



**LWVMI Testimony to MICRC
June 30, 2021**

Good Morning, Commissioners.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address you this morning.

I have watched most of your meetings and Public Hearings since last September.

This past Friday and Monday, I observed meetings of the Redistricting Process Subcommittee.

The Committee discussed a number of issues, one of which was whether to start from scratch when drawing the new maps or to start with the current district maps and adjust them.

As you may know, in 2017, the League of Women Voters of Michigan was the lead plaintiff in a lawsuit against the Secretary of State, claiming that 34 Congressional and Legislative district maps were unconstitutional because of partisan gerrymandering.

Expert witnesses used three methods to measure the partisan fairness of those 34 districts. All 34 district maps failed all three partisan fairness measures.

The case was tried in the Eastern District Federal Court before a three- Judge panel.

All three Judges agreed that indeed the 34 maps were unconstitutional because they were the result of partisan gerrymandering.

It is of great concern to the League of Women Voters that the MICRC would consider starting with gerrymandered maps.

We urge you to start from scratch when drawing the new maps for the U.S. Congress, the Michigan Senate and the Michigan House.

Thank you.

Susan Smith
League of Women Voters of Michigan