

REDISTRICTING RECAP

On October 7, 2021 Communities First, Inc., in partnership with Michigan Nonprofit Association and the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission conducted a meeting to inform and educate the citizens of Flint, Michigan on the current updates of the historic process of redrawing state house, state senate, congressional, County Commission, and City Council district boundaries.

During this meeting we were joined by Loida Tapia from The Michigan Nonprofit Association, Edward Woods, Communications Director for MICRC, County Commissioner Bryant Nolden, and Flint Mayor Sheldon Neeley.

To receive updates please visit www.tinyurl.com/CFIEngagement



Overview of Redistricting and Process

- ◆ In 2018, Michigan voters passed Proposal 2, a ballot initiative. The initiative established that it was up to citizens (and not legislators, as was previously the case) to take responsibility for redrawing electoral districts, and to create the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC).
- ◆ The MICRC is comprised of 13 randomly selected Michigan residents that include four Democrats, five people not affiliated with either major party, and four Republicans.
- ◆ The MICRC is responsible for redrawing the U.S. Congressional, Michigan House, and Michigan Senate districts.

WHAT IS REDISTRICTING?

- ◆ Redistricting happens once every 10 years and affects who represents you at all levels of government. All districts must have roughly equal populations, so district boundaries must then be redrawn every 10 years to account for population changes in the new census. Learn more by visiting <https://Michigan.gov/MICRC>
- ◆ For the first time in Michigan, citizens have the say in how new voting maps are drawn!
- ◆ Residents get to help draw maps and have a say about how different areas should be represented. The MICRC is asking people to use the hashtag #ShowUpSpeakUp.
- ◆ Redistricting criteria are ranked by their level of importance. They cannot be circumvented.

THE 7 RANKED CRITERIA ARE:

1. Equal population and the Voting Rights Act
2. Geographically contiguous
3. Reflect State's diversity & Communities of Interest
4. No disproportionate advantage to any political party
5. No favor or disfavor to an incumbent elected official or a candidate.
6. Reflect consideration of county, city, and township boundaries
7. Reasonably compact

CONGRESSIONAL MAPS AND IMPACT OF PUBLIC COMMENT

- ◆ Public comment is extremely important, and can make a tangible difference in how our communities are represented and how maps are drawn. Early in this process, an initial Congressional district map had been displayed that showed Genesee County grouped with Lapeer County and northern Oakland County, two communities that historically had not been in the same district as Genesee, and communities that have significantly different backgrounds, economic histories, and demographics from Genesee County.
- ◆ Residents of Flint and Genesee County attended MICRC meetings, and made their voices heard about how grouping Genesee County with Lapeer County and northern Oakland County would be a major change from the past, and make it incredibly challenging for the voices of Flint and Genesee County to be heard at the federal level. This led to new draft maps that group Genesee County with Saginaw and Bay City, as has historically been the case. However, it is important to note that all maps remain under consideration, so continued participation is essential.

TIMELINE OF MICRC PROCESS

◆ Mapping Process

- The Commission split Michigan into 10 regions.
- The Commission utilized the 10 regions to create 161 Michigan Congressional, House, and Senate districts that consider public comments. They may cross over the regions to ensure compliance with the redistricting criteria.
- MICRC to publish dates when regions are being considered to maximize public engagement.
- The 2nd Round of Public Hearings:
 1. Solicit public comments regarding the proposed 161 districts.
 2. Each proposed district plan shall include Census data, maps and legal descriptions.
 3. The Michigan Constitution requires five public hearings.
 4. Please note that the Public Hearing for Flint will be on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at The Dort Federal Credit Union Event Center located at 3501 Lapeer Rd. Flint, MI 48503 from 1:00pm-3:30pm and 5pm-8pm.
 5. #ShowUpSpeakUp
 - Sign-up for email alerts at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC
 - Sign-up for text message alerts at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC
 - Mail public comments to MICRC/P.O.Box 30318/Lansing, MI 48909
 - Call 1-833-You-Draw, that's 1-833-968-3729 for more information or to learn how to provide public comments at a regular meeting or public hearing
 - Like and/or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter @RedistrictingMI.
 - Subscribe to the MICRC YouTube Channel.

DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC MAPS

Loida Tapia with the Michigan Nonprofit Association joined to share specific draft maps that have been submitted. She shared congressional and State Senate maps. The maps presented were:

- ◆ Current Congressional District 5
- ◆ Draft Congressional Map V3A, submitted by Commissioner Anthony Eid
- ◆ Draft Congressional Map V3B, submitted by Commissioner Anthony Eid
- ◆ Draft Congressional Map V1, submitted by Commissioner Doug Clark
- ◆ Current State Senate Map District 27
- ◆ Draft State Senate District Map V2
- ◆ Current State House Map District 34

To view the Proposed Draft Maps please visit, michigan.gov/MICRC and click on "Mapping Process" and then click on "Mapping Data" and then "My Districting Michigan" at the top of the page. To comment, click the map you would like to comment on and click the "Comment Link" on the right.

COUNTY PROCESSES FOR REDISTRICTING

- ◆ Commissioner Nolden, shared that the County and City are responsible for redrawing their maps every 10 years as well.
- ◆ The meetings for the County Redistricting Commission are held weekly on Thursday at 10:30 AM in the Planning Commission conference room on the second floor of the county administration building, 1101 Beach St. Flint, MI 48503
- ◆ Check out this recent article, "Genesee County Redistricting Commission votes to keep 9 county commissioners, will draw new lines": <https://tinyurl.com/RedistrictingNews>

ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC COMMENT TIPS

- ◆ Have a specific goal you want to achieve, and be concise and aware of time constraints.
- ◆ Build relationships with your neighbors to make clear, effective comments.
- ◆ Share your lived experience, and how redistricting affects your neighborhood and your community
- ◆ Know when decisions are being made.
- ◆ Do less, better! Focus on a few key comments rather than spreading efforts thin.
- ◆ Be sure to conclude by thanking the Commission and other public commenters for their time.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- ◆ Tuesday, October 26 at the Dort Event Center – MICRC Public Hearing in Flint
- 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM and 5:00 PM until at least 8:00PM.
- ◆ If you would like to hear and view the meeting recording from October 7, please visit www.tinyurl.com/CFIDrawingTheLines.

Communities First, Inc. and the Michigan Nonprofit Association were interviewed by The Flint Courier News. You can view the recording here: www.tinyurl.com/CFIFlintCourier.

Attending the Flint Public Hearing of the Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission

To Attend in Person – On Tuesday, October 26 the Commission will have a Public Hearing to discuss the proposed maps at the Dort Financial Center. The doors open at noon and the Commission will take comments from the public from 1pm-3:30pm AND from 5pm-8pm.

To Attend Remotely - A livestream of the meeting will be available at: <https://bit.ly/3ic3XRq> or by going to YouTube and searching for MICRC

A copy of the meeting agenda will be made available at Michigan.gov/MICRC

PUBLIC COMMENT PARTICIPATION

The public has the right to address the Commission and the Commission welcomes the public's comments. The public may do so in three different ways: (1) written comments, which will be entered into the permanent public record for the meeting; (2) speaking live to the Commission at the meeting location; and (3) speaking live to the Commission remotely. Further instruction on each method are listed below.

- Written public comment to the Commission may also be submitted via the Commission's Public Comment Portal, available at Michigan-Mapping.org.
- Requests to speak live to the Commission at the meeting venue will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis. Doors and in-person public comment sign-up will open one hour before the meeting start time. **Sign-up for in-person public comment will close at 7 p.m. the day of the hearing.**
- Requests to speak remotely must be submitted via signup form available at <https://www.research.net/r/F9YD8QX>. Individuals who wish to address the Commission remotely will be invited to speak on a first-come, first-served basis (based on the sign-up form). These individuals can expect to receive information about how to log on to the webinar via the email they provide in the sign-up form. **Sign-up for virtual or remote public comment will close at 3 p.m. the day of the meeting.**

Each person who chooses to provide live or remote public comment will have up to ninety (90) seconds to address the Commission.

Additionally, draft proposed plans drawn by the Commission are available for viewing and comment at <https://www.michigan.gov/micrc>.

We strongly suggest that everyone:

- (1) Comment in person on October 26 AND
- (2) Comment on the maps on the portal.

Need help crafting your message or need a crash course in Redistricting?

Reach out to Communities First, Inc. at 810-422-5358 or email Lori at loross@communitiesfirstinc.org.

Your Voice Matters and The Commission Needs to Hear from You!

