



**PUBLIC COMMENT ADDRESSED TO MICHIGAN INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING
COMMISSION ON MAY 7, 2021**

RE: DRAWING DISTRICT MAPS

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Sue Smith. I'm the Vice President for Advocacy for the League of Women Voters of Michigan. The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that promotes civic engagement.

Today, I would like to bring to your attention the confusion that exists among the public concerning the map drawing process, in hopes that you can clarify the situation.

During the March 4 Commission meeting, EDS gave a presentation to the Commission in support of its bid for the map drawing contract. During their presentation, Mr. Fred Hejazi from Citigate GIS, a partner of EDS, demonstrated how they would draw the district maps if given the contract.

During his 20 minute demonstration, he described the process they use as follows:

1. Start with the current maps.
2. Adjust the current maps based on census population changes.
3. Do this by adding and subtracting precincts to the current maps.
4. Once the current map includes the appropriate number of people, add the Communities of Interest.

Since that time, several individual commissioners have stated that the Commission did not intend to start with the current maps.

Still, EDS spent 20 minutes demonstrating to the Commission their process of drawing the maps in which EDS clearly stated that they started with the current maps.

Given the confusion among the public and the importance of this issue, the League is requesting the Commission to clarify their intent.

Will the Commission instruct EDS to start with Communities of Interest and not the current maps?

Thank you for considering our request.

Susan Smith
League of Women Voters of Michigan