



MICHIGAN REDISTRICTING 2021

Upcoming Public Regional Meetings

Tuesday, May 18th, 2021

Start Time: 6:00 p.m.

Doors Open: 5:00 p.m.

The Northern Center at Northern Michigan University, 1401 Presque Isle Ave, Marquette, MI

Thursday, May 20th, 2021

Start Time: 6:00 p.m.

Doors Open: 4:00 p.m.

Treetop Resorts, 3962 Wilkinson Rd, Gaylord, MI

Tuesday, May 25th, 2021

Start Time: 6:00 p.m.

Doors Open: 5:00 p.m.

Great Hall Banquet & Convention Center, 5121 Bay City Rd, Midland, MI

Thursday, May 27th, 2021

Start Time: 6:00 p.m.

Doors Open: 4:00 p.m.

Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI

Tuesday, June 1st, 2021

Start Time: 6:00 p.m.

Doors Open: 5:00 p.m.

Dort Financial Center, 3501 Lapeer Rd, Flint, MI

Thursday, June 3rd, 2021

Start Time: 6:00 p.m.

Doors Open: 4:00 p.m.

Ford Community and Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, MI

Tuesday, June 8th, 2021

Start Time: 6:00 p.m.

Doors Open: 5:00 p.m.

Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi, MI

Thursday, June 10th, 2021

Start Time: 6:00 p.m.

Doors Open: 4:00 p.m.

Centerpoint Marriott, 3555 Centerpoint Pkwy, Pontiac, MI

Tuesday, June 15th, 2021

Start Time: 6:00 p.m.

Doors Open: 5:00 p.m.

The Village Dome at Fellowship Chapel, 7707 W. Outer Dr., Detroit, MI

Thursday, June 17th, 2021

Start Time: 6:00 p.m.

Doors Open: 4:00 p.m.

TCF Center, 1 Washington Blvd, Detroit, MI

Tuesday, June 22nd, 2021

Start Time: 6:00 p.m.

Doors Open: 5:00 p.m.

Blue Water Convention Center, 800 Harker St., Port Huron, MI

Thursday, June 24th, 2021

Start Time: 6:00 p.m.

Doors Open: 4:00 p.m.

MRCC Banquet Center, 23401 Mound Rd, Warren, MI

Tuesday, June 29th, 2021

Start Time: 6:00 p.m.

Doors Open: 5:00 p.m.

VanDyke Mortgage Convention Center, 939 Third Street, Muskegon, MI

Thursday, July 1st, 2021

Start Time: 6:00 p.m.

Doors Open: 4:00 p.m.

DeVos Place, 303 Monroe Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI

General Redistricting Information

Proposal 2 passed in 2018 with a little over 60% of the vote. The proposal amended the Michigan Constitution and created the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC).

This is new for all of us here in Michigan. Only 24% of Michigan residents who were surveyed had heard of the Commission and their work. Redistricting is confusing, but it is important! All states also redistrict their State House and State Senate seats.

The U.S. Census is taken every ten years, and the U.S. Constitution requires that the country redistrict our Congressional seats.

Republicans have the responsibility to participate in the redistricting process, so Dems do not steamroll over us and control this process.

MICRC Makeup

The Commission is made up of 4 Republicans, 4 Democrats, and 5 Independents. The Commission meets weekly, and they are overwhelmed. The redistricting process is technical and falls under Federal and State laws.

Key Dates

Currently, the Michigan Constitution requires that the final map be adopted no later than November 1st, 2021, for the Congressional seats, State Senate, and State House. The Commission must allow at least 45 days for input from residents throughout Michigan before they vote on a final map. That means the Commission must release a map no later than September 15th, 2021.

However, the Commission has run into an issue with the census data that it is required to use for redistricting. The Census data that usually is provided to the states for redistricting the second week in March will not be available until September 30th, 2021 – 15 days after the Commission is supposed to propose a map. Hence, the Commission has sought relief from the Michigan Supreme Court to move their deadline, asking to have a final map approved no later than January 25th, 2022.

How Will the Commission Draw the Lines?

The Constitutional amendment in 2018 that created the Commission also changed the criteria for how district lines will be drawn. So, how will the lines be drawn?

1. Districts shall be of equal population as mandated by the U.S. Constitution and shall comply with the voting rights act and other federal laws.
2. Districts shall be geographically contiguous.
3. Districts shall reflect the state's diverse population and communities of interest. *Communities of interest may include, but shall not be limited to, populations that share cultural or historical characteristics or economic interests. Communities of interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.*
4. Districts shall not provide a disproportionate advantage to any political party. *A disproportionate advantage to a political party shall be determined using acceptable measures of partisan fairness.*
5. Districts shall not favor or disfavor an incumbent elected official or a candidate.
6. Districts shall reflect consideration of country, city, and township boundaries.
7. Districts shall be reasonably compact.

How Can You Help Participate in the Redistricting Process?

1. Participate in one of the regional meetings by testifying in person about a community of interest important to your community:
 - a. Speak for two minutes about a "community of interest" important to you; or
 - b. Speak for two minutes about how your county, city, or township is your "community of interest" and why; or
 - c. Speak for two minutes and encourage the Commission to keep districts square and compact; or
 - d. Speak for two minutes and urge the Commission to draw districts with the same number of people in them for all three of the maps.
2. Ensure that you submit your testimony online www.michigan-mapping.org/ before or after you speak at the public meeting. If you cannot attend one of the 16 regional meetings, please ensure you participate by submitting your comments online before July 1st.
3. Talk to your local township officials:
 - a. Encourage your city, township, and county clerks to testify before the Commission about the impact redistricting and municipal breaks would have on their ability to administer elections;
 - b. Encourage your conservative township and city officials to pass a resolution from their township board, county commission, or city council that details their thoughts on local "communities of interests."
4. Follow Meghan Reckling, the Michigan Republican Party, and Fair Maps Michigan on social media so you can participate in our frequent "Calls to Action" when necessary.

First Call to Action: Testifying at a Regional Meeting

You can participate in this meeting in-person, which is preferred, or via zoom. Your comment will be limited to two minutes.

In-person: Pre-registration is not required to participate in-person. Anyone that is present at one of the regional meetings and registered to speak before 8:00 pm will be allowed to speak. Two minutes only!

Via zoom: To participate via zoom you must register online at www.michigan.gov/micrc once the meeting notice for that meeting is posted by the Commission.

You want to think of items in your community that help us keep your city, township, or county intact! We want the Commission to break as few municipal lines as possible.

Sample Communities of Interest:

- Library Districts
- School Districts
- Fire, Police, and Water Authorities
- Water River Sheds
- Tax Increment Finance Authorities
- Historical City Blocks/Zones

- Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Regional Planning Commissions/Boards
- Recreational Centers
- Golf Communities
- Inter-Government Authorities and Agreements
- Emergency Response
- Mutual Aid Agreements
- Non-motorized Trail Systems
- Non-Profit Authorities – Service Districts/Regions
- Tribal Areas
- Industry Corridors
- Public Transportation Routes/Regions
- Homeschool Co-Ops
- Pod Learning Groups
- Church Regions
- Agriculture Interest/Areas
- Natural Resources/Land Features
- Master Plans for Cities, Townships & Counties
- Community Colleges/Universities
- Tourism Areas
- Economic Communities
- Ethnic or Racial Communities
- Cultural Communities
- Media Markets
- Taxing Areas/Authorities
- Hospital or Medical Service Areas

Try to focus on one or two topics that are PERSONALIZED to you!

Public Comments Procedures and Rules

- Individuals will need to register when they arrive at the meeting in order to speak in-person during the public comments.
- All those who are registered by 8:00 pm will have the opportunity to speak, regardless of how long it takes to get to them.
- You will receive a number when you register to speak.
- Individuals will have up to two minutes to address the Commission.
- Speakers need to address their comments to the Commission through the Chair of Commission (Commissioner Brittini Kellom), not any individual or Commissioner.
- Speakers will be called to speak by the Chairperson in the order that they registered.
- Due to COVID-19, seating may be limited in a venue. Please note that registering to speak does not guarantee you entrance to the meeting room for the duration of the meeting.
- No banners, signs, bullhorns, or similar devices, large bags, or cases will be allowed in the meeting room.

- Individuals who wish to speak in-person will be required to wear masks and may be subjected to temperature checks at the door prior to their entry.

To read more procedures and rules about speaking to the Commission, read the MICRC's [Public Comment Guideline](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/micrc/MICRC_One-Pager_Live_Public_Comment_Guidelines_722884_7.pdf) sheet found at ([https://www.michigan.gov/documents/micrc/MICRC_One-Pager Live Public Comment Guidelines 722884 7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/micrc/MICRC_One-Pager_Live_Public_Comment_Guidelines_722884_7.pdf)).

Do's and Do Not's of Speaking to the Commission

Do:

- Attend a meeting and make your voice(s) heard!
- Take a friend or two with you to also speak!
- Arrive early and ensure you register before 8:00 pm, if speaking in-person.
- Write out your community of interest ahead of time to ensure that your comments will fit in under the two-minute mark.
- Make sure you submit your comments to the Commission online immediately before or after the meeting (www.michigan-mapping.org/)!
- Ensure that you start out letting the Commission know your name and the city or township, along with the County, that you are from.
- Make your community of interest personalized and based on what is important to you.
- Say the location of your community of interest twice during your testimony.
- Be positive, polite, and respectful to the Commission.
- Thank the Commission for their time and their work.
- Follow the rules and do not make the public meetings political. This is NOT the time for controversy!
- Attend with friends, but do not sit or register to speak together. Spread out!
- Make sure you are speaking to the Commission as a resident of Michigan. Not as a Republican Party precinct delegate, party chair, district chair, elected official, etc.

Do Not:

- Make this political! Please do not wear any political attire. Dress how you would normally dress for work or going out to casual dinner.
- Make a scene before, after, or during the hearing. It will detract from your message.
- Speak as a group or back-to-back with like-minded people. Space yourself apart when you register and spread apart when sitting down.
- Be afraid to tell the Commission what you do not want to see in your district.
- Be afraid to keep your testimony short and simple. Example: Name and address along with "please keep our districts square and compact. We, the residents of Michigan, do not want jigsaw puzzle-looking districts."

Sample Testimonies from the Jackson County MICRC Hearing on May 11th, 2021

Promedica Hospital - <https://youtu.be/VKzBazeH73o?t=2582>

Good evening commissioners. My name is J____ M____ and I live in Adrian township in Lenawee County. I've lived in Lenawee County for 48 years. I have raised my family in Lenawee, and several of my children continue to live in this county and raise their children there. I continue to have strong ties to the community as a resident, employee and volunteer. One of my biggest passions is my health care career and spreading healthy living in my community. I am a nurse and I teach diabetes education for the Promedica the healthcare system, the system that is a valuable asset both to Lenawee and Monroe counties. I also serve on the Lenawee Health Network a group that was formed in 2011. This network is a group of community organizations that work collaboratively to improve the quality of health in our community. Other entities that work together within the network include Family Medical Center of Monroe and Lenawee, as well as United Way of Monroe and Lenawee. These community networks are important for improving the health of citizens within the community, but as well important, though, that applies to the government representation at the state and federal level. The dissociation of this network would be detrimental to the citizens who rely on them. For this reason, I advocate for the continued district association between Lenawee and Monroe counties as an important community of interest for the health and well-being of our citizens. Thank you for your time and dedication to the redistricting project. Have a great evening.

Jackson District Library - <https://youtu.be/VKzBazeH73o?t=3670>

My name is B_____ D_____ from Norvell Township in Jackson County. I am a Jackson District Library Board Member. I am here to ask that you keep the entire Jackson County district intact. There are currently 13 library branches located throughout Jackson County and these branches work together with a common goal to support our community. All 13 branches provide adult services, community engagement, and youth services. The Jackson District Library branches promote connection within our community to ensure that patrons have access to the resources they need for success. Just a few examples are adult literacy classes, bookmobile deliveries, home deliveries, and expanded Internet access. JDL has built partnerships with community groups including schools, community non-profits and cultural organizations. So please consider Jackson District Library as a community of interest and keep all of Jackson County together when you begin your work of compacting districts. Thank you for all that you're doing! I do have a map here that illustrates how Jackson District Library branches are distributed all through Jackson County if I can bring this forward.

Heavy lifting done - <https://youtu.be/VKzBazeH73o?t=3782>

Hi Commissioners, thank you for being here and thanks for the tough job that you have ahead of you. My name is J____ F____ and I live here in the City of Jackson. I think most of the heavy lifting on communities of interest has already been done over the years. What I mean is programs, offices, and agencies have all been aligned based on demographics to create service areas already. To divide these established and working service areas up would do a disservice to the people they serve. For example regional planning commission, the aging agency, the department of transportation, and even the governor's original coronavirus reopening plan serves Jackson, Hillsdale, Lenawee counties. So, as you can see this tri-county region relies heavily on each other for everything from roads to healthcare. I would strongly encourage you as a

commission to look at the regional partnerships like the four I just named when drawing districts. Thank you very much for your time.

Rural not Urban - <https://youtu.be/VKzBazeH73o?t=3865>

Good evening, my name is S____ M____. I've lived in Jackson County for 71 of my 74 years. Why leave come back and stay? Recently two bikers pedaling by my home described Jackson as rural. I live two blocks outside the city limits that surprised me, but it supplies the reason why Jackson County is my community of interest. Outside the city limits are 16 villages, 11 locally controlled school districts, some quite small. Three small universities, 133 lakes, the watersheds of three major rivers, the Grand, Kalamazoo and River Raisin, and over 100 miles of trails and excellent Nature Center and preserve. Two large parks, Cascades and Ella Sharp. We have a small, centrally located city, good locally available, healthcare, adequate shopping, reasonable housing, costs a variety of great, locally owned restaurants and shops. A large variety of citizen funded facilities, services, clinics and centers serving all people who are in crisis. Along with the hospital in prison 2 of the largest employers we have a manufacturing base and family owned farms. As a biologist, I desire representation reflects accountable knowledge of our need to protect our lakes and watersheds. Understands good ecological agricultural practices, and the challenges of small communities and of operating small farms and industries. Nearby counties that may align with our concerns and culture could be Hillsdale, Branch, Eaton and Lenawee. On the other hand, Eastern Washtenaw, Ingham, western Calhoun and Kalamazoo Counties with their larger populations, large universities and different economic base and culture would, in my opinion, have very different concerns. Thank you.

Outdoor Recreation - <https://youtu.be/VKzBazeH73o?t=4143>

Good evening. My name is T____ G____, thank you for the sacrifice that you're all making by serving on this committee, I appreciate it. My family and I all enjoy outdoor activities, hunting, fishing, camping and so forth. We enjoy doing those things in Jackson County, where we own a few properties, but we also use other private and state-owned lands in both Hillsdale, Jackson and Lenawee counties. And therefore, those are my communities of interest. Thank you for your time.

Firearms - <https://youtu.be/VKzBazeH73o?t=4647>

Hi, my name is M____ J____. My community of interest is the firearm community. First time gun owners, young and old from across the country, are helping to push record levels of gun sales for what looks like a second year in a row. U.S. gun sales in the first four months of 2021 surged 31%. This makes it among the largest figure since sales started to be recorded in 1998. These buyers are white, black, Asian and Latino and come from all political beliefs. They're being driven by the uncertainty, fear and need to feel safe. Training in the safe handling of firearms is critical not only in our community of interest but in all communities. Here in the Jackson area, we are not just defined by I-94, 127 also runs north and south through our county and 127 And I-94 is sort of an epicenter for where people work and shop and play. I serve as leader leader of the wellarmed woman chapter, a shooting chapter here in Jackson County. Our mission is to educate, equip and empower women in the safe handling of firearms. We provide classroom education as well as instructor certified instructors supervised live fire training. We launched our chapter in 2016. And we're going to be thrilled of 20 ladies showed up more than 100 women showed up and our members we currently have 70 active members come from Jackson, Lenawee, and Hillsdale counties. My veteran son and I also own Michigan combat dynamics of a firearm training company located in the Parma area. Our students also come from

Hillsdale, Lenawee, Jackson and sometimes Southern Eaton County, and those areas share a gun culture not present in other areas. We are also members of the Brooklyn sportsman's club in southern Jackson County, one of the sponsors of the well-armed women, and also in Jackson County are several outdoor clubs. We have attended events at the Hillsdale range and training facility at Hillsdale College, who even have an Olympic quality program. We're supported by many gun ranges and stores in the area who sponsor our activities, and I desire representation that facilitates our shared mission to educate, equip and empower women and all others in the safe handling of firearms. Geographically, Jackson, Lenawee and Hillsdale County are the most accessible for those citizens in my firearm community. Thank you.

To watch the entire Jackson County Hearing:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKzBazeH73o&list=PLeyRQ8IgeZIZnfTFzpSo-hJct7R3d8UjQ&index=2>

Helpful Links and General Information

General Redistricting Information: www.fairmapsmichigan.org

Michigan Independent Citizen's Redistricting Commission: www.redistrictingmichigan.org

Michigan Independent Citizen's Redistricting Commission's Email: redistricting@michigan.gov

Online Public Comment Portal: www.michigan-mapping.org/

General Contact Information

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