



July 15, 2021

Commissioners,

I'm Susan Smith, Vice President for Advocacy for the League of Women Voters of Michigan.

Thank you for this opportunity to address the Commission.

The League of Women Voters is concerned about the challenges the Commission faced in keeping a quorum during their recent meetings.

As you know, the League has been observing the Commission's meetings since last September.

On July 8 and again on July 9, we observed that the Commission had to end their meeting earlier than planned when they lost their quorum.

As a result, important items on the agenda, such as approval of the meeting schedule for July and August, could not be completed.

If the Commission continues to have challenges in keeping a quorum, it could have a serious impact on the Commission's ability to meet its November and December deadlines for publishing and approving the required maps.

According to today's meeting agenda, the Commission will be discussing a memo from Executive Director Sue Hammersmith re prior notification of absences as one way to prevent future losses of a quorum.

Over the past several months, the League and others have expressed appreciation to the Commissioners for their commitment to completing their task of creating fair maps.

We are confident the Commission will find a way to solve this problem and will continue to carry out their work in an effective and efficient manner.

Thank you.

Susan Smith
Vice President for Advocacy
League of Women Voters of Michigan