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MICRC

09/09/21 13:00 pm Meeting

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>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: As Vice Chair of the Commission we will bring the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 1:06 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Good afternoon, Commissioners. Please say present when I call your name. If you are attending the meeting remotely, and unless your absence is due to military duty, please disclose your physical location by stating the County, City, Township or Village and the State from which you are attending the meeting remotely.

I will start with Doug Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.

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>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.

Brittini Kellom?

Rhonda Lange?

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

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT:

>> 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?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present.

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

And there is a quorum.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: You can view the agenda at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC. I would now entertain a motion to approve the meeting agenda.

So moved. Motion made by Commissioner Witjes and seconded by Commissioner Lett. Is there any debate or discussion on the motion? Actually before we move on to a vote, I actually wanted to add an item of new business. So I'm proposing an amendment to add an item of new business, 6B. And that agenda item will be discussing possibly extending the times of our meetings and changing some meeting times.

Do I get a second on that motion? Motion made by me to amend the meeting agenda to add 6B to discuss changing meeting times.

Seconded by Commissioner Lett.

All in favor please indicate all in favor of the amendment, please indicate...actually before I do that is there any debate or discussion on the motion? Hearing none, let's go ahead and vote on the amendment. All in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

All opposed please raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes prevail. So the agenda has been amended to add that new business 6B about discussing meeting times.

All right. Moving back to the agenda as amended, is there any debate or discussion about the agenda? Hearing none, let's move forward with our motion to approve the agenda. As indicated, we have a motion by Commissioner Witjes to approve the meeting agenda. All in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

All opposed please raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes prevail and the agenda is adopted.

Public comment pertaining to agenda topics portion of our meeting. Hearing no objection, we will now proceed with the public comment pertaining to agenda topics. Individuals who have signed up and indicated that they would like to provide in person public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so.

Please step to the microphone when I call your name or number. You will have two minutes to address the Commission. And please conclude remarks when you hear the timer. And, Department of State staff, how many live persons do we have today?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: We have five in person public comments.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So five total, so six with the second?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Correct.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right, so, number one if you could please approach the microphone and speak.

>> Hi. Name is Mike Williams and I'm a sheriff.

Before I start, thank you all for your service.

I think sometimes we can do thankless jobs and welcome to that brotherhood.

I was disappointed to see the Commission did not keep communities of Gratiot and Isabella and Clare per a comment I made earlier.

I recognize the Commission is under very strict deadline and any major modifications to a draft District are unlikely at this time.

However I submitted a map last night and I'm posing a small change to the draft of District 33 and 35.

A change will make a big impact on keeping communities of interest together without requiring a wholesale redrawing of what the Commission has already done.

My suggestion is very simple somewhat, Newaygo in District 35 and move Gratiot in District 33. Additionally, drop the two Townships on to District 35 for Dade County and that is the changes that I'm suggesting.

What will this accomplish? Newaygo associates more closely with Lake, Osceola. And Gratiot associates with Montcalm and Ionia counties. As the County sheriff I can tell you these three counties in my county, additionally all three counties, have prisons, state prisons, in them. So we have a large population of corrections officers living in our community. Montcalm, Ionia and Gratiot Counties also work together with economic development and decisions.

There are numerous ties between Montcalm and Gratiot along the M14 corridor and 57 lake corridor for the communities.

I would like that the larger change, I'm at least willing to make this small improvement, which would allow districts 35 and 33 to better represent the communities.

A side benefit is the District also becomes more aesthetically pleasing. And the constitutional requirement, the public to see districts that are a little more intuitive in their shapes.

And that's what I've created. I submitted a plan last night to your portal, so you can look at it there.

Thank you for your consideration. And, again, thank you for your service in this process.

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

Number two you may now address the microphone to address the Commissioner.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Madam Chair, apologies, we are experiencing audio issues. Can you hold on for just one moment?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Certainly.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I think we are good to proceed. Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Number two, you may go ahead.

>> Sorry. Hello. I'm Stacy Young, president of Montcalm Community College in Montcalm community.

I appreciate all the work you are doing.

It's certainly a difficult task and also thankless and very important to all of us and the public.

I understand that when the Commission was created in the current draft of District 33 the higher education community that exists here in Mid-Michigan was taken into consideration.

Ferris State, Central Michigan, Mid-Michigan Community College and Alma College are all included in draft District 33.

However, Montcalm County and, therefore, Montcalm Community College has been excluded from this community under the current draft proposal.

I submitted a map on the portal last night and comments through the portal for your consideration.

That fixes the problem by reuniting Montcalm County with Mecosta, Isabella, Gratiot and Clare Counties. I'm making these comments in person as well because. I believe this issue is very important and worthy of your thoughtfulness and attention. Having five of the higher education institutions in one Senate District has allowed the voice and therefore the voice of our students and our community to be heard in a unified station in Lansing for the last decade and will benefit or community and will consider as the redistricting proposals are refined and finalized.

The change can accomplish with minimal modifications to the maps the Commission what the Commission has already drafted. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

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

Number three.

>> I'm Dave Eisler, president of Ferris State University and I want to welcome you to our campus. We are delighted to have you here today. It's great for us to be able see democracy in action and we thank you for your comments.

I submitted written comments. I'm here in support of what you heard from President Young.

We are Montcalm Community College's nearest, closest and most hardworking partner. We really would appreciate you considering them, including them in this community of interest.

I do our Government relations work in Lansing. Being from small, rural areas, the abilities of our institution working together helps with budget and also helps us with capital.

Thanks for considering these comments and thank you for being on our campus today.

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

Number four.

>> Good afternoon, Commissioners.

As you know my name is Sarah Howard.

I'm an attorney here on behalf of the fair maps project of the AFLCIO. It's nice to see you all here again, closer to my neck of the woods.

We have put forth our own map as you know with a book explaining the entirety of the thinking behind that map online.

We know and celebrate that you are keeping compliance with the Voting Rights Act front of mind in your mapping decisions for both the Metro Detroit Area and the I-75 corridor.

We strongly encourage the Commission to create the same number or more of majority Black districts that were found in the 2011 map.

We encourage the creation of those in addition to plurality Black or minority coalition districts.

We want to see the Commission succeed as you know, which is why we have invested so much time in the process here.

And we don't want to see the map of the Commission exposed to Federal litigation under the Voting Rights Act for retro aggression.

More importantly though I think is the issue of seeing that communities of color in Michigan are adequately represented.

And part of being adequately represented is partisan fairness.

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It is key and it is crucial for individuals in communities of color to adequate representation, they have to have representatives who have a fair shot at actually delivering results for their constituents. And, again, that requires partisan fairness. It does not do communities of color frankly or any other citizen in Michigan any good to have representatives who don't have a fair shot at making a difference, providing results if they are...if they have no hope of effective action in the legislature because the opposing party enjoys guaranteed permanent control of our state legislature. That is why the work that you are doing here is so important. And it's why considering partisan fairness numbers along with all of the other criteria that you're required to consider all along the way is so very critical.

Thank you.

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

Number five.

>> Good afternoon.

I hold no office.

Except that of citizen.

And I'm thankful that you're here today.

I worked a lot, went to a lot of houses to get this law passed.

So I'm grateful that you're here.

In Mecosta County we are divided from rural to urban.

I live in Wheatland Township, the Unincorporated Village of Remus, wonderful place to stop on the way back to wherever you are going.

We are a very diverse community.

Economically.

Socially.

Racially.

And we are protected by the sheriff who just left.

we take great pride in taking care of each other.

But when it comes to political boundaries, we really are socially, economically and obviously culturally connected to Mount Pleasant or to Isabella County and I hope you will consider that as part of your task here.

I know that is difficult.

But our State Representative is up in Wexford County.

That's not really related to anything we do here in Mecosta or at least in the eastern half of the county.

Thank you for your consideration.

Good luck in your task.

And I truly appreciate the fact that you are taking this seriously.

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

So I know we had one person who asked to speak twice. Just so that people who are here understand how we sort of operate, we normally go to the remote public first comments first and then we will come back to the person who requested to speak a second time in person. So just so there is no confusion.

I have not forgotten about you and I'm not skipping over you. We just do the first time speaking first.

So individuals who signed up and indicated they would like to provide live remote public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so. 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 speak and prompt you to press star six to unmute. I will call on you by your name.

Also note that if you experience technical or audio issues or we do not hear from you for 3-5 seconds, we will move on to next person in line and return to you after they are done speaking. If your audio still does not work, you can e-mail at redistricting@michigan.gov and we will help you troubleshoot so you can participate during the next public comment period at a later hearing or meeting. You will have two minutes to address the Commission. And please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer.

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

>> Can you hear me, Madam Chair?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, sir.

>> Okay. Thank you.

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

And I e-mailed the Commissioners the minutes or not the minutes but the rules of procedure from the Michigan Commission on legislative apportionment, which this Commission has been determined by the state here in Court to be a reviving of that Commission, changed it to Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, added five nonpolitical appointees. Because there is back then there was four republicans, four democrats. And now they just added four nonaffiliated. So we just revived that Commission. And I sent you, those are the codified rules of procedure you are supposed to...that Secretary Benson was supposed to have started with at the first meeting.

And during it, it says clearly that the Robert's Rules of Order applies except no motion needs a second.

That's been interesting.

And that also this is 15 years before the Open Meetings Act. So it says clearly, meeting open to the press and the public and the public is allowed to present written materials before. And they have to be before they make their presentation.

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So these rules were already spelled out. And like in America, your attorney has already told you these rules apply to the next iteration of this. Well, the ones from before apply to this one.

And was overseeing and I believe that was Mike Brady.

This was Secretary Benson sent this to somebody and to Mike Brady. He is the attorney. So he is the one who determined all this. And we need to get this straightened out. And I wish you would vote to send this to the Legislative Council so that we can review this about their authority to oversight the staff of this Commission, legislative Commission.

You still there?

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

Next to address the Commission is Robert Dindoffer.

Please wait for our staff to unmute you.

>> Hello. Can you hear me.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Great, hey, so I was the big map guy.

And with the Lake, St. Clair community of interest in Ann Arbor. And as you will be drawing State Senate districts in the area soon, I wanted to, I guess, suggest that when drawing VRA districts that you attempt to work with the communities of interest in the area rather than breaking them up.

I'm sure you all would want to do that in the first place.

But, you know, I just over the weekend tried seeing what I could do in that regard.

And I was thinking, you know, on each side of 8 Mile, is there a corridor that kind of fits? I thought that Gratiot corridor, Mount Van Dyke corridor and Woodward corridor all really fit very well, the Lodge and Grand River corridor through Southfield and Farmington Hills in northwest Detroit also works really well.

It's not the only way to do it.

But it's one way to do it.

It seemed to make sense to me. And I wanted to throw that out there as a suggestion.

And importantly for me personally and for the other folks in my area, the Lake St. Clair community of interest doesn't need to be broken up in order to make, I believe, six VRA districts in the State Senate and Metro Detroit.

You could easily do that without breaking up our community of interest and allowing us to protect our lake.

Thank you very much I appreciate it.

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

Number three is Nadia Alamah. Please wait for our staff to unmute you.

>> Thank you can you hear me?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, ma'am.

>> Thank you so much for your time today. I will just be joining as Nadia. Everyone, thank you for your time today. As a daughter of immigrants who gave birth and raised me in beloved Michigan that the Commission is not spending nearly enough time on the maps in the Metro Detroit, Flint, and Saginaw areas. Please look for common ground. And get to know these communities and see how your life can completely change for the better for it. My community includes Pakistani, Bangladeshi Americans, and African and African Americans, Middle Eastern Americans, Eastern Europeans and Native Americans and more.

The 20th anniversary of 9/11 is around the corner. It's an event that really also hurt my international community in Michigan.

And we've made home here. We build both hospitals, schools, grocery stores, and the restaurants where you get your favorite take out.

I've done community outreach and looked out for our neighbors to make sure they won't go hungry. We have been a part of making this state a great place to live. And we really love it here. We love our communities and we love our neighbors and yet we have gone unheard.

We are told our voice doesn't matter as much.

So I implore, please fulfill your duty and give them more time. Give them more than a couple of days and listen. Even after all this is said and done, we are still your neighbors and we will still be living with all the decisions we have made together.

Please don't forget this has a ten-year impact.

Not only will it be unconstitutional in the civic purpose if you ignore them, but please know we will not allow our communities to continue being disenfranchised. Please think of them considering what time you have left.

Thank you.

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

Next is Brandy Nash.

>> Hi. Can you hear me?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> Great.

My name is Brandy Nash and I live in Eaton County.

I respectfully would like to submit my comments in regards to Senate districts 30 and 32.

I do not believe the communities of interest are fairly represented in the proposed maps. Eaton County is fairly rural and should not be drawn in with the City of Lansing as we do not share communities of interest.

Missing point they share a health department with Barry County, not Ingham.

I do not affiliate with the City of Lansing and nor want to be represented by anyone from the City of Lansing.

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I believe the better approach is to encompass the cities of Lansing and East Lansing as they are tied together as communities of interest.

They share school systems, a health department, and they share the common thread of being urban.

I would like to submit for the record that as a resident of Eaton County, but my County has much more in common with Clinton, Barry, Shiawassee, and Ionia as each have rural communities than we ever would with the urban communities of Lansing and East Lansing. Please make sure my county of Eaton is represented by not putting us with the urban communities. Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. And I believe next is Brendon Allen.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: For the purposes of the public record, five is not present and neither is number six.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.

We will move on to Chris Andrews.

>> Including fair districts.

Thank you.

It's hard to comment when you don't have the political context to assess fairness. And I'm sorry I'm getting my buttons wrong.

Somebody might say don't break up Lansing or don't break up Ingham County.

But they might not say that if they knew that was the path to competitive Senate districts.

And I commend Commissioner Eid for coming up, with a plan to draw two Lansing region Senate seats.

This is...I've seen some people call this a gerrymander.

It's the opposite.

It intentionally creates fair and competitive districts.

I would add that I lived in Delta Township in Eaton County for ten years and I always considered myself a part of Lansing.

And there are far more things that connect it to Lansing than separate it.

The last thing I would say is it's hard to figure, to see what you guys are doing.

And I'm looking for maps.

I don't see them available online.

If they are there, you need to make them more available and what get to is something that says coming soon. And you've had some districts that have been drawn two weeks ago or three weeks ago that we can't see.

And I would also say, recommend that you find a way to provide a summary of what you are doing.

That I can't I think you're close to the end of the house and Senate.

I'm not sure.

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You got a talented communications person and perhaps if he put together some kind of an ongoing, daily summary of what you have done today and what you are doing next, that helps give us a better context, that would be extremely helpful.

Thank you.

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

Next in line is Norm Shinkle.

>> Can you hear me now?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, sir.

>> Very good.

Well I'm happy to be in front of this Commission today.

I've had a lot of time in my life of public service.

I'm talking about the State Senate proposed map by Mr. Eid in the 32nd Ingham County seats.

I lived in Ingham County for several decades now.

I work both, several times I've worked different jobs in the City of Lansing.

And I know many people that work in Lansing, that live in East Lansing.

I also work part time in East Lansing for MSU with many of my coworkers living in Lansing.

The two cities represent one community.

Lansing and East Lansing is the urban core of Mid-Michigan.

They share the same water, police services, fire chief, Court systems, healthcare networks, a zoo and a transit system.

If ever two communities share communities of interest, they are Lansing and East Lansing.

Separating Lansing and East Lansing is exactly what the Independent Commission is to prohibit from occurring.

It is the definition of gerrymandering.

It creates two democrat seats.

Unlike what the previous speaker was talking about.

These two towns deserve their own District.

And the last point I want to make is East Lansing is famous for their sporting events and the Breslin Arena and what stands in front of Breslin? A bronze statue of Irving Magic Johnson. Well, Irving Johnson grew up, right down the street in the City of Lansing.

The two communities are one.

As the former state Senator, I value what you are doing. And I urge you to adhere to the constitutional guidelines given to you.

Thank you for letting me speak today.

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

Next in line is James Huguélet.

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>> Can you hear me now?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> I'm James Huguelet, a resident of the City of Perry. And I have spent a number of years in public service.

I'm the retired mayor of the City of Perry. And I have reached out to the Commission today to express my concerns about the proposed map and the communities of interest that we share.

Shiawassee County where I live is a rural County.

And we have much in common with our neighbors in Clinton County, Eaton County.

And much less in common with our neighbors in Ingham County and in Genesee County. And to lump us in with those groups not only breaks up the interest in those urban communities but it breaks up the community interest in our small, rural community.

And it deprives one side or the other depending on who is elected for a chance to have their voices heard.

We have seen success in Michigan's history legislative history in keeping communities of interest together.

And an example of that is the right to farm act where rural legislatures were able to have their voices heard.

The voices of farmers.

To make sure that they would have the opportunity to continue farming even as people from the City moved into their communities and objected to the things that come with farming.

I also want to express my concern with breaking Shiawassee County up into different districts.

The 85th District as it is now keeps my community of Perry in with people who share much more in common with folks in Perry than does the people in Lansing and East Lansing.

And we are -- our voices are better heard by being part of Shiawassee County's District.

The other thing I want to point out on that is in my community over my adult life the communities of Perry and Woodhull Township have been flipped back and forth between the 8th and 4th Congressional districts every ten years. And we are tired of that and we would ask this Commission not do that. Thank you very much.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission next in line to speak is Bruce.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: It appears Bruce is experiencing some technical difficulties, so perhaps we can return to him after our second round.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Sure. All right. Now that the opportunity for both in person and remote public comment has concluded, without objection, we will hear from individuals seeking to provide a second two minute public comment.

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Hearing no objection, we will now proceed with individuals seeking to provide a second two minute public comment.

Individuals who have signed up and indicated they would like to provide in person public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so. We will follow the same process as the first round. You will have two minutes to address the Commission. Please conclude your remarks when your two minutes has ended. Number one.

>> Thank you, Commissioner.

Again, my name is Sarah Howard. I'm here representing the fair maps project. And I appreciate the time to address you for a second period.

We think that the Commission took a great step yesterday toward partisan fairness and toward respecting all of the criteria that you have to respect by drawing the two State Senate districts in the Greater Lansing area.

There are a lot of things that make a community and a community of interest.

And to say that rural or urban or other types of services or interests necessarily must go together means that you have to ignore the totality of the things you're required to take into account.

And there's no way to achieve partisan balance by packing urban areas.

But the partisan balance that you have so far with the work you've done to date is still unfairly partisan biased.

If you take a look at what you have so far, you have roughly 15 leaning republican or strong republican seats to roughly four leaning or strong democratic seats.

And the population trends in the map areas you have done so far would call for about roughly 11 republican, 8 democratic.

And this is further illustration of the point that ignoring partisan data to the detriment of other types of data, other types of interests, only results in an unintentional partisan gerrymander. In the end an unintentional gerrymander of partisanship is no better than an intentional one.

The good news is there is time to fix this.

And the Commission is doing lots of good work in that direction.

We want to encourage that.

The Commission should start by unpacking the Greater Ann Arbor Area.

Most public commenters have said that they would like to see western Ann Arbor with Jackson County. And we believe that unpacking would do a lot to achieve partisan fairness.

We want the Commission to succeed.

And we think the best way to do that is to continue to look at the partisan fairness criteria throughout the work you were doing and not merely at the end of the process.

Thank you so much.

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

I would like to remind everybody to please go to the public comment tool and share your comments in writing, including any specific areas of the map about which you are speaking. The public comment tool is available at www.michigan.gov/micrc.

We will now move back to live remote public commentary. And at this time I would ask to see if Bruce is available and able to speak?

>> Can you hear me now?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, sir.

>> Okay, great, hey, thank you, ladies and gentleman of the redistricting committee.

Thank you very much.

Yesterday I saw a map of proposed Senate District surrounding and including Lansing. This map included half of the City of Lansing with Eaton County and a part of Ingham County.

In my opinion taking into account the importance of communities of interest, Lansing should not be included with Eaton County.

The Lansing community of interest is much different than the rural community of interest that is Eaton County.

Eaton County should be included with the counties of Barry, Clinton, Ionia, or Shiawassee counties.

Eaton and Barry share a health department, and those two should definitely be together.

That's it for me.

I appreciate it.

And thank you very much.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you, Bruce.

All right. At this point we will move on to Mr. James Galant.

>> Can you hear me now, Madam Chair?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, sir.

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

And I'll pick up again where I left off here. I had provided to you copies of from the state archive, the rules of procedure for the Commission on legislative apportionment, which has been determined to be revived.

So this is just a name change.

So I'd like to read the first paragraph to you. And it says the Commission on legislative apportionment, which is now the Independent Redistricting Commission, shall be organized by electing two cochairs.

One from each party's Commissioners. And the chairmanship be rotated with one cochairman presiding for one day and the other cochairman presiding the next day.

Each member of the Commission shall be entitled to one vote, including the presiding officer. Absent Chair can designate a member to act in his stead.

So these are the codified rules of procedure that you are required to follow.
This was the beginning of what you were doing there.
And it was never followed.
And then you could change the rules from there.
You know, this Secretary of State has, in my opinion, wrongfully supervising the administrative staff of this Commission.
That is the job of the legislative Council administrator.
This is the legislative Commission.
It is housed within the legislative Branch of Government and the executive Branch of Government is interfering.
This is separation of powers.
I would ask that you vote, to just to refer this issue to the legislative Council, to ask them to have a special meeting and determine what their opinion is on the subject of I believe that Secretary of State, when this ballot proposal passed, did not refer...did not, you know, hand it over to the legislative Council administrator as required under the Supreme Court decision.
That said, that the...even the Voters Not Politicians' Court case determined...
>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Mr. Galant. That concludes our public comment for this afternoon. However, I'd like to mention that all e-mails and mailed public comment is provided to the Commission before each meeting. And the 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 invite you to keep sharing your thoughts, communities of interest and maps.
At this point we are going to move on to our unfinished business on our agenda.
And I will hand the floor over to our Chair.
But, before I do that, I will mention that our General Counsel wanted to address the Commission before we begin the unfinished business.
>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you so much, Madam Chair. And it is an awkward way to address the Commission with my client sitting behind me of course but I will focus on the microphone.
I just wanted to highlight that the Commission continues to move forward with its mapping work that it's critically important that your legal team continuously highlight the constitutional criteria as well as the legal framework under which redistricting occurs. This is particularly important now that you are actively mapping and creating the public record of your decisions.
I remain available for -- to the Commission for questions and welcome all questions and contacts and I would also like Bruce to Mr. Adelson excuse me to provide a summary as we go into the work on the agenda today.
Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Thank you and good afternoon I have to share General Counsel's comment it's a very weird vibe to not look at my clients. It is very it's very unusual so I'm going to just stare at the microphone and please don't look at that as being in any way unprofessional or disrespectful. General Counsel Pastula and I have the wonderful opportunity of working together. We consult and communicate regularly about various issues concerning the constitutional criteria, the Federal criteria, and other issues under Michigan law. There are some points that I wanted to raise in particular today. As you move forward now with the benefit of Dr. Handley's racially polarized voting report her excellent report and our discussion last week about essentially what the report means, I think it's important to note several issues. The racially polarized voting requirements under the Voting Rights Act and applicable Supreme Court precedence is not the same as the constitutional criteria concerning diverse populations of the state. As you know, there is nothing in the Constitution that relates to racially polarized voting talks about it or makes it any kind of requirement so that is a specific issue for the Voting Rights Act. And as you as we talked about last week and actually, I've been seeing in the media and in talking to some folks around the country the whole issue of racial bloc voting is getting a lot of currency these days. In many, many states. As more people look at the Federal constitutional requirements and the necessity to have racial bloc voting analysis guide the percentages of minority populations in any given districts. I would also eagerly advocate as we get into and as you are into some particularly significant issues and geographic places in the state, if you have questions, concerns or uncertainties please ask your legal team. That's why we are here of course. We are eager to speak with you, answer your questions, resolve any doubts that you have. And as I was reminded just coincidentally this morning with a phone call that I had, I have the unique position of being the only person to have sat through a statewide redistricting step by step to draft public hearings, draft maps final maps sitting in a U.S. District courtroom sitting in the U.S. Supreme Court room so I'm eager to be able as my colleague to share and talk to you and answer your concerns and address any miss conceptions because as we talked about initially redistricting is a legal process. There are specific legal requirements and a lot of Court decisions. And as we saw last week. The department of justice opining with its latest guidance on the Federal law Section Two of the Voting Rights Act and some Court decisions that apply to redistricting.

As I had said last week DOJ never just speaks accidentally.

They always speak with a purpose.

And I think their purpose last week was just a to remind everyone they are there and watching as they said in the guidance and observing to make sure Federal law is complied with.

So please keep in mind going back to the diverse populations requirement that that is different than the Voting Rights Act.

And I would also add there are going to be populations around the state that are as Dr. Handley talked about last week that are small.

That will not make up a 30, 40% minority population on any given District.

It is important to realize that whether or not they qualify for they are numerous enough to constitute a majority in a single member District, it is important to note that the Voting Rights Act protects people on the base of race, color, membership of minority language group or national origin.

So that for let's just say a hypothetical Commission looking at individual groups of people, minority people and either separating them combining them in a way that may impact or impair their right to vote and under Federal law, that implicates while that may implicate the Voting Rights Act that likely does implicate in my opinion the equal protection clause of the U.S. constitution's 14th amendment.

So these are issues that I see pretty regularly around the country.

Just as a reminder the issue is not the dispositive issue is not does a particular group constitute a majority in a single member District.

That is of course crucial but there are many, many, many other issues and the issue of potentially desperate minority communities is of significant interest to your legal team and continues to be as I know it is to the Commission.

And it's something I'm sure we will be talking about in detail.

Also as you move into the Detroit Metro area, as you know there is a significant population of people of Middle Eastern descent, Middle Eastern descent there is not a separate category in the census but they are protected by the Voting Rights Act.

There is a public comment that I recall sometime this summer that addressed the geography of that population in the Wayne County area.

I thought it was a really well thought out comment.

And does give some thought to how to address Voting Rights Act and constitutional issues with this particular population.

I wanted to mention as a final introductory point that in my avid watching of the Commission in person or virtually that last week my recollection, I think it was last week, that the Commission created a majority minority District in western Michigan.

I don't remember exactly the area.

I think it might have been in the Grand Rapids area.

As I recall the percentage was 58%.

Now, I know that that was not an issue that you were actively looking at prior to Dr. Handley's foundational racially polarized voting report but that really struck me. It struck me and General Counsel and I have discussed this, that there may be populations out there in numbers that we have not been aware of. You also created as I recall a 45% minority pole arty District also in western Michigan and as I watched those numbers on the screen, I was very impressed and also quite surprised that the populations were this large. So that's what redistricting is. You often discover a lot of information that may not be apparent of the surface. That is just a great example that happened in real time last week. So again, it's my pleasure to be here with you again. And it's always my pleasure to interact and talk with you. So I hope we have an opportunity to talk further. I very much appreciate Madam Chair and my colleague General Counsel's opportunity to address you today. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you Bruce and I'm sorry Mr. Adelson and General Counsel for providing our introduction and information. Commissioners do you have thoughts or additional things for them? So at this time we will move into our unfinished business. We were just about finished with the State Senate districts in the thumb area and east central excluding Saginaw and Genesee Counties I'm thinking it might be a good idea to look at those areas just to see if there are things we need to fix or add or adjust. Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I was actually looking at a different area. I think that we really need to look at the Monroe, Lenawee County District that we drew. Include all of Lenawee and Monroe in one particular District. Because we have the District as drawn going into Hillsdale County in a kind of an odd way and it is causing a problem in the Kalamazoo and Battle Creek area. It's going to be much easier to gain population, stay out of Wayne County by including all of Lenawee and Monroe, allowing us to make finer arrangements in Barry, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Branch, St. Joseph, Cass and Berrien counties so we are not many, many, many thousands of people short when we are working in the District that we are going to create in Kalamazoo and Calhoun County for the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo areas. But I do think that we need to revisit that before we move on into drawing Saginaw and Wayne County areas because it's just going to cause more of a mess later if we don't fix this now.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay, Commissioners, are there any extra thoughts on that before...Kent, can pull that up, yes, please.

Yes, director Sue Hammersmith you have the floor.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: I just wanted to mention that we have limited availability of Mr. Adelson today.

And on Tuesday.

And we really wanted to get into the areas where we need that critical guidance from him.

So I hate to pivot yet again, but I think it might be wise to utilize what you know the expertise that we have while we have it.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay that makes sense.

Commissioner Witjes and then I see Commissioner Clark you had your hand up, sorry, okay.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Okay well then in my suggestion at this point in time would be to just make the adjustment on the District we have drawn for Lenawee and Monroe make these two whole erase everything we did in Barry and Cass, St. Joseph, Branch, Hillsdale, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Barry, that particular area so that we can come back to it.

Because if we keep Monroe as it is and draw into that and working in those areas while Bruce or Dr. Adelson is here, we are going to run into a problem that's going to be even more difficult to fix at this particular point.

I will make that a motion actually to erase those particular districts and set 26 to include Lenawee and Monroe County in whole at this point.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Hold on Commissioner Witjes.

Can I get Commissioner Lange and Vice Chair Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes, I want to know when we would be proposed to go back and look at the maps that we have already drawn because there is a couple areas that I have concern with based off from a lot of public comment that we received today and in the last couple of days.

So if we are doing the Detroit area, I understand doing that while we have the resources to do that here today.

When we go back and look at these other areas? On Monday?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: I apologize for the interruption pardon me Commissioner Lange but I'm not sure -- Mr. Adelson does not have limited availability today.

So to the extent any of that is driving your current discussion, and I'm not -- there is no limited, he will be with us through 8:00 this evening.

And he will be present virtually next week through the entire meeting.

So his availability is open for the Commission.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Next week there will be a couple of days without, correct? That I guess that's what I'm saying.
I apologize I did not mean as far as today but.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Yes, Commissioner Lange the holiday is that what you are thinking of? You will be unavailable.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you the full time today and the 14th and the 17th next week, thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Vice Chair Szetela please?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I say if we have him here let's focus on the Detroit area. I don't want to just start erasing things without giving it more thought. It's not fixed in stone at this point.

We know we will come back to Commissioner Lange's point and let's use the expert while we have him and work on areas that are tricky and revisit them because we have a bunch of gaps as it is.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Okay Commissioner Witjes I'm going to let you speak and I'm going to kind of make a decision.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Well I have a motion for one.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I'll second that motion.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: And, two, then we need to just need to make sure that we take Lenawee and Monroe and move them into one whole because if we start working in Detroit and paint ourselves in another corner right there when it copies to Monroe County it's going to be messy when we have to go and fix it.

So I think we do need to deal what I suggest.

It's not -- those Districts that we drew yesterday in that particular area did not take very long to do.

It's not going take very long to fix but if we don't do something about these two right now, we are going to be in a world of hurt and we are talking about Kalamazoo and Calhoun County.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Motion made by Commissioner Witjes.

Is there and second made by Commissioner Lett is there any discussion or debate on the actual motion? Vice Chair Szetela?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Can we delineate exactly what he is proposing deleting in his plan?

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Commissioner Witjes please.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: So what I'm trying to do is take the District that we drew that is currently in front of us that shows Lenawee and Monroe County make that District just in total Lenawee and Monroe County, we are there in population alone for that particular part.

And then erase everything that we did in Southwest Michigan and the counties of Branch St. Joe, Cass, Berrien, Van Buren, Barry, Kalamazoo and Calhoun.
So the entire southeastern area.

Sorry southwestern area.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Vice Chair Szetela please.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Can we just create a clone plan and have one kept the way it is and the other that potentially does what Dustin wants assuming he agrees or assuming the Commission agrees with that.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Kent can you weigh in.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: What you are looking at is a copy of what we finished yesterday.

So this would be today's starting point.

It's already been cloned.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Commissioner Rothhorn? Thank you for extending that hand up high.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I think I don't think we need to erase as much as we just need to start.

And I think what I'm remembering, I'm looking at this these drafts as drafts.

Like once we start draft in Wayne County and we are going to, yeah, we are going to have to make some adjustments, I guess what I mean I'm not against doing what you're suggesting Commissioner Witjes.

But it's just it feels like we don't have to delete first.

We can just start drawing with our new business if you will and adjusting and sort of like shifting it because of this VRA because of the COI because of the stuff we are doing in Detroit it feels like it's going to impact it and I think we don't have to delete it.

I hear what you're saying the concern you have around the Kalamazoo Battle Creek area.

But, yeah, the likelihood we shift everything is scary for me.

But I guess it's also possible while we are doing the new business if you will.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: And Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So I agree that maybe we put a pin in this and then work in the Detroit area.

I think maybe what Commissioner Witjes is seeing is what I saw last night when I worked on the Kalamazoo Battle Creek area.

We have painted ourselves in a corner which cannot be fixed without changing some other things that we just did.

So we will have to rework that.

And I think maybe we've learned something as we've gone along so it will be faster and better the next time when we fix it.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Okay Commissioners so there is a motion on the floor.
Let's just voice our opinions in the vote at this point.

And I have a request for a roll call vote.

Is that possible? Can I get Ms. Sarah Reinhardt?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Absolutely Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you.

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

Commissioner Witjes can I get you to restate the motion please.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I have to think again so the motion is to rework District that we have right now so that Lenawee and Monroe county are together in whole. And erase everything that we did yesterday in the southwest region of Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you.

Once more Commissioners please indicate your support of the motion with a yes or a no I will call on Commissioners in alphabetical order starting with Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Can I ask a question? I'm still not clear.

I'm not comfortable with the word erase.

Can this just be a copy? We still keep what we did as well.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: What I mean by that is remove them on a copy that we make and start with just Lenawee and Monroe County and take everything out on the copy that we make.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Then I vote yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT:

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I have a question, are you talking about taking out District 29, 26, 20 and removing that part in Hillsdale and Branch County that are currently in 28? Want me to go over it again.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: I think what I see unfolding, and this is why the mapping process doesn't include formal motions during this.

I think what the Commission has been doing is going back and reworking and has been very clear that the lines, the ones that are currently drafted and how they are going to be adjusted moving forward with additional data and analysis and I think one of the Commissioners had already suggested like cloning this and then reworking it as part of the turn as part of the rotating turns is what Commissioners have been doing pursuant to the mapping process.

So and I feel just based on the Commissioners' questions while prior to the vote being well I guess sorry we have one vote logged but that's what I'm sensing is that this is again going to turn into an iterative process of how things are wanting to be shifted at this time, recognizing of course they will most likely shift again in the future.

But at this time so I guess just the clarity, again, on proceeding in this fashion as I understand it to rework the entire lower portion of the state.

As again an alternate draft is unless I'm hearing it incorrectly.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Can I just state it again? Okay, let's do this then on the same motion this is what I would recommend that we do.

Make a copy.

Erase District 26, make a new District 26 with just Lenawee and Monroe County and move on.

Keep everything there.

We are just going to come back to it any way.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Just to clarify you are now only talking about deleting District 26 and what? [Off mic]

The yellow or the blue.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Includes Lenawee Monroe and parts of Hillsdale the yellow one.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: 28.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Get rid of 28 and rework 28 to make it full or fully contained Lenawee and Monroe County.

And move on.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: That is a different motion do you want to restate the motion?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: And again, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes, General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Again and I certainly respect and acknowledge Commissioner Witjes's frustration.

Where I see the Commission right now in the agenda is unfinished business looking back over the work that was previously done.

Unfinished business complete any unfinished business from the previous meeting.

So what I hear Commissioner Witjes wanting to do is to start an alternate draft and propose changes to that draft for again the iterative process of the Commission's work to continue.

I guess or maybe if he and I wanted to talk offline real quick.

I don't understand the moving this as a motion at this time.

When it can just be cloned and done as an alternate draft.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: May I speak.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes, Kent and then if General Counsel can tell us how to proceed in productivity that would be wonderful.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Just an observation here but this is a clone.

We can delete the whole thing.

We can modify one or two districts and move along.

Whatever a Commissioner would like very much like we have been doing for days, I think.

The next person up.

That's all.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Lett please.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I propose to amend the motion.

At what Commissioner Witjes is trying to accomplish is to complete Monroe County out to the east, that will then lock-out Wayne County coming down in there.

Leave the rest as it is.

That's going to throw 28 over but we will be able to come back to that and make any necessary adjustments.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I will defer to General Counsel Pastula on this, but I believe because the vote on the initial motion has already begun the motion cannot be amended at this point.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: That is correct.

I'll just jump right in Madam Chair, pardon me.

That is correct.

The motion has excuse me the voting has already started on the motion as it was expressed which was to move Monroe and Lenawee into one District and remove all the work in the southwest District that was done yesterday to start fresh in that regard.

And again I would highlight that according to the mapping process the Commission does not vote on individual lines until you're voting on the draft plans.

For publication for the public and to move the process forward.

The reason being so is, again, what we have now is individual votes on individual lines and if the Commission begins that practice, then if you look at the work that you've engaged in to date, having to capture votes on all of those lines would be very cumbersome for the Commission's work moving forward.

So again I acknowledge and respect Commissioner Witjes warning to make the modifications on the right side of the map and carry through that proposal.

And in order to do that no motions are required.

Mr. Stigall already indicated this is a clone map and we are in the unfinished portion of the agenda the Commission can just begin doing Commissioner Witjes can begin to make those suggestions since he was recognized by the Chair.

That was a very, very long discussion.

I apologize.

To a very short question to Ms. Reinhardt's question that the motion cannot be amended, voting has started.

Commissioner Orton has cast her vote.

And I believe the MDOS staff was on Commissioner Lett.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Rothhorn actually.

- >> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I'm the next vote.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yes.
- >> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: No.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?
- >> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: No.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?
- >> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?
- >> COMMISSIONER WEISS: No.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?
- >> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Well I done want to make anything more difficult later on so I guess I will say no now.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Doug Clark?
- >> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?
- >> COMMISSIONER EID: I agree with the change but I don't think this is the appropriate way to go about it.
- So I'm going to say no.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?
- >> CHAIR KELLOM: No.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?
- >> COMMISSIONER LANGE: No.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?
- >> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: By a vote of 4 yes to 7 no the motion does not carry.
- >> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you Commissioners.
- At this time we will proceed with the existing map that we've already been working on and we can take a look to see if there is anything that Commissioner Lett?
- >> COMMISSIONER LETT: Well, since we are evidently accepting our General Counsel's, no offense, explanation on how to move forward, then I think the Commission can at this time decide if it wants to go back regardless of where we were supposed to be going and take a look at Monroe and see if we want to make some changes in those areas now.
- >> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair? Thank you so much.
- Yes, according to the mapping process document adopted by the Commission, it would be completely appropriate for Commissioner Witjes to move forward on the cloned map and undertake the changes that he was discussing.
- >> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you General Counsel.
- Vice Chair Szetela?
- >> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: But again why are we doing that while Mr.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Adelson.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Adelson is here and we have him at our access and use. I mean, we didn't map into Metro Detroit and Saginaw the last two days because we were waiting for him to arrive.

And now he is here.

So why wouldn't we take advantage of our expert rather than spend three hours I mean we have already spent 20 minutes almost talking about this.

Why would we waste our time that we have with him so that we end up next, week not having him here on a particular day because he has other obligations and then we are not going to have him here when we need him.

It just seems kind of silly to me.

We know we can come back and work these areas there is just no need to do it right now.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay Commissioners we've had a vote.

We can move forward.

If that is okay with the will and of course we know that we can go back and make changes as we have been.

And you also have the privilege to do what you like on your turn.

So at this point I think we left off with Commissioner hold on one second.

Before we jump into that, we have a discussion of meeting times.

So is it better do we think to get that out of the way before we completely lean into our discussion of mapping?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I didn't hear who you said because your mask is muffling your voice if you can repeat that please.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Absolutely Commissioner Lett.

I said would it be best to cover the discussion of meeting times first before we move into mapping because that is something that is on the agenda.

Okay well we can just start the mapping.

I received notes and it's the will of the Commission so just know that is something that we need to do.

We left off with Commissioner Rothhorn.

I think the next Commissioner to map was Vice Chair Szetela if I'm going alphabetical order.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay so you're starting with me.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right, and we are still on the Senate, is that right? .

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

We left 21 is not a complete District.

If you notice it's little over or less than half a District.

This area right here.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Just give me the color.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 21 where my cursor is that is just a partial District.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I was actually going to go over to Detroit honestly because I feel like that's where we have the expert who is here to assist us and I would like him to assist us in these areas.

Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, could I make a suggestion before you start?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Sure.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: That one area in Monroe County that would be east of I-75 why don't we just make that a dumb any District so that we don't move because it's a controversial point at this time.

So we don't map anything into it and then discuss it afterwards.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I don't need to go anywhere down there to make a Senate District so I'm not worried about it at all.

Like that's not even a glimmer in my eye.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Sounds good.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: There is so much other population in the Detroit area I don't need to think about Monroe right now.

I'm going to take my mask off so people can hear me better.

So let's Zoom in to Detroit area a little bit or Wayne County specifically.

And I just want to look at something I did.

So just to start, I want you to go to I think it would be the Township level.

And I want you to select Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Taylor and put them into one District.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: What was the third one?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Taylor which is just south of there.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: And we will start with District number shall we start with one in this area?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, I think that probably makes sense.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: And go up because everything else is the high end numbers.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Why are we now changing numbering systems from what we have been doing? We got in a whole lot of trouble the last time we did that.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: The only districts that are numbered are the ones that have been completed.

When we started out, there was districts 1-8.

Well they have been renumbered 38 down through 35.

I just thought starting at one in this area would keep it from intruding on 20 and 21 and those areas that have yet to be assigned.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: My suggestion is we keep numbering the way we have been doing in whatever comes up it's what would we be up to 19.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 21 is partially done.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: 20.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 20 has already been done so it would be 19.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: 19.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: When you go to do the other districts the numbers will be out of sequence.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Clark then Commissioner Rothhorn please.

Thank you, Kent.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: This is to Rebecca is your objective in District to get the Arab American population in the one Senate District?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Somewhat yes.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: How far under I'm sorry MC did you have a comment I did not mean to talk over you.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: It was only that Commissioner Lett because I think the one is appropriate because we are trying to reference the old maps and in the Detroit area is where the 1234 so it's just looking at the way that we try to get well actually we can have it renumbered I withdraw.

Never mind never mind sed Szetela I don't have a preference one way or another. I don't really care, whatever works and whatever you think makes the most sense Kent I don't care.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: It's absolutely up to the Commissioners.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: If we went with, I think you said 19 is next we just have to renumber them at the end, right?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I like the renumbering at the end.

It just makes more sense and we can keep going with 19.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So let's just keep it 19.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Vice Chair Szetela you are under looks like 28,516.

He just renumbered it to 19 so sorry.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: That is okay no worries I want to go up into Redford. Yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Continue Redford.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yep.

Up to five mile.

We can't take all of Redford.

It's too big.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: The northern part?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, we don't want to go all the way up to 8 mile we just want to go to a five mile and that should get us pretty close.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Unassign what area?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Can I walk over and show you.

It might be easier.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You are welcome to it.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So if you follow this down and come across that is five mile so take off that part.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: This little Divot out that is park land.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Got it.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: And what is that population wise? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: .02%.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I'm going to leave that.

So for Commissioner or for Sarah for Department of State, my thought process on this District is I am trying to create and preserve the communities of interest that are Arab Americans that are located in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights and Southern Redford Township and trying to put them all in one District.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So I think, I think this is great but I think we can make it a little better by making some small changes.

I don't know if taking full Townships I think we are going to have to Zoom in and look at it at a deeper level than Townships to really get this area right.

For example part of Inkster Township to the east of Inkster road if we Zoom in on that that could get us a lot of population and there are a lot of people of Middle Eastern dissent and if we Zoom in to that road.

It's weird the black line that the District currently splits if we take that line down through Inkster road and get that part of Inkster Township in with this District.

I think that would be a little better.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Vice Chair Szetela please thank you Commissioner Eid.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Having grown up in the area and the and moss tear between Inkster and Dearborn I would be uncomfortable lumping Inkster in with Dearborn.

There is a long history of animosity between those two communities.

Inkster is primarily African/American.

And there is a long history of parks policy from Dearborn about keeping

African/Americans out of their parks with ID and residency requirements and I just think

ignoring that history and putting those groups together is diluting that African/American vote there.

And frankly in a way that is painful for the people who are in Inkster so I just don't think that is a great idea.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: This is Commissioner Kellom I would just echo really quickly that the racial tension between adding Inkster into that area so that is something to be mindful of.

Did I see Commissioner Rothhorn's hand?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: No.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, what I'd like to point out we had some comment that the Arab American communities is more densely populated to the west of Southfield freeway in the Dearborn area.

And so I think that overflow and that overflow into this area that Anthony suggested from Dearborn might be appropriate.

But I have no idea on the tensions between the two communities.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Vice Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Please.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah so, the concentrations of Arabs in Dearborn historically was on the eastern side.

Bordering Detroit.

East Dearborn.

And certain neighborhoods within Detroit as well where there are high Arab American populations as well.

The side you're talking about is west Dearborn and then is boarded by Dearborn Heights so that little strip that comes down is actually Dearborn heights so that is not Dearborn at all that you are seeing and that is far removed from Southfield freeway.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you Commissioner Clark, thank you Commissioner Szetela.

Commissioner Eid, please.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: And I'd also suggest you know instead of having Taylor along with this District moving I agree with what you just said about the population being more east bound but I think it goes more further than what we have now as far as the eastbound border being in Dearborn.

I think we can go into west Detroit here and maybe take out some of Taylor, take out some of Redford Township, which is completely different.

And I think you know while doing this, Mr. Adelson pointed this out, but we've had some very good communities of interest maps that include West Detroit, along with this District that you're trying to draw.

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It is ID number W1530 by Mariam Oknon. She has a couple really good comments actually that I suggest everyone read.

She is one of the community organizers with Access Clinic.

And, you know, they work with this population every single day.

She submitted a map.

Along with a very powerful letter titled a letter from an Arab American. And also maps for the access and ATIA communities in Hamtramck and Detroit. And the ones for the Dearborn/Detroit area go further in West Detroit than what we have here and do not include Redford or Taylor.

So I think we should at least examine if we can do something like that.

I'm not sure if the population matches up with taking out those cities.

But I think it's something we should examine.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I would be okay with moving somewhat into Detroit.

And pulling out Taylor.

But that's going to be a precinct by precinct draw because you're not going to be able to just take whole areas.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Commissioner Rothhorn, please.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I was just thinking if we could get so because we are working with Arab Americans and because we are working with census data can we get population, is there some way to tease this out Mr. Adelson and get numbers of what we think we are doing on the map?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Yeah, I think that is a great point.

As you know and I think Mr. Bruce talked about this at the beginning the census does not have a tab or unique description for people of Middle Eastern or Arab descent.

So he had suggested, and I concur, looking at additional sources of information like the American community survey, that does breakout that population by race.

And that's not the current 2020 census data.

But this is an example of a population that is covered by the Voting Rights Act.

That is not defined as a specific race in the census data where they have been specific public comments referencing this community.

That is important as you all were doing to look at it and make the considerations that you are.

But getting data and information beyond the 2020 census data.

Because that just will not separate out Arab Americans or people of Middle Eastern ancestry.

Does that make sense?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I'm hearing you say we need to use the COI data if we try to draw and reference it and we can't excuse me the American community survey but that is our homework and we would have to bring that in as homework.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: That is a great point and as a professor I use the word homework so I'm not going to.

But I think this goes beyond just looking at like the information at the bottom of the screen about the 2020 census because it's just not there.

You benefit and I had read this these comments last week, someone who actually defined a geographic area.

And Mr. Brace had said early in the process that it would be difficult to District with a particular population in mind that is not separated out as a distinct race, like Native Americans for example.

Because of the census decision making.

So, yes, the public comment, the ACS, and then marrying that with the 2020 census data I think that is a good idea.

And keeping in mind that these particular comments are just they have excellent descriptions of the community.

And I'm thinking about it from a geographic standpoint in a way that would help you as you move forward to consider your next steps, at least it gives you a defined area.

That doesn't always happen.

Typically with community of interest or public comments.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you Mr. Adelson.

Vice Chair Szetela?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, I'm just looking at some numbers.

So I'm just trying to tease out like what the population of Taylor is compared to the area of Warren Dale.

Which is where I would grab if I were to go into Detroit, I would go up to Warren avenue which is primarily Arab American neighborhood.

And that only has 24,000 people versus Taylor.

Which is 63.

Just a second.

My auto bond edge is freezing on me here.

So give me a second.

And then yeah so, the whole of Redford is 49,000 so we can take out part of Redford and replace it with Warren Dale.

So if you take Redford back to the Dearborn City limits and pull up in Detroit north of where the little carve out area is right now.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This area or?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: That is Dearborn you have right now and see the line going across where that is that little carve out.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This area here?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Right across there.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Is this the correct area?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Take this area?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, so that is Warren avenue right along there.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I will have to do an undo.

I did the whole Township Szetela se you will have to do blocks.

So add that in.

So what does that bring my population to? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: It's 14,000 short.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Now I want you to take it up to Tireman which is the next major road that goes across there.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This here.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Tire man.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I see it now, this right here.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Grab Tireman.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Those are precincts should I go back and do blocks?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: What is the population selected.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That area is 10,585 people.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So select that then go over a little to the east and grab the rest of it.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This precinct here has 2287.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: 2287 so add that one in.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You're now .71% low.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay so we can leave it there or we can try to grab you know change it around and do a little on the east side as well but I think that's a good area.

That is the Warren avenue strip, which is a lot of Arab American restaurants, a lot of Arab American businesses, a high population but it doesn't quite get into the areas that have been identified for us that the Rosedale Park area that wants to stay together so we are not quite getting into that yet and I don't think we would want to do that so.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Commissioner Eid and then Commissioner Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So I really like those changes.

I might suggest going to joy road if you want and going over.

But I still I think what we have there for that whole area of Dearborn, Dearborn Heights up to the road you drew is fine.

But I still think rather than Taylor being included in this District there are more Middle Eastern people in the City of Melvindale and then the northern part of Allen Park and also in the northwestern part of Lincoln Park, west of I-75.

I think that would be better serving the community rather than Taylor.

And I also think again we can go a little bit east of the City line of Dearborn as well.
And still be okay.

There are a lot of Middle Easterners in western Detroit as well.

I mean there is historic mosques over there as well as, you know, various Islamic associations. And this is all in that geography in what Mr. Adelson was talking about. I will name it again, W1530. And it has all of the community centers in the area and includes the City of Melvindale.

It includes that northern part of Allen Park and it does not include any of Taylor. So you would be willing to do that, I think we will have a really good District here.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So my concern with that is Melvindale and Allen Park wanted to be in Down River and they were very clear about that. We received multiple public comments about that.

The same thing with Lincoln Park and Delray neighborhood in Detroit when we start pulling into that, we had multiple public comments about the Latino community and those neighborhoods wanting to be together as well as the environmental concerns with River Rouge, Lincoln Park and Delray. If we start pulling that into Dearborn, you are diluting those concerns because the people in Dearborn and Dearborn Heights just simply don't have those concerns at all. Neither does Taylor, which is why I was trying to stay out of that area.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I agree that is a concern. But you could still make a Down River district out of Delray, River Rouge, Ecorse and the rest of Lincoln Park and the rest of Allen Park and Wyandotte as well.

Those are all still Down River communities even though they don't -- we would be not including Melvindale as part of that, but all the rest of them could still make a Down River community.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: You are talking including Southwest Detroit, which in my town halls with people in Down River, they did not want to be included in Southwest Detroit.

They were very clear about that.

So I think we've got a lot to balance here.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Mr. Adelson had his hand raised, then Commissioner Orton, please.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Thank you.

I just wanted to make a couple of points.

While they don't necessarily or they may not necessarily apply here I wanted to remind the Commission that it is legally acceptable according to the support court to under populate up to a certain point, certain districts if Voting Rights Act compliance is at issue.

I'm not suggesting that is true here.

But just keep that in mind as one of the things that we did in Arizona was there was significant racially polarized voting in our analysis and there was less white press voter than there is here.

So that is an issue.

The -- you can under populate a District if necessary to comply with the Voting Rights Act.

And I want to follow-up on briefly Commissioner Szetela's point about the balancing. And yes, that can get complicated.

And particularly when you're dealing with people who may or may not coalesce from a voting point standpoint but that is at the heart when you get in an urban center often what you have to do.

But I particularly wanted to mention the under populating issue thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you.

And Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So I have two things first of all, I think it bears reminding us all that town halls are purely for information.

We cannot consider information that was got, that was received at town halls because it was not one of our open meetings.

And also, we have received many, many Arab American community maps on our portal. I think it would be wise to look at that and compare with what we're drawing before we say that we are final, final draft.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I respect those opinions.

I will also say even though I'm a native Detroit I'm familiar with this area.

And if you cut too far into Melvindale and Allen Park the unique thing of Detroit the neighborhoods change drastically like immediately so your neighbor or your community center here where in the suburbs or other areas, we have worked with they kind of bleed in seamlessly.

It's a direct difference of culture so I would caution even having family that grows up in the Down River area it's a very tight and sincere community so it's not just a line we are simply looking at.

Those are my tidbits.

Commissioner Clark? I'm so sorry your hand is hidden behind the screen directly in front of my face so you have to give me an elementary school.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: From what I know of the area, what you just did Rebecca on the northern part of this is really appropriate.

I'm not familiar with the south side.

I'd have to depend on you and Brittini and Anthony to direct us there.

But the one comment I wanted to make.

When we went north, we started eating into the City of Detroit.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: My thoughts when we do that is that we keep the individual communities in Detroit together because that seemed to be a big focus when we talked to the people in Detroit.

And I think we got a map the other day showing where those what those were. So I wouldn't want to start splitting up those communities because that appeared to me and Brittini could help me with this to be a very sensitive and a very common comment that we got from the individual communities in the Detroit area.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Clark say that last part again I'm sorry I didn't hear you.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I thought that the comments that I heard when we had the two public hearings in Detroit where people always talked about their communities you know and how Detroit is split up into maybe 20 different communities.

I would not want to see those split up when we do the districts.

I'd want to keep those whole.

And that maybe a difficult thing to do.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yeah, that is why I just said it's food for thought. Like Wyandotte South Gate Allen Park and Melvindale and river Rouge there is a Down River pride there.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Just a quick reminder for Commissioners as you are speaking make sure you are speaking directly into the microphone. I know it's uncomfortable when you are talking to someone seated behind you but in you turn your head around then the viewing audience can't hear you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: The northern edge I drew if you go for public comments that were submitted it follows it and I did not look at the map when I drew it because I grew up there and know it very well and can draw the line without being submitted and it matches what is on our public portal about the Arab American community on the north end.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Rothhorn then Commissioner Eid, please.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I'm just thinking about process.

It feels good and a good start and I think we have to look at American community survey right sort of do some homework after this and just sort of test it out.

But I like the idea we have good rationale it feels good to me.

We had good back and forth.

I like the idea of saying okay we will stick with this.

Maybe another adjustment I'm not suggesting we have to but I like the idea of trying a second District and a third and then right because we will have to adjust everything but it just feels like we got a good start here and I like the rationale and the back and forth feels collaborative.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I would add too I mean I definitely think we can go a little in southwest Detroit a bit without trying to cut into Delray.

I don't know about going down to Melvindale. I think that is going to be a problem but the problem with that is that's not going to allow us to take out Taylor.

So that means we will have to grab population somewhere else. And means go into Redford and the southern parts of Redford are similar to the northern part of Dearborn Heights, which is why I went that way in the first place. But there is going to have to be a balance somewhere if we choose to do that because we just don't have the population. Unless you go significantly into Detroit and then I don't really think that is the best representative either.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Okay. Commissioner Eid. And then I propose that we move on because I think Vice Chair Szetela did give her justifications a while ago.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Well, I agree.

The northern part of this District is great.

I think you drew it very well.

I would we can keep it as that.

But the problem here really is Taylor.

We don't need to take out all of Taylor if you don't want to.

But you know I think just keeping it as whole Townships is not the way to go in this area.

Let's be clear we are talking about a community that we just heard from our Voting Rights Act expert is a community that is protected by the Voting Rights Act.

So we need to figure out a way how to do this, to make that take priority here as that's the number one criteria which is even over communities of interest.

So I would say you know, a good compromise, a good start would be to at least maybe Zoom in on Taylor, take out the bottom half of it, see if we can put some of the western part of Detroit in there as the you know the people that have submitted comment to us have said.

I think we just need to Zoom in more and look really look at this.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: The majority of Arab Americans live in Dearborn and Dearborn heights so we can take out Taylor which is about 60,000 people but that is not going to change the fact the concentration of Arab Americans is in Dearborn and Dearborn Heights. And that northern part or southwest Detroit bordering Dearborn. So we've already captured that population. So I don't think including Taylor is somehow creating a voting rights issue because we captured the community already.

We are just trying to makeup population.

So, I mean, I think Inkster is a terrible idea so we will cross off Inkster and we could potentially go into Garden City a little bit. But, again, you are going into areas that are predominately white to balance out a District and that's going to be true wherever you go around there, that there is going to be a different slightly different demographic because we are trying to hit a Senate population.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Also I would add a continued gentle reminder when we are taking turns it is that person's turn to work with the map and even though it's

collaborative, I would caution us to kind of read the room if the person is making a decision and that is the decision, they are wanting to make maybe we press for a change at a later date.

But Commissioner Eid you are welcome to continue to compromise because I understand what you are saying.

But I would just echo.

I don't really see knowing Romulus and South Gate I don't see a place necessarily to put Taylor that would make sense.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: What would make sense to me is going into western Detroit and taking the parts of it that are to the left of I-94 up until we get to Dearborn.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I understand it does not seem that Vice Chair Szetela is willing to make that change on her turn.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I would just say my concern with that is you're bleeding into the APAC community because you are starting to get on the border of Hamtramck and also the Latin X community so it's not like I did not consider those things.

I think this is probably the best map given the complex demands of COIs we received in this area.

And you know the only place I think we could go other than this is to drop Taylor and put in Garden City and Redford.

And you know, maybe a few neighborhoods on the southwest side of Detroit but again I wouldn't go down to Delray at all because those people want to be with other people who have the river Rouge complex environmental concerns which are significant in that area.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Lange please?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'll just be quick.

I don't know a lot about this area.

But I do know Rebecca in the meetings has told us the extensive amount of homework she has been doing so I appreciate that.

And I would just put out there that if the Commissioner is not happy with the maps that another Commissioner chose to do, we have in the past had Commissioners come back and change districts that have been drawn.

So on their turn.

So I think I'm saying Brittini, let's kind of what you said, let's move on.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Let's move on.

Thank you, Commissioner Lange.

Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Is there a reason we have to have to teeth at the very northern line?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Two what?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Teeth.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: It's a precinct boundary and when he does that it pulls out that one little block.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Can we smooth that out? Sed Szetela sure.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: So the guy in that one block isn't going to come back and say how come I'm in that one block.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Commissioner Szetela? Let me know what you want to change when.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I mean, yeah, we can pull that line across, I'm fine with that.

It's just going into a different precinct and making it more complicated.

Let's just leave it.

We can come back and hanky with it later if we want to.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay I believe the next Commissioner is Commissioner Vallette.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I'm going to go to the west, I think.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: West Detroit or West Michigan?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: West Michigan.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Can you be more specific?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Actually northwest.

Can you back up so I can see what is available? Thank you.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: At this moment, this was a copy of yesterday's work plan.

The unassigned areas is 21 is only 40% of a District.

This white area is unassigned.

And then as previously been mentioned you know the east coast of Monroe or the areas of the state that have not been completed.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Szetela please.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Didn't we have another proposed map we had done with Kalamazoo and Battle Creek too? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes.

I can turn it on right now.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Can I go to Oakland County? And can I see the Townships? So I'm going to do my Township, Highland Township. Put it with Mel Ford.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Highland in this far corner right here?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I'm sorry what did you say? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: The far corner Highland?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: All of Highland and Melford.

And okay we are 18.

Can we do White Lake? Commerce.

Can we do the City of White Lake and Wixom.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Excuse me?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Wald lake and Wixom.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is about half a District so far.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Okay, Waterford? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You need 60,000 more people.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: South Lyon.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: You may want to continue Pontiac it's 61,000 people.

I think it fits in good with this as it does with any of the other surrounding Townships.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I would agree and I imagine south Lyon would be with Novi, it would make more sense.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Okay so let's do south Lyon and Lyon.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You need 24,000 more people 25,000 to reach ideal deviation.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE:

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Janice there was a comment about Clarkston and I see the village of Clarkston and we got that comment twice.

Do you know about Clarkston, would Clarkston fit in with this map or the general area?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE:

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Independence there is 36,000.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, that is close to where I live and Clarkston is associated with lake Orion Auburn Hills Rochester Hills.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yeah, I agree.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Eid please.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Why not go a little north to fill up the rest of northern Oakland County.

I see you know Pontiac being pretty similar to Waterford and White Lake and commerce being extremely associated with Orchard Lake and West Bloomfield.

And Wixom and Wald lake being more with Novi than all the way up to Highland.

So it might be better to go to those northern parts of the County so we are not splitting those communities up.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: So are you suggesting taking out Lyon and south Lyon?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Really mainly commerce taking commerce out and possibly Waterford.

I don't really know.

Definitely commerce.

But after you, you can decide.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Let's remove Waterford and commerce.

Then are you suggesting maybe I take Novi?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: North to northern Oakland where spring field and independence Township are and that whole area.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Excuse me and commerce is Wald lake unassigned and Wixom what do you want to do with these?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes, unassign them.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, let me ask Anthony this.

I see because you lived up there in that general area before, see I see Pontiac Waterford and White Lake all at M59 corridor going to the west and associated with each other.

And I also see if you go a little south Keego Harbor and Sylvan Lake the same way.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Can I respond Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Sure.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I agree with Pontiac, Waterford and White Lake. However Keego Harbor and Sylvan Lake should be with Orchard Lake and West Bloomfield and whatever district we make out of those or more suburban districts. That is all we heard out of Novi hearing.

I mean, I went to school...I live in Orchard Lake, but went to school in the West Bloomfield school District where we had kids from Sylvan Lake, Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake, West Bloomfield, Farmington Hills and Novi, Bloomfield Royal Oak, that whole area. But I definitely agree with your comments on M59 going through Pontiac, Auburn Hills, Waterford, White Lake area.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: But to get to Orchard Lake from the north, Orchard Lake runs south through Pontiac and yeah it hooks into Keego Harbor and Sylvan Lake as well.

Yeah, okay.

I'll just take your opinions okay fine.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Let's take Waterford.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You still need approximately so this should be I'm sorry I read that number wrong.

Okay 18 is now 34,000 or 34% below ideal.

92000 people are needed.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Let's take commerce back in.

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>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Commerce.

In the smaller communities?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yeah, go ahead I mean this is I'm back where I was.

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

24,898 people below ideal.

>> CHAIR KELLOM:

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Horn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: It's a pretty verse county and maybe you want to put on the layer with the dots that allows you to see the racial composition of the areas, just to help you with the questions at the end, that is all I'm thinking about.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Looking at the dots represent Black population greater than 12% of the total population.

I'll drop that down to 10% just to get a nice even number.

At this point we can click on the dots.

That's not what I meant to do.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Okay now you suggested that I put Pontiac in there and take out commerce.

And Wald lake and Wixom.

So put Pontiac in.

And take out commerce and Wald lake and Wixom.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You are now 30,000 people below ideal.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Take Lake Angelus.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Clark, please?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: One of the things you might consider is putting Auburn Hills with Pontiac I think that would be appropriate.

If you go any further east, I don't think it works or even north to Clarkston I don't think it works.

Auburn Hills I think it may.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: And that is what I was thinking put Auburn Hills in.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I still don't believe that south Lyon and south Lyon sorry Lyon Township and south Lyon should be included in this particular configuration.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Okay so and what you think they are more like Novi?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Yes, closer to Novi than anything Auburn Hills Pontiac related.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Okay then we will take Lyon and south Lyon out.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Janice I'm thinking about helping you with the questions at the end.

I think what Commissioner Witjes is suggesting I think there is an Asian American population we might want to try to understand in the Novi area.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Could you repeat that?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: One of the reasons I don't know that Lyon and Novi are as similar in terms of demographics but I do understand there is a significant population Asian American population in the Novi area and then that's a reason to sort of try to understand as you're drawing the District again demographically and racially just trying to understand it.

It's a reason to unselect Lyon because it may actually help.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Okay so can we put commerce back in? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Including Wixom and Wald lake?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes, for now.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You are now 26338 persons high.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Take Wixom out.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You are now 3.4% high or 9145 people.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I defer this back to you, but Walled Lake, would that be more associated with Highland and Milford or do you think it's more associated with Novi? That is my thought. And I would take Walled Lake out and see if there is a smaller precinct in northwest, West Bloomfield.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: We will take Walled Lake out.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That should give you a reasonable deviation number. You are .71%.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Okay I will leave it at that.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 1895.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Mr. Adelson, please.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Thank you Madam Chair.

I just wanted to ask the dots that are on the map, that is the Black population.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Since it's one of the counties that Dr. Handley analyzed to say there is racially polarized voting, I think we need to have the dots for I guess there is also the Asian and Hispanic population so I would recommend that those are included too because we are starting to get into an area that is impacted by the Voting Rights Act and by her work.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Also had a question for the Commission.

I'm not sure.

Are we thinking that this is a good place for Pontiac given their concerns to be with other communities that just want to hear other Commissioners' thoughts? And Commissioner Vallette I completely understand why you included it, I was just thinking of the population there, who has a hand, Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, I mean I live relatively close to Pontiac within ten miles.

It's an island out there.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: It is.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Of minorities and it's surrounded by of heavy white population so I don't think there is any good answer however you want to put it.

What we got here is probably the best.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: It was a solidarity question so I was making sure I wasn't the only person, I just need to hear it.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: If you look at the current maps as I recall I have to do it from my head Pontiac is associated with Detroit.

They ran an and I can't remember which it was Senate or Congress or whatever, but they ran a small area up to Pontiac to include it and I don't think it's the correct thing to do but the options that I see as I visualize this, I think this is the best.

But I really appreciate Bruce's comments about adding the others, the Asians in.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you Commissioner Clark.

Commissioner Eid, please.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Well, I certainly think that you know Pontiac should be with a District with Auburn Hills and Waterford.

Maybe White Lake but maybe not White Lake but the rest of the three Highland Milford and commerce, I don't really think should be there.

I'm confused at why we didn't go into a little bit more of northern.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Spring field that is what I was kind of thinking only because some of the areas that have been selected lead into areas, I think that should be together.

But that's just my preliminary thought.

And similar to what Commissioner Eid shared about the school experience.

And where people are from in that area.

Commissioner Vallette I give the floor back to you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I'm sorry, I didn't hear what you said.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I was giving you the floor again.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Okay, well I'm happy with this.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay can you provide your justifications if they need more and then I will move on?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Okay, well, I need some help.

I don't really, I just know that I live in Highland Township and I know that Highland Milford White Lake is considered like almost the same community.

We go into is Waterford, and I do agree that Pontiac is an island.

I do think that it is more affiliated with auburn hills and Waterford because I know that sometimes Pontiac and Waterford blend together.

You're not really sure if you are in Pontiac or Waterford or Auburn Hills, they kind of blend.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: MDOS is that okay for justification?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I have a few more questions the that is okay.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: That is what I figured the long pause is that for me.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Vallette how did you take communities of interest into account?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: The communities of interest, well, Highland and White Lake are kind of a rural and Waterford and Pontiac are more of an urban area so I thought they kind of balanced each other out.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you Commissioner Vallette.

Our next Commissioner is Commissioner of course Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Bruce, if we left this as it is, is this an issue?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I appreciate the question.

Even though I tell my law students that it depends it's not necessarily dispositive as they move on in their lives.

But it does depend.

It depends mainly in this sense, without knowing the racial composition of the adjoining areas and I have an understanding of the anecdotally what the populations were if you just took this proposal in isolation the population looks okay but whether or not this dilutes population in adjoining areas or whether or not there is sufficient populations to create a majority minority District those are other issues.

In isolation I would say yeah likely it's okay but without knowing what else you can do, what other possibilities there are, then I would say by that it likely will be reevaluated.

Does that make sense? Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay Commissioner Weiss I believe you're next.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Thank you Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Of course.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: I would be inclined to go up into my District.

But since I believe we received a lot of comments about the Detroit area and spending more time there and I'm not too familiar with the Detroit area, I would like to pass my turn off to one of the...my next Commissioners that have more experience with the Detroit area because I really done have that much if that would be all right.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: It's up to you I'm sure we are willing to help you but if you want to pass your turn that is well within your right.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes, I would like to pass it on to the next Commissioner that has more experience in the area.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay all right Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Thank you Madam Chair.

Okay, I'm going to try and tackle the Down River area.

And we are going to start right at the bottom, on the border of Monroe County.

I'm sorry the top border of Monroe County.

The big squiggly line.

Okay.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: My apologies Kent can you provide what the number of the District that Commissioner Vallette drew was? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 18.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: If you Zoom in and we will just take Townships here. And that would be Rockwood, Gibraltar, and Flat Rock.

Wood Haven and Trenton and Grosse Isle, Brownstown, River View.

Southgate, Wyandotte.

Allen Park, Lincoln Park, Ecorse.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Go Commissioner, Witjes, go.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Melvindale, River Rouge.

And then the four little precincts that are right in between Melvindale and River Rouge, yep. I think there might be two or three of them.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That area or less?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I believe that's it.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 12,900.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Witjes you might as well start giving your justification.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: My justification is just this in my opinion is the Down River area based off of my own personal knowledge as well as what public comments we have received.

In regards to the Down River area, communities of interest are being are going to be held here pretty well hold on, I change my wording, this is going to keep all the communities of interest together that identify as being in the Down River community.

I wish to thank Vice Chair Szetela for including Taylor in her District because that was turning out to be a nightmare when I was trying to do this particular District.

So that's always that was nice and I think that's all I have at this particular point.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: And Commissioner Witjes how did you take into account reflection of the state's diverse populations when drawing this District?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Well just by listening to what individuals were saying about this particular area during our listening tour.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: And the dots the dots are helping you with answers.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: And the dots.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Goodness literally just repeated that and I think Commissioner Weiss has something for you, Commissioner Witjes.

Commissioner Weiss you have the floor.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Thank you Commissioner Witjes for bailing me out.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: You are most welcome.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Ms. Reinhardt does that suffice?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Could you elaborate a little bit on that?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I'll try.

So utilizing the information that is presented by Election Data Services on our screen, which shows population high density population of minorities taking that and blending it in with what is the Down River Area helping me decide this particular District.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Okay thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I'm sorry Commissioner Szetela?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I'm sorry I got pulled out of the room and I know I missed part of this conversation.

But we do have a map from a Latino community that wanted Lincoln Park put in with southwest Detroit and something to consider if we looking at moving line further down the road, we received a specific community of interest that pulled out Lincoln Park and pulled it into Delray rather than it being part of the Down River.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Witjes I'm sorry I was looking down.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Just a follow-up question to that would you suggest the little area that is technically part of Detroit that butts up to Lincoln Park taking that out potentially at a later time when we get to Delray area in Detroit?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I would actually follow the line down to Lincoln Park and pull the bubble of Lincoln Park and put it in Detroit, that is what I would do.

This is your District so because if you look at the Hispanic community in Lincoln Park, it's quite high. And then if you cross into southwest Detroit, that's where Mexican Town is.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: That's true.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: They submitted a map specifically that asked those two groups be kept together so it would be respecting that community of interest.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: So which line do you suggest I follow down? I see multiple lines.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: What do you mean which line do you follow down?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Follow the line to Lincoln Park.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: See how Lincoln Park is a circle and there is that little center area that shoots out like a straw coming out of a coconut I would take the straw and the coconut.

The lime and the coconut.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Okay thank you someone finished it.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: You can take that out the Section I just added between Melvindale and river Rouge.

I think we did it on the precinct level like that.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: And take out the coconut.

There you go and that way you can put it with southwest Detroit and Delray.

And that like I said there was a map submitted with those specific communities together.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: But now we are going to be a whole bunch of population short.

40,000 worth.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Excuse me somewhere in 19 District 19 lost some population, was it this area right here?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, that appears to be missing Ken Kenyon how that happened.

Let me try to recover this.

Get back to where we were.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Bruce Adelson, please.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Thank you.

Could we add the dots for the Hispanic and Asian population, please? Because in looking at the proposed changes I know you are talking about the public comments about the Hispanic communities and getting a real idea of the people we are talking about here and really throughout the area but particularly here would be very helpful and necessary.

Thank you.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I'm thinking.

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

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Commissioner Witjes' silence that was a thinking silence so I was letting him stare and think.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: On the orange bubbles that are on the screen now are representative of the Latino community? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: No, sir that is the Black community you can click here and see the numbers as represented that is 51%, that precinct.

This dot is smaller so it's less than 51%.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Are there dots for the Latino community? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I could look to see what we can set up is that what you are saying?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Please.

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>> CHAIR KELLUM: I think that is what Mr. Adelson was asking for the Latino and Asian population to be reflected as well.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Probably we can do more than one at a time with this configuration.

That's something I could look at and study when we have a break or you know how many we can get loaded up at one time.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Now we are looking at Hispanic population greater than 10% which is a different color just so we don't get confused.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I believe Lincoln Park is 25% Latino.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: We are splitting them in two differ groups if we take them out so I would add the Lincoln Park and the straw back in.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Let me look at the thematic map one more time.

It does not appear to be behaving as I expect it.

It's not showing the percentages I expected it to.

I think we have.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I would add Lincoln Park and the outing area back into it.

It may be something we can do in the House Districts.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Excuse me put Lincoln Park into 17.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Lincoln Park in 17 and the tiny little precincts at the top that we added.

Removed and are now adding again.

There we go and I will be done at this particular point.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you Commissioner Witjes.

I believe the next person is Commissioner Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay let's go up towards the Pontiac area.

I'm most familiar with that.

It's the northern portion.

And northern part of Oakland County.

So I want to take Oakland Township, which it says Oakland so it's, yeah, I want to take all Oakland Township.

I want to go south and take all of Rochester and Rochester Hills.

Rochester is an island.

It's square mile inside of Rochester Hills so we have no choice.

Go south.

Choose Troy.

Troy.

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

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, it does, Asians on the west side of Troy.

Which I think is appropriate to include.

Where am I? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You need 68,000.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay so let's include Birmingham.

Bloomfield hills.

And Bloomfield Township which surrounds Bloomfield hills where are we at.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: We are close to ideal .77 less than 1% high.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, I think let me look at it again.

How far north we go.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Clark that looks good to me but this is your turn.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: What is that.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: It's your turn but it looks very good to me.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, I tell you what is in my mind is lake Orion and

Oxford but that would really put us over.

So I think that's more appropriate with independence Township and Brandon.

Okay I'm good with it.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Well you know what's next you have to answer your three questions Commissioner Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I love my questions okay go ahead and ask me the questions.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I'm going to call on Commissioner Eid first.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So something I would suggest is instead of going west to Bloomfield and Bloomfield hills in Birmingham which I think are more so associated with West Bloomfield Orchard Lake, Keego Harbor and Sylvan may consider going right into Sterling Heights.

We heard plenty of times that you know Sterling Heights and Troy have things in common.

Especially with the minority communities.

And I think I mean I think just generally speaking knowing the area as Troy and Sterling Heights along with Rochester Hills and Oakland Township all have quite a lot in common with each other.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: So you're suggesting taking Bloomfield and Bloomfield hills out and Bloomfield Township out, keeping Birmingham in.

I would keep Birmingham in.

I want to ask Mr. Adelson a question.

When we move over to Sterling Heights, I think we will get more diversity.

Do you feel that we need more diversity in this area?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: That's a great question.

I think that you know as I mentioned at the beginning, considerations for diverse population is the third criteria and are different than under the Voting Rights Act and the 14th amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

So I think that my sense is that as you go as far as the third criteria you see what shaping up as you create a District.

So I know that that's somewhat ambiguous, that the criteria doesn't have the same like the preconditions for under Thornburg versus Gingles it's not as specific so I think that is really just going to depend on what your District looks like as it evolves, as you consider it.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK:

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you Commissioner Rothhorn, please.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Doug I was going to offer what I heard Commissioner Eid suggest really would help us the Bangladesh community the Sterling Heights Warren area and Troy.

So what I mean to say is I think it's sort of answering the questions that the Secretary of State asked us which is how did you take into consideration diversity.

This would be okay moving away from West Bloomfield and moving into Sterling Heights is considering the Asian American and community of interest submissions we had.

It's an excellent example of what we are trying to do.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: It is, but Bangladesh people are also down in Warren. So I don't know if we want to keep them together or not.

Well, we can do always do that in the House Districts.

Okay so let's take Bloomfield out, Bloomfield hills out.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Vice Chair Szetela?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, I was just going to on that same point say that the Bangladesh community was more in Warren along specific corridors by 94 so it's not so much adding to Bangladesh community although we did receive a lot of comment from Apac about Rochester and Rochester Hills and the Asian American communities up there which you already have included in this District so just some more food for thought.

If you leave this then you have the ability to put more Bangladesh people together with Sterling Heights and Warren and then possibly coming down to Highland Park so something to consider.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: If we leave it like it was.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

[Laughter]

COMMISSIONER CLARK: I understand, it's almost like they have a Senate District where they have majority of the people probably.
Or a good majority.

Or high minority.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I was going to say maybe you want to look at the numbers and I don't know if we have the Asian American numbers in that regard.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Let's look at the numbers.

Let's take and let's go back over to Sterling Heights.

And up at the top is Utica and Van Dyke runs south from Utica.

So if we could take everything to the west on the Sterling Heights.

Yeah, that is what I think is Van Dyke, yeah, where you have your pointer.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Split the Township of Sterling Heights? Is that what you're saying.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: West of that.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I want to point out that Commissioner Orton had her hand raised.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you Commissioner Orton please.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Wondering Kent can we put the thematic bubbles on filling Asian?

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Let's do that and see if that is appropriate.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you Commissioner Orton.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Trying to find it Asian alone.

Let's see if this is correct.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Just flagging for Commissioners that we have a stop at 3:40.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: You have a bigger population over toward.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Non-Hispanic Asian it's not showing the percentages but showing the number I can do it nine Hispanic and I believe that is Asian alone.
Yes.

We are looking at percentages now generally over 10% will be the dots.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Over in Sterling Heights you mean.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Sterling Heights.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: It's heavy in Troy.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: It's heavy in Troy.

Did we not pick the right one? Nine Hispanic Asian is AS is Asian.

Let me check and we will take a quick look here.

An easy way to do it.

Just a quick check to make sure I'm bringing up the right data.

That is population Asian alone 10,960.

Not Hispanic.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: So while you're doing that let me ask Anthony a question.

Given we have taken out Bloomfield, Bloomfield hills area and we took out, that really only left West Bloomfield over which has so what is the significance of combining those two and going south for another District?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Since I'm right after you in the turns what I was thinking was and you know this is a lot harder for the Senate maps than it is for the house maps. The house maps is you know you can put all of these Townships essentially in their own districts.

It's a little harder for the Senate map.

But I would suggest having Orchard Lake, West Bloomfield, Keego Harbor, Sylvan Lake, Commerce, Bloomfield, Bloomfield Hills and Royal Oak altogether to make a very diverse District that supports communities of interest.

So that would be basically everything to the west of what you drew and a little bit south. You do have Clawson there which I would suggest taking as a part of Troy.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I was thinking that too because they are trying to combine school districts right now.

I wanted to look at it from a bigger picture that is why I asked you the question.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Do you see what I'm saying?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I understand what you are saying so let's continue to work at Sterling Heights.

So let's see where we are population wise if we do everything west of Van Dyke road. Which is west of Sterling.

That is Sterling Heights sign.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This area right here?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Clark you are keeping Birmingham with Troy?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes, I am.

And I'm going to probably add Clawson in too and one more east, that one there.

Ken 14,758 people high your District is.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: We are high.

Take that last one out that we just did.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 11,000 people high.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: We are still high.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Take the next row out.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: There is the numbers there is 4800, 2500, 3800.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Orton? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Take them all out?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Take them all out.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Commissioner Clark I don't know this area real well what about the top Township.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: What Township?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: The very top.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Shelby.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: It has less Asian bubbles in it.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: I want to take this out and we are going to be short then.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You're minus 18,000.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay add Clawson in.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You are minus 2.74% or 7270 persons.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: And we still okay and we still have that part of Sterling heights in but that bounces up against Troy where we see a lot of the Asian population, I believe, yeah.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Commissioner Clark what I heard Commissioner Orton suggesting maybe if you are trying to sort of respect the Asian American vote here you might consider removing the northern most, the Shelby Township and sort of being able to add more Asian.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: I don't think we have Shelby Township in.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I said.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Above Rochester Hills.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Oakland Township.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I think that is what Commissioner Orton was suggesting and she is nodding her head.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, the Rochester Hills spills over into Oakland Township and goes north.

And it probably goes as far north as even outside Oakland Township, up towards Addison but I don't want to include those.

So I didn't want to do that.

Yeah, I appreciate the help.

Is Clawson in? Yeah.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Uh-huh.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: So we are within range.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You are less than 3% from ideal.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: What does that do to the total aggregate for the Townships we have done or the districts we have dealt with?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: You are under populated which helps because we have been mostly overpopulated.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: I'm under populated if we are overpopulated that will help us.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I can run the numbers real quick.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I believe what you have drawn is excellent but I think.

Kent is going to get us the numbers.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: I kind of want to go with this but I want to see the number first.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is 21 should not be included because that is obviously, that District is not done.

So.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I would take that one out.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 4.36% high across the board.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: High and I'm low on the District I just did so that will benefit us.

So let's leave the District like it is then.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Mr. Adelson, please.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Yes, thank you Madam Chair.

This is more of a comment going forward because there doesn't -- there is not enough data for me to opine conclusively but it does seem to me in moving forward that Troy and Sterling Heights had or have a large Asian populations.

So this is one of those areas to look at as far as you know plan A I shouldn't say plan, option A, option B, in what would happen if we do this, what would happen if we do that. So if Troy and Sterling Heights combine for example have a significant Asian population and they are split, then that has a dilutive capacity for the Asian American vote so it's something to be aware of and having more information on the screen would be helpful.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: One of the things Bruce is Warren has a significant amount of Asian population from the Bangladesh people.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I understand this and I guess this is what my son tells me I do sometimes is just kind of like throwing something into the match into the fire. Just think and be aware of that in going forward.

There are as we get, we are in Detroit and Oakland, this will be true to an extent of Flint and Saginaw that there are these considerations.

And when you have relatively large populations that are protected by the voting rights act, it's important to watch out for dilutive effect, if you have too large communities and they are separated what that means.

So again I'm not giving it a legal opinion or saying anything conclusive but just an FYI going forward in this area to be -- to look at thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: And then Commissioner Clark this is time but I was just going to highlight I know you said there is another Asian community in Warren.

We are talking about two different Asian communities when we are talking about the Bangladesh in Warren and the folks that are in Troy and Sterling Heights.

I know because I go to the markets in Sterling heights and Troy for different things.
Commissioner Orton, please.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So this is a question for what you said, Mr. Adelson. So are you suggesting or would it be good for us to then make a second option, make a copy of our map with the second possible option? Because I think what you're saying is it can't be evaluated until we make a draft of it and then it would be evaluated to see if there is a problem or not.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I think that is a great point.
I think that goes to the strength of your process in that you're constantly making adjustments.
So that you have your draft then eventually you will have your final and everything is in flux moving forward.
So, yes, that being aware of these large minority populations, the possibility of diluting minority vote strength by splitting large communities into more than one District, all of that does have potential and it is better to get a full read of something, I agree.
When you have a you know, a more finalized or a more complete product.
So, yes, I think that you know whether you choose to make a copy or not of course I will defer to your judgments.
But it's really important as a dynamic to see that in this area everything is in flux as we are just looking at the map on the screen now and looking at some of the larger circles that that may be in favor of reconsideration at some point.
So I hope that answers it.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you Mr. Adelson and we have a last Ken from Kent before we move on.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: The numbers you see on the screen the top number is the total population.
The second number is the Asian population, Asian alone and itself you have 10960 Asians in the Sterling Heights Township.
23,805 in the Troy Township.
11,570 in Rochester.

As a side note Sterling Heights, Troy and Rochester combined is too large for a single Senate District.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you.
Okay Commissioners, and Sarah are you okay with the justifications for Commissioner Clark? Okay.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: I'm good with this District.
Do I have questions to answer? All set okay.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: We will move on the agenda so we did some mapping and that is going to be and put a pause on the mapping and now we will cover the discussion of meeting times.

And I believe that discussion was going to be led by the smiling face next to me Vice Chair Szetela.

That was hilarious, thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So we probably don't have time to finish this discussion so maybe we can pop it over but I just want to throw this out there to give people something to think about.

I know last week when I had to leave early there was some discussion about moving the meeting start times to 9:00.

And I know that it has been set at 10:00 at my request.

But I have obtained before school childcare for my children, so I can now make a 9:00 meeting time. So if the Commission is interested in moving those meeting times to 9, I would be perfectly fine with that. I wanted to make sure that people didn't think that we were holding that time for me. Because I'm fine moving it to 9:00

The second issue I wanted to talk about I feel we are kind of running out of time. And as we move into the Detroit area it's more difficult here.

So this is just a suggestion. And Edward this is not in any way shape or form dismissive of the work you have done in setting up these meetings on Thursdays, but I was wondering if the Commission might be potentially interested in having our Thursday meetings at whatever location we are for the next two weeks, whatever location we are currently at. So we are not losing time traveling to meetings like we spent three hours, at least I did in the car today, that I would rather spent that time mapping. So I was wondering if for the rest of September or for at least the next two weeks we could move those Thursday meetings rather than having them at universities having a 9-5 meeting on Thursdays as well to give more time. And, again, I don't know if that is even going to be technically possible because I don't know if we have the space and whether we can arrange that. And we might be breaking contracts with Grand Valley and Central, but it's just something I wanted to suggest.

And then the third thing I wanted to talk about is potentially adding Friday meetings as well for the next two weeks while we continue working on mapping. So those were kind of the three things I wanted to throw out there to see what we were thinking about. But I feel we have kind of run out of time so maybe we can chew on it and come back to it when we come back at 5:00.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioners, do you have any preliminary thoughts? Talk now or chew later.

Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: As far as changing times and locations, I think we've had enough changes and we should just keep it as is.

And I know I think we got some discounts because we came back to certain locations as well.

So Edward would have to speak to that, but I mean I personally because we adjusted the times and the dates, I scheduled personal things on the off times already. So and it just gets difficult to constantly change all this stuff. I yield.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you Commissioner Clark.

Oh, Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'm going to second Commissioner Clark.

And I understand that this is our we volunteered for this and it's important.

But you know something was said today to me that we are just everyday citizens and we do have lives outside of here.

And I personally have had to move doctors' visits multiple times because of the changes in our schedule.

So adding Fridays definitely would be a big inconvenience for me.

With that being said whatever the Commission decides is fine.

But just know if we do go to Fridays I will be missing because it's getting hard to get these appointments that are needed.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you Commissioner Lange.

Is there any other thought? Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I'll just say ditto.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay, all right Commissioners so it sounds like something that we are not going to change at the moment.

If it comes up again, of course, because it's our will to have those discussions. It's fine.

But for the purposes of time I'm going to move on to item 7 in our agenda, which is the review and approval of minutes.

Moving on to agenda item 7, we have minutes from August 30th to approve today.

Are there any proposed edits to the proposed minutes? Hearing none may I have a motion to approve the minutes of August 30th, 2021.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: So moved.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Motion made by Commissioner Witjes, seconded by Commissioner Lett.

All in favor of approving these MICRC meeting minutes of August 30th, 2021, please signify by raising your hand and saying aye.

All opposed signify by raising your hand and saying nay.

The ayes have it.

And the motion passes.

Moving on to item 8 staff reports.

We don't have any staff reports today.

That would bring us to the MDOS report without objection I will ask Sarah Reinhardt from the Michigan Department of State if she has a report.

Hearing no objection please proceed Ms. Reinhardt if there is a report.

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>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I have no report today thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you Ms. Reinhardt correspondence was received in advance of our meeting today and was provided along with written public comments to the Commission.

In our meeting materials.

Moving to future agenda items it is my understanding that there are no future agenda items to share at this time, are there any announcements? Seeing no hands and hearing no one crying out for announcements the items R on our agenda are completed and the Commission has no further business.

A motion to adjourn is in order may I have a motion to adjourn.

Motion made by Commissioner Witjes.

Is there a second? Second made by Commissioner Rothorn all in favor please raise your hand sand aye.

All opposed raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes have it meeting is adjourned at 3:53 p.m.