



August 25, 2021

MICRC Commissioners

Dear Commissioners,

As you know, several organizations and individuals have expressed their concern that the MICRC Mapping Schedule does not allow enough mapping time for the Detroit Metro Region, compared to other regions in the state.

Those organizations have asked the League of Women Voters to convey our concerns to you in the attached document.

The document includes a Proposed Revised Mapping Schedule that allocates mapping time for a given region based on its relative population.

Under the Current Mapping Schedule, for example, the Commission would have to draw **43 House Districts in one day**. Under the Proposed Mapping Schedule, the Commission would have to draw half that number, **15, House Districts** in a single day.

We offer this Proposed Mapping Schedule as one example of how the Commissioners' mapping time could be allocated to a given region, based on its relative population.

We appreciate and support the work of the Commission as well the staff and offer this suggestion in that spirit.

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

To the members of Michigan's Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission,

I'm writing this Commission to request that you make changes to the allotted time given to each mapping Region.

According to your approved mapping schedule, from August 20th - September 22nd you are conducting mapping sessions based on region and district type. It is clear that the division of time allocated to mapping is predominantly based on regions, which are not proportional to population.

When evaluating the amount of time dedicated to each region based on its population rather than geography, you have in fact, allocated the same amount of mapping time to Regions 1, 2, and 3 (comprising the UP and Northern Lower Peninsula) as you have designated for Region 10 (Detroit Metro). Your current plan is to spend the same amount of time for a population of 813,301 in northern Michigan as you will spend with a population of 3,949,171 in Metro Detroit.

The Metro Detroit Region comprises nearly 40% of Michigan's population and you have only allocated 17% of your time to map it.

Redistricting at its most fundamental level is a data-driven process. The number of hours dedicated to mapping must be consistent with the number of districts needed to be drawn. In your first three days of mapping sessions, you drew 18 State House districts and 7 State Senate districts. According to your own schedule, you have allotted the same number of mapping sessions for drawing in Metro Detroit, which has a population large enough to draw 5 Congressional districts, 15 State Senate districts, and 43 State House districts.

Given the truncated timeline, I am proposing a solution that is practical and justifiable. I request that this Commission revise your current schedule in order to add one additional day of mapping for each of Detroit Metro's district types; for a total of 3 additional days of mapping.

To ensure that you will be able to finish your initial drafting sessions by September 22nd, I've provided you with a proposed schedule that re-allocates more time to mapping in Detroit Metro without altering the dates or length of your meetings.

Please take the opportunity to reconcile the balance of mapping time to population so that fair maps are drawn across the state.

Proposed Revisions to Mapping Schedule

Date	District Type	Region of Mapping	Population	771,303	265,193	91,612	Districts/Day
2021-08-30	State House	UP, NE, NW	813,301			8.9	8.9
2021-08-31	Congressional	UP, NE, NW, SE, SC	2,313,972	3.0			3.0
2021-09-01	State Senate	Detroit Metro (part 1)	1,974,587		7.4		7.4
2021-09-02	State Senate	Detroit Metro (part 2)	1,974,587		7.4		7.4
2021-09-07	State House/Senate	Southwest	783,273		3.0	8.5	11.5
2021-09-08	State House	West	1,626,731			17.8	17.8
2021-09-09	State Senate	West, East, East Central	3,030,252		11.4		11.4
2021-09-13	State House	Detroit Metro (part 1)	1,974,587			21.6	21.6
2021-09-14	State House	Detroit Metro (part 2)	1,974,587			21.6	21.6
2021-09-15	Congressional	East, East Central	1,403,521	1.8			1.8
2021-09-16	Congressional	Southwest & West	2,410,004	3.1			3.1
2021-09-20	State House	East, East Central	1,403,521			15.3	15.3
2021-09-21	Congressional	Detroit Metro (part 1)	1,974,587	2.6			2.6
2021-09-22	Congressional	Detroit Metro (part 2)	1,974,587	2.6			2.6

MICRC's Current Mapping Schedule

Date	District Type	Region of Mapping	Population	771,303	265,193	91,612	Districts/Day
2021-08-30	State House	UP, NE, NW	813,301			8.9	8.9
2021-08-31	Congressional	UP, NE, NW	813,301	1.1			1.1
2021-09-01	Congressional	Southeast and South Central	1,500,671	1.9			1.9
2021-09-02	State Senate	Detroit Metro	3,949,173		14.9		14.9
2021-09-07	State House	Southwest	783,273			8.5	8.5
2021-09-08	State Senate	Southwest	783,273		3.0		3.0
2021-09-09	State House	West	1,626,731			17.8	17.8
2021-09-13	State Senate	West	1,626,731		6.1		6.1
2021-09-14	State Senate	East, East Central	1,403,521		5.3		5.3
2021-09-15	Congressional	East, East Central	1,403,521	1.8			1.8
2021-09-16	Congressional	Southwest & West	2,410,004	3.1			3.1
2021-09-20	State House	East, East Central	1,403,521			15.3	15.3
2021-09-21	State House	Detroit Metro	3,949,173			43.1	43.1
2021-09-22	Congressional	Detroit Metro	3,949,173	5.1			5.1