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I'm good with that unless somebody thinks we really need to add in the other Township and then it would be a bit over.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Any questions or comments for Commissioner Wagner? I'm thinking Commissioner Wagner because it's her area, but Commissioner Orton? All right. If you're happy with that, I think you can state your justification.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Okay. So I was trying to finish out the region we are working on and just had to move it out a little bit for population and taking into account what Commissioner Wagner said about the communities that need to be together.

That's why we went in that direction.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right that looks good so we have concluded mapping our draft maps for the southwest region for both the Senate and the house so at this time I will hand the baton back to our Chair, Brittini Kellom.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you Vice Chair Szetela.

Good job Commissioners.

I know I hope that you all feel a little celebratory.

I see Commissioner Rothhorn gave a little raise the roof from side to side.

So with that we will continue to item 7 on our agenda approval of minutes but there are none to approve at this time.

And so that leaves us with staff reports and at this time there is no staff report from the executive director.

General Counsel or communications and Outreach Director.

So we are at Michigan Department of State updates, are there any updates at this time?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: No updates.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay and there are no updates from the Michigan Department of State staff.

Correspondence received in advance of our meeting today was provided along with the written public comments to the Commissioners and our meeting materials.

It is my understanding that there are no future agenda items to share at this time.

So are there any announcements? And at this time there doesn't seem to be any announcements.

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So as the items on the agenda are completed and the Commission has no further business a motion to adjourn is in order may I have a motion to adjourn.

So moved motion made by Commissioner Lett and a second made by Commissioner Curry.

All in favor of adjournment please raise your hand and say aye.

Aye.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: All opposed raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes have it and the motion or the motion the meeting is adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Thank you so much, Commissioners; and thank you to everyone that is watching.