



**LWVMI Public Comments to Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission
December 17, 2020**

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

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization. We do not support or oppose political parties or candidates.

We do take positions on public policy issues we have studied. Redistricting reform in Michigan is one of those issues.

After the state Legislature approved the current maps in 2011, our members studied redistricting in Michigan and across the country. That study resulted in the League's decision to work for redistricting reform, including passing an amendment to the Constitution that would create an Independent Citizen Redistricting Commission. We worked for the passage of Proposal Two and were thrilled when it passed in 2018.

Since last September, our team of 12 trained League members has been observing and reporting on your Commission meetings.

As you know, Communities of Interest are an important part of the map drawing process. With 27 local Leagues in over 40 counties across the state including the Upper Peninsula, we are uniquely equipped to help identify those communities. Local League members will be identifying, educating and supporting Communities of Interest in preparation for their testifying at the Commission's public hearings.

We look forward to assisting the Commission in its outreach during the coming year.

Thank you for this opportunity to address you. I would be glad to try and answer any questions you might have.