



MICHIGAN’S INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

“ In a healthy democracy, voters pick their elected representatives. Gerrymandering turns that on its head by allowing politicians to pick their voters. I’m glad that, for the first time in Michigan history, voters have reclaimed this power. -Senator Moss

What is the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission?

Every 10 years following the U.S. Census, district lines for political offices must be redrawn in states across the country to accurately reflect for changes in population.

Prior to the 2020 census, these political boundaries were determined by the State Legislature, giving the party in charge an oversized influence to stack the deck in their favor. As State Representative from 2015 to 2018, **I introduced and reintroduced legislation to create a commission independent of the Legislature, comprised of citizens, to determine these lines**, but the majority party never considered my bill.

Instead, **voters amended the state Constitution with Proposal 2 in the November 2018 general election to make citizens — not legislators or special interests — responsible for drawing district lines.**

How was the commission selected?

In Michigan, a randomly selected commission of citizens is now responsible for drawing the districts lines for the U.S. Congressional, Michigan House, and Michigan Senate seats. The members of the commission were chosen last year through a multi-phase process conducted by the Michigan Secretary of State's Office.

The commission is composed of 13 Michigan registered voters: four who affiliate with the Democratic Party, four who affiliate with the Republican Party, and five who do not affiliate with either major political party.

What are the next steps to draw new electoral districts?

The commission has begun the necessary work to redraw Michigan’s electoral districts, including hosting meetings with community members at town halls across the state earlier this year, including a few here in Oakland County.

Per the ballot proposal that amended our Constitution to create this new process, the redrawn maps are due to be presented by the commission to the public on Nov. 1, 2021.

STAY CONNECTED STAY INFORMED

Provide input. Watch meetings.

RedistrictingMichigan.org

The Constitution requires the commission hold public hearings after these new maps are unveiled in November for further public feedback before they are formally adopted. As the redrawing of fair, nonpartisan maps is a citizen-input driven process, the public is invited and encouraged to comment during these meetings.

All commission meetings are open to the public and more information — including their meeting schedule, meeting materials and archives, and the ability to watch past meetings — can be found online at **RedistrictingMichigan.org**. Public comment can also be submitted via the website. You can also email the commission directly with any questions or concerns at **redistricting@michigan.gov**.

LOCAL CLERKS

in our district

- Oakland County(248) 858-0581
- Farmington(248) 474-5500, ext. 2218
- Farmington Hills(248) 871-2410
- Ferndale(248) 546-2525
- Hazel Park(248) 546-4064
- Huntington Woods(248) 581-2638
- Lathrup Village(248) 557-2600, ext. 226
- Madison Heights(248) 583-0826
- Oak Park(248) 691-7541
- Pleasant Ridge(248) 541-2901
- Royal Oak Township(248) 547-9804
- Southfield(248) 796-5150

- LOCAL SECRETARY OF STATE OFFICES IN OUR DISTRICT**
- Hazel Park**(888) 767-6424
20809 Dequindre Road, Hazel Park, MI 48030
- Oak Park**(888) 767-6424
13401 W. 10 Mile Road, Oak Park, MI 48237
- Southfield**(888) 767-6424
25263 Telegraph Road (Telex Plaza), Southfield, MI 48033



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2021 Election Guide

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Hello Neighbor,

This fall, you will have many important opportunities to weigh in on the consequential decisions that will impact the future of our communities.

By the end of 2021, the new Independent Citizen’s Redistricting Commission will finally unveil new legislative districts shaped by you, the voter, for the first time in Michigan history. I’ve compiled the information you need to know as this process continues to play out.

And while state and federal elections receive an overwhelming amount of attention, some of the most critical decision-making is made at the local level. In November, you will be casting your vote for candidates running to serve our community inside City Hall. This resource guide also contains information on key dates, voting procedures, and ways to contact election officials.

I hope you find this guide helpful and informative. As always, don’t hesitate to contact me if I can ever assist you in my role as your State Senator.

Senator Jeremy Moss
State Senator, Michigan’s 11th Senate District
Representing Southern Oakland County
Assistant Democratic Leader

You Can Vote from Home

Proposal 3 in 2018 allowed for the voting process to be made even easier. You no longer even have to leave your home to vote. Here are your voting from home essentials:

Local elections have a large influence on our daily lives. The impact of the decisions from Mayors and Councilmembers cannot be understated, and I hope you will take some time to find out more about what’s on your ballot this year and, most importantly, vote!

Learn more about what candidate and proposals are on our ballot at the Oakland County Clerk’s office online at oakgov.com/clerkrod.

How to Apply for an Absentee Ballot: BY MAIL

All registered voters in Michigan have the option to receive an absentee ballot in order to vote by mail. Once a voter signs their application, they can mail or email a photo of it to their local clerk, whose contact information is included on the application.

The application is also available for download at **Michigan.gov/Vote**, where you can register and join the permanent absent voter list, so you always have the option to vote from home if you so choose.

ONLINE

By visiting **Michigan.gov/Vote**, you can:

- Check your voter registration status. All eligible and registered voters in Michigan may request an absent voter ballot without providing a reason.
- Complete and return an absent voter ballot application online. You can fill out and return your absent voter ballot application online at **Michigan.gov/Vote**. To use the online application, you need to be registered to vote in Michigan and have a valid Michigan driver’s license or state ID.

How to Return Your Completed Ballot:

Once you have received your official ballot, be sure you have affixed proper postage before putting it in the mail. You also have the option of returning your ballot in person. There is often a drop box available but check with your local clerk’s office for available days/times to return your ballot. Ballots must be received by your local clerk’s office no later than 8 p.m. on election day.

Not sure where your polling location is or who your city or county clerk are? **Michigan.gov/Vote*** can help you find that answer. Some jurisdictions provide a sample ballot so you can know who — and what — you’re voting on before you head to the polls or complete your absentee ballot.

Available information on Michigan.gov/Vote

- Who/where your clerk is;
- Online voter registration;
- Online absent voter ballot application;
- Military and overseas voters;
- Working at the polls;
- Voting equipment;
- Statewide ballot proposals;
- Candidate information links;
- Acceptable voter identification at the polls*; and,
- Registered voters by county.

Ensuring Free and Fair Elections

The right to vote is a cornerstone of our democracy. I’ve led the fight against legislation meant to suppress that right and, in some cases, strip it away altogether. Instead, the Legislature should enact positive reforms to ensure fair, accessible, and efficient elections.

Michigan’s election administrators need adequate resources and proper training for each election. I am also working on proposals to permit clerks to start processing absentee ballots much earlier, just as other states do, thereby expediting the results and avoiding election night chaos.

**As the website also indicates, while it is strongly encouraged, you are not required to have identification when you go to the polls so long as you are prepared to sign a legally binding affidavit attesting to your identity.*

Important Election Dates to Remember

2021 Southern Oakland County Local Elections in Our District

OCTOBER 18

Last day to register to vote for the November election **UNLESS** you do it **IN PERSON** at your local clerk’s office with proof of residency.

OCTOBER 29

The last day that a clerk can mail you an absentee ballot via First Class mail.

NOVEMBER 1 BY 4 PM

Deadline to obtain an absentee ballot in person at the clerk’s office.

NOVEMBER 2 FROM 7 AM TO 8 PM

Polls are open for the city general election. You may turn your absentee ballot into your clerk’s office in person until polls close.