

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

DONALD AGEE, JR. et al.,  
  
Plaintiffs,  
  
v.

JOCELYN BENSON, et al.,  
  
Defendants.

**Case No. 1:22-CV-00272-PLM-RMK-JTN**

**RESPONSE OF THE MICHIGAN  
INDEPENDENT CITIZENS  
REDISTRICTING COMMISSION TO  
PLAINTIFFS' OBJECTION TO THE  
COMMISSION'S PROPOSED  
REMEDIAL HOUSE PLAN**

The Commission's remedial redistricting was an unparalleled success. Commissioners labored under tight deadlines to produce numerous maps with different designs of metropolitan Detroit. They rejected the enjoined districts and began anew and created plans entirely unlike the Hickory plan. Their collaboration ultimately yielded ten maps they deemed worthy of public scrutiny. Exceeding this Court's directives, the Commission held two in-person hearings in Detroit and a virtual town hall.

Then something remarkable occurred. The public turned out with stunning unanimity in favor of one plan: Motown Sound. An expert analysis shows that Motown Sound received more than five times the favorable comments as the plan with the next-highest total received, and that plan (called Spirit of Detroit) was substantially similar to Motown Sound. Together, the two maps received more than 25 times the favorable comments as the plan with the next-highest total. Among those supporting Motown Sound was Plaintiff Donyale Stephen-Atara who explained that Motown Sound "was drawn by Commissioner Brittani [sic] Kellom, a Detroiter [who] listened to the opinions of Detroiters and drew a map that spoke their needs and concerns." Appx.019a-020a. Public opinion in the divisive redistricting setting has rarely, if ever, been so united. Hearing these voices, and making minor adjustments in response, the

Commission adopted Motown Sound by a 10–3 vote, achieving the requisite support of Democrats, Republicans, and independents to enact the plan into law.<sup>1</sup>

Plaintiffs object to all that. In their view, Detroit residents do not understand their own well-being. Their basic theory is that the Commission did not actually configure Motown Sound, but that one individual named Chris Gilmer-Hill hijacked the process with a plan drawn in secret to avoid incumbent pairings. Not true. As the record clearly shows, Mr. Gilmer-Hill took a plan configured in public by the Commission, proposed modest changes, submitted it back to the Commission, commissioners liked the changes, and they ultimately adopted many of them. Nearly all of Motown Sound was drawn by the Commission, not Mr. Gilmer-Hill. The Commission’s public process is meant to glean and build upon such input. Commissioners’ openness does not in any way detract from the Commission’s command of the process. Plaintiffs’ irresponsible contentions wrongly take credit away from the collaborative effort, led principally by Commissioner Kellom, who—more than anyone—deserves credit for Motown Sound.

Plaintiffs’ remaining contentions fare no better. Motown Sound does not preserve the enjoined districts; no material trace of them remains. Nor does Motown Sound violate the Voting Rights Act. It creates 12 districts where Black voters have an equal opportunity or better to control Democratic primaries *without any help from white voters*. Plaintiffs are left making arguments beyond this Court’s jurisdiction. The Court lacks power to adjudicate claims to districts where Plaintiffs do not reside and to enforce Michigan law against Michigan instrumentalities. And Plaintiffs’ position on incumbency protection fails on the

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<sup>1</sup> After the post-hearing modifications, the adopted version of Motown Sound was formally named “Motown Sound FC E1.” This memorandum refers to it as Motown Sound.

facts: commissioners did not intend to avoid incumbent pairings. They intended to create a plan that complies with this Court's order. In that, they succeeded.

### BACKGROUND

1. This Court permanently enjoined seven Michigan house districts, HD1, HD7, HD8, HD10, HD11, HD12, and HD14, after finding they were configured for predominantly racial reasons without substantial justification. *See* ECF No. 131 at 53, PageID.4756. The Commission subsequently convened to configure a remedial plan. To that end, it held more than 20 public sessions in January and February 2024.<sup>2</sup>

2. Before map-drawing, the Commission adopted remedial procedures. First, it would begin with a blank slate; its mapping consultants unassigned all blocks in the enjoined districts, leaving an empty white space. *See* 1/11/2024 Tr. at 39-42; *see also* 1/16/2024 Tr. at 18. Second, the Commission voted "to establish a map drawing process which begins by all Commissioners proceeding with no consideration of race and with race turned off wherever possible on any map drawing software. And after maps are prepared, there will be a VRA analysis of the proposed maps." 1/11/2024 Tr. at 44-45.<sup>3</sup> Unlike in 2021, VRA considerations (and race, if necessary) would mark the end of the process.

Under that framework, Commissioners worked on maps from January 16 to 26. The process was collaborative. Commissioners took turns drawing lines, while others offered input. *See* Mapping Process and Procedures at 6. Commissioners were to implement the "[r]anked criteria from the Constitution." *Id.* at 7. When a map was completed, commissioners reviewed it for constitutional compliance. *See, e.g.,* 2/1/2024 Tr. at 76-78

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<sup>2</sup> *See* Meeting Notices & Materials, MICRC, <https://www.michigan.gov/micrc/meeting-notices-and-materials> (last visited Mar. 14, 2024).

<sup>3</sup> *See* Mapping Process and Procedures, MICRC, (Jan. 22, 2024) <https://www.michigan.gov/micrc/-/media/Project/Websites/MiCRC/MISC-10/v12224-Mapping-Process-and-Procedures.pdf?rev=ec24875f83ba4e4a9953dd9f6b163422&hash=AB9A695439FA362A416D3C9712D24795>.

(reviewing Motown Sound). In that process, commissioners certified that they did not consider incumbents. *See* Mich. Const. Art. IV § 6(13)(e); 2/1/2024 Tr. at 81 (Commissioner Orton explaining districts did “not favor, or disfavor incumbent elected officials as far as we know because we didn’t look at that.”). Plaintiffs present no evidence that commissioners had incumbency-address information, and commissioners confirmed they did not know where incumbents reside. *See* 1/24/2024 Tr. at 21 (Commissioner Lett explaining he had “not looked to see who the representative was”); 1/24/2024 Tr. at 10 (Commissioner Kellom explaining “we’re not to draw based upon like incumbents or folks running. That’s not what we’re tasked with doing.”).

3. The enacted remedial plan, Motown Sound, was born from this process. Its principal author was Commissioner Kellom, a Black native of Detroit. The enacted version evolved from prior drafts of Motown Sound, which built on the Spirit of Detroit and Lily plans; all these were authored principally by Commissioner Kellom.

Chris Gilmer-Hill did not draw these plans. Plaintiffs allege that Mr. Gilmer-Hill configured a plan called Tiger Lily, which is effectively the same plan as Motown Sound. Obj. 5, PageID.5395. They have it backwards. The record is clear that on January 23, Commissioner Kellom created the Lily plan from a plan commissioners created the previous week in public. *See* 1/23/2024 Tr. at 77-88 (showing creation of Lily plan by Commissioner Kellom from plan titled “11824 version 5pm”); *see also* Exhibit A, Remedial Report of Jonathan Rodden (the “Rodden Remedial Rep.”) at 7. Mr. Gilmer-Hill submitted an updated “Tiger Lily” proposal on January 25, which he described as a modification of the Commission’s existing Lily map. *See* Updated “Tiger Lily” map proposal, <https://www.michigan-mapping.org/submission/p9928> (explaining the draft “modifies the Lily map proposal to better reflect COIs that cross the 8-mile boundary between detroit [sic] and its closest suburbs. Based on the partisan analysis of the baseline Lily map performed on



1/24, I've updated the map configuration to restrict changes more narrowly to the Detroit area, and I've reconfigured parts of Eastside Detroit and Highland Park based on public comment and conversations with residents in those areas.”); *see also* Rodden Remedial Rep. at 7-8. Approximately 84 percent of the population in Mr. Gilmer-Hill's Tiger Lily map was still in the same districts as in the Commission's Lily map. Rodden Remedial Rep. at 8-9. Put differently, most of Mr. Gilmer-Hill's proposal was not of his authorship; commissioners (principally Kellom) authored it, and he built on their work to present his ideas.

Even then, Commissioner Kellom did not import the Tiger Lily plan into the mapping software or otherwise adopt it. She instead created the Spirit of Detroit plan from the Lily plan, 1/24/2024 Tr. at 73; 1/25/2024 Tr. at 20, and revised it line-by-line. 1/25/2024 Tr. at 20-35, 39-49. Commissioner Kellom explained that she incorporated concepts from Tiger Lily because the Commission had “been getting the same comment and not just in this round of public comments but we've been hearing about the urgency to merge the communities of interest that would entail crossing eight miles so that we're pulling parts of Royal Oak Township to keep that whole.” 1/25/2024 Tr. at 21. She understood this implemented, not just one person's concepts, but a broad community consensus. Commissioner Kellom believed the end result “allowed us to include more communities and be more authentic to neighborhoods and people that live in the area” and to “stay within communities that have relationship with each other. Communities that rely on common resources and that have asked to stay together to -- for a variety of reasons.” 1/25/2024 Tr. at 48. Others agreed. 1/25/2024 Tr. at 48 (Commissioner Callaghan commenting that the plan “reflects the comments very well”); 1/25/2024 Tr. at 49 (Commissioner Weiss commenting that “[Commissioner Kellom] did a very good job on this map.”).

4. On January 29, after many draft plans were complete, the Commission received an analysis from VRA counsel Mark Braden and expert Dr. Maxwell Palmer.

1/29/2024 Tr. at 19-41 (initial analysis); 1/30/2024 Tr. at 20-27 (Dr. Palmer); 2/1/2024 Tr. at 41, 56-58, 74-75 (analyses of Motown Sound).<sup>4</sup>

The analysis focused on Democratic primaries. At the liability stage, the experts agreed that an absence of helpful Democratic primary information renders it difficult to ascertain whether Detroit-area districts provide equal minority opportunity in primaries. *See, e.g.*, 2.TR 123:17-124:2, PageID.2663-2664. To surmount this problem, and address the Court’s determination “that the elections in these districts are decided in the Democratic primaries,” ECF No. 131 at 113, PageID.4816, Mr. Braden devised an innovative approach that analyzes which racial group is likely to control the Democratic primary.<sup>5</sup> Mr. Braden directed Dr. Palmer to estimate the available Democratic primary pool (i.e., Democratic registered voters) and the Democratic primary turnout in elections that can be reconstituted into proposed districts. 1/29/2024 Tr. at 21-22; *see also, generally*, Exhibit B, Maxwell Palmer Remedial Rep (the “Palmer Remedial Rep.”) (describing in more detail the methodology). That analysis estimates the participation by race in Democratic primaries and the percent of the available Democratic primary pool of voters by race. 1/29/2024 Tr. at 25. Mr. Braden concluded that, “if the majority of [the] electorate . . . in the democratic primary is Black,” the Black community will have “an equal opportunity to elect [its] candidate of choice.” 1/29/2024 Tr. at 22.

Mr. Braden advised that minor adjustments to improve Black opportunity in Democratic primaries could properly be defended as narrowly tailored for VRA compliance.

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<sup>4</sup> *See also* Redistricting & Voting Rights Act Compliance Presentation, (Jan. 29, 2024), <https://www.michigan.gov/micrc/-/media/Project/Websites/MiCRC/MISC-10/MICRC---Braden-Presentation-on-Plans-FINAL.pdf?rev=5e76d38ca72d4fe895ea2e0466eeb451&hash=A95086DD9E94730F7C196BAC85BDF744>.

<sup>5</sup> Counsel complied with this Court’s directive that an ethical wall separate the VRA advisors of Baker & Hostetler from the litigators of Baker & Hostetler. Thus, the litigators at Baker & Hostetler learned of Mr. Braden’s approach in transcripts and videos of public Commission meetings, just like any other interested persons.

1/29/2024 Tr. at 29. Mr. Braden emphasized, however, that commissioners should only “tweak” plans for this purpose. 1/29/2024 Tr. at 31.

5. Commissioners considered additional changes. On February 1, Commissioner Kellom created Motown Sound from the Spirit of Detroit plan. 2/1/2024 Tr. at 33. She made alterations in the areas of Harper Woods, the Grosse Pointes, Eastpointe, Roseville, and St. Clair Shores based on “public comment” and without looking to racial information. *See* 2/1/2024 Tr. at 33-40. That same day, she submitted the draft Motown Sound plan to Dr. Palmer, 2/1/2024 Tr. at 41, and his return analysis showed HD10 was close to becoming an opportunity district but came up short, 2/1/2024 Tr. at 57. Commissioners collaborated for additional minor revisions (moving about 5,000 inhabitants) and sent the plan “off for VRA analysis.” 2/1/2024 Tr. at 58-62. When that analysis showed the district had become “a [p]erforming district,” 2/1/2024 Tr. at 75, the Commission ended revisions and voted 10–3 to forward Motown Sound for public comment. 2/1/2024 Tr. at 77-80.

6. Ten proposed plans were published by the Court’s February 2 deadline, which began a 21-day comment period. *See* ECF 165. Online public comments overwhelmingly favored Motown Sound, Appx.001a-71a, and expressly supported the configuration of Harper Woods, the Grosse Pointes, Eastpointe, Roseville, and St. Clair Shores. Appx.063a; Appx.070a; Appx.149a-160a.

On an organized basis, Plaintiffs submitted no comment on the ten proposed plans and proposed no plan of their own to the Commission. But that apparently was not Plaintiffs’ original plan. On February 20, multiple Plaintiffs and one of their attorneys, Jennifer Green, attended a press conference hosted by Democratic representatives, Sherry Gay-Dagnogo, two of Plaintiffs’ trial witnesses (Lamar Lemmons and Virgil Smith), and others, to announce

Plaintiffs' remedy-phase strategy and a proposed plan. *See* Exhibit C, Press Conf. Tr. at 2-4.<sup>6</sup> Plaintiffs' counsel revealed that Dr. Trende had analyzed all ten Commission plans. *Id.* at 5-6. Another representative then spoke, expressed opposition to "the Daisy map" and "some of the Bergamot maps," advocated for "the maps that have been put together by the Congressional Black Caucus," and urged that "we [also] need to look at some of the others like the Riverwalk [and] the Spirit of Detroit." *Id.* at 11.

The group then went on to reveal a plan "commissioned by the Michigan Democratic Party, Black Caucus" with "13 majority, minority seats in Southeast Michigan." *Id.* at 13-14. Plaintiffs promised that Dr. Trende would "do an analysis" of their plan and that they would "unveil what the actual name of the map is and try and upload files" to "the portal" (i.e., on the Commission's website). *Id.* at 22. Two other speakers at the press conference advertised the times and locations of the February 21 and 22 public Commission hearings in Detroit and exhorted the public to attend and make their voices heard, presumably in support of their plan. *Id.* at 19, 21.

None of that happened. Plaintiffs did not produce their alleged Michigan Democratic Party-commissioned map to this Court or to the Commission, nor did they provide Dr. Trende's analysis to the Commission during the public comment process. At no time did Plaintiffs criticize Motown Sound or present any of the positions they presented to this Court on March 8.

Subsequently, the Commission conducted three public hearings: a virtual town hall on February 15, 2024, and two in-person hearings in Detroit on February 21 and 22. No one supported an undisclosed plan with 13 majority-minority districts. Instead, the comments overwhelmingly favored Motown Sound. Appx.072a-148a; Rodden Remedial Rep. at 2-3.

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<sup>6</sup> A publicly accessible video recording of this Press Conference is available on the Facebook page of Ms. Gay-Dagnogo, at <https://www.facebook.com/sherry.gaydagnogo/videos/1559763484841184/> (visited Mar. 14, 2024). The Commission had this video transcribed by a court reporting service=.

Indeed, those individuals associated with Plaintiffs group supported—not the undisclosed plan—but Motown Sound. Plaintiff Donyale Stephen-Atara supported Motown Sound for a “variety of reasons,” applauding Commissioner Kellom, “a Detroiter [who] listened to the opinions of Detroiters and drew a map that spoke their needs and concerns, as well as was constitutional. She has been the only Commissioner that has consistently, since the creation of the Commission, that has attempted to meet the needs of Detroiters.” Appx.019a-020a.

Spirit of Detroit was also submitted for public comment. It received the second most support, but considerably less than Motown Sound. Rodden Remedial Rep. 2-3, Tbl. 1.

7. The Commission met on February 27 and 28 to deliberate over and adopt a final remedial plan. During that process, the Commission made certain modifications to Motown Sound in MHD4, MHD8, and MHD16,<sup>7</sup> based on overriding public input concerning Arab American communities. 2/27/2024 Tr. at 33-41; 2/28/2024 Tr. at 56; Rodden Remedial Rep. at 20, Fig. 2d. Mr. Braden confirmed the changes had “no effect on [his] belief that the Court would conclude that the plan complies with the Voting Rights Act,” 2/28/2024 Tr. at 10, and the Commission again evaluated the plan under the constitutional criteria, 2/28/2024 Tr. at 56-58, 61-62.

On February 28, the Commission voted to adopt Motown Sound, as revised. Commissioners selected it because of the overwhelming public support. 2/28/2024 Tr. 73-74; *see also* 2/28/2024 Tr. at 66 (Commissioner Curry explaining that, as “a native of Detroit . . . for over 50 years,” she believed Motown Sound reflected “the sentiments of the people that live in Detroit”); 2/28/2024 Tr. at 69 (Commissioner Kellom describing the “resounding voice for the Motown Sound map” and concluding “[w]e can talk metrics all day and partisan fairness all day, but number one is communities of interest, which is code for people. And in this case it’s code for Black people. And they have spoken about this map.

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<sup>7</sup> Districts in Motown Sound are referred to as “MHD#.”

And there's no other map that touches Motown Sound when we are talking about neighborhoods."); 2/28/2024 Tr. at 65 (Commissioner Andrade explaining her support for Motown Sound because it was "the best collaborative map and we heard just so many people speak up for that map").

The final vote was 10–3. Four Democratic commissioners, two Republican commissioners, and four independent commissioners voted for Motown Sound. 2/28/2024 Tr. at 74.

### LEGAL STANDARD

This case challenges an act of the Commission under its "legislative functions." Mich. Const. art. 4, § 6(22). Notwithstanding the remedial posture, that act is "the governing law unless it, too, is challenged and found to violate the Constitution." *Wise v. Lipscomb*, 437 U.S. 535, 540 (1978) (plurality opinion). This standard requires Plaintiffs to prove that "it fails to meet the same standards applicable to an original challenge of a legislative plan in place." *McGhee v. Granville Cnty., N.C.*, 860 F.2d 110, 115 (4th Cir. 1988) (citing *Upham v. Seamon*, 456 U.S. 37, 42 (1982) (per curiam)). As the Supreme Court recently made clear in a remedial redistricting case, "[t]he allocation of the burden of proof and the presumption of legislative good faith are not changed by a finding of past discrimination." *Abbott v. Perez*, 585 U.S. 579, 603 (2018). It is therefore "the plaintiffs' burden to overcome the presumption of legislative good faith and show that the" Commission in 2024 "acted with invidious intent." *Id.* at 605.

As applied in cases where the "only injuries the plaintiffs established . . . were that they had been placed in their legislative districts on the basis of race," that doctrine directs that a federal court's "remedial authority" is "limited to ensuring that the plaintiffs were relieved of the burden of voting in racially gerrymandered legislative districts." *North Carolina v. Covington*, 585 U.S. 969, 978 (2018) (per curiam). If federal standards are satisfied, "a reviewing court must then accord great deference to legislative judgments about the exact

nature and scope of the proposed remedy, reflecting as it will a variety of political judgments about the dynamics of an overall electoral process that rightly pertain to the legislative prerogative of the state and its subdivisions.” *McGhee*, 860 F.2d at 115 (collecting cases). Simply put, “[i]f the legislative remedy does not violate the Constitution or the Voting Rights Act, the ‘district court is not free . . . to disregard the political program of a state legislature on other bases.’” *Whitest v. Crisp Cnty. Sch. Dist.*, 601 F. Supp. 3d 1338, 1344–45 (M.D. Ga. 2022), *aff’d*, No. 22-11826, 2023 WL 8627498 (11th Cir. Dec. 13, 2023); *see also Seastrunk v. Burns*, 772 F.2d 143, 151 (5th Cir. 1985).

## ARGUMENT

### I. Motown Sound Remedies the Violation

#### A. Motown Sound Does Not Perpetuate the Prior Racial Goals

Motown Sound relieves Plaintiffs “of the burden of voting in racially gerrymandered legislative districts.”<sup>8</sup> *Covington*, 585 U.S. at 978. A plan fails that standard where it “perpetuat[es] the effects of the racial gerrymander.” *Id.* at 973 (citation omitted). Motown Sound does not do that. It is a fundamentally different plan from Hickory.

1. The Court held that seven Hickory districts, HD1, HD7, HD8, HD10, HD11, HD12, and HD14, were configured for predominantly racial reasons without substantial justification. *See* ECF No. 131 at 53, PageID.4756. The Court found the Commission operated under an “across-the-board” “constraint” of “racial targets” from 35% to 45% BVAP. *See id.* at 55-56, PageID.4758-4759. The Court found that BVAPs in the challenged Hickory districts ran from 38% to 44%. *Id.* at 49, PageID.4752.

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<sup>8</sup> Text in this brief assuming legal violations or gerrymandering are confined to the remedial posture of this case and are not meant to concede agreement with the Court’s liability ruling or waive of any challenges to it on appeal.



The impact of those goals is gone. Two districts (MHD4 and MHD5) in Motown Sound have BVAPs above 80% (89.6% and 80.7%), three others (MHD9, MHD8, and MHD11) are at least 65% BVAP (66.8%, 66.3%, and 65.0%) and three more (MHD7, MHD16, and MHD18) are above 50% (56.2%, 54.4%, and 52.2%). Palmer Remedial Rep. at ¶ 13 & Tbl. 2. It is clear from this alone that the alleged racial targets were neither repeated nor perpetuated. At the liability stage, Plaintiffs' expert, Dr. Trende, proposed that a "race-neutral ensemble" of plans would produce roughly nine districts from 50% to 90% BVAP, PX020-0070-71, and Plaintiffs—in successfully opposing the Commission's stay application in the Supreme Court—argued that district BVAPs above 70% will result "absent any racial consideration" because that outcome "reflect[s] the natural geographic distribution of Black voters in Detroit." Opposition to Emergency Stay Application, No. 23A641, at 26 (filed Jan. 17, 2024). Moreover, Plaintiffs previously represented to this Court that curing the enjoined district may require reconfiguration of "more than *double* the amount of districts that were originally invalidated," ECF No. 136 at 9, PageID.4852, and Motown Sound does that, reconfiguring fifteen house districts even though only seven were enjoined, Rodden Remedial Rep. at 5.

Motown Sound has all indicia of a plan configured without racial predominance, including those Plaintiffs have previously advocated.

2. All probative evidence bears this out. Start with the "direct evidence." *Bethune-Hill v. Virginia State Bd. of Elections*, 580 U.S. 178, 187 (2017). The Commission avoiding carrying forward past manifestations of intent by scrapping all the invalidated districts in full and beginning anew. See 1/11/2024 Tr. at 39-42; 1/16/2024 Tr. at 18. The Commission also began drawing race-blind by turning off the mapping software's reporting of racial

demographic information on the screen, so commissioners could not see the racial composition of districts they were creating. *See* 1/11/2024 Tr. at 44-45.

Then, as described above, the Commission configured districts in Detroit by reference to state criteria, especially the communities-of-interest criterion, implementing commenters' ideas and commissioners' understandings. In response to public comments, MHD1 preserves a community of interest between River Rouge and Ecorse, 1/16/2024 Tr. at 77, an industrial interest shared among Oakwood Heights, Delay, Carbon Works, Springwells, and Claytown, 1/18/2024 Tr. at 64, a southwest Detroit community in Mexicantown, Hubbard Farms, Central Southwest and Delray, 1/18/2024 Tr. at 20, and a Latin American community of interest between Mexicantown, Hubbard Farms, and West Side industrial. 1/23/2024 Tr. at 30. MHD1 also separates the more industrial portions of Detroit from the downtown and midtown communities of interest on the Detroit riverfront. 1/18/2024 Tr. at 53, 65. MHD7 maintains a Bengali community around Hamtramck, 1/17/2024 at 30-31; 1/18/2024 Tr. at 87, and the neighborhoods of Airport Sub, Franklin Park, North End, Wade, and North Campau. 1/25 Tr. at 40; *see* Motown Sound Map. MHD7 also separates the Bengali community from the downtown riverfront community. 1/18/2024 Tr. at 41-42, 63.

MHD8 includes University District, Palmer Woods, Grixdale Farms, Chaldean Town, Sherwood Forest Historic District, and Green Acres along with the Ferndale in response to public comment suggesting that the Commission preserve a community shared between northern Detroit and Ferndale. 1/25/2024 Tr. at 40. It also preserves a LGBTQ community of interest between Ferndale and the Detroit neighborhood of Palmer Park. 1/16/2024 Tr. at 32. MHD10 preserves East English Village, Morningside, and Cornerstone Village together in response to public comment, 1/16/2024 Tr. at 28, 1/23/2024 Tr. at 84, 2/1/2024 Tr. at 35, and shared interests (related to resources and parks) between Harper

Woods and the Grosse Pointes. 1/25/2024 Tr. at 46; Appx.070a; Appx.149a-162a. MHD11 encompasses areas south of 10 Mile and Frazho Road and includes Nolan, Butler, Hawthorne Park, Northeast Central, Cadillac Heights, Conant Gardens, and Krainz Woods between Eight Mile Road and Six Mile Road. 1/25/2024 Tr. at 22-27. MHD12 keeps Eastpointe whole, and combines the similar Detroit neighborhoods Regent Park, Mapleridge, Denby, and Outer Drive-Hayes. *See* 2/1/2024 Tr. at 33. MHD14 maintains the Center Line community of interest and similar communities solely in Macomb County. 2/22/2024 Tr. at 29.

Only after the Commission had multiple complete plans did it turn to the VRA. Its considerations bore no resemblance to the 2021 VRA advice: Mr. Braden looked to Democratic primary data and proposed no BVAP targets. The process ensured that racial considerations would come at the end of the mapping stage, not the beginning, and that they would not drive the overall design of districts.

3. The “circumstantial evidence” proves that race did not predominate. *Bethune-Hill*, 580 U.S. at 187.

a. Motown Sound is a complete rewrite of the enjoined districts. *See* Rodden Remedial Rep. at 5 & Fig. 1 (“in the Commission’s proposed map, the remedial area has been completely redrawn, along with the area to the immediate west”).

The quantitative data bear this out. Dr. Rodden analyzed the percentage of residents in enjoined districts assigned to new districts, measuring (1) the percentage of residents in enjoined districts assigned to different-numbered districts in Motown Sound and (2) the percentage of residents of Hickory districts who reside outside the largest fragment of a Hickory district within a Motown Sound district. He compared the other nine proposed plans under these metrics.

The results are striking. The respective measures showed 60.05% and 43.71% of residents in enjoined districts assigned to new districts in Motown Sound. Rodden Remedial Rep. at 7, Tbl. 2. These changes were widespread. Residents of Hickory's HD8 and HD13 ended up in five different districts, residents of Hickory's HD6, HD7 and HD10 ended up in four different districts, residents of Hickory's HD1, HD3, HD5, HD9, HD12, and HD14 ended up in three different districts, and residents of HD16 ended up in two different districts. *Id.* at 27, App'x. Tbl.2. As for enjoined districts, Hickory's HD8 shares just 43.8% of residents with the closest Motown analogue; Hickory's HD11 just 44.1%; Hickory's HD10 just 48.2%; Hickory's HD12 and HD14 just 53.8%; and Hickory's HD7 just 63.8%. *Id.* The remaining enjoined district (Hickory's HD1) shares 86.2% of residents with MHD1, but that is no surprise, given its location in the "corner of the remedial area" and comments of the Hispanic/Latino community, which urged the Commission to preserve their community in the district. *Id.* at 5 & App'x Tbl. 2. Compared to the other proposed plans, Motown Sound made among the most changes to the district. *Id.* at 7, Tbl. 2. MHD1 resembles Dr. Trende's remedial version of the same district. ECF No. 136-3 at 5, PageID.4871. All this confirms that the Commission did not intend to preserve cores of enjoined districts. Plaintiffs make no serious contrary argument.

b. Plaintiffs have nothing to say of this dramatic change, except to call Motown Sound an "improvement" over Hickory. Obj. 1, PageID.5391.

Their attack relies on Dr. Trende's comparison of so-called racial-gerrymandering index scores between Motown Sound and simulated plans. This index is "meant to summarize the extent to which the distribution of race across the districts of the simulated plans is different from that of the Commission's plan." Rodden Remedial Rep. at 17; *see also*

Trende Remedial Rep. at 26-27, PageID.5442-5443. The Court's liability ruling did not credit Plaintiffs' racial gerrymandering index, and it should not do so now.

For starters, Plaintiffs cite no peer-reviewed research or judicial opinion ratifying the racial-gerrymandering index. *See id.* Dr. Rodden is unaware of it being "validated in peer-reviewed publications or accepted by courts." Rodden Remedial Rep. at 16. Just last year, the Supreme Court criticized computer simulations, warning that "courts should exercise caution before treating results produced by algorithms as all but dispositive of a § 2 claim." *Allen v. Milligan*, 599 U.S. 1, 36 & n.8 (2023). Plaintiffs ask this Court to throw caution to the wind by accepting, with minimal adversarial vetting, Plaintiffs' untested approach even as the Supreme Court rejected simulations performed by more established scholars. *See id.* at 36-37 (citing and refuting analysis from Drs. Imai and Duchin).

Moreover, Dr. Trende does not supply reasonable comparators. Simulation analyses must compare apples to apples, which is why "it is important to make sure the simulations are constrained in the same way that the district drawers were constrained." Rodden Remedial Rep. at 12. It is unreliable to compare a plan to simulated plans that do not "accurately represent[] the districting process," such as by "ignor[ing] certain traditional districting criteria" like "keeping together communities of interest." *Allen*, 599 U.S. at 34. In addition, "quantifying, measuring, prioritizing, and reconciling" competing redistricting criteria requires "map drawers to make difficult, contestable choices." *Id.* at 35 (citation and quotation marks omitted). Those choices can impact results because "different criteria could move the median map toward different . . . distributions,' meaning that 'the same map could be [lawful] or not depending solely on what the mapmakers said they set out to do.'" *Id.* (quoting *Rucho v. Common Cause*, 139 S. Ct. 2484, 2505 (2019)). Simulation models are sensitive; subtle choices inflict massive change.

Here, at least three methodological failures make Plaintiffs' analysis "unreliable." Rodden Remedial Rep. at 17. First, the simulations ignored "communities of interest and Detroit neighborhoods." *Id.* Second, Plaintiffs' simulations model "does not hold fixed the specific municipalities that were kept whole in the commission's plan." *Id.* And third, the "study area" of the simulations "includes several additional districts that were not altered in the Commission's plan and were not deemed unconstitutional by the Court." *Id.* As Dr. Rodden points out, "[w]hen attempting to draw inferences from such a small geographic area and a small number of districts, such seemingly small details matter a great deal." *Id.* at 17-18. When Dr. Rodden corrected these failures, Motown Sound's gerrymandering index score fell close to the mean of the simulated plans' scores—i.e., it is not shown to be a racial gerrymander. *Id.* at 18 & Fig. 5.

Dr. Trende's analysis produces puzzling results that confirm its flaws. Dr. Trende finds that the Tulip and Daisy plans are not racial gerrymanders. Trende Remedial Rep. at 31, Fig. 20, PageID.5447. But Dr. Trende argued that the "Tulip map . . . maintains much of the gerrymander from the Hickory map[,]" *id.*, and changed many fewer districts than Motown Sound, *see id.* at 2 (describing Tulip and Daisy as least-change plans that revised just ten districts); Rodden Remedial Rep. at 5 (the proposed plan revises 15 districts). It is implausible that a reliable test would condemn Motown Sound as a racial gerrymander, but not Tulip and Daisy. "Something seems to have gone awry in either the analysis or presentation of results." Rodden Remedial Rep. at 17.

c. Plaintiffs next present a "dotplots" graph that compares the BVAPs of the highest BVAP districts in Motown Sound with those of Plaintiffs' 100,000 simulated plans. Trende Remedial Rep. at 25-26 & Fig. 16, PageID.5441-5442. Plaintiffs suggest that Motown Sound does not "purge" the racial gerrymander and "artificially depressed the BVAPs in the

most heavily Black districts, and raised them in a handful of others” compared to the simulated plans. *Id.* at 25. But, as Dr. Rodden concludes, “at each rank [of district BVAP], the BVAP of the Commission’s plan fits comfortably within the range of the simulated values, which would seem to indicate a *lack of racial gerrymandering* according to his approach.” Rodden Remedial Rep. at 17 (emphasis added).

In fact, Plaintiffs’ analysis indicates that Motown Sound is not an outlier in containing eight majority-Black districts. Plaintiffs’ “race-blind” simulations—used to support the racial gerrymandering index and the “dotplots” graphs in Dr. Trende’s Remedial Report—were most likely to produce “8 majority-Black districts.” Palmer Remedial Rep. at ¶ 21. The analysis cuts against Plaintiffs’ demand for ten majority-Black districts, since “[o]nly four percent of Dr. Trende’s simulated maps yielded ten or more majority-Black districts,” a result that is “unlikely” to occur by chance and would suggest such a map was itself a racial gerrymander. *Id.*

## **B. Plaintiffs Do Not Prove an Equal-Protection Violation**

### **1. Plaintiffs Lack Standing to Challenge HD16, HD17, and HD18**

The Court lacks Article III power to consider Plaintiffs’ argument concerning “[t]he Hickory Plan’s House Districts 16, 17, and 18.” Obj. 13, PageID.5403. Plaintiffs contend that these districts were drawn to implement a “Racially Motivated ‘Spoke’ Concept,” *id.* (boldface omitted), but they were not challenged, they were not enjoined, and Plaintiffs admit “there are there presently no Plaintiffs residing in these three districts.”<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

Plaintiffs’ contention is foreclosed by decades of precedent holding that a “remedy must of course be limited to the inadequacy that produced the injury in fact that the plaintiff has established,” and that, in a redistricting case, “the remedy that is proper and sufficient lies

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<sup>9</sup> The term “presently” makes this statement misleading: there were *never* plaintiffs in these districts. First Amend. Compl. ¶¶ 17-36, ECF No. 8, PageID.88-107.



in the revision of the boundaries of the individual’s own district.” *Gill v. Whitford*, 585 U.S. 48, 66, 68 (2018) (citation omitted). This Court has no authority to remedy any districts other than the Plaintiffs’ “own district[s]” and “only such districts as are necessary to reshape” those districts. *Id.* at 66-67; *see Bethune-Hill v. Virginia State Bd. of Elections*, 368 F. Supp. 3d 872, 884 (E.D. Va. 2019) (three-judge court) (“We therefore recognize the need to ensure that given changes actually are required to remedy the violations in the invalidated districts.”). Once “the racial gerrymanders at issue in this case [are] remedied,” this Court’s “proper role in [Michigan’s] legislative districting process [is] at an end.” *Covington*, 585 U.S. at 979.

Plaintiffs do not contend that alterations to HD16, HD17, and HD18 are necessary to remedy HD1, HD7, HD8, HD10, HD11, HD12, and HD14. They contend that viable claims lie against HD16, HD17, and HD18 in their own right. Obj. 13-15, PageID.5403-05. And their own presentation makes it clear that HD16, HD17, and HD18 are beyond any appropriate remedial scope: on January 2, Plaintiffs presented a “compliant, race-blind map[]” prepared by Dr. Trende, ECF No. 136 at 9, PageID.4852, and it did not reconfigure HD16, HD17, and HD18, *see* ECF No. 136-1 at 5, PageID.4871. In fact, it reconfigured *fewer* districts (10) than Motown Sound reconfigured (15), *see id.*, and did not even reconfigure HD5, Hickory’s least compact districts, which Motown Sound reconfigures, *see id.* at 4-5, PageID.4870-71. Plaintiffs obviously do not believe redrawing HD16, HD17, and HD18 is necessary to remedy HD1, HD7, HD8, HD10, HD11, HD12, and HD14.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Plaintiffs observe that one plan before the Commission, Szetela 4, reconfigured the so-called “western spoke districts.” Obj. 13, PageID.5403. But Commission’s prerogative to redraw these district under its expansive *legislative* power does not empower this Court to impose such changes under its limited *judicial* power, which is remedial in nature, not legislative. *See Covington*, 585 U.S. at 978-79 (reversing three-judge court’s attempt to enforce state law ban on mid-decade redistricting, because it had “nothing to do” with the remedial task).

Plaintiffs long ago conceded (as they were compelled to) that they have standing only to challenge districts where they presently reside, and this Court dismissed Plaintiffs' challenge to HD13 on this basis. *See* ECF No. 81 at 4, PageID.2032 (“[A]s plaintiffs conceded at oral argument, we lack jurisdiction over any claims involving that district.”). It is troubling that Plaintiffs are now asking the Court to do what they long ago admitted it cannot do.

The remedial posture of this case does not alter the Court's Article III limitations. The first case to announce the principles of redistricting standing was a remedial case. *United States v. Hays*, 515 U.S. 737 (1995). In *Hays*, as here, a federal three-judge district court enjoined a redistricting plan because of unjustified racial predominance. *See id.* at 741. In *Hays*, as here, the legislature “enacted a new districting plan.” *Id.* And, in *Hays*, as here, the plaintiffs challenged it. *Id.* at 742. The trial court enjoined that plan as well, but the Supreme Court reversed, finding that the plaintiffs lacked standing because they did not live in the district they challenged. *Id.* at 743-47. The doctrine of *Hays* has been reaffirmed perhaps too many times to count. *See, e.g., Gill*, 585 U.S. at 66-67 (reaffirming and extending the holding of *Hays*); *Shaw v. Hunt*, 517 U.S. 899, 904 (1996) (*Shaw II*) (dismissing challenge to congressional district where no plaintiff resided); *Sinkfield v. Kelley*, 531 U.S. 28, 30 (2000) (per curiam) (rejecting racial-gerrymandering challenge to “majority-white districts . . . under a redistricting plan whose purpose was the creation of majority-minority districts, some of which border appellees' districts”); *Vieth v. Jubelirer*, 541 U.S. 267, 285 (2004) (plurality opinion) (“In the racial gerrymandering context, the predominant intent test has been applied to the challenged district in which the plaintiffs voted.”).

Plaintiffs' challenge to HD16, HD17, and HD18 is baseless, their counsel must know that, and it should be withdrawn, just as their prior challenge to HD13 was withdrawn.

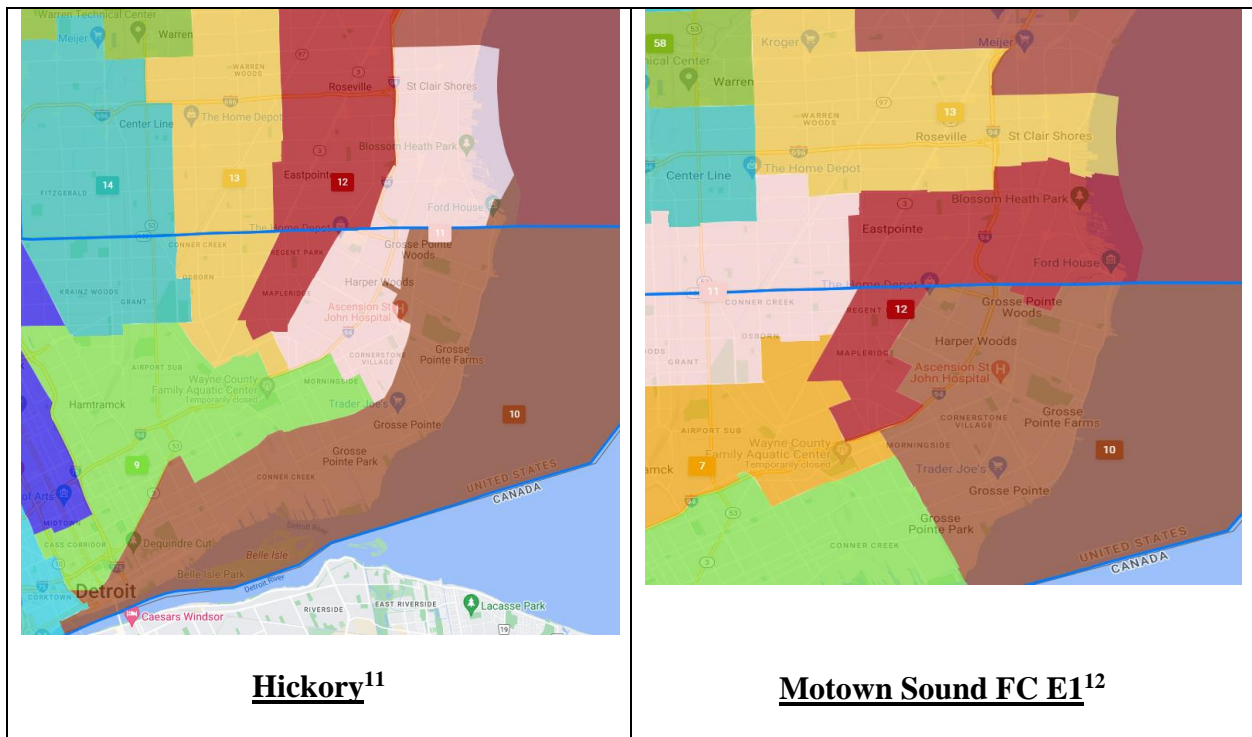
**2. Plaintiffs Do Not Prove Equal-Protection Violations in MHD10 or MHD12**

Plaintiffs contend that MHD10 and MHD12 “do not remediate the racial gerrymander; they perpetuate it.” Obj. 16, PageID.5406. This is false. Plaintiffs do not carry their demanding burden of establishing an equal-protection violation.

Given the plan’s status as legislation, the Court must approach Plaintiffs’ assertions with “extraordinary caution.” *Miller v. Johnson*, 515 U.S. 900, 911 (1995). It is the “plaintiff’s burden . . . to show” predominance. *Id.* at 916. “Race must not simply have been a motivation for the drawing of a majority-minority district, but the predominant factor motivating the legislature’s districting decision.” *Easley v. Cromartie*, 532 U.S. 234, 241 (2001) (*Cromartie II*) (internal citations and quotation marks omitted). This is a “demanding” standard. *Id.* (citation omitted). As noted, the prior finding of a violation does not modify this burden. *See Abbott*, 585 U.S. at 603-06.

a. Plaintiffs principally direct the Court to the BVAPs of MHD10 and MHD12, which they say, at “around 45%,” must reflect “the same racial target that Mr. Adelson, Dr. Handley, and General Counsel Pastula gave to Defendants during the initial map-drawing process this Court struck down.” Obj. 16, PageID.5406. This argument ignores Plaintiffs’ burden to prove motive, not just “effects.” *See Miller*, 515 U.S. at 916 (quoting *Personnel Administrator of Mass. v. Feeney*, 442 U.S. 256, 279 (1979)). Districts near 45% BVAP are not inherently infirm. *See Hunter v. Underwood*, 471 U.S. 222, 233 (1985) (explaining why a statute that can be “valid if enacted . . . without any impermissible motivation” is invalid with impermissible motivation); *see also Abbott*, 585 U.S. at 604 (discussing *Hunter*). The problem, according to the liability ruling, was that the Commission purposefully achieved those targets to the subordination of non-racial goals, without justification.

Plaintiffs miss their burden to establish a predominant racial motive in the *new* districts. They ask the Court to consider MHD10 and MHD12 “in the context of Defendants’ previous racial machinations” and propose that the “gerrymander” here is “transparent.” Obj. 16, PageID.5406. If this cryptic syntax is meant to suggest that MHD10 and MHD12 changed too little of the Hickory analogues to remedy the prior racial intent, it finds no evidentiary support. The Commission “did not reenact” HD10, HD11, or HD12. *Abbott*, 585 U.S. at 604. The districts are transparently different:



Plaintiffs present no evidence of similarity. Nor could they. As described, the Commission began anew with these districts. And more than 46,900 residents of HD10 were excluded from MHD10, and more than 41,800 residents of HD12 were excluded from MHD12. Rodden Remedial Rep. at 27, App’x Tbl. 2. The Supreme Court has found that

<sup>11</sup> <https://michigan.mydistricting.com/legdistricting/comments/plan/280/23> (visited Mar. 14, 2024).

<sup>12</sup> <https://michigan.mydistricting.com/legdistricting/comments/plan/341/23> (visited Mar. 14, 2024).

changes to a *congressional* district “significantly altered” it where they “incorporated tens of thousands of new voters and pushed out tens of thousands of old ones.” *Cooper v. Harris*, 581 U.S. 285, 295, 310 (2017). The change here is dramatic. *See Bethune-Hill v. Va. State Bd. of Elections*, 326 F. Supp. 3d 128, 169 (E.D. Va. 2018) (finding substantial alteration in state house district where changes “moved more than 18,000 people out of” it “and replaced them with about 21,000 others”). The substantial difference between the new and old districts is sufficient to cure any motivational taint infecting the old districts. *Compare Bethune-Hill*, 368 F. Supp. 3d at 885 (adopting special-master-crafted districts, even though they “retain[] certain lines in the invalidated districts we have identified as racially motivated”).

b. Plaintiffs also intimate that new racial intent controlled MHD10 and MHD12, based on “‘VRA compliance’ concerns with the Spirit of Detroit map.” Obj. 17, PageID.5407.

As an initial matter, that assertion has no logical connection with the “racial target that Mr. Adelson, Dr. Handley, and General Counsel Pastula gave to Defendants” in 2021. Obj. 16, PageID.5406. Plaintiffs cite no evidence that anyone was advising about, or looking to, targets between 35% and 45% BVAP—or any BVAP target—during the 2024 redistricting. That omission is telling. The Court found liability based on the Commission’s public “record” showing “every decision they made, every word they spoke” as “recorded in real time in a body of transcripts that runs some 10,000 pages.” ECF No. 131 at 2, PageID.4705. The Commission created the same type of record again. Yet Plaintiffs cite not one reference to a BVAP target. That is because there was none.

Plaintiffs’ effort to prove predominance despite that falls flat. To begin, they do not identify what they believe the racial intent even was. As shown, there certainly was no intent to “perpetuate” the prior districts. Obj. 16, PageID.5406. And Plaintiffs do not present evidence of racial predominance, “such as stark splits in the racial composition of populations

moved into and out of disparate parts of the district, or the use of an express racial target.” *Bethune-Hill*, 580 U.S. at 192. Proving predominance is Plaintiffs’ demanding burden, *Miller*, 515 U.S. at 916, and they cannot meet it with so little by way of asserting a theory of what occurred. “This Court,” like others, “is not in the habit of doing parties’ lawyering for them,” and it should “decline to take up that task now.” *Jeffries v. Barr*, 965 F.3d 843, 860–61 (D.C. Cir. 2020).

Plaintiffs do not even address the right plan. They direct the Court to changes proposed by Commissioner Eid (without reference to racial data) on January 31 to a version of Spirit of Detroit. Obj. 17 n.12, PageID.5407. But the next day, February 1, Commissioner Kellom—the principal author of Spirit of Detroit—took the pen and declined to work from the version as altered by Commissioner Eid; instead, she reverted to the version of Spirit of Detroit prior to his changes, and renamed it “Motown Sound.” 2/1/2024 Tr. at 33.

c. To the extent Commissioner Kellom’s February 1 changes can be deemed relevant, in the absence of clarity from Plaintiffs as to their theory of liability, the record confirms that race did not predominate.

Commissioner Kellom made alterations in the areas of Harper Woods, the Grosse Pointes, Eastpointe, Roseville, and St. Clair Shores, and she did not look to racial information. *See* 2/1/2024 Tr. at 33-40. Kellom instead explained that she “was compiling this using public comment,” 2/1/2024 Tr. at 35, and that she was “trying to collaboratively draw a map that is a mix of what different COIs have asked for. So [she] pull[e]d from the portal.” 2/1/2024 Tr. at 39. Plaintiffs suggest there was public “frustration with” the new configuration. Obj. 16, PageID.5406. That is misleading. The record shows many public comments recommending the configuration Commissioner Kellom implemented, proposing, e.g., that “Harper Woods should be in the same district as Grosse Pointe Woods,” because



“[w]e share the same school district,” and because “Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods share public services, including mutual fire and police” and “Harper Woods is part of the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce,” Appx.156a; that “Harper Woods and the Grosse Pointes” share an “immense” amount of services, including “a school district, the Milk River Water, emergency services” and “the HELM which services all the seniors in the 6 cities,” Appx.160a; and “that the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods have always been connected economically, socially, and politically,” Appx.161a. Commissioner Szetela had previously proposed a configuration that placed Harper Woods in a district with Grosse Points based on public comments.” 1/18/2024 Tr. at 11.<sup>13</sup>

The ultimate proof is in the pudding. The February 1 changes in HD10 and HD12 mark the only difference between Motown Sound and Spirit of Detroit. Rodden Remedial Rep. at 8. Both plans were presented for public comment. The public feedback overwhelming favored Motown Sound, *not* Spirit of Detroit. *Id.* at 2-3; Appx.001a-148a. Dr. Rodden demonstrates that Motown Sound had a net support of public comments of 104, whereas Spirit of Detroit (in second place) had a net support of 17. Rodden Remedial Rep. at 3 & Tbl. 1. The contest was not close. If Detroit residents truly bore “frustration” with the February 1 changes, Obj. 16, PageID.5406, but otherwise supported the design of Motown Sound, they would have supported Spirit of Detroit, which contains all Motown Sound’s policies, except in the Grosse Pointes, Harper Woods, and St. Clair Shores.<sup>14</sup> But the people spoke with near

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<sup>13</sup> Plaintiffs suggest that the Grosse Pointes and St. Clair Shores should have been together in a district instead, *see* Obj. 16, PageID.5406, but the Commission “heard lots of conflicting comment about the Grosse Pointes and St. Clair Shores together,” 1/24/2024 Tr. at 45, and “lots of public input against” keeping the five Grosse Pointes and St. Clair Shores together. 1/24/2024 Tr. at 49; *see also* 1/25/2024 Tr. at 51 (Commissioner Kellom explaining that a plan that did not include a lakeshore configuration did “way more for communities of interest and for the districts that we were charged with redrawing.”).

<sup>14</sup> Indeed, one might reasonably deduce that, had the comments overwhelmingly favored Spirit of Detroit, the Commission would have adopted it.



unanimity for Motown Sound. Indeed, some explicitly favored the February 1 changes, including endorsement of “district 13,” Appx.063a, and keeping the “3 Detroit neighborhoods of East English Village, Cornerstone Village, and Morningside” intact and combined “with the Grosse Pointes,” Appx.070a. Notably, Plaintiffs offer no reliable analysis to the contrary.

A district drawn predominantly to respect “communities defined by actual shared interests” does not trigger strict scrutiny. *Miller*, 515 U.S. at 916. The only probative evidence before the Court shows that communities of interest did not predominate.

d. It is true that Commissioner Kellom (like other Commissioners) had an overarching desire that Motown Sound would comply with the VRA and that it, along with several maps were submitted to Mr. Braden and Dr. Palmer. 1/29/2024 Tr. at 19-41 (initial analysis); 1/30/2024 Tr. at 20-27; 2/1/2024 Tr. at 41, 56-58, 74-75 (analyses of Motown Sound). But that merely “demonstrates obedience to the Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution,” which “does not raise an inference of intentional discrimination.” *Voinovich v. Quilter*, 507 U.S. 146, 159 (1993). The predominance question is not whether a legislature desired legal compliance (which federal courts should encourage), or even whether it desired to enhance minority electoral opportunity (which they also should encourage). The question is whether race was the “motivation for placing a significant number of voters within or without a particular district.” *Bethune-Hill*, 580 U.S. at 191. By February 1, the districts were largely in place, and Commissioner Kellom did not look to racial data in making her February 1 revisions. In fact, once she was done, commissioners deliberated over whether to review racial data and elected not to and instead submitted the plan for Dr. Palmer’s Democratic primary analysis. 2/1/2024 Tr. at 41.

After that, to a very limited degree, race may have entered the line drawing, but in a tailored and not predominant way. Dr. Palmer’s analysis showed that MHD10 was on the cusp of becoming a performing opportunity district but would not presently provide that opportunity. 2/1/2024 Tr. 57. Determining that MHD10 “looks close” to performance, Commissioners first cured the split of the Moross-Morang neighborhood and made it whole in HD 10, moving 1,125 people, 2/1/2024 Tr. at 58-59, moved one township fragment of “77 people” from MHD10 to MHD12, *id.* at 58, and moved the Yorkshire Woods neighborhood containing 4,049 people from MHD12 to MHD10, *id.* at 61-62. The total number of individuals moves for arguable racial reasons, then, was 5,251, which is 5.7% of the ideal district population in a house plan.<sup>15</sup> The plan was sent “off for VRA analysis,” 2/1/2024 Tr. at 62, and after it returned, Mr. Braden offered the opinion that MHD10 had become “a performing district,” *id.* at 75. Commissioners ended their work.

This tweak did not violate the Constitution for two reasons. First, race predominates only when “race was the predominant factor motivating the legislature’s decision to place a *significant* number of voters within or without a particular district.” *Miller*, 515 U.S. at 916 (emphasis added). Even assuming 5,251 persons were moved because of race, a change of just 5.7% of a district does not constitute on “the predominant motive for the design of the district as a whole.” *Bethune-Hill*, 580 U.S. at 192.

Second, the use of race “was narrowly tailored to achieve compliance with” § 2. *Id.* at 193. Because the Court determined “that the elections in these districts are decided in the Democratic primaries, not the general election,” and that a VRA analysis must incorporate

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<sup>15</sup> Commissioners also moved a single VTD from MHD10 into MHD12 to correct a population imbalance. 2/1 Tr. 61-62; *Banerian v. Benson*, 597 F. Supp. 3d 1163, 1169 (W.D. Mich.), *appeal dismissed*, 143 S. Ct. 400 (2022) (three-judge court) (“a districting plan is like a Rubik’s Cube: every adjustment requires still more adjustments”). The block was not chosen for racial reasons, and in any event, would bring the total to just 8,101 people moved.

“primary-election data,” ECF No. 131 at 113, PageID.4816, Mr. Braden looked to turnout and voter-pool estimates in the Democratic primary to determine whether proposed districts would enable Black voters to constitute a majority in a Democratic primary. 1/29/2024 Tr. at 19-21, 25 (explaining methodology); 2/1/2024 Tr. at 56-58, 74-75 (analyses of Motown Sound). Plaintiffs expressly contend that MHD10 must be a performing opportunity district, *see* Obj. 18, PageID.5408, and the Commission “performed that kind of functional analysis” that Supreme Court precedent directs. *Bethune-Hill*, 580 U.S. at 194. Given that Plaintiffs proceeded beyond summary judgment on claims that voting in the Detroit area is polarized on racial lines, the Commission had “good reasons” to fear § 2 liability, *Cooper v. Harris*, 581 U.S. 285, 301 (2017), especially where expert analysis showed MHD10 would not perform, but was on the cusp of performance.

Perhaps most importantly, the Commission did not go “beyond what was reasonably necessary.” *Shaw v. Reno*, 509 U.S. 630, 655 (1993) (*Shaw I*). It moved the bare minimum number of people necessary to enable Black voters in MHD10 to control Democratic primaries—and no more. In fact, the data showed that Black voters would *just* have an equal opportunity in that department (which is all § 2 requires). 2/1/2024 Tr. at 75; *see also* Palmer Remedial Rep. at ¶ 20. Plaintiffs’ challenge to MHD10 and MHD12 stands in substantial tension with their renewed demand for ten majority-minority districts. Obj. 17-19, PageID.5407-5409. To make MHD10 majority-Black would have required significantly more race-based maneuvering, as Dr. Trende’s analysis suggests. *See* Palmer Remedial Rep. at ¶ 21 (only 4% of Dr. Trende’s simulated plans have ten or more majority-Black districts). But the Supreme Court in *Cooper* rejected the position that “whenever a legislature *can* draw a majority-minority district, it *must* do so.” *Cooper*, 581 U.S. at 305. Here, the Commission was

right to stop looking at race once it had reliable evidence that MHD10 would enable Black voters to control the Democratic primary.

## II. Plaintiffs Do Not Prove a VRA Violation

There is no merit in Plaintiffs' assertion that Motown Sound is "Possibly in Violation of the Voting Rights Act." Obj. 17, PageID.5407 (boldface omitted).

A. For one thing, their arguments have "twisted the burden of proof beyond recognition." *Abbott*, 585 U.S. at 618. VRA § 2 "does not assume" the predicates of a claim; "plaintiffs must prove it." *Growe v. Emison*, 507 U.S. 25, 42 (1993). Plaintiffs present no VRA expert analysis and instead contend—falsely—that "Defendants have not shared any meaningful analysis demonstrating that" Motown Sound satisfies the VRA. Obj. 18, PageID.5408. That is not how burdens work, and Plaintiffs again appear to believe that, if they just say something "possibly" violates the law, the Court will do their own "lawyering for them." *Jeffries*, 965 F.3d at 860–61.

B. Besides, the Commission has established compliance with § 2. Specifically, Plaintiffs challenge MHD10, MHD12, and MHD17. Obj. 18, PageID.5408; *see Gingles*, 478 U.S. 30, 59 n.28 (1986) (a challenge must be "district specific"). The Commission relied on highly probative evidence and legal opinion that these specific districts (and many others) will afford the Black community equal opportunity in Democratic primary elections. Indeed, Plaintiffs' VRA challenge to MHD10 demonstrates the Commission's compelling reasons to look at race in a very narrow manner to ensure compliance.

As described above, Mr. Braden determined that a district enabling Black voters to control the Democratic primary constitutes an opportunity district. Plaintiffs are wrong in their contention that this analysis turns on whether these districts perform as "supposed crossover districts." Obj. 19, PageID.5409. Although the Supreme Court has clearly held that

§ 2 can “be *satisfied by* crossover districts,” *Cooper*, 581 U.S. at 305, the Commission need not rely on that doctrine here. Mr. Braden’s framework looks to which racial group can control the Democratic primary on its own. If more Black than white voters participate in a Democratic primary in a given district, or more compose the primary pool, then a cohesive Black community can elect the candidates of its choosing *without a single white crossover vote*. Under these circumstances, a district below 50% BVAP may perform for Black voters in the Democratic primary, not because of help from white voters, but because many white voters do not participate in Democratic Party primaries. Mr. Braden’s analysis therefore reliably gauges whether Black voters can elect candidates of their choosing “based on their own votes and without assistance from others.” *Bartlett v. Strickland*, 556 U.S. 1, 14 (2009) (plurality opinion).

Plaintiffs do not challenge this analysis, even though Mr. Braden presented it in multiple public meetings. It is far superior to their analysis, which simply measures whether a district has a BVAP majority. *See* Obj. 18-19, PageID.5408-5409. The Supreme Court has condemned a mechanical reliance on BVAP percentages unsupported by analysis. *See, e.g., Cooper*, 581 U.S. at 304-05; *Bethune-Hill*, 580 U.S. at 195-96; *Alabama Legislative Black Caucus v. Alabama*, 575 U.S. 254, 278 (2015). The Commission looked to “a functional analysis” of likely district performance, *Bethune-Hill*, 580 U.S. at 195, which fairly accounts for Plaintiffs’ assertion that there is little white crossover voting in Democratic primaries, *see, e.g.,* 2.TR 80:3-13; PageID.2620. And that functional analysis looked to primary data, not general-election data, in satisfaction of this Court’s liability ruling.

This reliable method reveals that MHD10, MHD12, and MHD17 satisfy § 2. Under the primary-pool metric, Black Democratic registered voters far outnumber white registered voters in MHD10 (37.3% to 26.3%), MHD12 (43.0% to 25.1%), and MHD17 (39.5% to

25.9%). Palmer Remedial Rep. at ¶ 18, Tbl. 3; ECF No. 168-7, PageID.5498. Because “minority voters are not immune from the obligation to pull, haul, and trade to find common political ground,” *Johnson v. De Grandy*, 512 U.S. 997, 1020 (1994), evidence that Black Democratic registrants outnumber white registrants in a district thwarts Plaintiffs’ § 2 claim. *Cf. Salas v. Southwest Texas Jr. College Dist.*, 964 F.2d 1542, 1556 (5th Cir. 1992) (“Obviously, a protected class is not entitled to § 2 relief merely because it turns out in a lower percentage than whites to vote.”). Under the primary-turnout metric, each of these districts provides equal opportunity. In MHD12, Black turnout exceeds white turnout by 15.6 percentage points in 2018 and by 11.2 percentage points in 2022. Palmer Remedial Rep. at ¶ 13, Tbl. 2; ECF No. 168-7, PageID.5498. In MHD17, Black turnout exceeds white turnout by about 2 percentage points both years. *Id.* In MHD10, white and Black turnout are a virtual tie—with Black turnout exceeding white turnout in 2018 by 0.2% and falling behind white turnout in 2022 by 0.2%. *Id.* The VRA promises “equal political and electoral opportunity,” *Johnson*, 512 U.S. at 1020, so an equal-turnout scenario satisfies its dictates. *Uno v. City of Holyoke*, 72 F.3d 973, 979 (1st Cir. 1995) (“the statutory scheme does not provide an assurance of success at the polls for minority candidates,” but instead “an assurance of fairness”). All evidence shows that these districts comply with § 2. Because Plaintiffs have no contrary evidence, their challenge to fails.

C. The same analysis defeats Plaintiffs’ insistence that any plan without 10 majority-minority districts contravenes § 2. That assertion is rich coming from litigants criticizing the Commission for minor alterations to make MHD10 an equal-opportunity district: to configure 10 majority-BVAP districts would unquestionably require predominant consideration of race. In fact, Dr. Trende’s simulation analysis shows that a race-blind

drawing process would only yield ten or more majority-Black districts in 4% of cases, beyond the 95th percentile Dr. Trende uses to suggest a gerrymander. Palmer Remedial Rep. at ¶ 21.

Regardless, the Supreme Court has rejected the idea that “whenever a legislature *can* draw a majority-minority district, it *must* do so.” *Cooper*, 581 U.S. at 305. Here, Motown Sound exceeds the minority opportunity of a 10-majority-minority-district plan by providing 12 districts in which Black voters have at least an equal opportunity to control the Democratic primary—without any help from white crossover votes. Twelve beats ten. And it especially beats ten where it is the less-race-conscious option. *See Cooper*, 581 U.S. at 305. Even if Mr. Braden’s projections of at least equal opportunity fail in two districts, Motown Sound will still deliver the same opportunity as Plaintiffs say § 2 requires. *Cf. Bartlett*, 556 U.S. at 23–24 (ratifying states’ prerogative to create more performing districts below 50% minority VAP where majority-minority districts are possible).

### **III. The Court Lacks Jurisdiction Over a State-law Claim Concerning Incumbency Protection, and the Commission Did Not Protect Incumbents**

Plaintiffs’ lead argument proposes that “incumbency neutrality was decidedly *not* the case” in Motown Sound. Obj. 10, PageID5400. This argument fails on many fronts.

#### **A. The Court Lacks Jurisdiction Over Plaintiffs’ State-Law Claim**

Plaintiffs ask the Court to enforce the Michigan Constitution’s prohibition on districts that “favor of disfavor an incumbent.” Obj. 11, PageID.5401 (quoting Mich. Const. Art. IV § 6(13)(e)). But this Court lacks jurisdiction to enforce Michigan law against Michigan. “Case law is legion that the Eleventh Amendment to the United States Constitution directly prohibits federal courts from ordering state officials to conform their conduct to state law.” *Johns v. Supreme Ct. of Ohio*, 753 F.2d 524, 526 (6th Cir. 1985). Because the rationale of the *Ex Parte Young* sovereign-immunity exception is “wholly absent . . . when a plaintiff alleges that a state official has violated *state* law,” the Supreme Court held in *Pennhurst State Sch. & Hosp.*



*v. Halderman*, 465 U.S. 89 (1984), that such suits are jurisdictionally barred. *Id.* at 106. There is no election-lawsuit exception. *See, e.g., Ohio ex rel. Skaggs v. Brunner*, 549 F.3d 468, 471 (6th Cir. 2008); *Ala. Legislative Black Caucus v. Alabama*, 988 F. Supp. 2d 1285, 1304 (M.D. Ala. 2013) (three-judge court) (Pryor, J., for the court).

Plaintiffs ask the Court to contravene that doctrine. *See Pennhurst*, 465 U.S. at 121 (“A federal court must examine each claim in a case to see if the court’s jurisdiction over that claim is barred by the Eleventh Amendment.”). Because the Commission “is a state agency, and suits against officials in their official capacities are suits against the state,” sovereign immunity applies. *Koch v. Dep’t of Nat. Res.*, 858 F. App’x 832, 835 (6th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 142 S. Ct. 241 (2021). The official-capacity Defendants share the State’s immunity under the doctrine that “a suit against a state official in his or her official capacity . . . is no different from a suit against the State itself.” *Will v. Michigan Dep’t of State Police*, 491 U.S. 58, 71 (1989). The Court therefore lacks jurisdiction to enforce Michigan law against the Commission.

Moreover, the Supreme Court recently reversed a three-judge court’s rejection of remedial districts on the ground that they “violated the North Carolina Constitution’s ban on mid-decade redistricting, not federal law,” concluding that the court could only enforce “federal law.” *Covington*, 585 U.S. at 978–79. So too here.

**B. A Plan Need Not Purposefully Pair Incumbents To Cure Prior Violations**

Plaintiffs attempt to give their state-law claim a federal flavor by insisting that incumbency protection “perpetuate[s] the discriminatory effect of the stricken plan.” Obj. 11, PageID.5401. This is unfounded.

First, there is no federal constitutional problem with incumbency protection. In holding partisan-gerrymandering claims non-justiciable, the Supreme Court expressly held that a gerrymandering standard looking to incumbency protection is unmanageable. *See Rucho*

*v. Common Cause*, 139 S. Ct. 2484, 2501 (2019) (“If a districting plan protected half of the incumbents but redistricted the rest into head to head races, would that be constitutional?”). To the extent Plaintiffs’ argument is “a blood relative of” of a non-justiciable gerrymandering claim, it too is non-justiciable. *Banerian*, 589 F. Supp. 3d at 736.

Second, it is not true, as Plaintiffs suggest, that a plan will carry forward prior discriminatory intent unless incumbents are paired. Plaintiffs confuse different kinds of incumbency protection. In the cases they cite, the problem was not that remedial districts did not *pair* incumbents, but that the plans honored incumbents’ “desire to retain the core of their districts” such that districts “largely maintain[ed] the same irregular structure [they] had under the Enjoined Plan.” *Jacksonville Branch of NAACP v. City of Jacksonville*, No. 3:22-cv-493, 2022 WL 17751416, at \*16 (M.D. Fla. Dec. 19, 2022); *see also Covington v. North Carolina*, 283 F. Supp. 3d 410, 431 (M.D.N.C.), *aff’d in part, rev’d in part*, 585 U.S. 969 (2018) (“efforts to protect incumbents *by seeking to preserve the “cores” of unconstitutional districts* or through reliance on political data closely correlated with race . . . have the potential to embed, rather than remedy, the effects of an unconstitutional racial gerrymander” (emphasis added)).

But Plaintiffs do not allege that type of incumbency protection here. Their sole assertion of fact is that Motown Sound “managed not to double-up incumbents in even a single district.” Obj. 10, PageID.5400. But the non-pairing of incumbents does not mean district cores were retained. As shown, Motown Sound entirely upends district cores and does not carry forward the basic configurations of the enjoined districts. Rodden Remedial Rep. at 4-7 & Tbl. 2, App’x Tbl. 2. Accordingly, Plaintiffs’ assertion about pairing means nothing. Indeed, their assertion would suggest the Commission must *violate* the Michigan Constitution to cure a racial gerrymander, as the Constitution forbids districts that “disfavor an

incumbent.” Mich. Const. Art. IV § 6(13)(e). Under Plaintiffs’ baffling view, the Commission would have to *purposefully pair* incumbents to cure racial gerrymandering.

### **C. The Commission Did Not Avoid Incumbent Pairings**

Plaintiffs are flat wrong on the facts. To prove a violation of the Michigan Constitution, Plaintiffs must prove a purposeful act by the Commission in not pairing incumbents. They fail.

Intent is evaluated by “circumstantial and direct evidence.” *Vill. of Arlington Heights v. Metro. Hous. Dev. Corp.*, 429 U.S. 252, 266 (1977). Plaintiffs acknowledge they have no direct evidence that the Commission purposefully avoided incumbent pairings. They admit the only record references to incumbency consists of commissioners stating they “did *not* favor or disfavor incumbents.” Obj. 9, PageID.5406. That is an odd way to begin an effort to show purposeful incumbent protection.<sup>16</sup>

That leaves circumstantial evidence. But Plaintiffs do not establish that commissioners had incumbency-address information. That leaves Plaintiffs in the unenviable position of proving how commissioners could have geolocated incumbents’ home addresses to ensure they kept incumbents in separate districts. On that, Plaintiffs are silent. As described above, their theory that an individual commenter (Mr. Gilmer-Hill) drew Motown Sound is simply wrong.

Another key type of circumstantial evidence is “a clear pattern, unexplainable on grounds other than” a given motive. *Arlington Heights*, 429 U.S. at 266. For example, if a government actor enforces a law only against members of one racial group, invidious intent

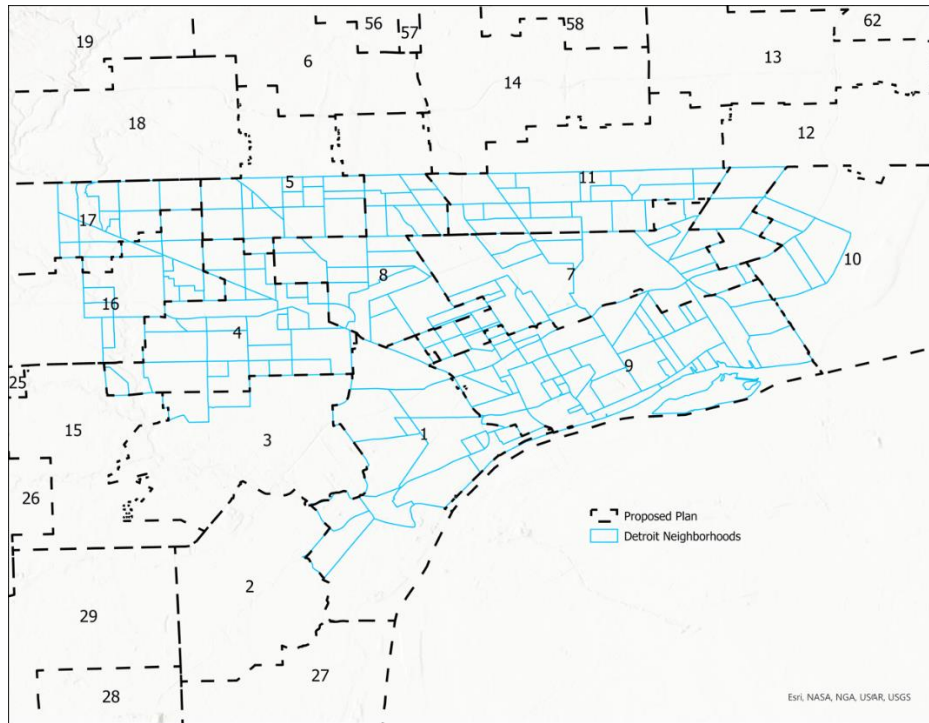
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<sup>16</sup> Plaintiffs criticize these assertions as being tendered “quite awkwardly.” Obj. 9, PageID.5399. They miss that commissioners made open certifications that they complied with all relevant legal criteria, given the inevitable judicial scrutiny of their work. They made certifications that they did not consider incumbency alongside their certifications about communities of interest and other requirements. *See, e.g.*, 2/1/2024 Tr. at 76-78.

might be proven by that pattern. *See id.* (citing iconic cases like *Yick Wo v. Hopkins*, 118 U.S. 356 (1886) and *Gomillion v. Lightfoot*, 364 U.S. 339 (1960)). But Plaintiffs admit the pattern evidence is against them: “most of the Commission’s draft remedial maps pitted incumbents against each other.” Obj. 10, PageID.5400. Commissioners had a pattern of *not* avoiding incumbency pairings, which signals that they bore no incumbency-protection purpose. *See also* Rodden Remedial Rep. at 11 (concluding that fact that seven of ten proposed plans paired at least one set of incumbents meant “[i]f the Commission set out to avoid incumbent pairing, it seems to have done a very poor job”). Plaintiffs do not explain how the *same people* who drew seven maps that paired incumbents suddenly arrived at an incumbency-protection purpose for Motown Sound.

Ultimately, Plaintiffs’ effort to overcome the presumption of good faith amounts to nothing but a bald assertion that avoiding pairings was improbable. Obj. 10-11, PageID.5400-01. They stake their position on Dr. Trende’s simulation analysis, but this has many flaws that the Supreme Court recently explicated and have been discussed *supra* at § I(A)(3)(b). *See Allen v. Milligan*, 599 U.S. 1, 33-34 (2023). As Dr. Rodden explains, Dr. Trende’s approach “pa[id] no attention to the Detroit neighborhood maps over which the commissioners agonized,” and his simulations were “allowed to cut across Detroit neighborhoods with impunity—an option that was not considered by the commissioners.” Rodden Remedial Rep. at 11. As Figure 3 of Dr. Rodden’s report depicts, “the redrawn district boundaries [in Motown Sound] very frequently keep Detroit neighborhoods together.”

**Figure 3: Commission Remedial Plan Boundaries and Detroit Neighborhoods**



*Id.* at 11-12, Fig. 3. Dr. Trende’s simulations also did not take into account the public’s community-of-interest advocacy:

The simulations also did not take into account the very strong and sometimes passionate claims made at public meetings about communities of interest, including Hispanic/Latino voters in the vicinity of District 1, and the arrangement of MENA or Arab voters in the vicinity of Districts 13 and 15, or specific claims made about which Detroit neighborhoods and small municipalities belong together in the vicinity of Districts 5, 6, and 8, or Districts 11 and 14.

*Id.* at 12.

Finally, Dr. Trende departed from the “standard practice” of “hold[ing] fixed the same municipalities that were not split by the district-drawers,” *id.*, setting up “one set of simulations for comparison with all *other* plans” and fixing only those municipalities “consistently held fixed in *all* the other plans. . .” *Id.* (noting that an exception is the Szetela Plan, which “gets its own bespoke set of simulations”). Due to these flaws (and others

described in Dr. Rodden’s report), “Trende’s simulations are not a useful baseline for comparison” to Motown Sound. *Id.* “The specific municipalities and Detroit neighborhoods that were preserved and combined by the commissioners likely had an impact on the probability of the emergence of incumbent pairings.” *Id.* Because Dr. Trende’s simulated plans are not appropriate comparator maps, any conclusions he draws based on a comparison between Motown Sound and his simulated plans concerning incumbency protection are not valid.

Dr. Rodden’s concerns are borne out by examination of where incumbents reside. There are good reasons why a plan drawn blind to incumbent addresses would not pair them. Dr. Trende contends that Reps. Weiss, Price, Scott, and McFall should have been paired, Trende Remedial Rep. at 12, PageID.5428, but they all reside in different Detroit neighborhoods, *see* Rodden Remedial Rep. at 13-15 & Figs. 4B, 4D. The same is true of Reps. Paiz, Edwards, and Xiong, Trende Remedial Rep. at 12, PageID.5428. This analysis fails to consider that Rep. Paiz resides in Harper Woods and Rep. Edwards resides in Eastpointe, which were not paired. Rodden Remedial Rep. at 15-16 & Fig. 4E. And Rep. Xiong resides in Warren, a different community. *Id.* Plaintiffs, in short, have proven nothing.

### CONCLUSION

The Court should reject Plaintiffs’ request to enjoin Motown Sound and declare that the Secretary of State may implement the plan for the 2024 elections and beyond.

Dated: March 15, 2024

BAKER & HOSTETLER LLP  
Katherine L. McKnight  
Richard B. Raile  
Dima J. Atiya  
1050 Connecticut Ave., NW,  
Suite 1100

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ David H. Fink  
FINK BRESSACK  
David H. Fink  
Nathan J. Fink  
38500 Woodward Ave., Suite 350  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304  
(248) 971-2500

Washington, D.C. 20036  
(202) 861-1500  
kmcknight@bakerlaw.com  
rraile@bakerlaw.com  
datiya@bakerlaw.com

BAKER & HOSTETLER LLP  
Patrick T. Lewis  
Key Tower, 127 Public Square, Suite 2000  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114  
(216) 621-0200  
plewis@bakerlaw.com

BAKER & HOSTETLER LLP  
Erika D. Prouty  
200 Civic Center Drive  
Suite 1200  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 228-1541  
eprouty@bakerlaw.com

dfink@finkbressack.com  
nfink@finkbressack.com

*Counsel for Defendants, Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, and Elaine Andrade, Donna Callaghan, Juanita Curry, Anthony Eid, Rhonda Lange, Steven Terry Lett, Brittini Kellom, Marcus Muldoon, Cynthia Orton, Rebecca Szetela, Janice Vallette, Erin Wagner, and Richard Weiss, each in his or her official capacity as a Commissioner of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission*



# EXHIBIT A

*Donald Agee, Jr., et al. v. Jocelyn Benson, et al.*

Case No. 1:22-cv-00272

United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan

Report on Remedial Districts

Jonathan Rodden, Ph.D.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Rodden', is centered on the page.

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Jonathan Rodden

March 15, 2024

## **I. Introduction and Scope of Work**

I have been asked by counsel representing the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC or the “Commission”) in this case to do three things: 1) Provide summary information about public comments made at meetings held by the MICRC in Detroit, Michigan, or virtually, in February 2024; 2) provide an overview of the evolution of the Commission’s remedial map and summarizes the changes made by the Commission when redrawing a number of Detroit-area districts for the Michigan House of Representatives in response to the Court Order in this case; and 3) Provide my analysis of a report entitled “Analysis of Proposed Michigan House Maps,” submitted to the Court by Dr. Sean Trende on March 8, 2024.

Dr. Trende’s report makes two claims about the new map proposed by the Commission: 1) It reflects an effort to protect incumbents, and 2) race was the predominant motive in drawing the map. After analyzing the public meetings held by the Commission and then providing a descriptive overview of the map they selected, I address each of these claims. First, I demonstrate that there is nothing surprising or nefarious about the fact that the Commission’s plan does not pair incumbents. Next, I demonstrate that there is no evidence of “racial gerrymandering” in the proposed plan. In fact, Dr. Trende’s own proposed empirical test leads to the rejection of this claim. For information about my qualifications and compensation, please see my earlier report in this case.

## **II. Public Meetings**

As described in Dr. Trende’s report, the Commission proposed 10 different maps reflecting a variety of approaches to redrawing the Detroit-area districts and invited extensive public commentary on all of them. Some of the maps, e.g. “Tulip,” attempted to minimize the number of districts altered beyond the seven that had been ruled unconstitutional. Others, e.g. “Szetela 4,” took the opposite approach, and altered districts far into the suburbs. The maps also took different approaches to some of the thorny issues that had emerged in public meetings and Commission discussions: for instance, how to respond to the demands of Hispanic interest groups calling for a version of District 1 that would keep their community together; how to deal with various conflicting demands related to the Grosse Pointes, East Point, and St. Clair Shores; how to thread the needle between those who demanded that 8-Mile Road should never be crossed and those who encouraged the Commission to cross it in order to keep certain communities together; and how to respond to strongly held views among many MENA (Middle-Eastern and North African) voters, and the Yemeni community in particular, about Districts 3 and 15.

The Commission made these maps available to the public and solicited feedback in a series of high-profile, all-day public meetings in Detroit, held on February 21 and 22, 2024, and a virtual townhall held February 15, 2024. I have been asked to review the transcripts from these meetings and summarize the feedback received by the Commission. There were 39 speakers on February 15, 54 on February 21, and 81 speakers on February 22. Of 174 speakers, the vast majority spoke in support of one or more maps, or spoke out against a specific map or maps, while 38 of the speakers made general comments about the process or specific regions of interest without speaking in favor or against any specific map. Of those who spoke in favor of specific maps, some praised the treatment of specific neighborhoods (often their own), while others spoke in generalities about their understanding of the map’s advantages.

In Appendix Table 1, I provide information about the maps mentioned by each speaker, displaying the speakers in chronological order. Although some speakers spoke on multiple occasions per day, I only list them once per day. Some speakers initially declined to support a specific map, but after studying the boundaries, returned to the microphone (or online interface) to speak out in favor or against a specific map. I list a speaker as speaking in favor of a map if they identify it as their favorite map. I do not include mentions of maps that were clearly ranked lower but not specifically disparaged. However, if a speaker mentions several favored maps without ranking them, I list all the maps mentioned. In a separate column, I list maps that speakers specifically deemed unacceptable. Each map is color coded in Appendix 1, which generates a useful visualization of the support and opposition expressed for each map on each day. In Table 1, I summarize the information from the Appendix.

**Table 1: Summary Information about Speakers at Public Meetings**

Map name		Statements of support	Statements of opposition	Net support
Motown Sound	MS	106	2	104
Spirit of Detroit	SD	17	0	17
Water Lily	WL	9	4	5
Szetela 4	SZ	5	2	3
River Walk	RW	3	0	3
Willow	WI	3	1	2
Bergamot 2	BE2	2	1	1
Bergamot	BE	3	3	0
Daisy 2	D2	2	3	-1
Tulip	TU	1	8	-7

The map entitled Motown Sound was the overwhelming favorite of participants at all three meetings. It was mentioned favorably by 106 speakers, and only two speakers expressed opposition. No other map came close. Spirit of Detroit was mentioned favorably by 17 speakers, with no one expressing opposition. Third, the Water Lily map was praised by 9 speakers but disparaged by four, for a net support of only 5. The remainder of the maps received very few mentions. Szetela 4 was mentioned favorably by five speakers, but two spoke in opposition (for a net supporter count of 3). River Walk, Willow, Bergamot, and Bergamot 2 were mentioned infrequently, with negative mentions almost as frequent as positive, and for Daisy 2 and Tulip, opposition exceeded support.

The nature of the support for the Motown Sound map was quite diverse. A large contingent of those speaking in favor of the map identified themselves as members of the Black community and described the map as best suited for the representation of Black voters. Several of these speakers were prominent community leaders, including the President of the Baptist Pastors in Detroit, President of the Community Council, a member of the Board for Bridging Communities, a former member of the Detroit City Council, and a former Michigan state legislator. Some spoke in general terms, while others focused on specific neighborhoods.

Another large group of supporters identified themselves as members of the MENA or Arab-American communities, and some specifically mentioned Yemeni heritage. Some of these speakers expressed unqualified support for the Motown Sound map, while others asked whether it would be possible to keep District 3 in its current structure while adding Melvindale. Some of these speakers used similar language, indicating some coordination before the meeting.

An additional group of supporters did not mention membership in a specific racial or ethnic group. Among these, several spoke in favor of the treatment of specific regions, for example the combination of the Grosse Pointes in District 10, or the arrangement of the Downriver communities in Districts 1 and 2.

One issue that came up on a couple of occasions was the arrangement of Districts 10 and 12. A number of speakers, including the Mayor of Harper Woods, spoke in favor of the Motown Sound arrangement that includes Harper Woods with the Grosse Pointes, in particular because of a shared school district, and expressed skepticism about an elongated pure “lakeshore” district that excluded proximate inland communities.<sup>1</sup> Others spoke in favor of the Motown Sound arrangement that places Eastpointe together with the proximate parts of St. Clair Shores, citing shared social networks and church attendance.<sup>2</sup>

Without mentioning Motown Sound specifically, another speaker, however, argued against placing St. Clair Shores together with East Pointe, and an additional speaker from the Morningside neighborhood of Detroit seemed to argue against any part of Detroit being combined with any lakeshore community.<sup>3</sup> However, this was one of the only instances I discovered in the record in which Motown Sound was explicitly criticized.

After receiving overwhelming support for the Motown Sound map at the public meetings, the Commission focused on this map, and ultimately voted to approve a slightly altered version of it.

### **III. From Hickory to Motown Sound: Changes to the Michigan House of Representatives Map**

The Commission’s job was to rectify 7 districts that had been ruled unconstitutional: 1, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, and 14. Embedded within these districts were 9 and 13, and it would have very difficult to avoid changing those districts as well. I will refer to these districts, 1 and 7-14, as the remedial area. These districts in the original Hickory plan are displayed in color in Figure 1, with their boundaries and district numbers indicated with salmon-colored font.

The Commission was not asked to redraw the entire metro area and reach far into suburban districts that were not affected by the Court’s ruling. All 10 of the maps, with one exception (Szetela 4),

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<sup>1</sup>See 2/15/2024 MICRC Tr. at 22, [https://www.michigan.gov/micrc/-/media/Project/Websites/MiCRC/MISC-11/2\\_15\\_2024-MICRC-Town-Hall-Meeting-Transcript.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/micrc/-/media/Project/Websites/MiCRC/MISC-11/2_15_2024-MICRC-Town-Hall-Meeting-Transcript.pdf); 2/22/2024 MICRC Tr. at 82, [https://www.michigan.gov/micrc/-/media/Project/Websites/MiCRC/MISC-11/2\\_22\\_2024-MICRC-Hearing-Transcript.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/micrc/-/media/Project/Websites/MiCRC/MISC-11/2_22_2024-MICRC-Hearing-Transcript.pdf). For the Mayor’s testimony, see 2/21/2024 MICRC Tr. at 15, [https://www.michigan.gov/micrc/-/media/Project/Websites/MiCRC/MISC-11/2\\_21\\_24-MICRC-Meeting-Transcript.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/micrc/-/media/Project/Websites/MiCRC/MISC-11/2_21_24-MICRC-Meeting-Transcript.pdf).

<sup>2</sup>See 2/25/2024 MICRC Tr. at 79. For another expression of support for Motown Sound related to St. Clair Shores, see 2/21/2024 MICRC Tr. at 35.

<sup>3</sup>See 2/22/2024 MICRC Tr. at 32-33 (reporting these speakers’ comments). Another speaker on February 21 expressed general skepticism about Detroit and St. Clair Shores being connected. 2/21/2024 MICRC Tr. at 42.

left every district to the north of the remedial area unaltered (56, 57, 58, 61, and 62), and the same is true of the map ultimately selected by the Commission.

However, the dismantling of the narrow, North-South Districts 7 and 8 in the Hickory map, on the western edge of the remedial area, required the Commission to make changes to districts to the immediate west as well, including 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Two maps, Tulip and Daisy 2, attempted to avoid changing these districts. As mentioned above, these maps were not well received at public meetings. All the other maps made changes to these districts. It was possible to avoid altering districts even further to the West. Districts 17 and 18 were held constant in all the maps except for Szetela 4, and District 17 was slightly altered in the map called Riverwalk. District 16 was changed only very slightly in some of the proposed maps. The Commission's map ultimately made substantial changes to districts 2 through 6 immediately to the west of the remedial area and made a very small change to District 16 (mostly likely for purposes of population equality) but avoided making changes to Districts 17 and 18. Altogether, the Commission made changes to Hickory Districts 1 through 14 as well as a slight change to District 16.

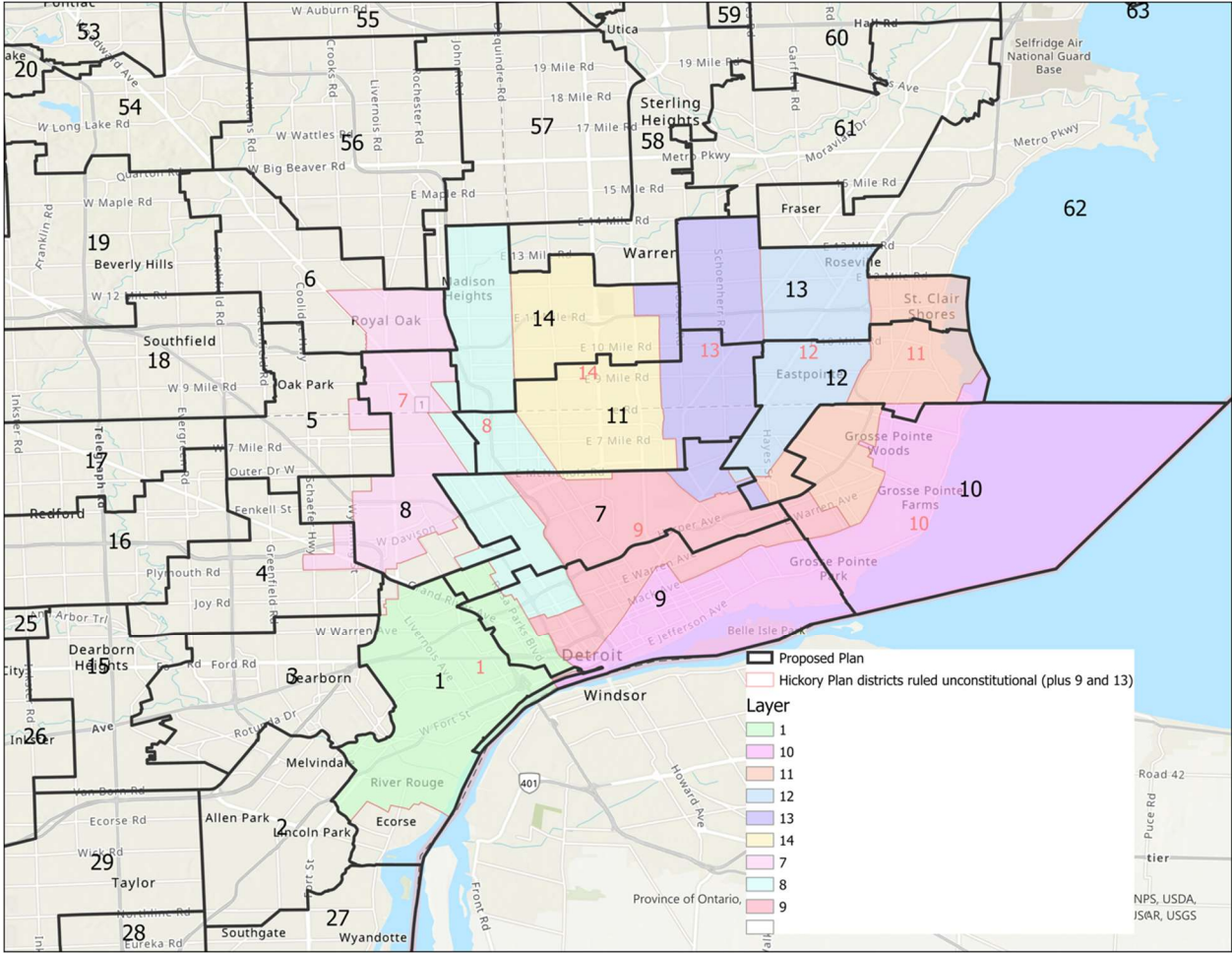
As one can appreciate in Figure 1, in the Commission's proposed map, the remedial area has been completely redrawn, along with the area to the immediate west. The north-south orientations of Hickory Districts 7, 8, and 11 through 14 have been replaced with districts with east-west orientations, and Districts 9 through 11 have been completely redrawn.

Appendix Table 2 provides a quantitative overview of the changes. The first column is the Hickory District number, and the second column specifies the fragment of the new districts into which it now falls, followed by the total population of the fragment, and the percent of the original Hickory's population that falls into this fragment. Districts 1, 11, 12, and 14 have been divided into 3 fragments each; Districts 7 and 10 into 4 fragments, and District 8 into 5 fragments.

The Motown Sound Plan was clearly a very substantial departure from Hickory. The only district that maintains a large majority of its population under the Hickory Plan is District 1. However, this is not surprising for two reasons. First, it is in the corner of the remedial area, such that radical changes would have knock-on effects that would undermine the structure of the Downriver districts, about which many commenters throughout the process have expressed strong opinions. Second, members of the Hispanic/Latino community attended meetings and urged Commissioners to preserve part of District 1 to keep their community in the same district. In fact, all 10 of the plans presented to the public kept over 80 percent of District 1 intact, including the far-reaching Szetela 4 Plan.



**Figure 1: Boundaries of Remedial Area of Hickory Map (in Color) and New Map Proposed by the Commission (Bold Black Font)**



In Table 2, focusing on the area covered by the Hickory districts that were found unconstitutional, I calculate the share of voters who were no longer in the “same” district in the Commission’s Remedial Plan as they were in the Hickory Plan. I go about this in two ways. First, I simply calculate the share of people who reside in a district with a different district number under the Remedial Plan than under the Hickory Plan. This is true of 60 percent of the population in the districts that were found unconstitutional. Second, I calculate the population of each fragment of a remedial district within each Hickory district, and I deem the residents of the largest fragment to be “not redistricted.” With this approach, around 44 percent of the population of the relevant Hickory districts can be classified as having been redistricted.

I make the same calculations—again focusing only on the Hickory districts that were found unconstitutional—for each of the 10 maps presented to the public by the Commission. By the first approach, the final version of the Motown Sound map involved the most far-reaching changes of any considered by the Commission. By the second approach, the Motown Sound map was ranked third among the 10 maps in the extent to which people were redistricted.



**Table 2: How Many Voters Were Redistricted in in the Commission’s Remedial Plan?**

	Percent residing in proposed district with a different number than under Hickory	Percent residing outside the largest fragment of a Hickory district within each proposed district
Motown Sound	60.05%	43.71%
Bergamot 1	34.95%	39.43%
Bergamot 2	34.95%	39.25%
Tulip	48.17%	44.20%
Riverwalk	59.58%	42.76%
Spirit of Detroit	59.52%	42.56%
Szetela 4	46.10%	47.46%
Daisy 2	40.78%	42.39%
Water Lily	44.80%	40.20%
Willow	45.49%	41.64%

I have also been asked to provide a brief descriptive overview of the evolution of the Motown Sound map that was ultimately selected. My review of meeting transcripts and examination of maps indicates that the map emerged from collaboration between the Commissioners on a map that became known as “Lily.” On January 23, 2024, Commissioner Kellom created a new map called “Lily” from a map called “11824 version 5pm” during the collaborative mapping process.<sup>4</sup> That map was then saved as 012324\_V3\_HD\_COL\_Lily. One can follow the collaboration and discussion of the Lily map throughout much of the January 23 meeting transcript.

On January 24, a member of the public named Christopher Gilmer-Hill submitted a written public comment<sup>5</sup> that discussed the Lily map and that submitted what he called the “Tiger Lily” map. Mr. Gilmer-Hill represents in his comment that Tiger Lily “narrowly modifies the Lily map drawn on 2024.01.23” around the Palmer Park area. Mr. Gilmer-Hill’s comment provides a URL for the shapefile, which I have downloaded and examined.<sup>6</sup>

On January 24, Commissioner Kellom expressed her view that the Lily map had potential, but that the map needed changes to the area around Royal Oak Township, Oak Park, and the Palmer Park neighborhood, due to public input indicating that Royal Oak and Oak Park belong with Detroit rather than Birmingham. She refers to a plan in the online platform that “makes minor changes.”<sup>7</sup>

<sup>4</sup>1/23/2024 MICRC Tr. at 77-78, <https://www.michigan.gov/micrc/-/media/Project/Websites/MiCRC/MISC-10/12324-MICRC-Meeting-Transcript.pdf>; 1/23/2024 MICRC Video at 00:56:00-01:53:00, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOLFPRyWUoc>.

<sup>5</sup>See Christopher Gilmer-Hill Public Comment p9920, Jan. 24, 2024, <https://www.michigan-mapping.org/submission/p9920>.

<sup>6</sup><https://drive.google.com/file/d/1k7xGw0A3bhvCBc4EUShvcnokAC0rINnD/view?usp=sharing>

<sup>7</sup>1/24/2024 MICRC Tr. at 72-73, <https://www.michigan.gov/micrc/-/media/Project/Websites/MiCRC/MISC-10/12424-MICRC-Meeting-Transcript.pdf>; 1/24/2024 MICRC Video at 06:28:00, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2\\_p7rCa4cho](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_p7rCa4cho). See page 73 for a detailed explanation of Kellom’s proposed changes.

Then, Commissioner Kellom asked to make changes to her Lily map and asked to overlay Tiger Lily on top of Lily. The Commission's technician began by taking Lily (012323\_V3\_HD\_COL\_Lily) and saving a new version ("Copy of 012424\_V7\_HD\_COL\_Spirit\_of\_Detroit").<sup>8</sup> They attempted to make the changes with the overlay, but they had technical difficulties and adjourned without making the changes.<sup>9</sup>

On the evening of January 24, Mr. Gilmer-Hill then slightly updated his Tiger Lily submission in a separate public comment,<sup>10</sup> and made the shapefile available.<sup>11</sup> Then, on January 25, Commissioner Kellom elected to make changes based on some of the suggestions made in Tiger Lily. Commissions made further changes resulting in the map that came to be called "012524\_V2\_HD\_COL-Spirit of Detroit," and it was published to the Draft Maps site.<sup>12</sup> Another revision to that map generated Motown Sound.

When switching from the original collaborative Lily map to Tiger Lily, in Districts 1 through 16, I calculate that 84.4 percent of the population was held fixed in their "Lily" districts (using the "largest fragment" technique described above). As can be seen in Figure 2, those changes were concentrated in the vicinity of Northern Detroit, Oak Park, and Royal Oak Township. Figure 2 also shows that the changes from Tiger Lily to Updated Tiger Lily, and from Updated Tiger Lily to the Spirit of Detroit, were rather minor. In fact, 99 percent of the population (in Districts 1 through 16) was in the same district in Updated Tiger Lily as in Tiger Lily, so that 83.7 percent of the population was still in the same districts as in the original Lily map.

Finally, we can see that Motown Sound was simply a version of Spirit of Detroit that made changes to the Lakeshore area, altering Districts 10 and 12 and a small corner of District 13, making District 10 more compact and less similar to the long, bacon-like arrangement of the Hickory map while achieving the connection between Harper Woods and Grosse Pointe Woods that had been requested by residents of Harper Woods. After all of the changes from Lily to Motown Sound, I calculate that around 78 percent of the population of Districts 1 through 16 ultimately ended up in their original Lily districts, again using the "largest fragment" approach.

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<sup>8</sup>See 1/24/2024 MICRC Tr. at 73; 1/24/2024 MICRC Video at 06:32:20-06:36:00.

<sup>9</sup>See 1/24/2024 MICRC Tr. at 75-77; 1/24/2024 MICRC Video at 06:52:00-06:58:00.

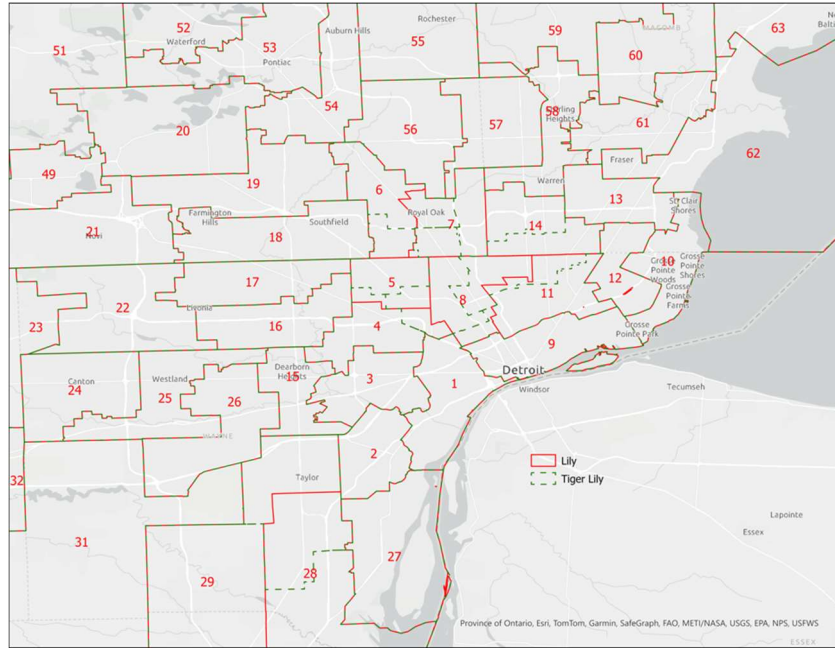
<sup>10</sup>See Christopher Gilmer-Hill Public Comment p9928, Jan. 2, 2024, <https://www.michigan-mapping.org/submission/p9928>.

<sup>11</sup><https://drive.google.com/file/d/17C-zIrAypkNZ1fKaJMiSrA-3wLPXAs1H/view?usp=sharing>

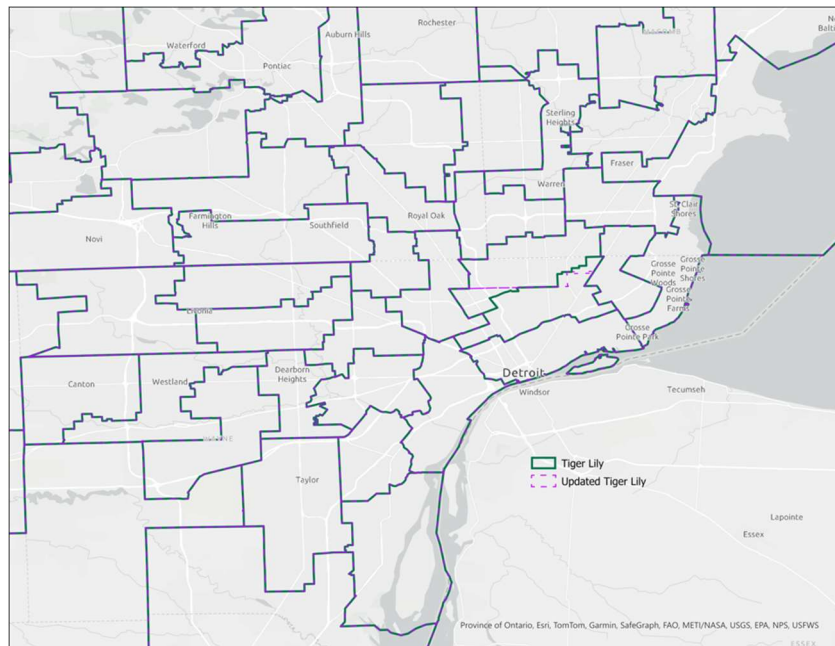
<sup>12</sup>See 1/25/2024 MICRC Tr. at 49, <https://www.michigan.gov/micrc/-/media/Project/Websites/MiCRC/MISC-10/12524-MiCRC-Meeting-Transcript.pdf>; 1/25/2024 MICRC Video at 06:33:00-06:36:00, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ebfd2-K01I&t=7800s>.

**Figure 2: The Evolution from Lily to Motown Sound**

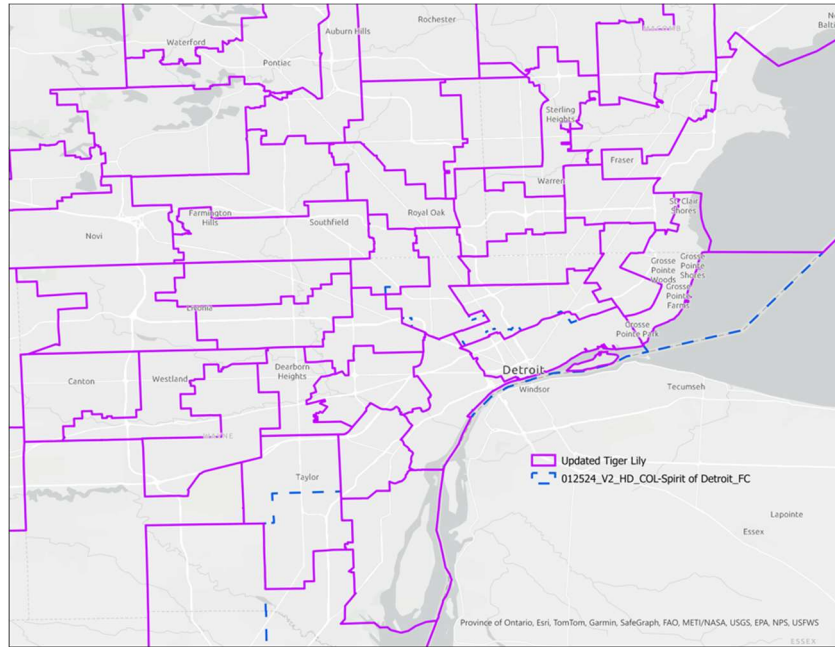
**2a: From Lily to Tiger Lily**



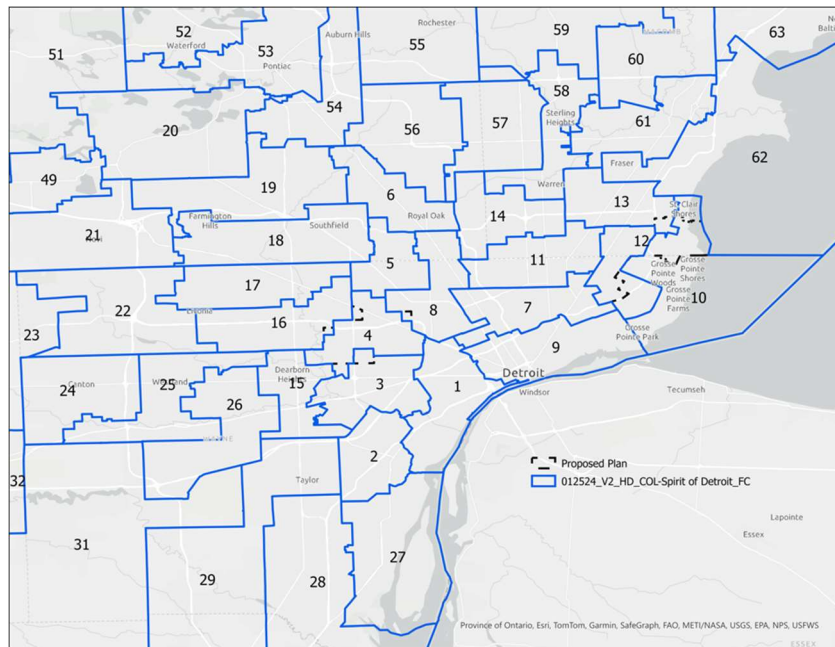
**2b: From Tiger Lily to Updated Tiger Lily**



### 2c: From Updated Tiger Lily to Spirit of Detroit



### 2d: From Spirit of Detroit to Final Version of Motown Sound



## IV. Incumbency

In his report, Dr. Trende obtained the addresses of incumbents elected in the Detroit area in 2022, geocoded them, and discovered that the Motown Sound map does not place the home addresses of

any of the incumbents in the same district, absolving them of the need to run against one another in 2024 if the map is adopted. Dr. Trende implies that the absence of incumbent pairings is evidence of something intentional and nefarious.

If the Commission set out to avoid incumbent pairings, it seems to have done a very poor job. It presented the public with 10 maps, and according to Dr. Trende's analysis, 7 of these maps paired at least one set of incumbents, and one map (Szetela 4) placed three incumbents in the same district. As described above, public reaction to these maps was tepid at best.

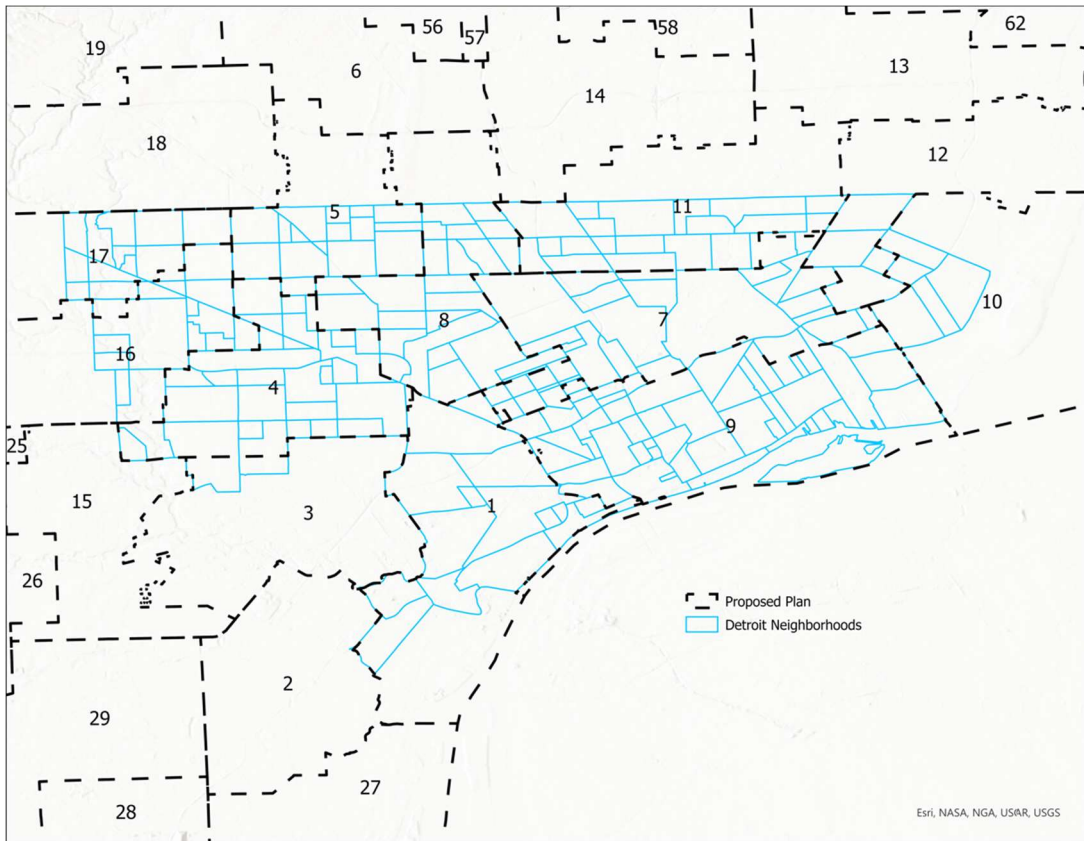
Dr. Trende opines (at p. 23 of his report) that "One glance was all it took me to see why the Motown configuration was picked from the bunch." It is not clear what Dr. Trende is implying about the decision-making process. Perhaps his claim is that incumbents conspired to exhort friends and neighbors to advocate for the Motown Sound map to avoid running against one another. He provides no evidence to support such a conjecture. After reading the transcripts and watching the videos of meetings, I saw no evidence of coordination among speakers as part of an incumbent-protection scheme, such as the use of similar words or phrases by suspicious groups of voters arguing for specific boundary decisions. The only clear evidence of coordination was by a group of Yemeni voters who used very similar language to make their case for the inclusion of Melvindale in District 3. Very few speakers made specific mention of current representatives. My review of subsequent Commission meetings indicates that the popularity of the Motown Sound map was the most important consideration in its adoption, and to my knowledge, the residential locations of incumbents were not discussed. Reading through the transcripts of the meetings, I encountered serious engagement with and sensitivity to the interests of a wide range of individuals and groups, and subsequent movements of district boundaries. At no point did I discover a discussion of incumbents. Indeed, most of the Commission's maps *did* inadvertently pair incumbents. After the hearings featuring such lopsided support for Motown Sound, selection of one of the other maps would have been quite surprising and controversial.

Dr. Trende claims that it is inconceivable that the lack of incumbent pairings was an accident. To bolster this claim, he draws thousands of alternative plans via computer simulations, and notes that a very large share of these plans paired at least one set of incumbents in the same district. It is important to note that these simulations pay no attention to the Detroit neighborhood maps over which the commissioners agonized. Trende's simulations are allowed to cut across Detroit neighborhoods with impunity—an option that was not considered by the commissioners.

Figure 3 provides a map of the boundaries of the Commission's Remedial Plan, portrayed with black dashes, superimposed on a map of Detroit neighborhoods, obtained from the City of Detroit Open Data Portal, displayed with light blue solid lines. Figure 2 demonstrates that the redrawn district boundaries very frequently keep Detroit neighborhoods together. These neighborhoods often contain multiple vote tabulation districts and hence are split in the simulations.



**Figure 3: Commission Remedial Plan Boundaries and Detroit Neighborhoods**



The simulations also did not take into account the very strong and sometimes passionate claims made at public meetings about communities of interest, including Hispanic/Latino voters in the vicinity of District 1, and the arrangement of MENA or Arab voters in the vicinity of Districts 13 and 15, or specific claims made about which Detroit neighborhoods and small municipalities belong together in the vicinity of Districts 5, 6, and 8, or Districts 11 and 14.

When using simulations to demonstrate that a proposed plan is an outlier in some sense, it is important to make sure the simulations are constrained in the same way that the district drawers were constrained. A standard practice is to hold fixed the same municipalities that were not split by the district-drawers. For reasons that are not clear, Trende does not do this. Rather, he wishes to set up one set of simulations for comparison with all *other* plans (except for the Szetela 4 Plan, which gets its own bespoke set of simulations). Trende only holds fixed the municipalities that were consistently held fixed in *all* the other plans—not the specific municipalities that were held fixed in the plan enacted by the Commission.

In short, Trende’s simulations are not a useful baseline for comparison. The specific municipalities and Detroit neighborhoods that were preserved and combined by the commissioners likely had an impact on the probability of the emergence of incumbent pairings.

Dr. Trende implies that incumbent addresses located near district boundaries should be inherently suspicious, but then mentions a pair, Rep. Tyrone Carter and House Speaker Joe Tate, who live

near the boundary of their districts, but then goes on to suggest that these are *not* suspicious, because “these members reside near city boundaries, which provide natural cleavages for districts” (Trende Report, page 12). Curiously, he does not go on to discuss other incumbents who live near district boundaries and assess whether there might be some explanation for the placement of a boundary near their home.

It is useful to examine in more detail some of the incumbents who Dr. Trende believes should have been paired together. Figure 4 provides a series of maps including boundaries of the commission’s proposed districts, incumbent locations, and boundaries of municipalities and when relevant, Detroit neighborhoods. Figure 4A is a map that zooms in on the residential locations of incumbent House members Tyrone Carter and Tullio Liberati. They appear to live close to one another in Dr. Trende’s zoomed out maps without municipal boundaries, and Rep. Carter appears to live suspiciously close to the district boundary. However, Liberati is part of a Downriver-oriented district that pulls together the municipalities of Southgate, Lincoln Park, Melvindale, and Allen Park (where Rep. Liberati resides), while Rep. Carter lives in a corner of Detroit. In order to pair these incumbents, commissioners would have been required to intentionally carve out a corner of Detroit, or come up with a very different structure for the Downriver districts.

Figure 4B zooms in on Districts 11 and 14. Although Mike McFall Donovan McKinney live close to one another, McFall resides in Hazel Park, while McKinney lives on the other side of 8-Mile Road in Detroit. Given the small size of Michigan House districts, it is not at all surprising that they might end up in different districts.

**Figure 4: Incumbent Locations in Relation to Neighborhoods and Municipalities**

**Figure 4A: Districts 1 and 2**

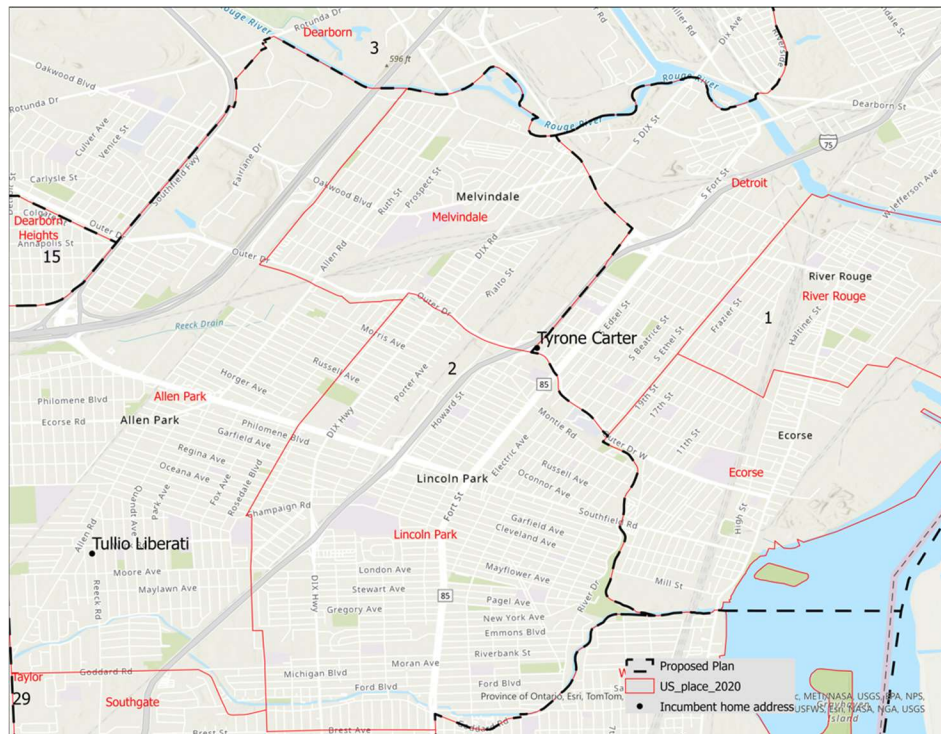




Figure 4B: Districts 11 and 14

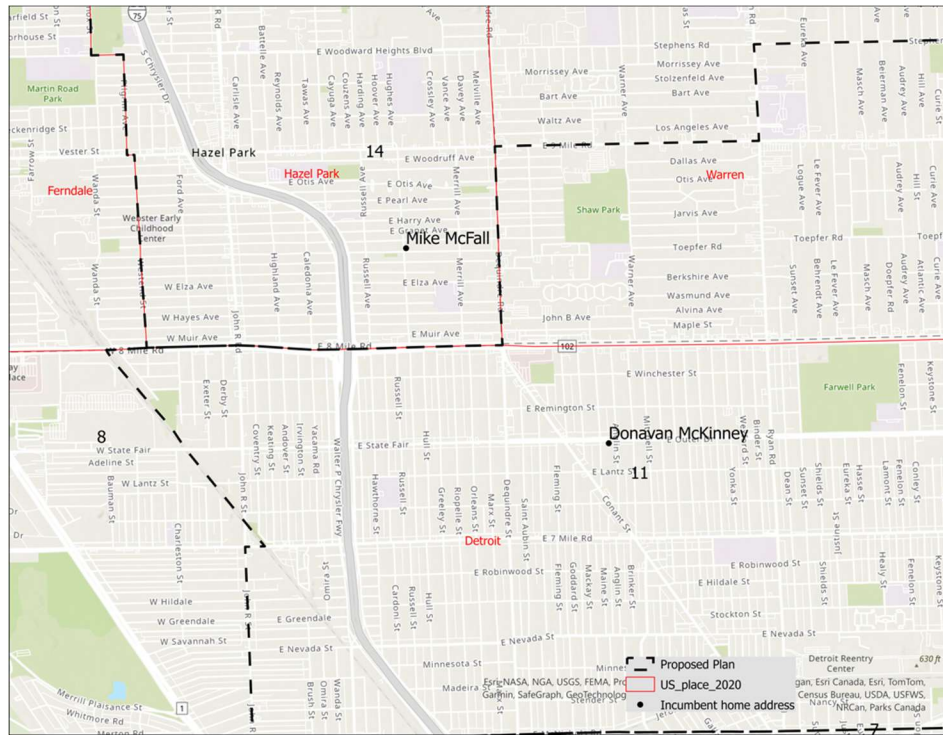
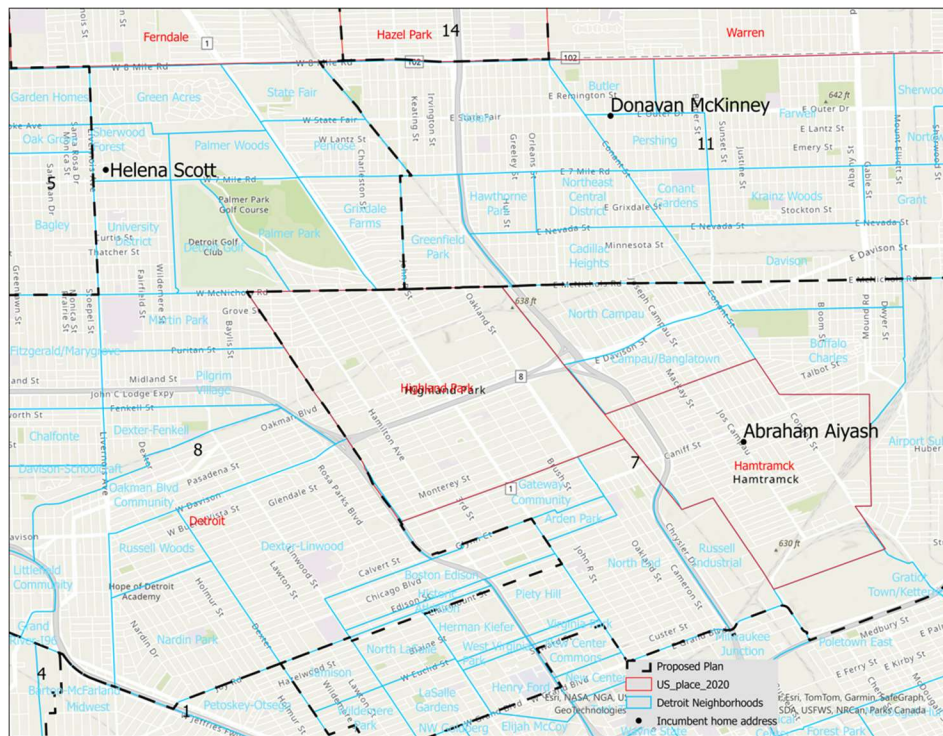


Figure 4C: Districts 7, 8 and 11



**Figure 4D: Districts 5 and 8**

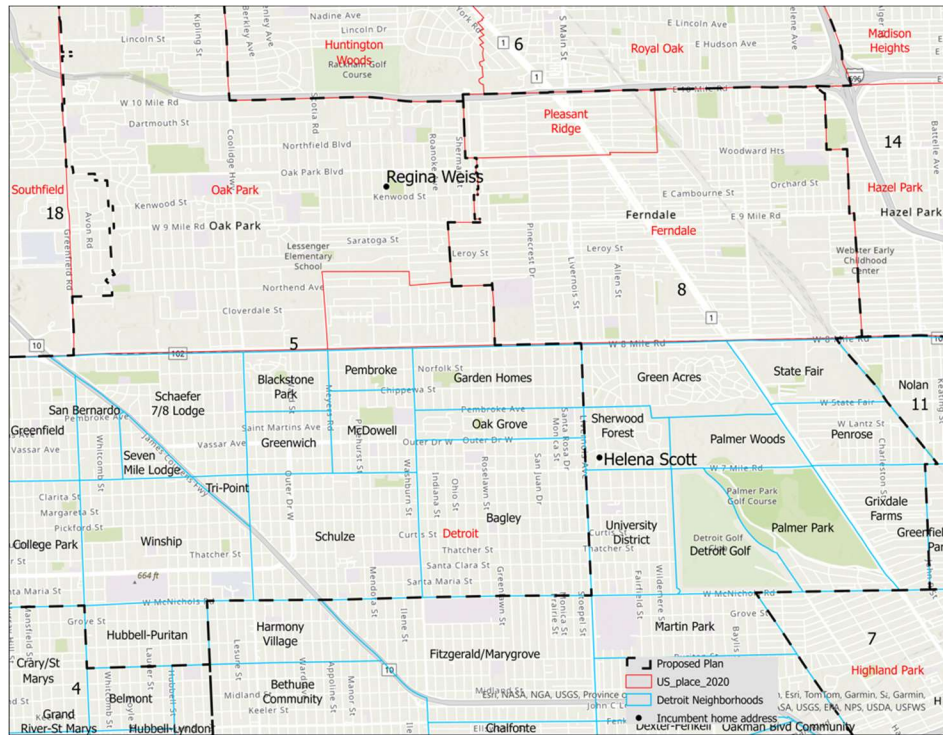
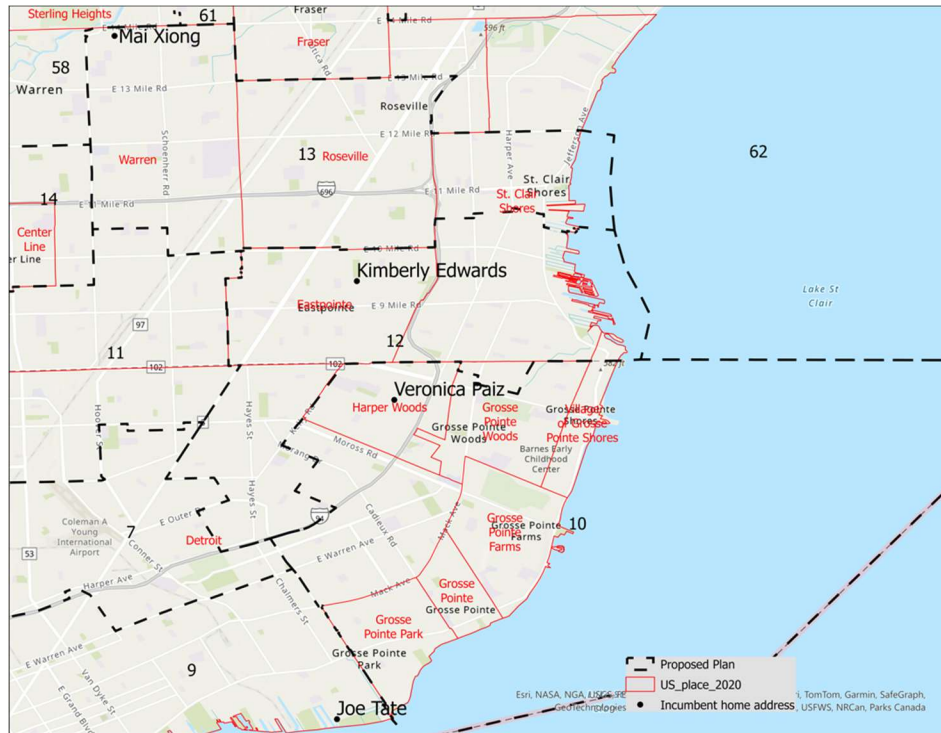


Figure 4C zooms a bit to the South, where McKinney also seems to live relatively close to Rep. Aiyash. However, McKinney resides in Detroit, while Aiyash lives in Hamtramck, and is part of a district that also includes Highland Park, bounded to the North by East McNichols Road. It might also seem like Rep. Scott lives suspiciously close to Rep. McKinney. However, Figure 4C reveals that they are separated by Highway 75, Woodward Avenue, and the Detroit Golf Club, placing them in very different Detroit neighborhoods.

Figure 4D reveals that Regina Weiss of District 5 also lives in the vicinity of Rep. Scott. However, while Scott is in the Sherwood Forest Neighborhood of Detroit, Weiss is in Oak Park.

Finally, Figure 4E zooms in on the Lakeshore districts 10 and 12, along with Detroit’s District 9 and District 13 to the north. Again, there is nothing nefarious about the fact that these incumbents have not been paired. Edwards resides in Eastpointe, which was combined with St. Clair Shores in District 12. This arrangement allowed all the Grosse Pointe communities and neighboring Harper Woods (home to incumbent Rep. Paiz) to be combined in a single compact District 10. To the North, Mai Xiong represents District 13, which is composed of Roseville and a large part of Warren. She lives very close to the border between Warren and Sterling Heights, but there is nothing suspicious about this. And finally, Joe Tate resides in a corner of Detroit, and it is unsurprising that he was not placed in the Grosse-Pointe-oriented district.

**Figure 4E: Districts 9, 10, 12, and 13**



In sum, there is nothing nefarious about the lack of incumbent pairings in Commission’s map, and it is not surprising that a set of simulated districts that pays no attention to communities of interest, Detroit neighborhoods, or the specific arrangements of municipalities considered by the Commissioners would locate the district lines in different places relative to incumbent addresses.

### V. Analysis of Racial Gerrymandering

After characterizing the Motown Sound map as an artful effort to protect incumbents, Dr. Trende pivots to a very different claim: that racial gerrymandering was the predominant motive in the construction of the Motown Sound map. To support this claim, he does not discuss specific effected districts or communities, or draw attention to boundaries that he views as suspect. He provides no citations to discussions of race in Commission meetings. And he provides no evidence to indicate that the Commission was employing a racial target.

Rather, he returns to his simulations and the calculation of what he calls a “racial gerrymandering index.” To my knowledge, this approach has not been validated in peer-reviewed publications or accepted by courts. There are many reasons why the distribution of race in a small section of a redistricting map might deviate somewhat from a simple unconstrained set of simulations for that same small region, including the desire to achieve partisan fairness, abide by the Voting Rights Act, protect communities of interest, or to preserve specific municipal or neighborhood boundaries.



Mr. Trende ranks Detroit-area districts by race, and for each rank, calculates the deviation of the BVAP share of the Commission's plan from the average of the simulated plans at the same rank. If the distribution of BVAP shares lie outside the bounds of Dr. Trende's simulations, he classifies it as a racial gerrymander.

It is difficult to understand what Dr. Trende is trying to convey in his report. In Figure 16, he demonstrates that at each rank, the BVAP of the Commission's plan fits comfortably within the range of the simulated values, which would seem to indicate a lack of racial gerrymandering according to his approach. Next, he calculates an index, which is the square root of the sum of the squared deviations from the mean BVAP at each BVAP rank. This is meant to summarize the extent to which the distribution of race across the districts of the simulated plans is different from that of the Commission's plan. It is worth noting that he conducts 100,000 simulations of a very small area, so that many of these simulations are essentially the same, and by construction, they will deviate very little from one another.

He then presents histograms for the "gerrymandering scores" of the simulations, with a red line indicating the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile of the simulations. In the caption for each of his figures, he claims that "a map that scored to the right of the line would not be a map where race predominated, while a map that scored to the left of the line would be." I believe he reversed the words "left" and "right." His test seems to indicate that a map with a more extreme value than the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile of the simulations—that is, to the right of the red line—should be deemed an outlier. We must keep in mind that many of these simulations are essentially identical to one another, and that they are not constrained to follow the relevant neighborhood boundaries or even the same municipal boundaries as the Commission. Thus, it is quite difficult to know what conclusions to draw based on information about where a proposed plan falls in this distribution.

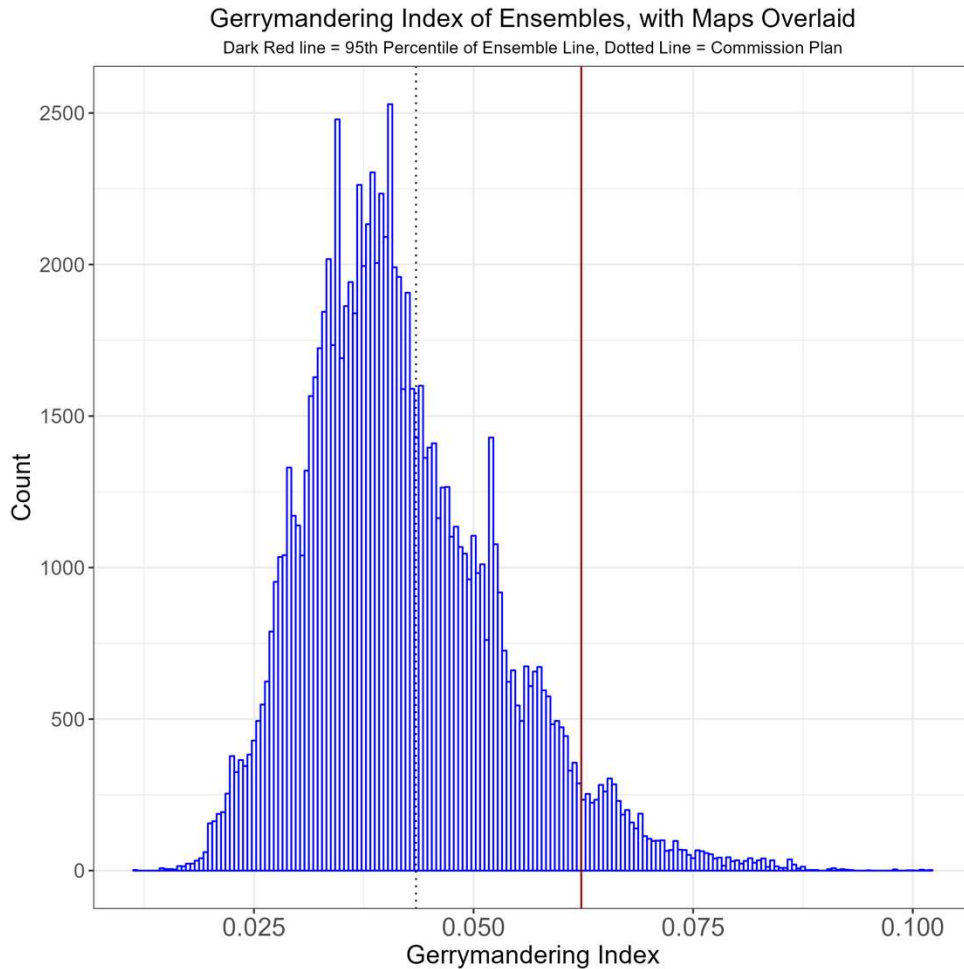
It is puzzling that in Figure 20, he demonstrates that the Tulip and Daisy maps are clearly not racial gerrymanders according to his approach. In his report, he makes the claim that the Tulip and Daisy maps are very similar to the Hickory Map, which was deemed by the Court to be a racial gerrymander. Something seems to have gone awry in either the analysis or presentation of results or both.

In any case, the central analysis here pertains to the Commission's proposed map. In Figure 22, he presents a dotted line slightly to the right of the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile indicator, which he takes to be evidence that race predominated in the construction of the Commission's plan. This analysis is unreliable. In addition to ignoring communities of interest and Detroit neighborhoods, this analysis makes two crucial errors. First, as described above, it does not hold fixed the specific municipalities that were kept whole in the commission's plan. Second, the study area of Dr. Trende's simulations includes several additional districts that were not altered in the Commission's plan and were not deemed unconstitutional by the Court. In fact, when Dr. Trende proposed his own remedial map in his "First Supplemental Report," filed on January 2, 2024, he also makes no changes to districts 16, 17, or 18, but for reasons that are unclear, here he includes them in the study area for his simulations.

When attempting to draw inferences from such a small geographic area and a small number of districts with such a large number of simulated maps, these seemingly small details matter a great deal. Dr. Trende's conclusions are extremely sensitive. Using Dr. Trende's data and code, I made

two simple changes: 1) I held fixed exactly the municipalities that were not split in the Commission’s plan, and 2) I restricted the study area for the simulations to only the area of the map that was altered by the Commission. I then reproduce Figure 22 from Dr. Trende’s report, which is displayed as Figure 5 below.

**Figure 5: Reproduction of Trende Analysis Holding Correct Municipalities Constant and Using Correct Study Area**



In Figure 5, the dotted line, which corresponds to the index for the Commission’s plan, is in the middle of the distribution of the simulations. According to Dr. Trende’s own technique, then, we can firmly reject the claim of racial gerrymandering. This is not surprising, of course, since the Commission did not have access to racial data when drawing their remedial map.

## VI. Conclusion

The remedial map produced by the Commission is a very substantial change from the Hickory map. It evolved from an earlier collaborative map drawn by the commissioners and changed in response to input from the public and discussions of commissioners. It was favored by participants in open public meetings by a very substantial margin. To my knowledge, the commissioners had

no access to information on incumbent addresses or race when drawing the districts of the various maps presented to the public, and they did not discuss incumbents in their meetings. I have seen no evidence that the proposed map was drawn to favor specific incumbents, and no evidence that race was the predominant factor in drawing the districts.

**Appendix Table 1:  
Analysis of Public Comment at Public Meetings**

**February 15, 2024 Meeting**

Name	Top choice	Expressed opposition
Anthony Scannell		TU
Kenya Willard	MS	
Rory McGillen	MS	
Anastasey Manalatos	MS	
David Bell	MS	
Trenton Wormley	MS	
Kyle Stefanski	MS	
Graeme Hewson		
Delaney McDermott	MS	
Mikala Cox		
Mari Rymar	MS	
Andre Bryant		
George Higgins	MS	
	SD	
Dennis Shaw	MS	
	SD	
Dylan Linklater	MS	WL
		SZ
Tracy Peeks	MS	
Percy	MS	
Gwendolyn Jones	MS	
Robert Dindoffer	WI	MS
Chris Habiby	SD	
	SZ	
Alexander Haidar	SD	
	SZ	
David Allen		
Samy Othman		
Richard Michalski	SD	
	MS	
	WI	
Maia	MS	
Christina D	SD	
Dina Stuber	MS	SZ
Lisa Lewis	MS	
Lulu Annous	MS	



**February 15, 2024 Meeting**

Name	Top choice	Expressed opposition
Regina Smith		
Mohammed Shanma	MS	
Mona Mawari		D2
		TU
Christine		D2
Oscar Castenada		TU
Pierce Ward		
Ruth Johnson		
Nagi		
Samraa Luzman		
Salah Ali		

**February 21, 2024 Meeting**

Name	Top choice	Expressed opposition
Rev. Steve Bland	MS	
Dr. Jabilani	MS	
	SD	
Sarah Ismal	MS	
Kara Love	MS	
Miriam	MS	
Ahmed	MS	
Delany	MS	
Shams	MS	
James Gallant		
Chris Andrews		TU
Zana	MS	
Charles Thomas	MS	
Valorie Kendall	MS	
	SD	
Stan Hobbs	WL	
Karen Green	MS	
Anthony Scannell		
Racy	MS	
Michelle Thomas	MS	
Nicholas Barns	MS	
Name not provided		
Loretta Hill	WI	
Lucinda Kyles	MS	
Nina Abrams	MS	
Name not provided	MS	
Nora Simmons	MS	
Cheryl Thompson	MS	
Lori Leesy	MS	
Miranda Hawkins	MS	
Michael Dunn	MS	
Brook Harris	MS	
Mary Ann Parnis	MS	
Toya	MS	
Byron White		
Norman Clement	D2	
Richard Clement		
Bronwyn	MS	
Chris Andrews		

**February 21, 2024 Meeting**

Name	Top choice	Expressed opposition
Percy Johnson	MS	
Steve Walker	D2	
Name not provided		
Booker T. Walker		
Name not provided		
Brad Scott Devonshire	MS	
Jaja Hubbard		
Loretta Hill		
Betty Daniels		
Carl Doren	MS	
Mark Harriston	WL	
	TU	
Name not provided	WL	
Victor	MS	
Chris Turner	RW	
	SD	
	MS	
Name not provided	WL	
	BE	
	BE2	
Beverly Troy	SZ	
Name not provided	RW	D2
	SD	BE
	MS	BE2
	SZ	WL

**February 22, 2024 Meeting**

Name	Top choice	Expressed opposition
Mona	MS	
Christine	MS	
Ja Carter		
Name not provided		
Kathleen		
Naza	MS	
Nalda		
Hera Cahn	MS	
Christopher Johnson	MS	
Name not provided		TU
Name not provided	MS	
Antwon Herman	MS	
Name not provided	MS	
Amanda Costello	MS	
Gabriella Richly	MS	
Rev. Ryan Reece	MS	
Karla		
Mary Rhymer	MS	
Pamela Dewberry	MS	
Walker	MS	
Name not provided	MS	
Kassandra Ford		
Faith Harris	MS	
Laurie Leasey	MS	
Crystal Bailey	MS	
Virgil Smith	WL	TU BE
Name not provided	MS	
La Tonya Garrett	WL	
Claudia Aboud	MS	
Addam Baddawi	MS	
James Gallant		
Kyle Stefanski	MS	WL BE
Anthony Scannell		TU
Name not provided		
Name not provided	BE	
	BE2	
Name not provided	SD	MS

**February 22, 2024 Meeting**

Name	Top choice	Expressed opposition
Terry Jeffrey	MS	
Shelly Esther	MS	
	SD	
Kenda Davis		
Marian		
Sarah	MS	
John Maison		
Michael Griffe	MS	
Christine Holmes		D2
Frank Woods	MS	
Name not provided		
Name not provided	WL	
	MS	
	BE	
Name not provided	MS	
	SD	
Delaney McDermott		
Michael Joseph	MS	
Haneen El Diri	MS	
Lama Ahamad	MS	
Zana J	MS	
Christian	MS	
Alex King	MS	
Noureldin Ahmahameed	MS	TU
Joe Hunt	WL	WI
Name not provided		
Courteney	MS	
Rima	MS	
Name not provided	MS	
	WL	
Angel		
Robert Taylor	MS	
Nina	MS	
Name not provided	MS	
Delton Peoples	MS	
Jalong	MS	
Ms. Hall	MS	
Lamar Lemons	MS	
Chewy K	MS	

**February 22, 2024 Meeting**

Name	Top choice	Expressed opposition
Lawanda	SD	
Donald Hudson	SD	
Viva Foster	MS	
Oliver Wilson	MS	
Karen Washington		
Name not provided	SD	
Natalie Bienamee	RW	D2
	SD	WL
	MS	
	SZ	
Chavet Mcillroy Anderson	MS	
Adel Mozip	MS	
Moe Hussein	MS	
Nagi		
Samra Luzman		



**Appendix Table 2:  
Fragments of Hickory Districts Within Commission’s Proposed House Plan**

Hickory District Number	New Proposed District Number	Population	Percent of Hickory District's Population
1	1	79143	86.2%
1	7	5058	5.5%
1	9	7655	8.3%
2	1	9305	10.4%
2	2	80317	89.6%
3	2	12851	13.7%
3	3	52825	56.5%
3	4	27855	29.8%
4	1	1055	1.2%
4	3	39678	43.6%
4	4	37752	41.5%
4	8	9943	10.9%
4	16	2475	2.7%
5	4	17027	18.4%
5	5	41791	45.1%
5	6	33926	36.6%
6	4	1284	1.4%
6	5	44233	47.2%
6	6	33128	35.4%
6	8	14984	16.0%
7	4	4774	5.1%
7	5	4081	4.4%
7	6	24793	26.7%
7	8	59300	63.8%
8	7	18994	20.5%
8	8	6886	7.4%
8	9	14200	15.3%
8	11	11967	12.9%
8	14	40623	43.8%
9	7	54554	60.1%
9	9	26884	29.6%
9	10	9380	10.3%
10	1	1006	1.1%
10	9	42973	47.5%
10	10	43628	48.2%
10	12	2927	3.2%
11	10	40235	44.1%
11	12	36279	39.8%
11	13	14631	16.1%
12	7	681	0.8%
12	12	48768	53.8%
12	13	41181	45.4%
13	7	11082	12.3%

Hickory District Number	New Proposed District Number	Population	Percent of Hickory District's Population
13	11	31669	35.0%
13	12	1644	1.8%
13	13	36251	40.1%
13	14	9747	10.8%
14	7	833	0.9%
14	11	48745	53.8%
14	14	40977	45.3%
16	4	3743	4.0%
16	16	89292	96.0%

Districts in yellow were ruled unconstitutional

# EXHIBIT B

## EXPERT REPORT OF MAXWELL PALMER, PH.D.

### Introduction & Summary of Findings

I, Dr. Maxwell Palmer, declare as follows:

1. My name is Maxwell Palmer. I am currently an Associate Professor of Political Science at Boston University. I joined the faculty at Boston University in 2014, after completing my Ph.D. in Political Science at Harvard University. I was promoted to Associate Professor, with tenure, in 2021. I am also a Civic Tech Fellow in the Faculty of Computing & Data Sciences and a Faculty Fellow at the Initiative on Cities. I teach and conduct research on American politics and political methodology.
2. I submitted a report in this matter on March 8, 2023. My qualifications are set out in that report. An updated curriculum vitae is attached to this report.
3. I have been asked by counsel at Fink Bressack to describe the methodology used to advise the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) with its task of redrawing House districts in the Wayne County area. I was also asked to opine on the plaintiff's claims that the remedial map does not provide the appropriate number of Black opportunity districts.
4. This report explains and applies the methodology I developed in collaboration with Dr. Lisa Handley to assess, during the remedial mapping phase in January and February 2024, whether the proposed state house plans complied with the Voting Rights Act. The methodology was created to guide a comparison of the opportunity of Black voters to elect their candidates of choice in the various state house plans. The methodology described in this report was the basis for the VRA compliance reporting provided to the MICRC during the remedial mapping process, including, but not limited to, the VRA Data spreadsheets posted to the MICRC website for each of the ten proposed state house plans.
5. The candidates of choice of Black voters face two obstacles in seeking election: winning the Democratic primary and winning the general election. Analyzing performance in general elections is straightforward, and relies on recompiling past election results using the boundaries of the proposed districts. There are 16 general elections from 2012 to 2022 that were included in the GIS database available to the commission. Prior analyses conducted by Dr. Handley demonstrated that Black voters strongly and cohesively supported the Democratic candidates in each election. Across all of the proposed maps, the Black-preferred candidates were able to win election by wide margins in every district with 15% or greater Black population in Wayne County.

6. Primary elections are more challenging to analyze because there is only one contested Democratic primary in recent years (the 2018 gubernatorial primary), and Black voters do not have a consistent preferred candidate across Wayne County (see my prior report, ¶¶ 28–29). As there no other statewide primary elections available, we could not use the recompiled election results method to analyze performance in primary elections. Additionally, in the House and Senate primaries in recent years there is wide variation in the levels of polarization across districts and elections, and district-level primaries cannot be used to analyze primary performance as the district boundaries are different under the proposed maps. As a result, we had to consider alternate methods to measure the performance of districts under the proposed maps.
7. We developed two approaches to examine whether Black-preferred candidates would be likely to win the Democratic primaries in the proposed district. In the first method, we estimated turnout in the Democratic primary. When estimated Black turnout exceeds estimated White turnout in the Democratic primary, it is possible for Black voters to elect their candidate of choice when they cohesively support one candidate, even if White voters are cohesive in their opposition to that candidate. In the second method, we use the Michigan voter file and general election results to estimate the number of Black and White voters who supported the Democratic candidate in the general election. We call this group the “Democratic Primary Pool,” and they represent the set of Democratic voters who could be potentially mobilized to vote in the Democratic primary. When there are more Black voters than White voters in this group, it suggests that there is a sufficiently large population of Black Democratic to nominate the Black-preferred candidate in the primary if they cohesively support a single candidate.
8. Both of these methods rely on a conservative assumption that Black voters cohesively support a single candidate and that White voters cohesively support a single candidate, such that the primary contest is highly polarized. If White voters are less cohesive than Black voters, then these districts would elect Black-preferred candidates with lower levels of Black voter turnout in the primary. Additionally, it is in two-candidate highly-polarized primaries like these where performance can most clearly be analyzed. When there are many candidates or when voting is less polarized, there may not be identifiable Black-preferred and White-preferred candidates, and the performance question is not clearly answerable. In my prior report I examined many cases of primaries where the preferred candidates are not clear, or where there were not preferred candidates.

## Estimating Democratic Primary Turnout

9. Michigan is an open primary state—voters can choose whether to vote for Democratic candidates or Republican candidates on the ballot on election day. We used ecological inference analysis to estimate turnout in the Democratic primaries in 2018, 2020, and 2022. In 2018, as the result of the statewide primary for governor, all voters had the opportunity to vote in a primary. However, in 2020 and 2022, primaries were only contested in some legislative districts, and not every voter had the opportunity to

vote in a Democratic primary. Other voters, however, had the opportunity to vote in multiple primary contests on the same day, if they lived in a precinct where there were contested Congressional, State Senate, and/or State House elections.

10. For each precinct, we calculated the total number of votes cast for each Democratic primary contest in each year, and then used the contest with the most votes cast in that year as the count of the number of voters who turned out to vote. [For example, suppose voters in a given precinct had the opportunity to vote in the primary for State House and a primary for State Senate in 2022. Suppose 100 votes were cast for State House candidates, but only 90 voters were cast for the State Senate candidates. In this case we would use 100 as the total number of voters who turned out to vote in the primary in this precinct.] We paired these vote counts with precinct-level data on total voting age population, and Black (single-race, non-Hispanic), White (single-race, non-Hispanic) and Other (everyone else) voting age population. For each county (Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb) and each election year, we then estimated a separate ecological inference model where the outcome variables were “Voted in Democratic Primary” and “Did Not Vote in Democratic Primary” (defined as VAP minus Voted in Democratic Primary), and the row variables were “Black VAP”, “White VAP”, and “Other VAP.” Table 1, below, presents the estimated percent of each group that voted in the Democratic primary in each county in each year. Note that in 2020 there were no contested primaries in Macomb county. As a result, we only analyze turnout for 2018 and 2022 in the results provided to the commission.

**Table 1:** Ecological Inference Estimates of Voter Turnout in Democratic Primaries.

Year	County	Black	White	Other
2018	Macomb	17.2%	12.3%	10.7%
2018	Oakland	31.7%	17.8%	6.5%
2018	Wayne	21.4%	17.6%	5.8%
2020	Oakland	25.0%	21.0%	9.8%
2020	Wayne	24.2%	13.8%	9.2%
2022	Macomb	12.1%	10.1%	9.6%
2022	Oakland	26.9%	18.0%	6.7%
2022	Wayne	16.8%	13.9%	6.7%

11. While Black turnout was higher than White turnout overall, the difference was not nearly as dramatic as, for example, many jurisdictions in the South. On average, we found that Black turnout of Black voting age population (BVAP) averaged 5–6 percentage points higher than White turnout of White voting age population (WVAP) in Democratic primaries in the Wayne County area.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>When Black and White turnout estimates for individual legislative Democratic primaries in 2018 and 2022 are compared, there is considerable variation across the districts and across the same district across years. Obviously, contest-specific dynamics play a role in the decision of registered voters whether to vote in a specific primary election.



12. Having estimated voter turnout rates by race in Democratic primaries for each county, we then use these rates to estimate voter turnout in each district by multiplying the Black, White, or Other VAP in each county and district by the rates in Table 1, and then aggregating to estimate turnout by race in each district. For example, suppose a district is entirely located in Wayne County, and is 40% White VAP, 55% Black VAP, and 15% Other VAP. For 2022, we would estimate that the primary electorate is  $(.168 * .55)/(.168 * .55 + .139 * .4 + .067 * .15) = 58\%$  Black and  $(.139 * .4)/(.168 * .55 + .139 * .4 + .067 * .15) = 35\%$  White. These estimates are found in the table below and the spreadsheets we provided to the MICRC under the heading “Estimated Turnout in Primaries.” If Black turnout exceeded White turnout in both 2018 and 2022 in the proposed district, we determined that the district is likely to offer Black voters an equal opportunity to elect their candidates of choice in future Democratic primaries. In the column labeled “Primary turnout Black > White” a “yes” indicates that Black turnout exceeded White turnout in both 2018 and 2022.<sup>2</sup>
13. Table 2 presents the results for the Proposed Remedial Map. This table is a selection of the complete analysis provided to the MICRC. In this table I include all of the House districts that are at least 30% BVAP in the three-county area, with the exception of HD 53 in Pontiac. The results show that there are eleven districts where we estimate that Black voters make up a larger share of the primary voters than White voters, such that when Black and White voters cohesively support different candidates, the Black-preferred candidate is likely to win.

**Table 2:** Primary Turnout Estimates for the Proposed Remedial Map

HD	VAP	General Elections		Estimated Turnout in Primaries				Primary Turnout
	Black	Dem. Comp.	Biden 2020	Black 2018	White 2018	Black 2022	White 2022	Black > White
4	89.6%	97.1%	95.6%	94.3%	4.1%	93.6%	4.1%	Yes
5	80.7%	93.1%	91.3%	87.2%	11.2%	84.6%	13.4%	Yes
9	66.8%	95.7%	94.9%	75.3%	21.7%	74.1%	21.5%	Yes
8	66.3%	91.5%	90.9%	73.3%	24.6%	68.7%	28.5%	Yes
11	65.0%	87.5%	83.7%	76.3%	18.7%	74.5%	19.4%	Yes
7	56.2%	95.2%	93.5%	69.2%	24.2%	66.9%	23.6%	Yes
16	54.4%	77.2%	75.8%	61.8%	36.0%	61.0%	35.8%	Yes
18	52.2%	79.9%	79.3%	69.3%	27.9%	65.4%	31.4%	Yes
12	44.5%	70.3%	68.8%	55.7%	40.1%	53.1%	41.9%	Yes
17	42.4%	69.1%	69.2%	49.9%	47.4%	49.0%	47.0%	Yes
10	42.5%	66.0%	69.2%	49.1%	48.9%	48.5%	48.7%	No
26	35.8%	70.8%	65.8%	43.1%	53.6%	42.2%	53.0%	No
1	34.5%	90.5%	86.8%	54.5%	25.9%	49.8%	23.9%	Yes

<sup>2</sup>This analysis does not take into account either the level of cohesion among Black voters, or the level of White crossover votes for the candidates preferred by Black voters. Our EI analyses of voting patterns in state legislative district elections indicated that there was substantial, election-contest specific variation in both cohesion and crossover voting in legislative Democratic primaries.

## Estimating the Democratic Primary Pool

14. The second method we devised to determine if a proposed district is likely to elect the Black-preferred candidate in future Democratic primary relies on estimating the possible Democratic “primary pool” of voters in a proposed district. The idea behind this analysis is that each district has a population of voters who support Democratic candidates in the general election, and who could be potentially mobilized to vote in a primary election. If the number of these voters who are Black exceeds the number of these voters who are White, then there is a sufficient population that could be mobilized to vote in a Democratic primary if such a primary were highly polarized and Black and White voters were highly cohesive in support of opposing candidates.
15. The first step in this process was to estimate the number of voters by race in each census block. We were provided with a voter file for Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland Counties from EDS. The voter file from EDS included the name, address, and census block for each voter. We then estimated the race of each voter using Bayesian Improved Surname Geocoding (BISG), a procedure that uses the surname of each voter as well as information about the census tract in which they reside, to assign racial probabilities to each voter. The racial probabilities for all of the voters falling within a proposed district were then summed to estimate racial demographics of the proposed district. This information is found in the spreadsheet in the column labeled “Estimated Current Voters.”
16. The second step in this process was to use this information to estimate the percentage of voters in the proposed district likely to cast ballots for Democrats. This we refer to as the potential Democratic “primary pool”—voters who support Democrats, and who are therefore potential voters in the Democratic primary. To calculate this, we began with the Democratic composite vote share from the data matrix (the column labeled “Dem. Comp.”) and assumed that 95% of Black voters (as calculated in “Estimated Current Voters”) supported Democrats, and 5% supported Republicans. Given this premise, all of the other votes for the Democratic and Republican candidates had to come from White and Other voters. We then conservatively assumed that White and Other voters cast ballots for Democrats at the same rate, and determined the percentage of voters who must have supported Democrats to make the total vote share accurate.<sup>3</sup>
17. We compared the estimated percentage of Black Democrats in the “primary pool” to the estimated percentage of White Democrats in the pool in the proposed district. If the percentage of potential Black voters exceeded the number of potential White voters we determined that the proposed district offered Black voters an opportunity to elect their candidates of choice in the district. The column labeled “Dem. Primary Pool” indicates if the percentage of potential Black voters exceeds the percentage of potential White voters in the proposed district.

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<sup>3</sup>This is a conservative approach because if Other voters supported Democrats at higher rates than assumed, the “White Dems” variable would be reduced.

18. Table 3 presents the results for the Proposed Remedial Map. This table is a selection of the complete analysis provided to the MICRC. In this table I include all of the House districts that are at least 30% BVAP in the three-county area, with the exception of HD 53 in Pontiac. The results show that there are twelve districts where we estimate that there are more Black voters supporting Democratic than White voters supporting Democrats, such that there is a sufficient Black population that could be mobilized to vote in a Democratic primary to elect a Black-preferred candidate.

**Table 3:** Democratic Primary Pool Estimates for the Proposed Remedial Map

HD	VAP	Estimated Current Voters		Est. Pct. of Electorate by Race and Party				Dem. Primary Pool
	Black	Black	White	Black Dems.	White Dems.	Black Reps.	White Reps.	Black > White
4	89.6%	89.6%	5.3%	87.0%	5.1%	2.6%	0.2%	Yes
5	80.7%	79.0%	16.5%	75.1%	14.2%	4.0%	2.3%	Yes
9	66.8%	70.6%	23.6%	67.6%	22.6%	3.0%	1.0%	Yes
8	66.3%	67.1%	28.5%	63.8%	24.0%	3.4%	4.5%	Yes
11	65.0%	66.7%	27.1%	63.4%	19.7%	3.3%	7.5%	Yes
7	56.2%	61.1%	22.8%	58.1%	21.7%	2.9%	1.1%	Yes
16	54.4%	54.0%	39.7%	51.3%	22.3%	2.7%	17.3%	Yes
18	52.2%	46.5%	45.3%	44.2%	30.2%	2.3%	15.1%	Yes
12	44.5%	45.2%	50.3%	43.0%	25.1%	2.3%	25.2%	Yes
17	42.4%	41.6%	51.1%	39.5%	25.9%	2.1%	25.2%	Yes
10	42.5%	39.3%	55.6%	37.3%	26.3%	2.0%	29.3%	Yes
26	35.8%	34.9%	57.3%	33.1%	33.1%	1.7%	24.2%	No
1	34.5%	40.0%	19.1%	38.0%	16.8%	2.0%	2.4%	Yes

## Analyzing Performance

19. These two estimates formed the basis for evaluating if a proposed district would perform for Black-preferred candidates. We found that both measures tend to agree—across all of the proposed maps, districts that perform using the primary turnout measure also perform under the primary pool measure. A small number of districts perform under the primary pool measure but not the primary turnout measure. When both measures agree, it indicates that Black voters are likely to be the majority in the Democratic primary, and that there are likely more Black Democrats than White Democrats in the district.
20. In the MICRC’s proposed remedial map there are eleven districts—HD 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, and 18—where Black voters are likely to be successful in electing their preferred candidates in racially polarized Democratic primaries, as determined by both measures. In a twelfth district, HD 10, we find that Black voters are likely to be successful in electing their preferred candidates in racially polarized Democratic Primaries under the Primary Pool measure, and equally likely to be successful in electing their preferred candidates in racially polarized Democratic Primaries under the Primary Turnout measure.
21. The plaintiffs in this litigation argue that the Proposed Remedial Map is not a valid remedy because there are eight majority-Black districts. The plaintiffs

contend that ten such districts could be drawn, and support this assertion with evidence from Dr. Trende's remedial report in this matter, where he conducted "race-blind computer simulations of remedial house districts" (ECF No. 168, at 18). Notwithstanding the criticisms of Dr. Trende's simulation analysis that I offered in my prior report and at trial, the plaintiffs' assertion here misreports Dr. Trende's simulation analysis. In this analysis, Dr. Trende simulated 100,000 house plans (ECF No. 168-2, at 24-34). The number of majority-Black districts in these race-blind simulated plans ranged significantly, from 5 to 11 districts. The most likely result was 8 majority-Black districts, which matches the result in the Proposed Remedial Map.<sup>4</sup> Only four percent of Dr. Trende's simulated maps yielded ten or more majority-Black districts.<sup>5</sup> While such a result is possible, it is unlikely, and these simulations do not provide evidence that the Proposed Remedial Map violates the Voting Rights Act.

I reserve the right to supplement my report in this case in light of additional facts, testimony, and/or materials that may come to light.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Maxwell Palmer

Executed this 15th day of March, 2024, at Arlington, Massachusetts.

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<sup>4</sup>I analyzed Dr. Trende's simulation results using code and data he provided with his remedial report.

<sup>5</sup>In the simulations analyzed in Dr. Trende's trial report, the most likely result was 6-7 majority-Black districts, depending on the constraints that Dr. Trende used in the simulations. Less than 0.01% of Dr. Trende's simulated plans in his trial report yielded ten majority-Black districts.

## Maxwell Palmer

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- CONTACT Department of Political Science *E-mail: mbpalmer@bu.edu*  
Boston University *Website: www.maxwellpalmer.com*  
232 Bay State Road *Phone: (617) 358-2654*  
Boston, MA 02215
- APPOINTMENTS **Boston University**, Boston, Massachusetts
- Associate Professor, **Department of Political Science**, 2021–Present
  - Associate Chair, **Dept. of Political Science**, July 2023–Present
  - Civic Tech Fellow, **Faculty of Computing & Data Sciences**, 2021–Present
  - Faculty Fellow, **Initiative on Cities**, 2019–Present
  - Director of Advanced Programs, **Dept. of Political Science**, July 2020–June 2023
  - Assistant Professor, **Department of Political Science**, 2014–2021
  - Junior Faculty Fellow, **Hariri Institute for Computing**, 2017–2020
- EDUCATION **Harvard University**, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- Ph.D., Political Science, May 2014.
  - A.M., Political Science, May 2012.
- Bowdoin College**, Brunswick, Maine
- A.B., Mathematics & Government and Legal Studies, May 2008.
- BOOK *Neighborhood Defenders: Participatory Politics and America’s Housing Crisis* (with Katherine Levine Einstein and David M. Glick). 2019. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.
- Selected chapters republished in *Political Science Quarterly*.
  - Reviewed in *Perspectives on Politics*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *Economics 21*, *Public Books*, *City Journal*, and *Urban Studies*.
  - Covered in Vox’s “The Weeds” podcast, CityLab, Slate’s “Gabfest,” Curbed, Brookings Institution Up Front.
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“Descended from Immigrants and Revolutionists: How Family Immigration History Shapes Legislative Behavior in Congress” (with James Feigenbaum and Benjamin Schneer).

“When are Mayors Polarized?” (with Katherine Levine Einstein and David M. Glick)

“The Gray Vote: How Older Home-Ownning Voters Dominate Local Elections.” (with Katherine Levine Einstein, Ellis Hamilton, and Ethan Singer).

“How Affordable Housing Can Exclude: The Political Economy of Subsidized Housing” (with Katherine Levine Einstein).

“Durable Majority Gerrymanders: Where Partisan Gerrymandering can Displace Democracy” (with Benjamin Schneer)

“Who Should Make Decisions? Public Perceptions of Democratic Inclusion in Housing Policy.” (With Justin de Benedictis-Kessner and Katherine Levine Einstein).

“Renters in an Ownership Society: Property Rights, Voting Rights, and the Making of American Citizenship.” Book Project. With Katherine Levine Einstein.

“Menino Survey of Mayors 2023.” Co-principal investigator with David M. Glick and Katherine Levine Einstein.

GRANTS  
AND AWARDS

The Boston Foundation Grant. “2022 Greater Boston Housing Report Card” (Co-principal investigator). 2022. \$70,000.

The Rockefeller Foundation, “Menino Survey of Mayors” (Co-principal investigator). 2021. \$355,000.

American Political Science Association, **Heinz Eulau Award**, for the best article published in *Perspectives on Politics* during the previous calendar year, for “Who Participates in Local Government? Evidence from Meeting Minutes.” (with Katherine Levine Einstein and David M. Glick). 2020.

Boston University Initiative on Cities, COVID-19 Research to Action Seed Grant.

“How Are Cities Responding to the COVID-19 Housing Crisis?” 2020. \$8,000.

The Rockefeller Foundation, “Menino Survey of Mayors” (Co-principal investigator). 2017. \$325,000.

Hariri Institute for Computing, Boston University. Junior Faculty Fellow. 2017–2020. \$10,000.

The Rockefeller Foundation, “2017 Menino Survey of Mayors” (Co-principal investigator). 2017. \$100,000.

The Center for Finance, Law, and Policy, Boston University, Research Grant for “From the Capitol to the Boardroom: The Returns to Office from Corporate Board Directorships,” 2015.

Senator Charles Sumner Prize, Dept. of Government, Harvard University. 2014.  
*Awarded to the best dissertation “from the legal, political, historical, economic, social or ethnic approach, dealing with means or measures tending toward the prevention of war and the establishment of universal peace.”*

The Center for American Political Studies, Dissertation Research Fellowship on the Study of the American Republic, 2013–2014.

The Tobin Project, Democracy and Markets Graduate Student Fellowship, 2013–2014.

The Dirksen Congressional Center, Congressional Research Award, 2013.

The Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Conference Travel Grant, 2014.

The Center for American Political Studies, Graduate Seed Grant for “Capitol Gains: The Returns to Elected Office from Corporate Board Directorships,” 2014.

The Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Research Grant, 2013.

Bowdoin College: High Honors in Government and Legal Studies; Philo Sherman Bennett Prize for Best Honors Thesis in the Department of Government, 2008.

SELECTED  
PRESENTATIONS

“How Affordable Housing Can Exclude: The Political Economy of Subsidized Housing.” Political Economy of Housing Conference, University of Southern California, Sol Price School of Public Policy, 2024.

“A Partisan Solution to Partisan Gerrymandering: The Define-Combine Procedure.” MIT Election Data and Science Lab, 2020.

“Who Represents the Renters?” Local Political Economy Conference, Washington, D.C., 2019.

“Housing and Climate Politics,” Sustainable Urban Systems Conference, Boston University 2019.

“Redistricting and Gerrymandering,” American Studies Summer Institute, John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, 2019.

“The Participatory Politics of Housing,” Government Accountability Office Seminar, 2018.

“Descended from Immigrants and Revolutionists: How Immigrant Experience Shapes Immigration Votes in Congress,” Congress and History Conference, Princeton University, 2018.

“Identifying Gerrymanders at the Micro- and Macro-Level.” Hariri Institute for Computing, Boston University, 2018.

“How Institutions Enable NIMBYism and Obstruct Development,” Boston Area Research Initiative Spring Conference, Northeastern University, 2017.

“Congressional Gridlock,” American Studies Summer Institute, John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, 2016.

“Capitol Gains: The Returns to Elected Office from Corporate Board Directorships,” Microeconomics Seminar, Department of Economics, Boston University, 2015.

“A Two Hundred-Year Statistical History of the Gerrymander,” Congress and History Conference, Vanderbilt University, 2015.

“A New (Old) Standard for Geographic Gerrymandering,” Harvard Ash Center Workshop: How Data is Helping Us Understand Voting Rights After Shelby County, 2015.

“Capitol Gains: The Returns to Elected Office from Corporate Board Directorships,” Boston University Center for Finance, Law, and Policy, 2015.

“Capitol Gains: The Returns to Elected Office from Corporate Board Directorships,” Bowdoin College, 2014.

American Political Science Association: 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022

Midwestern Political Science Association: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2017, 2019, 2023



Southern Political Science Association: 2015, 2018  
European Political Science Association: 2015

EXPERT  
TESTIMONY  
AND CONSULTING

*Bethune-Hill v. Virginia* (3:14-cv-00852-REP-AWA-BMK), U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. Prepared expert reports and testified on racial predominance and racially polarized voting in selected districts of the 2011 Virginia House of Delegates map. (2017)

*Thomas v. Bryant* (3:18-CV-441-CWR-FKB), U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi. Prepared expert reports and testified on racially polarized voting in a district of the 2012 Mississippi State Senate map. (2018–2019)

*Chestnut v. Merrill* (2:18-cv-00907-KOB), U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama. Prepared expert reports and testified on racially polarized voting in selected districts of the 2011 Alabama congressional district map. (2019)

*Dwight v. Raffensperger* (No. 1:18-cv-2869-RWS), U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. Prepared expert reports and testified on racially polarized voting in selected districts of the 2011 Georgia congressional district map. (2019)

*Bruni, et al. v. Hughs* (No. 5:20-cv-35), U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas. Prepared expert reports and testified on the use of straight-ticket voting by race and racially polarized voting in Texas. (2020)

*Caster v. Merrill* (No. 2:21-cv-1536-AMM), U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama. Prepared expert report and testified on racially polarized voting in selected districts of the 2021 Alabama congressional district map. (2022)

*Pendergrass v. Raffensperger* (1:21-CV-05339-SCJ), U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. Prepared expert reports and testified on racially polarized voting in selected districts of the 2021 Georgia congressional district map. (2022)

*Grant v. Raffensperger* (1:22-CV-00122-SCJ), U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. Prepared expert reports and testified on racially polarized voting in selected districts of the 2021 Georgia state legislative district maps. (2022)

*Galmon, et al. v. Ardoin* (3:22-cv-00214-SDD-SDJ), U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana. Prepared expert reports and testified on racially polarized voting for the 2021 Louisiana congressional district map. (2022)

*United States v. Robert Bowers* (2:18-cr-00292-DWA), U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. Prepared expert reports on the demographics

of the voter registration list and composition of the master jury wheel. (2020–2023)

*Agee, et al. v. Benson, et al.* (1:22-CV-00272-PLM-RMK-JTN), U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan. Prepared expert report and testified on racially polarized voting and racial predominance in the Michigan House and Senate maps adopted by the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. (2023)

*In Re: Georgia Senate Bill 202* (1:12-MI-55555-JPB), U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. Prepared expert report and testified on demographics and racially polarized voting in Georgia. (2023)

*Vet Voice Foundation, et al., v. Hobbs, et al.* (No. 22-2-19384-1 SEA), King County Superior Court, Washington. Prepared expert reports and testified on ballots rejected for non-matching signatures in Washington. (2023)

*Vet Voice Foundation, et al., v. Griswold* (No. 2022CV033456), District Court, City and County of Denver, State of Colorado. Prepared expert reports and testified on ballots rejected for non-matching signatures in Colorado. (2023)

“Brief Of Political Science Professors As *Amici Curiae* In Support Of Appellees,” in the case of *Alexander vs. South Carolina State Conference of the NAACP*, in the Supreme Court of the United States (No. 22-807). (with Stephen Ansolabehere, Bruce E. Cain, James M. Snyder, Jr., and Charles Stewart III)

Racially Polarized Voting Consultant, Virginia Redistricting Commission, August 2021.

The General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Joint Committee on Housing, Hearing on Housing Production Legislation. May 14, 2019. Testified on the role of public meetings in housing production.

TEACHING

Boston University

- *Introduction to American Politics* (PO 111; Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Fall 2020)
- *Congress and Its Critics* (PO 302; Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2017, Spring 2019)
- *Voting Rights* (PO 336; Spring 2024)
- *Data Science for Politics* (PO 399; Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023)
- *Formal Political Theory* (PO 501; Spring 2015, Spring 2017, Fall 2019, Fall 2020)

- *American Political Institutions in Transition* (PO 505; Spring 2021, Fall 2021)
- *Prohibition* (PO 540; Fall 2015, Fall 2022)
- *Political Analysis (Graduate Seminar)* (PO 840; Fall 2016, Fall 2017)
- *Graduate Research Workshop* (PO 903/4; Fall 2019, Spring 2020)
- *Spark! Civic Tech Research Design Workshop* (CDS DS 290; Spring 2023)
- *Spark! Civic Tech Toolkit Workshop* (CDS DS 292; Spring 2023)

SERVICE

Boston University

- Research Computing Governance Committee, 2021–.
- Initiative on Cities Faculty Advisory Board, 2020–2022.
- Undergraduate Assessment Working Group, 2020–2021.
- College of Arts and Sciences
  - Ad Hoc Committee on the CAS BA-Level Curriculum, 2023.
  - CAS Conduct Liaison, 2023–.
  - Search Committee for the Faculty Director of the Initiative on Cities, 2020–2021.
  - General Education Curriculum Committee, 2017–2018.
- Department of Political Science
  - Associate Chair, 2023–.
  - Director of Advanced Programs (Honors & B.A./M.A.). 2020–2023.
  - Political Methodology Search Committee, 2021.
  - Delegate, Chair Selection Advisory Process, 2021.
  - Comprehensive Exam Committee, American Politics, 2019, 2023.
  - Comprehensive Exam Committee, Political Methodology, 2016, 2017, 2021, 2022.
  - American Politics Search Committee, 2017.
  - American Politics Search Committee, 2016.
  - Graduate Program Committee, 2014–2015, 2018–2019, 2020–2021.

Co-organizer, *Boston University Local Political Economy Conference*, August 29, 2018.

Editorial Board Member, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 2020–2023

Malcolm Jewell Best Graduate Student Paper Award Committee, Southern Political Science Association, 2019.

Reviewer: *American Journal of Political Science*; *American Political Science Review*; *Journal of Politics*; *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*; *Science*; *Political Analysis*; *Review of Economics and Statistics*; *Legislative Studies Quarterly*; *Public Choice*; *Political Science Research and Methods*; *Journal of Law, Economics and Organization*; *Election Law Journal*; *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*; *Urban Affairs Review*; *Scientific Data*; *Applied Geography*; *PS: Political Science & Politics*; Cambridge University Press; Oxford University Press.

Elected Town Meeting Member, Town of Arlington, Mass., Precinct 2. April 2021–Present.

**Arlington Election Reform Committee Member**, August 2019–April 2022.

Coordinator, **Harvard Election Data Archive**, 2011–2014.

OTHER  
EXPERIENCE

**Charles River Associates**, Boston, Massachusetts 2008–2010

*Associate, Energy & Environment Practice*

Economic consulting in the energy sector for electric and gas utilities, private equity, and electric generation owners. Specialized in Financial Modeling, Resource Planning, Regulatory Support, Price Forecasting, and Policy Analysis.

*Updated March 13, 2024*

# EXHIBIT C



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# Transcript of Redistricting Michigan Press Conference

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REDISTRICTING MICHIGAN PRESS CONFERENCE

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20 Job No.: 529860

21 Pages: 1 - 26

22 Transcribed by: Christian Naaden



1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MS. GAY-DAGNOGO: Good morning. I just want to  
3 thank you all for being here this morning as we are  
4 continuing on the path to making sure that we address  
5 and keep the community informed on the processes of the  
6 Agee v. Benson redistricting lawsuit. We know that this  
7 week we'll have some dates shared in a bit by our  
8 former state representative, Shanelle Jackson.

9 We want to make sure that the community is  
10 getting out to make their voices heard about the maps  
11 that have been put into the portal. Last night, we had  
12 a virtual webinar where we actually showed citizens how  
13 to visit the portal, how to look at the maps in the  
14 portal.

15 We realized and know that there are technology  
16 barriers, and so many individuals expressed that they  
17 watched from their phones and on the computer and they  
18 were grateful. And they're also looking for more  
19 direction.

20 I just want to announce those that are here  
21 today. On his way, Wayne County -- former County  
22 Commissioner Keith Williams, Michigan Democratic --

1 Michigan Democratic Party Black Caucus chair,  
2 spokesperson, myself, plaintiff Natalie Bien-Aime --  
3 Natalie Bien-Aime, and I didn't write the other thing  
4 there, but I'll get to it in a moment.

5 Devante Sherard and Teresa Dubose are  
6 plaintiffs that are here today. Former state  
7 representative, LaTanya Garrett, former state  
8 representative Shanelle Jackson, former state  
9 representative LaMar Lemmons, former senator Virgil K.  
10 Smith, retired Chief Judge Virgil Smith, chairwoman of  
11 Wayne County Commission -- Wayne County Commissioner  
12 Chairwoman, Alisha Bell, Attorney Jennifer Green from  
13 Clark Hill Law Firm.

14 Today, you will hear an update from our  
15 attorney on the 10 maps that were put into the portal,  
16 and an analysis that has been has been done by Sean  
17 Trende, an expert. And without getting too technical,  
18 it will address the issues of compactness and the  
19 number of times that these maps cross county lines.

20 We do have our own map today that was put  
21 forth by the Michigan Democratic Party, Black Caucus  
22 and plaintiffs are standing in alignment with many of

1 the principles that exist within. But before we go  
2 further, we want to also lift up the importance of the  
3 criteria that has been addressed in the 10 maps that  
4 are actually in the portal.

5 I'm going to bring forward Attorney Jennifer  
6 Green to speak to some of these elements, which will  
7 bring greater understanding as to why we are making  
8 sure that we're being very specific in the criteria  
9 that we wish to see in these maps as the judges move  
10 forward in making their final decisions.

11 And the citizens having an opportunity to  
12 weigh in on Wednesday and Thursday this week, Attorney  
13 Jennifer Green, if you would give us a breakdown of  
14 expert, Sean Trende's analysis.

15 ATT. GREEN: Yes, as Sherry said, the public  
16 comment period will close on February 23rd, so if the  
17 public has comments, time is drawing near to get those  
18 public comments out. And then the court will adopt a  
19 map by March 29th. So, there will be a map setting for  
20 the voting districts in Detroit by March 29th.

21 The commission has until March 1st, I believe,  
22 to adopt a map of its own. We have a week to object and

1 our objections are due on March 8th and then the  
2 special master gets to weigh in on March 15th as to  
3 whether the proposed map submitted by the commission  
4 has actually remedied the constitutional violations and  
5 the racial gerrymander that the court had found.

6 In terms of our analysis of the current maps,  
7 obviously, the plaintiffs would like the court to adopt  
8 a map that keeps Detroit together to the extent  
9 possible, and then also raises the percentage of black  
10 voters in each of the voting districts throughout Metro  
11 Detroit. And it also minimizes the amount of county  
12 splits and municipal splits as much as possible.

13 And our expert has weighed in on each of the  
14 10 maps and we will be submitting his analysis to the  
15 court.

16 But essentially several of the proposed maps  
17 are somewhat of an improvement over the prior maps  
18 insofar as they do have the increased percentage of  
19 black voters, and in terms of being slightly more  
20 compact in terms of their geographical scope, however,  
21 several of the maps are still suffering from the same  
22 racial gerrymander as before.

1           Some of the maps kept a lot of the lines, the  
2 different voting district lines the same and made very  
3 minor tweaks, which we don't believe resolves the  
4 racial gerrymander.

5           And in terms of compactness, several of the  
6 maps have districts that are still geographically very  
7 expansive and broad or not in a small shape that is  
8 compact, which is something that we think the court  
9 should look at.

10           That's a traditional redistricting factor that  
11 courts will look at. I think that the entire chart that  
12 our expert has put together will be submitted publicly  
13 with the court filing for the public to review it.

14           And so, if there are any detailed questions, I  
15 have a copy of the chart with me today if you have any  
16 questions, and it will be submitted publicly to the  
17 court on March 8th.

18           MS. GAY-DAGNOGO: Thank you. And again, she  
19 can answer questions afterwards. But I want to just  
20 take a note of personal privilege that this is African  
21 American History Month, and this is a very important  
22 issue.

1           We hear a lot of feedback on why now, why  
2           should we be stuck with for 10 years with maps that are  
3           not compliant with the Voting Rights Act.

4           But we continue to choose this church and  
5           we're very thankful for former member representative  
6           Jimmy Womack -- doctor as well -- Jimmy Womack.

7           And I just want him to speak to the historical  
8           place that we stand today and why we continue to choose  
9           this church to lift up the importance of why black  
10          leadership matters. Representative Womack.

11          REP. WOMACK: Thank you. Good morning. St.  
12          John, St. Luke has been on this site since 1873. The  
13          church originally was located where Hart Plaza is  
14          currently, and it has a long history of a justice  
15          ministry, was involved in the underground railroad. If  
16          you toured the church, you'll see a casket that was  
17          used to deliver people out of slavery into Canada.

18          We currently still have a justice ministry  
19          dealing with the homeless population, the evictions  
20          that occur in this city are overwhelming. We're hoping  
21          in that regard. So, we're pleased from this long  
22          history of a social ministry to be part of this effort,

1 and particularly during African American History Month.  
2 Thank you so much for allowing St. John, St. Luke to  
3 participate in this.

4 MS. GAY-DAGNOGO: We appreciate you. I do want  
5 to make sure that these issues are clear as we continue  
6 to lift this up. Our attorney spoke to, gave a brief  
7 overview of the analysis that Sean Trinde provided in  
8 this very detailed report.

9 But I have to say this, and plaintiff Natalie  
10 Bien-Aime can probably speak to it best, as we had to  
11 really work to get her to just mellow out a bit because  
12 we will certainly have our day in court. But it's  
13 really disgusting that Commissioner Anthony Eid was  
14 allowed to continue in this process with all the issues  
15 that he has brought to this process.

16 We know that many of the commissioners got  
17 into this work for good reason and just their desire to  
18 do what is right and we're led astray. But it seems  
19 like Commissioner Eid continues to have an ulterior  
20 motive and still wishes to continue gerrymandering. And  
21 so, the daisy map, we have all said a resounding hell  
22 no.



1           So, for those who are going out this week to  
2           make comments, that map is egregious. It doesn't change  
3           very much. And we need to make sure that we lift up  
4           that is a very person who lacks credibility and  
5           integrity in every facet of his -- of his existence on  
6           this commission.

7           So, I want plaintiff Natalie Bien-Aime to come  
8           and speak to the issues that she watched in many of the  
9           hearings in which she wanted to express how she felt  
10          about his participation in that process.

11          MS. BIEN-AIME: Good morning, everyone. I'm  
12          Natalie Bien-Aime, one of the plaintiffs in the  
13          lawsuit, and it's been totally egregious what we've  
14          seen over the past few months and the past two years.

15          When we look at the leadership that is moving  
16          forward in making these maps and creating new  
17          opportunities for black leadership, we have to look at  
18          the leadership that is currently on the commission.

19          And if you look at what has been said by our  
20          three panel judges that have upheld that he has done  
21          some things that have been totally out of alignment and  
22          unethical; however, they created a notice to vacate.

1           However, in the last two weeks, they have now  
2 rescinded that notice. And here we are having in this  
3 Black History Month, deal with 400 years of slavery and  
4 still notice that the intent is still to enslave.

5           And we're in a situation where we need to  
6 speak out. So, I'm here today to talk to all of the  
7 citizens in Detroit and southeastern Michigan and the  
8 state of Michigan to speak out, speak up, say  
9 something. Justice is here now, but if we say nothing  
10 and do nothing, nothing will be done. We must speak out  
11 about Eid.

12           Now it's a shame that we have to have such an  
13 event to speak out to make people know, make them aware  
14 of what's happening. There are congressional criterias  
15 that must be met. But guess what? When you have  
16 leadership that has been doing things that are  
17 counterproductive to what it is necessary for black  
18 leadership to succeed that means it's a misnomer.

19           It's like we have a conversation of nothing.  
20 And so, we don't want to have to be back in the same  
21 situation again. But we have the support of a three  
22 panel judge that are saying differently. So, what we

1 need to do is speak out as a community to say no more,  
2 not now, not on our watch, not today. So, what should  
3 we do now?

4 We have to speak out together as a community  
5 and say no more to Eid. It shouldn't have been the  
6 commission's responsibility as a whole to allow him to  
7 continue. They voted as a consortium, a commission to  
8 keep him there and they allowed him to continue to lead  
9 in the effort of creating these new maps.

10 We say no more to the daisy map, no more to  
11 some of the Bergamot maps. We have to look forward to  
12 the maps that have been put together by the  
13 Congressional Black Caucus here. We also need to look  
14 at some of the others like the Riverwalk, the Spirit of  
15 Detroit. Look at those things that have looked at how  
16 we can keep our city together.

17 And with that being said, I'm going to turn it  
18 back over because I think I've said enough. No more,  
19 not now, not under our watch. Thank you.

20 MS. GAY-DAGNOGO: And I just want to make it  
21 clear to Commissioner Eid that while I wish him no ill  
22 before we accept the daisy map, he will be pushing up

1 daisies. Okay? No. Hell no to the daisy map.

2 I'm going to have former Senator Virgil Smith  
3 to come and speak to some of the criteria that we have  
4 lifted up as we've talked to former members, many that  
5 are not here, plaintiffs to talk about what is actually  
6 expressly listed even in the final opinion of the  
7 judges.

8 And how you are -- how we are instructed to  
9 draw maps during the redistricting process, the  
10 compactness, removing the spokes, bringing us back  
11 south of Eight Mile, not crossing several county lines.  
12 And then just lift up the map that we have to display  
13 today and what it composes, how many seats it  
14 addresses, and why we chose this particular map  
15 concept. Virgil Smith.

16 MR. SMITH: Good morning, everyone. So, this  
17 map was commissioned by the Michigan Democratic Party,  
18 Black Caucus, myself, member of the [inaudible]. We're  
19 involved in the drawing of this map, along with former  
20 member Harvey Santana and a few others. This map  
21 creates a good 10, what we will call majority minority  
22 seats.

1           It does not cross Eight Mile that often. It  
2 keeps cities whole, in my opinion, and it protects what  
3 is a new term that we've learned in this redistricting  
4 process, communities of interest. So, we think it means  
5 all of the -- all of the Richter scale.

6           So, the population loss, the issue in the map  
7 making process is the population loss here on the east  
8 side of Detroit is what is created where we have, you  
9 can notice the east side districts are larger than the  
10 west side districts, because the population on the west  
11 side is more dense than the population on the east  
12 side.

13           So, when we did this 10 years ago, the house  
14 map in particular, most of the lines went east and  
15 west. Well, with the hickory map going north and south,  
16 and then with the population, especially the African  
17 American population, above Eight Mile, we stuck with  
18 that north south design.

19           But we wanted to make sure we would hit that  
20 majority, because the 1965 Voting Rights Act states  
21 that you have to exhaust all options to keep a  
22 majority, minority whole to keep the district that they

1 previously are -- not necessary to keep the district,  
2 but keep the district whole that was previously in the  
3 last decade. So, you can't just get rid of the district  
4 altogether or split it up.

5           So, I'll give you an example of that. Royal  
6 Oak Township, the majority African American city.  
7 There's only two voter precincts right here on the  
8 north side of Eight Mile. A number of those maps that  
9 have been moved by the commission and the old hickory  
10 map split Royal Oak Township, two border precincts,  
11 majority African American city in half.

12           That gets to the compactness of these  
13 districts. So, keeping areas like Royal Oak Township  
14 whole, Oak Park, Ferndale, and then coming into the  
15 city, we have created what we believe are 13 majority,  
16 minority seats in Southeast Michigan.

17           MS. GAY-DAGNOGO: So, through demonstration,  
18 you see that we can get 13. I think that the tele map  
19 provides 10 seats with a BVAP of 50 percent or higher.  
20 I think the Riverwalk are all like 9, Spirit of Detroit  
21 9, Motown Sound 9, Tulipe 9, Willow 9, and it goes on.

22           For those that are above 60 percent -- for

1 those that are above 60 percent with a BVAP, Zotella  
2 has about 60, the Riverwalk has 6, the Spirit of  
3 Detroit has 6, Motown Sound has 5, the Tulip 3, the  
4 Willow 5.

5 So, you see that when you have some  
6 institutional memory and some intentionality around  
7 working together and bringing some of the best minds to  
8 this work and a data expert for Michigan State to show  
9 that we can draw seats that respect the criteria of the  
10 Voting Rights Act.

11 I'm thankful for Senator Virgil Smith, the  
12 Michigan Democratic Black Caucus, Rep. Latanya Garrett,  
13 Rep. -- former Rep. Harvey Santana, and also Rep. LaMar  
14 Lemmons, with his technical difficulties behind me.

15 You just saw in a race that Rep. Lemmons had  
16 some of the egregious challenges that the max had in  
17 the Hickory, and I want him to just speak briefly to --  
18 to those races. We saw two seats that were filled by  
19 former Rep. Roy Stone and former Rep. Kevin Coleman.  
20 LaMar Lemmons.

21 MR. LEMMONS: Absolutely. What we witnessed  
22 was the communities of interest, particularly one were



1 felt that even if they were African American, that  
2 their community across Eight Mile was concerned that  
3 Detroit would have a greater influence on -- on -- on  
4 the -- in the -- in the process and -- and the delivery  
5 of services to their respective communities.

6 So, the some -- some might say that the party  
7 deliberately worked and put exceeding more resources  
8 than I've ever seen in my 50 years of politics, put  
9 into -- to create a narrative and they were able --  
10 only able to do that because they failed within the  
11 city of Detroit, but they were able to do that in the  
12 new community and that community of interest of Warren.

13 So, even African Americans were concerned that  
14 if I was elected, I would only be concerned, A. About  
15 Detroit, and B. About African Americans, and they  
16 stated so, and they campaigned in such a fashion as to  
17 create that narrative and spent unprecedented amounts  
18 of money in a democratic primary race.

19 So, it is imperative that communities of  
20 interest stay together, even in conjunction with the  
21 racial factors.

22 MS. GAY-DAGNOGO: Thank you. And -- and I

1 believe he has some of that literature if you all would  
2 like to see that. That kind of speaks to those issues.  
3 And so, when people are asking, so why are you so  
4 concerned about crossing three county lines?

5           Why are you so concerned with being, you know,  
6 having these seats that span out to McComb, know that  
7 is, it's the resources, it's the issues, it's auto --  
8 auto [inaudible], affordable insurance. It's affordable  
9 housing. It's affordable water.

10           It's a myriad of issues, education that would  
11 come into play when those who live outside of the city,  
12 who may empathize to some degree about our issues, but  
13 will be beholden to the community from which they live  
14 and come from.

15           So, that's why we are expressly making sure  
16 that we lift up compactness, taking away the districts  
17 that sprawl out across Eight Mile, making sure that you  
18 respect the largest community of interest there is in  
19 the city of Detroit with African Americans.

20           I'm going to bring forward former Rep.  
21 Shanelle Jackson to make sure that we are engaging and  
22 updating on the next dates for the testimony this week

1 and the next steps in the process for making the final  
2 decision for these maps.

3 MS. JACKSON: Hello.

4 MS. GAY-DAGNOGO: And her beautiful daughter.

5 MS. JENIFER: I wanted Blake to be here today  
6 and I'm so grateful to have her here because this is  
7 important. Also, grateful to have had the opportunity  
8 to live and to serve with so many strong leaders. And  
9 these are folks, I just -- I want to take a personal  
10 moment of privilege here. These are people who have  
11 jobs and lives.

12 They're not serving in the legislature  
13 anymore, which is an amazing thing, but they're not  
14 serving there anymore. They're taking time out of their  
15 lives. Our plaintiffs are taking time out of their  
16 lives because this matters. It matters for Blake's  
17 future. It matters for folks' grandchildren and their  
18 children.

19 And so, you know, I go all over the country  
20 talking to state lawmakers, and everybody, everywhere I  
21 go is watching Michigan. What is Michigan going to do?  
22 Are we going to correct this? Are we going to get this

1 right for our families in one of the nation's largest  
2 African American cities, or are we going to allow this  
3 injustice to stand?

4 And so, I'm grateful for my colleagues, and I  
5 want Detroiters, and everybody really, but certainly  
6 Detroiters, to feel empowered and to come out, have  
7 your voice heard tomorrow, which is Wednesday, February  
8 21st, the first session is going to be at Greater Grace  
9 Temple, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

10 Come out and support whatever map it is you  
11 support, but stand on something for Detroit. We need  
12 you there. And then we'll have another session from  
13 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. So, if you couldn't make the  
14 morning, maybe you can come for lunch and join us.

15 And then we have another session at Greater  
16 Grace Temple at 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., so you can  
17 bring your children so they can be a part of history as  
18 well and see us stand up. All right, and then on  
19 Thursday February 22nd from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
20 we'll all be at the great Second Ebenezer Church.

21 We'll also be there again 2:00 to 5:00 midday  
22 and we'll be there from 6:00 to 8:00. So, we need

1 everyone who believes in Detroit, who loves Detroit,  
2 who wants our future to be bright, and who wants to  
3 continue our legacy of leadership, not just in  
4 Michigan, but around the country to stand up and to be  
5 present at one of these areas. Thank you.

6 MS. GAY-DAGNOGO: And I just want to thank all  
7 of my colleagues, former colleagues, and I want to  
8 thank Chairwoman, Commissioner Alisha Bell. You're  
9 certainly welcome to have remarks today.

10 Your office as well, as many of our city  
11 council members in the city of Detroit have been kind  
12 enough to share this information and standing in unity  
13 on the fact that black leadership does matter. Council  
14 president Mary Sheffield council president pro tem,  
15 James Tate, councilman Scott Benson, councilman Coleman  
16 Young.

17 I'm calling these from memory. Councilwoman  
18 Mary Waters. They have committee this morning, but  
19 she's a former state representative as well. And I'm  
20 just -- I'm just appreciative for those who have stood  
21 up and shared this information because it's a shame  
22 that the first meetings that we had, they were not well

1 attended.

2 It was during inclement weather. And our  
3 plaintiffs spoke up, Davonte Sherard, former council  
4 member from E. course, Teresa Dubose went down to  
5 Cadillac Place, and they were just saying well, where  
6 are the people? So, now they're having them at churches  
7 where there is adequate and free parking. The weather  
8 is better.

9 But even if you can't get out, you can go  
10 online and make your comments about the maps online. We  
11 went through it last night. That opportunity is still  
12 there. If you need help, you can reach out to our  
13 plaintiffs, Natalie Bien-Aime, who is an expert.

14 But you can also email me at  
15 sherryfordetroit@gmail.com. I believe that's the scope  
16 of what -- of which -- of which we wish to share today,  
17 and if there are any questions, we will entertain  
18 questions.

19 MALE 1: How is this map listed? You're  
20 telling people to go check out this map. You want them  
21 to provide feedback on this map. What's it called?

22 MS. GAY-DAGNOGO: So, as we go through our

1 process, we have 20 plaintiffs. The majority of them  
2 have read their emails or picked up their phone and  
3 took my call. I have a lot of work in calling to make  
4 sure that everybody sees what we have here today, and  
5 we try to work in a way that everybody weighs in.

6 We're finalizing that process. We're also  
7 having our expert, Sean Trende do an analysis as he's  
8 done with the 10 maps that are in the portal. And from  
9 that place we will then unveil what the actual name of  
10 the map is and try and upload files that are to the  
11 portal, but one of the processes that we're willing to  
12 do.

13 And I'm very appreciative of former Senator  
14 Virgil Smith, who talked with Edward on the commission  
15 about ways to even impact what they already have and by  
16 showing -- picking a map that most closely aligns with  
17 the principles that we have here and making those  
18 adjustments in the portal.

19 And so I won't speak to which one it is  
20 specifically, but we're looking to going that route as  
21 well to show some sense of consensus of working  
22 together.



1           But we've all agreed on consensus of  
2 compactness, moving us back south of Eight Mile, making  
3 sure that we're not spoked out, and those are -- and  
4 maintaining true community of interest and compliant  
5 with the Voting Rights Act.

6           Those are our top criteria, what we expect to  
7 see in any of these maps as we go forward on making  
8 sure that we maximize the amount of house seats in this  
9 process as we move forward to the next process with the  
10 senate.

11           MALE 1: You mentioned the Riverwalk map that  
12 is already in the portal. And I think Senator Smith  
13 said this is kind of based off the Spirit of Detroit,  
14 which is now the Motown Sound map. So, is -- is that  
15 kind of how -- is that kind of how we're looking at  
16 meeting?

17           MS. GAY-DAGNOGO: So, I'll say this. There are  
18 those maps that you lifted up are -- are in the portal.  
19 There is a Riverwalk. There is a Spirit of Detroit.  
20 There is a Motown Sound. Our analysis kind of details  
21 which one crosses county lines more, which one has the  
22 most seats, which one has the highest BVAPs.

1           Again, we want to make sure that we are  
2           working together, especially after we received the  
3           analysis from our expert to determine which we will  
4           push on to try and reflect more. I believe it's 13  
5           seats in this map. This is the highest of any.

6           And so, if we could push the number of some of  
7           these others towards this and reflect the principles  
8           that we have in our map, then that's what we're --  
9           we're going to endeavor to do.

10           MALE 1: Do you think this map as it stands  
11           right now will elect more African Americans to the  
12           state legislature?

13           MS. GAY-DAGNOGO: Absolutely. Having 13  
14           majority, minority seats in play certainly gives the  
15           opportunity for more candidates to run and to be  
16           supported and to not have to walk across several county  
17           lines to campaign.

18           That's the main criteria of the voting rights  
19           process, the redistricting process is making sure that  
20           the black voting age population is high enough to make  
21           sure that candidates can win.

22           One of the conversations we will have, though,

1 is we can get some unity in our -- in our city with  
2 black leaders, those that deem themselves as black  
3 leaders to not work against each other, to work in  
4 unity, to not have several people running in the same  
5 races.

6 Make sure that we have those conversations and  
7 then be mindful and respectful of those who have been  
8 out here working very hard for years and making sure  
9 that we have criteria on who we're going to get behind,  
10 not just names that we've got to pick out of a hat like  
11 some of the commissioners were done. Any more  
12 questions? All right.

13 Thank you all so much again, for everyone for  
14 being here and for supporting this process as we  
15 endeavor to make sure and St. John, St. Luke, thank you  
16 for those. And Judge, I believe I called your name off  
17 already, Judge Virgil Smith as well.

18 Thank you all for being here. And happy  
19 birthday to my former colleague, Latanya Garrett.

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I, Chris Naaden, a transcriber, hereby declare under penalty of perjury that to the best of my ability from the audio recordings and supporting information; and that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this case and have no interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome, the above 25 pages contain a full, true and correct transcription of the tape-recording that I received regarding the event listed on the caption on page 1.

I further declare that I have no interest in the event of the action.



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March 14, 2024

Chris Naaden

(529860, Agee v. Benson Redistricting Michigan Press Conference)

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# Districting Plan

## Basic Info

Submitter: Alisha

Location:

Submitted: 2/15/2024

Type: written

ID: w10062

## Tags

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Written Testimony

Hello,

I reside in Hazel Park Michigan and I am writing to tell you that I support the Motown Sound or Riverwalk Districting Plan for the House of Representatives. Thank you.

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# Motown Sound or The Riverwalk

## Basic Info

Submitter: Edward Klobucher

Location:

Submitted: 2/15/2024

Type: written

ID: w10064

## Tags

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Written Testimony

I support either the Motown Sound or The Riverwalk redistricting plans for the Michigan House of Representatives. These plans are both fair, inclusive of communities of interest, and address the concerns that motivated the litigation over the previous plan. To ensure that all of Michigan is properly and fairly represented, I urge the adoption of either the Motown or The Riverwalk redistricting plans. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

3/14/24, 9:23 AM

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# Motown Sound and Riverwalk Advocacy

## Basic Info

Submitter: Jared Gajos

Location:

Submitted: 2/15/2024

Type: written

ID: w10058

## Tags

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Written Testimony

I am advocating for Motown Sound or Riverwalk as the district map that the community I live in. It is the most fair and achieves the goals our cities have in mind for the future.

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# Districting Plan

## Basic Info

Submitter: Julie

Location:

Submitted: 2/15/2024

Type: written

ID: w10065

## Tags

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Written Testimony

Hello,

I live in Hazel Park Michigan. I am commenting that I support the Motown sound or Riverwalk districting plan for the House of Representatives. Thank you.



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# Districting plan

## Basic Info

Submitter: kim

Location:

Submitted: 2/15/2024

Type: written

ID: w10063

## Tags

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Written Testimony

hello, i live in Hazel Park , Michigan. I support the Motown Sound or Riverwalk districting plan for the House of Representatives. Thank You

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# Districting Plan

## Basic Info

Submitter: Lisa

Location:

Submitted: 2/15/2024

Type: written

ID: w10061

## Tags

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Written Testimony

I live in Hazel Park, Michigan. I am writing to tell you that I support the Motown Sound or Riverwalk Districting Plan for the House of Representatives. Thank you for your consideration.

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# Fairness and COI

## Basic Info

Submitter: Mari Rymar

Location:

Submitted: 2/15/2024

Type: written

ID: w10067

## Tags

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Written Testimony

I think the Motown Sound map is your best map, balancing partisan fairness, communities of interest, and representation for Detroiters. I think Riverwalk is decently done too. I don't like the Willow map, as it seems to prioritize a strange community of interest, the St. Clair Shores and Grosse Point set. Not exactly a disenfranchised COI crying out for their very special voices to be heard. Seems very reminiscent of the old

3/14/24, 9:22 AM

MICRC Public Comment Portal

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# Re Districting

## Basic Info

Submitter: Melissa

Location:

Submitted: 2/15/2024

Type: written

ID: w10059

## Tags

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Written Testimony

Hello, I am a resident of Hazel Park, MI. I'm commenting to say, I support the Motown Sound or Riverwalk districting plan for the House of Representatives.

Thank you.

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# Districting Plan

## Basic Info

Submitter: Nicole

Location:

Submitted: 2/15/2024

Type: written

ID: w10060

## Tags

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Written Testimony

I live in Hazel Park Michigan, I want you to know that I support the Motown Sound or Riverwalk Districting Plan for the House of Representatives. Thank you

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# Preferred map

## Basic Info

Submitter: Darci M

Location:

Submitted: 2/20/2024

Type: written

ID: w10071

## Tags

#grosse pointe park city

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Written Testimony

I am a precinct delegate, resident of Grosse Pointe Park and a Detroit-based business owner. I am writing to urge the commission to select the Motown Sound map.

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# Detroit's East English Village

## Basic Info

Submitter: Sydney LaDuke

Location:

Submitted: 2/20/2024

Type: written

ID: w10074

## Tags

#detroit #eastenglishvillage #eastside #ewarren

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Written Testimony

The most important thing to me in the redistricting is that my neighborhood of East English Village in Detroit is contained within one single district (Cadieux --> E. Outer Dr. / Whitter and Mack --> Harper). The Daisy 2 proposal does NOT satisfy this need. To me it is totally unacceptable to divide a strong and stable neighborhood like EEV.



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Cornerstone Village share one district. These 3 neighborhoods are all part of my community along the E. Warren corridor. I walk, bike, eat out, go to parks, vote, and attend community events in these 3 neighborhoods.

The third most important thing to me is that East English Village, Morningside, and Cornerstone Village are paired in a district with the Grosse Pointes. The Grosse Pointes are where I shop for groceries, work out, go to the post office, dine out, and go to the doctor. Many of my catholic neighbors attend church in Grosse Pointe as parts of East English Village are within the St. Clare Catholic Church parish boundaries.

Both the Motown Sound and Szetela Version 4 maps satisfy all of my priorities.

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# ACCESS Arab American COI Statement

## Basic Info

Submitter: ACCESS

Location:

Submitted: 2/22/2024

Type: written

ID: w10090

## Tags

#arabamerican

#mena

#arab

#access

#menacommunities

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Written Testimony

As the leading Arab American community organization, ACCESS the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services, has serviced for over 50 years the Arab American and Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) community of metro Detroit. The ACCESS agency services over 70,000 individuals from disenfranchised communities on an annual basis. This on-the-

## MI Redistricting Public Comment Portal

underrepresented community.

The Arab American community that ACCESS serves most directly, is one of the largest and most concentrated in the nation. But the community is also unique in its diversity, successes, and challenges. In metro Detroit, we have people of Iraqi, Yemeni, Lebanese, Syrian, Palestinian, and Egyptian ancestry. There are also smaller communities of people from Sudan, Morocco, and Algeria. The community is one of the oldest Arab American communities, with roots back to the 1890s, and receives a significant number of Arabic-speaking refugees and immigrants than almost any other metro area in the country.

With ACCESS's intimate knowledge and understanding of the community, we previously submitted information during the last redistricting process that included data, historic information about the community, and a comprehensive understanding of the community's needs.

That is why we are submitting a comment today to ask the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) to reflect on the needs of our Communities of Interest (COI) across the state of Michigan. Our community of interest experiences similar needs, similar linguistic barriers, and similar inaccessibility to minority specific programs. These needs are further exacerbated by not having disaggregated data, and therefore cannot have data driven programs to address disparities.

We support the Motown Sound Map as a starting point and would like to keep Melvindale and Warrendale together in District 3. When you think through minority-majority districts for our COI, we ask that you also look at packed districts like

## MI Redistricting Public Comment Portal

concerns.

Arab Americans and more broadly people from the Middle East and North African region are not protected under the Federal Voting Rights Act (FVRA) under Section 203 because language minorities are determined as: certain language minority groups who are unable to speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process. However, we have shown through our ACCESS COI map that Arab Americans are a sizeable population and language minority.

Under Section 2 of the FVRA, Arab Americans are not protected as a language minority. When the FVRA was created Arab Americans were not considered a sizeable community.

However, as we have shown through our ACCESS COI Map, we are a language minority and now a more significant population with shared interests and similar needs. Moreover, we have no protection from being packed or cracked as a community. The FVRA was meant to be the minimum standard and nothing precludes the MICRC from extending those rights to Arab American communities.

We have shown through the ACCESS COI Map (C1510) that this community has particular needs. With that in mind, for the State House maps we are requesting that this community have fairer representation across two minority-majority districts.

Due to the population limitations for each House district, we ask that you take our COI into consideration as you begin mapping changes for the State Senate maps.

We need to ensure that the ACCESS COI, especially historically underrepresented communities, are not divided. We urge the commission to make sure that our community of interest, the Arab American and MENA community, which have contributed

## MI Redistricting Public Comment Portal

community can feel represented and included in the political process.

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# Why Motown Sound is Best

## Basic Info

Submitter: Donyale Stephen-Atara

Location:

Submitted: 2/22/2024

Type: written

ID: w10093

## Tags

#justicefordetroiters #black

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Written Testimony

Before I provide my comments on the map I am in support of, I would remind the Commissioner of the mandate provided by the court regarding the redrawing of the maps. Thus, I would respectfully ask that you keep in mind the comments and opinions of Detroiters. They should be first and foremost in your mind, as the maps must speak to the correction of stripping of their constitutional right to vote individuals that

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appropriate VBAP to be in alignment with the Voting Rights Act (VRA) and the U.S. Constitution.

I am in support of the Motown Sound map, #339. There are variety of reasons I'm in support of the map:

1. It was drawn by Commissioner Brittani Kellom, a Detroiter listened to the opinions of Detroiters and drew a map that spoke their needs and concerns, as well as was constitutional. She has been the only Commissioner that has consistently, since the creation of the Commission, that has attempted to meet the needs of Detroiters.

2. It provides 12 Black "opportunity districts" based upon your analysis, thus providing Detroiters with the chance to elect candidates that will speak to their concerns, just as residents in other areas of the state have an opportunity to do.

The Spirit of Detroit (Map #320) is my second selection, but the Motown Sound has the right balance of districts, BVAP, and VRA compliance to make it the strongest map. It provides partisan fairness, which is also extremely important to me and fully represents the voting selections of Detroiters and many Metro Detroiters. But, I do wish that it had more Black "opportunity districts". If the Motown Sound and Spirit of Detroit maps could be merged, it would meet all the needs of Detroit and Metro Detroit, where many Black people reside and there is great diversity in the southern portions of Oakland and Macomb counties. Yet, I yield to ensuring that Detroiters get the greatest good from the maps, as they have been aggrieved.

I do not support any of the maps that have names of trees and flowers. They pack Detroiters, demolish political partisan fairness, and do not provide enough Black "opportunity districts". The maps are disrespectful to Detroiters and to the

3/14/24, 8:49 AM

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The Riverwalk FC (Map #338) and Szetela 4 (#336) maps are a distance 3 and 4 on my listing of maps to support.



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# Unified GLBT+ (SGM) District(s)

## Basic Info

Submitter: Douglas Haller

Location:

Submitted: 2/22/2024

Type: written

ID: w10095

## Tags

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Written Testimony

Concerning districts that reflect Communities of Interest, or districts that empower communities with a similar culture & history, especially those that have been oppressed & underrepresented, I would like to speak to the value of drawing some districts that represent the SGM communities (Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity Minorities). In Metro Detroit GLBT+ populations first established recognizable neighborhoods after WWII: beginning with Downtown around

## MI Redistricting Public Comment Portal

Cultural Center around Wayne State University, the Museum & Library; continuing up Woodward to Palmer Park; developing West & East Side pockets in Warrendale & the Near Northeast Side; and proceeding up Woodward to Royal Oak & Ferndale & adjacent suburbs such as Pleasant Ridge & Huntington Woods & more recently Hazel Park. Currently there is a cluster of municipalities along the northern Woodward Ave. Corridor centering on Ferndale (where the largest SGM community center is located). This cluster is united by Woodward Ave. but divided by 8 Mile Rd's County & Municipal boundaries, as well as racial demographics. The SGM communities have been historically underrepresented as oppressed minorities by all of these factors & others. State Government alone has the ability to unite these contiguous areas in furtherance of equal representation in government bodies. A decided effort should be made to create a State legislative district or districts that best represent the combined SGM communities, to redress historic underrepresentation in these geographically clustered but otherwise disparate communities. Thank you for your serious consideration of this proposal in drawing legislative districts.

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# Greta's Comment 2024 Redistricting Maps

## Basic Info

Submitter: Greta

Location:

Submitted: 2/22/2024

Type: written

ID: w10091

## Tags

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Written Testimony

As a lifelong Detroitter who voted for the MICRC, I had high hopes for this Commission and that the decades of racial gerrymandering would finally be over. I was so disappointed in the previous map that this Commission came up with. Now that the Court has deemed that map to be unconstitutional and found that the Commission violated Black voter's rights

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As a Black woman living in a majority Black city, I'm not asking for special treatment. I want and deserve an EQUAL OPPORTUNITY to elect candidates of my choice just like those who live in majority White communities. Being lumped in with cities and other counties that we don't share much in common, or have the same community interests and concerns - it dilutes our collective VOTING POWER and forces us to fight for representation. It's a fact that Black voters have less representation in Lansing when our districts cross into the suburbs and other counties.

A FAIR and EQUITABLE map to me will be one that is: compact and keeps Detroit together to the extent possible, raises the percentage of Black voters in each of the voting districts throughout metro Detroit, and minimizes the amount of county and municipal splits.

Even though they aren't perfect, Motown Sound and Spirit of Detroit are the best maps the commission offered. I SAY NO to the Daisy map, which doesn't change very much from the current map. I SAY NO to the Tulip, Szetela and Bergamot maps.

I SAY "DO YOUR JOB!" But if you don't get it right this time, Then LET THE COURT CHOOSE.

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# VNP Feb. Public Hearing Tracker

## Basic Info

Submitter: Alyson Grigsby

Location:

Submitted: 2/26/2024

Type: file

ID: f10108

## Tags

#detroit city

#wayne county

#motown sound

#oakland county

#macomb county

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Sent File to Commission

## Written Testimony

Voters Not Politicians has submitted a spreadsheet documenting the public comments given during the February 21st and 22nd public hearings for the commission's reference.

## MI Redistricting Public Comment Portal

both as-is and a tweaked version for partisan fairness and communities of interest.

## MI Redistricting Public Comment Portal

[← Next](#)

[Previous →](#)

# Ltr to Redistricting Commission

## Basic Info

Submitter: Melissa

Location:

Submitted: 2/27/2024

Type: file

ID: f10113

## Tags

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Sent File to Commission

## Written Testimony

On behalf of the City of Hazel Park, we submit this letter asking for the Redistricting Commission to support the Motown Sound Map for the House of Representatives.

## MI Redistricting Public Comment Portal

← **Next**

**Previous** →

# Adopt Daisey 2 or Motown Soundtoe

## Basic Info

Submitter: Gary Bresnehan

Location:

Submitted: 2/28/2024

Type: written

ID: w10116

## Tags

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Written Testimony

February 26, 2024

As a community of interest, we are writing to urge the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to incorporate our input as the commission decides on a new House district map.

We support the Daisy 2 and Motown Sound maps because each map keeps our communities of interest together. We therefore ask that the MICRC approve one of these maps.



3/14/24, 8:27 AM

MICRC Public Comment Portal

## MI Redistricting Public Comment Portal

Gary Bresnehan, president  
Grosse Pointe Democratic Club

## MI Redistricting Public Comment Portal

[← Next](#)

[Previous →](#)

# Adopt Daisey 2 or Motown Sound

## Basic Info

Submitter: Gary Bresnehan

Location:

Submitted: 2/29/2024

Type: file

ID: f10118

## Tags

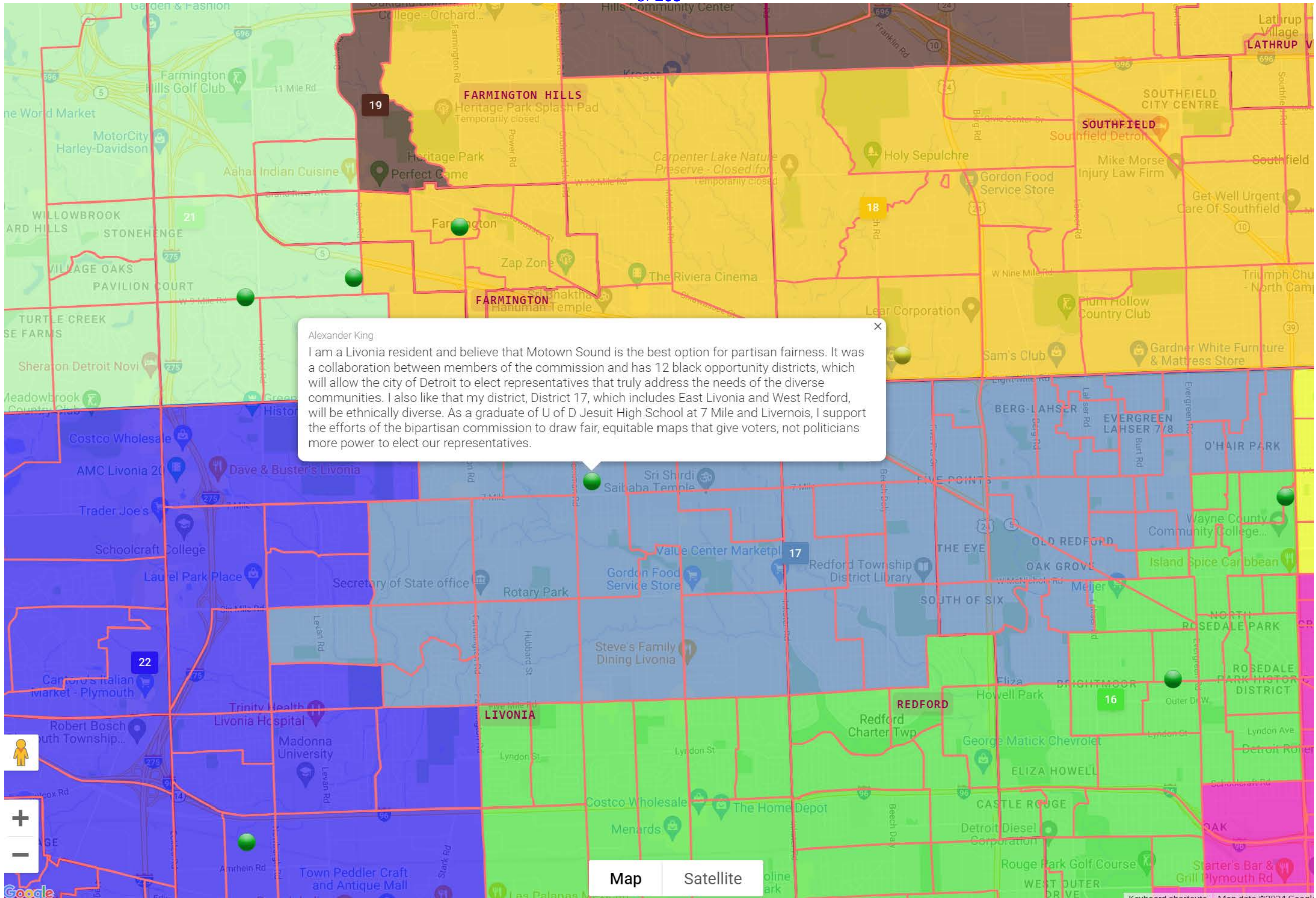
## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

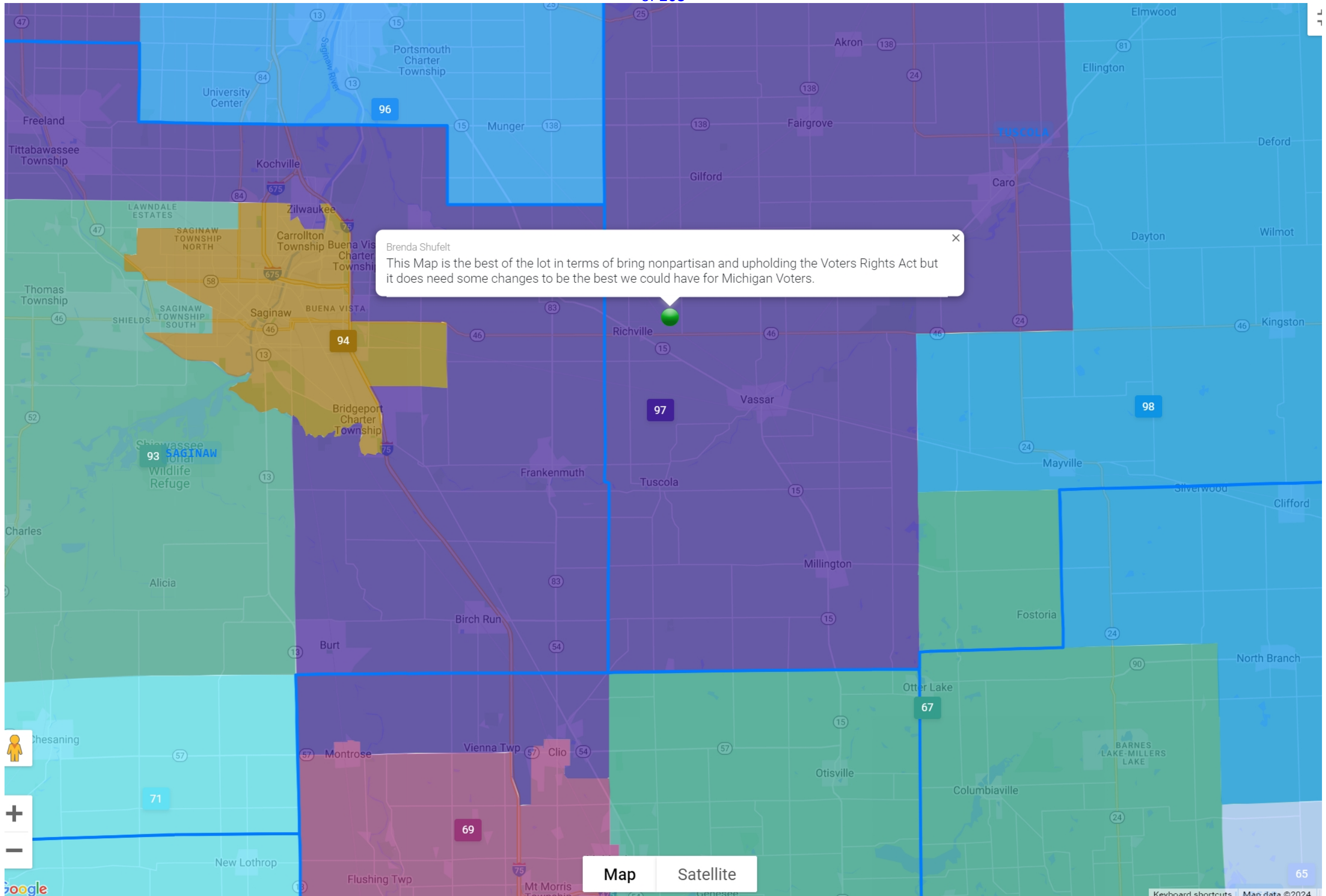
## Sent File to Commission

## Written Testimony

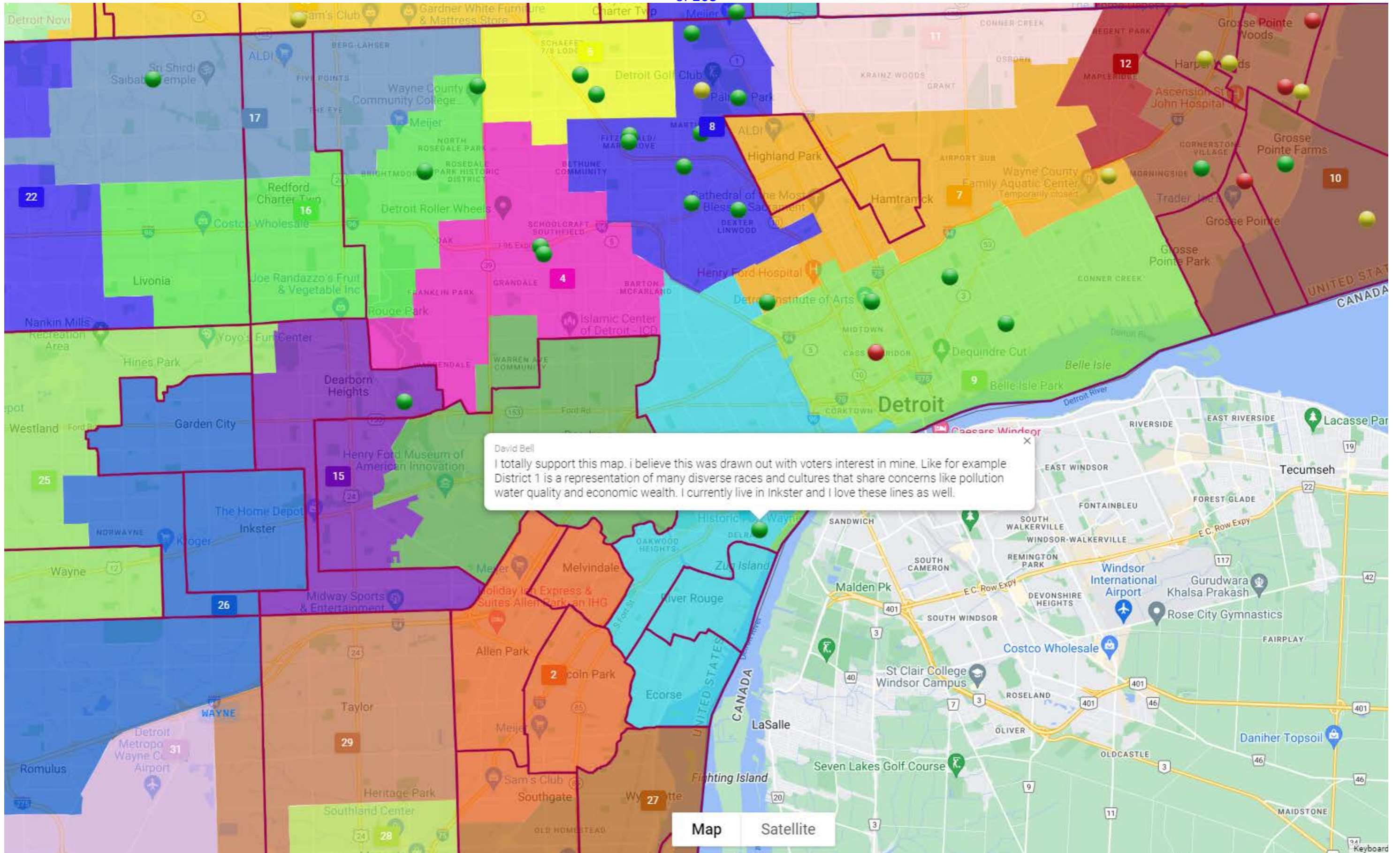
Please find the attached resolution from the Grosse Pointe Democratic Club supporting Daisey 2 and Motown Sound. Thank you for your consideration.



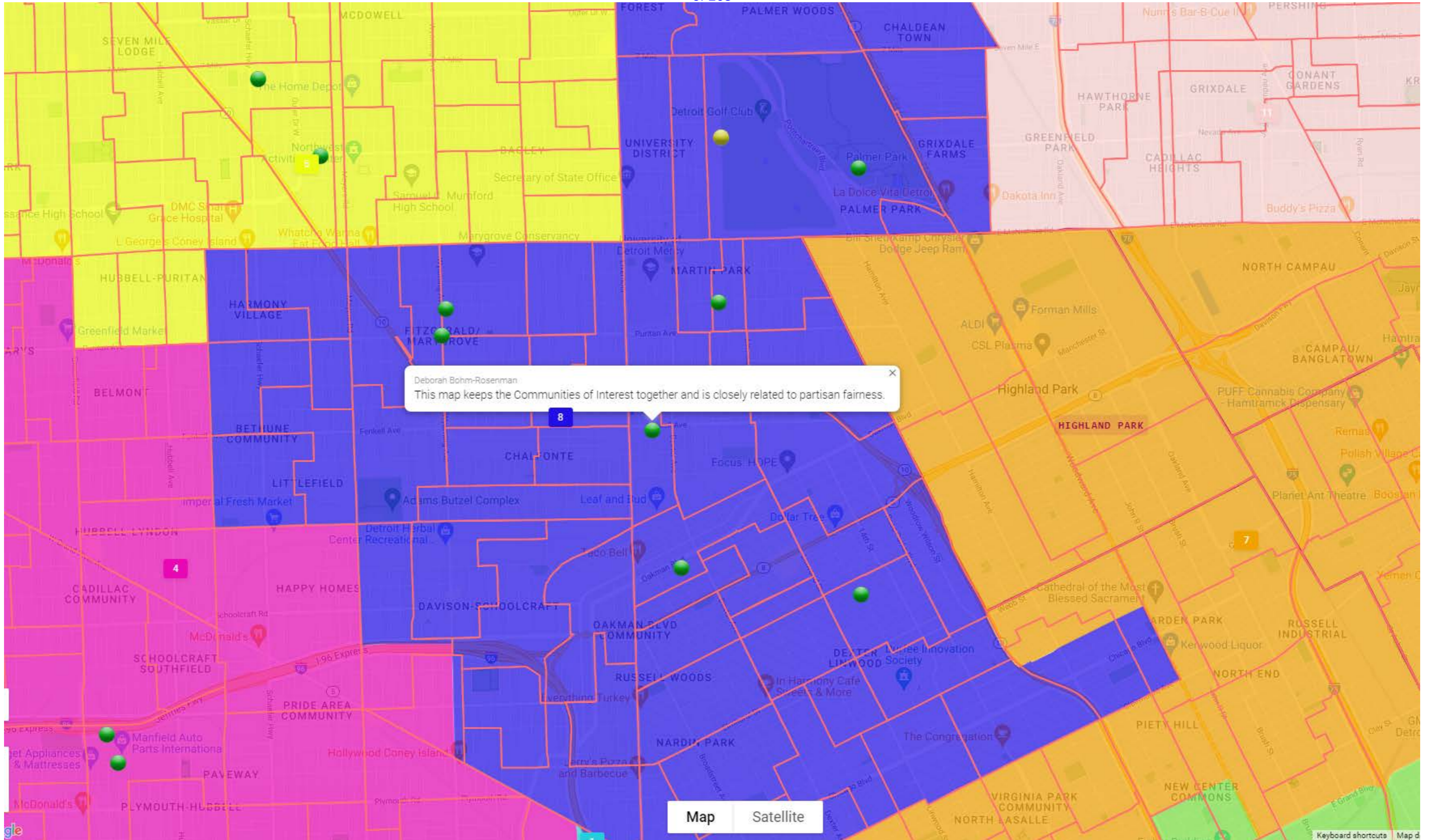




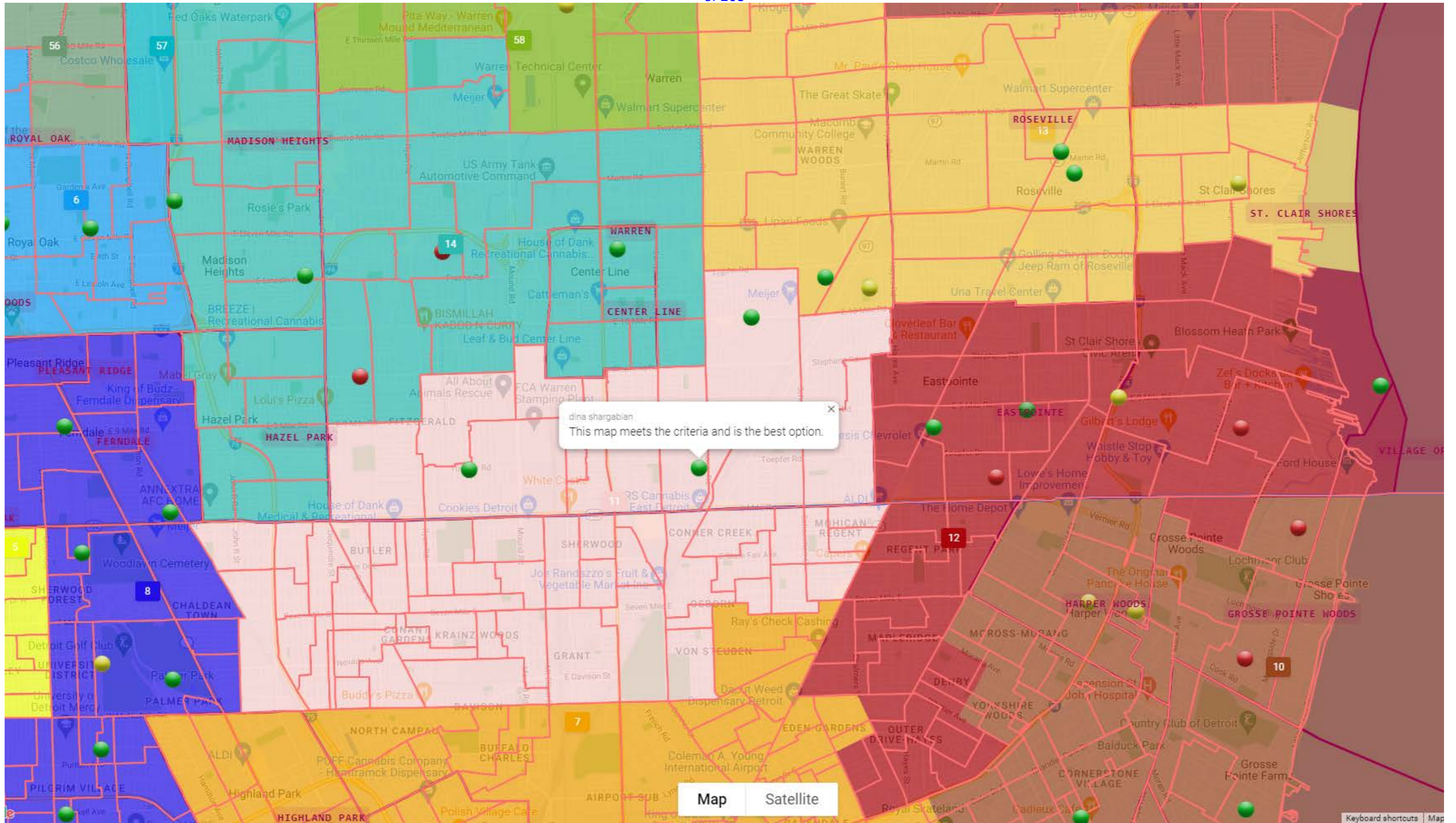




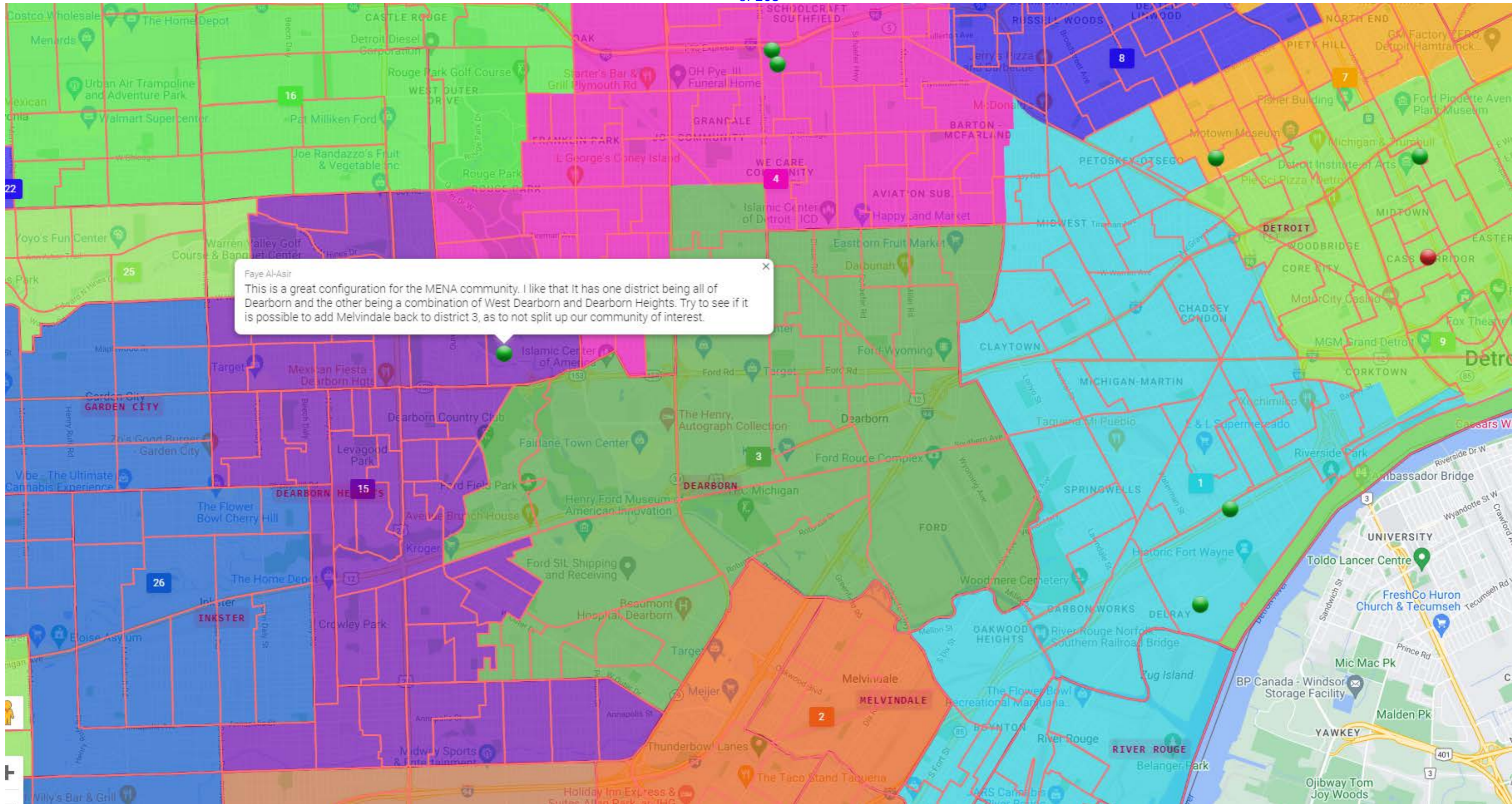




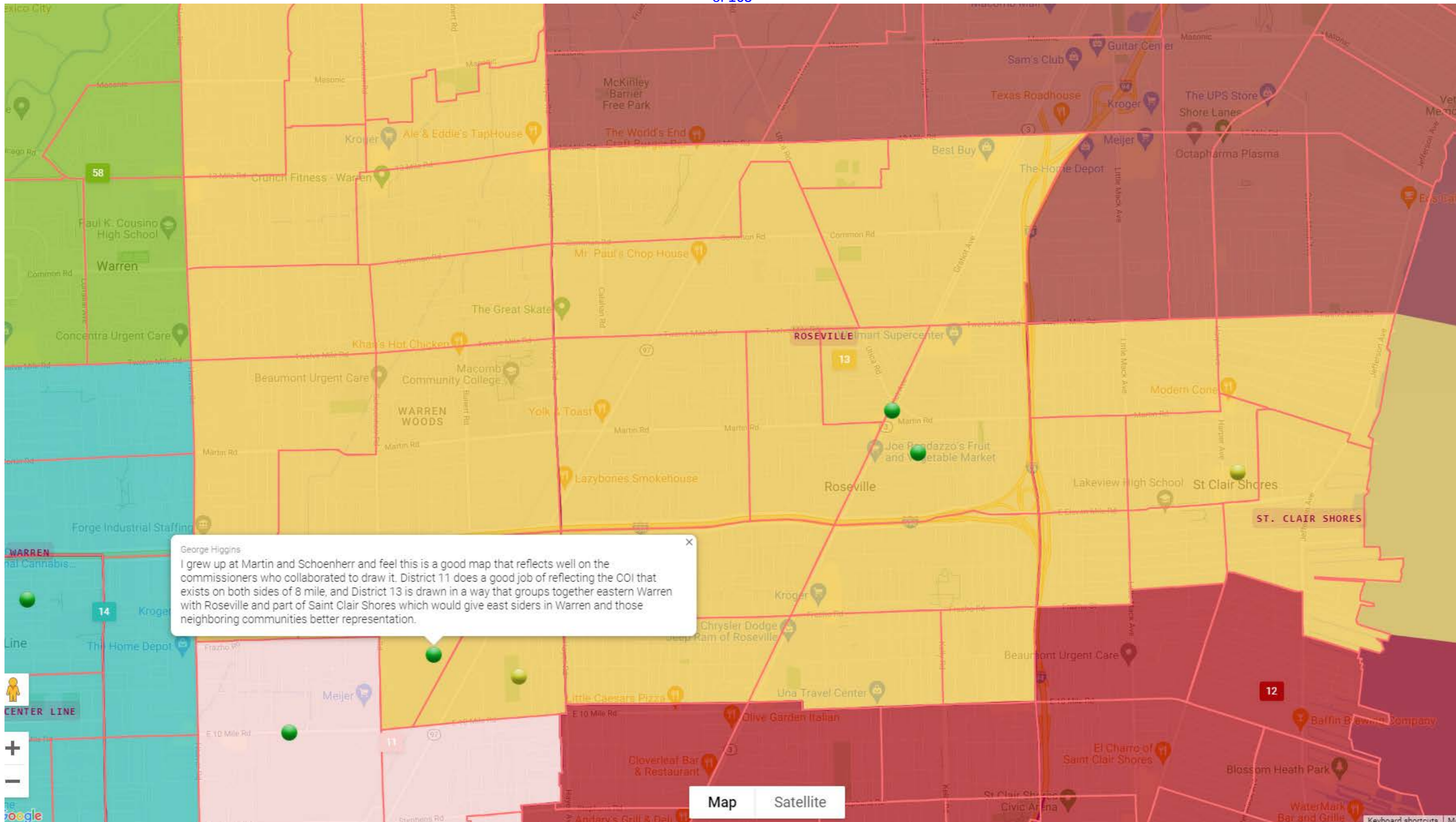








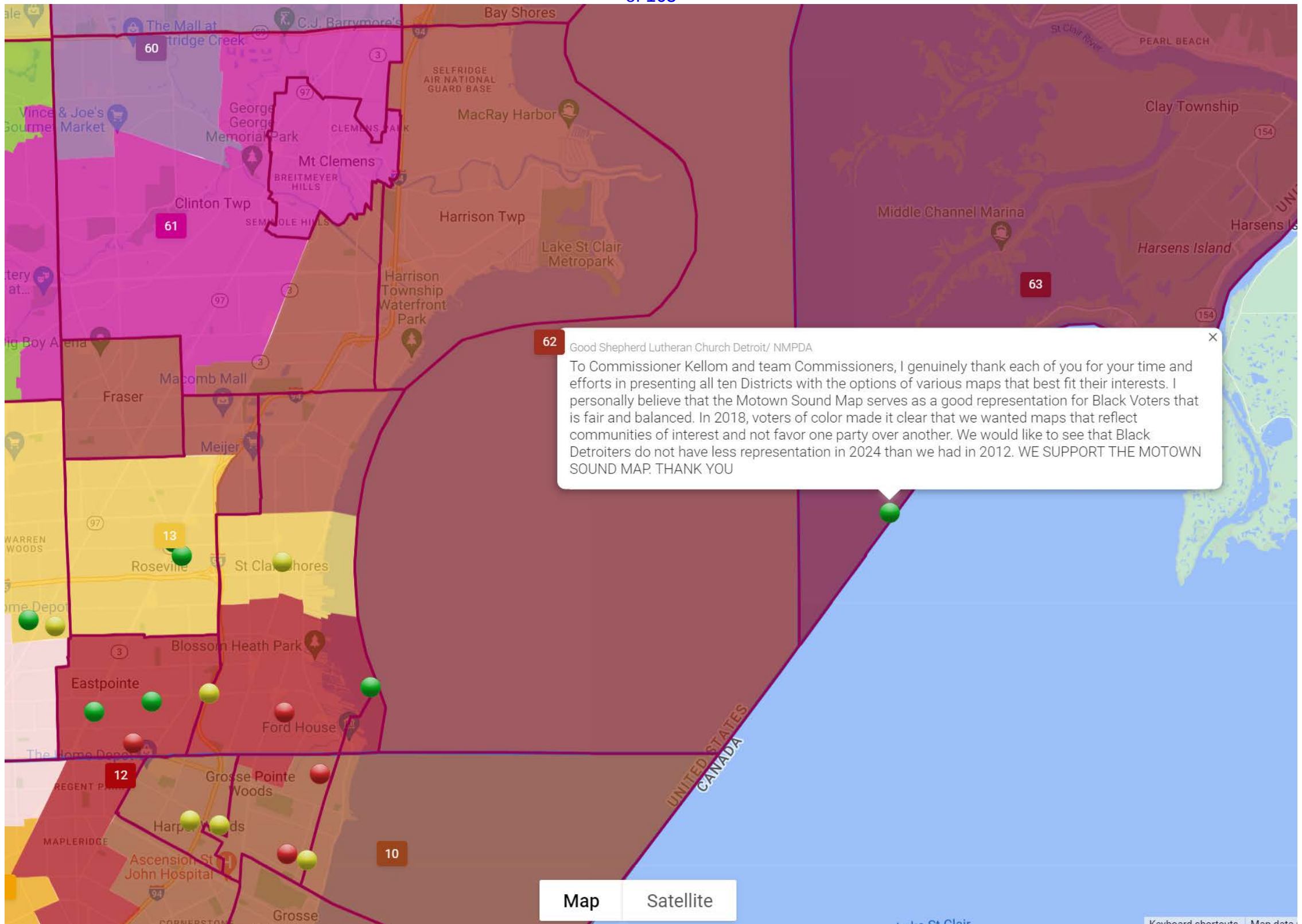




George Higgins  
 I grew up at Martin and Schoenherr and feel this is a good map that reflects well on the commissioners who collaborated to draw it. District 11 does a good job of reflecting the COI that exists on both sides of 8 mile, and District 13 is drawn in a way that groups together eastern Warren with Roseville and part of Saint Clair Shores which would give east siders in Warren and those neighboring communities better representation.

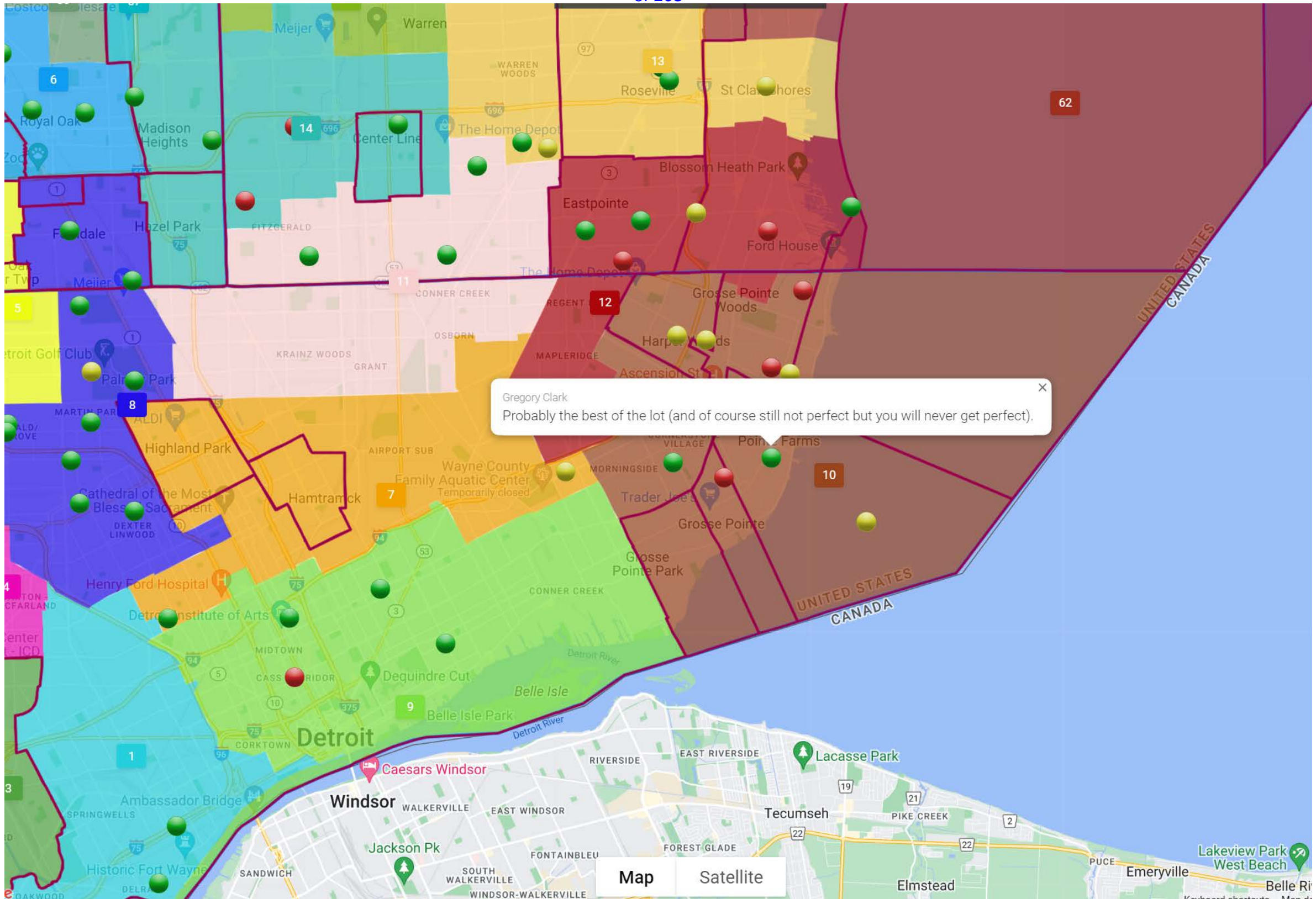
Map Satellite





62 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Detroit/ NMPDA

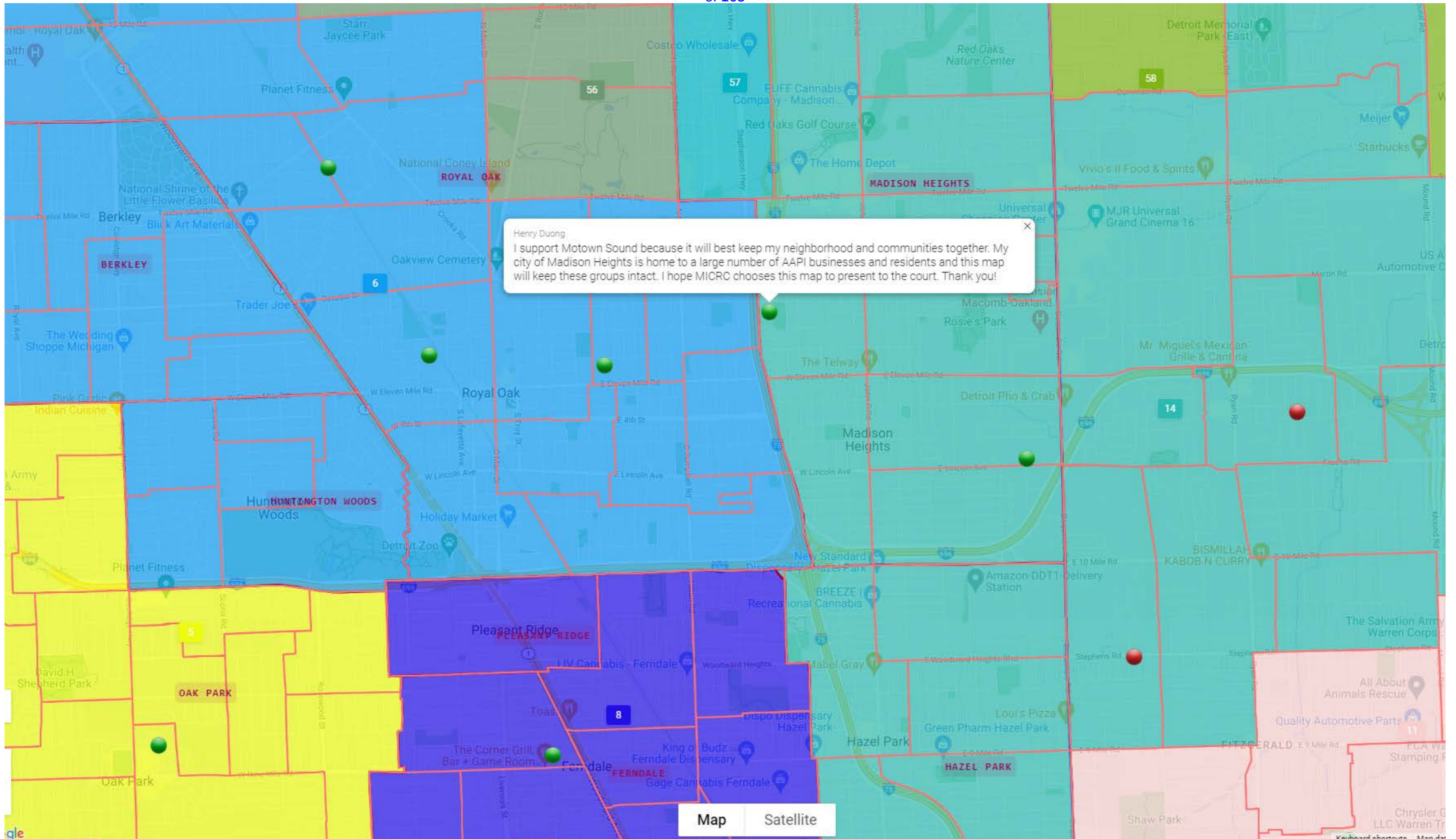
To Commissioner Kellom and team Commissioners, I genuinely thank each of you for your time and efforts in presenting all ten Districts with the options of various maps that best fit their interests. I personally believe that the Motown Sound Map serves as a good representation for Black Voters that is fair and balanced. In 2018, voters of color made it clear that we wanted maps that reflect communities of interest and not favor one party over another. We would like to see that Black Detroiters do not have less representation in 2024 than we had in 2012. WE SUPPORT THE MOTOWN SOUND MAP. THANK YOU



Map Satellite

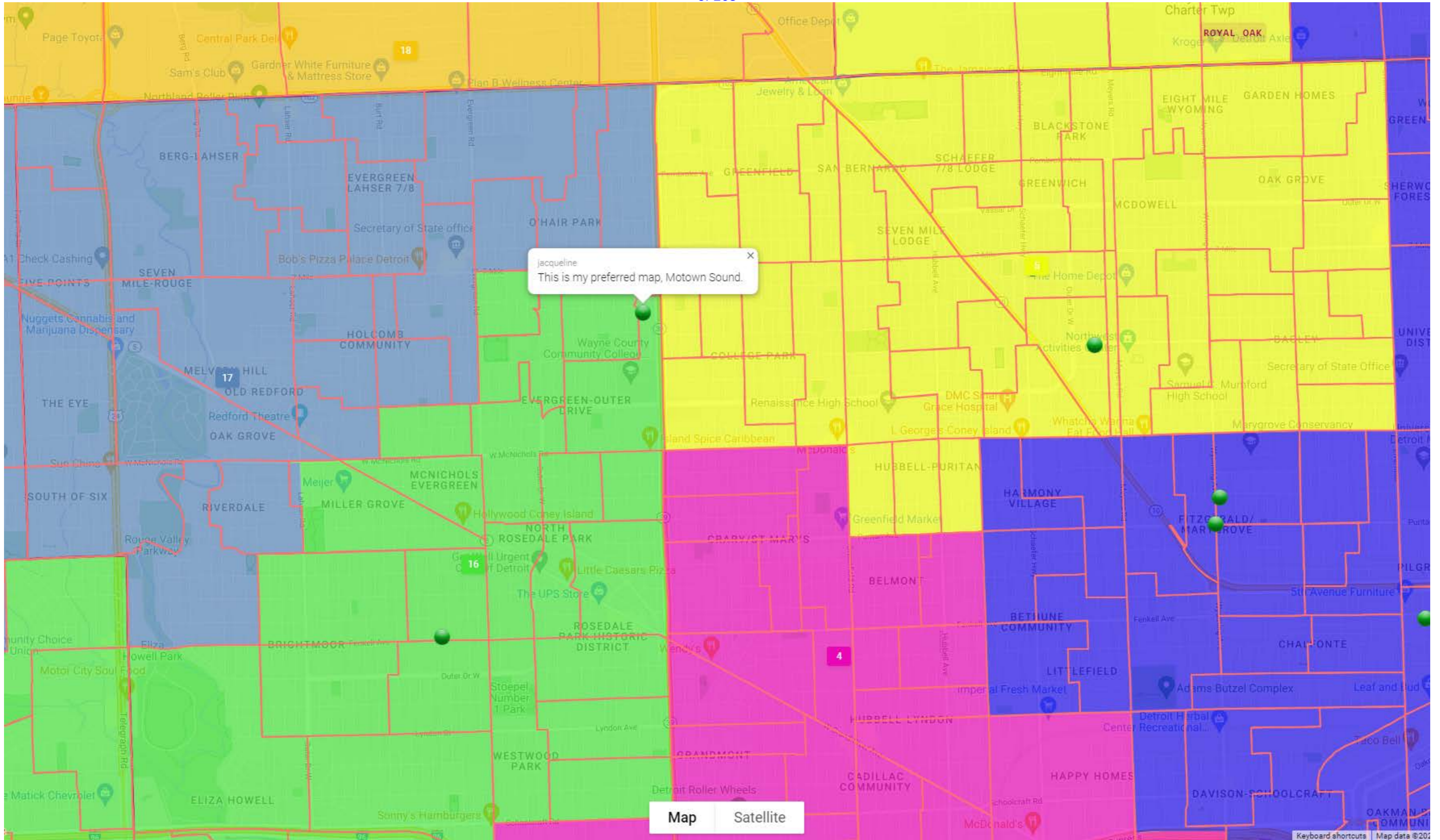
040a





041a

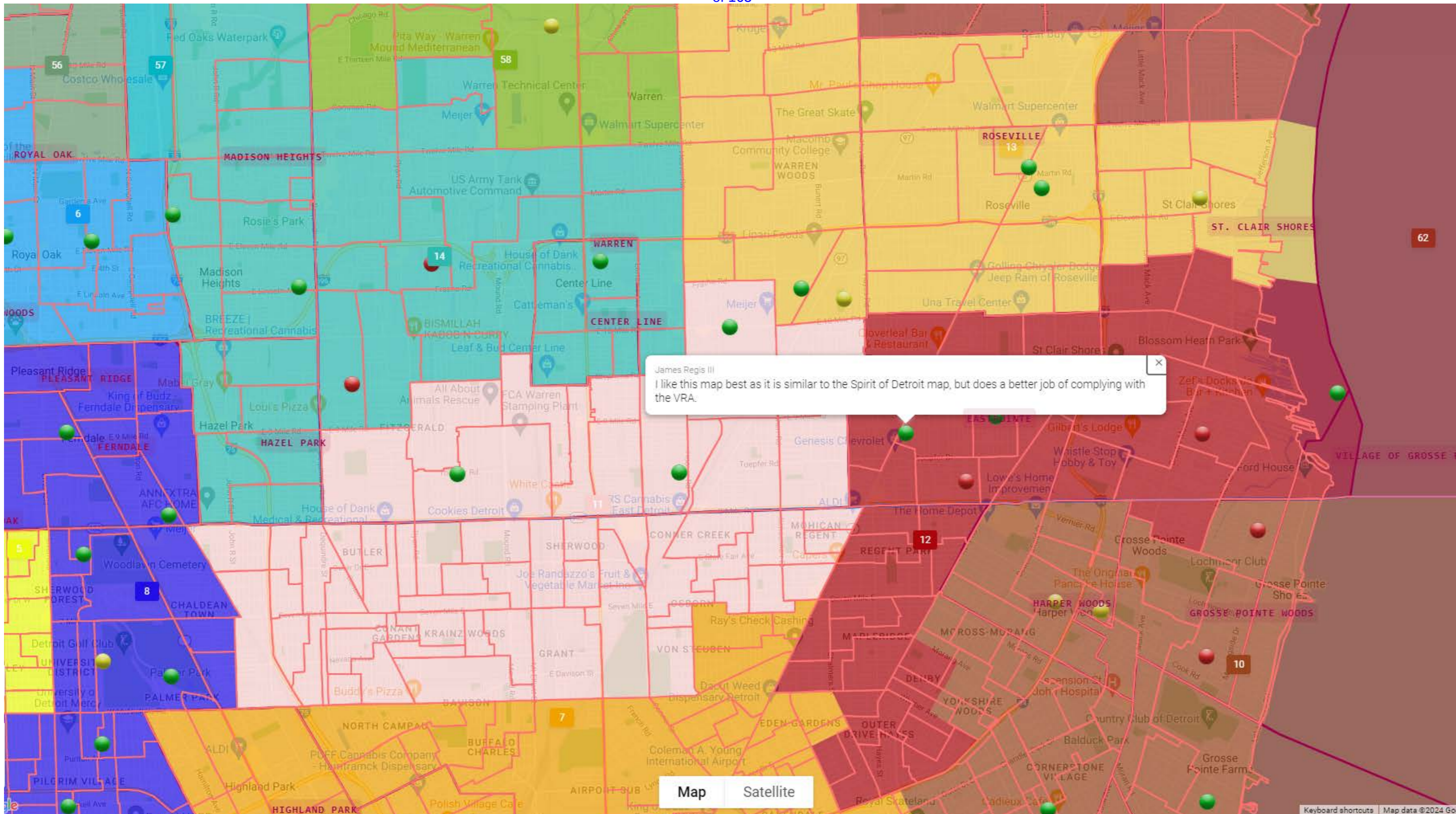




jacqueline  
This is my preferred map, Motown Sound.

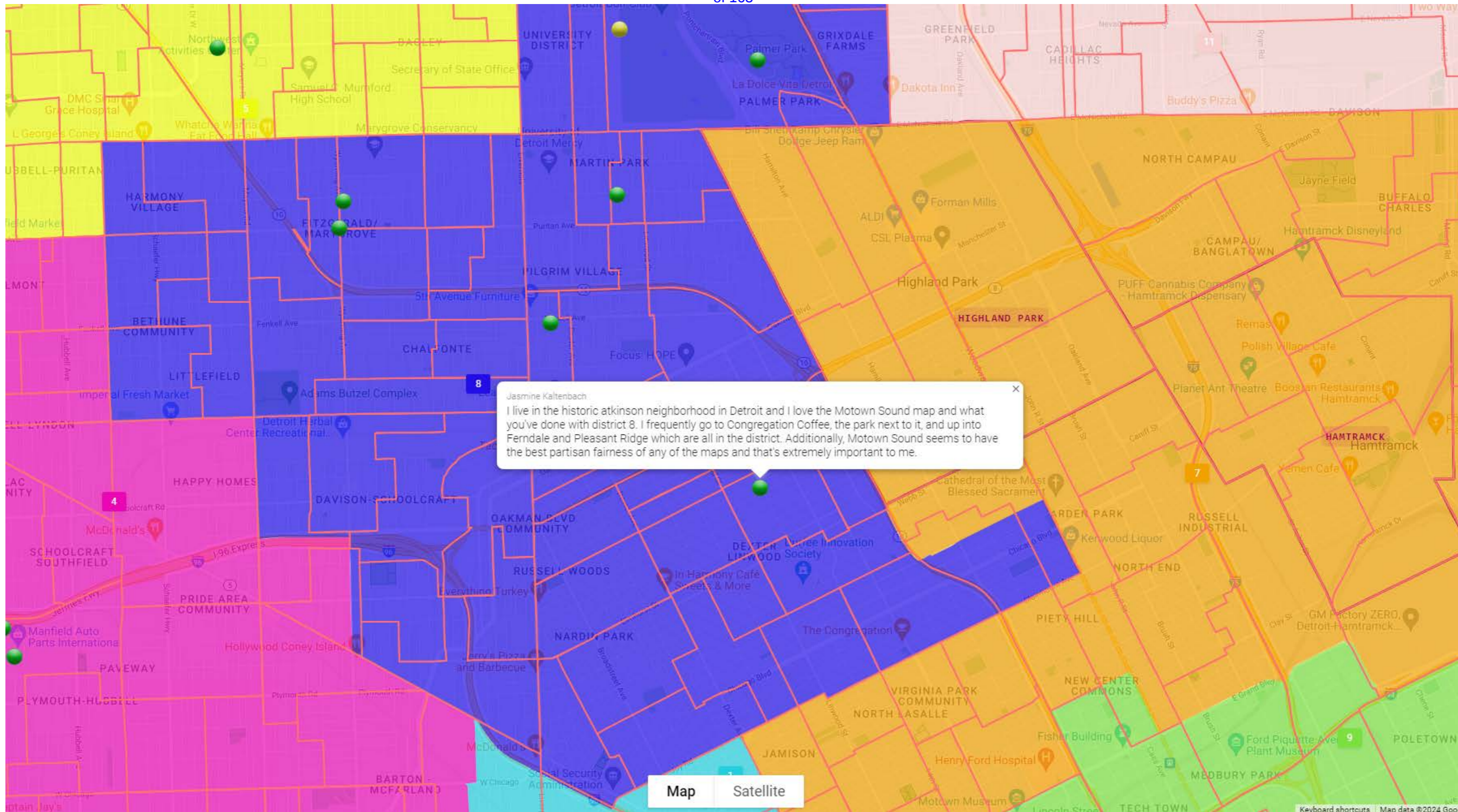
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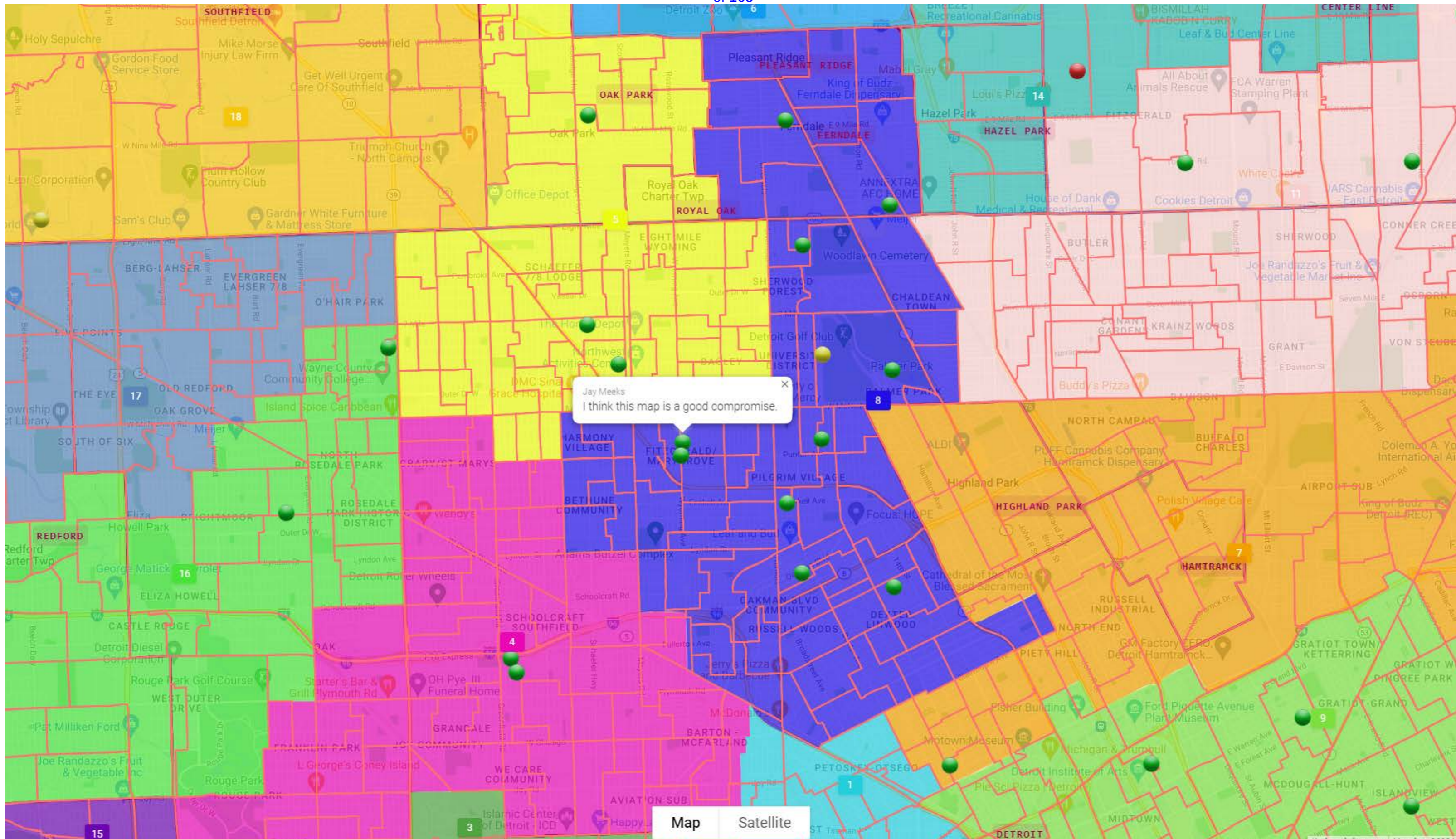




Jasmine Kaltenbach  
I live in the historic atkinson neighborhood in Detroit and I love the Motown Sound map and what you've done with district 8. I frequently go to Congregation Coffee, the park next to it, and up into Ferndale and Pleasant Ridge which are all in the district. Additionally, Motown Sound seems to have the best partisan fairness of any of the maps and that's extremely important to me.

Map Satellite

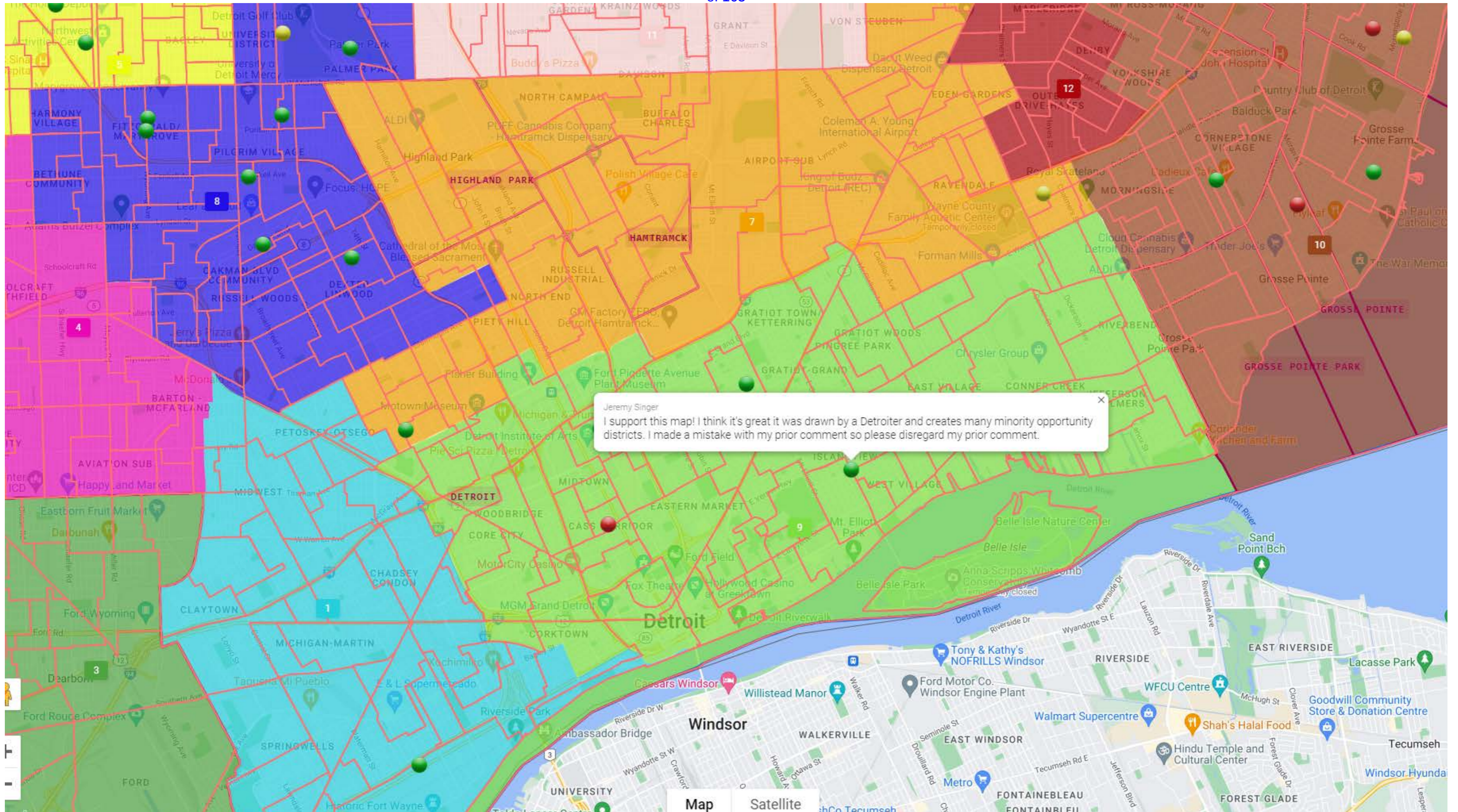




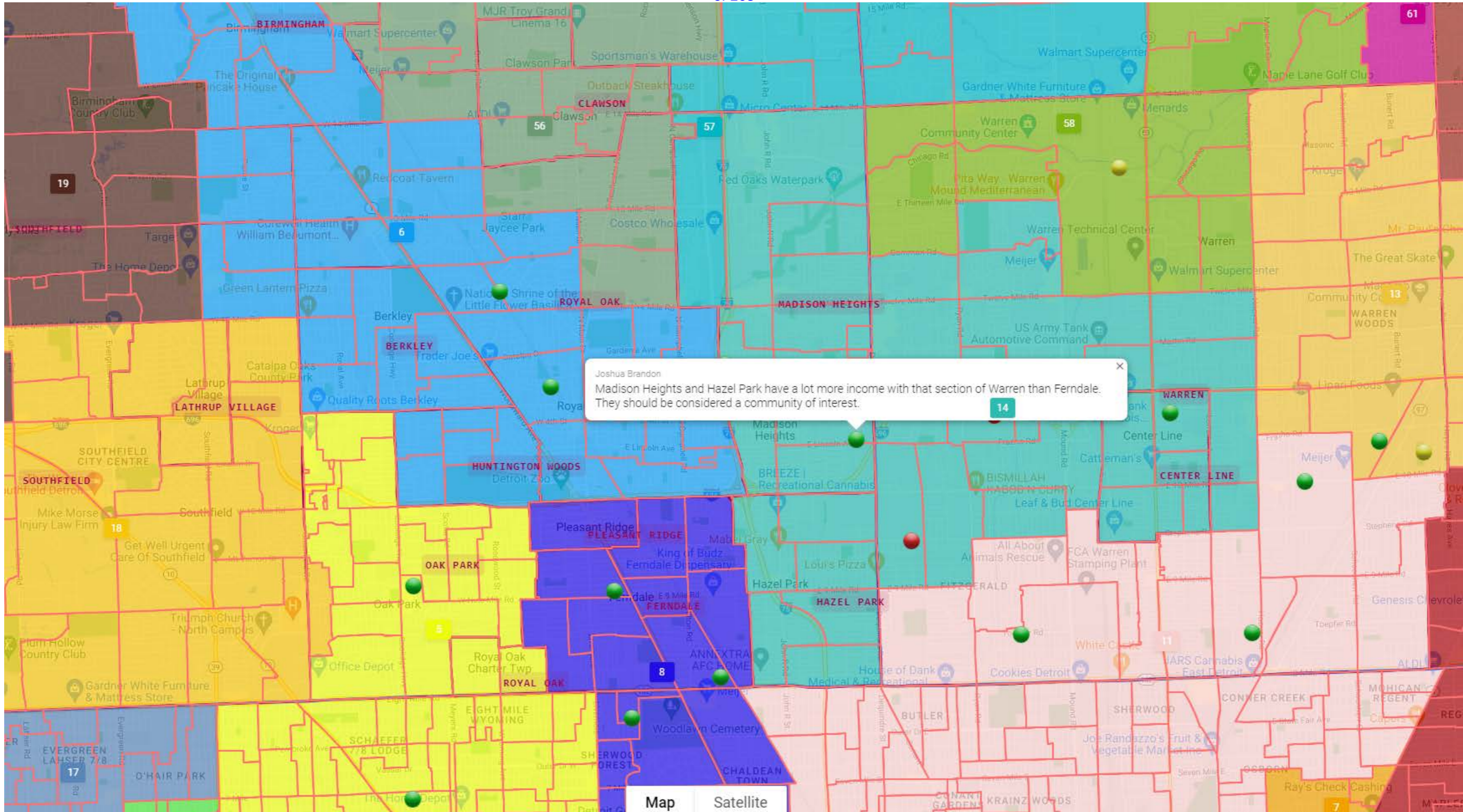
Jay Meeks  
I think this map is a good compromise.

Map Satellite

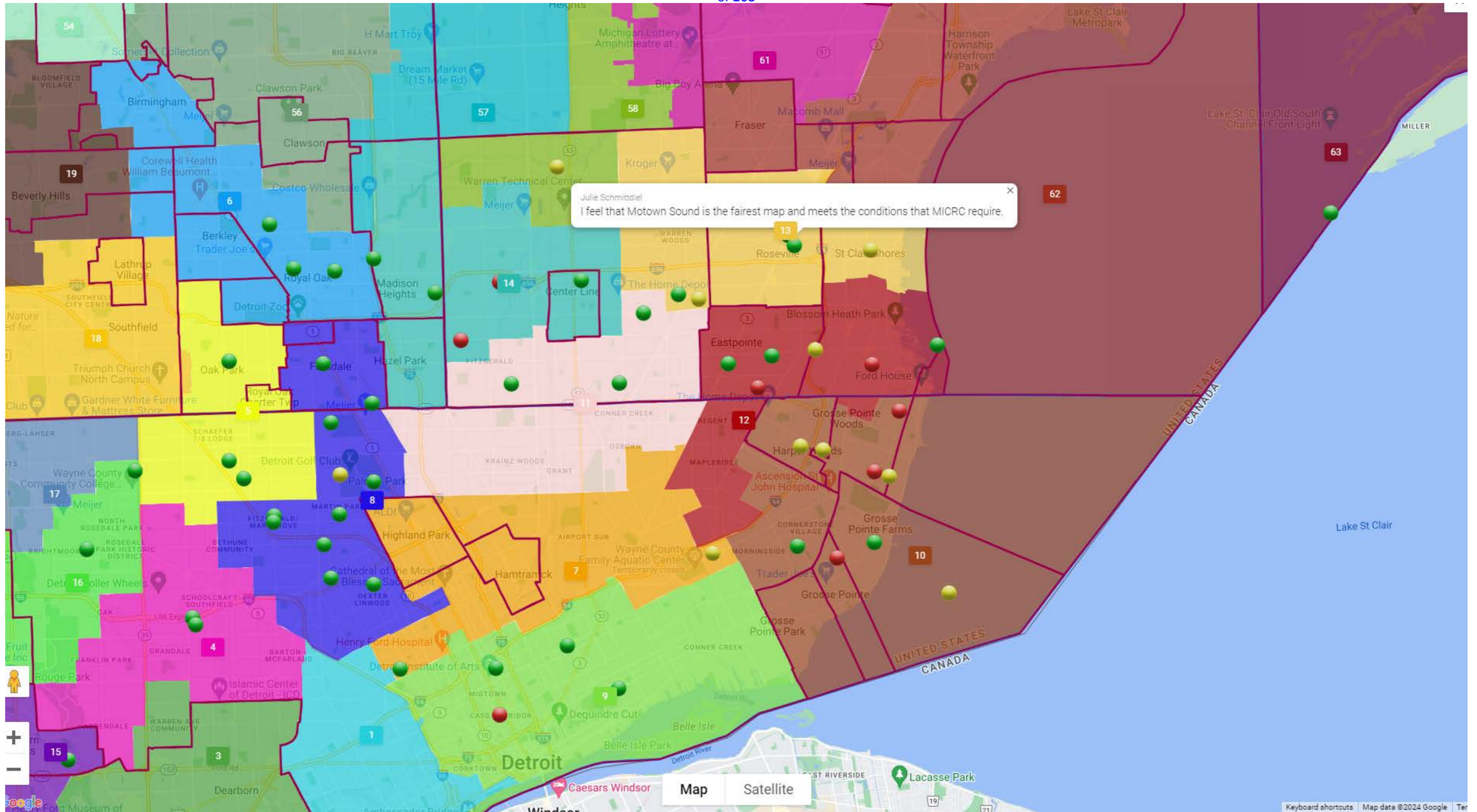




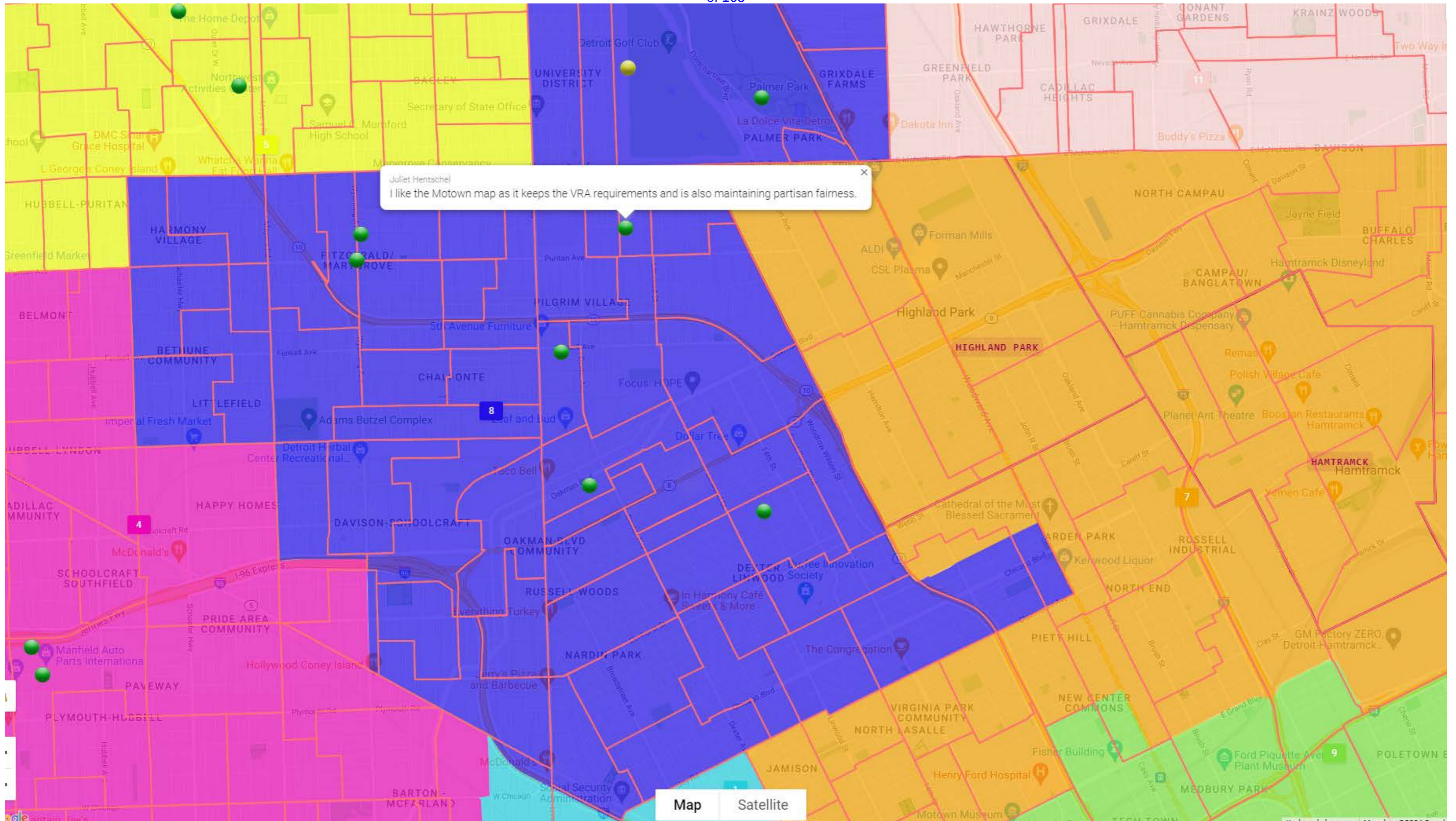




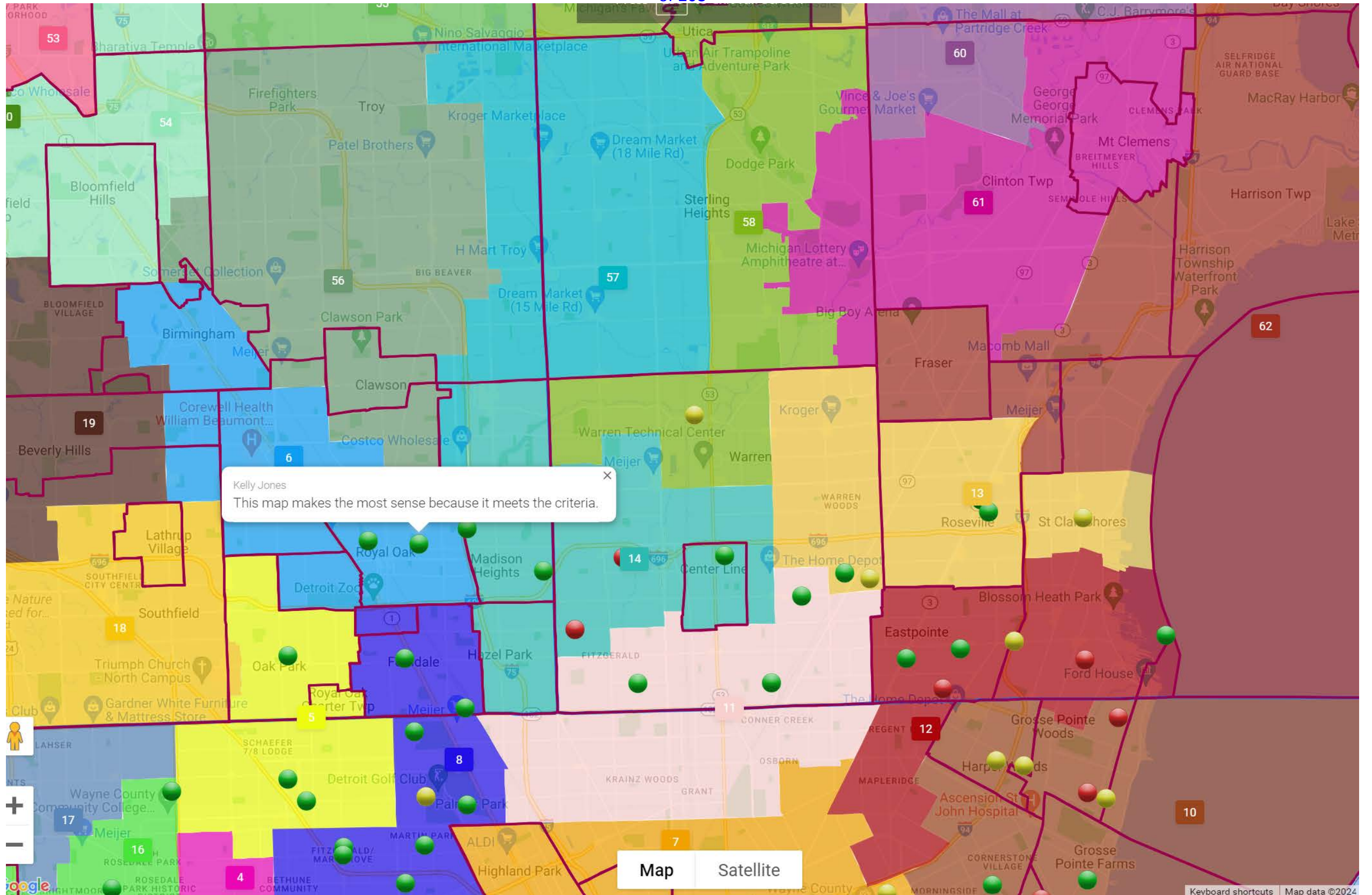






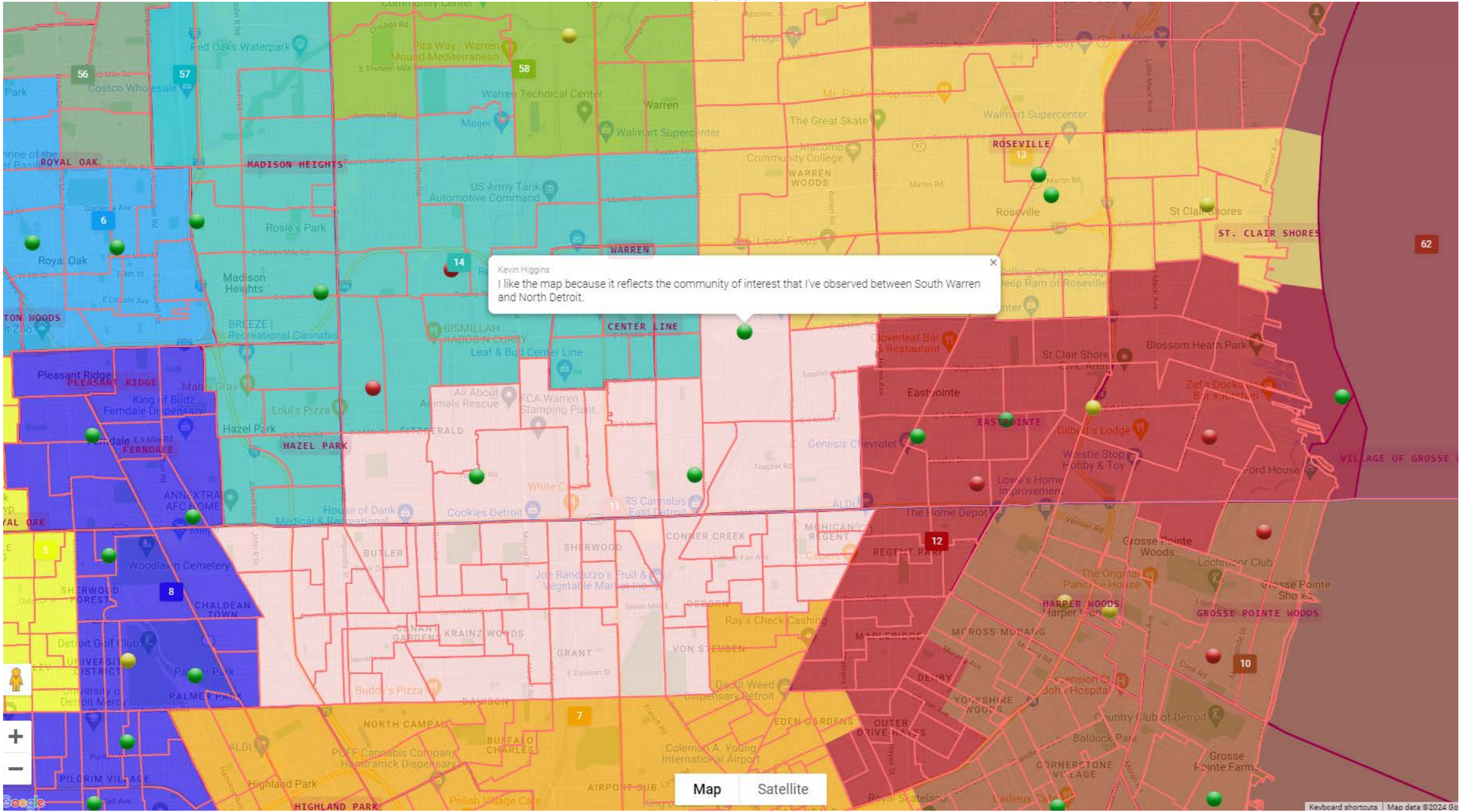






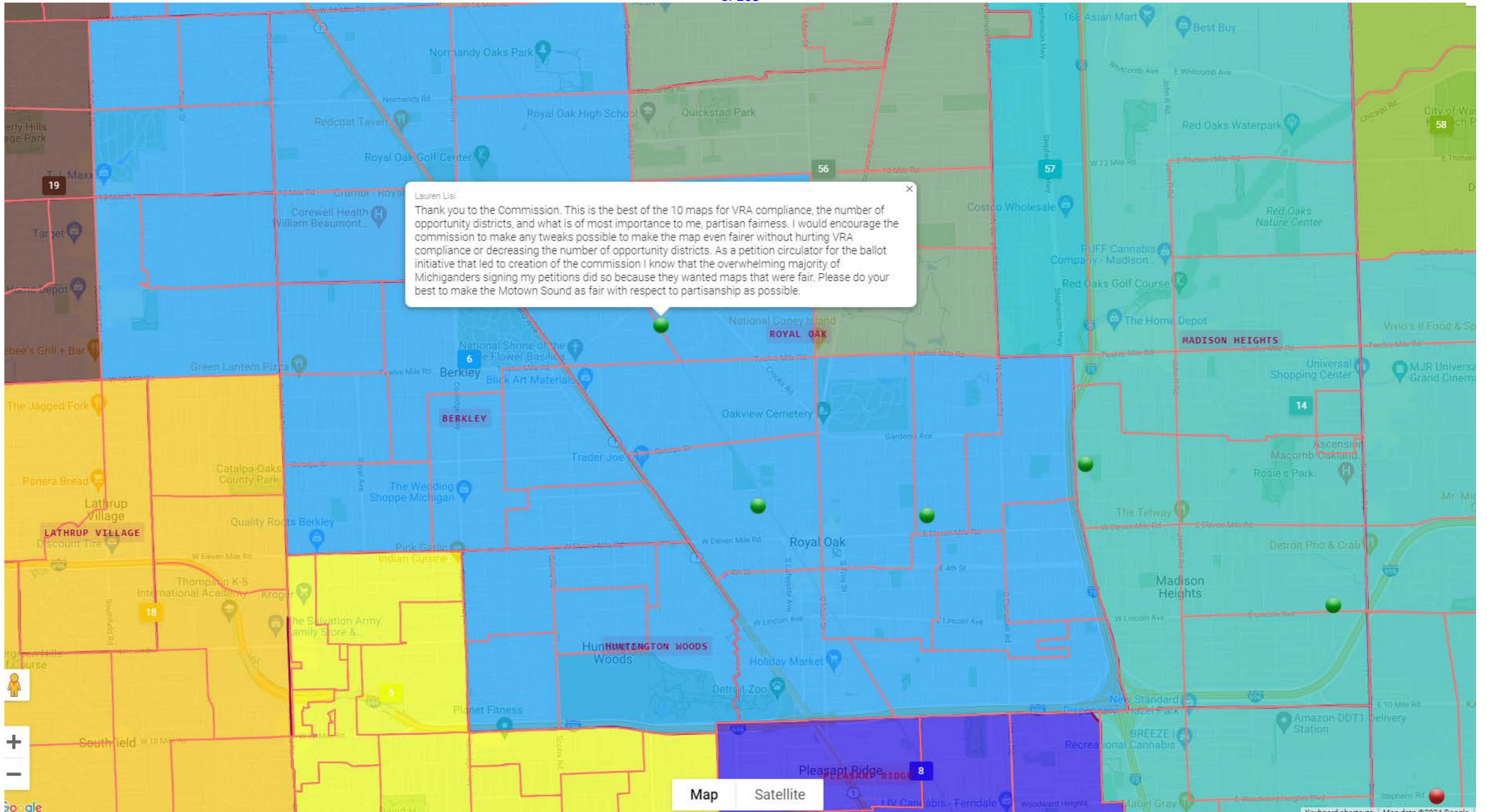
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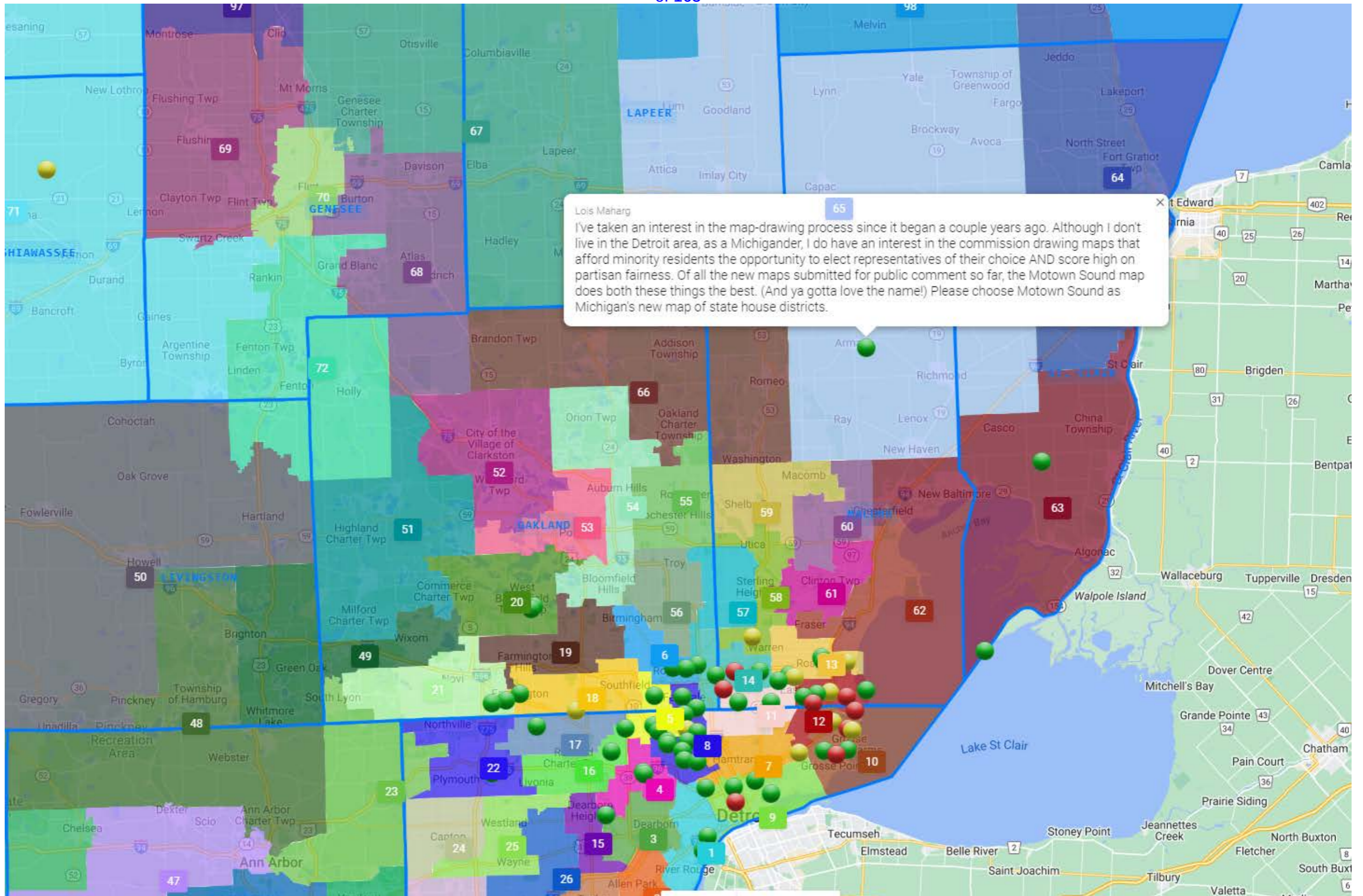




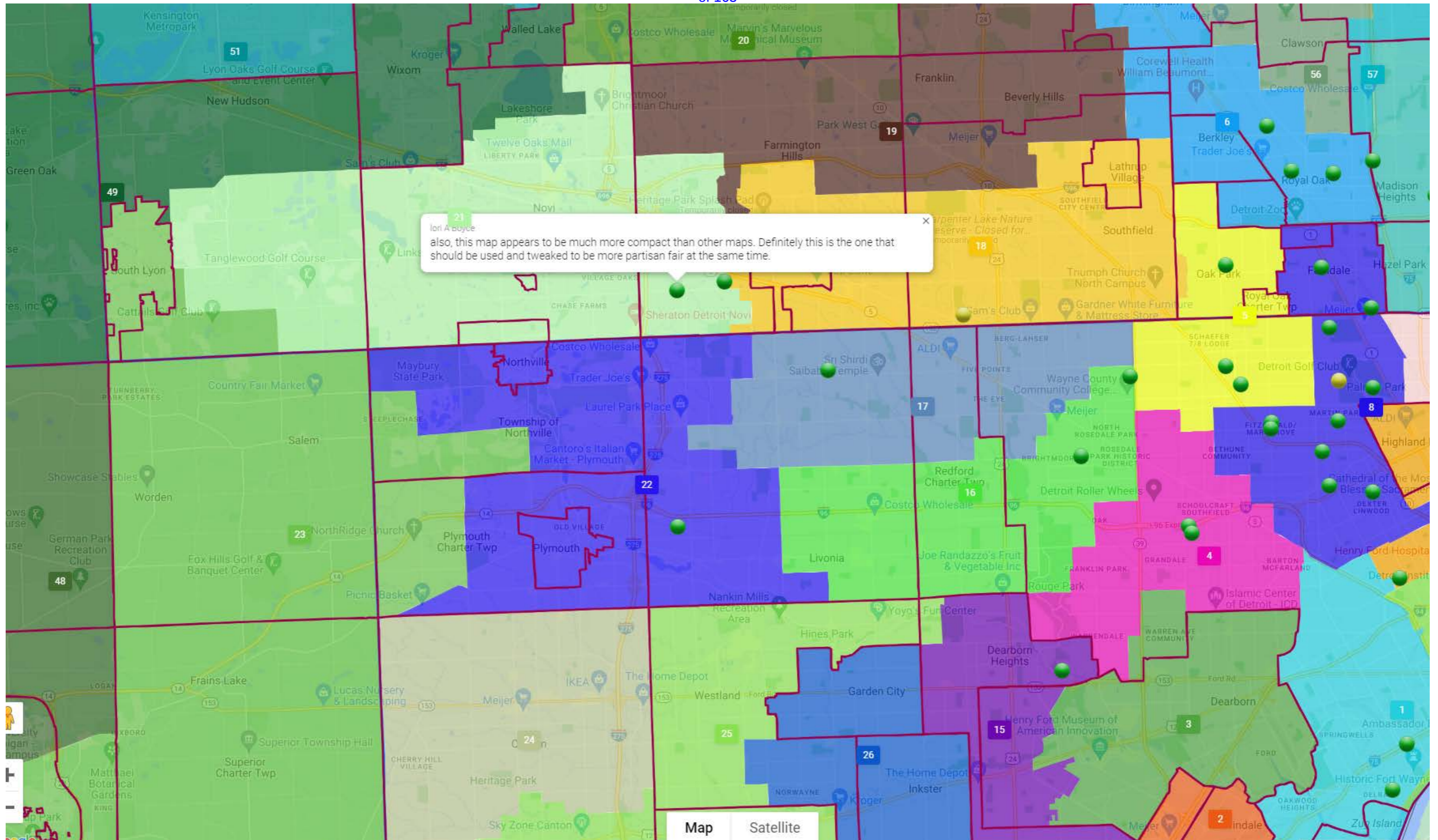
Lauren Lisi

Thank you to the Commission. This is the best of the 10 maps for VRA compliance, the number of opportunity districts, and what is of most importance to me, partisan fairness. I would encourage the commission to make any tweaks possible to make the map even fairer without hurting VRA compliance or decreasing the number of opportunity districts. As a petition circulator for the ballot initiative that led to creation of the commission I know that the overwhelming majority of Michiganders signing my petitions did so because they wanted maps that were fair. Please do your best to make the Motown Sound as fair with respect to partisanship as possible.





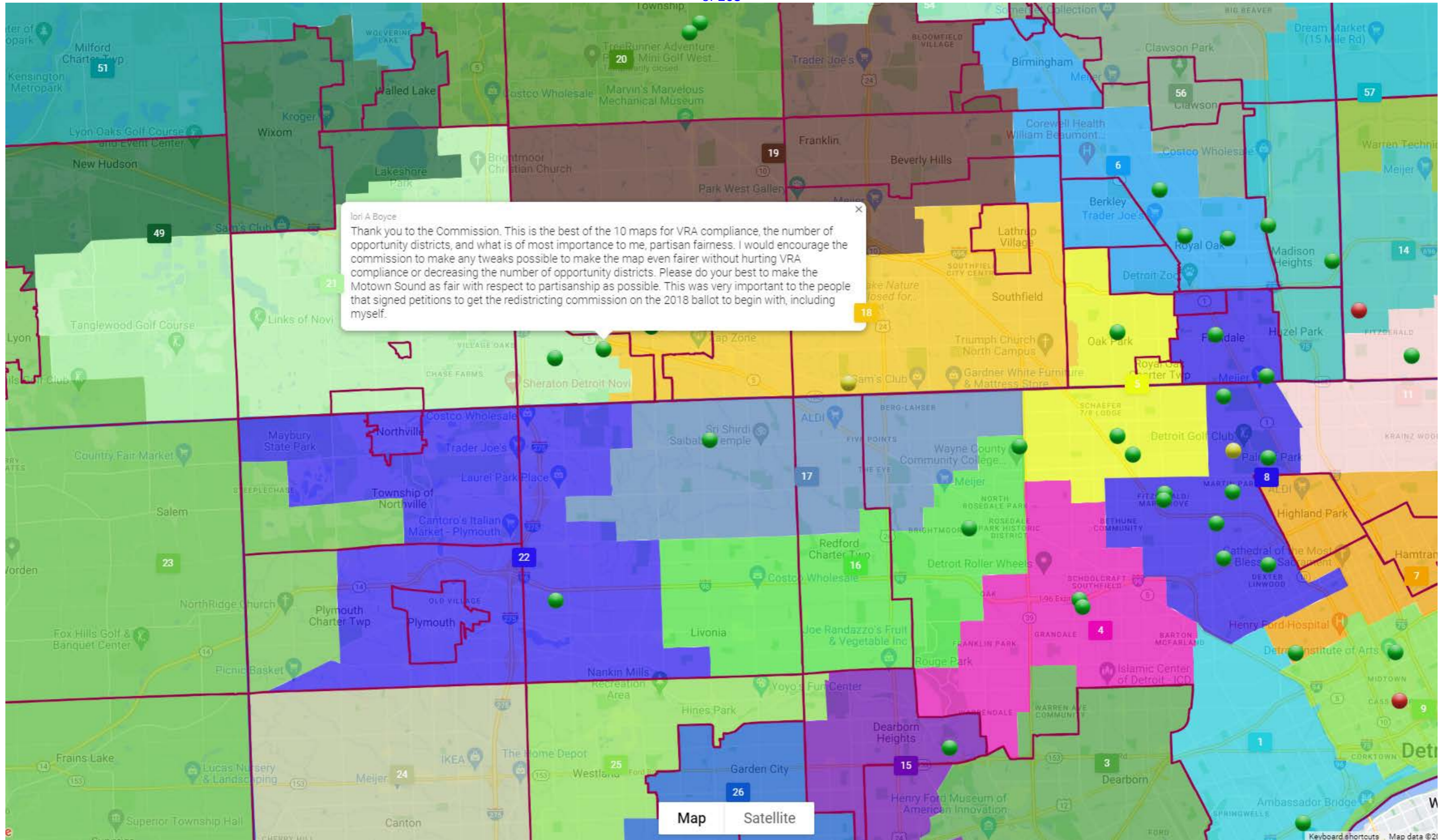




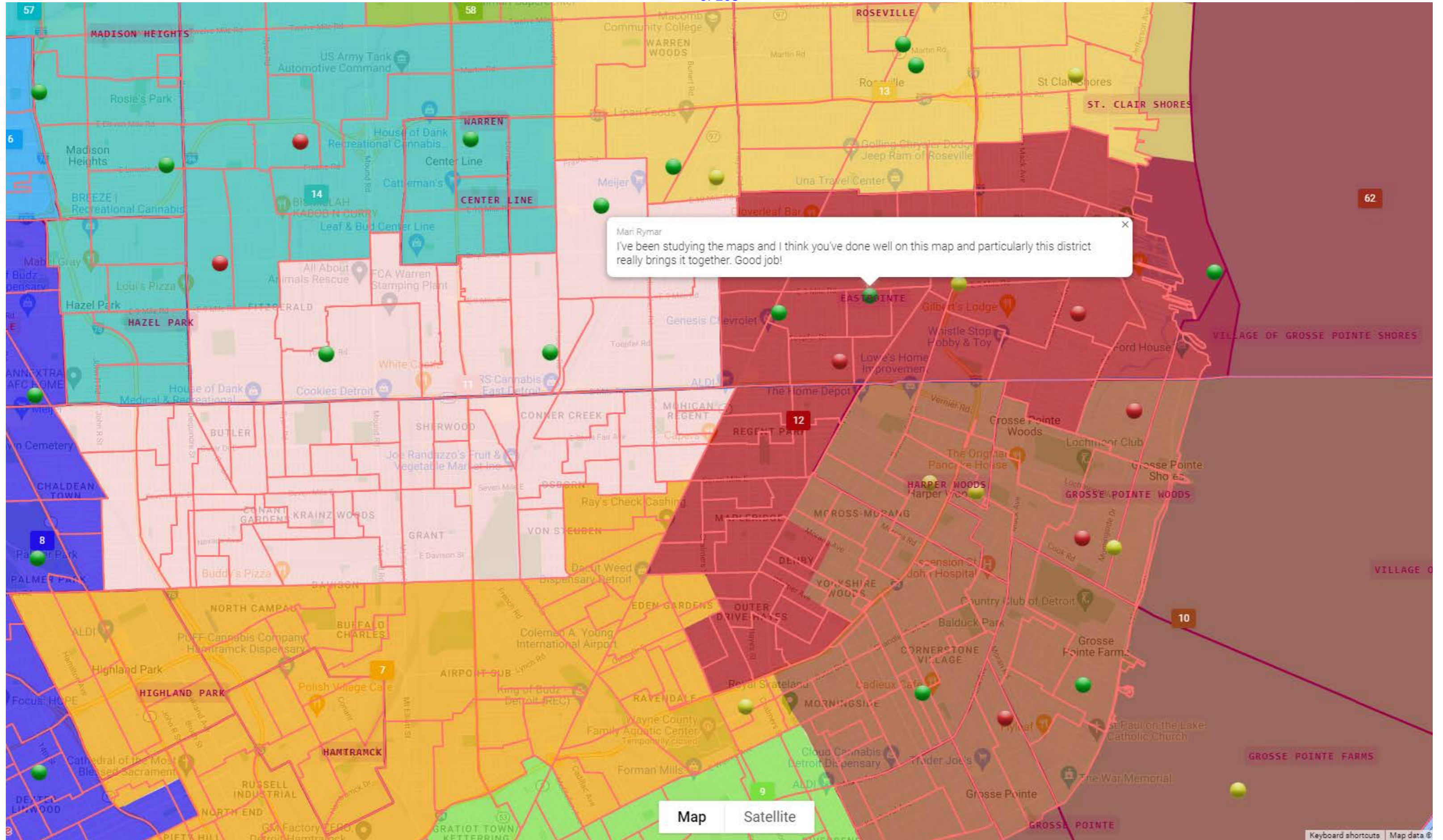
Map Satellite

054a

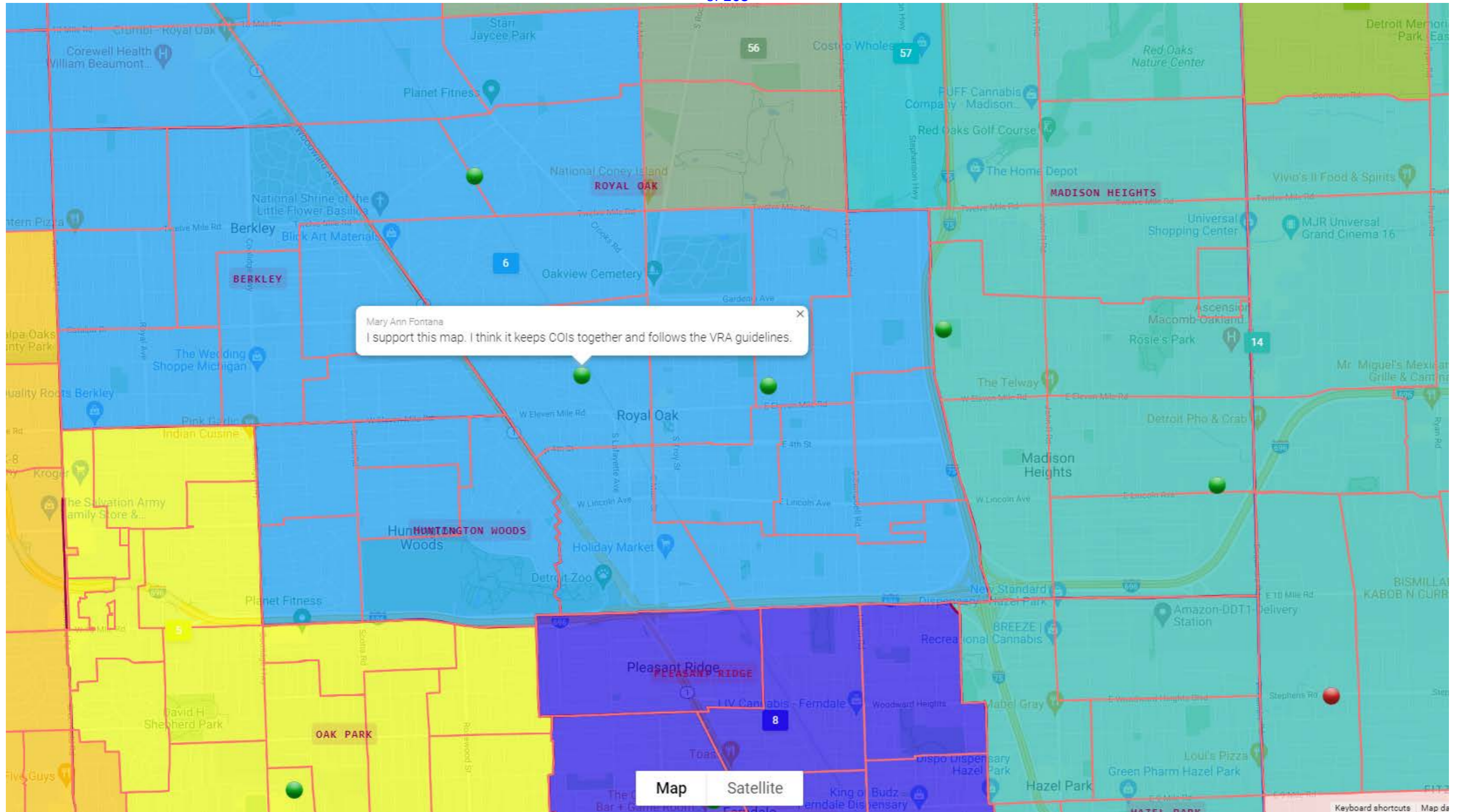




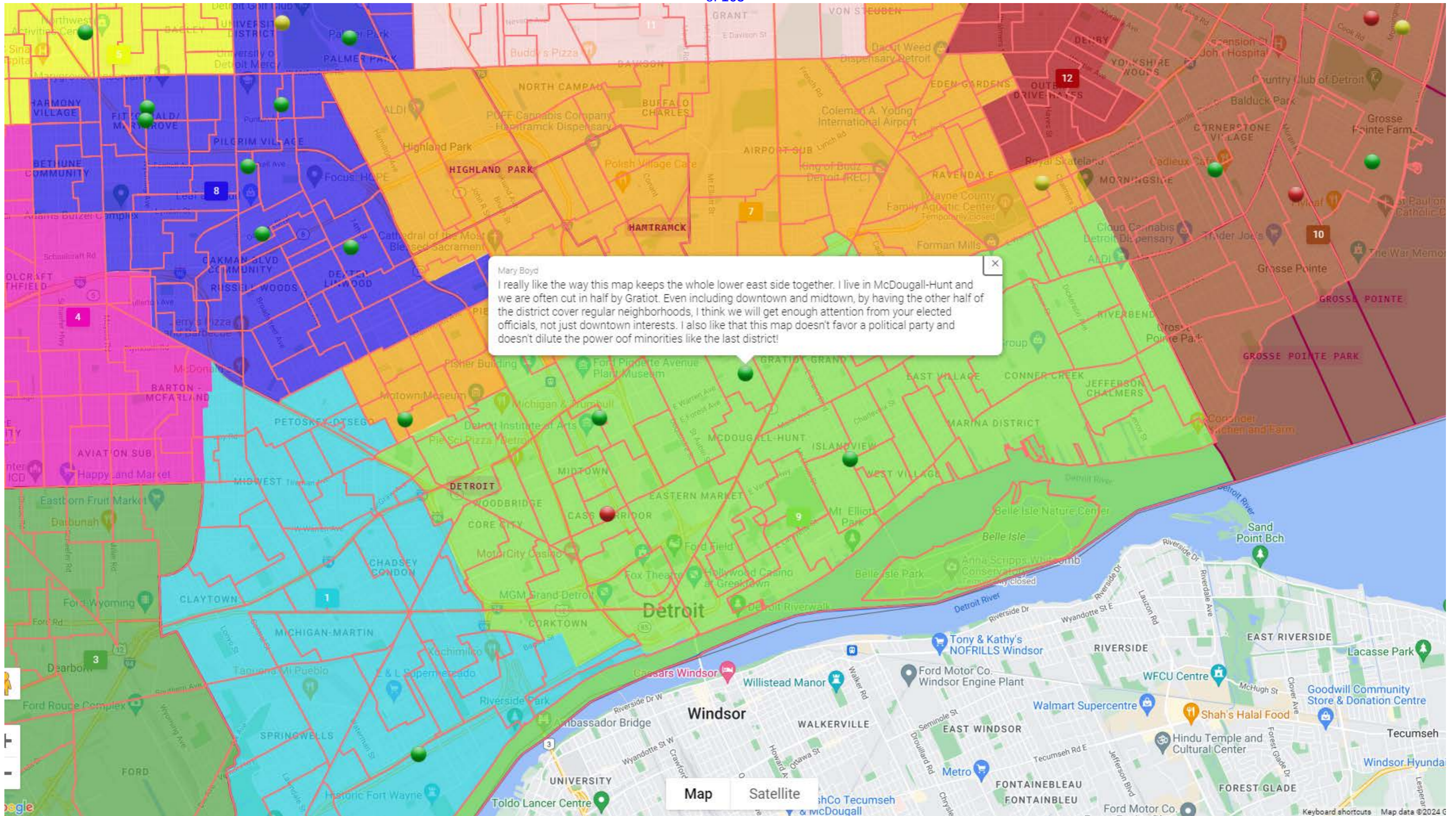




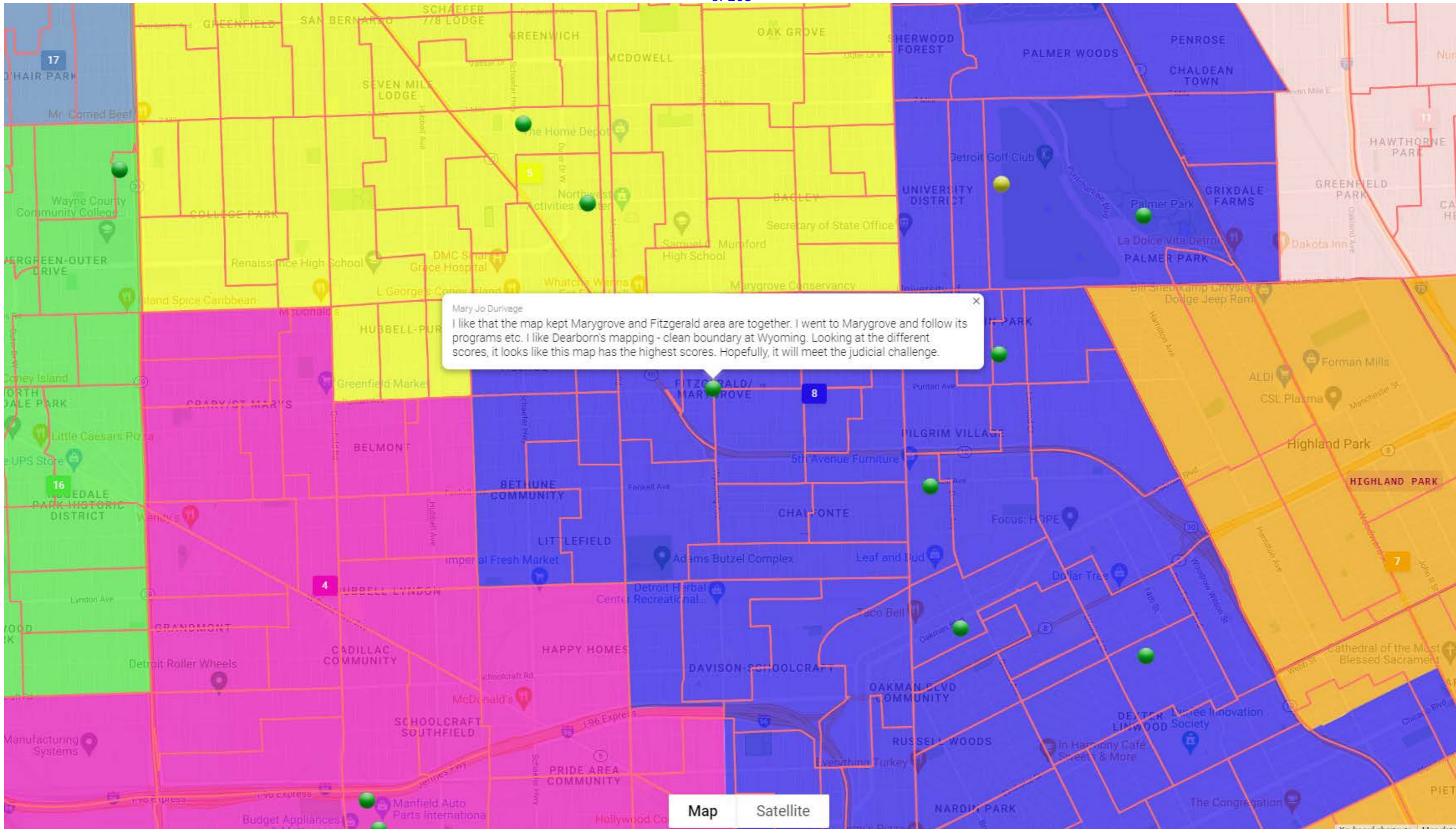






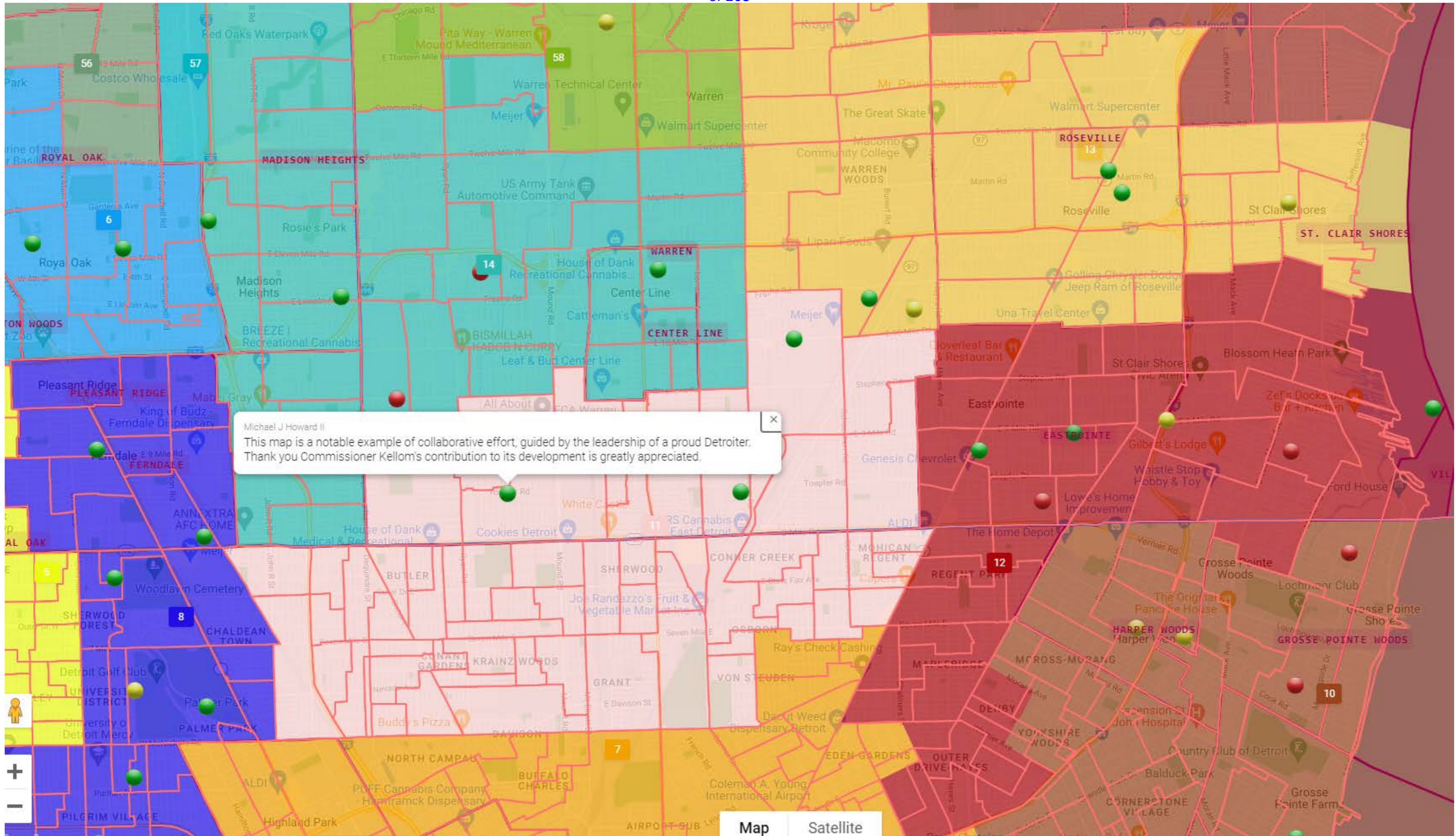






Mary Jo Durivage  
I like that the map kept Marygrove and Fitzgerald area are together. I went to Marygrove and follow its programs etc. I like Dearborn's mapping - clean boundary at Wyoming. Looking at the different scores, it looks like this map has the highest scores. Hopefully, it will meet the judicial challenge.

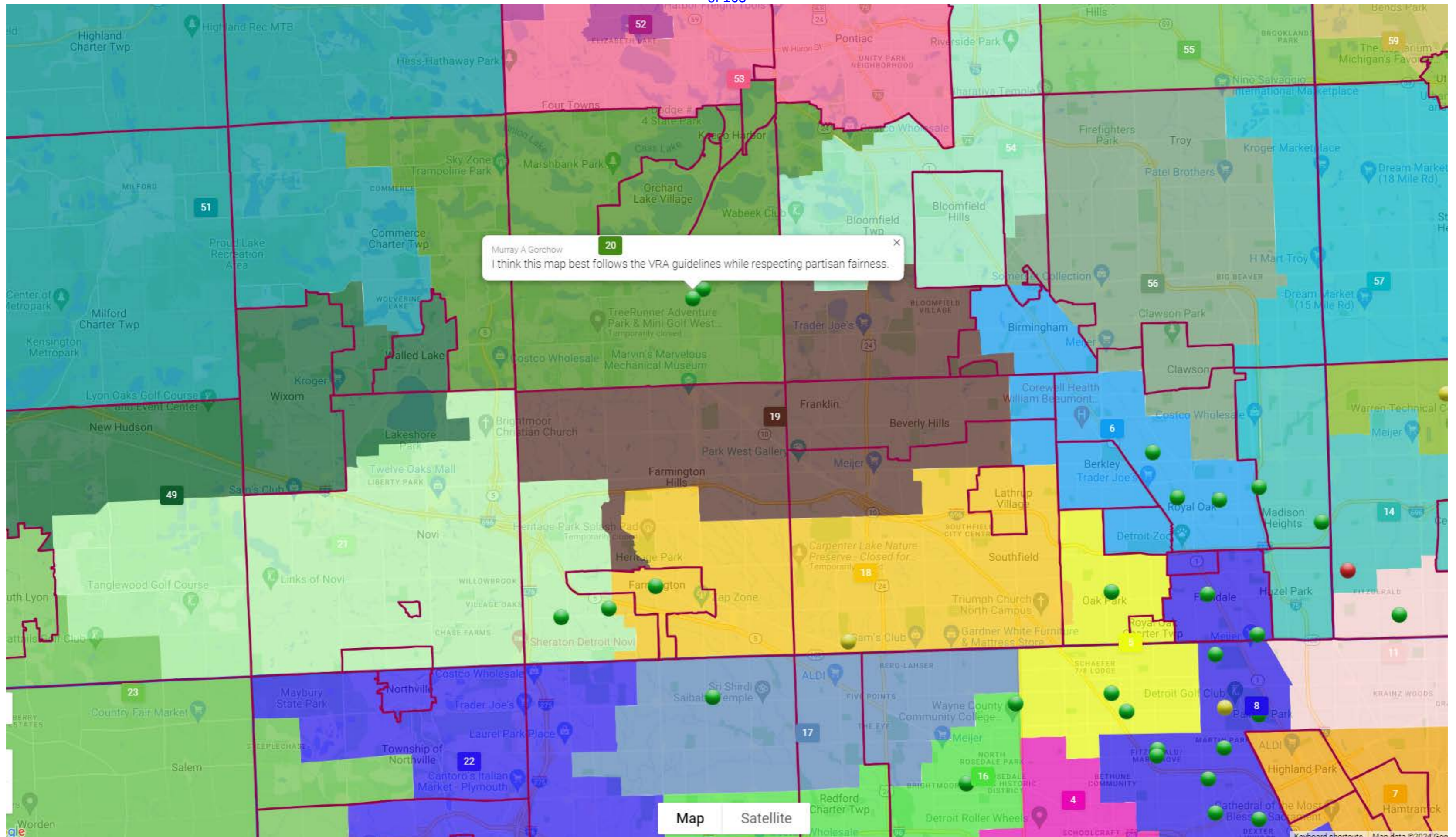




Michael J Howard II  
This map is a notable example of collaborative effort, guided by the leadership of a proud Detroit. Thank you Commissioner Kellom's contribution to its development is greatly appreciated.

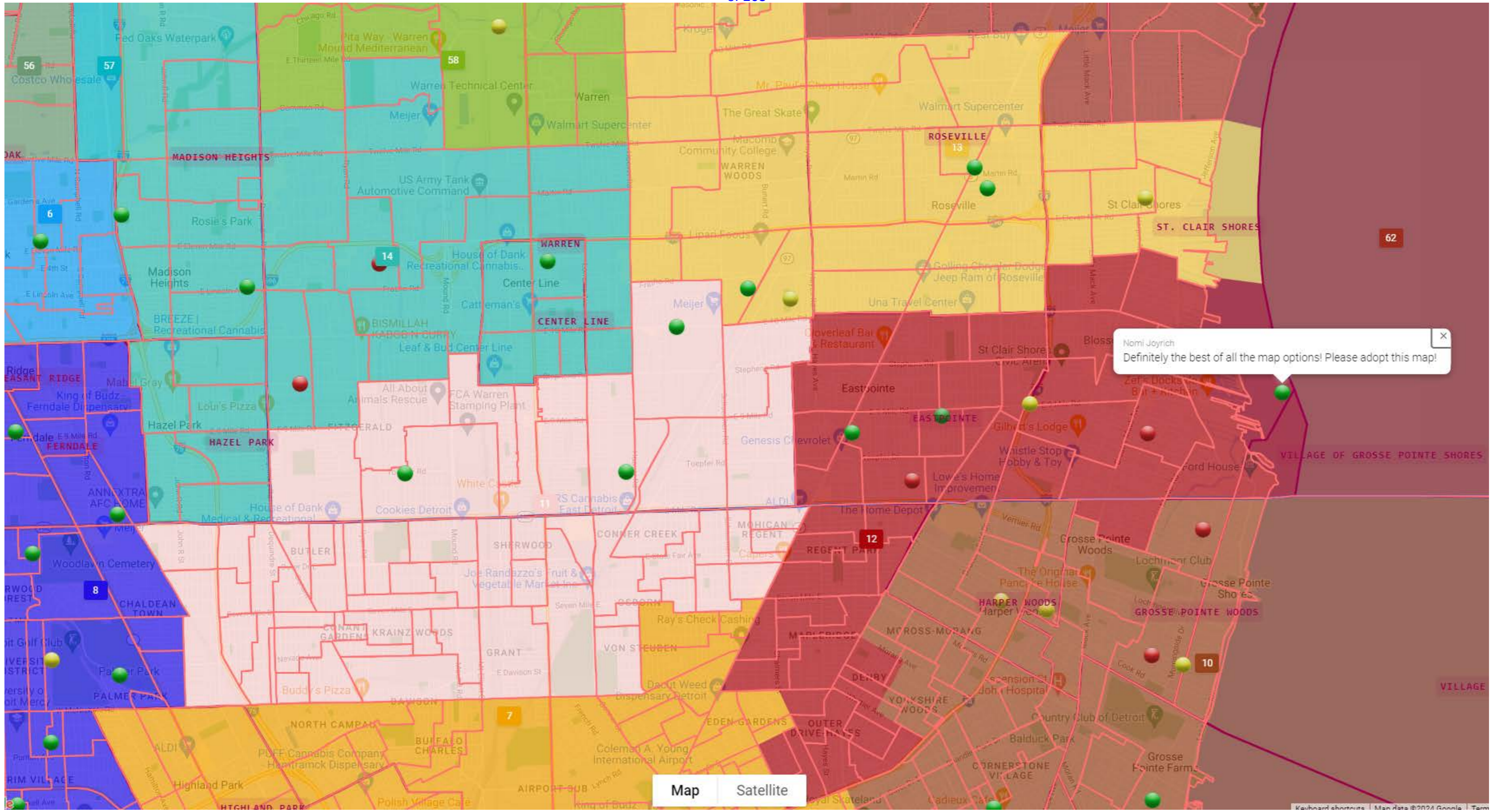
Map | Satellite



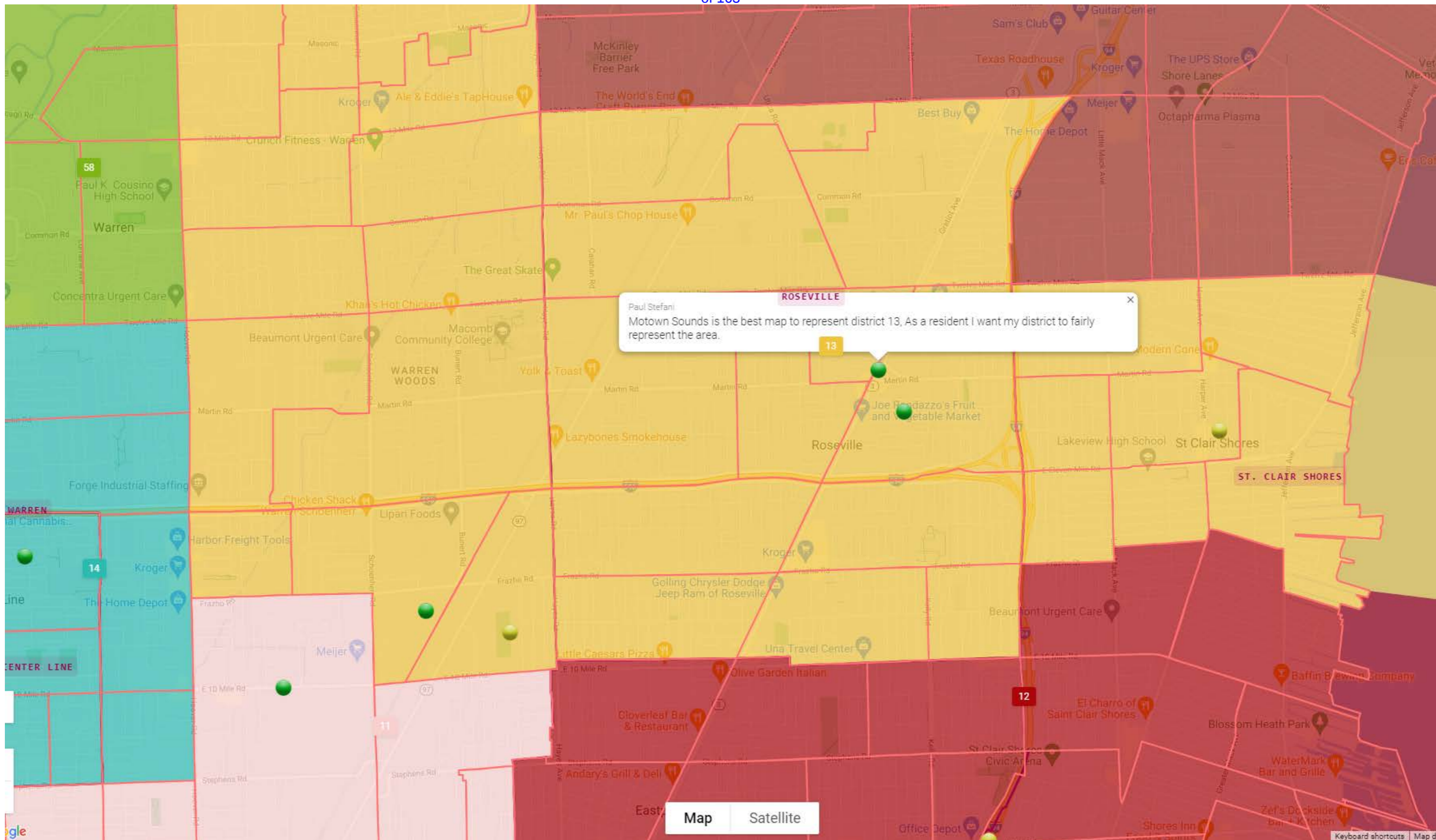


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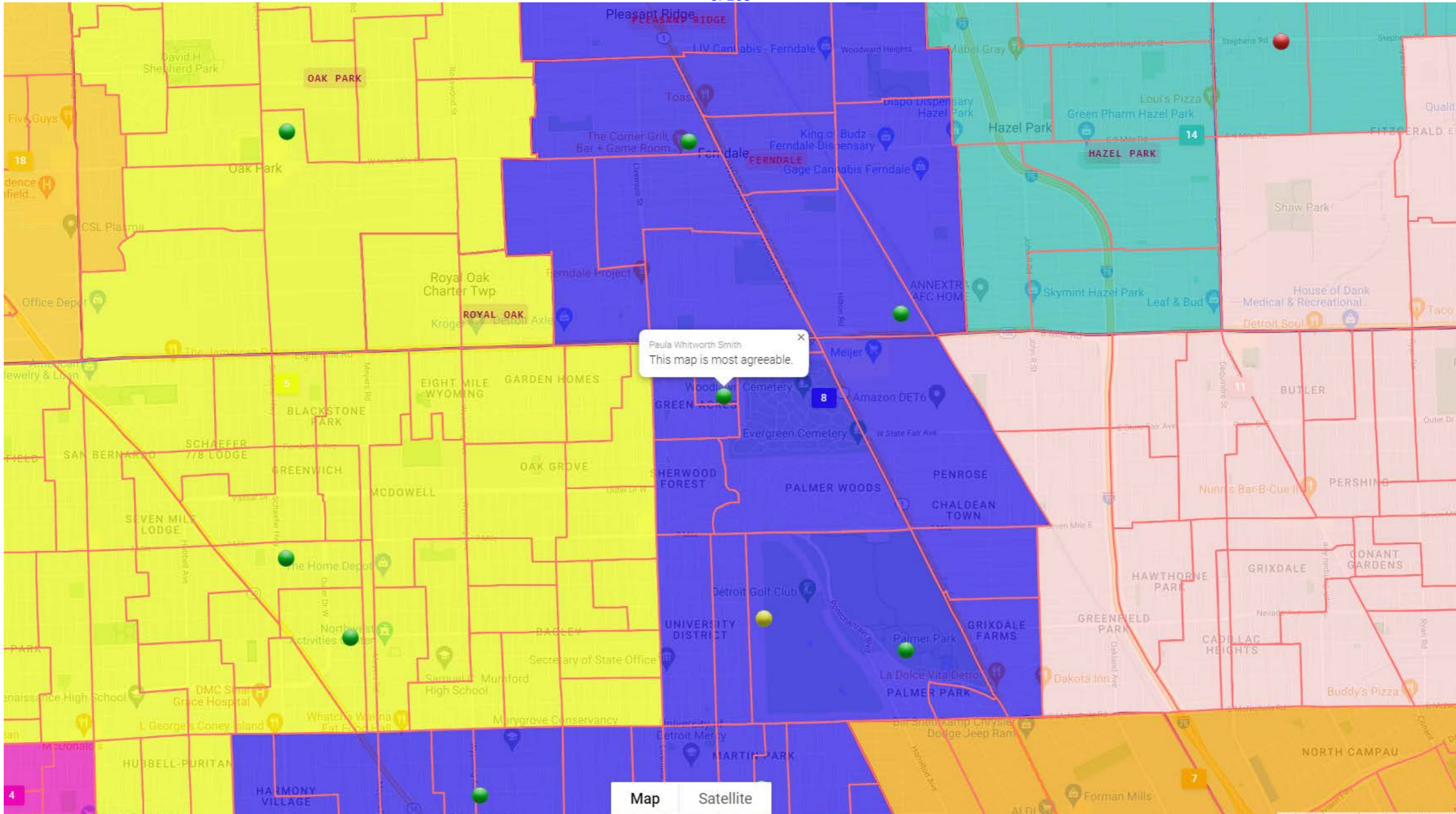






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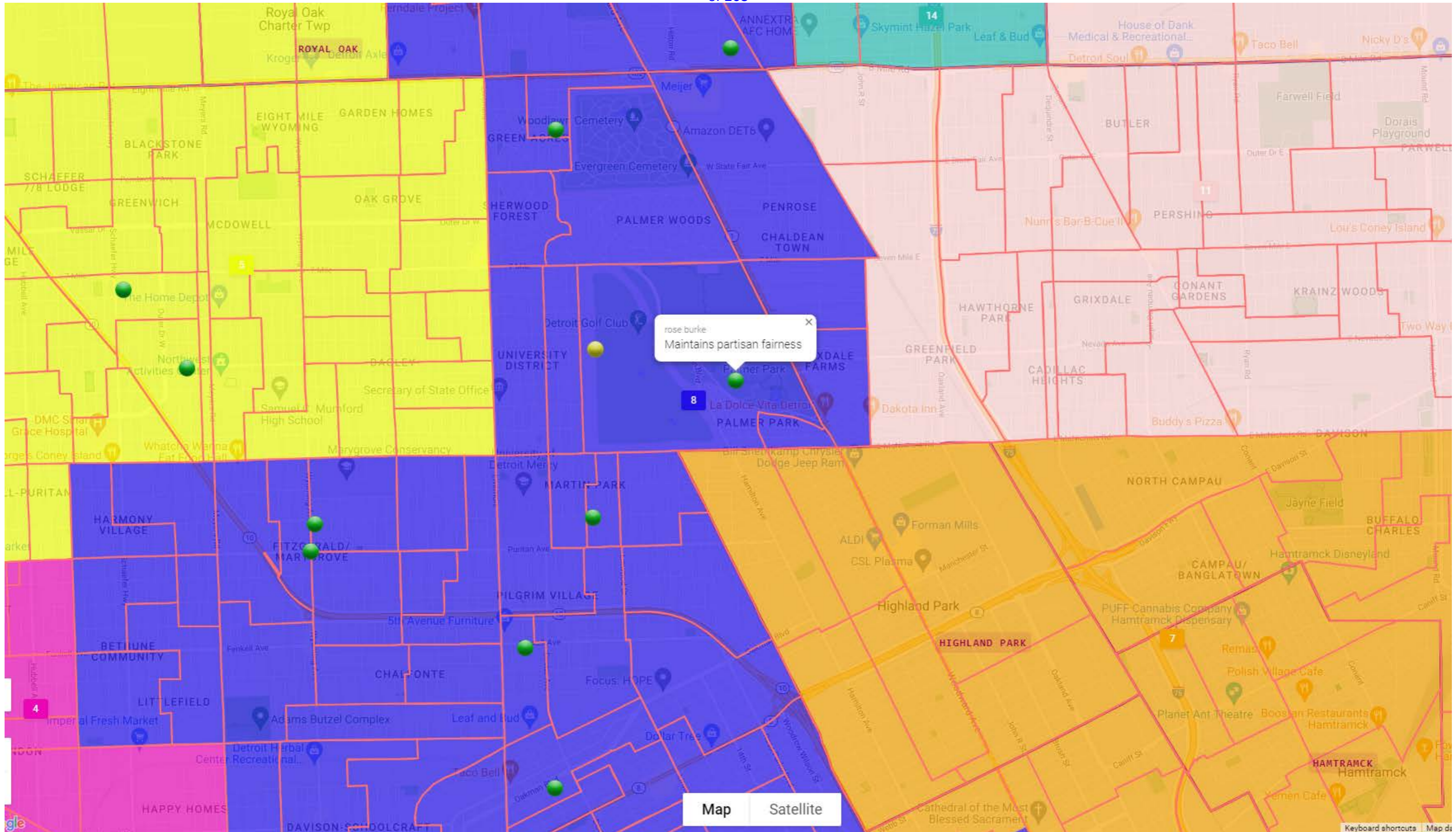




Map Satellite

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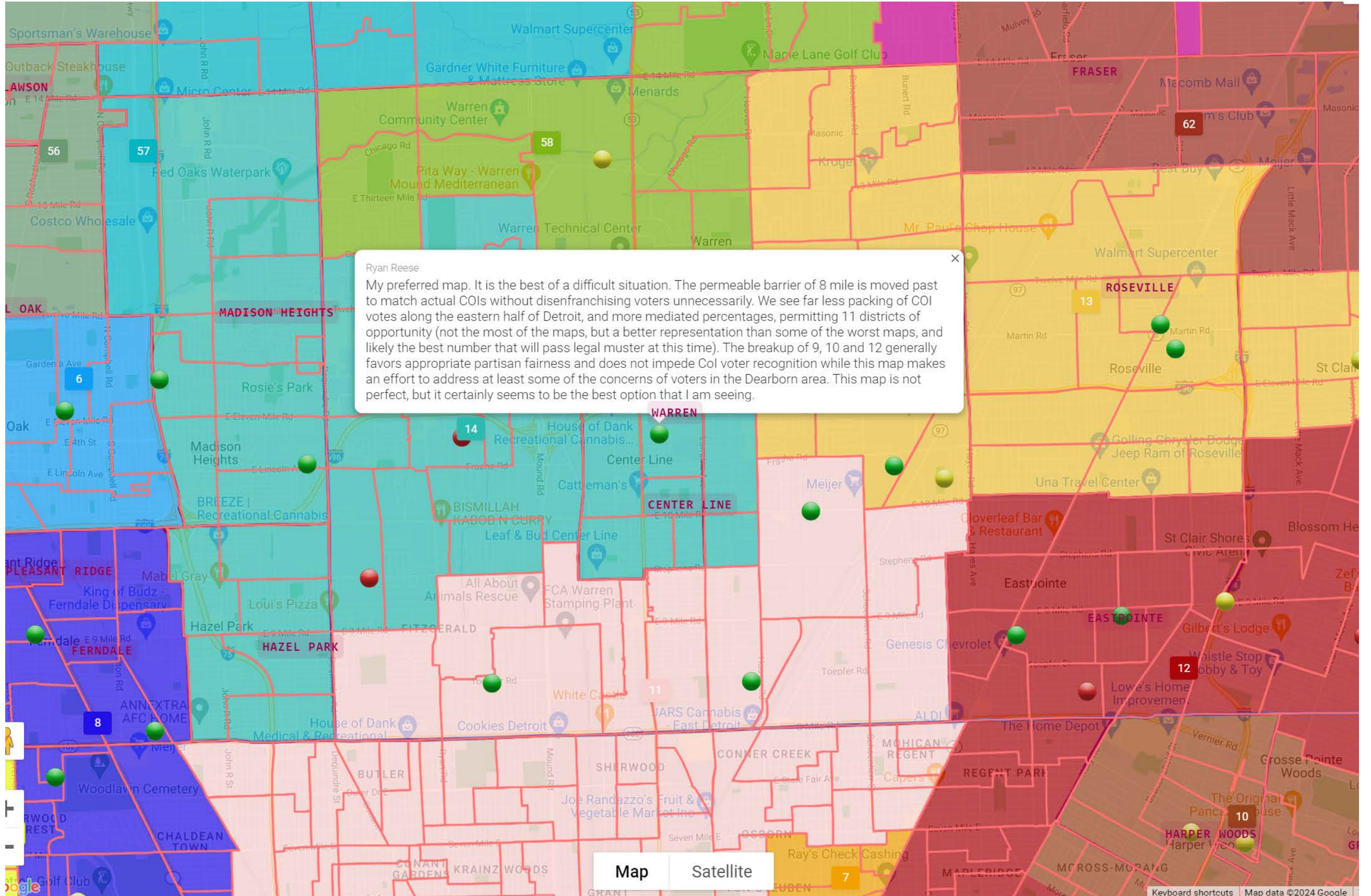




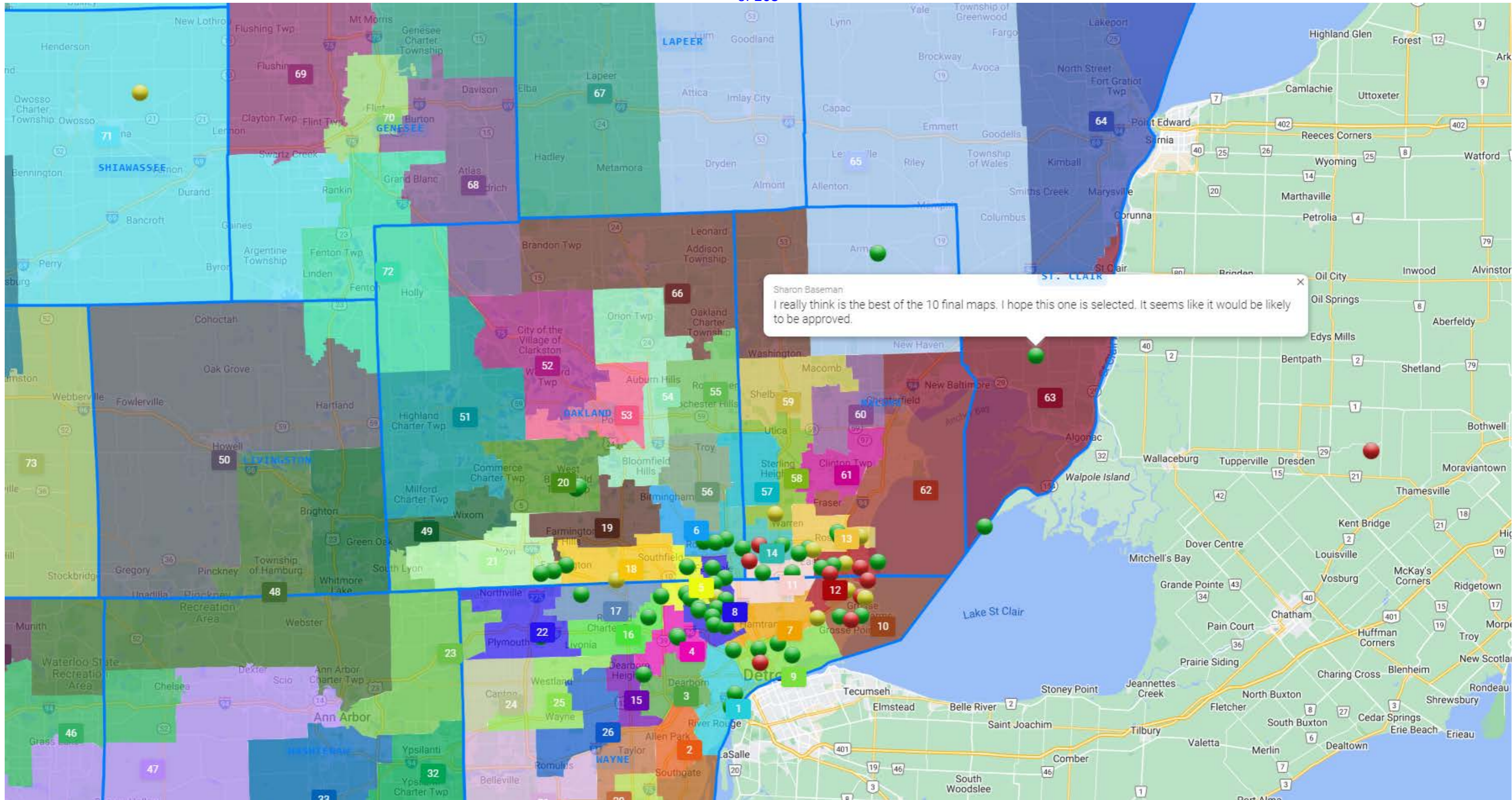
rose burke  
Maintains partisan fairness

Map Satellite



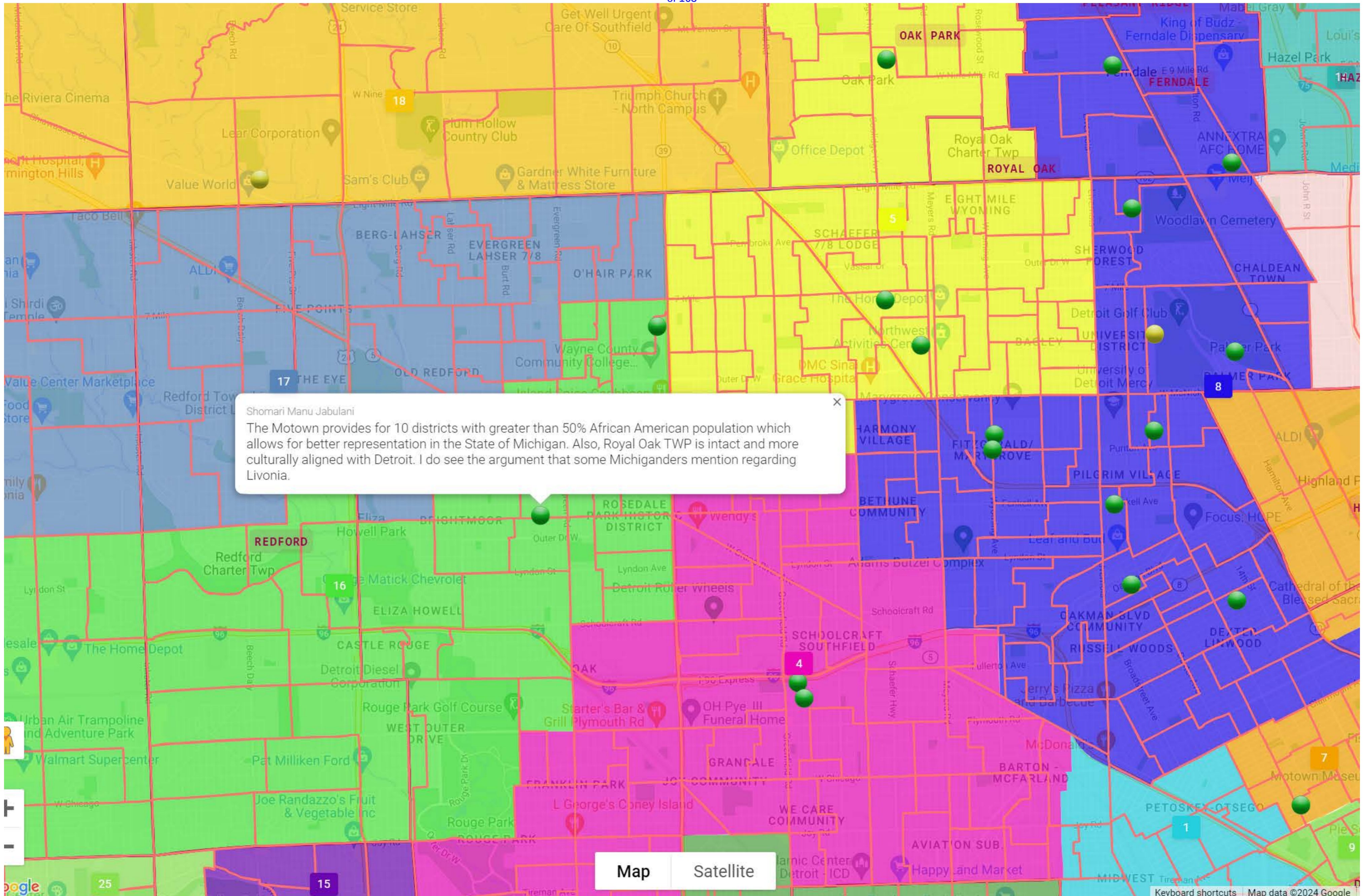






Sharon Baseman  
I really think is the best of the 10 final maps. I hope this one is selected. It seems like it would be likely to be approved.



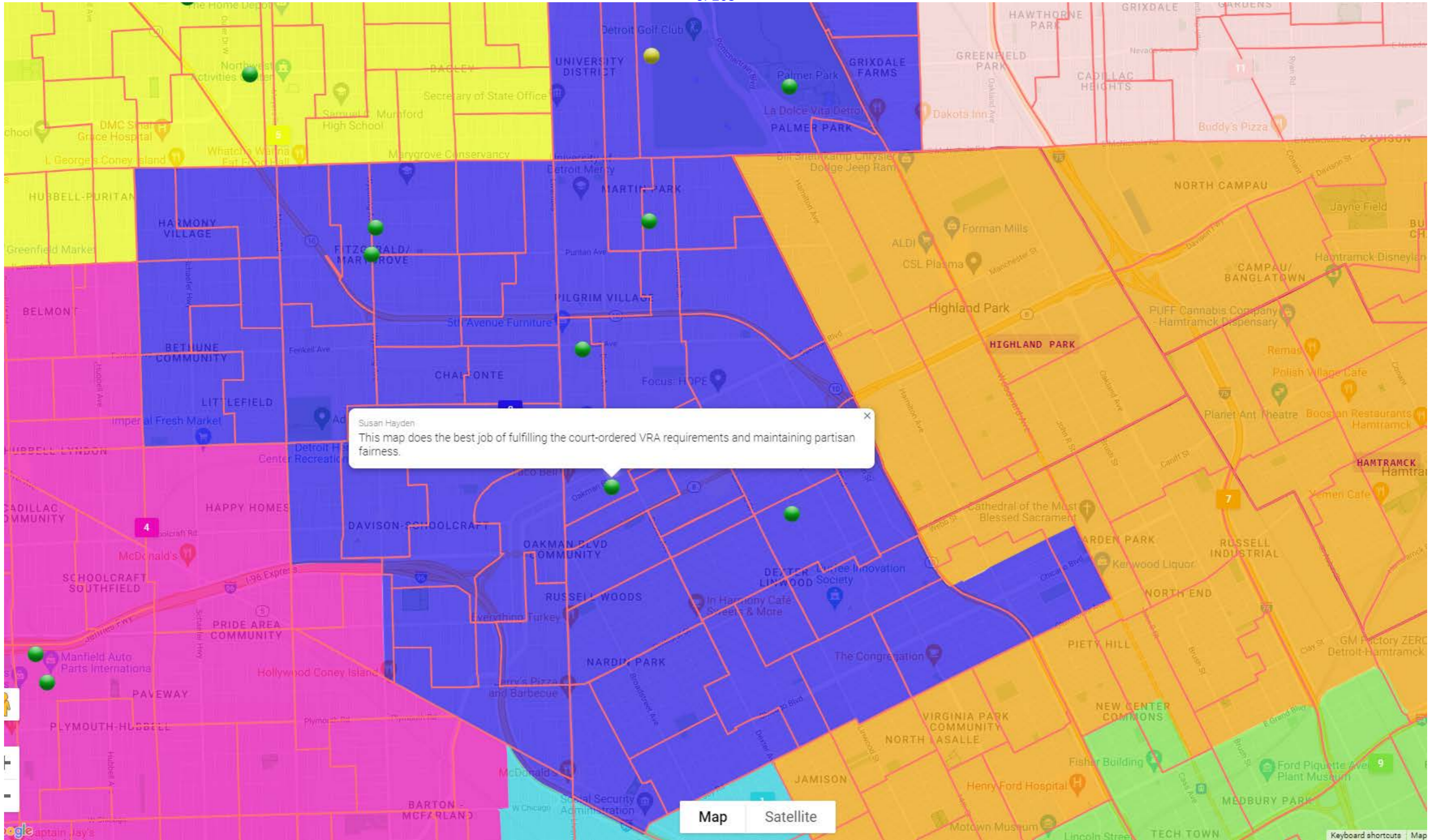


Shomari Manu Jabulani

The Motown provides for 10 districts with greater than 50% African American population which allows for better representation in the State of Michigan. Also, Royal Oak TWP is intact and more culturally aligned with Detroit. I do see the argument that some Michiganders mention regarding Livonia.

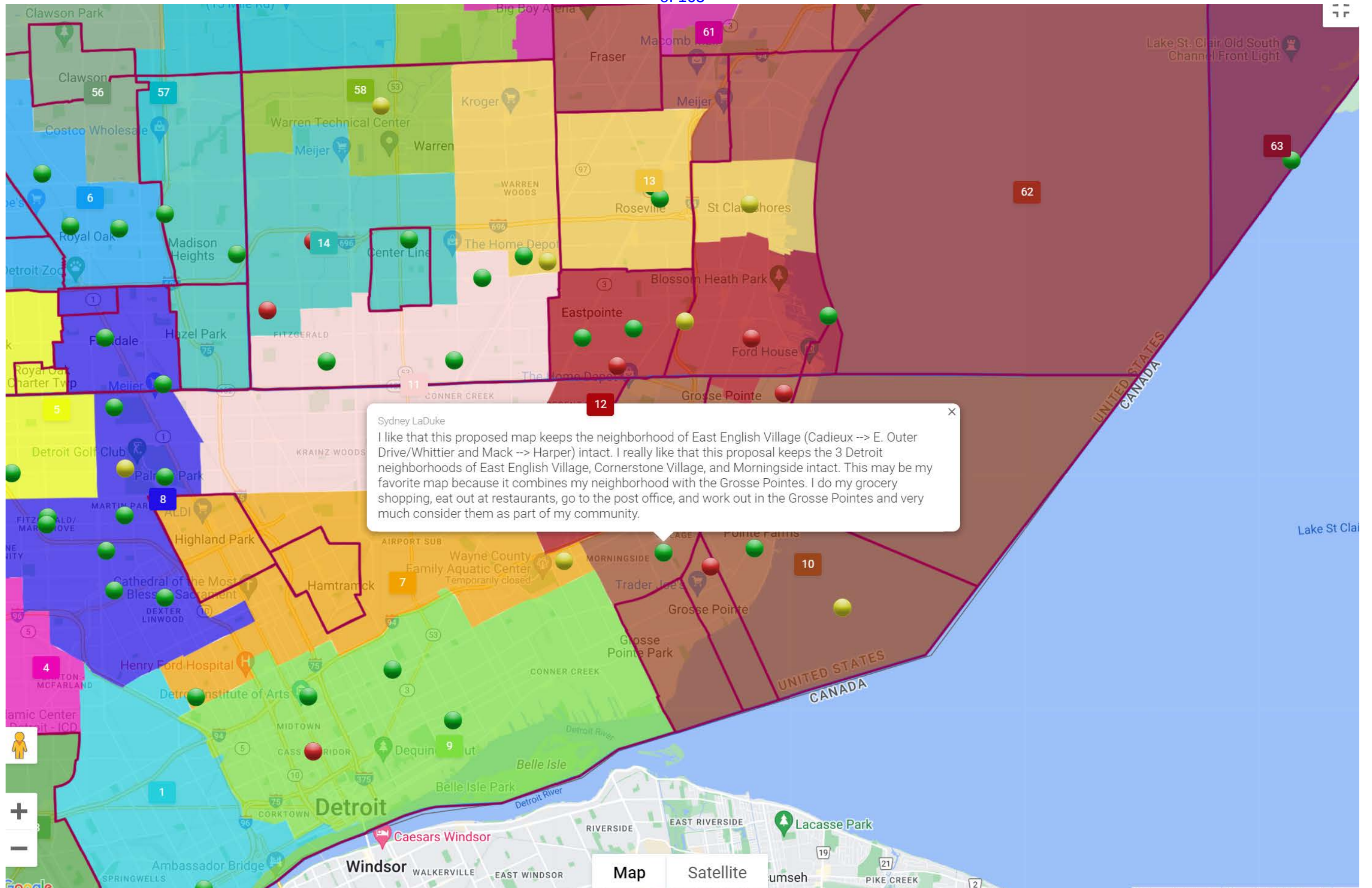
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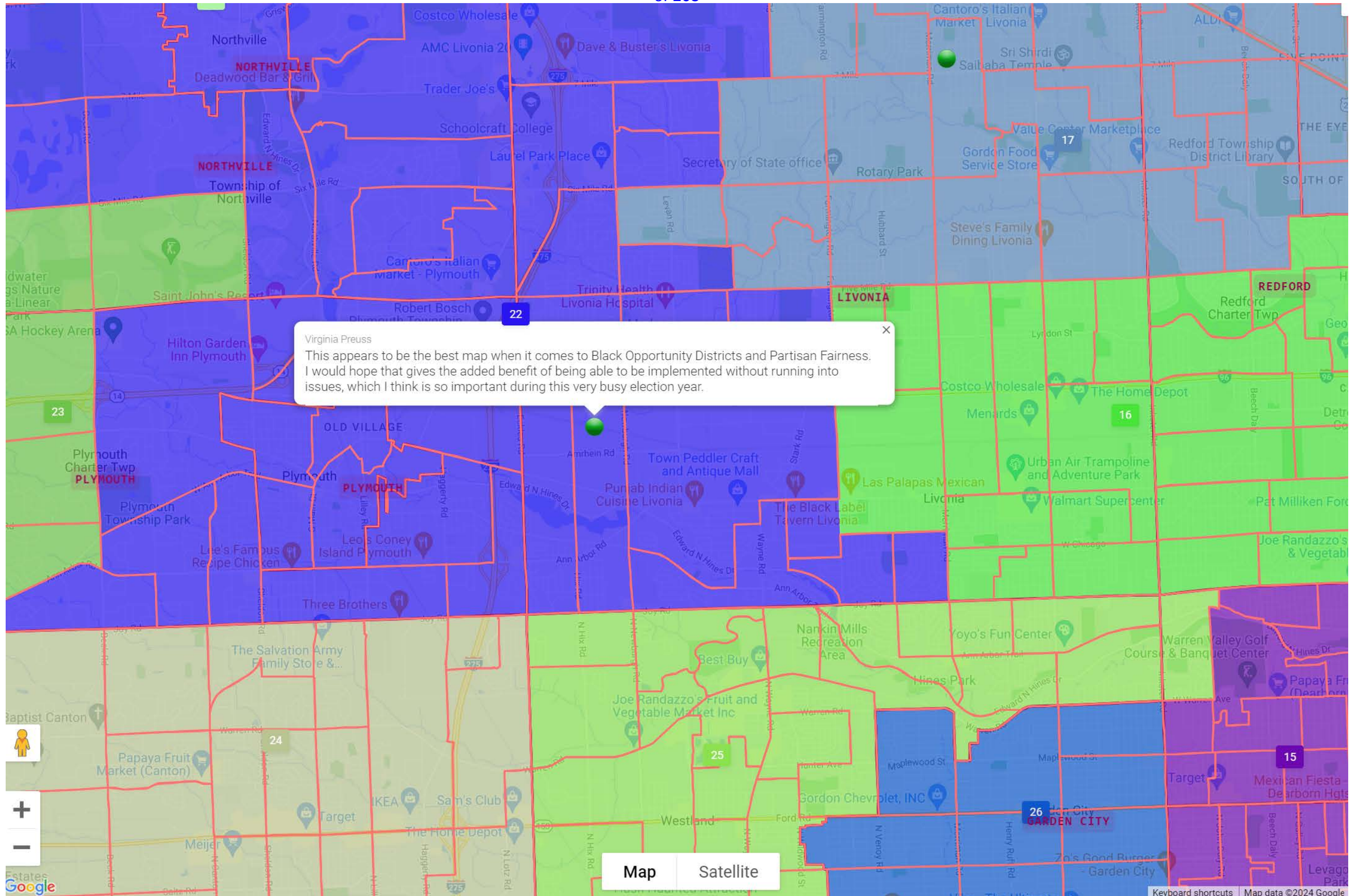


Map Satellite











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MICRC

20240215-900 Meeting

Captioned by Q&A Reporting, Inc., [www.qacaptions.com](http://www.qacaptions.com)

>> CHAIR ORTON: As Chair of the Commission, I call the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 9:07 a.m.

This Zoom webinar is being live streamed on YouTube on The Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission YouTube channel.

For anyone in the public watching who would prefer to watch via a different platform than they are currently using, please visit our social media at Redistricting MI.

Our live stream today includes closed captioning. Closed captioning, ASL interpretation, and Spanish and Arabic and Bengali translation services will be provided for effective participation in this meeting. Please E-mail us at [Redistricting@michigan.gov](mailto:Redistricting@michigan.gov) for additional viewing options or for additional details for accessing language translation services for this meeting.

People with disabilities or needing other specific accommodations should also contact Redistricting at Michigan.gov.

This meeting is also being recorded and will be available at [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC) for viewing at a later date.

This meeting also is being transcribed and those closed-captioned transcriptions will be made available and posted on the Michigan.gov/MICRC website and written public comment submissions. There is also a public comment portal accessed Michigan.gov/MICRC.

Members of the media who may have questions before, during or after the meeting should direct those questions to Edward Woods III, Executive Director For the Commission at [WoodsE3@Michigan.gov](mailto:WoodsE3@Michigan.gov) or 517-331-6309.

For the public watching and the public record I will turn to the department of state staff take note of the commissioners present.

>> SARAH REINHARDT: Good morning, Commissioners. Please say present when I call your name. Please announce during roll where you are attending remotely from and let us know where you are attending from stating the City, Township, or county that you are attending from. I will start with Elaine Andrade?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Present from Imlay Township, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Donna Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Present from Mexico.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry?

Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Good morning Ms. Reinhardt present virtually attending from Detroit, Michigan.

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roll as the Constitution says absolutely, Ms. Sarah Reinhardt. And then Mr. Dindoffer on the live chat was saying he is an attorney, and he is saying that the Secretary of State appointed Ms. Reinhardt. So please give us the documents for that appointment and how this works because the Constitution has no discretion on a designee or appointee. Let's talk about the pledge allegiance. When Kellom began debate without a motion so you could just, you know, we are talking to Witjes, he was on the live stream too. So, you know, and then all the sudden you make a big commotion and, oh, that is just too controversial to talk about and there was no motion so that is still pending. That was never properly disposed of. But please tell me about that pledge of allegiance thing and let's have a little dialog here, please. That's all we can do. But if you choose not to by consensus, then that is a problem also.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you, Mr. Gallant, for addressing the Commission.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Next in line is Anthony Scannell.

>> Thank you so much. Good morning Commission. Well, I will say I like a lot of the choices for the State House maps. Especially for District one that I'm in. They are all very similar configuration. And it's pretty similar to what already exists. So I'm fine with all of them except Tulip can't do Tulip that is a big no for me. It splits up District one it splits up southwest Detroit pretty badly. So that's why no on Tulip for me. And on a different note I wish you guys could have put the City of Taylor together, I think it makes a lot of sense and it's not too far out of the scope of what the scope you should fix, and I don't know the City of Taylor deserves to be whole. It has really it is split up pretty badly right now. And badly in that you know you have a north Section of the City with other cities below Taylor. So, I mean, it's not even geographically compact at all. Definitely wish you could take a look at that. Maybe you should in the final map you choose make that adjustment as well. Might be worth it. I really like what Commissioner Szetela did in creating another opportunity District so good job over there.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Next in line is Kenya-Willard please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>>All right.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Hi.

>> Good morning.

I agree with the Motown sound map because it has a good representation for the Black voters in Metro Detroit. Also the Motown sound map is the best map for partisan fairness, which allows the voters' decisions in 2018 that they voted for more fair maps. And also this map in particular, the Motown sound map has 12 Black community districts, which is the best of any of the maps that have been drawn by the Commission together. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you, Kenya for addressing the Commission.

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>> CHAIR ORTON: Next in line is Rory-McGillen.

>>Hi, are you able to hear me now?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> Thank you. My name is Rory-McGillen and grew up in south land Michigan and still call Southeast Michigan my home. The reason I'm here today is to speak about the Motown sound map. I just think it's the most fair map of the proposed ideas for the community. I think it's important for a couple of reasons. Number one, the Arab American and largely the Middle Eastern community is present primarily in the areas of Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, west Detroit, Melvindale as well as Hamtramck, Livonia, Canton and Ferndale. I think it's of the best interest for this committee to include communities such as like the middle east north African community in their considerations as to not split them up. One of these reasons is because these communities are already under counted in the U.S. census and it's difficult for these communities to raise their concerns without accurate representation in their Government. Thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Next in line is Anastasey-Manolatos.

>> How can you hear me.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes we can.

>> Excellent so my name is Anastasey a resident of Brownstown and Down River and thank you for community feedback regarding Down River communities of interest and Flatrock and Brownstown. In earlier testimony I have had to prioritize partisan fairness and would like them to do that in the final map selections. Break down says Bergamot and willow disregard an interpretation of partisan fairness, by contrast the Motown sound map was the best collaborative map to come out of this process. It's the only fair and balanced map that restores representation to so many marginalized communities of interest. I think this is a thanks in no small part of Commissioner Kellom who could bring the voice of Detroit for the map of Detroit. As other members of the public have already stated Michigan voters in 2018 voted for fair maps and to end partisan gerrymandering. Please consider partisan fairness your top priority and please select Motown sound map as the final map. Thank you for the time to address the Commission and please continue the good work you are doing.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you Anastasey for addressing the Commission.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Next in line is David Bell.

>> Good morning.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Good morning.

>> My name is David Bell. Proud Detroiter currently residing in Inkster, Michigan. Born and mostly raised in Detroit, southwest Detroit, been through all the ups and downs, you know, the good, bad and the uglies. With that being said I've been a proud



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Black voter since excuse me 2004. Representation for Black voters in Metro Detroit depends on having maps that are fair and balanced voters of color made it clear in 2018 we wanted maps that reflected communities of interest and do not and did not favor one party over another. Now, with that being said I totally support the Motown sound map. Especially with District one, you know, it represents a lot of different cultures, a lot of different diversities, different races. You know, with the same interest on there especially along the water. You know you got River Rouge and parts of downtown Detroit. You got places near Henry Ford hospital, all these places share interest like pollution concerns, jobs, economy, money, and better ways of life. So I totally support the no found sound map. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Next in line is Trenton Wormley. Please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> Hi, can you all hear me okay?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes we can.

>> Perfect my name is Trenton Wormley; you know I must admit I'm truly frustrated how the Commission is considering not to consideration when they threw out practically every community map. And now with the maps that have been drawn most of these stand to pick up African/Americans with less opportunities than we had in 2012, Bergamot one and two and Tulip all have District nine when we had 11.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Mr. Wormley you kind of cut out and I think we didn't hear all the maps you listed so if you could say that again.

>> Yes can you hear me now?

I'm sorry my Internet is going out, okay I apologize. Bergamot one and two Water Lily and Tulip all create a nine District and had nine in 2012 and they were supposed to restore representation to Detroit and threatening to strip more from them. Szetela's map is racist and willow map barely has diversity and inclusion when you have wealthy in Grosse Pointe practically clubbing up together at the country clubs. If you did not mean that that is basically what is happening here. So far the most reasonable is the Motown sound map because it gives 12 opportunity districts and is the only map that is better than the racist gerrymander of 2012. So I ask that you guys give African/Americans a fair shake and give us Motown sound and it is also imperative we have partisan fairness in each and every one of these districts. With that I thank you for allowing me to speak.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Next in line is Kyle Stefanski.

>> Yes hello can you hear me.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> Okay, great. So good morning, my name is Kyle Stefanski a proud resident of the City of Warren. I want to thank the Commission for the work you all are doing. I know

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it's not easy work but it's very important work. So the Commission has heard from many of us calling for a District that would cross the 8 Mile line. And above all others you heard Warren and delivered with the Motown sound map. So the new District 11 would give south Warren and north Detroit a joint representation. We have been calling for since before this Commission was a twinkle in the voter's eye. By that same token we reject maps like Water Lily and Bergamot that either entirely or largely reinstate racial gerrymandering in our community. So I do really implore you to pass the Motown sound map. Yeah, thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Next in line is Graeme-Hewson. Please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> Hello, can everyone hear me.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes we can.

>> Perfect good morning my name is Graeme on behalf of access and requesting the Commission keep the community of interest I work with Arab Americans and Middle Eastern and Mena together. Detroit is home to the most Arab and Mena community in the U.S. and lives in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, West Detroit, Melvindale such as Hamtramck, Livonia, Canton, and Ferndale. The Mena communities are under counted in the U.S. census making it difficult for the community to demonstrate the size and needs of our community. For Mena communities U.S. census data is the source used by the Commission. Without a fair account of the communities in the U.S. census they are constantly invisible and not factored in the redistricting process. And for ten years and generation impacts for future. Please take time to redraw the House maps. Thank you for your time.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you Mr. Howman.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Next in line is Delaney-McDermott.

>> Can you hear me?

Hi, thank you to the Commission for hearing us out. I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Delanye and grew up in South Lyon Michigan. And I now work at access and with a variety of Arab Americans and I'm Arab American myself. The Arab American Mena community as you have heard here are already socially and politically marginalized group and in the past our communities have been marginalized in the redistricting process as Arab Americans. There are Federal programs that have been designed for marginalized groups, however when the Arab American and Mena community is divided it's harder for the current to avail opportunities afforded by the programs. The communities have unique cultural and linguistic barriers for accessing Federal programs and need strong consideration to be able to close this gap in the coverage. Please consider the Motown sound map which provides enough consideration to our community of interest as well as other communities of interest that people have mentioned here today. Thank you so much, I yield my time.

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>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Next in line is Mikala-Cox. Please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> Good morning Commissioners and community members. My name is Mikala and I've been a Michigan resident my whole life. I live in Metro Detroit in the 13 District in a neighborhood called Woodbridge and I've worked in Dearborn with the Arab American or Mena through access for the past six years. On behalf of access and as a person of Arab decent I'm commenting to ensure a fair democracy and to up lift the representation and voices of the Arab community. I believe as an incredibly critical to keep the access communities of interest together which are the Arab Americans and Middle Eastern and north African communities. As you may have heard Metro Detroit is home to one of the largest and most Arab American communities in the United States. Our community of interests are primarily, live in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, West Detroit, Melvindale, as well as other parts of Michigan such as Hamtramck, Sterling Heights, Flint, Canton, Ypsilanti, and Ann Arbor. Arab Americans and Mena individuals have distinct issues and experiences. Without a fair count of our community in the U.S. census we are constantly invisible and not factored in the redistricting process. We must ensure that communities of interest are not divided because of partisan lines, and we urge the Commission to make sure our community of interest is counted.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you Mikala for addressing the Commission.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Next in line I apologize if I miss pronounce people's names, next in line is Mari-Rymar. And before she goes, or Commissioner Kellom has joined us.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you Madam Chair.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Good morning.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Good morning Commissioner Kellom can you share where you are joining remotely from this morning.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: That's what I was going to do good morning attending remotely from Wayne County.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Go ahead Mari.

>> Hello, sorry, I was on mute, can everybody hear me.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> Okay cool, thank you. My name is Mari a long time Michigan resident 20 years. And I wanted to applaud the care taken to respect the desires of the many of the communities of interest that spoke up in 2021. So thank you to the Commission for that. Especially East Point residents. Finally getting a fair shake on the Motown sound map. And so the District 12 Motown sound I think it really brings it altogether. But it pairs neighbors who generally go to church together so that's all I have really. And thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.



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>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Next in line is Andre-Bryant. Please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> Hello, can you hear me?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes we can.

>> Okay, thanks. For giving me an opportunity. I don't know I just think this redistricting process it does not make sense to me. I mean it's like can you bring the communities together?

You said this is bringing communities together but, however, we still are divided especially for those as far as that is concerned the way the boundaries are. And I think, you know, if you want to do this you need to also open up the idea of regional transit as well if you are going to do something like this because if this is going to be part of my community and new districts are coming into my community I should be able to go into their communities. This is supposed to be part of an equal representation. Thank you, that's all I have to say about this.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Next in line is George Higgins.

>> Can you guys all hear me.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> Okay, I'm a Fraser resident. I grew up in Warren. I still spend a lot of time in Warren going to City Council meetings. Coffee hours in the City. I just want to thank all the Commissioners for their hard work during the remedy process ordered by the Court. I think you guys did a great job creating a lot of options, ten different maps for yourselves and the public to consider. I think that's great. The more options the better. But with ten maps to choose from there are more than a few that fall behind the pack and kind of notably fail to uphold partisan fairness and comply with the VRA. Particularly I'm looking at willow or Bergamot, Bergamot two, Water Lily. And then Commissioner Szetela's map I think she just went a little too far, probably well-intentioned but changing way too many districts outside of what is mandated. I know a lot of the other people here have already spoken up and said they like the Motown sound map but Spirit of Detroit and what stands out to me is District 11. I know a previous person who commented also from Warren talked about how what good of a job District 11 did of reflecting the needs of the community in Warren and north Detroit. And that community of interest I think my time is wrapping up here so thank you again, I hope you will consider Motown sound or Spirit of Detroit.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Next in line is Dennis Shaw. Please allow the staff a moment to unmute you.

>>Hello.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yeah we can hear you.

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>> Okay, yeah, the gentleman that spoke ahead of me I'm in agreement with him that, you know, everybody should be allowed to come to our City or whatever. But it's so hard for us to go anywhere without being, you know, made to feel very uncomfortable. Do you know what I'm saying?

To even try to go out and participate and open up a business out there. Do you know what I'm saying?

But everybody comes down to the Motown sound, the Spirit of Detroit and they open their business. But, you know, the welcome to us to come down and go into their District, we are not welcome. And not by the legislature, by the authorizing of opening up, giving the license, it's just so difficult for us to go African/American. I'm African/American and been in Detroit all my life, to go down and try to, you know, patronize their people. Everybody comes here and makes money. You have the, you know, every other Arabs, Chinese, Caucasians everybody comes to Detroit, do you know what I'm saying?

And pillages us do you know what I'm saying and takes advantage of us but when we try to go out there they make it so high the stakes are so high that you know you run us right up out of there. Do you know what I'm saying?

We are not even allowed the opportunity.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Next in line is Dylan-Linklater.

>> Hi, can you hear me.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> Hi, my name is Dylan, long time Michigan resident. Thank you as well for everything you guys are doing but yeah I just wanted to express just a couple of my concerns. I get that we are here because race was improperly considered as a, you know, doctor in the first round but ask how the Commission is expecting to pass a map like Water Lily that reinstates the 8 Mile gerrymander I think that causes significant concern. And Commissioner Szetela's map I think goes beyond the scope of the Court order. So I just think that we should go like many other people said go with Motown sound. I think it's the best map for everyone involved. So again thank you all for what you are doing, everything you are doing and hope you will consider that map.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Next in line is Brenda Hall. Please allow the staff a moment to unmute you.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Vallette is Brenda's hand raised on your list.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Say that name again?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Is Brenda's hand raised for you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: No. Actually no, no one's hand is raised does that mean they don't want to speak.

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>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That's right, yeah, I was making sure in case it was raised on your screen.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Okay so we are going to start again at the people who requested a second time to talk.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Looks like we just had someone else raise their hand.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Okay, and that would be Tracy, please allow staff a moment to unmute you.

>>Hello. My name is Tracy-Peecs and I'm a resident of Hazel Park, Michigan. And I have to say that I really do like the Motown sound map. It shows and it's right with the representation of voters. I was really disturbed with the last one, the one that we are drawing in now as a state rep who I absolutely love, but also went into Highland Park. And parts of Detroit. And his demographic became 90% African/American and he is a white gay man. So he wasn't really representing on the people he should be representing. So I really like the Motown sound map. That's the one that I think would be the best especially when giving proper representation to the Black community.

Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Next in line is going to guess Percy.

>>Okay can you hear me.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> Okay, great. Yes, thank you for letting me speak and definitely I will ask for the Motown sound map. I even like the name of it. So it's giving individuals my concern has always been given individuals who live south of 8 Mile a voting strength so they can represent the area that they are living in and get the resources that they need for their community. They need a voice from that area that is south of 8 Mile and north of the river to have a voice so they can get the representation that they need. And for the Motown sound map and please strongly consider putting that map in play.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Next in line is Gwendolyn Jones. Please allow staff a moment to unmute you.

>> Can you hear me.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes, we can.

>> Okay, thank you. I want to also call in support of the Motown sound map. It appears that it is the best map to represent, you know, our diverse cultures in Detroit and our surrounding neighborhoods. So I'm just urging the independent redistricting Council, you guys to select the Motown sound map. And I agree also with Dennis Shaw who was speaking about the difficulty of African/Americans doing business, you know, in other surrounding, you know, suburbs and neighborhood. We welcome everyone here. But there is, you know, we don't feel the same welcome and go out and try to expand our business and that is what we are trying to do in Detroit. We are trying to



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>> CHAIR ORTON: Yeah if you go to our website, which is [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC).

>> [Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://Michigan.gov/MICRC) there it is [Michigan.gov/](http://Michigan.gov/), I can barely see that sorry about that.

>> CHAIR ORTON: It's MICRC.

>> MRCRC.

>> CHAIR ORTON: MI like Michigan. MICRC.

>> MICRC okay thank you. I will look at the map then I will probably have a comment. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: That's great.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay so next, find my list.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I don't think we have heard from George Higgins have we?

>> CHAIR ORTON: I believe so.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Then I think we should start over or do George Higgins.

>> CHAIR ORTON: George Higgins is first on the list so go ahead.

>> Hi, can you all hear me?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> Okay sorry I raised my hand because I thought you guys were already on the second round of comments because we heard from James Gallant twice.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> I want to thank you again for your work and want to go back talking about the District 11 configuration that is present in some of these districts in Warren. Just you know to speak more about why I think that is a good configuration across multiple maps, I think the way District 11 particularly in Spirit of Detroit also Motown sound, that configuration is really good, crossing 8 Mile but not doing it in a way where you are just trying to hit a certain racial percentage where we got in trouble last time. This actually creates a community of interest and done it in a race blind way which the Court ordered and are all thankful District 11 looks good and go to Warren and people are talking about the dichotomy of that north and south of 696 so I think you guys have done a good job taking that into consideration. Warren in all these maps and especially the good ones it's a very large state and getting split many times, many different ways, northwest, southeast, south, Central and that is a good thing because municipal boundaries are not that important, not as compactness or partisan fairness. Motown sound and St. Clair Shores is split and if they are split in ways other cities can be too. Most important is partisan fairness and geographic compactness and not municipal boundaries. Thank you again for your work.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

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>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: James, to the question that Commissioner Weiss asked you, have you had a chance to examine the maps and see how they impact your community?

Do you have any comments or preferences on the maps that we have drawn?

>> Well, yeah. Like the whole thing, it's not my community. Those are the people in Detroit. You know, that is Black people in Detroit. It's not Irish American Pasty white folks in the UP. That is up to him. The community of interest thing is a wild concept. You can see where you are off in the weeds. And that's the fundamental thing is you didn't keep a semblance of order. Right now you are just throwing them out there. Yeah, I don't know. The numbers got to line up. I don't know. Like you said, you don't know what the Court asked. You need to get this clarified, what you got to do next. I don't know how to even do it in the City like that. I'm in a rural area. You did change our maps. You did pack some more democrats in our maps, that was not a good thing because we already got like 80%. And, you know, we don't get a chance. We don't stand a chance up here. Actually they do the same thing at our county Commissions that you are doing right there, the backwards Marxism and start with consensus building and make a decision, then you answer it, then you make the motion to answer. We do it, the Commission and City Commission does it. That is why it's a contradicting, the state of being. Contradicting the rules that are here, just doing it the opposite by consensus. You got side bar rules that you agreed to that, you know, the Chair is asking for suggestions when she is supposed to be maintaining order. Every agenda item is supposed to be we will entertain a motion to approve.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Thank you for your comments. Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Never mind.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Okay, I don't see anyone else with their hand up. Is there anyone else in attendance who would like to provide their input?

I would love to hear from you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: While we are waiting for a hand up I will note that Commissioner Muldoon and Szetela have joined the meeting.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN:

>> CHAIR ORTON: And Commissioner Kellom. I don't know if we noted that.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: So the only hand I see up is Mr. Gallant who has already had -- there is a new hand, Miss Maia good afternoon.

>> Hi, good afternoon. I kind of have been watching since kind of this morning off and on. I don't have something that's perfectly prepared. But I did want to point out being in favor of the Motown sound map. I like this map. I'm from Detroit. And you know, I really have been observing and looking at the maps. I would be in this particular map District 5. And so I do appreciate how it is cut the Livernois area. And, you know, a little bit of Oak Park. There's a similarity there. I also do like the next District over, 8, I

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appreciate how that is cut. I used to live on the east side of Detroit like Alter road area and I was looking over there and I like how that looks. I think I'm out of time.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: No, please continue. Please go ahead.

>> I do like how 9 looks. I do think that that -- the way that is cut, it does put Detroit in a good position, representing ways. I also grew up in north Rosedale Park. So that I think would be maybe four. Just looking at it. And so 96, I-96 that area next to, well, just below 16, it you know telegraph kind of cuts that off. I do think this is a much better representation far better than you know what we are looking at now and, you know, the kind of cut that we are seeing. I think that my community, you know, would be represented favorably when we vote, if there is much more of us that could speak, you know. The same language as our neighbors when it comes to our precinct delegates and just, you know, what our representation would look like. So I just appreciate, you know, the way that this map has been cut. It looks the best to me. If I need to I can also put my comments in, you know, on the map as well if you want to read it that way too.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: That would be perfect. I would love if you can do that. That is a very helpful comment. Thank you very much.

>> Okay, thank you.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Do we have anyone else who would like to speak?

Christiana-D. Hello.

>> Hello, how are you?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: I'm good how are you?

>> I'm good. I'm also a Detroit. I live downtown. I went to college but I'm very confused of these maps. Because I don't know exactly what I'm looking at. Like I pulled the maps up. I went to the versions. But like I don't know am I considered Spirit of Detroit. Am I the river walk area?

I don't understand how you find the numbers, that was my question. Because there is numbers on the map but then the maps don't have a name, so I don't know what actually it is.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: When you say by the numbers, what do you mean the District numbers or?

>> Yes so the numbers are the districts?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Callaghan if you open the maps up each District is color coded. But there should also be a number in there that labels it as District 1 or 2 or 3. Sometimes it might be hard to see but they should be labeled with a District number right in the districts. Kind of in the middle.

>> I don't know if that is right and Lafayette park is District 4 or 5, but Lafayette park is on the map, it just says 9.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: So depending on which map you look at, the District numbers change. They are not necessarily consistent. They are kind of consistent but



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>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Okay give me just one moment. All right six Commissioners are present and there is not I'm sorry seven Commissioners are present and there is not currently a quorum.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you. So we will not be conducting any business, but we can still listen to the public. And this hour we will be facilitated by Commissioner Kellom.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Good evening members of the public. I'm excited to host this hour of our public hearing that is obviously virtual. So I encourage those that are listening to ask questions, make comments because this is one of many opportunities coming up, where you will -- to engage and I will use the attendee list and looking to see who has a hand raised and doing my best to pronounce names correctly. If I miss pronounce your name, please tell me so the firsthand I see raised is Dina-Stuber.

>> Hi, yes, it's me. I'm Dina-Stuber and thank you for your efforts. I know it's difficult. These maps are vital in making sure people's voices and get it right and maintaining partisan fairness, connecting communities and collaboration among Commissioners is critical. And with that in mind I am concerned about Commissioner Szetela's map. Because it appears to be a lone wolf effort and doesn't appear to be coordination and it's even named just after that Commissioner. The map that the Commission created that considers the hearts of the residents as well as the criteria of the task was Motown sound in my opinion connecting Roseville to St. Clair Shores as it has been, and District 13 gives proper consideration to the interests of the residents. I have friends in East Point who have long asked for joint representation with their St. Clair Shores neighbors and friends, and they go to the shores inn and church together, this makes sense. Motown sound stands out as one of harmony, collaboration and connection. It's a good map and I really don't like the process of Szetela's map. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Thank you, Dina. The next person that we will be hearing from is Lisa Lewis. Hi Lisa.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Lisa you are unmuted and free to address the Commission.

>> Can you hear me.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yes Lisa we can hear you.

>> Okay, I'm sorry, I wasn't sure if you could hear me or not. Hello, how is everyone doing today?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Good, how are you?

>> I am well, I am well. I will be very brief. First I just wanted to thank the Commission for the work that they have done so far. I know it's been difficult. And I also thought it was over a couple years ago. So I was surprised to find out that, you know, we are still kind of, you know, working this through. My name is Lisa Lewis. I live on the northwest side of the City near the University District. And I am a lifelong

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>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I can hear you. Good morning.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you Commissioner Lett, it looks like we have a quorum present so I'm going to begin the live stream so just giving everyone a heads up. And Madam Chair I will give you a thumbs up when we are ready to begin.

>> CHAIR ORTON: As Chair of the Commission I call this meeting of the MICRC to order at 10:03 a.m. This Zoom webinar is live streamed on YouTube on the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission YouTube channel.

For anyone in the public watching who would prefer to watch via a different platform than they are currently using visit our social media at redistricting MI.

Our live stream today includes closed captioning. Closed captioning, ASL interpretation Spanish, Arabic and Bengali translation services will be provided for effective participation in this meeting.

E-mail us at [redistricting@Michigan.gov](mailto:redistricting@Michigan.gov) for additional viewing options or details on accessing language translation services for this meeting.

People with disabilities needing other specific accommodations should also contact [redistricting@Michigan.gov](mailto:redistricting@Michigan.gov). This meeting is being recorded and will be available at [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC) for viewing at a later date.

This meeting is also being transcribed and those closed caption transcripts will be made available and posted on the [Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://Michigan.gov/MICRC) website and written along with written public comment submissions.

There is a public comment portal at [Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://Michigan.gov/MICRC).

Members of the media who have questions before, during or after the meeting should direct those questions to Edward Woods III, Executive Director for the Commission at [Woods E3@Michigan.gov](mailto:Woods E3@Michigan.gov) or 517-331-6309.

For the public watching and the public record I will turn to the Department of State to take note of the Commissioners present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Good morning, Commissioners. That sounds better. Commissioners, please say present when I call your name. If you're attending the meeting remotely, please announce during roll call where you are attending the meeting remotely and unless your absence is due to military duty announce your physical location by stating the County, City, Township, Village and the State from which you are attending the meeting remotely.

I will begin alphabetically with Commissioner Andrade?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Callaghan?

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>> Good morning to the Commission. My name is Reverend Dr. Steve Bland, junior pastor of the Liberty Baptist church here in Detroit, Michigan and past president of Baptist pastors here in Detroit. Welcome this opportunity to share remarks with you. On today as you have come into the community I spoke when you first were formed, and I do still appreciate the fact that we as citizens voted this Commission so that you become the voice for our people in regards to how redistricting ought to be done. The voice is done through voting. In our democracy is counted through our census but done in equitable lines. I challenge you then some four years ago about making sure that that is done equitably in our community. And I just want to say in the brief time that I have here today that as this process has been opened again I'm not sure exactly how the differentiation is being made between community of interest and race and things of that nature, but I do know this: I know in our community we've gone from 12 Black representatives in the House to 6. I know we have gone from two senators to none from two Congressional representatives to none. From 17 persons representative being decreased is a concern for too many of our citizens. We've had people in this African/American history month we celebrate who had great history and representation to die for our citizen community. Do the right thing and make sure we have equitably represented this community the 7 Districts that have been challenged. I am Reverend Steve Bland and I thank you for this time.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number two.

>> Good morning.

I'm Dr. Jabilani. I live in Brightmore here Detroit, eastern Brightmore and I'm leaning towards the Motown sound configuration would be my first choice. The second choice would be Spirit of Detroit. I'm looking, I did consider-race somewhat with the history involved, long discussion. In looking at those choices. Thank you. Better? Or can you hear me? How so those come to mind first. Also on the computer looking at the screen I had difficulty figuring out where I lived and where I fit on the configuration. I'm not sure if I'm in District 4 or District 16. Because the streets and things are not clearly shown. And if you live near a freeway or something there is a division line may be unclear as to what the proposed District one could live in. So it's kind of vague. So is there any kind of way which if I gave my address I would be for certain whether or not I'm in District 4 or District 16?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes, if you go back and see the gentleman. Ryan will you wave? If you go see him he can help you put in your address and see exactly what District you are in.

>> Thank you, that's all I have thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: And that goes for anyone here. If you go back and see Ryan back there, he can help you with that. Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Number three.



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>> Good morning Commissioners. My name is Sarah Ismal and live and work in the City of Dearborn and on behalf of access. I will ask that the Commission keep our community of interest together, so our community is St. Arab American community with more broadly Middle Eastern north African communities and these communities are and not in Dearborn or Dearborn Heights but Melvindale and pockets of Detroit. So this community of interest has a lot of shared similarities in terms of ancestry, heritage, culture, language. Even all facets of daily lives and share that we are invisible like one of the Commissioners was stating. With that invisibility we are able to enter the community of interest is not only a community of interest, correct? So the inequities our communities face and we don't have a Mena category we appear white with the U.S. census and it's hard to have equal representation when it comes to redrawing the maps. We are asking the Motown sound maps keep just enough of our community of interest together and not diluting it and asking Melvindale be added to District 3. It's one of the communities that has a lot of similarities across Dearborn, Dearborn Heights and part of our community of interest. So I was hoping to show the map that we were able to do that. So we were asking that Motown sound map be there. But along with Melvindale attached to it and I hope the Commission takes that into consideration when looking at the map again. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number four.

>> Hi my name is Kara Love, live in Oakland County and here with access and here to talk about the Mena and as you have heard this community of interest lives in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, West Detroit and Melvindale and other parts of the state and Arab access serves and Metro Detroit is the largest concentrations and is unique in diversity successes and challenges. It's one of the oldest Arab American communities with roots back to the 1890s and we as access receive more Arabic immigrants than almost any area in the country. This is the largest community in the country as you heard because we are not captured in the census it's left out of the redistricting and we like the Motown sound map and community of interest and would like to request Melvindale go to District 3 and it shares cultural and linguistic characteristics so thank you for your consideration today.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Numb five.

>> Good morning.

My name is Mariam and live in Dearborn I'm here today to advocate that my community of interest be kept together. Arab Americans and more broadly the Mena communities are under counted in the U.S. census making the process much more difficult for our community to demonstrate the size and needs of the community. My community of interest primarily lives in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, West Detroit, and Melvindale, as well as other parts of Michigan such as Hamtramck, Livonia, Canton and Ferndale. Leaving our community of interest together ensures we are able to quantify needs. And it would further ensure that they develop programs that meets the needs of the

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communities can stay intact and use the Motown sound map for community of interest in the draft House map. We would also like to advocate for Melvindale to be added back to District 3 and remain a part of our community of interest. Thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 6.

>> Good morning.

At this point you guys probably know all the statistics and fun facts about Arab Americans in the U.S., but I'll say it again just in case you missed it the first 200 times. Hello, my name is Ahmed and work in Dearborn and here to advocate my community of interest is kept together. I'm asking that the access communities of interest are kept together which are Arab Americans, Middle Eastern and north African communities. Metro Detroit is home to the largest and most diverse Arab American and Middle Eastern and north African communities in the United States. It is. Our community of interest primarily lives in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, West Detroit, Melvindale and other parts of Michigan including Hamtramck, Livonia, Canton and Ferndale. And again without a fair count of our community and the U.S. census we are constantly invisible and not factored in the process of redistricting. I urge you to please consider the Motown sound map which provides enough consideration to our community of interest, and can you guess it, we would also like for Melvindale to be added back as a part of our community of interest. The Commission will determine the representation that COI will have for the next ten years. And the generational impacts it will have for our future. Please take the time to redraw the House maps, thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I got a quick question for you, sir. Hey there. And this could go to any of the last speakers, but so Melvindale has about like 12000-ish people. So if we were to add Melvindale back to District 3 we need to take out about that same amount of people for population. And this is in the last few speakers where would you recommend taking that population from? Like what part of Dearborn?

>> That sounds like a great question. When I have an answer I'll get back to you.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: That could be something y'all put on our website.

>> Absolutely. We will get you that answer.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Number 7.

>> Hello, Commission, my name is Delany and work in Dearborn and Arab American myself. The diverse Arab American community and broadly more Mena populations trace their ancestry to different countries and dialects and religions and socioeconomics. As Edward says there is much diversity in this community it's still a community of interest within the Mena population through shared ancestors. Using the best available data from the U.S. census American community survey we demonstrated a picture of the unique community as a result of dis-aggregating the Arab and Mena community from the white racial category. Findings indicate 43% of Arab/Mena ages

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25-64 live in poverty with 8.4% that are unemployed. Arab Americans and Mena individuals have distinct experiences. Data on Mena obscures such as disadvantaged communities in the Metro Detroit area. I support the Motown Sound map which provides enough consideration in keeping our community of interest intact but would also like again as people have said for Melvindale to be added back in and remain a part of our community of interest. Please take the time to draw the House maps and it will affect our representation for community of interest. I will also get back to you about the question that was asked right before this.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you. Number eight.

>> Hello, my name is Shams and work in Dearborn, and I did have something prepared but because of Commissioner Eid's question so as you all know I personally have been to this Commission several times even beforehand. And advocating for our community of interest. A community interest map we had submitted unfortunately that community of interest was not represented in the maps that we now are here to speak about. So what I'm advocating for the Motown map it's not the best map for community of interest it's also a map that will break our community but in addition to that that is why we are here to also encourage you all to go back to the map and if you are able to look at our community of interest map we had submitted initially, ensuring that Melvindale was part of that. As others have alluded to because Mena individuals are not counted in the census you are not able to see the data. We are actively working and engaging the census and hoping we can see that data in 2030. But we do we currently are also working with the office of management and budget to also see the numbers of Mena individuals in the State of Michigan so that being said out of these maps we are -- I personally support the Motown one in the sense if we are able to add Melvindale in. Our greatest push would be keeping District 3 and 15 together but I know if that is not feasible we would encourage you to look back at the maps and see how we can include the community of interest that we have been advocating for. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number nine.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Is there a number nine?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: They may have stepped out for a moment so we might come back to them.

>> CHAIR ORTON: All right, so and we will move on to our remote public comment and we will come back to the in-person if they come back in. I will call on your name and our staff will unmute you. If you are on a computer, you will be prompted by the Zoom app -- to unmute your microphone and speak. If you are on the phone a voice will say that the host wants you to speak and prompt you to press star six to unmute. I will, okay, also please note that if you experience technical or audio issues or if we do not hear from you to 3-5 seconds we may move on to the next person and return to you after they are done speaking. If your audio still does not work, you can e-mail [redistricting@Michigan.gov](mailto:redistricting@Michigan.gov) and we will help you trouble shoot so you can participate



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Spanish inquisition are you still a democrat, a republican or independent because that depends if you are qualified to sit on the Commission, thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Do we have number nine in person? In the room? Is there anyone else that signed up for in-person public comment that hasn't spoken yet? I don't see any. So perhaps we will wait and see who else enters.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I would encourage everyone in this room and see a few people who have not spoken yet and now is the time. I mean, this is it. It's the time to have your voice heard. We have those maps in the back. I really recommend every single person in this room go check them out. Go look at where you live on those maps. And then once you take a look at them, you know, I would love to hear about what you think. But this is the opportunity. Let's make it happen.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Why don't we take a ten-minute break and perhaps by then we will have more public comments. So we will turn at 10:50.

[ Recess until 10:50 ]

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioners attending remotely while we are on break you are more than welcome to remain on mute and to turn off your video. Thank you.

[ Recess until 10:50 ]

>> CHAIR ORTON: It's time for us to be back from break but we have quite a few folks in the room looking at the big print outs of the maps so I want them to be able to continue doing that and we will come back up and take public comments. But feel free to keep looking at the maps and discussing. For those that are here in person if you had a chance to look at the maps in the back or perhaps talk to Mr. Taylor in the back and you wish to make public comment now you can go out to the sign up table, sign up for public comment and then we will call on you. And please do. We would love to hear from everyone in this room. Okay so we do have some more in-person public comments so is number ten in the room? I don't see them. Number 11. Oh, are you number ten? Are you number ten?

>> Yes.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you.

>> Hello, everyone, my name is Zana and I live in Dearborn, and I want to keep my community of interest together. The Arab American and Mena communities in Michigan are the largest and diverse they have ever been concentrated in Dearborn and heights however our community of interest primarily lives in Dearborn, heights West Detroit and Melvindale and Hamtramck Livonia Canton and Ferndale. We have been in Southeast Michigan for the last 50 years. I urge you to continue to do your work adding time to your schedule to redraft the House maps. Please consider the access community of interest map which provides enough consideration to our community of interest. If Motown would move forward we would like Melvindale to be added back and part of the

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community of interest. Commissioners you have the ability to draw District lines and maps that influence Michigan State. And the national landscape for the next ten years. We urge you to consider the representation of these communities that will shape their future. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 11.

>> Good morning.

My name is Charles Thomas and I'm the founder and director of the voter turnout organization. When you vote I win. The organization is built on the story of two of my aunts who are 14 and 16 years old trained by John Lewis and his members of Snick in '64 and '65. Participated in the process in marches in Selma that resulted in the signing of the Voting Rights Act. So as an individual as an organization we are fully vested in the Voting Rights Act. But along with the Voting Rights Act, we lean into the language of the 14, 15 and 19th amendments that we are to afford all citizens of age the right to vote and are the support for, and not just the VRA, but the Supreme Court, one person, one vote theory. So with that in mind this Commission cannot walk away from this process having believed they have done their jobs, if they accept any map that strips away the power of the individual vote. You cannot walk away believing that you have done your job if you return Michigan to its decades long recent history of any party that receives the least amount of votes walking away with the most seats. The maps to be considered Motown Sound is the best performing and both VRA compliant because does worse on partisan fairness.

it can be improved addressing the east side of the map in a few districts. Lastly I will say for the record the most evident proof of what is desired in the democratic process is casting your ballot for it. 30 to 40% and topping out at and celebrating 50% is not Selma worthy stuff. Prove what you want by going out and voting for it.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 12.

>> Good morning. I am Valorie Kendall I'm the mayor of the City of Harper Woods. And I want to ask that the Motown Sound or the Spirit of Detroit will be the best consideration for our community because we share school districts, water, infrastructure with those communities that we are connected with. So those would be the best maps on changes for our community to continue to be the thriving community that we are. Because we not only share those school districts and water infrastructure, we also share mutual aids with those cities. So to separate us and put us in a whole different light would make it ever be -- it would be cumbersome on our community to be divided and are thinking the Motown Sound and the Spirit of Detroit will be the best for my community. Harper Woods and the Grosse Pointes, thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 13.

>>Hello, my name is Stan Hobbs. And I would just like to voice my vote for the Water Lily map because just like the people from Dearborn were saying they share a culture;

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of us who are represented in the Detroit area with pride and distinction would like to make sure we maintain the integrity of the representation we had and give our children in the future to be adequately represented.

I would like to see my granddaughter to run for a seat that represents the interest of the community she lives in. Thank you for the second opportunity to speak, thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing us again. Next 16.

>> 16, 16.

>> I can't hear too well, and I thank you very much for having this opportunity to speak once again as I stated before I'm the mayor of the City of Harper Woods. And the configurations of the map of Motown is the best one for our community because as I've stated before we share mutual aid. We share school District and we share and the culture of what we do in the Harper Woods and Grosse Pointe area we all work together and I think that this configuration for the Motown map is the best map for our community to have representation and to also continue to improve the quality of life for all of us in that area. So I hope that you would take this in consideration because it's very important to all of us to have to stay together. And I appreciate you. Thank you so much for your service. I know it's been a tough job for you guys. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you very much for addressing the Commission. 17.

>> Good morning my name is Karen green I'm a Detroit resident and a precinct delegate a Black club president and all that fun stuff I appreciate and echo what others have said, all of your diligence in the maps, I like the maps back there better because I can actually see much better than I was trying to see on my computer. I like Motown Sound map. And from the District on the map of 16 it looks like most of what we have currently, just asking if possibly it could refer and pick up some of the other area going and I forgot the number you have back there but going back towards the Detroit area and also looking at District 10 that includes Harper Woods suggesting if maybe that could be moved in District 12. And I think that is all of my suggestions. Hopefully Motown Sound will be the selected map. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 18. Oh, Commissioner Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I was trying to raise my hand really tall since I'm so tall. Joke, I'm not, I'm 5'3". I had a question for you, you asked, and I know you said you didn't remember the number that was listed for Motown Sound. But you were talking about the Redford area, can you just repeat?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Could you come to the microphone so people online can hear?

>> Looking back there on the Motown Sound map, it looks like the number 16 that you have it looks like it caps in Livonia. And just asking if possibly it could cap in Redford and pick up, I don't have my little notes, and pick up some of the other area above, going towards Detroit. I actually have to see it to tell you again.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Okay, no, that is fine.



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>> Good afternoon. My name is Racy precinct delegate for precinct 248 and I had an opportunity to view some of the maps in the back and the best map that I see fit, that would work would be the Motown Sound.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Madam Chair I apologize but our scheduled break from 1-2 and looks like our interpreters have taken a break right now so I'm not sure if it's recommended for us to proceed with public comment without our accommodations.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I see, thank you. So I'm sorry, we did hear your comment but, yeah, we are not able to continue during this break time. So you will be first in line when we come back. At 2:00.

[ Lunch recess until 2:00 p.m. ]

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay we are back from break. It was a break, not a recess. Do we need to call roll, Sarah Reinhardt? Okay will you please call the roll?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT:

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Good afternoon Commissioners if I call your name if you would be kind to say present so we can continue with roll call. If your present location has changed as you are attending virtually.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Pardon the interruption can we get quiet in the room while we are calling roll for just a minute. Sorry about that. Folks in the back of the room. I apologize for the interruption we are taking roll call, and we need to hear the Commissioners if we can quiet in the room for just a moment, thank you so much.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: I will start again good afternoon Commissioners when I call your name please say present. If your physical location has changed if you are not here in the room with us please share that information so that our roll call may be accurate. I will start with Commissioner Andrade?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Curry?  
Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Muldoon?

>> MARCUS MULDOON: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Orton?

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believe we will have a healthy meeting and have an engaging meeting and we are eager to hear from you, so we just thank you in advance for complying with these guidelines.

I want you to show up and speak up. "Like" us or follow us on Facebook, Instagram Twitter or TikTok at redistricting morning subscribe to the MICRC YouTube channel submit public mapping comments to the [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC) or you can call it 1-866-map fair, 1-866-627-3247 for questions or more information. If you have or need any assistance with regards to seeing a map or identifying what District you're in, I would like Ryan in the back to wave his hand, Ryan is here to answer the questions for you and show you right on the map where you are there are nine maps behind you of the collaborative maps and one individual map. We want to thank you for taking time out of your schedule to show up and speak up to ensure your voice is heard as the Commission deliberates at what best map could be great for the 7 reconfigured Districts that the Court is ordering us to remediate. Thank you so much for being here and without further ado we will turn it back to the Chairperson, Cynthia Orton.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you, Director Woods. So individuals who have signed up and indicated they would like to provide live public comment to the Commission will now be allowed. We will start with the live public comment first, the in-person. And then that will be followed by the remote public comment so you will have three minutes to address the Commission. And please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer go off. And we are going to start with number 19 because I think they are back.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: No.

>> CHAIR ORTON: No?

Okay, we thought they were back. Okay number 20.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: What was your or what.

>> CHAIR ORTON: What is your number in red, 21 if there is no 19 or 20 we are going to 21.

>> Thank you. Good afternoon to all. My name is Michelle Thomas. I'm a proud UAW member as well as a proud Detroiter. I stand here in support of the Motown Sound map. I believe it is a good map that shows great representation for the voters in Detroit, and we do depend on maps for fair and balanced representation. As we know in 2018, the voters we all made it clear that we wanted maps to reflect our communities. And I once again stand in support of the Motown Sound map. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 22.

>> 22? No? 23? Good afternoon, right? Good afternoon Commission. I'm Nicholas barns, 29 year resident of Detroit. I'm a special Olympics basketball coach. Soccer coach. With the Detroit public recreational department and advocate in my community. I'm very passionate about the Districts in Detroit to make sure we get Black representation we need and partisan fairness if you look there is not a lot done on the partisan fairness, let's get the best Black districts in Detroit. Looking at the maps

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honestly believe the Motown Sound is one of the better maps that has been drawn. But I do believe there are some edits that can be made to make those districts a little more VRA compliant at least the population on there. One of the biggest things I seen about the map that should be changed but was good on the Detroit is to keep the lakeshore together Harper Woods and Grosse Pointe should be drawn together because they share school systems that are vital to the communities and if they express having those two together I think that is something you should take into consideration.

Also in District 1 I believe we can beef up the numbers in District 1 and make that over 40% as long as you move around certain pieces inside of the Motown Sound map. I plan on drawing a new map tonight combining the Motown Sound and Spirit of Detroit maps and submitting for you all to see. So besides that one of the issues that I had just from a more technical side is that when I go to your beautiful website and try to download shape files I have an issue with the Motown Sound shape file. I'm not allowed to put that spot into the program that I'm using. I wanted to see is there a way to get that file that I can use or a better version because the other nine files work but that one doesn't work I don't know if it's something on my side.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Why don't you go talk to Ryan Taylor that is in the back and he should be able to help with that.

>> Another thing that concerned me is what happens to the data you are collecting on the new map form me I think it was a lot of sensitive data I had to get out just to share my voice about my community. I feel I should not have to give my address and my phone number and I'm really concerned where the data goes and who has the data because we live in a day and age where data is the new gold and I would not say it's a violation of people data or privacy rights but I just feel that is a lot of sensitive information to collect from people just to come and just tell you hey you drew my neighborhood wrong. So I don't know if this can be changed in the further process, but I like the way you did it on the comment portal where a person put a name and an e-mail and call it a day. I feel the new common system is kind of intrusive for people and may turn people off from engaging in the process. Thank you for your time and good luck.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for that comment. I believe Secretary of State can talk to that.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you Madam Chair. Sir, I would note that for signing up for live public comment in person we don't collect any information. So if someone was asking you for personal information, oh, you mean the online sign up. Some of the additional sign up like an e-mail address is required so you can -- we can send a link for you to join the Zoom meeting to your e-mail address. But that information is only used for that purpose. And it's retained by the Secretary of State's office who is the secretary for the Commission. Yeah so the additional information that's requested on there is something that you can provide if it's like an optional thing to



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>> Good afternoon. My name is Lucinda Kyles. I'm a concerned involved and committed voter in citizen of House District 5. And I did work on the Voters Not Politicians campaign and circulated petitions because it matters to me that there is a voice of the people dividing things and not the public coparties going back and forth. So I wanted to say today after looking at the maps first of all, secondly I guess I'll say thank you all for all the work you're doing. And I can only imagine how hard and time consuming it is. But I really do appreciate each and every one of you being willing to do this hard work. And I would ask that you would adopt the Motown Sound map because I think this map best addresses the concerns of fair and accurate representation of all and it would also be in compliance with the Voting Rights Act I think. So that we wouldn't have to go through this yet again. I think it's properly compact. I think it doesn't go very far above 8 Mile as I looked at it, across the lines. And I just want to wish you all well and hope that you can draw, redraw if the courts have something that remains or becomes even more fair and representative than you were able to do before. And holds to the principles that were outlined in that lovely presentation that you did for us at the beginning. So thank you again.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 27 or were you 27? I get confused with the numbers. 27.

>> Number 27 here. I'm really glad you gave us an extra minute because I just want to tell you how much we appreciate what you're doing. And how much work it is. It's just amazing. And I know when we started on the redistricting project four years ago no one could envision we got to this point. So just please know that I'm giving each and every one of you a hug. And glad that you're here and thank you very much.

I'm Nina-Abrams from Huntington Woods and I've been paying attention to redistricting now since you guys started. I am urging the adoption of Motown Sound map. It's constitutionally fair, impartial, transparent in application. It has good -- it has good lines around cities and counties, but it also crosses the border in some senses. I was critical of your crossing the border before. And I apologize, I was wrong. I thought the experience of the last two years in crossing the border gave us a sense of regeneration and introduced us to new neighborhoods and new friends. So I'm glad that there is some pureness around 8 Mile but I'm also glad in about three or four situations you cross 8 Mile and mixed it up a little bit. I think that's good.

For me, personally and Huntington Woods you have kept in Motown Berkeley school District together where Huntington Woods and Berkeley we have the same safety thing. We have the same school District. And we share the same downtown. Among the maps, I think that Motown Sound is the best balance of your 7 criteria, partisan fairness, equality, VRA standards, common sense contiguous borders. Good job. And you keep communities of interest together. I've heard other people talk about that. And I think that's a very positive thing.

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And I want to say that the authors of this map who worked together collaboratively, thank you. You did a great job in listening to the Detroit voices. We have the most districts for minority voters to have a representation and fewer split county pizzas. And I'm really hoping that we use a Commission map and not a special master map. And I think that Motown Sound is the map that is most likely to pass in the courts.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for your comments. Number 28.

>> Good afternoon. It's a pleasure and an honor to stand before you. A couple years ago I stood before you and I was really disappointed. But today I am proud of the work you have done. You may or may not remember but I asked the Commission to do the right thing. I was talking about a took a line from spike Lee's movie and you have done the right thing. Now this order that we draw these districts is done on December 21st by three Federal judges. I'm not saying you guys didn't want to do it, but you were mandated to do it and again I want everyone to understand the power of the people. The power of your vote. Because we have not said anything, and Chary and her team would not have said anything we would have the maps. So understand the power of voting. I want to take another movie Claudine and in the move they said mama I feel invisible, that is how we thought invisible and overlooked and ignored and taken advantage of our good nature and our culture. You diluted, not you personally but the people that drew those maps diluted our political power that is why I point day-to-day we honor a great man who was assassinated Malcolm X that we do the work because right now historically and today maps in Michigan and around the country are flawed. Fatally flawed. But we as a people, as Detroiters, will never stop fighting. We don't have to prove our worth. We just want what belongs to us an unalienable right to vote the Constitution does not have anything in there guarantying the right to vote, that came from the Supreme Court with the 18th amendment 1868 after the civil war and people are enslaved to get them equal protection under the law. But the trickery continues counting pennies or beans in a glass jar or crafty maps drawn by a sword it continues. Gerrymandering or bad decisions however you want to define it the people have suffered. Because of that struggle to not accept us to respect us we are not invisible. We rise. We rise in honor of our ancestors and provide for our children and celebrate them. So on behalf of the CBTU and the president Michael Joseph of the Detroit capacitor of the coalition of Black trade unions we support the Motown map because it's clear and transparent and it's honest and gives people an opportunity. Folks your vote is important. A year ago you asked for the amendment to become law, you can vote early please vote. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 29.

>> Hello teams of Commissioners. Good afternoon the team of the Commissioners of Michigan. Thank you for this opportunity to stand before you and to have the opportunity to voice my opinion on, not my opinion but to speak up. And my name is Nora Simmons and I'm a retiree and a homeowner. And I'm addressing the sanitation,

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you know. That part. Today as I was coming down here, I saw a truck, you know, the garbage truck, this is our pickup day. And a truck was filled up and as it was going the trash was just blowing all over. What was the point of picking up the trash when you still are the trash going all over the place. Not only that when they are coming to caught, you know, vacant lots and so forth, they cut with over the trash and the trash is just torn up in pieces and still scattered all over the lot. What's the point? If you're going to cut the grass, you are supposed to make it look decent and trash is all over the place. And so I just wanted to bring this to your attention that when you are re -- you know redistricting, you know, the place, you know, the areas that you do not just think of just the affluent neighborhoods, just trying to put all of them together and leaving out the weaker, you know, areas of the Detroit. We have, you know, a billboard or used to to say keep Detroit beautiful. But yet, you know, you're not, you know, doing the job that should be done. It would be done in Grosse Pointe. You know, I'm not blaming the employees, the truck drivers or whatever because I don't know what their issues are or what they have to go through. But, you know, maybe they don't have enough trucks to, you know, just go and, you know, they are filling them all the way up and they just you know it's out of their control. So we should have enough trucks, you know, so that they can do their job without, you know, just having a mess going about. So any way when you are redistricting, I think you should consider taking the, again, the you know, the affluent neighborhoods with the weaker neighborhoods, put them together so that there will be some respect when they come to do their job that they will say oh, you know, they will, you know, when they say that the trash is going everywhere that they will, you know, not do that or go back and reload or whatever they need to do. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON:

>> Oh, and by the way, my choice is Motown map. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Number 30.

>> Good afternoon. My name is Cheryl Thompson Marsh I'm a homeowner in the City of Detroit. And I also worship in the City, and I have concerns that we continue this process in a fairway that you will operate in integrity. The voters spoke and we asked for you. And now we are coming before you today to remind you that we have some needs and some of those needs are to keep neighborhoods together. To make sure that people who live and work together in their communities are also able to have representation that represents them. And so I do want to support the map Motown Sound. I see that it offers some of the things I'm most concerned with and I would just remind you as you deliberate that you consider the comments that have been made here today because representation does matter. And we all know and have heard that taxation without representation is just not fair. And so we are just asking for you to have a fair process as you deliberate and the selection of the maps and also adhere to what the courts have mandated. Thank you.



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>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 31.

>> Hi good afternoon, hello Commissioners. My name is Lori Leesy. I'm not a Detroit, I live in Huntington Woods and I'm in a District that it will be affected in many of the maps that you have drawn because we are right next door to some of the districts you need to redraw. I also wanted to echo that I really appreciated the presentation you guys did before. I thought that was very well done and brought everybody up to the same level of knowledge.

I want to thank you for your very hard work. And I'm here also to speak in favor of the Motown Sound map. And I'm glad to hear a number of Detroiters also being in favor of this map. It is the best of all the maps for being compliant with the Voting Rights Act for providing the most opportunity districts for minority voters. And of the greatest importance to me, the most partisanly fair of all the maps currently under consideration. I was a petition circulator for the ballot initiative that led to the formation of this Commission. And to a person, the people that signed my petitions were signing because they wanted Michigan District maps to be fair. While I strongly support the Motown Sound over all the maps currently under consideration, I would love to see some tweaks to that map to make partisan fairness even better.

I would hope that this could be done without sacrificing VRA compliance and without decreasing the number of opportunity districts. If that's not possible then I guess I would just ask you to leave it as is it but ask you to look at tweaking partisan fairness. I know you guys have a very difficult balancing act to do when considering the Court order. And the criteria for drawing maps. However, I ask the Commission to pick the Motown Sound map, hopefully with some partisan fairness tweaks because I also believe it is the map that is most likely to be approved by the special master and will not result in the drawing of maps by the second special master. The initiative that led to the creation of this Commission was passed, my hands are shaking, because citizens did not want their districts to be drawn in back rooms by a few individuals. Adoption of the Motown Sound should, fingers crossed, avoid this outcome. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLUM: Sorry Commissioner Orton, sorry, go ahead I had a question.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Go ahead.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLUM: I don't know if you can answer this though so don't feel any more pressure than you might. It's really for anybody that's giving comment as I'm taking notes and maybe other Commissioners are taking notes as well. If there are certain things like you offer a tweak for partisan fairness, right.

>> Right.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLUM: If you have an idea that you can share in public comment or submit it online, that would be very helpful.

>> Okay, I would -- I don't know that I'm smart enough to do that.

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>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Don't say that. None of us are either. We are regular regular people.

>> But maybe I will talk with somebody smarter and submit a comment online.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Okay.

>> Okay I appreciate you guys listening to us.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Thank you, thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Ryan Taylor, did you have something? Okay, sorry, I didn't catch the cues there. If you want to speak to Ryan Taylor in the back, he is raising his hand in the corner there by the door, he can -- he is the smart one that can help.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: This is the last thing I will say because I don't want to change any one's public comment to come if there is a particular map that you like or dislike and you're talking about the map, you can say that you don't like it. You can also say that you do like it but if you could include what the map does for your area, the area without giving all your personal business, like if you like Motown Sound, if you like Water Lily whatever the map does if you can speak to what that does for your neighborhood that will be great for the Commission. Or like I said if it completely disenfranchises or disempowers an area that you specifically live in or work in or whatever is that speak to that as well. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you, okay number 32.

>> Good afternoon. My name is Miranda Hawkins and I'm a resident of St. Clair Shores and reside there with my husband Wayne and two young daughters. I carefully reviewed the available proposed maps and I believe that Motown Sound is the best available option. Thank you for your time, consideration and your service on this important Commission.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 33.

>> Good afternoon. My name is Michael Dunn, my wife Debbie and I resided in Lathrup village for 32 years. Looking at our own block going down up and down each side of the street you will find Black families, white families and immigrant families, straight, gay and lesbian couples. Retirees, empty nesters, families with young children and even a single mother with not one but two sets of school-aged twins. I don't know how she does it.

Various families practice their Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths or don't practice any religion at all. This is all within one block. 30 homes up and down the street. So I wish all Michigan communities were as open and welcoming as ours. I've reviewed the proposed maps and Motown Sound is the best map available. Motown Sound is the one map that best threads the need and meets all the key ranked criteria including compliance with the Voting Rights Act and other Federal laws. Two promotion of communities of interest and three maintaining partisan fairness. I want to echo the earlier speaker that that is especially important. You guys made great strides in the earlier maps providing partisan fairness across the state and we really don't want to see

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any reversion back to the old partisan maps. I want to thank all of you for your time and hard work while you serve on this important Commission. And in closing I just want to strongly urge you to select the Motown Sound map and present it to the Court on March 1st. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 34.

>> Good afternoon my name is brook Harris a resident of Boston Edison neighborhood in Detroit. I would like to thank you the Commissioners and staff for your work for redrawing the maps and having the hearings in an accessible location to avoid downtown whenever possible. I also find the Motown Sound map to be the best out of the options listed. I appreciate the intentional care in that map to keep my neighborhood intact. It dips far enough east to go to Woodward instead of cutting us off at the lodge which has happened in the past. I would encourage you all to tweak that map to take this type of care with all neighborhoods so it can remain intact and more communities of interest as possible and not split them and make small tweaks for partisan fairness and I'm not smart enough to do it off hand but I can see what I can do on line. And with the most block districts and I and other representation that looks like us and represents our interest. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 35.

>> Hi everyone thanks a lot my name is Mary Ann Parnis and live in Huntington Woods and first of all like so many said thank you for what you're doing but I can't imagine it must have been pretty discouraging when you were told that you had to redraw these maps because in practice from what I saw, at least with regards to the House Districts I thought they worked out to be pretty good. But I get it and I'm glad that you were able to go back, and I think that what you drew is even better. And one of the things that I will comment on because no one else has mentioned Royal Oak Township, I don't live in the Township but close to the Township and work with a lot of people in the Township and in the last map they were split in half so I'm so happy you are keeping them together and in one community. I think that is going to be really important to help that particular community.

And there's other things like I said I live in Huntington Woods so keeping with Berkeley we share the same school District that is like another important feature some people have mentioned maybe doing some tweaking. You know, I really trust what you guys have been working on and I think that you've got you know you have delved into this far more deeply than I have. Thanks for the hard work. And you know, I think that looking at all of the maps, the whole idea is that we do not want a problem at the end of the month that this map is going to be rejected and that is why I think the Motown Sound map gives us the best possibility that the Court will not reject that and we have to take a map that's not drawn by the people, which is totally opposed to what we worked so hard to get at the beginning. So thanks again.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 36.



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>> No 36? 37. 38? Are you 38?

>> Yes.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay.

>> Good afternoon Commissioners I appreciate all the work that you all have been doing for our City. I'm a Detroit. My name is Toya. And the reason I'm here I'm for the Motown Sound map as well. Also, I would like to know that as far as activities that we once had in the Detroit, oh, thank you, as far as the activities that we once had in Detroit, that has been taken away from us, I sort of became discouraged because I remember once there was the winter blast we used to have every winter during the month of January and February that has been taken out of Detroit. I remember we used to have the State Fair that was once in Detroit for years where my daughter who is now an adult we can no longer go to the Detroit. We no longer have a State Fair in this large City that we have. I have been to the one in Novi and I'm telling you it's nowhere near in comparison to the way it once was in the City of Detroit. So my concern is why are we one of the largest cities in the world, but we don't have a State Fair. We don't have, they have taken away the winter blast. And beats and eat is in Royal Oak and I like that but when you have a major City and that has been taken away from the City of Detroit but at the same time you want people to represent Detroit and live the in Detroit what do they have to look forward to as far as the seasons go for their children, for their grandchildren, even for themselves as far as retirees to have somewhere to go to. And somewhere besides being at home or just going to work and coming home and trying to figure out what they should be doing. That's my concern.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: This Commission so I'm Commissioner Kellom and I miss my elephant ears too but this body of 13 is we are regular citizens from all over the State of Michigan, right? So we are not politicians. Never run for anything. So we are representing our different neighborhoods and coming together to listen to you all give feedback on the maps that we have in the back, which you did, with is Motown Sound but we are not responsible unfortunately for the things that you have said. So what we hope, you know, and I think I can speak for the rest of the Commissioners. We hope you are drawing maps that inspires the folks that go to Lansing and other places to represent the Detroit area. We hope that this process in our maps inspire them to work hard to bring equitable activities and communities back together. That's what I can say to what you just shared with us.

>> I appreciate it.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yeah.

>> All right thank you so much.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: You're welcome.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you. Okay, number 39.

>> Good afternoon. My name is Byron white and I'm a proud homeowner in the City of Detroit. And I can appreciate the task that you were given in a short amount of time,

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-- we must never, ever, ever go back to the way it was before and a little tweaks we are going to get it together up here, okay? Job done, peace.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 42.

>> Is there a 42?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I think 41 is the most current number for signups.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay then we will go to our remote public comment. So for remote public comment I will call your name and our staff will unmute you. If you are on a computer you will be prompted by the Zoom app to unmute and speak. If you're on the phone a voice will say the host wants you to speak and prompt you to press star six to unmute. Also please note that if you experience technical or audio issues or we do not hear from you from 3-5 seconds we will move on to the next person in line and return to you after they are done speaking. If your audio still does not work you can e-mail [redistricting@Michigan.gov](mailto:redistricting@Michigan.gov) and we will help you trouble shoot so you can participate during the next public comment period or at a later meeting. You will have three minutes to address the Commission.

The first to provide remote public comment is Bronwyn-Prater.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: You are unmuted and free to address the Commission.

>> Good afternoon and thank you for hearing from us today. My name is Bronwyn and I work for access. I'm here to give my support to the Motown Sound map a map that gives consideration in keeping the Arab American as well as the Middle Eastern and north African communities together. And would also like for you to consider adding Melvindale back into District 3 and remaining a part of our community of interest. This community of interest originates from a culturally geographically and religiously diverse set of countries but countries that share many experiences and challenges. Leaving this community of interest together will ensure that we are able to quantify its needs and would also mean that programs can be developed to meet the needs of these specific communities and that funding can be acquired to do so. Because Mena and Arab American communities are already going unrecognized by the Federal Government they are under counted and they are not able to accurately demonstrate the size and needs of their communities. The Motown Sound map would best recognize the significant presence of this community in the region as well as display the Commission's dedication of equity through the redistricting process and I will extend my thanks for you for the work you all are doing on this thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Chris Andrews.

>> Hello.

>> CHAIR ORTON: We can hear you.

>> Thank you. Yes, this is Chris Andrews from Haslett. It appears to me that you are going to do one of two things either pass Motown Sound or make adjustments to

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Motown Sound to improve fairness. And I think that I commend you on finding a solution to the racial under representation problem and in coming on here to keep your final solution doing that. But for those of you who were in the process at the beginning, a couple of years ago there were hundreds of people who told you that the Hickory map was very unfair and asked you to start over. Understandably you didn't have the time to do that. But I think it's really important for you to try to reduce the unfairness. And Lisa Handley had said at the beginning of this process the second time what is fairness? She said it would be reducing or at least maintaining the level of unfairness that you have. And it's my belief that you can do that. People are asking the good question of how do you do it. And I'll be the first to say I don't know and I'm not familiar with the districts. But I think that you have certainly among your members have people who are familiar with the communities and you've got experts who should be able to help provide some options. I would think if you ask your experts, your consultants to say give us a few options that absolutely protect Black voters in the Detroit area, but reduce the unfairness of the maps that they ought to be able to give you some options. And in the last election when democrats won landslide victories for Governor and Attorney General and Secretary of State and there was abortion that was greatly driving turnout, it took all of that to have the tiniest of majorities for democrats. And if you replace that and add a layer of more unfairness and go into more normal elections, I'm convinced we will have one party winning a greatly disproportionate number of elections. And as somebody before me said, the reason that people were out electing petitions and signing petitions and voting for the constitutional amendment was because they wanted fair elections that where the will of the people is respected. So I encourage you to see if you can find the better solution that reduces the unfairness. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next we have Percy Johnson.

>> On mute can you hear me?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes, we can hear you.

>> Oh, wow, perfect timing. Yeah, so I came down and I looked at the maps that you have on the board. And I really liked the Motown. I liked the Motown map the way it's shaped and the title you gave me too. So, yeah, I'm in for supporting the Motown map. It looks like we are giving. My concern has always been giving individuals who live south of 8 Mile some strength to where when they vote they can get representation that lives in their neighborhood and also that lives in that dynamic or the challenges that they live with in that neighborhood or just living in that particular area. Because individuals I feel live north of 8 Mile don't deal with the same situations people have south of 8 Mile. So I'm in strong support for the Motown Sound. And I like the name of it, and it takes me back to the song that came from that is people power. That used to be the Motown Sound give people the power and we are doing that. Letting people instead of politicians and not people. I mean people instead of politicians making the lines. That

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is what we want, we want the people to have their power to get the representation that they need, the job. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. I think we have one more in-person. Number 42.

>> Thank you my name is Steve Walker and live in southwest Detroit which of course is part of District one. First I want to thank Commissioner Szetela who expressed an interest in having a Latino District, those of us in southwest Detroit certainly do appreciate that. Fortunately thanks to the Court decision, that's not feasible to cradle the Latino direct you would have to take away a Black District. Secondly, I hear a lot of people who like the Motown Sound map. And I can see some of the advantages in that map. But I do notice that it looks to me like it takes an east side Detroit doctor and draws it up into St. Clair Shores. Now if somebody can explain to me what the community of interest is between St. Clair Shores and Detroit I would really like to know that. That would be some news to me.

I actually the map I think I like the best is Daisy two. I saw somebody earlier spoke to it also. The big advantage of Daisy two is it puts Melvindale back in with Dearborn and you heard all those Arab Americans this morning saying they wanted Melvindale to be in with the rest of their community which makes perfect sense to me. I do think it would take some changes to make that map satisfactory to me. For example Commissioner Curry pointed out at a previous meeting that River Rouge and Ecorse like to stay together, which I believe she's correct. And Daisy 2, Ecorse is cutoff from the rest of the District one. I think it should be included. So I think the map needs to move a little bit south and include Ecorse. Obviously when you do that, then you have to take the adjoining District and move that a little bit west which I have no problem with and when you do that then you got to take the lakeshore District and make an adjustment. I would think you would add Harper Woods in. The mayor of Harper Woods was here this morning and explain how they feel like they are all part of the Grosse Pointes. The people I know who moved out to Harper Woods knew they were leaving Detroit. I don't think they would appreciate you putting them back in the Detroit House District. So I do think that also could be done and then I think you would have the kind of District that would satisfy the Court. And the chief community of interest.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you very much for addressing the Commission.

Is there anyone else in the room who wishes to provide public comment, that has signed up that we haven't called on yet? I don't see any, so we don't have any more public comments right now. Director Woods, do we have any other business we can conduct at this time?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: No, I think we can take a break.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, all right, we will just take a 15-minute break, come back at 3:35.

[ Recess until 3:35 p.m. ]



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>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: You can sing, you can just entertain us for the rest of your time.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I apologize for this; can you pause the time? Can you make sure when you are speaking you are speaking directly into the microphone because we have interpreters on virtually who need to be able to hear? Thank you.

>> My name is Carl Dorin. I lived and born this Detroit and lived near here all my life or in Detroit. For redistricting in Detroit I believe Motown Sound is the best map so far. I hope that is applicable to what we are talking about. Improves partisan fairness and I believe can do even more. I ask what improvements and alterations will help keep partisan balance fair? Like the willow run map, the willow map District 13 for example. And represent communities of interest well, not to split neighbors, neighborhoods. I live in District 6. And the shape of it basically follows Woodward. Following thorough fairs the roads people get to work on seems like a great idea. Guaranteed to have an outcome that keeps communities together. There needs to be flow within neighborhoods that work for the community. The question I ask is how do we create the most opportunity for Blacks and all people of color like District 10 and 12 that really seem to be lagging behind. I thank you for the work you're doing. You're making a huge difference for Detroit. Michigan and our country. As we strive to have fair elections for all people and make up for lost ground. Detroit has been known as the most segregated City in the world. Not just the country. So this is a heavy lift. And I thank everyone for participating. I couldn't not participate because I'm born here. I don't say this much but I even went to reform school here when I was a kid. Straightened me out, went on to be president of the board of directors. There is a lot here. And a lot when we have been given a lot to contribute back. So thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Carl, if you have some -- some of the comments you have for particular areas that you like or dislike we have a public comment portal, I would love to see that there if that is accessible to you. If not we have Ryan in the back working with folks to understand the map, but you can talk to him about how to upload those comments. Ryan, yeah, he is pointing to the map. He has glasses. Relatively tall. The white guy in the back. Just touching the map.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Ryan Taylor, can you just raise your hand, so people know who you are? He's the go-to guy everybody. Were you number 52? Okay 53.

>> Hello, my name is mark Harriston. I apologize I got here a little late, so I know you were going through some of the criteria on the board here when I got here but I'm a little confused. You mentioned population as being one of the criteria but what you wanted to keep the population pretty equal between the districts but what is that actual number? Was that.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: 91,600 people for House District, State House.

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>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. And I think it would be really helpful since you were talking about specific areas and roads if you could add that to our public comment portal so that we.

>> Okay.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Because I couldn't write it all down.

>> Sure, I will definitely go ahead and submit that. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you. Number 58.

>>Hello, my name is Chris Turner. I had an opportunity to review all the maps. And it was three of them that stuck out to me that I thought were pretty good. And representative of the Metro Detroit area as a whole. Those three maps include river walk, Spirit of Detroit and Motown Sound. I think those maps are really representative as far as the population in these individual neighborhoods and communities, type of people that live there, work there and everything like that. Some of those maps in which the areas go up into Oakland County, there was one map in particular in which Birmingham represented a neighborhood in northwest Detroit. And the issue that I could foresee with that being you know, being as such if somebody that lives in Birmingham is representing a portion in northwest Detroit not too far from here, they are not really going to be pressed on the issues that take place in this area because they have no idea what it's like to live in this neighborhood, in this area. So issues down here are not the same up there. Their focal point is not going to be the same and people that live in that neighborhood are not they are just not going to get the same treatment. I live in Grandmont part of the Grandmont Rosedale neighborhoods. And even though I like these three maps that I shared with you guys, it's a couple of them in which my particular neighborhood Grandmont is split off from Rosedale Park and north Rosedale Park. And I think that it should be changed because the Grandmont Rosedale neighborhood association that represents that whole pocket. And if we are left out of that, then we could be representing a District in which our neighborhood could be potentially serving as like an anchor. And I think that should change. We are all one community and we have been that way since this neighborhood association has been in existence. So I do think that needs to change across the board on all the maps. But these three are like I said the best representation of Detroit in all these neighborhood as a whole. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. And thank you for those specific areas that you talked about.

Okay I'll go back to 55. Do we have 55 back in the room? No one is claiming 55. And is there a 59?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: It seems like number 55 might still be looking at the maps. Sir, were you 55?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, come on down. Hello, good evening, thank you for having us here. I was looking at three of the areas that I felt that were good for the City and our

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>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission will begin shortly.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: All right, Commissioners. We have a quorum. I'll be starting a live stream. Madam chair, I'll give you a thumbs up whenever we're ready to begin.

I call this Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 10:10 a.m.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: This Zoom webinar is being live streamed on YouTube on The Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission YouTube channel.

For anyone in the public watching who would prefer to watch via a different platform than they are currently using, please visit our social media at Redistricting MI. Can you hear this? Okay.

Thank you.

Our live stream today includes closed captioning. Closed captioning, ASL interpretation, and Spanish and Arabic and Bengali translation services will be provided for effective participation in this meeting. Please E mail us at [Redistricting@michigan.gov](mailto:Redistricting@michigan.gov) for additional viewing options or for additional details for accessing Language translation services for this meeting.

People with disabilities or needing other specific accommodations should also contact Redistricting at Michigan.gov. This meeting is also being recorded and will be available at [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC) for viewing at a later date.

This meeting also is being transcribed and those closed-captioned transcriptions will be made available and posted on the Michigan.gov/MICRC website and written public comment submissions. There is also a public comment portal accessed. Michigan.gov/MICRC.

Members of the media who may have questions before, during or after the meeting should direct those questions to Edward Woods III, Executive Director For the Commission at [WoodsE3@Michigan.gov](mailto:WoodsE3@Michigan.gov) or 517 331 6309.

For the public watching and the public record I will turn to the department of state staff take note of the commissioners present.

>> SARAH REINHARDT: Good morning, Commissioners. Please say present when I call your name. Please let us know where you're attending remotely from. I'll call on Commissioners in alphabetical order starting with Elaine Andrade.

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Present from Imlay Township Michigan.

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disparities. And here in Dearborn and Wayne county, this community is such a hard-working community. A very committed community. Despite the disparities that they suffer from, uniquely suffer from, they've been making strides in education and different professions, and they now want to be politically engaged and want to have representation. One thing I want you to understand about this community is that it's the fastest-growing minority community in Wayne county. In the city of Dearborn alone, this city makes over one-third of the population, yet they still don't have any representation on city council or on charter Commission. Because we have at-large elections. This community came together and wanted to advocate for Districted municipal city elections, and we were shut down. I'm going to be very frank; this effort was shut down by the Arab establishment themselves. So the two only Arab Commissioners on the charter Commission voted "no" against Districted elections, which is mind boggling because we all know Districted elections is the only way for adequate representation of our different communities and our unique communities. So recently six of the seven council members live in the affluent West side of Dearborn, and eight of the charter Commissions live in the affluent West side of Dearborn. We have no Yemeni representation on it. The reason I say this, it's the same with the House State District. And there's an alarming, alarming pattern with how the certain organizations, Arab organizations, are advocating for certain Districts.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: I'm sorry. Your time is up. You're welcome to sign up for a second.

>> Speaker: Okay.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number two.

>> Speaker: Good morning. My name is Christine. I'm an academic librarian. In my so-called spare time, I'm an activist of political and nonpartisan issues. I grew up in southwest Detroit and currently live in -- I've been there for over 23 years. And I urge the adoption of the map. It's constitutionally fair, impartial, and transparent in this application. It also has Districts that cross 8 Mile between Oakland county and Wayne county, which adds to the idea of regionalization versus the "my county is better than your county" sentiments. Among the maps, it is the best balanced of the criteria for redrawn maps, including partisan fairness, equality, Voting Rights Act standards, common sense, contiguous borders, and, for the most part, keeps community of interests together. Maybe some tweaking could be done there. Obviously the office of the map collaborated well and listened to the Detroit voices. It has almost the most Districts for minority voters to have representation. If you are split county pieces. It's very important that a Commission map, and not a map drawn by a special master, be chosen by the Court. That is the Commission's promise to the people of Michigan to design a map that serves all the voters. In my opinion, the Motown Sound is most likely to pass that test. Thank you.



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>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you very much. Number six.

>> Speaker: Hello everyone. My name is Naza and I'm a community member of Dearborn, Michigan. An Arab American Muslim woman who was raised here all my life. I think it's really important to know that I come from a disadvantaged community, a vulnerable community. A community that is -- has one of the highest levels of air pollution in the country. Who has, you know, endured flooding, and most recently, you know, a hike in anti-Arab and Islamophobic rhetoric that is affecting safety of our community, which is why I urge you today to keep our communities together. We not only need representation who look like us, but actually share our values and know, you know, our deepest worries. So I urge you today to adopt Motown and include Melvindale. I'm aware it's exceeding population. We are going to have another group that was working on a map from the community of interest that will present to you today. Thank you so much for your time.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you very much. I think I lost count already. Was that were you number seven? Six. Okay. Seven.

>> Speaker: Good morning. I'm Nalda. I grew up in southwest Detroit. I'm here to support the maps. Our community in southwest -- I've been here for going on 52 years living here. And I would not change my community for anything. We're a tight community. Which we look out for each other, try to support each other, and try to make our community much bigger and better. Thank you.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number eight. Number eight. No one is claiming it. Number nine. 10.

[ Laughter ]

11. I don't know who has these numbers but -- 12.

>> Speaker: Good morning, everyone. My name is Hera Cahn. I work heavily in the areas particularly within the Muslim community. And I want to say before I begin that the Muslim community is extremely diverse. The Muslim community encompasses parts of the Arab American community and the African American community, south Asian community, and Latinx communities. These are communities that have been disenfranchised and marginalized and deserve to be completely represented in our democracy. And the best map in our assessment that represents those communities is the Motown Sound map with the inclusion of Melvindale. Again, to my colleagues' point, we realize that may exceed the population map, and there will be maps shared later today. Please be on the lookout. These are communities impacted by similar issues, systemic health disparities like asthma and cardiopulmonary disease, cancer, and other socioeconomic and infrastructural issues. So that's our recommendation today. Thank you so much.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 13.

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>> Speaker: Good morning to the honorable Commission body. My name is Christopher Johnson. I'm the President of the Community Council. The map that I think would be best to represent my community would be the Motown Sound. With this change that we just had, firsthand knowledge that we did not get the representation that we were supposed to get. There's some things I could say, but I won't say at this meeting. I used to work in Lansing, so I know firsthand about the representation. We got partial representation while part of the representation was excellent from our community, another part wasn't. The problem that I see is that with these changes, we need to see the representatives for this area be in the area. The lines were drawn when they go across 8 Mile. Then if you have to go across 8 Mile, go across 8 Mile. We need representation. We have a diverse community. And like the person who spoke before me, my community is very diverse, but we do need representation. So I hope this body would take the recommendation of the Motown Sound.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 14.

>> SPEAKER: I'm here to say we strongly agree with the Motown map. It is ready verse. It's collectively, socially, and economically sound in our eyes. But my constituents strongly disagree with the Tulip Map. It's such a disparity in economics, definitely a disparity in social issues, and Wayne County have nothing in common. Not economically, not ethically. We don't -- well, we have Peter Wang -- as said. We have a problem with environmental. We have a problem with the health issues, particularly the air quality which also has possible health issues that Macomb doesn't have. There's things we're fighting for legislatively, collectively and Macomb doesn't have them. You better make sure that the communities are not getting addressed. They don't have the economic mediums. We're talking \$20,000 to \$30,000 difference in economic median. So I want you to reconsider the Tulip Map and adopt the Motown map.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 15. 15. 16.

>> SPEAKER: Good morning. I just want to make a statement that I live at borderline Wayne and Macomb. As they have spoken on, we can't combine the two. There's nothing that we have in common. I can't go to Macomb and get services. And Macomb probably can't come to Detroit and get services. So I strongly support the Motown Sound redistricting. I think I'm saying it right. Thank you.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 17.

>> SPEAKER: Hello. My name is Antwon Herman. Born in Detroit. So I definitely support the Motown Sound. I currently live in Taylor, and I just want to say please keep Taylor as a whole. The area's Black population is split up between different Districts, and there's really no need for that. One for all and all for one. Thank you.

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>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 18.

>> SPEAKER: I just -- my comments that I support the Motown District. Thank you.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thanks. Number 18. Number 19.

>> SPEAKER: My name is Amanda Costello. I'm a resident of metro Detroit, and I'm an organizer for Southeast Michigan, including the city of Detroit. I'm here to reiterate those supporting the Motown Sound map. It is the best for partisan fairness and -- yeah. Just here to amplify those voices.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you. Number 20.

>> SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Gabriella Richly. I wanted to amplify the other voices in the room and share my agreement on the Motown Sound redistricting and my support of it. Thank you.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you. 21.

>> SPEAKER: Good morning. Reverend Ryan Reece House District 14, at present. I want to thank the Commission for your efforts. It's nice to actually speak to you in person this time. And, also, I'm here along with many others to support Motown Sound redistricting map. I've looked over the VRA, VRA is solid. There are 11 Districts of opportunity. It's making an effort to make sure that 1 that is listed is still being followed through. It is avoiding the strange attempt at merging the communities that seems to be present in several of the other maps that is both nonideal and does not match any sort of COIs in the area. Personally, I find it to be a good map that does not disenfranchise the voters inside of our region. It is one that is ideal. I live in what would be one of the Districts that is set up in that, and I work just south in one of the others. And I can speak to both communities from the last 17 years, that I feel that the Motown Sound is very reflective of the two sets of communities that are right there in the south, north Detroit area. It crosses 8 Mile in appropriate ways. I think the effort that was made as far as the redistricting map was very solid overall. I definitely do not like the Bergamot maps at all. The constant effort to have so much focus around 8 Mile is a firm boundary the way it works doesn't seem to be appropriate in any way, shape, or form. I would stress that the efforts made in the Motown Sound to protect partisan fairness should be appreciated and I fully support that. Thank you very much for your time. I'll speak to you again in a few minutes.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you for your comments. Number 22. 23.

>> SPEAKER: Hello. My name is Karla. I'm a Detroiter for life. My only thing is, I need you to go back to the original map because evidently, we had good representation as far as being a Black community. We don't need to be bothered with Macomb or Oakland. Anything crossing 8 Mile stays across 8 Mile. Anything below 8 Mile should stay below 8 Mile and we should be together because, first and foremost, it wasn't like that before. Why are we trying to do it now? You were just doing some gerrymandering and I don't believe you should change from what works so well to where we, as a Black

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It's not a mistake that we're at Second Church today. It's not a mistake we're at Greater Grace yesterday. We know, I know, where people congregate, where people like to get thought leadership and that's church. That's a beauty shop, that's at the living room tables. So, you know, we are here earnestly listening. We're not a part of how things went wrong. Because we pay taxes, we're citizens, I have a whole day job. My buddy Marcus has a job. Cynthia is a grandmother. We're regular people that were chosen to listen to our own people. So I hope you all receive that.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you, Commissioner Kellom. Number 24. We have lots of people that have left the room. 25.

>> SPEAKER: Hello. Hi. My name is Mary Rhymer. I live in Ypsilanti at the moment. My family is originally from Roseville, Michigan. I also think that the Motown Sound map is the best one. I think District 13 and 12 are both well done. And it represents the communities in Roseville and East Point well. I think using Kelly Road as the dividing line effectively partitions the different business Districts in the area. I think that's sensible. And I also think this map Motown Sound is the one that complies with the Voting Rights Act and gives representation while also keeping with -- and that's it. And thank you for the work you're doing.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you very much for addressing the Commission. Number 26.

>> SPEAKER: Good morning. Pamela Dewberry. District 1, the Motown. I just want to say the purpose, what is the purpose of all this redistricting. If things had been left, this would not have happened. Just piggybacking off Karla. She gave very, very good information to a lot of us -- for those that are here. And if we -- you all could look at what we do, how we do it, and why we do it in our community, you would get a better understanding of the redistricting. Leave it alone.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 27.

>> SPEAKER: Hi, again. It's Mona. So I'm in support of the Motown Sound map. With the addition of Melvindale. I would suggest taking out West Dearborn and putting it with District 15. Melvindale, southwest Detroit have more in common as a community of interest than they do with the affluent west Dearborn. And historically, in our District, federal, state funds everything has been inequitably allocated to the more affluent side. And our communities have been neglected. Also, these communities share similar struggle, like it was mentioned, similar, you know, for those cities that I mentioned, similar ethnic and cultural and religious backgrounds, socioeconomic status, newcomer immigrants with language barriers, environmental racism corporate polluters, and broken infrastructure, and they have similar home values unlike west Dearborn, the multimillion homes. And I just want to reiterate one thing. I want to ensure the committee that as a community, we're not seeking to restore my community's voting power on the expense of minority's voting power. I want our communities uplifted all



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together. I would love to see Melvindale in Motown Sound and take out west Dearborn and get it into District 15. The current lines for District 3 and 15 look fine to us. It gives the Arab community a chance to have two Arab representations. But by changing the lines and including west Dearborn with District 3, it decreases -- it reduces that amount of Arab population in District 15. So it's going to be difficult for them to have representation. So I just want you guys to keep that in mind. I thank you so much for all the hard work you're doing. I know it's a lot. And that's about it.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> SPEAKER: Can I say one more thing?

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Time.

>> SPEAKER: I have 30 seconds. Let me say this quickly. There's an attempt to gerrymander District 3 to make it easier to certain ethnicities to get re-elected. And that's why you see in most of the maps, and I'm sure ABC advocated for this, it's either Melvindale community being pushed -- of the Yemeni community. That makes it for the current rep easier to get re-elected. It makes it impossible for a Yemini to ever have representation and run in one.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you. Number 28.

>> SPEAKER: Good morning, everyone. It's good to see everyone. Glad I was invited out. My name is Walker. Lifelong resident. Going on 49 years. I am here in support of the Motown Sound. But however, I just want to echo my sentiments with our sister in the red. My mother and my dad came here from the South. And over the years, I've seen the economic disparities due to the redistricting and the red lining. In my observation, for God allowing me to wake up every day. And my observation with the redistricting, I see housing resources being stripped from residents. I also see watershed offs. I've also seen children taken away from their mothers because of water shutoffs. And all this redistricting talks since 2011. I've been serving since 2011, and I've seen people stripped of their dignity and respect. During this entire process. School closing. All this conversation, to me, not blaming y'all, but I just want to be here as a witness in real time to let this honorable -- Black and Brown people were stripped of basic needs and necessities. And all this conversation and talk about how we're going to cut up the cookie, it is all about the other people, the have and have mores taking our resources. Detroit is a title I city. It's billions and trillions of dollars that are here. For some reason, with these conversations of redistricting and all the cookie cutter it's about taking resources from Black and Brown people. I'm telling you to see it in real time, I thank God he allows me to wake up and keep on fighting the good fight, but it's hard to see Black and Brown people being stripped of housing and schools and high water runoffs, food insecurities because one side of the block want to take 90% and leave us with 10 and get up and go to work in Mercedes-Benz and whatever. That's a conversation for another day. I want to thank the elders in the room for allowing me to speak. Because if it wasn't for you, I wouldn't be here. Thank you for

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allowing me to rest on your shoulders. But our lawmakers and our honorable body up there, I want you to think of the voiceless, the downtrodden and forgotten. Thank you.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you for addressing us. Number 29.

>> SPEAKER: We meet again one last time. House District 14. I'm a little bit more of a number cruncher, in some ways, I'll admit. I stand with everyone, as I've said before, in favor of the Motown Sound. Looking at the numbers, the compactness, in particular, is generally handled very well in Motown Sound. There's an effort to avoid packing, particularly in the East Detroit area, which I noticed in a lot of other maps, there was a considerable tendency towards packing voting blocks that was resulting in very problematic results from VRA standpoint. The very -- well, misrepresentation that has been so loudly and passionately spoken about today, I can see where many of the other maps actually have that problem very real. Motown Sound makes a clear effort to avoid this. While at the same time trying to pay attention to the Dearborn communities, to the Arabic minorities that we have in the portions of west Detroit, Dearborn, Melvindale and other areas. I think it's important we not forget the COIs along that portion of town. I'm not from that area, but I know there have been a lot of concerns those people have. Really, it's the only map that I can see that has made an effort in this regard. It's one of the only maps that does not have this strange redistricting along the Grosse Pointe areas that I to this day do not understand the notion of. I cannot find the COIs. I've been to that area many times; I live not far from that area. I cannot see the COIs that make justification for some of the other maps. So, by all accounts, I stand firmly in favor of the Motown Sound. I want to thank you very much for the opportunity in talking to you guys now for a little over a month. It's been a pleasure! Thank you very much for taking the time to hear us out. And I will be praying for you guys to make wise decisions in the days to come.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you. Number 30.

>> SPEAKER: My name is Kassandra Ford. I grew up in Detroit. So what I'm about to say, I guess, is the sister who spoke in the red, that's any sentiment. I do not understand what's going on with all the maps. I have to admit I'm really not educated on this issue. I do remember when they started coming up with the independent District and started putting out feelers to try to get people in those jobs to figure out what to do. I see you guys have a committee that are trying to do that. What I don't understand is how we got here. How did the city of Detroit get divided up into so many different Districts? How did that happen? And why. I know that you all have a job. And I respect that. Y'all trying to do what needs to be done that you've been appointed to do by this Commission. But I guess I'm -- because I'm, like, I don't -- it's so mind boggling. I looked at all those maps, and I'm confused as I don't know what. I'm, "like, I don't get it!" You know, when I grew up Mayor Young was the mayor of Detroit. He said it, I didn't understand it, once I moved to East Point. I got it. I got it. There is a difference in the way people are treated. My grandchildren would walk down the streets, the lady down

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>> SPEAKER: Okay.

>> ANTHONY EID: You have to divide the whole population. When Michigan had, like, 14 million people, back in the day, they would then divide that by 110 and all of the Districts would be bigger. See what I'm saying?

>> SPEAKER: Yeah. I guess I do.

>> ANTHONY EID: If you stick around, too, during the break, I can come around and, you know, help you with the maps. Maybe we can figure out which one you like best.

>> SPEAKER: I will stick around until about 1:00.

>> BRITTINI KELLUM: I wanted to add, I think sometimes, not sometimes, but in this conversation two things are coming together at once. Right. The historical trauma and legacy of racism and how it trickled into the Detroit area. My mother would kill me, and she watches these meetings, because I'm her only child. My mom is 67 years old, sorry, mom. She's always been a native Detroit. She tells me stories about being bussed to the schools. The first Black kid, the Detroit riots. So when I sit here, I'm not just sitting here in glasses going -- I have a deep understanding of the legacy of my city. Red lining is what has been done to Black people from Jim Crow era who dictates who gets what money. Some of the issues being brought up today are very true and valid, but they come from the legacy of racism and discrimination in the government that has influenced how reps make decisions and how they choose. This is an opportunity that we know that still happens and it's horrible, this is an opportunity for citizens to get mad, get informed, like you all are doing, ask questions, slowly understand and say "oh!" Now that we have 13 people that don't represent politics in a traditional sense, but are living and engaging in the State of Michigan, some of that can be canceled out by choosing a map where representatives actually have to work hard and don't get to decide off the legacy of injustice and disempowering Black and Brown people and Arab folks in the metro Detroit area and Detroit. Does that make sense to you? So it's not, like, these lines are enforcing or, you know, massaging red lining's miserable spot. But it gives citizens an excellent opportunity and interesting one to engage so they can fight back slowly. You know, they have the thing called incremental change. I don't like that incremental change means somebody is still being hurt. This is a way to have big change, if we properly engage. If that makes sense.

>> SPEAKER: Yeah, and I understand in an ideal world what you're attempting to do. We still live in that world you just talked about.

>> BRITTINI KELLUM: Absolutely.

>> SPEAKER: That's the problem.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you. Number 31.

>> SPEAKER: Good morning. My name is Faith Harris. I don't represent anybody. I'm just a voter. The only reason why I came, I saw the commercial about this meeting on TV. And I decided I was tired of people making decisions that affect me and I don't know what is going on. So I brought my mom. I'm confused, too, a bit. I thank you, the

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gentleman that was explaining it to the lady before me. It's a little bit helpful. I just want my voice to be heard! That's it. I want my vote to count. And I don't get why what has to be fixed that wasn't broken kind of thing. It's kind of crazy, but if you have to change it, please go by the Motown Sound. It seems to be a little bit more fair. If you're going to change it. I pray to God that you listen to the voters! I know you said why change it? If you're going to change it, if it has to be changed, then be fair to everybody! Be fair -- do what's right. I know you're not politicians, but I'm just tired of my vote going and then somebody doing something different than what I want. I want my vote to be heard! I want you to do what's right. What is fair. Now you shouldn't change what doesn't -- what's not broken, if you have to do it, do it fairly. That's all I have to say.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you. I will say, before I move on it. We have to do it every 10 years following the census. It has to be Districted because people move. People change locations. That's why we are doing this. Number 32.

>> SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Laurie. I live in Hunting Woods. I'm back again. I was --

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Sorry. We can't hear you very well. Can you pull that down a little bit?

>> SPEAKER: Hi, Chris! My name is Laurie Leasey. I was at the church yesterday, and I came to advocate for the Motown Sound. And Commissioner Kellom, I appreciate you asking me a question afterwards. I talked about tweaking it to increase the partisan -- to make the partisan fairness better. And you asked me how I would do that. So I went back, and I talked to Ryan, and I went home, and I studied all the statistics and the maps. I'm still not smart enough to tell you how to do that. But I did look at the data for partisan fairness and I compared it to the hickory map, which is the one I think we have right now. And in some respects, it's actually more partisan fair than the Hickory was. And so I'm kind of just here to tell you guys good job! I'm scared if we do too much tweaking, we lose some other benefit of the Motown Sound. I also want to say, I really appreciate the voices of the Detroiters who are most affected. My District will change as a result of this, but I really think this is democracy in action! It's kind of almost made me tear up. I mean, you guys have been great at explaining and asking questions and listening to people. So kudos to you! I'm still in favor of the Motown Sound, and I just felt compelled to drive over here today and tell you keep up the good work!

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you for driving across town! We're glad that you came again today. We're so grateful for all of you for coming out today. Number 33.

>> SPEAKER: Good morning. My name is Crystal Bailey. I didn't know I was going to be speaking but the lovely ladies up front suggested it. Actually kind of, like, made me. I took a number. So I'm actually excited to be here. This is very informative. I am in favor of a map, and I like the Motown Sound. But the reason why is because I'm a



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former oak Park school board member, former Vice President, and I thought keeping Oak Park together just made sense. I think bringing it into Detroit helps with the whole reason of redistricting. And I liked being a part of this. Again, I'm Crystal Bailey. Thank you.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you for taking a number and speaking up. We appreciate it! Number 34.

>> SPEAKER: Good morning. My name is Virgil Smith. And part of this process. I was a part of the -- I was a member of the committee that drew the lines over a decade ago. I was a member of the Michigan Senate at the time. The Tulip maps and the Bergamot maps are bad, as far as I'm concerned. I don't understand why this Commission keeps breaking up Royal Oak township. It's two voter precincts. Majority African American cities and you're splitting it. I don't understand it. I understand that Eastside with the population loss on the Eastside makes it difficult to draw. If I have to pick my favorite map out of this is Waterloo. That keeps -- it doesn't break 8 Mile as much as the other maps. Look, the demographics, the politics, the social economics of 8 Mile are completely different. You put us -- I'm in District 14 right now. You put us in with Warren, East Point, the suburban cities and the Detroiters are not necessarily getting represented. We're losing races based upon the Hickory map. The compactness -- I understand you guys are trying to keep partisan fairness, but the compactness of that map is terrible. That's why we're here today. And I hope you hear what these people are saying. You know, breaking 8 Mile causes real problems. And it's not working. Thank you.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 35.

>> SPEAKER: Hello again to this Commission. There were a few things that I wanted to say, but I didn't have my notes with me. I have notes. But, first of all, what I should have said, too, is thank you Commissioner Kellom for helping to redraw these maps and the Motown Sound map. That map is actually, I think, one of the best deals for all interests. Voters of Color made clear in 2018 that we wanted maps that reflected communities of interest and did not favor one party over another. But with this redistricting that we just previously had, that's what it did. It made a divide. The gentleman that spoke before me spoke of Royal Oak township. The township has been suffering. And even with the redrawing of the maps they did, what happened to the representation? They're still having issues, but I think if you keep together as well as Oak Park, I think those interests will be better served. Where you have one person that can put their effort into that and, also, to some of the other people that spoke, the Motown Sound is Commissioned best map for partisan fairness with Arab American communities and some of the other larger communities in District 3. So thank you again. I do appreciate this Commission on what you're doing. I think actually this has been a great effort. And I hope when it comes to the senate redistricting, as well, that you will take these things into consideration, as well. Thank you.

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>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you. Number 36.

>> SPEAKER: I wanted to make a comment, as long as it took to get here to make a vote -- people die for us to make a vote. Okay. To have a say so in our life. You know what I'm saying?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I apologize for the interruption. Please speak into the microphone.

>> SPEAKER: We need to come together and make a decision together. You know, no one is here. I don't understand it. As long as it took us to get here. I think about Rosa Parks. You know what she went through. We need to get together and we need to come in majority to do issues with like this. That's what I'm saying. And if it doesn't -- if it's not broken, don't try to fix it, people. In the name of Jesus Chris, I pray to you, please, please. And thank you.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you, sir. Number 36.

>> SPEAKER: Good morning to this Commission. My name is La Tonya Garrett. If I had to pick a map today it would be the water lily map. Just for the sake of keeping us on the south side of 8 Mile. If I had to think about Royal Oak, the spirit of Detroit and Motown. Currently I'm in house District 7 and move to 4. It would be a whole new District, which I don't like, but I know with the process we have to do something. So, again, the water lily map would be my first choice for today. Thank you.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you. I think that is all of the people that we have in person right now. Is there a 37? I don't believe so. I'll go back through the numbers that weren't here at the time they were called, and if you're one of these numbers, please come to the microphone. 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 22, 24. Don't see them. Okay. So then, at this time, we will move to remote public comment. Without objection --

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Madam chair. I apologize. Do you have a 37 and 38?

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Okay. 37. 38. I don't see them right now.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I believe they're still looking at the maps right now, so we might come back to them. 37 or 38, you want to say something? No. Okay. Then without objection, vice chair will facilitate the remote public comment portion of today's agenda.

>> VICE CHAIR, JANICE VALLETTE: Thank you. I'll call your name and our staff will unmute you. If you're on a computer, you'll be prompted by the Zoom app to unmute your microphone and speak. If you are on the phone, a voice will say that the host wants you to speak and prompt you to press "star 6" to unmute. I will call on you by name or the last four digits of your phone number. Also, please note that if we have -- if you have experienced technical or audio issues, we do not hear from you for three to five seconds, we'll move on to the next person in line and then return to you after they are done speaking. If your audio still does not work, you can e-mail [redistricting@michigan.gov](mailto:redistricting@michigan.gov) and we'll help you troubleshoot so you can participate

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during the next public comment at a later meeting. You'll have three minutes to address the Commission. Please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer. First in line to provide public comment is Claudia Aboud. Please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> SPEAKER: Hello. Can you hear me?

>> VICE CHAIR, JANICE VALLETTE: Yes. We can.

>> SPEAKER: My name is Claudia Aboud. I live in Plymouth, Michigan. I'm reporting from Wayne county. We support the Motown Sound map when you as a starting point. We ask that you also look at Districts like d4, 88%, and d588% that neighbor rock. It could be unpacked to address concerns. Arab Americans and more broadly people from the middle east and north Africa region are not protected under the section 203 because language minorities are determined as certain language minority groups who are unable to speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process. However, we have shown through our COI map that Arab Americans are a sizable population and language minority. Under section 2 of the federal Voting Rights Act, Arab Americans are not protected as a language minority. When it was created, we were not a sizable community. However, as we have shown through our access COI map, we're a language minority and now a more significant population with shared interests and similar needs. Moreover, we have no protection from being packed or cracked as a community. The federal VRA was meant to be the minimum standards, and nothing precludes you from extending those rights to Arab American communities. We have shown through the access community of interest map, that this community has particular needs. With that in mind, for the state house maps, we are requesting that this community have fair representation across two minority/majority Districts. To do the population limitations for each house District we ask you take our COI into consideration as you begin mapping changes for the senate maps. Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR, JANICE VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Adam. Please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> SPEAKER: Can everybody hear me?

>> VICE CHAIR, JANICE VALLETTE: Yes, we can.

>> SPEAKER: All right. I'm Addam Beddawi. I live in Washington, D.C I work for Access, however. I'm here asking for this Commission to keep the access communities of interest together. Those are the Arab American and middle eastern and north African communities. I want to echo a lot of the same comments made by Claudia previously. Including support for the Motown Sound map. As a starting point. I wanted to just mention that we think about the minority and majority Districts for our communities of interest, we see those Districts, they could be unpacked would help address concerns, authorized or included in the federal VRA. I want to mention that a lot of work that we do on behalf of Arab Americans and service of Arab Americans is due in large part to the fact they're not protected under federal law, including under the

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federal VRA on including as language minority groups. You know, as language minority group, even if -- Arab Americans are many of whom are unable to speak or understand English adequately enough to effectively and actively participate in the electoral process, are in need of protection. And so we've shown through our map how Arab Americans operate as a sizable population in the language minority group. When the federal VRA was created you know, Arab Americans were not a sizable community, but we had representation and organization. Now we've only gotten more organized, more significant as a community. And it's half past time that reflects in the way that this -- these maps are drawn. And so, you know, we've shown through this map our community of interest map C15310 have the particular needs and due to the population limitations from each house District, we ask you take our community of interest into consideration as you begin mapping the changes for the senate maps. Thanks to the Commission for this work. You know, hearing the comments in the previous section and in-person. I think it's a lively discussion. It's an important discussion. And I urge the Commission to take our community of interest, the Arab American and broader population into consideration. So thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR, JANICE VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. I guess we have one more in-person we're going to take now.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Number 39. Maybe they didn't stay in the room. Okay. We'll continue with remote.

>> VICE CHAIR, JANICE VALLETTE: Next in line for remote comment is James Gallant. Please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> JAMES GALLANT: Can you hear me?

>> VICE CHAIR, JANICE VALLETTE: Yes, we can.

>> JAMES GALLANT: James Gallant. Marquette Suicide Prevention Coalition. These are my opinions. It seems like a common thread is going on through most of these testimonies. And I've watched you in Detroit today. And I agree with Commission Kellom. We need a process we can trust here. I'm going to ask you again to hire areal parliamentary to get reported recommendations, and please request the hon rather general finish the procedural audit he was supposed to do. Edwards woods stated on the record while the motion on the pending -- and that analyze whether you had followed those procedures you had approved. That never happened. He just went through the financials on that. So please do that. A couple of things about the fairness part. You know, doing the wrong thing for the right reasons is still wrong. And you have to follow the rules to change the rules. And where there is no law, there is the least amount of real liberty. And that is doing on here. It says if you folks are -- it's like -- it's like improvising at the comedy club. You folks are suspending the rules by consensus as you go. And then slipping in and out of the following the rules for this facilitation rule without a motion pending. And about the affiliation of the political parties. I thought was rule number 405 of the securities act of 1933, identifies common



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control of a corporation as a definition of affiliate. So the voting numbers of the democratic party of Michigan together collectively control that corporation in Michigan. So you have to be a voting member of the democratic party to affiliate and republican party to affiliate with those corporations in Michigan, I believe. And, also, with Sarah Reinhart. Call the role and determine a quorum. In the constitution it says the secretary of state should do that. I think it's identity theft of the title of secretary of state. That's an elected official. That's a mistake of Dr. Nancy to put that in there. They should shuffle it off to the staff, I like to say it says in the constitution that this Commission is housed in the legislature. We've never talked to anybody in the legislature about the administration of this Commission. And the Secretary of State was supposed to transfer the approved constitutional amendment language to the director of budget. Where is the oversight going? They said they don't have that. So the Secretary of State hijacked this Commission. And then she's instilling her own employees to run it. See, I think it's a conflict of interest. Sarah directly informed by the Secretary of State. That's her boss. She better do what the Secretary of State wants, or she'll lose her job.

>> VICE CHAIR, JANICE VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Norah. Please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> That participant is not present.

>> VICE CHAIR, JANICE VALLETTE: Next in line is Kyle Stefanski. Please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> SPEAKER: Good morning. Can you hear me?

>> VICE CHAIR, JANICE VALLETTE: Good morning. We can.

>> SPEAKER: Great. My name is Kyle Stefanski. I'm a proud resident of the city much Warren. I want to thank the Commission for the hard work you all are doing. I know it's not easy work but it's very important work. So the Commission has heard from many of us calling for a District that would cross the 8 Mile line. This must be done in order to have a Voting Rights Act compliant map. Warren should have a say in and be represented across multiple Districts, being the third largest city in the state. You guys heard Warren with the Motown Sound map. The new District 11 would give south Warren and north Detroit the joint representation we have been calling for since before this Commission was a twinkle in the eye. We reject maps like water lily and Bergamot that reinstate racial gerrymandering in our community. I implore you to pass the Motown Sound map. Thank you for your time.

>> VICE CHAIR, JANICE VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Anthony Scannell. Please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> SPEAKER: Thank you Michigan redistricting Commission, independent redistricting Commission. I'll start to say, I think it was really good that you guys printed out maps on a poster-sized board. That's a great call. I'm not there to see it, but I can sense the engagement from those physical maps to look at. Not everyone likes technology. Okay. Next opinion I have on the maps. Is a no on Tulip because it splits

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did is make another motion to just stomp out the other one that failed. And then what was interesting was the democrat immediately after the vote then motion to waive reconsideration. Oh, yeah. Really? Wait a minute. It means that the democrat and the other members' rights were violated because they had the right to reconsider that first motion. The motion had been exactly like that motion. The democrat knew that. I believe he's an elected official now. And we're good to go. So you go to your county Commissions, you go to the city, you go to the church basement groups and guess what. People are not following the rules. So this Commission should actually do a training on how to do a motion, second, first. That's how you need to know the question first. And please give us the transcripts for April 8th, 2021, when you did the pledge of allegiance thing. You did vote. It says you voted. It says you deliberated first. You said the deliberation was first. Then you, yeah, and, oh, you didn't want to lose your relationship with Commissioner Kellom and the vice chair. That should be a, you know, code of conduct thing. We needed to figure out the rules here and follow them. I'm saying what they are and determining why you're not following the rules because it's not in the amendment. Who told you that? Did Mike tell you that behind closed doors? Just do it.

>> VICE CHAIR, JANICE VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. So we have more people who have signed up in person. I see people are actively looking at the maps. If I call your number and you don't want to leave the map yet, we'll call on you again later. Number 39. Okay. Number 40. If you're -- if I call your number and you aren't wanting to come up, -- or wanting to come up, raise your hand so I know. There's people walking. I can't tell if they're walking up here. It's a little hard to see. Number 41. 42. 43. Okay.

>> SPEAKER: Hi. I've looked at the maps. I want to go with -- I like both Motown Sound and Spirit of Detroit. But I if have to offer one, I'll do Spirit of Detroit. I like both of them.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you for taking time to look at the maps and tell us specifically.

>> SPEAKER: This is my second proceeding. I've been watching. Thanks.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you. Number 44.

>> SPEAKER: Hello. I like the Spirit of Detroit map. It keeps us all together. So I think that would be the best for our District and our community. Thank you. And I've been watching, too. Thank you.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you. We appreciate it. Okay. So we have some time left, and -- go ahead, Sarah Rinehart.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I received a request for a second virtual public comment. For, like, another one from someone. Do you want to switch to that real quick?

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good questions. Give us the comments about the maps. You're more than welcome to look at the map, make a comment, and then change your comment and comment again. Because we cannot draw the maps if nobody is silent. Even if you're frustrated, still figure out the words to express yourself so we can do the best job possible. Because we don't want to do it over again! But we will if we get it wrong, I guess. Okay? Thank you all for being here.

>> ANTHONY EID: So these that went over are the Commission's collaborative maps. We have one individual map.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: That will be explained at 4:00 p.m. By the end --

>> ANTHONY EID: Okay. Yes, Commissioner Szetela submitted it. It's back there. So please go take a look! Take a look at all of these. Let us know which map you prefer, any tweaks you'd make, and now you know the spirit behind these maps and why we're doing what we're doing, we hope y'all provide us with some good debate. Thank you.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: So I think this would be a good time to just I don't know if we call it a break, but we'll take 10 or 15 minutes so you can each go look at the maps before we have the public comment. So you'll be able to look at specifics. So we will plan -- we'll plan 10 minutes. At 2:50, we'll do public comment. 1-

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Okay. Question can take some public comment now. I see people are still looking at the maps, but if there's anyone that has a number that is below 50, feel free to come to the microphone and give your public comment. I know that some people weren't in the room when I called their number before, so anyone below 50 or number 50. Number -- are you number 50?

>> SPEAKER: Good afternoon. She's 49.

>> SPEAKER: Good afternoon. I'm Terry Jeffrey. Lifelong resident of Detroit.

>> ANTHONY EID: Could you stand a little closer to the mic.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: You can pull it down, I think.

>> SPEAKER: This Motown Sound map may be fair and perhaps it will give better representation to the citizens in Detroit. Now as far as Detroit is concerned, we haven't had an honest election. Only time we have an honest election is when it's a landslide. They have more of a selection process than an election process. But perhaps this will work for us. And I'm hopeful.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you for addressing us.

>> SPEAKER: Good afternoon. My name is Shelly Esther. I'm a lifelong resident of Detroit. Specifically in Green Acres. And I've looked at all the maps, gone through everything, and my pefaces would be Motown Sound and the Spirit of Detroit. My concern coming here today was that specifically the city of Detroit's votes would be watered down. And I believe that with those Motown Sound and Spirit of Detroit that we have the best chance of representation. Thank you.

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>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 51.

>> SPEAKER: Hello. My name is Kendra Davis. I'm a lifelong resident of the city of Detroit. I've been voting since I was 18, I'll soon be 70. Now I have worked for the city of Detroit, retired from the city of Detroit, worked for Detroit public schools, retired from Detroit public schools. I feel when I look at those maps, I have my concerns. And I have a question. I would like to know how many Districts was Detroit broken down into before the 2020 election? Do you know?

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: We will look it up real quick.

>> SPEAKER: Okay. The reason I'm asking is when they had the 2020 election, you had all this outside interference coming down to Detroit, going down to Huntington Place, trying to steal our votes. And it seems like after that is when this board was created, and they want to cut Detroit up into pieces and water down our votes. And I think that people ought to kick Donald Trump and his crew to the curb because they're nothing but a bunch of racists and leave Detroit alone. That would be my comment.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Okay. We're still looking for your answer. We'll look for that number. We'll get it to you when someone is able to find it. Number 52.

>> SPEAKER: Hello. My name is Marian and I live in Dearborn. I want to keep my community of interest together. I'm asking to keep the access communities of interest together which are Arab Americans and the middle eastern and north African communities. We support the Motown Sound map as a starting point. But when you think through minority/majority Districts for our community of interest, we ask that you also look at packed Districts like d4, 88%, and d581% that neighbor our community of interest. Those Districts could be unpacked to help address the federal VRA concerns. Arab Americans and more broadly people from the middle east and north Africa region are not protected under the federal VRA under section 203 because language minorities are determined as certain language minority groups who are unable to speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process. However, we have shown through our access community of interest map that Arab Americans are a sizable population and language minority. Under section 2 of the federal Voting Rights Act, Arab Americans are not protected as language minority. When the federal VRA was created, we were not a sizable community. However, as we have shown through our access community of interest map, we are a language minority and now more significant population with shared interests and similar needs. Moreover, we have no protection from being packed or cracked as a community. The federal VRA was meant to be the minimum standard and nothing precludes you from extending those rights to Arab American communities. We have shown through the access community of interest map C1510 this community has particular needs. With that in mind, for the state house maps, we're requesting this community have fair representation across two minority/majority Districts. Due to the population limitations for each house District, we



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ask you take our community of interest into consideration as you begin mapping changes for the senate maps. I urge the Commission to take this into consideration. Thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 53.

>> SPEAKER: Hello, Commissioners. My name is Sarah and I live in the city of Dearborn and work in the city of Dearborn. I'm here to ask to my community of interest together. Aaron Americans and the middle eastern north African communities. We support the Motown Sound map as a starting point, but when Districts for our interests, we ask that you also look at packed Districts like D4 and D5 that neighbor our community of interest. Those Districts could be unpacked to help address federal VRA concerns. Additionally Aaron Americans and more broadly people of middle eastern north Africa District are not protected under section 203 because language minorities are deemed as certain groups unable to speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process. We have shown through our community act that we're a sizable population and language minority. To add under section 203 you have to meet one of two criteria. A population of 10,000 or that you meet the threshold of being 5% of a geographical area. Additional under section 2 of the VRA, Arab Americans are not protected as a language minority when the VRA was created, we were not considered sizable community. However, as we have on how through our acts of interest map, we're a language minority and more significant population with shared interests and similar needs. Moreover we have no protection from being packed or cracked as a community and the VRA was meant to be the minimum standards, and nothing precludes the standard from extending those rights. Me we have shown through the map that this community has particular needs. With that in mind, for the state house maps, we're asking this community have fair representation across two minority majority Districts. Due to the population limitations for each house District, we ask you take our community of interest into consideration. Thank you.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 54.

>> SPEAKER: Good afternoon. My name is John Maison. I live in the North End. I live in the North End for over 30 years now. I look at your maps and I see that it's nothing but a form of gerrymandering, which is quite popular in this country now. Your maps are diluting the votes of the city of the people of Detroit. In Wayne county. Your maps reach out to Oakland and Macomb county, which has nothing to do with the people of the city of Detroit. This country right now has been gerrymandered in all states, just about, especially republican-controlled state houses. And people's rights are being taken and people are sleeping on those rights because they're not speaking up. You need to do a better job on your maps. The young gentleman told me I should go home, and I told him I would get on the computer and look at the maps. From what I'm seeing right now, none of your maps represent a person like myself. I think your

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maps are just another way to put up lesser evidence, the jobs they will not do. People should understand that in 55 years between the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act, you're taking away abortion rights, you're taking away civil rights, you're taking away voting rights. This is done in the states. So I ask you to go back and get together and do a better job of your redistrict. Thank you.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you. Number 55. Number 56.

>> SPEAKER: Good afternoon. My name is Michael Griffe I'm a resident of the University District. And I appreciate the opportunity to make a public comment today. I am in support of the Motown Sound map because I think it adequately preserves representation in my community and the communities of interest in the neighboring neighborhoods. I hope that you take that into consideration as you make forward your final decision. Thank you.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 57.

>> SPEAKER: Good afternoon. My name is Christine Holmes. I'm a resident of the Wood Bridge neighborhood.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Could you be a little closer to the mic.

>> SPEAKER: Is that better?

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: That's better. Thank you.

>> SPEAKER: Oh, yeah. I'm Christine Holmes. I live in the Wood Bridge neighborhood in Detroit. I'm the director and policy director for neighborhood corporation. It's a close-knit neighborhood of about 4400 people on the west side of Detroit. Our eastern boundary is a lodge. Western boundary is Grand River. North boundary is I94, and the south boundary is Martin Luther king Boulevard. It has four election precincts. However, the Daisy 2 map proposed wants to divide the Wood Bridge neighborhood into three separate house Districts. Number 1, 8, and 9. We are already split District in terms of our city council representation. Part is in District 5, part in District 6 with the new city council maps. More of our neighborhood will be in District 5. We would prefer to have single representation. This is particularly important at the state level for us, particularly my organization, that does affordable housing and home repairs for our residents. We would like to be able to advocate to a single represent instead of having to chase down three separate House representatives to try to advocate for our singular neighborhood. Thank you.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.  
Mr. Morgan.

>> SPEAKER: Yeah. If you like, I can show a screen of the previous House Districts from 2012.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Great. Thank you.

>> SPEAKER: Okay. These are the Districts that were in effect from 2012 to 2020. So District 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and this District 10 has a little bit of Detroit. So there

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were proximately 10 Districts. So two things happened. The population changed, so the population isn't quite there to have the same number of Districts. And in most of your maps, you are going outside of Detroit. You'll see, for example, here in this former District 6, river Rouge and Ecorse in Detroit. Some were in 1 and some in 2. There was no crossing of 8 Mile in the former map. Hopefully that helps to answer the question.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you very much for finding that. Number 58.

>> SPEAKER: Good afternoon. My name is Frank Woods. I'm the chairperson of the Wayne county democratic caucus. And I am in support of the Motown Sound maps. Because I believe it gives us the best representation of the people of the city of Detroit and Wayne county to exercise our votes and make sure that we elect people that represent us and our communities. Thank you.

>> CHAIR, CYNTHIA ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. I believe that's the last number, 58. If you have any other number and you haven't spoken yet, can you let me know. I see some folks in here that haven't spoken to us yet, so be sure and sign up, if you have something to say. I think, at this time, we'll just take a break and give people more time to look at maps and decide if they want to make public comment. Maybe more people will come in.

>> CHAIR ORTON: People are looking at the maps, but we have another in-person comment, number 59, if you want to make your way to the microphone.

I can't tell if someone is coming up.

Number 59 or anyone before that?

>> Thank you so much. I just walked in so I will try to be brief.

>> CHAIR ORTON: You have three minutes, so you don't have to be quick.

>> Okay, a few weeks ago Detroit was redistrict, can you tell me why? And it ties into redistricting I guess now across the state. I'm not sure what District I'm in. So can you tell me? I will tell you what streets I'm bordered by. I live 8 Mile and Schaffer can you tell me? I could not ascertain from the map on what District I'm in because I have a specific question. Once you tell me that.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So thank you for that question.

It's a great question because there is a lot going on in this area currently. You are right, the City of Detroit did its redistricting, I believe they decided on a plan a couple weeks ago. That is completely separate from what we are doing. So the City of Detroit, they had a Council that does the City redistricting. We are doing the whole state.

>> Correct.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: We did the whole state but right now we are working specifically in this Metro Detroit area. So they are separate, they are totally separate processes. And as far as your address, we have a vendor back there somewhere, the gentleman in the blue raising his hand if you turn around. He can help you put in your address on the website and let you know where you are in these maps.

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>> Okay, well, as I make my way to him my question really relates to if I read the map correctly, I'm kind of in the Oak Park area but I don't live in Oak Park. And so my question is: Can I benefit from services in Oak Park? Even though I live in Detroit? And I'm so close to Oak Park I really could spit across the street and be there. That is how close I am. If I read that map correctly. So do you all mind if I take the mic with me and walk back here so this gentleman, I can't do that, okay. Anyway. If he can tell me what District I'm in.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: We will help you figure that out.

>> Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: These Districts they determine who your Michigan House rep is so they are the person you are going to vote for who will go in Lansing on your behalf.

>> Okay, okay.

So prior to or when you all are done, I will know who that is and I can make an informed decision if I want to vote for them, is that what you're saying?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Exactly.

>> Thank you so much for your time.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Is there anyone else that has signed up to speak that hasn't spoken yet? Please come up. Can you tell me what number you have?

>> My name is 60.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you.

>> Okay, I'm a resident of the City of Detroit. I'm not up on all of this, but I wish you had had the original map so that we could just see if there is progress in going to these -- going to these other maps. And I hope, if there are future meetings, that you will put that map out there so we can see the difference. There is a big difference. There is a big difference. Yes, ma'am.

>> CHAIR ORTON: When you say the original map what map are you referring to?

>> The current map.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Right now the current map is the Hickory map that we drew in 2021. Is that the map you're referring to or the one before that?

>> I think the one before that. The one before you all really were a Commission.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay I understand.

>> Because that map is still active, correct?

>> CHAIR ORTON: No, the one from 2021 that we called Hickory, that is the one that is active right now.

>> Okay, it would be my suggestion is to put both of those maps out there. To give us a little better history. Not everybody is current on all of this. My choice right now would be the Lily map. The Motown map. And Bergamot 1. I would like for you to just review those three maps again. For a better representation. Of people in Lansing from this



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area. You know, there are laws that have been changed that have hurt us more and more. And what you're doing now is not going to solve all the problems, but we hope it looks like progress. And looking at those other maps in 2021 and before that, will help us to see if there is real progress. So I think you can be a more up front and visible with what we are comparing things to. So that's my recommendation.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, thank you very much. Is there anyone else that has a number that has not spoken? .

>> Hi, I spoke earlier, and I came back. I went home and I really looked at these maps because it was more like a rush thing at first. So I was confused. But I got to looking at it. I think more Motown and I think it's spirit, is it a spirit?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Spirit of Detroit?

>> Yes, and got to talking to a couple of them up there. Really made me think, them would be good for us. For my area. Especially Motown. I got to looking at that one. That will help us I really think. And that's all I have to say.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you very much.

>> Okay thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Is there anyone else that has a number that has not spoken to us? .

Okay then we will go to the remote public comment. Without objection Vice Chair Janice Vallette will facilitate this portion.

>> Good afternoon. These are we going to remote comments. I will call your name and our staff will unmute you. If you are on a computer, you will be prompted by the Zoom app to unmute your Mike phone and speak. If you are on the phone, a voice will say that the host wants to speak and prompt you to press star six to unmute. I will call you by your name or the last four digits of your phone number. Also, please note that if you experience technical or audio issues or we do not hear from you in three to five seconds we will move on to the next person in line and return to you after they are done speaking. If your audio still does not work, you can e-mail [redistricting@Michigan.gov](mailto:redistricting@Michigan.gov) and we will help you trouble shoot so you can participate during the public -- next public comment period at a later meeting.

You have three minutes to address the Commission. Please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer.

First in line for comment is Delaney-McDermott.

>> Hi all can you hear me?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes, we can.

>> Okay, great, hello my name is Delaney and I work in Dearborn, and I want to keep my community of interest together and I am an Arab American. I'm asking to keep the access communities of interest together which are Arab Americans and more generally the Middle Eastern and north African communities. We support the Motown Sound map as a starting point. But when we think through the minority-majority Districts for our

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community of interest we ask that you also look at the pact Districts like District 4 and District 5. That neighbor our community of interest. Those Districts could be unpacked and help address the Federal VRA concerns. Arab Americans are from the northeast and African region and not protected under the Federal VRA under Section 203 because language minorities are determined as certain language minority groups who cannot speak or understand English enough to participate in the electoral process. However we have shown through our access community of interest map that Arab Americans are a sizable population and a language minority. Under Section Two of the Federal Voting Rights Act. Arab Americans are not protected as language minority. But when the Federal VRA was created we were not a sizable community. However as we have shown now, we are a more significant population, which means that we should be protected as it currently stands. We have shown that through our community of interest map which is C1510 that this community has particular needs and with that in mind for the State House maps we are requesting that this community have fair representation across two minority majority Districts. Due to the population limitations for each House District we ask that you take our community of interest into consideration as we begin the mapping changes for the Senate maps. And we urge you to take all of this into consideration, thank you for your time.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE:

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. We have one more in-person before we continue with remote so number 63.

>> Good afternoon. With this my question is with the Districting does the residence have access so you combined them so say if I stay in east Detroit and a part of St. Clair Shores can I send my child to St. Clair Shores schools? I can go to the parks.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: So that would be up to your legislation like you all the let's say there is more than one person that is asking that question from where you are from East English Village or Eastside of Detroit that is up to how you push the representatives once you vote to rally against those types of privileges because if you are part of the Districts you will have more of an impact than if you are not, right? Because if you are now a part of a District where Grosse Pointe and Grosse Pointe Woods et cetera, if you are a part of the District you can weigh heavily having some things like going to the parks or attending those schools but that is not something that this body as a Commission is in charge of. We are drawing the lines and then it's up to the voters to determine who represents them if that makes sense to you.

>> Okay and are these lines currently in place?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: No, that is why there are ten different versions of the map to the rear or to the back of this little Section. This process is for you all to engage with us and to engage with the maps and say I really like this idea and this is why I don't like where this District is and tell us in detail why and then we go back to the drawing board and discuss everything that has been shared in person, online in the remote

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of the Motown map. I think it's the most transparent, whoever put it together did an excellent job and that is what it's about. You talk about the community of interest. That is what has to be happening. That you look out for the people and not for the politicians, not for the corporations, not for the folks with money. But the people that are supposed to serve. I remember I asked you to do the right thing and I talked yesterday about from the movie Claudine when the son said I'm invisible. Many times our community in the City of Detroit we feel that we are invisible because no one looks at us. No one listens to us. But we matter. We are important. And so is the power of our vote. So as a matter of fact I just finished voting. Because of the people's vote that took an amendment and made it a law so we can have early voting in Michigan and I encourage all of our citizens to take advantage of that and I say to you the Commission please look at the Motown, that is the best one and that is who I support. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you very much. Okay now we will go to remote public comment.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you next person in line to speak is Haneen-Eldiri. Please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> Hello, can you hear me?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes, we can.

>> Hello, my name is Haneen and live in Livonia and I want to keep my community of interest together. I am asking to keep the access communities of interest together which are Arab Americans and the Middle Eastern and north African communities. We support the Motown Sound map as a starting point. But when you think through the minority-majority Districts for our community of interest we ask that you also look at packed Districts like D4 and D5 that neighbor our community of interest. Those Districts could be unpacked to help address Federal VRA concerns. Arab Americans and more broadly people from the middle east and north African region are not protected under the Federal VRA under Section 203 they are groups who cannot speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process. We have shown through the access map Arab Americans are a sizable population and minority. Under Section 2 of the Federal Voting Rights Act Arab Americans are not protected as a language minority. When the Federal VRA was created we were not a sizable community. However, as we have shown through our access community of interest map, we are a language minority. And now a more significant population with shared interests and similar needs. Moreover we have no protection from being packed or cracked as a community. The Federal VRA was meant to be the minimum standard and nothing precludes you from extending those rights to Arab American communities. We have shown through the access community of interest map C1510 that this community has particular needs. With that in mind, for the State House maps we are requesting that this community have fair representation across two minority majority Districts. Due to population limitations for each House District we ask to take our

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community of interest into consideration as you begin mapping changes for the Senate maps. I urge the Commission to take this in consideration. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Lama-Ahamad. Please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>>Hello, can you hear me?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes, we can hear you.

>> Hi my name is Lama and live in the City of Dearborn Heights and wants to keep my community of interest together and asking to keep access communities of interest together which are Arab Americans and Middle Eastern and north African communities we support the Motown Sound map as a starting point but when you think majority and minority Districts for our community of interest we ask you look at Districts like D488% and D5, 81% that neighborhood the community of interest they can be unpacked to address VRA concerns. Arab Americans and more broadly people from the middle east and north Africa region are not protected under Federal VRA un-December Section 203 because language minorities are determined as certain language minority groups who are unable to speak or understand English adequately. Enough to participate in the electoral process. However we have shown through our access community of interest map that Arab Americans are a sizable population and language minority. Under Section Two of Federal VRA Arab Americans are not protected as the language minority. When the Federal VRA was created we were not a sizable community. However, as we have shown through our access community of interest map our language minority and now a more significant population with shared interests and similar needs more over we have no protection of being packed and stacked as a community Federal VRA was meant to be the minimum standard and nothing precludes you from extending those rights to Arab American communities. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Zaynah-J, give the Commission a moment to unmute you. Hello can everybody hear me?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes, we can hear you.

>> My name is Zana and live in Dearborn and want to keep my community of interest together. I am asking to keep the access communities of interesting to which are the Arab Americans and Middle Eastern and north African communities and support the Motown Sound map as a starting point but when you think through the minority majority Districts for our COI we ask that you look at packed Districts like D488% and D581% and neighbor our COI and Districts could be unpacked to address Federal VRA concerns. Arab Americans and from Middle Eastern and north African region are not perfected under Section 203 because language minorities are determined as certain language minority groups who are unable to speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the election process. However we have shown through access COI map that Arab mentions are sizable population and language minority two of the



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Voting Rights Act Arab Americans are not protected as a language minority when the VRA was created we are not a seasonable community however as we have shown through access COI map we a language minority and now more significant population with shared interests and similar needs. Moreover we have no protection from the impact or cracked as a community the Federal VRA was meant to be the minimum standard and nothing precludes from extending the rights to Arab American communities we have shown C1510 this community has particular needs with that in mind for the State House maps we are requesting that this community have fair representation across two minority majority Districts due to population limitation for each House District. We ask that we will take the COI into consideration as you begin mapping changing for the Senate maps. I urge the Commission to take this into consideration. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE:

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next the line is Christian grant.

>> Hello.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Hi.

>> Can you hear me.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes, we can.

>> Thank you. My name is Christian and I'm here to speak in support of the Arab American and specifically Mena communities the current lines for the State House direct 3 and 15 give Arab the best chance of representation. The anti-Arab Commission is pushing for currently concentrate Arabs in District 3 only and dilute the Arab vote in District 15 reducing their chances of having two Arab reps into only one. There is a pattern for some of the proposed maps for State House District three. They either take out Melvindale or east Dearborn which are areas of predominately Yemeni residence. That is an alarming pattern because of that I ask that you keep the lines for District three and 15 an intact and add Melvindale to District 3 and Motown in the Motown Sound District and remove the affluent west Dearborn from District 3 and put it with District 15. If possible, add in the remainder of the Aviation subdivision in southwest Detroit near Lonyo, Michigan, thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Alex King. Please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> Hi, I'm Alex King. Thank you for giving me a chance to talk. I'm feeling a little under the weather today so thank you for having a virtual component, but I wanted to speak about Motown Sound map and as a resident of Livonia it's the best map for representations of communities of color. I think it's the most collaboratively drawn map by the Commission and really an improvement of Spirit of Detroit and I believe it's the best map for partisan fairness like the 12 Black opportunity Districts and really appreciate you for giving me the opportunity to address the Commission. I wanted to

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keep it brief, but I just wanted to address my support of Motown Sound. And wish you all the best.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Noureldin-Almahameed.

>> Can you guys hear me?

>> CHAIR ORTON: We can hear you.

>> Perfect I want to start by thanking the Commission for all the hard work they have been doing. My name is Naureen and a resident of Madison Heights. You know the Arab American community have been fighting for fair representation in the legislature for years now. And I just want to thank you guys for listening to us and the proposal of the Motown Sound map. It makes it clear you have been listening to us with how well you drew District 3 in Motown Sound map. In my opinion it's a way better map than the Tulip map which carves it up like a butcher. And in summary Motown Sound to me personally sounds like a very good map over Tulip. And that is it. Thank you, guys, for your hard work.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. We have another in-person.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Number 65.

>> Hello members of the Redistricting Commission my name is Joe hunt from the City of Warren. Currently in the District 14, which is being redrawn. One of the reasons I'm here today is that I would like to echo my support for the Motown Sound map. I've placed comments on the website, watched all of your three hearings of yesterday. And a portion of today's hearing before the Internet went out. And the reason I'm here in person is that I would like to lobby for the Motown Sound map is that is what I've heard from everybody else. It does take into consideration all of the various elements of communities of interest as well as provides for what the voice of the people is trying to express too. Personally I think the Water Lily map is better for me as a person. I have run for elected office like eight times in the last 14 years, so I know how to actually see what people want. And as far as people echoing their sentiment of the ten maps that are available, Motown Sound does actually satisfy that criteria. I personally like Water Lily as the best one because what it does is it keeps Detroit in Detroit. And for any of you that may have communicated with any of your legislatures in the past to get something done, you will find that basically the closer you live to them the more that's accomplished. Personally at this point I don't have a representative in the House due to political Chess so to speak. But like I say Water Lily would serve my purposes well. When I ran for State Senate in direct ten a map that is being redrawn for obvious reasons, what I did encounter was problems in working with the Wayne County election Commission and the City of Detroit as a whole. Just to get a simple qualified voter file. And that was really like a downer.

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But then again, you know, your criteria is based upon compactness and the amount of people. And contiguousness. So as I say, personally I would like Water Lily. I feel that the Spirit of Detroit is the template map, really says it all. It's a shining star as far as what I would consider to be a contiguousness. But as far as communities of interest I don't see it at all. So I'm here just basically to say that if everybody that's come up to the podium is expressing their interest to the citizen body to approve the Motown Sound, I will go with that, although my preference is Water Lily. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> Ex cue me I missed my number.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Go ahead.

>> I was back looking at the maps, I'm 62.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay thank you.

>> When Farancee ran against Blanchard for Governor I know at the time he wrote an Article and in Metro times you might be able to find it about proportional representation. And he proposed one House instead of two, instead of House and Senate. And then if you got more than his -- he suggested six or seven percent vote, you would go and represent that six or seven percent of the electorate that voted for you. And if you didn't or got less of course you're not going to get a representative for that viewpoint. So I looked at all these maps. And I would just like to make a suggestion that we look at proportional representation. And so we don't have to have so many boundary changes. Technically if you could set up some boundaries that would make more sense so you didn't have to keep changing the boundaries all the time, and that you could change the proportion of votes that go to the District and we would have to make sure all our citizens got good at math in school. Which we could do. So that they could understand the voting and trust it. But I don't like all these different you got maps for the county, maps for the state reps, maps for the Senate, maps for the City Council, maps for the Congress, maps for the Senate, you know, well not for the Senate, you got the statewide. But I'm just saying it's confusing to people and it keeps people from getting involved I think when they don't even know what District they are in. Probably don't know their own representatives. But I'd like to suggest that. I would like to see approval voting. So that people could vote for more than one person. If they like them, they can't vote for the same person twice. But they could vote for more than we get more people running and we would find out what people really wanted. If you combine that with proportional representation, and Lani-G was an African/American woman that got nominated by Clinton I think for the civil rights Commission. And they wouldn't approve her way back then. But she has written a book on proportional representation, I have not read it but going to try to find it at the library.

And the other thing is that you need to get the dark money out of the elections. And frankly if we, according to percentage we are the ones who are supposed to have control over our media. And if they have the right to have media rights, they should

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have to put up campaign, fair campaign stuff so that everybody has a chance to run. We attract people who are willing to run and gather a lot of money so they can afford it. So we don't know who is paying for it.

>> CHAIR ORTON: So I'm suggesting.

>> We would like to know.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I'm sorry your time has elapsed. So your time has elapsed. I'm sorry.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Chairperson just for the record the Commission has nothing to do with dark money. That is not under the Commission's purview at all, whatsoever, thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for clarifying that. We can finish the remote public comment now.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Next person for remote count is Courtenay-Hall. Please allow the staff a moment to unmute you.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Madam Vice Chair can you repeat that name? Can you repeat the name of the public comment participate you said.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Courtenay-Hall.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you.

>> Hi, can you hear me okay?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes, we can.

>> Okay, good afternoon, as many have stated, there are many commonalities amongst the voters in these communities. They share the burden of being marginalized as evidenced by their bombardment of environmental racism. Failing infrastructure. Health disparities, red lining, home value issues and the list goes on. Black voters are asking for District lines that restore their voting power. Latinos need more representation. And Arab American and specifically speaking Yemeni are asking for more representation. The Court has asked you or challenged you to go back to the drawing board and redraw your initial maps. I have friends in Districts in District three and I'm asking you to leave District 3 and 15 as they are but to add Melvindale into District 3 with the hope of amplifying Yemeni representation. And I support the Motown Sound map. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Rima-Meroueh. Please allow staff a moment to unmute you.

>>Hi, can you hear me?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes, we can hear you.

>> Hi, my name is Rima I'm here to ask you to keep our community of interest together. I'm asking to keep access community of interest together which are Arab American and Middle East or north African. We support the Motown Sound map as a starting point and would like to keep Melvindale and Warrendale District in District 3. When you think through minority majority District for COI, we ask you look at packed Districts like



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District 4 and District 5 that neighbor our community of interest. Those Districts could be unpacked to help address Federal VRA concerns. Arab mentions are not protected under the Federal VRA because language minorities are determined a certain language group who are unable to understand English adequately to participate in the electoral process however, we have shown through the community of interest map that Arab Americans are a sizable population and language minority. Under Section 2 of Federal Voting Rights Act Arab Americans are not protected when Federal VRA was created we were not a sizable community however as we have shown through access community of interest map, we have and are a language minority and now a more significant population and with shared interests and similar needs. Moreover I have no protection of being packed or cracked and meant to be a minimum standard and nothing precludes you from extending the rights to Arab American communities we have shown through the access community C1510 this community has particular needs. With that in mind for the State House maps we are requesting that this community have a fair representation across the two minority majority Districts due to the population limitations for each House District we ask you take our COI as you begin changes for the Senate map and I urge the Commission to take this into consideration thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. I believe that's it.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay so I think that is all the people that wish to provide public comment for right now. Director Woods, is there anything else we can take care of right now?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Sure. Miss Reinhardt can we proceed with the mapping policy? She says yes. Why don't we consider that so we can take, oh.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Mr. Morgan you have something.

>> MR. MORGAN: Was there going to be another map presentation?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Ms. Szetela is not available.

>> MR. MORGAN: Sorry I was under the previous information.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you go ahead.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Ms. Reinhardt we will turn it over to you.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Hello Commissioners I believe the agenda item or the item that we wanted to review with you today was that mapping process or the selection of House map process that I reviewed yesterday. And today we were going to put it to you to whether or not to adopt that process as it was written.

So are there any comments from Commissioners or thoughts or edits on that document before we proceed?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I like the document. Thank you, Sarah and everyone who worked on it. It's like our previous one that we used, but makes some improvements

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comments, continue to put out when you will meet, more than just the news, maybe make pamphlets or what have you. Because I don't think a lot of people knew about this. And last of all I would like to say I'm in agreement with the Motown map as well as the Water Lily map. I like how you all included cultures to be together and neighborhoods to be together. That have historically voted together. And I think it represents our wishes, our livelihood, and we will be able to better be represented than we are now. And I thank you all for having all these meetings to hear us and please continue to do so. And that's it, thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 68.

>> Is there a number 68 in the room?69?hello, my name is angel I'm a fellow Detroit. I am also pretty much both sides. I agree with the map personally because it helps the community, you know, team, you know, minority or minority, it feels better to know at least your people care about you, you know. Team work makes a dream work and it can make everybody you know feel more wholesome and better personally. That's all.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you. Were you number 69? Okay, 70.

>> My name is Robert Taylor I'm a Detroit and live in Detroit all my like and I like to go with the Motown Sound. I think that is the best map y'all got up there. Thank you, that's all.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you very much for addressing us. 71.

>> No 71? Oh, you are coming, okay.

>> Hello good evening.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Good evening.

>> You probably heard me through the Detroit City Council.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Can you come closer to the microphone so we can hear you?

>> I didn't want to be too loud I'm Nina and some of you probably heard me from Detroit Council 2009-2012 and I feel Detroit Motown City map is best for me and my community because it does not will one has advantage or another. We work around another, and we are all in this community. That's it.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing us. 72.

>> Hello. So I was born and raised in Detroit and actually two decades lived in 48221Livernois area. For our City and our people I think the Motown Sound map is the best map that represents Detroit, so I hope you guys go with that map. That's it.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 73.

>> Good evening, Council. My name is Delton Peoples. Lifelong Detroit. I'm in District 7. As I look through all of the maps and I was listening to her explain it, the Motown Sound maps looks like it's the best because it keeps culture, and it keeps the area intact. And we can also cross over so we won't miss out on some of those funds that the other Districts normally get a chance to use. So maybe they could spread that money around. So Motown Sound.

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>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 74.

>> 75.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: While 75 is making their way to the mic I want to thank our public commenters here today and as you approach the mic; I would ask you to speak directly into the microphone. As you see on the screens up here, we have really wonderful interpreters online today and for them to hear you and interpret for folks out that who require the interpretation they will need to hear you through the mic. Make sure when you are talking you are speaking directly into the microphone and thanks again for being here.

>> Good evening, Commission, thank you for your time. My name is Jalong and live in District 3 in Dearborn. Keep access community interest together which are comprised predominately of people of Middle Eastern and north African ancestry we support the Motown Sound map as well as a starting point. But we ask the Commission that when they analyze minority majority Districts, for communities of interest we ask you look at Districts like D4 and D5. And also Melvindale and Warrendale areas. These Districts could be unpacked to help address Federal voting rights concerns. Just to give a little historical narrative because I think these laws and these decisions need some historical context. Arab Americans and broadly people from the middle east and north Africa are not protected as a language minority under Section 2 and Section 203 of the Federal Voting Rights Act. I was a history major in college so I can speak to that context. With a lot of passion. The Federal Voting Rights Act was passed in 1965 signed by President Johnson to remedy racial discrimination in the voting process. Arab Americans at that time were not even a blip on the radar. We missed the party. So to speak. However, as we have demonstrated in our access map our community of interest excuse me is both a statutory requisite language community for the purpose of Section 203 of the Federal Voting Rights Act. We have shown that through the access apps that our community of interest has particular needs. And we believe that our presentation lays out those particular needs effectively. We are asking with the utmost urgency of this Commission to recognize our community of interest. As you begin mapping changes for the Senate. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 76.

>> Good evening. I'm Ms. Hall and a resident of District 2 Detroit. And I would like to ask the Commission to support Motown Sound map. I think that it will, well, I guess it will address some of the issues that we have in terms of racial boundaries. And turn it into a more of an economical match for Detroit as we move forward. Also, I think that it slips down a lot of our votes being diluted in terms of northern Oakland County. And so Detroit has its own set of issues. Birmingham has its own set of issues, Royal Oak has its own set of issues but if we can somehow just dilute it just, I mean I guess dilute the line north of base line just a little bit we can all kind of bend the counties together and the municipalities together for one Michigan. So that's my opinion.

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>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 77.

>>Number 78?

>>Good evening and for a second time today. My name is Lamar lemons. I was a witness for the Plaintiffs in the case, which is why we are here. I was one of two witnesses. And as a witness your attorneys on several occasions, on three occasions throughout this process decided that I was an expert. So to the degree that I am an expert, I'd like to testify here on the maps.

You're missing the mark on -- because of you being new to this process, and most of you are missing the mark on several key things, which has not come up but will come up. And one of the things was always natural boundaries, natural boundaries are always supposed to be considered. In the City of Detroit we don't have mountains dividing the committees, but we do have freeways. One of the natural boundaries? The area is I94 so historically let me put this in a little context as a college student I worked with David Holmes on the 1970 redistricting and reapportionment. And in 1980 and 1990 which is why you try to say I was an expert. However, I'm a witness. I'm also, put it in context I'm also a former state legislature so I worked in the process even as a state legislature when before this law was passed to give a little background.

And I would agree that the Motown Sound is probably moving closest to but there is no reason to cross 8 Mile on the Eastside. None. You can go, you can clearly take East Point south. As I pointed out in the Court the new 8 Mile was 696. And between 8 Mile and 696 in Macomb County they made it clear that they wanted to stay together. And how do I know we have the best poll ever, an election. There was a special election on January 30th, to which I participated in as the only African/American and the only Detroiter and as the only former legislature. And the people made it clear that they wanted to stay together. Also their school District. So you can divide and then move west. Also on the west side of the Motown you need to tweak it with 16 and 17 have greater parity. So 16 and 17 both have 51%. The goal here from our perspective and as you know you will have to at some point sit back and negotiate it with the Plaintiffs and I can tell you our goal is to get to 51% and in as many Districts as possible. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 79.

>>Number 80.

>>Good evening once again. Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. My name is Joe hunt, born in Detroit, currently a resident of the City of Warren over 12 and Van Dyke in the how District 14. And that House District seat is currently vacant due to the current law. There will be an election coming up. The reason that you are here is to revisit the 7 House Districts. And you will be revisiting the Senate Districts shortly.

As a vocal resident I run for elect Tiffany office 8 times in the last 12 years and what I've seen is a variety of different things associated with both parties. The one thing I can



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say from this process is I appreciate the technology that's gone into your presentation. The Zoom meetings. The online comments. Everything is very visual, laid out for everybody that wants to comment to see. If I say Motown Sound enough times you will agree to the Motown Sound map. I like the Motown Sound map. I went inside last night to find the Motown Sound map was based on the Spirit of Detroit. So for my selfish purposes in running again this year for elective office for a House seat in District 14 Water Lily serves my purposes well. And what will happen there is that that allows me to basically deal with one City and one county and know all the precincts based upon the voters I had for years. The moment that we work on other maps, the willow map is the worst map because my District 14 would have to deal with Wayne County and Oakland County as well as Macomb County. So I would be reinvented the wheel. And trying to figure out where a community of interest exists. However, I'm going to say Motown Sound because what I've seen in all the comments, what I've seen from all the people, what I've seen in passionate pleas for this body to vote on is Motown Sound. How can you tweak it a little bit more? Move everything a little bit more south. Because what I've seen especially when I ran for Senate District 10 is whoever lives north wins. And this is the idea. It really comes down to the voters. What is contiguous? What are communities of interest? And from what I've seen in the Water Lily map the Water Lily map serves everybody's purposes well as far as representation, as far as the neighborhoods of interest. It's contiguous. But for the purposes of voting and going with the group that everybody is basically saying Motown Sound and I don't really see how you can refuse the Motown Sound map when anybody who has come out on this day and idea is saying the same thing over Motown Sound Motown Sound Motown Sound although I the vote for Water Lily. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 81.

>>Good evening members of the Commission my name is Chewy-K, I have a great privilege of serving as the general Council for the Detroit Branch NAACP. And I'm here first of all this evening to urge, to help you understand that we support the idea that the Commission, the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission should draw the maps for this state. That's what the people of Michigan wanted. That is what we voted for. That is what we should have. We don't want to see either special masters or courts drawing the District for this state. That's what we may see if the maps are not drawn properly. The Commission put out one set of maps that the courts have determined failed us. So now we are asking let's make sure that we get it right this time. You know, we think that all of the ten maps that you are considering now don't meet the test that the Court is going to apply. But that the closest that come to meeting that test are the Motown Sound and the Spirit of Detroit. So what we are asking, we are happy that you have more time to put into the consideration of these maps. Because even though you have two that come close, they aren't good enough and they got to be tweaked. The thing, the factor that I think will trigger either a special master or

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intervention, is the packing of Black voting age population and to Districts in Detroit. That has been a problem and is going to be a problem and if any of the maps that exist now are sent forward, we fear that they will all be rejected. And, in fact, will get some form of judicial intervention that displaces this Commission. That's not the outcome that we want to see. So we would urge you to look at the Motown map, to look at the Spirit of Detroit map. To put in additional work so that we can have our Commission be the deciding voice on what our Districts look like. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON:

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Excuse me. Sorry, I did not want to break your applause. Do you have any concrete ideas or suggestions for the Motown Sound map?

>> Be happy to work with you on that.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yes, please submit it. This is the process and the time for us to get all the input that we possibly can.

>> We will have input for you before your decision is due next week.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Okay just make sure it takes into account the map that we already have.

>> I got you.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: That is my finger wave.

>> Wag mine back at you.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: You said the Districts were too parked and how would you fix that without creating what we had before that the Court already struck down. That is the whole reason why we created what we created before. The Court struck it down so I wonder how you would do that.

>> The issue I saw with the Court striking it down before is there was a deliberate focus on race. And as the primary and almost only consideration. I think it can be done by looking at issues like proximity of communities to one another, traditional alliances, things of that nature. We can work on that. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you. Next 82.

>> Good evening I'm Lawanda of St. Clair Shores I'm in favor of the Spirit of Detroit map although I would like to see some tweaks and I don't know if anyone can explain the whole process as it pertains to offering feedback online, when that will actually shut down. I know I kind of have the same sentiments as the last gentleman that spoke. Race is definitely a big factor.

In fact, that is one of the reasons why we are having this meeting in the first place is of what happened during the last election cycle and how much representation was actually lost by in particularly Black individuals that comprised a great deal of Detroit. But I also feel as though with the things that we have gone through historically as far as integration having the option or the opportunity to represent a different community where you may not be a predominant race is also important. So I do want to make sure that we do have ideas and diversity and inclusion at the table. But I also want to make

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supposed to be independent yet they came from out state Michigan where their interests are certainly not going to be aligned with mind or most of the people in this room. I was sitting home today with no intention of coming to this meeting when I heard one of the Commissioners on the news state that he thought they had done a pretty good job on these maps because he based his -- he based that decision on the constitutionality of their makeup. He stated that the Constitution precluded having Districts where certain groups or races were bunched together so they made sure that didn't happen. And as I looked at these maps you did a pretty good job of it. But what you also did a pretty good job doing was assuring that the people of the City of Detroit will probably never elect a public official based on the way these maps are drawn. It's what they call gerrymandering. And even though it may not be intentional. We all heard Nikki Haley say she thought America had never been a racist country. And I'm sure she believed that. And it comes from her perspective. Your perspectives most of you are going to be different than mine. I'm a 72-year-old man who was born in the Jim crow south, had to sit in the back of the bus, had to enter a movie theatre through the alley entrance my perspective is different than yours. You don't want to bunch any one particular group together you assured that the majority group is going to do all the electing. We can vote all we want to but we're not going to have enough constituted voting power to make decisions and to exert a power or authority. So I just want you to give what I said some thought. I'm sure that most of you are well intentioned. I say God bless you. God bless Michigan.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing us. Number 84.

>>Good evening, Commission my name is Viva foster. I'm a lifelong resident of the City of Detroit. Before I give you my thoughts on which map I think would be good for us, I'd like for you to consider that I know that there has been a lot of work that you've had to put into this process for whatever reasons you had to do it, Court ordered, so on, but I get the feeling, and maybe it's just me, but I've heard it from other people as well, today is February 22. And a lot of the input that you're asking for the community to provide is due next week. And I feel there are a lot of people that feel that they have been excluded from this process. I'm sure there's been some communication out there, but I don't think it was enough. I don't know what you could do better at this point. But I don't think people had enough time to address this. I feel like we are crunched to make a decision. And the tweaks that people have recommended, are well taken and well stated. So I hope you take that into consideration and put forth the best effort to the input the people have taken time out tonight to give you input on and throughout the day. I don't know what the turnout was earlier. But what I see tonight, this is not a sufficient outcome for this important issue. So my vote is for the Motown Sound. And but I hope you guys do the best you can and make sure that you understand that we are vested in this, and we want this to be done right and we don't want to have to do this again. Because it's confusing. Folks do not understand this. And I think when they get

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so confused, they turn it off. And they disengage. And we need to be invested in this. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Go ahead.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Hi I'm Commissioner Kellom I wanted to quickly address what you raised because I do agree that there is disengagement when folks are confused or unaware or they are excluded from the conversation. And just having been on the Commission since the beginning I know that things move fast. I know that a part of participation has a lot to do with disengagement and mistrust. And I think that was my plea earlier when we were going over the maps. If, and especially outside of this as a trauma specialist, the last thing I want to tell somebody is to get over something that has been extremely painful. Which is centered around miss trust. But I will say at some point there has to be a pivot from disengagement to curiosity to filling seats and to making change. And when we first started this process, and we came out to Detroit there were hundreds of people that came out and we would be here until 9:00 or 10:00 at night. One eye open, whatever we had to give. And what I will say though the comments were of frustration and anger. So we have been asking for a year and a half for Detroit to come out through Instagram through TikTok and the news and can receive the criticism and are big girls and boys but what has not happened is direct engagement. It's still the miss trust and we are asking hands open for communication and for suggestions we have done and again it's not perfect we have done what we could to engage the City. I for one have called District managers and have not received phone calls, a call back. I called deputy managers for each District. I have not received phone calls back. So I'm saying this to you all so that you can understand the depth of our efforts. And us trying to do the best to draw for the City of Detroit. So none of it is on purpose but we are literally begging at this point for decisions to be made. So that you all aren't saying that you're left out. Absolutely.

>> CHAIR ORTON:

>> So when you don't get a response from District managers what have you done beyond that?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Being here and Edward Woods III have tried to engage and taken community suggestions where to go. Considering for the Senate process high schools, wherever we can to help to have this process be better navigated by the citizens as well as all of our meetings are online since 2021. Every single meeting that we've had is live, including this one.

>> Okay, then I would suggest too if you are not getting the response that you need from your District managers then maybe you can find some resource in some of the community organizations and go to them.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Absolutely.



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history? Or not? Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act requires drawing new maps and preserving existing majority-minority Districts. I'm urging the Commission to continue to tweak the maps for VRA compliance and partisan fairness. Detroit is the largest City in Michigan. And has 80% Black population. The entire City of Detroit should be considered a community of interest. I'm advocating for the following four maps: The river walk map. The Spirit of Detroit map. Motown Sound. And the Szetela map. I cannot support a resounding no to the Daisy map.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Excuse me your time is over a minute up so I'm sorry. Come.

>> Bergamot or two. No to the Water Lily map and I urge the Commission to draw maps going east and west instead of moving the maps more north past 8 Mile and stretch into three or more counties.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay your time is more than a minute and a half out so you're going to have to stop. Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 89.

>>Hello, my name is Chavet Mcillroy Anderson and would like to thank the Commission for your hard work and everything you have done to try to do this charge that you were charged with and the oath you have taken to be here and become Commissioners without having a lot of a roadmap to how it needs to be done. So we thank you for that. I do want to say that I'm really concerned about the special master. And having the special master make a decision. So I'm urging that the Commission would take into consideration the Motown Sound map with some modifications to 16 and District 16 and 17. I do believe that the Motown Sound provides the opportunity for lakeshores and Harper Woods to be together. And utilize the communities of interest, school Districts and municipalities that they have. I'm grateful for the opportunity to speak to you today. I do hope that you are listening and are going to provide, put forth the maps that are going to result in being accepted and not having the special master's decision prevail. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Is there a number 90? Okay, we are going to move to the remote public comment. And without objection Vice Chair Janice Vallette will facilitate the remote public comment portion.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you. I will call your name and our staff will unmute you. If you are on a computer, you will be prompted by the Zoom app to unmute your microphone and speak. If you are on the phone a voice will say the host wants you to speak and prompt you to press star six to unmute. I will call on you by name or by the last four digits of your phone number. Also please note that if you experience technical or audio issues or we do not hear from you in three to five seconds we will move on to the next person in line and then return to you after they are done speaking. If your audio still does not work, you can e-mail [redistricting@Michigan.gov](mailto:redistricting@Michigan.gov) and we will help you trouble shoot so you can participate during the next public comment period at a later meeting. You will have three minutes to address the

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Commission and please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer. First in line to provide public comment is Adel-Mozip. Please allow us to unmute you.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not currently present.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you next in line is Adel-Mozip please allow the staff a moment to unmute you.

>> My name is Adel-Mozip on the Dearborn school board and represent more than 110,000 in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights and I want to bring your attention to the current mapping and how it affects my school District as well as my City. I'm also in favor of the Motown Sound map and with some modifications so that you would add Melvindale to the District, I believe Melvindale and south and east Dearborn serve together as a community of interest. Mainly represented by Arab Americans of Yemeni decent. Those two communities have always been disenfranchised by so many issues such as environmental injustice and also no representation on any elected offices, combining Melvindale with District 3 would add some representation to this District and also as I've been hearing for the last hour or so that Motown Sound is favorable for Detroit residents as well. I thank you for your valuable work. And I hope it works out for you. When you submit these maps to the Court, thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Alex King. Please allow the staff a moment to unmute you.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not present.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Next in line is Moe-Hussein. Please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> Hello.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Hi.

>> My name is Hussein and live in Dearborn and want community of interest together and keep access communities of interest together which are Arab American and Middle Eastern and north African communities. We support the Motown Sound map. As a starting point but when you think through majority minority majority Districts of our COI we ask you look at packed Districts like D-4, 88% and D-5, 81%. That neighbor or COI. Those Districts could be unpacked to help address Federal VAR concerns. Arab Americans and more are more broadly and more broadly people from the middle east and north Africa region are not protected under the Federal VRA under Section 203 because language minorities are determined as certain language minority groups who are unable to speak or understand English adequately, enough to participate in electoral process. However, we have shown through our access COI map that Arab Americans are sizable in population and language minority. Under Section 2 of the Federal Voting Rights Act Arab Americans are not protected as in language minority when the FVRA was created, we were not a sizable community. However, as we have shown through our access COI map, we are a language minority and now more significant in population with being or with shared interests and similar needs. Moreover we have no protection

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from being packed or cracked as a community. The Federal VRA was meant to be the minimum standard of, and nothing precludes you from excluding those rights to Arab American communities. We have shown through access community of interest map C1510 that this community has particular needs. With that in mind for the State House maps we are requesting that the community have fair representation across two minority majority Districts due to the population limitation for each House District, we ask that you take our COI into consideration as you begin mapping changes for the Senate maps. I urge the Commission to take this in consideration. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Sali.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not present.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you next in line is Nagi please allow the staff a moment to unmute you.

>> Unmute good evening are you able to hear me.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes, we can.

>> All right perfect. So good evening, Commissioners, I hope you are well. And I'd like to say God bless you for the work that you're doing. My name is Nagi. And I'm a Dearborn resident for 40 years now actually. I emigrated from a country called Yemen as a child more than 40 years ago. And I'm not a part of any organization or group. I'm just an ordinary citizen who goes to work every day and pays my taxes. So please bear with me for a few minutes. I know it's been quite a long day for you. I do appreciate your patience. I want to take a step back actually, way, way, back. And that is every single one of us on this call regardless of where we are in life's station we are made up of protons, electrons, neutrons, yet miraculously it came together to make you and I and intuitively we know that didn't happen by accident. It was the design of the divine creator. And according to our declaration of independence our rights come from that divine creator. And one of the many reasons why I love America is the fact that we have the Bill of Rights and the basic idea of fairness, and that justice is blind. In fact, God all mighty commands us to be just and kind. Now, when I look at some of the proposals to redraw District 3 and 15, I see some things that are disturbing in my opinion. I recognize the pattern for some of the proposed maps for District 3 in particular. They either take out Melvindale or east Dearborn, which both of them are primarily comprised of Yemeni Americans. And when you look at the situation of Yemeni Americans in Dearborn, we have no representation neither in City Council or the charter Commission. Even though we makeup one-third of Dearborn's population. We are probably the most politically marginalized community in all of Michigan. So, in closing, I urge you to do the just thing. Do the fair thing. And keep Districts 3 and 15 intact. Thank you and God bless you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Mir-Razvee. Please allow a moment for the staff to unmute you.

## MI Redistricting Public Comment Portal

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# Harper Woods Should Stay With Grosse Poi

## Basic Info

Submitter: Denise

Location:

Submitted: 1/17/2024

Type: written

ID: w9831

## Tags

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Written Testimony

Harper Woods should not be redistricted. It should stay with Grosse Pointe. They share a school system, a public works system, and they are in the same county (Wayne). Harper Woods residents who live within the boundaries of the Grosse Pointe School System pays taxes for those services (such as myself). It would disenfranchise me, and other Harper Woods residents if we are redistricted with Macomb County residents,



3/14/24, 9:46 AM

MICRC Public Comment Portal

## MI Redistricting Public Comment Portal

## MI Redistricting Public Comment Portal

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# Valerie J Kindle

## Basic Info

Submitter: Valerie Kindle

Location:

Submitted: 1/17/2024

Type: written

ID: w9832

## Tags

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Written Testimony

Please don't place Harper Woods with Eastpointe and Roseville our connection with be with Detroit and the Grosse Pointe's. We share School District and water with the Pointe's. To put our community with overwhelming Macomb County would totally disenfranchised my community. Frankly I would keep my district #11 as is.

## MI Redistricting Public Comment Portal

← **Next**

**Previous** →

# Harper Woods, precincts 5 and 6

## Basic Info

Submitter: Gerianne LaPratt

Location:

Submitted: 1/19/2024

Type: written

ID: w9860

## Tags

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Written Testimony

Harper Woods Precincts 5 and 6 are in the Grosse Pointe Public School System; keeping those precincts with the Grosse Pointes would keep the school district whole.

Reasons to join Harper Woods with the Grosse Pointes: Our communities share the following:

Senate district (which is not being challenged)

Milk River drainage district and waste treatment facility and, along with St. Clair Shores, sit on the same district Board

## MI Redistricting Public Comment Portal

The Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods rely on each other for mutual aid for police and fire services

Wayne County Community College has a campus in Harper Woods (in precinct 6); keeping it in a Wayne County House District could be advantageous

The current House District (11) serves St. Clair Shores and Harper Woods. Keeping these two cities together would be less disruptive to the district.

The population of the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods is about two-thirds of what is mandated per House District, so keeping St. Clair Shores with Harper Woods and the Grosse Pointes could complete the necessary population requirements.

Alternatively, keeping the current Detroit part of the District with Harper Woods and the Grosse Pointes could also be less disruptive to the current district. Previous to the most recent House district, Harper Woods, Detroit, and Grosse Pointe Woods and Shores were all in the same District (2012 - 2022)



## MI Redistricting Public Comment Portal

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**Previous** →

# School District COI

## Basic Info

Submitter: Ani Manolatos

Location:

Submitted: 1/24/2024

Type: written

ID: w9921

## Tags

#st clair shores city

#harper woods city

#grosse pointe city

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Written Testimony

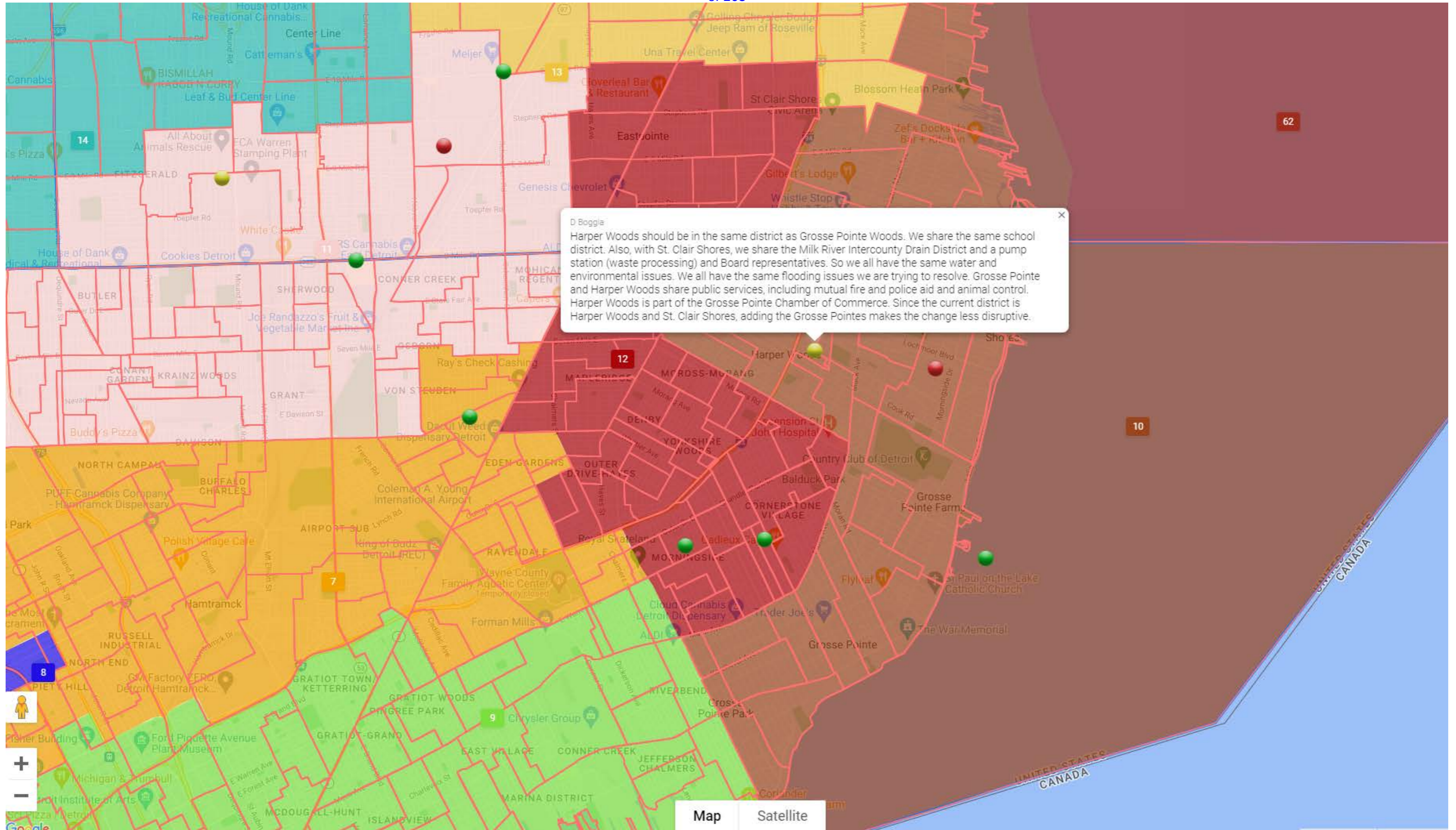
A matter of consideration for the commission should be regarding a community of interest based on school district lines. A great example of this as a great coi would be in Grosse Pointe, Harper Woods, and the South Lake schools in St. Claire Shores. Since these municipalities share common services as well as facilities, and are geographically compact, the

3/14/24, 9:33 AM

MICRC Public Comment Portal

## MI Redistricting Public Comment Portal

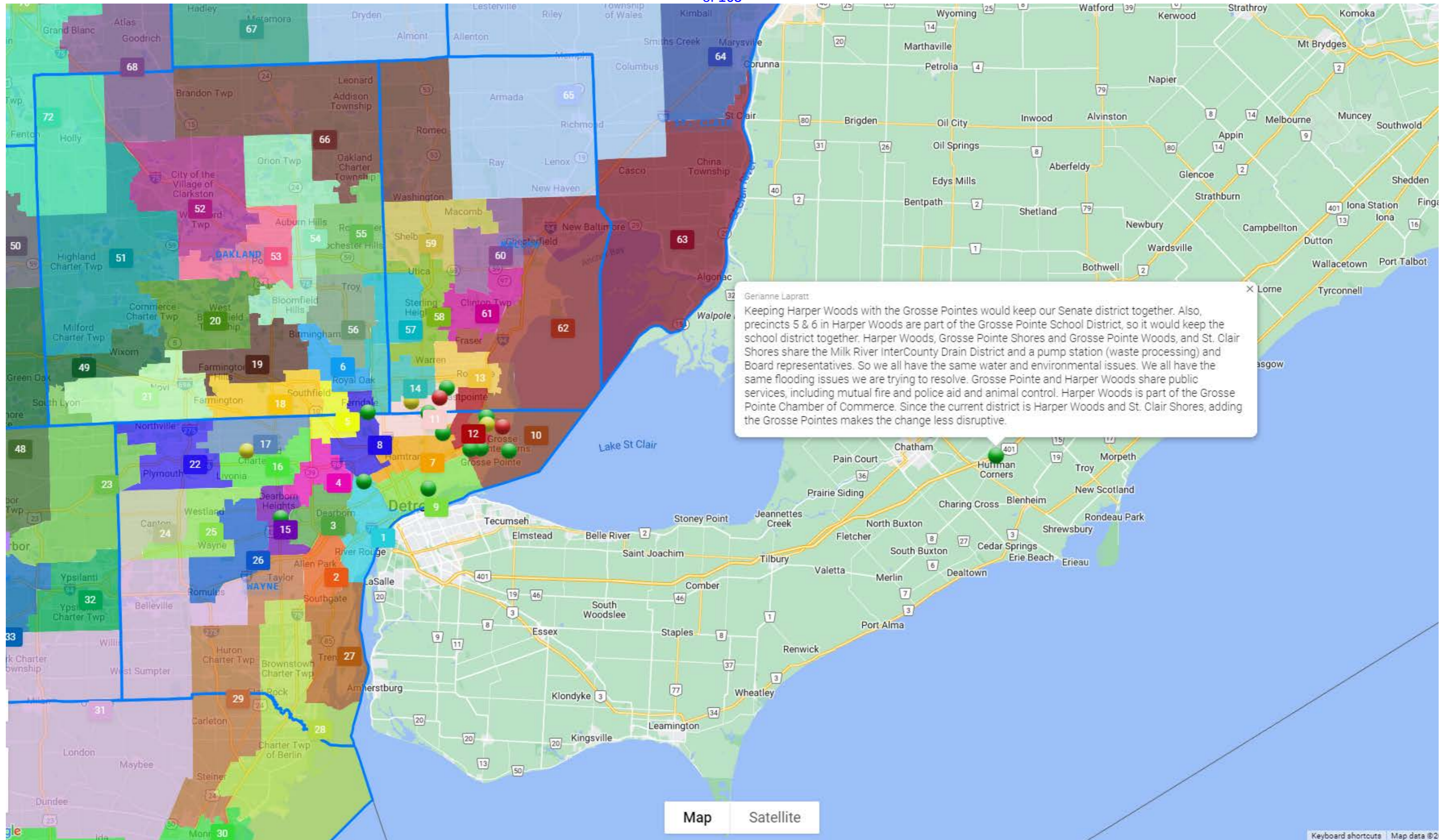




D Boggia  
Harper Woods should be in the same district as Grosse Pointe Woods. We share the same school district. Also, with St. Clair Shores, we share the Milk River Intercounty Drain District and a pump station (waste processing) and Board representatives. So we all have the same water and environmental issues. We all have the same flooding issues we are trying to resolve. Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods share public services, including mutual fire and police aid and animal control. Harper Woods is part of the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce. Since the current district is Harper Woods and St. Clair Shores, adding the Grosse Pointes makes the change less disruptive.

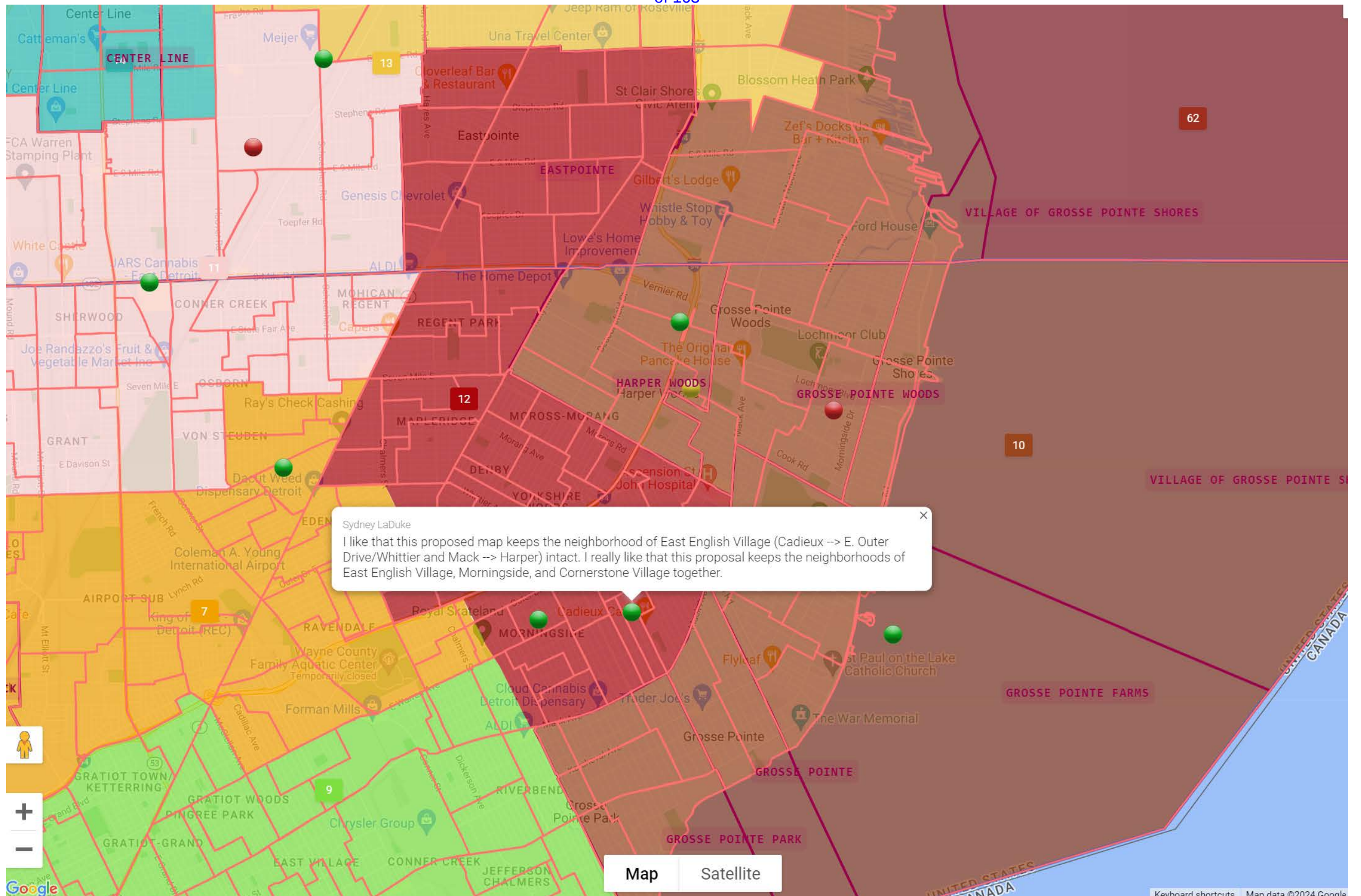
Map Satellite





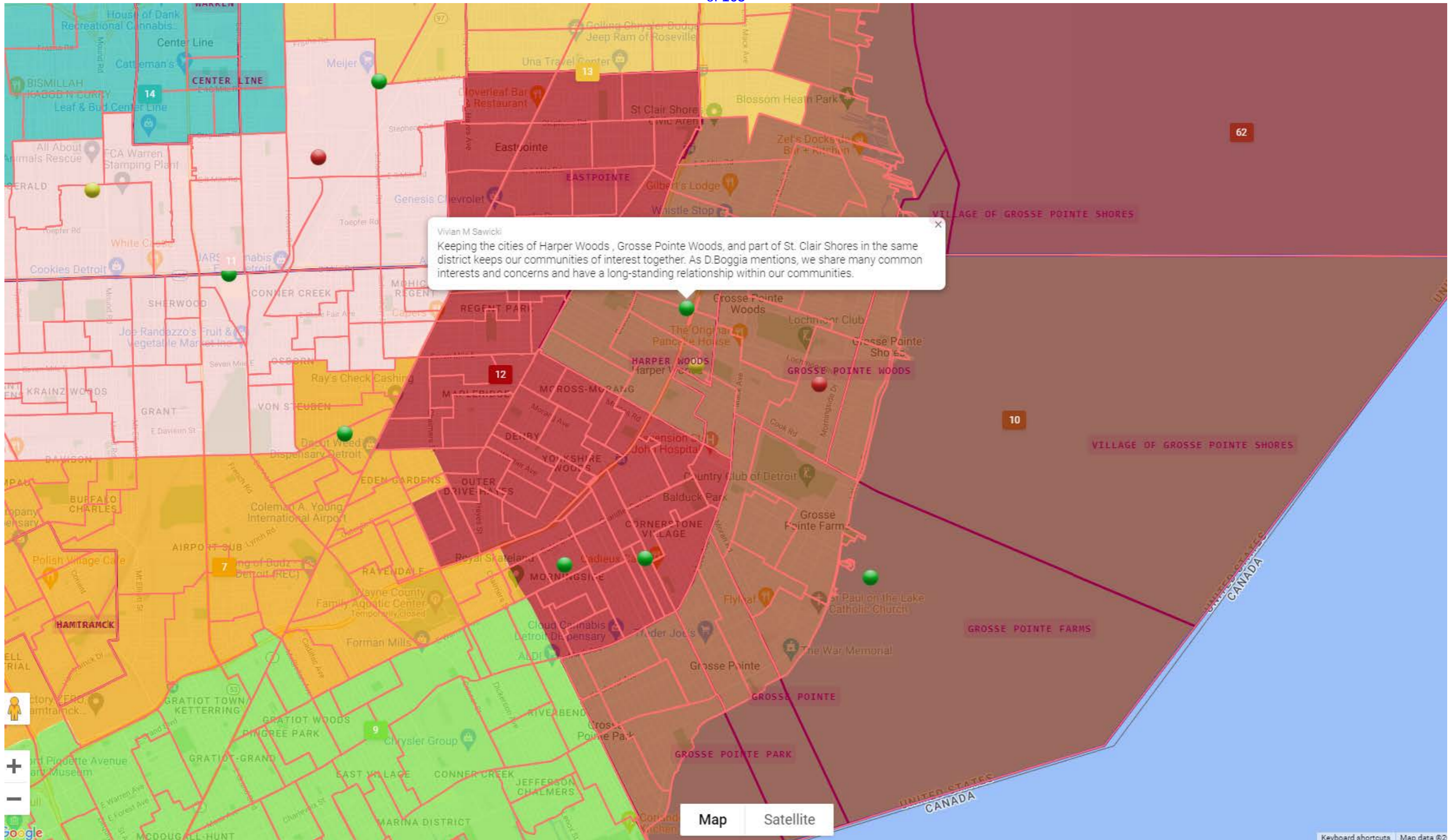
Map Satellite



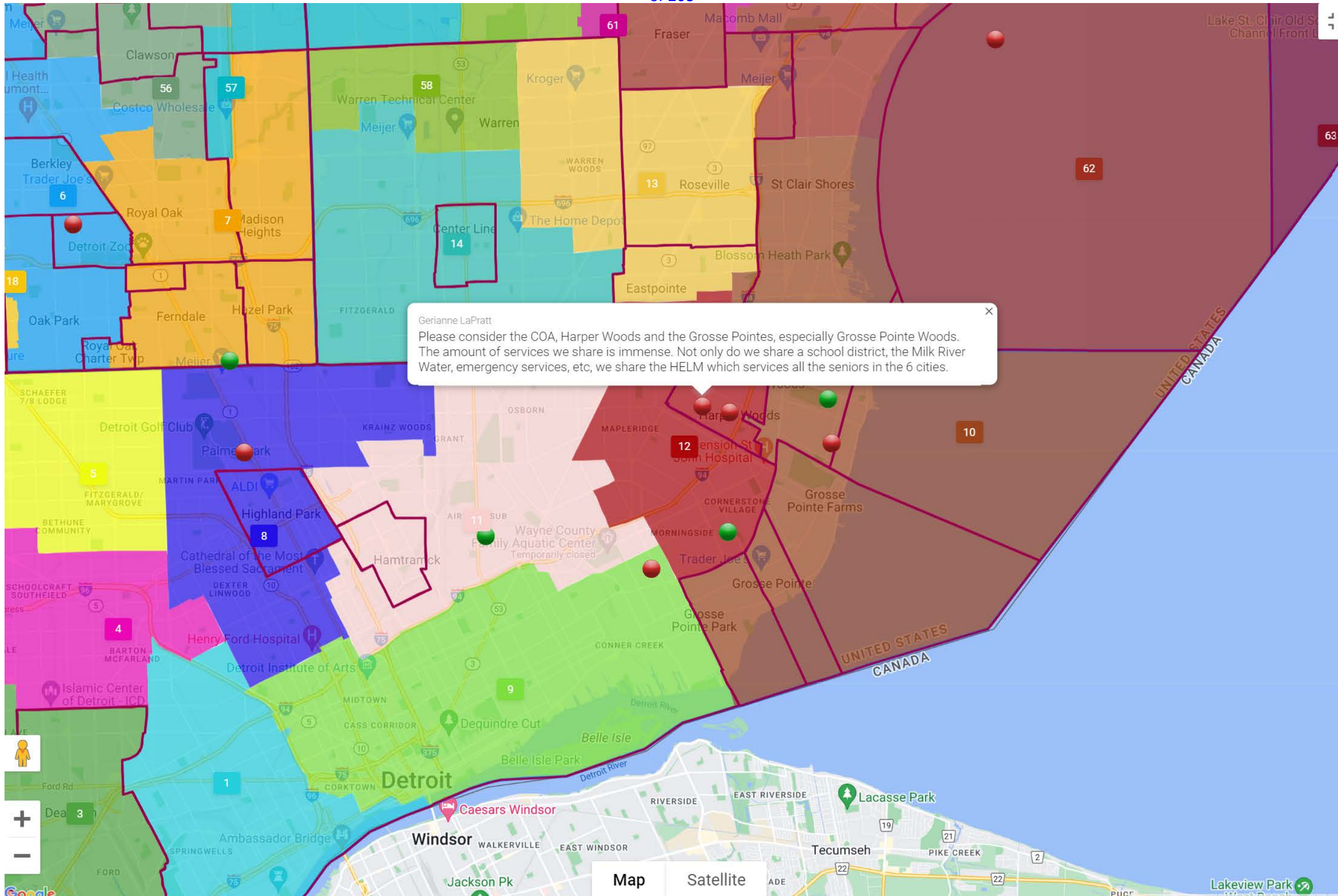


Sydney LaDuke  
I like that this proposed map keeps the neighborhood of East English Village (Cadieux --> E. Outer Drive/Whittier and Mack --> Harper) intact. I really like that this proposal keeps the neighborhoods of East English Village, Morningside, and Cornerstone Village together.



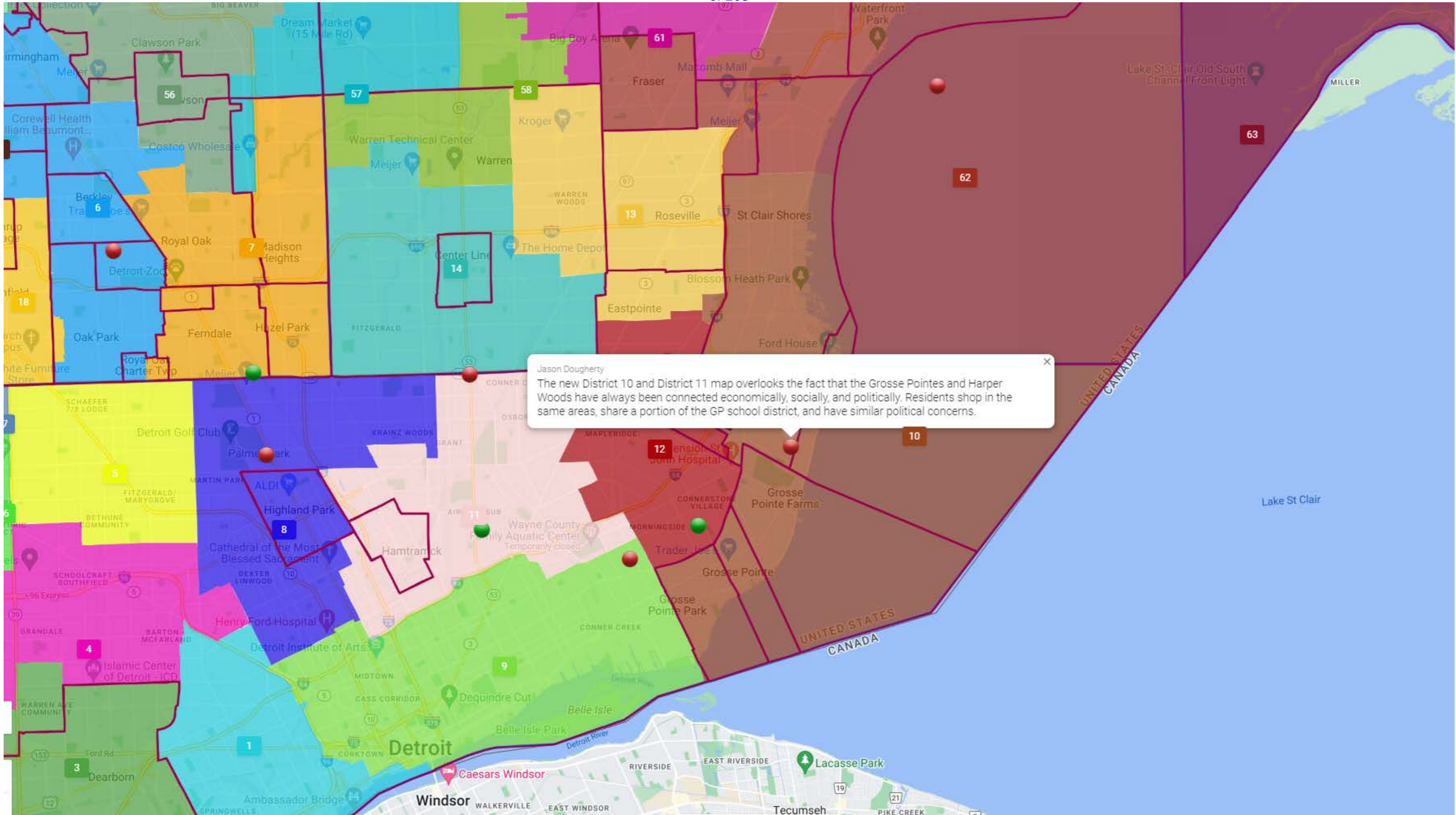






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