



**PUBLIC COMMENT TO MICRC: AUGUST 19, 2021**

Good afternoon, Commissioners.

Thank you for this opportunity to address the Commission.

I'm Susan Smith, Vice President for Advocacy for the League of Women Voters of Michigan, a non-partisan organization.

As you know, the Commission invites two types of Public Comments, both of them legitimate expressions of the public.

One type of Public Comment relates to proposed maps and written testimony, especially as they relate to Communities of Interest.

The Commission has encouraged members of the public to submit their maps and written testimony via the Public Comment Portal on the MICRC website.

A second type of Public Comment relates to agenda items. These comments have been welcomed by the Commission since it began meeting last September.

Originally, these written public comments about agenda items could be emailed to the Commission.

Now, however, the Public Notice of the Commission's meeting instructs the public to submit written comments via the Public Comment Portal.

As a result, unless a Commissioner happens to review the contents of the Portal immediately prior to the Commission meeting, he or she won't see the written comments pertaining to the agenda item until after the meeting is over.

The League requests that Public Notice of the Commission's meetings be changed back to instructing the public to submit their written comments re agenda items via an email to the Commission, rather than through the Portal.

Such a change would allow Commissioners to read them in a timely manner before considering the agenda item during the meeting.

Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Smith  
Vice President for Advocacy  
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