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*News from Multiple Organizations*

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**Voting Rights Groups Weigh in on the Opportunities the ICRC has in the Ongoing Redistricting Process**

MICHIGAN - Last month a U.S. District Court ruled that 13 state legislative districts drawn by the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (ICRC) in 2021 violated the 14th Amendment. The ICRC has appealed that decision. While the appeal goes forward, the Court has ordered the ICRC to prepare drafts of redrawn districts by February 2 for public comment and to adopt redrawn maps by late February. Today the Court approved two special masters to assist in the redrawing process. In response, **advocacy organizations from around the state** released the following statements:

“Michiganders deserve fair and equitable maps upon which to elect their leaders,” **said Micheal Davis Jr., executive director for Promote the Vote**. “The redraw process is an opportunity for the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to draw the best maps possible, and ensure that Michigan’s communities of interest are fairly represented.”

“The Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission is best equipped to redraw Michigan’s state legislative district maps,” **said Paula Bowman, co-president for League of Women Voters of Michigan**. “Voters overwhelmingly supported the ballot initiative that created the ICRC and the independent redistricting process. It’s important that the commission maintains control of the redraw process, only redraws the 13 state legislative districts in question, and adopts the final maps.”

“Voters are an integral part of the redistricting process,” **said Branden Snyder, co-executive director of Detroit Action**. “The people impacted by the maps need to be part of the redrawing process. The Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission must consider submissions from the public, including from organizations that work with historically marginalized communities, including supporting materials like map metrics, VRA and partisan analyses, and district narratives.”

“There is no room for partisan bias in the redistricting process,” **said Yvonne White, president of the NAACP Michigan State Conference**. “We hope the special masters appointed to oversee the redraw process will follow the data, and ensure that our communities—Michigan voters—get the fair and equitable redistricting process that they deserve. There’s a lot on the line right now and the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission must be held accountable for ensuring the redraw process is impartial for all communities impacted by the change.”

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