

Communities of Interest & Michigan's Redistricting Process

Draw & Describe your community on paper - Worksheet

In 2018, Michigan voted the new Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission into law. In the past, voting districts were drawn by politicians behind closed doors with little public input. However, the shape of voting district maps can influence election outcomes, so it is important that new district maps be drawn in a fair and impartial manner.

This worksheet will help you tell the Commission about your Community and visualize a map of its boundaries. Then, the Commission can fairly consider your Community when it draws new voting district lines.

Michigan's Redistricting Criteria:

- Districts shall be of equal population and comply with the Voting Rights Act
- Districts shall be geographically contiguous (that is, all in one piece, not broken apart)
- Districts shall reflect the state's diverse population and communities of interest
- Districts shall not provide a disproportionate advantage to any political party
- Districts shall not favor or disfavor an incumbent elected official or candidate
- District shall reflect consideration of county, city and township boundaries
- Districts shall be reasonably compact

Communities of Interest in Michigan:

In the redistricting process, your state requires the consideration of communities of interest (COIs). A Community is a population that shares cultural, historical, or economic interests. Communities do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

This worksheet is designed to enable members of Michigan's Communities of Interest to clearly describe their Community to the new Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

Please complete this worksheet and provide a map or description of the boundaries of your Community so the ICRC can consider your Community in drawing the new Michigan district lines.

Basic Information

Your name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State and Zip code: _____

Next, you will answer questions about your community before mapping it. We want to know what brings your community together.

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We encourage a response to at least one of the questions below. Answer all that apply.

Name your community. Give your community of interest a name. This does not have to be the official name of your community.

(Examples: *Cherry Farmers Community, St. Peters Church Community, Riverside Fishing Community*)

Your Community Name: _____

What are your community's economic or environmental interests?

(Example: *My community is located near a river. Fishing is the main industry. We experience seasonal unemployment. Water pollution of the river is a common concern of ours.*)

Write Your Response: _____

What are your community's community activities and services?

(Example: *My community is made up of the people who go to St. Peter's Catholic Church. The church provides child care and charity services for the less fortunate in our community.*)

Write Your Response: _____

What are your community's cultural or historical Interests?

(Example: *My community is made of the Latinx community in east Brooklyn. The community has been in the neighborhood for 20 years and is affected by gentrification.*)

Write Your Response: _____

What are your community's needs and concerns?

(Example: *My farming community extends over two counties and we hope you can put the community together in a single State Senate district.*)

Write Your Response: _____

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Draw your community below

