



Your Community Has the Power

VOTERS
NOT POLITICIANS

A photograph of the Michigan State Capitol building, featuring its iconic dome and classical architecture, set against a clear blue sky. In the foreground, a person's hands hold a white protest sign with bold, colorful text. The sign reads: "We are CITIZENS Strengthening Our DEMOCRACY". The word "CITIZENS" is highlighted in a red banner, and "DEMOCRACY" is highlighted in a teal banner. The overall image conveys a message of civic engagement and political participation.

WHO IS VOTERS NOT POLITICIANS?

We are
CITIZENS
Strengthening Our
DEMOCRACY

WHAT IS VOTERS NOT POLITICIANS?

VNP is a grassroots movement working to **restore political power to all Michigan citizens.**

VNP welcomes all volunteers and is not affiliated with any political party or partisan agenda.

We are
CITIZENS
Strengthening Our
DEMOCRACY





**Together, 6,000 of us
helped pass Proposal #2
to end gerrymandering
in Michigan**

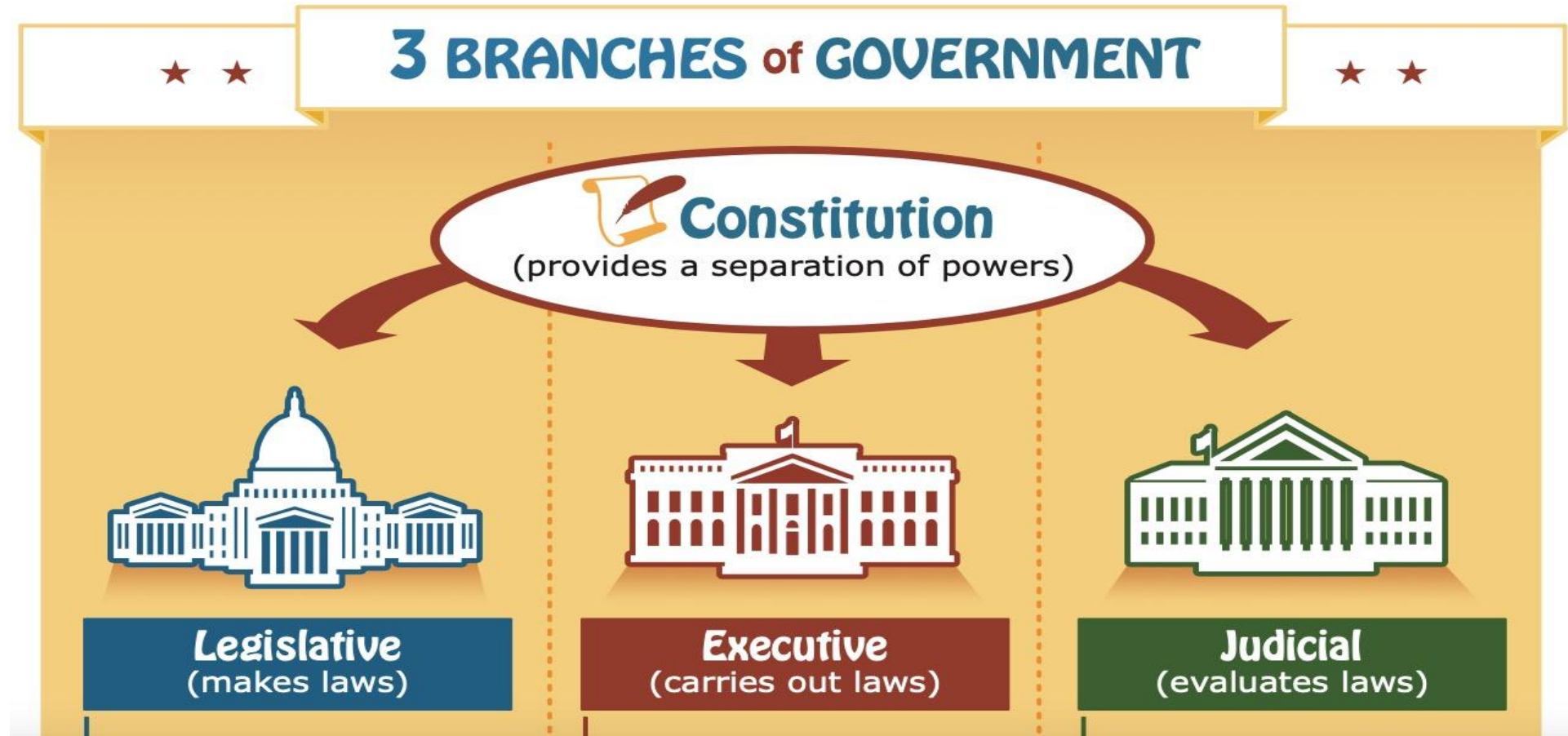
But we still have work to do!



Today, let's talk about:

- ➔ **Redistricting**, what it is and why it matters.
- ➔ What the **Redistricting Commission** will do.
- ➔ What defines your **Community** and what its needs are.
- ➔ How your **Community** can make its voice heard in government.

Government of the United States



Government of the State of Michigan

3 BRANCHES

1. Legislative

- Senate
- House of Representatives

2. Executive

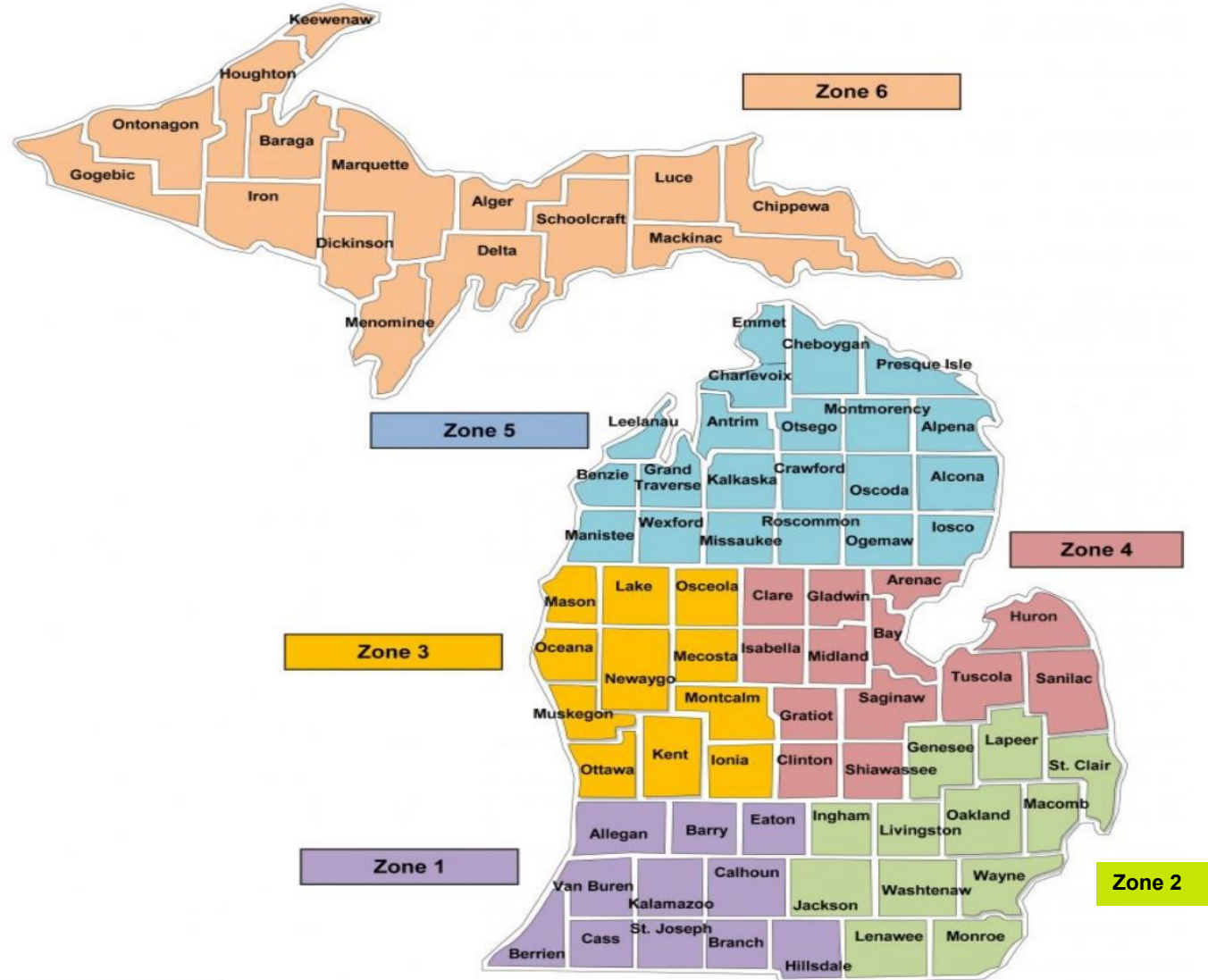
- Governor

3. Judicial

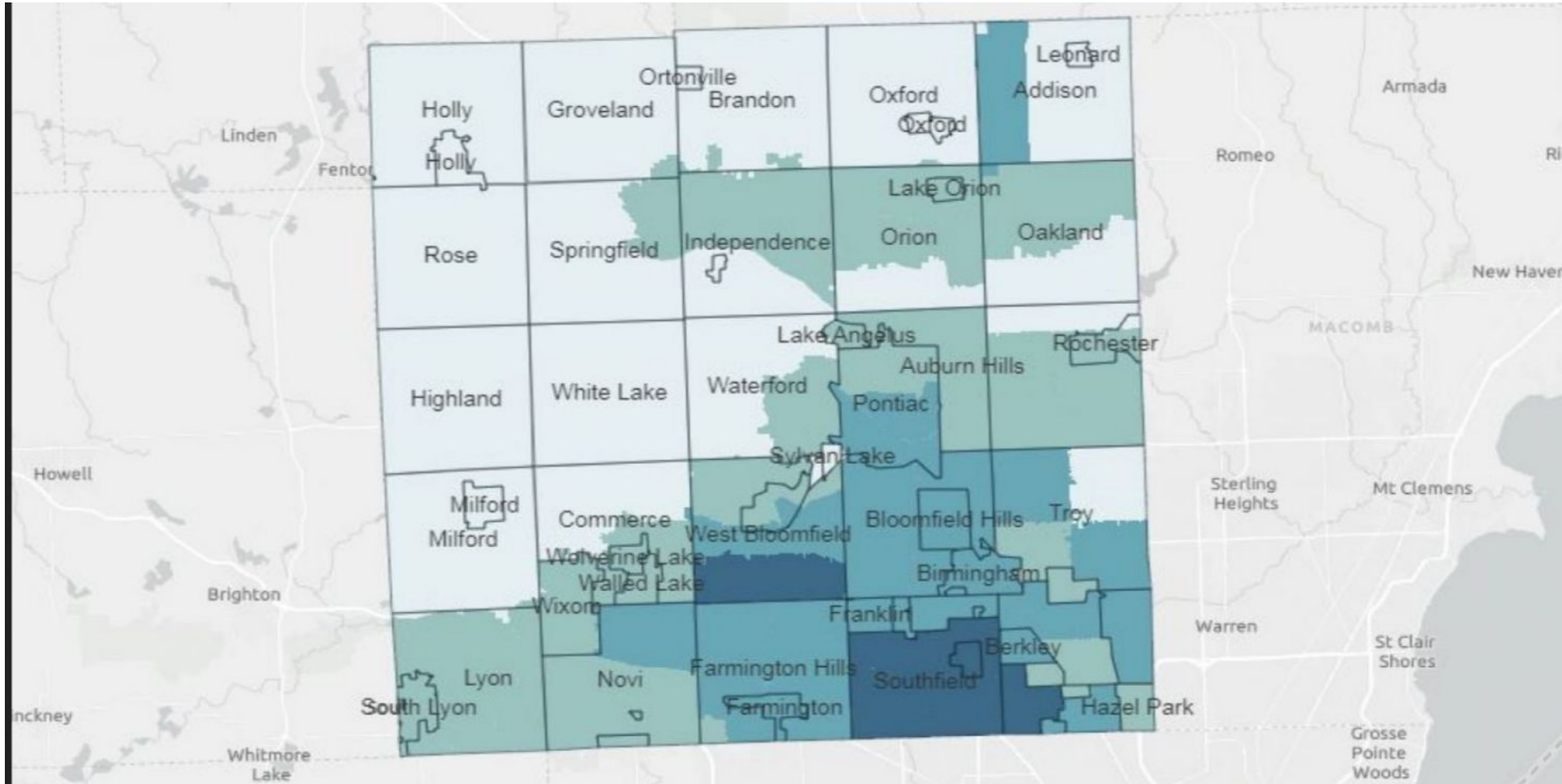
- System of Courts



Michigan counties add another level of government.

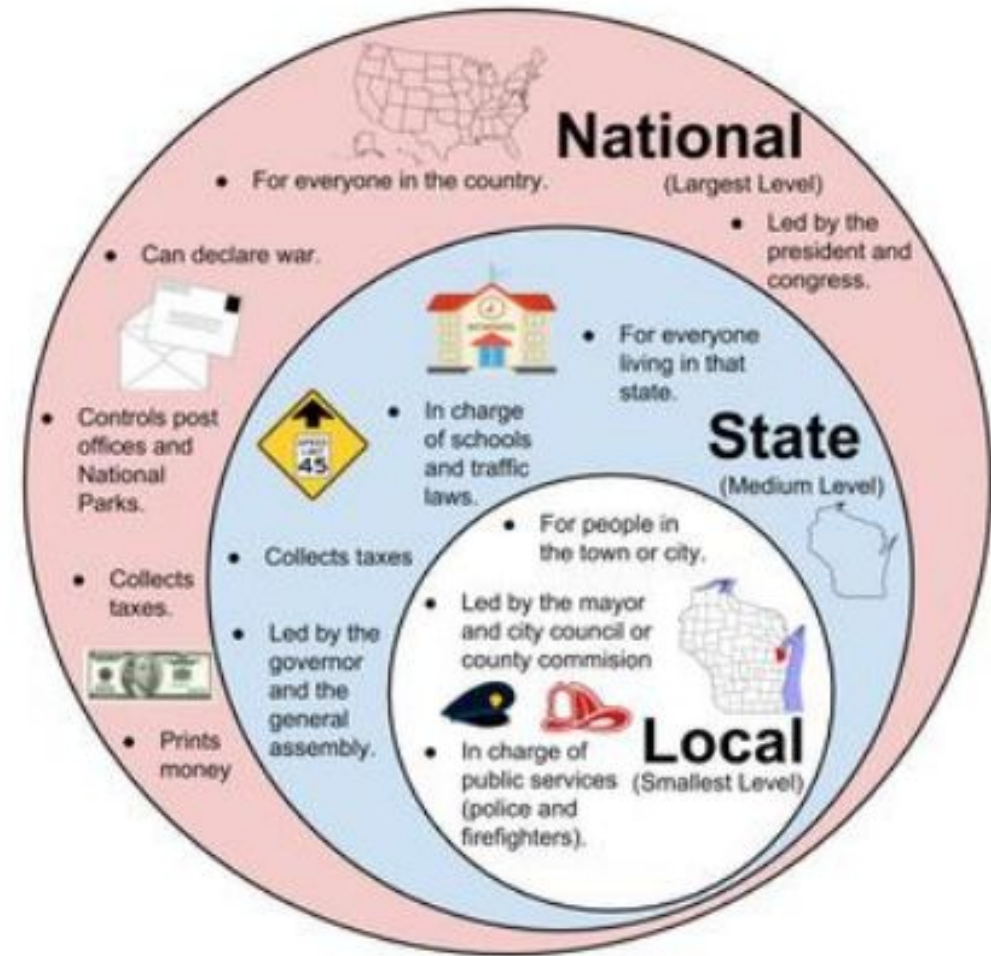


Inside counties, we have even smaller levels of local government: cities, villages and townships.



Levels of Government

- Three levels of government work together to serve the people.
- At every level, we, *the people*, elect politicians to lead and serve our communities.



Today's Focus: Legislative Branches

Michigan House of
Representatives and Senate
(State)



U.S. House of Representatives
(Federal)





A Special Task for States

Every 10 years, each state must draw new **district maps** for 3 types of officials elected to the legislature:

- State Representatives
- State Senators
- U.S. Representatives

Drawing new district maps is called **REDISTRICTING**.

The background of the slide is a stylized map with a grid of streets. A large white rectangular box is centered on the map, containing the text. The map is rendered in black and white, with a teal-colored area representing water in the bottom right corner.

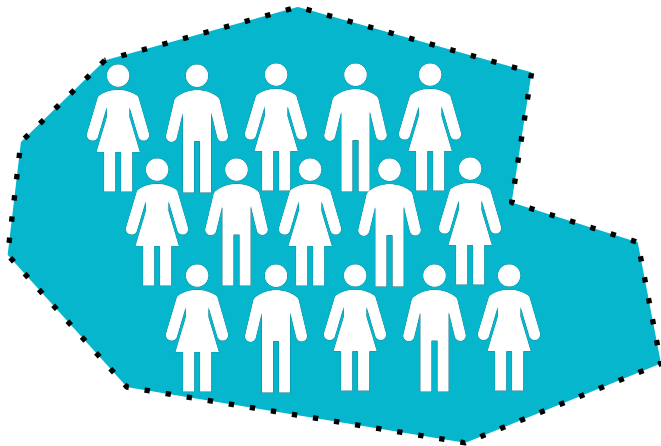
Why does Redistricting matter?

(What is a district?)

A **DISTRICT** is a clearly defined geographic area:

Voters living within a district boundary elect public officials to represent them as a group.

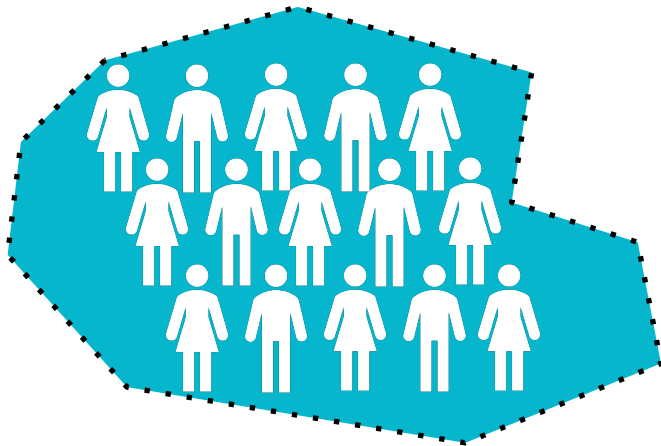
Many voters in each district vote...



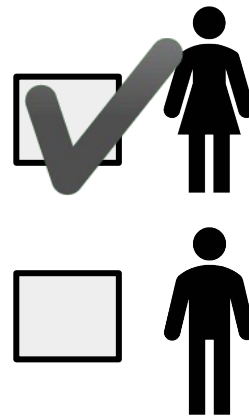
A **DISTRICT** is a clearly defined geographic area:

Each legislative body has one seat for every district.
The districts must have the same number of people.

Many voters in each
district vote...



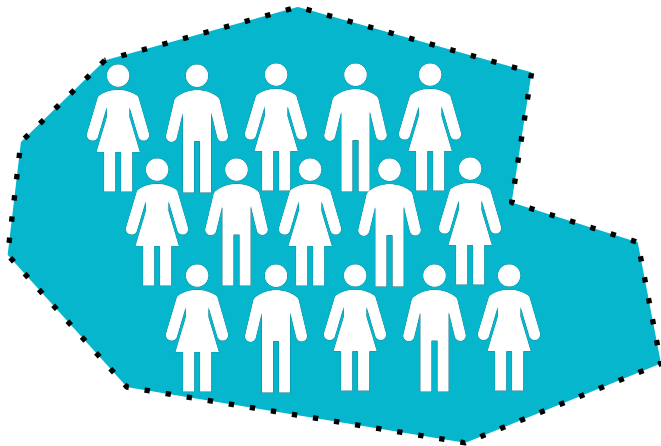
To elect one
representative
for each seat...



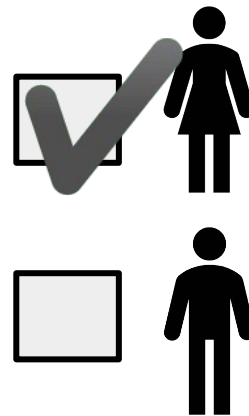
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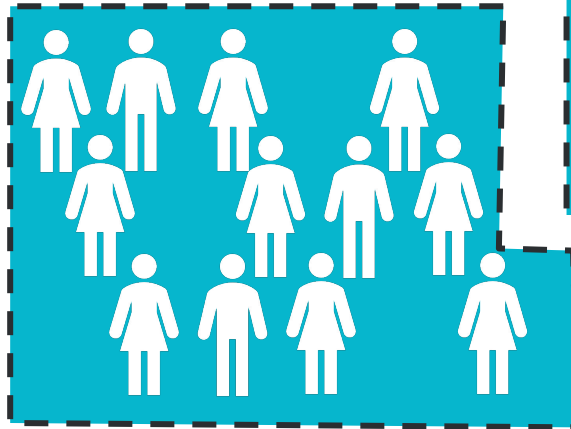
Elected representatives
make up the
legislature



Over time, people move around a state across district lines, some people die, and babies are born — so numbers change.

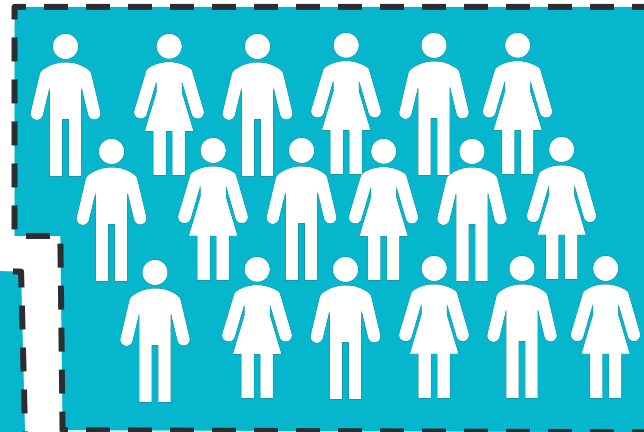
12

people

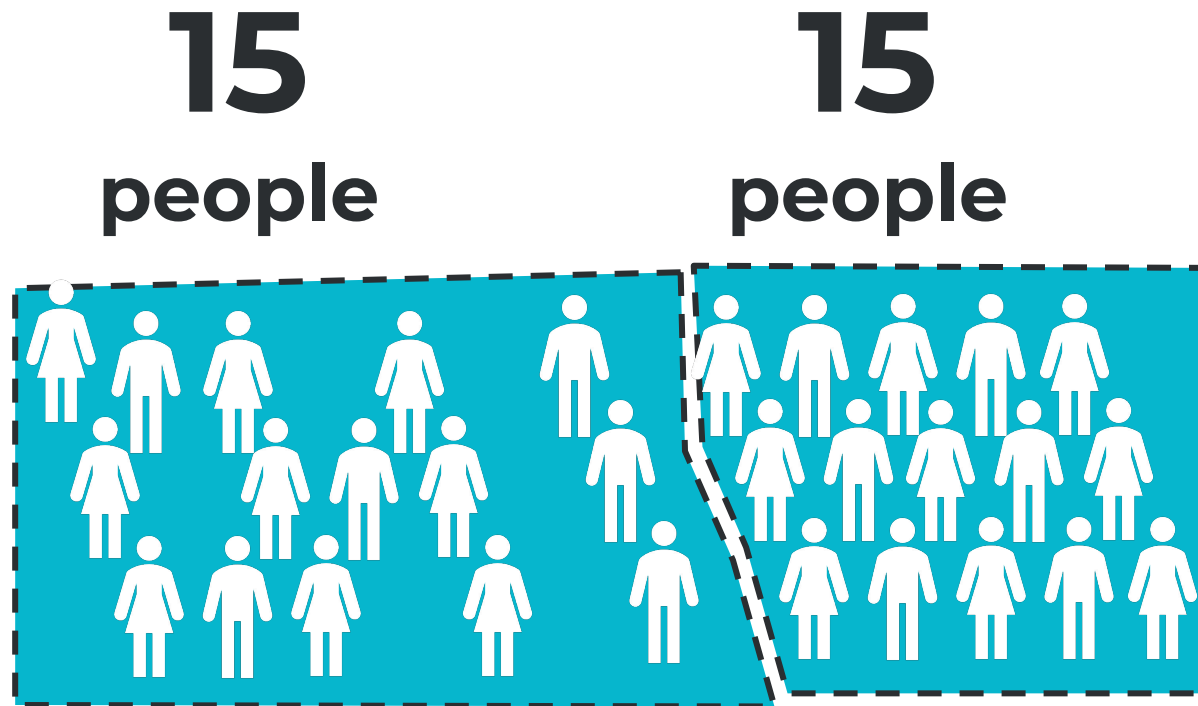


18

people



So every 10 years, we **REDISTRICT** so districts have an equal number of people again





The U.S. Census

1

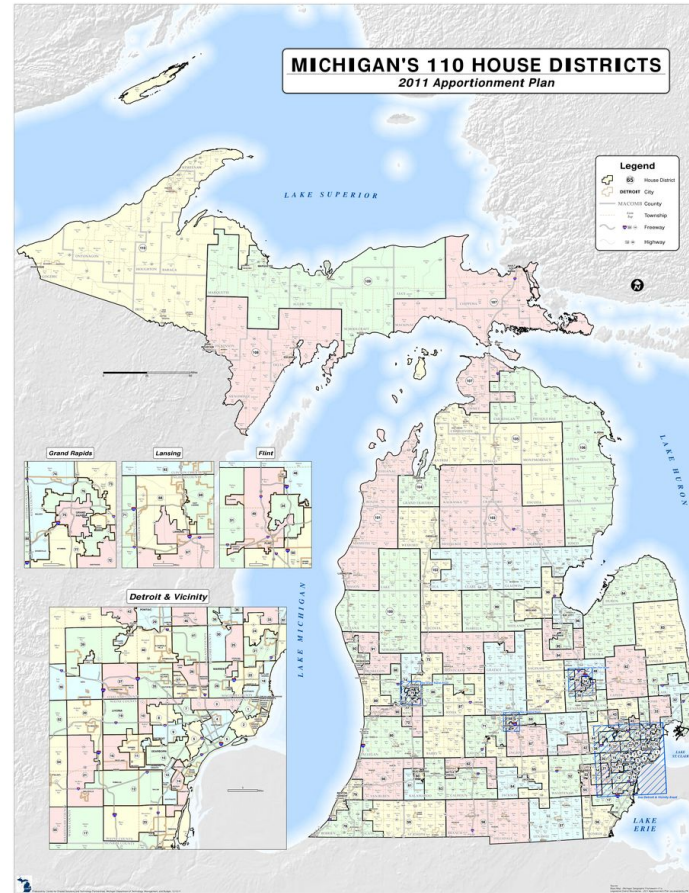
**U.S. Census
provides
population
counts and
residence data.**



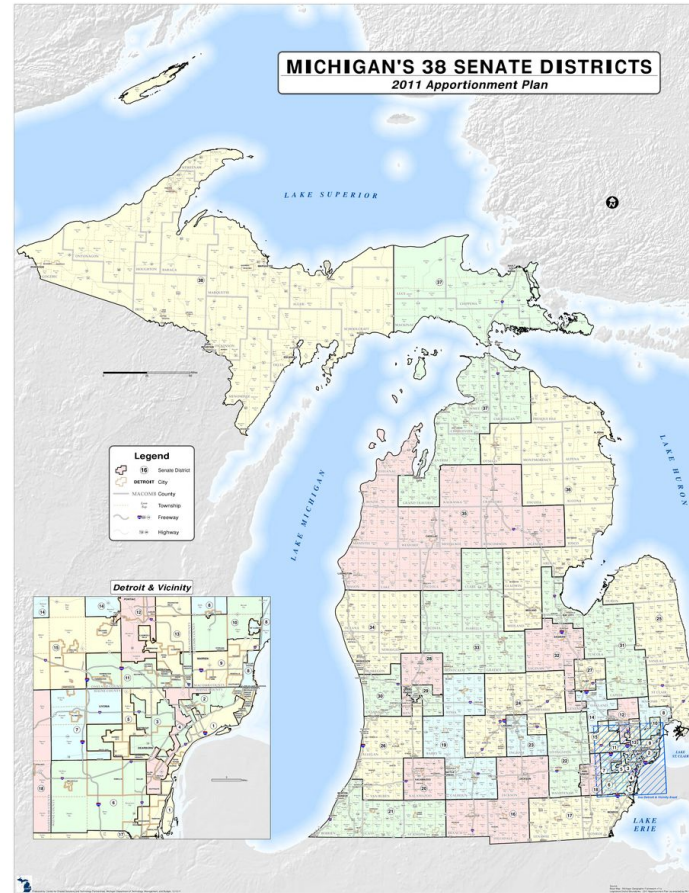
2

**State uses counts
and data to redraw
election district
maps so they have
equal population.**

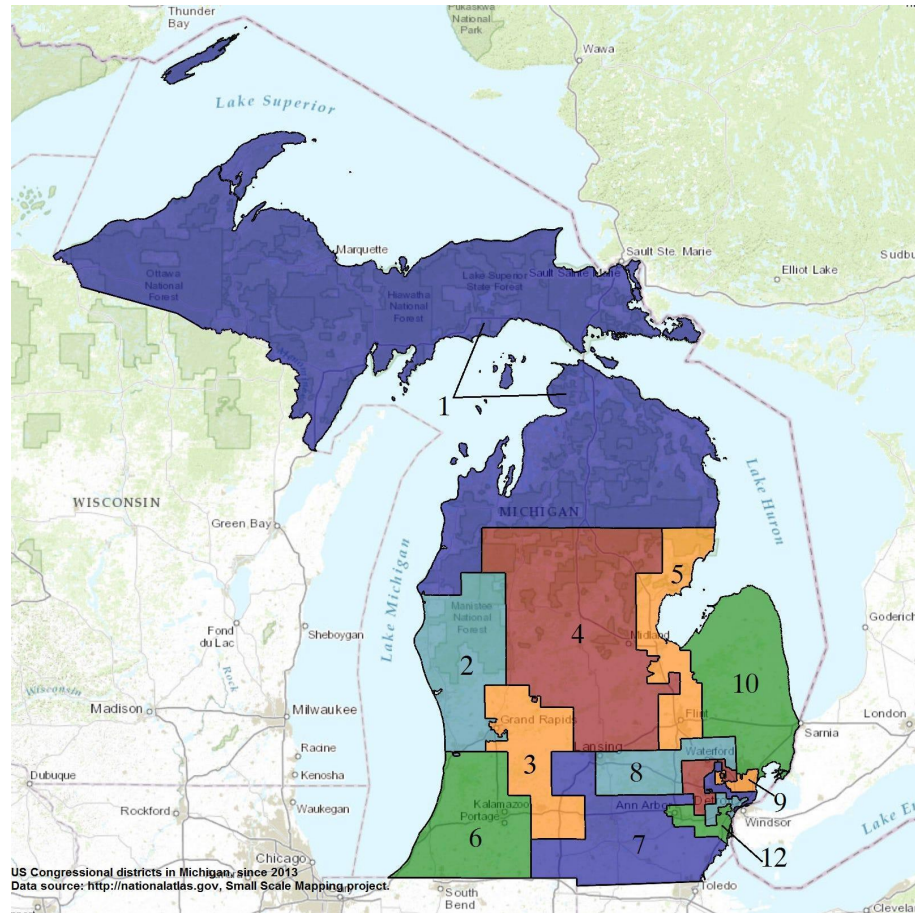
Michigan has 110 State House districts,
each with about 92,000 people.



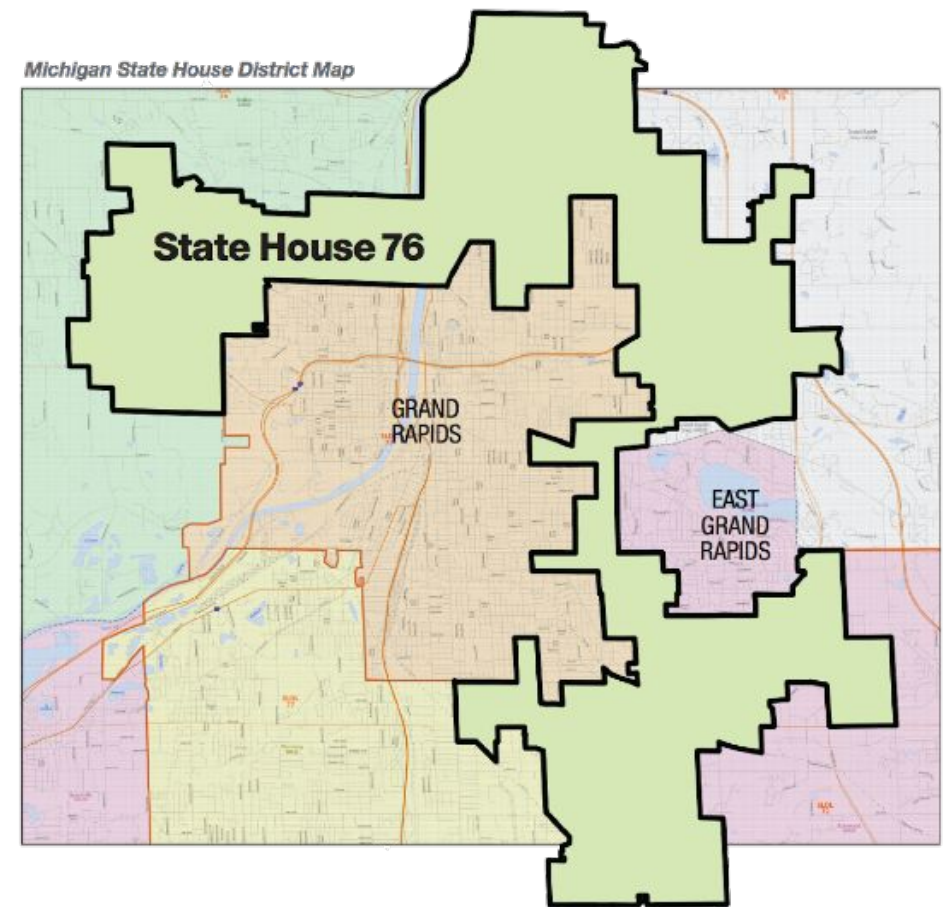
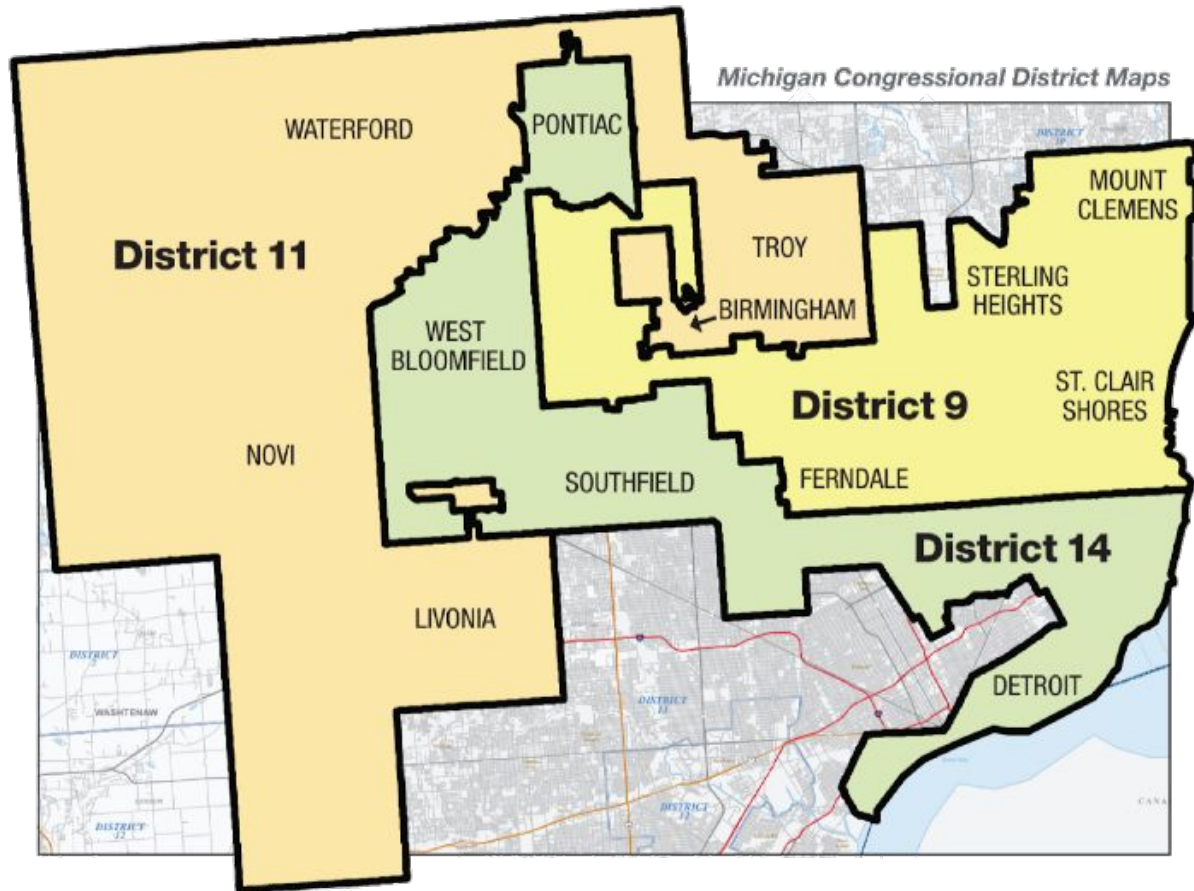
Michigan has 38 State Senate districts, each with about 266,000 people.



Michigan has 14 U.S. Congressional districts,
each with about 723,000 people.



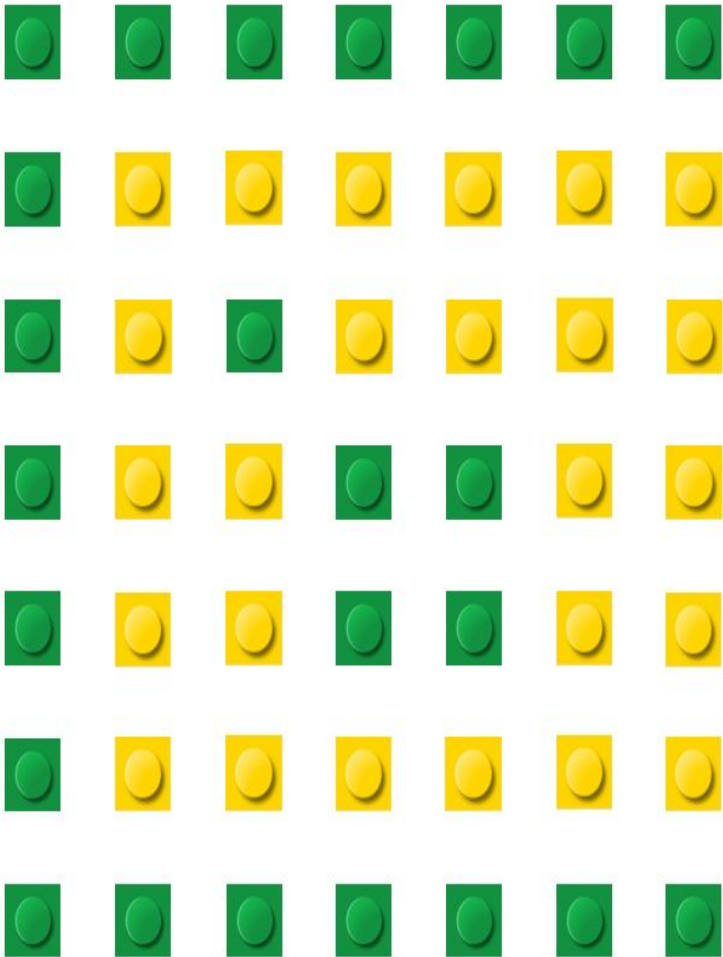
But why do some districts look like **THIS** ?



Gerryland

24

Green
Voters

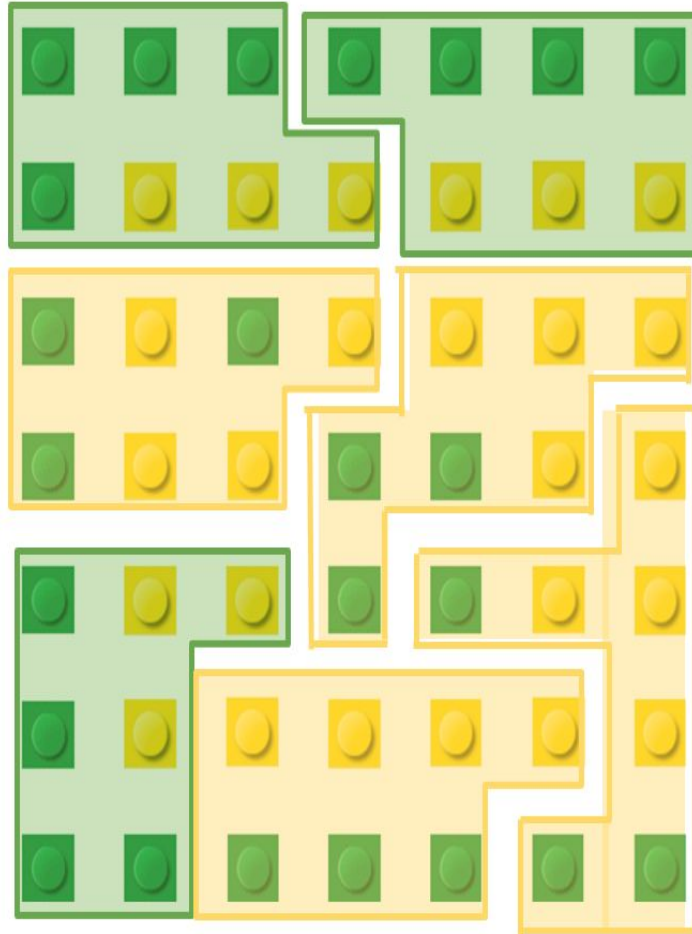


25

Yellow
Voters



3
Green
Seats

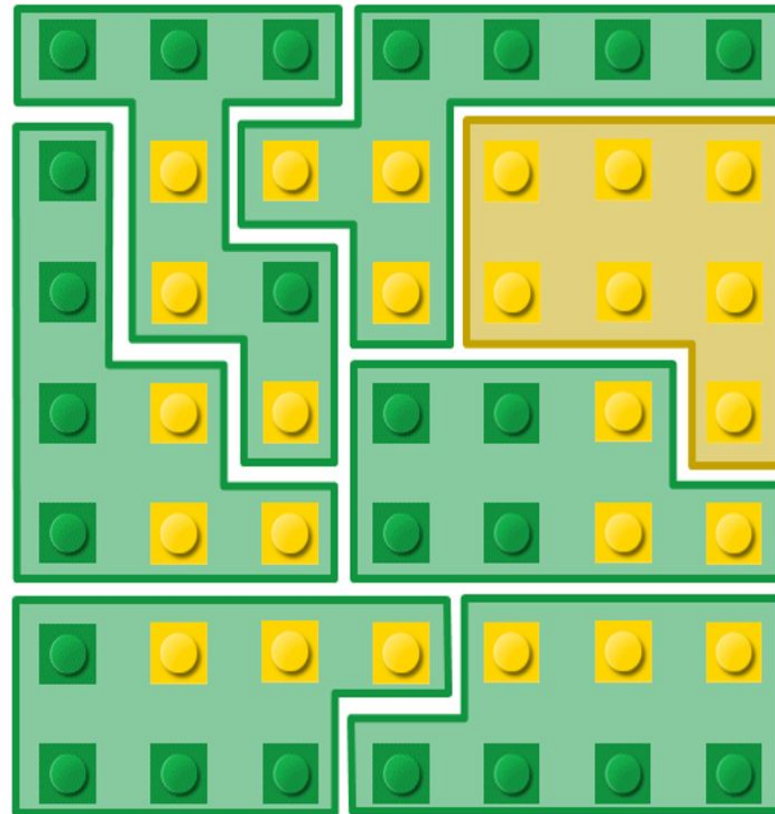


4
Yellow
Seats

Lines That Give Green Voters an Unfair Advantage

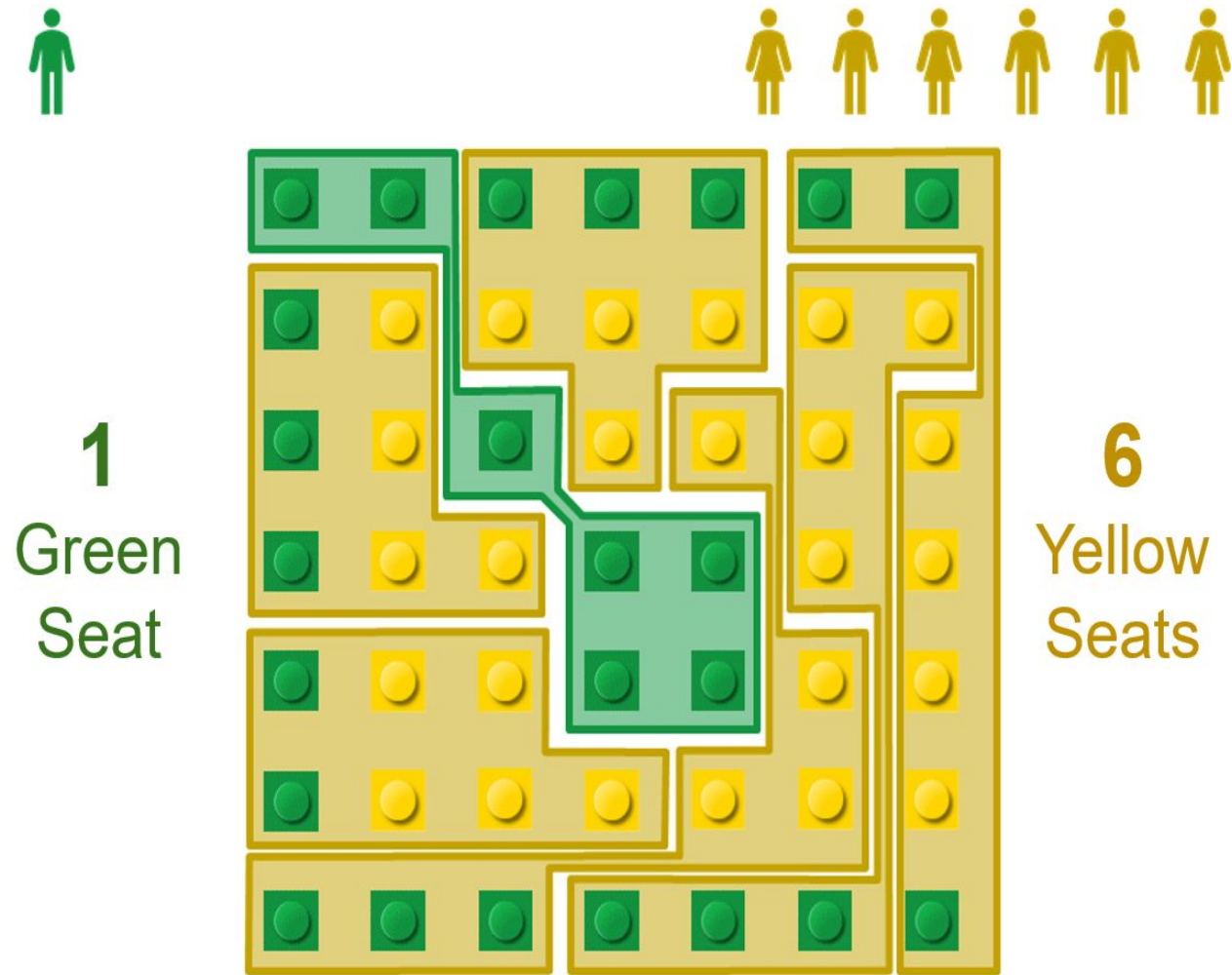


6
Green
Seats



1
Yellow
Seat

Lines That Give Yellow Voters an Unfair Advantage



**When Political Parties draw district lines,
election results are often unfair.**



OR



In 2018, Michiganders voted to take the task of drawing district lines out of the hands of politicians and into the hands of an **Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission**. This new Commission is hard at work and wants to hear from citizens across Michigan like YOU!





After all...

“ ***All political
power is inherent
in the people...*** ”

- Article 1 Section 1 Michigan Constitution



When we take **POLITICS** out of
the redistricting process,
we can use redistricting for its
intended purpose:

To keep communities intact so groups of
people who share interests can elect public
officials to represent them in government.




**So how could life for
your Community
IMPROVE with the
next redistricting?**



Let's discuss one key policy issue facing our Community

***What is one way government could serve us
better than it does now?***



**What kind of representation
would better help our community?**



Redistricting will make government work better for your Community:

Fair districts return power to Communities:

- **Better representation** in Congress and in the State Legislature
- **Elected officials who care** about your Community's needs
- **Better government programs and services**



Fair redistricting will make government work better for your Community:

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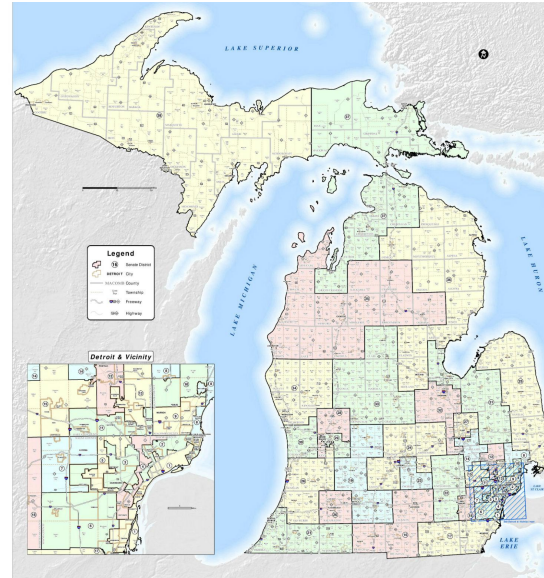
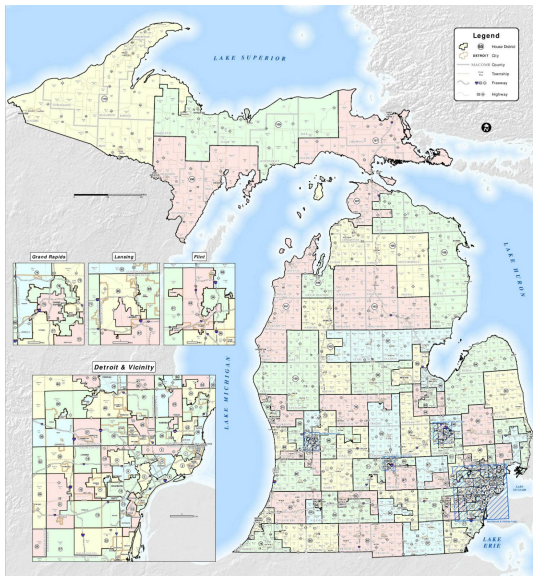
Your tax dollars will work better for you!

The background of the image is a stylized map with a black and white grid pattern representing streets. A large white rectangular box is centered on the map, containing the text. In the bottom right corner, there is a solid teal-colored area that also appears to be part of the map's design.

**What will the
Redistricting Commission
*actually do?***

Role of Redistricting Commision

1. Draw and approve election district maps...
 - a. State House of Representatives (110)
 - b. State Senate (38)
 - c. MI's Representatives in U.S. Congress (14)



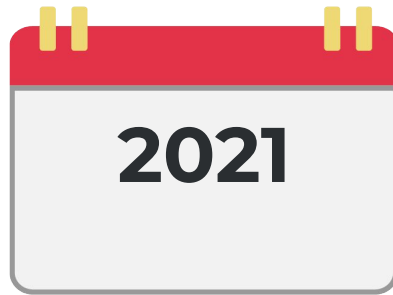
A stylized, high-contrast black and white graphic of a city street grid, showing a network of roads and blocks, positioned vertically along the left edge of the slide.

Role of Redistricting Commision

Gather input from Communities by...

- a. Receiving public comment** via mail, in-person, email
- b. Hosting town halls to hear testimony from Michigan citizens**

Timeline for the Redistricting Commission



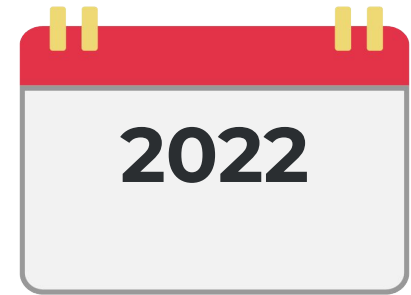
Public Hearings:

At least 10 **before** maps are drafted

At least 5 more **after** maps are drafted



New maps must be approved by **November 1, 2021**



New maps will be used in the **2022 Elections!**



REQUIRED CRITERIA for drawing maps

(in ranked order)



REQUIRED CRITERIA for drawing maps

(in ranked order)



What is a COMMUNITY OF INTEREST?

According to the Michigan Constitution,
Communities of Interest,

ARE DEFINED by:

- ✓ economic
- ✓ cultural
- ✓ historical
- ✓ other shared interests

ARE NOT DEFINED by:

- ✗ Political party affiliation
- ✗ Loyalty to a candidate or elected official



Shared economic interests:

Where do you
and your
neighbors...

Work?

Shop?



What
transportation
do you use?

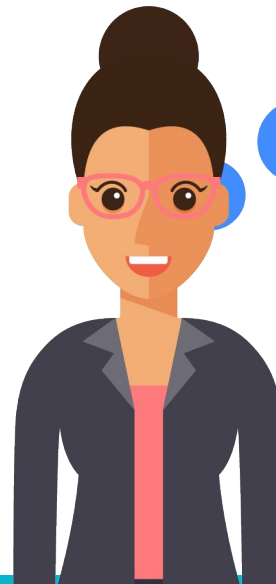
Roads?

Environment?



Shared cultural and historical interests:

What fosters a
sense of
connection
in your
Community?



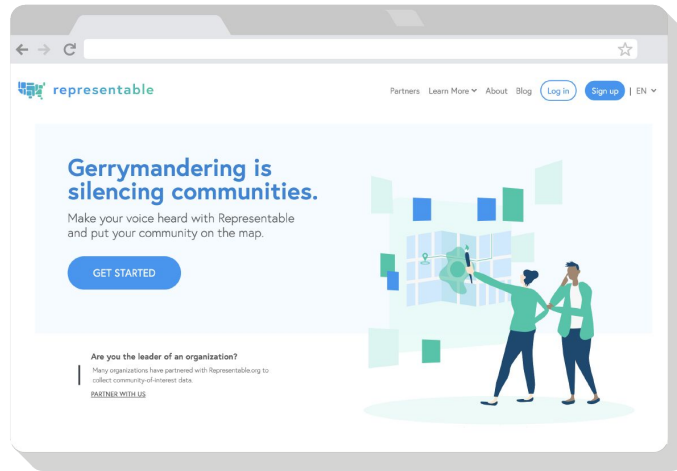
The background of the image is a stylized, high-contrast map. It features a dense network of white lines on a dark grey background, representing streets and urban layouts. In the bottom right corner, there is a solid teal-colored area that resembles a body of water. Overlaid on this background is a large, white rectangular box. Inside this white box is a teal-colored cross-like shape. The text "Make your Community's voice heard!" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered within the teal shape.

**Make your
Community's voice
heard!**

A stylized background featuring a black and white grid pattern representing a city map. The grid is composed of thin white lines on a black background, with some areas showing more complex, irregular patterns. A solid teal-colored shape, resembling a speech bubble or a stylized map outline, is centered on the grid. Inside this teal shape, the text "Your voice + YOUR MAP can shape new lines!" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in three lines: "Your voice +", "YOUR MAP", and "can shape new lines!".

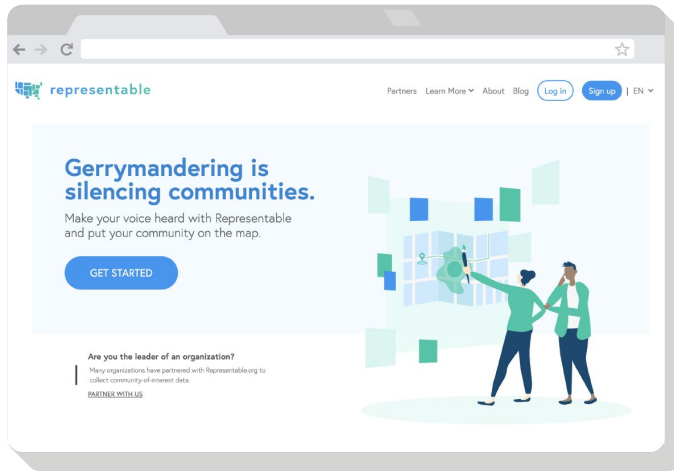
**Your voice +
YOUR MAP
can shape new lines!**

Let's map your Community!



Online: *Representable.org* is a user-friendly website that lets you describe your Community and draw its boundaries on a map.

Let's map your Community!

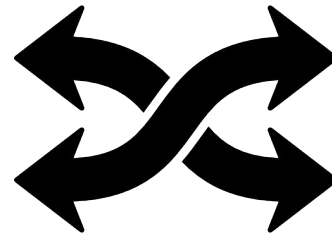
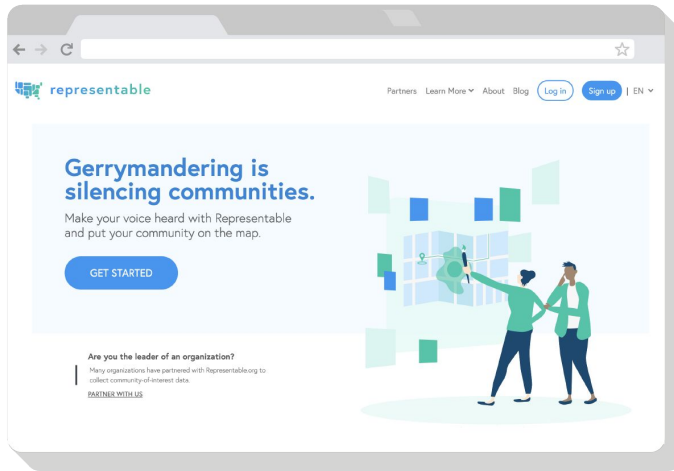


Online: *Representable.org* is a user-friendly website that lets you describe your Community and draw its boundaries on a map.



On Paper: A sheet of paper and a pen or pencil are really all you need to think about the extent of your Community.

Let's map your Community!



A MIX



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On Paper: A sheet of paper and a pen or pencil are really all you need to think about the extent of your Community.



What's next for YOUR MAP?

- Prepare it for presentation!
- Voters Not Politicians can help you **strategize your testimony and submissions** to the Commission



**The Redistricting Commission must
respect Community boundaries. So...**

MAKE YOUR MAP KNOWN

to help keep your Community intact.

Your Community is stronger together.

The commission is waiting for..



The commission is waiting for YOU!



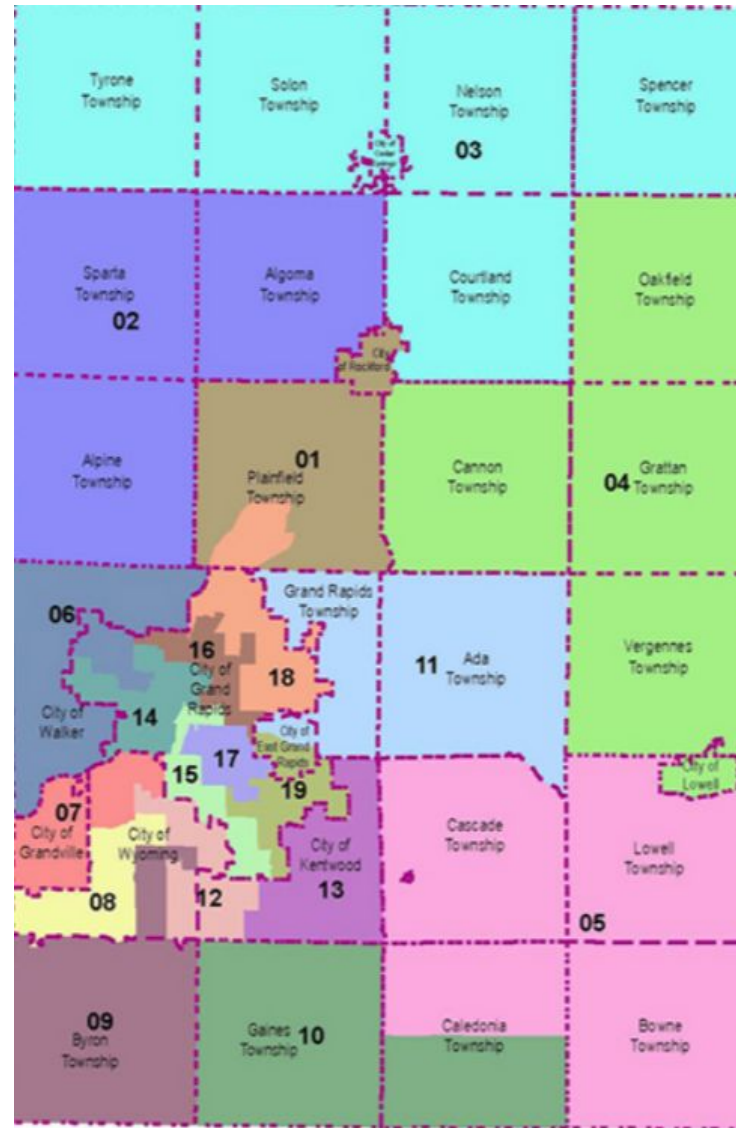
The image features a group of people from behind, wearing grey t-shirts with the text 'ALL POLITICAL POWER IS INHERENT IN THE PEOPLE' printed in white and red. They are standing in front of a large, classical-style building with a dome, likely a state capitol. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. On the far left, there is a vertical strip showing a white map of a city grid on a black background.

THANK YOU for taking time to hear
about the redistricting process!

The background of the slide is a stylized map with white lines on a dark grey background, representing a city grid and water bodies. A solid teal rectangle is positioned in the center of the slide, containing the text "Extra Slides".

Extra Slides

Kent County Commissioner Districts





Funding for Roads: Example of Support by Each Level of Government

- **Federal Government** established the Interstate Highway System and funds its upkeep and expansion.
- **State Government** maintains state highways (e.g. M14, M52) and collects and distributes state gas tax to counties and cities.
- **Cities, Villages and Counties** receive state gas tax funds to address local road needs. Township roads are addressed by the respective county.



How does the public get access to and learn to use the *Representable* mapping software?

- To teach you about *Representable.org*, we have a video of the Representable team explaining how to draw a Community map.

Here it is: [LINK](#)

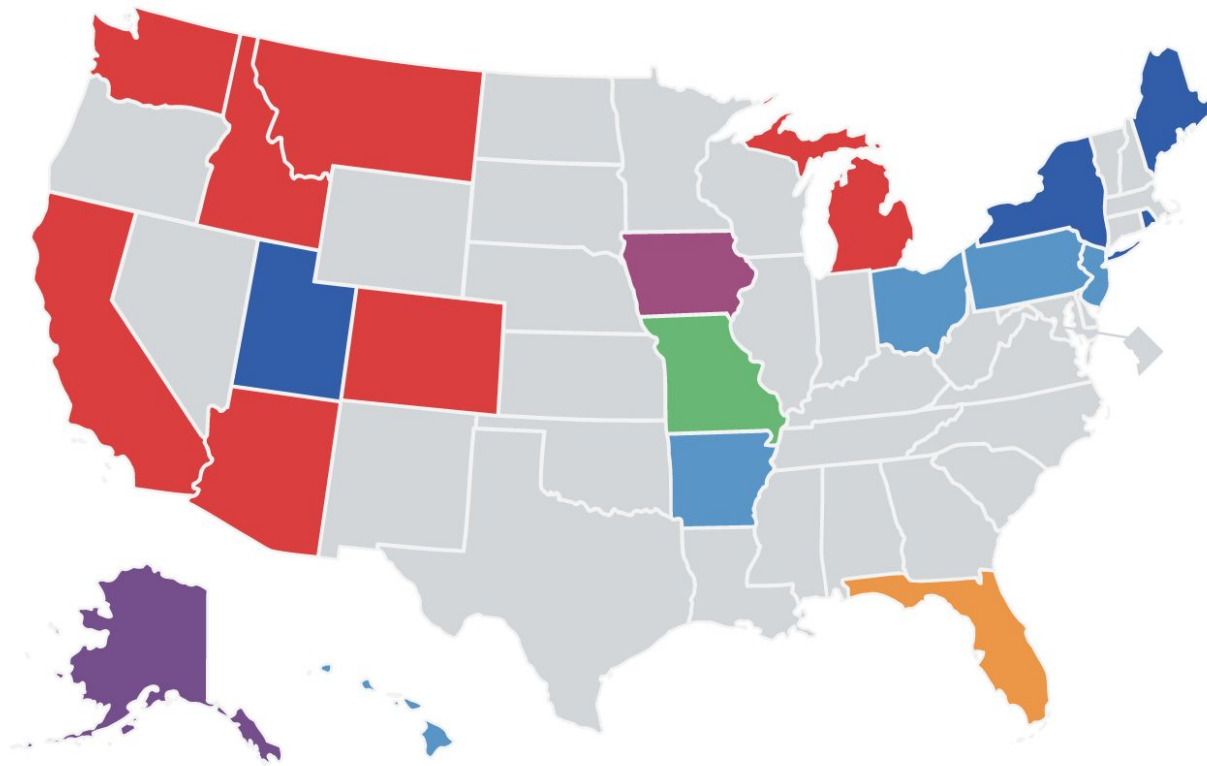


What Can You Do Next?

- Meet with your Community members and agree on the issues that most concern your Community and also the location of your Community boundaries.
- Describe and draw your Community, using the *Representable.org* website
- Submit your Community description and map to the Commission.
- Plan to attend one or more of the Commission's public hearings so you can describe your Community to the Commission in person.

The United States of Redistricting

Map Key



7 states with Independent Citizen Commission (Partisan Balance) | Red

1 Independent Citizen Commission (Partisan Imbalance) | Dark Purple

4 states with Advisory Commission (No Elected Officials) | Dark Blue

2 states with strict Constitutional Standards | Orange

3 states with Politician Commission | Light Blue

1 Nonpartisan State Demographer | Green

1 Nonpartisan Legislative Staff | Light Purple