

What is the Solution?

Change drawing maps from Legislature to an Independent Commission:

Citizens draw maps with no approval from legislature required.

Such as:

California—14 members, 5 Democrats, 5 Republicans, 4 neither party are selected through drawing. Nine votes needed to approve and Supreme Court has jurisdiction. Held 34 public hearings and received 22,000 written comments.

Arizona – 5 members, 4 from House and Senate majority and minority leaders and 1 they appoint from another party. Districts should be contiguous, geographically compact and respect communities of interest.

What Criteria Should be Used?

Population equality?
Minority Rights?
Compactness?
Communities of Interest?
Preservation of political boundaries, etc?

How Can MI Change its Process?

1. Legislators can introduce legislation to amend the MI Constitution. It has to be passed by 2/3rds of the MI House and Senate and then voted on by the people.

2. MI citizens can initiate an initiative petition to allow a vote on the issue if enough signatures (over 400,000) are gathered to place it on the statewide ballot.

In Summary:

- ▶ When we vote, we want our elections to be fair, our votes to count and our voices to be heard.
- ▶ The process of drawing election maps should be transparent, impartial and fair.
- ▶ Stop partisan politicians manipulating elections to keep themselves and their party in power.

That's putting the fox in charge of the henhouse – it's a conflict of interest.

What is LWVMI's Position?

The League of Women Voters of Michigan (LWVMI) supports the formation of an independent redistricting commission in lieu of the legislature as the primary redistricting body.

What Can You Do?

*Educate yourself about the process
Talk to your family & friends
Sign up for more information/updates*

4/14/2017

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Redistricting in Michigan

Should Politicians Choose their Voters?



League of Women Voters of Michigan

The purposes of LWVMI are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.





What is Redistricting

Following the census every 10 years, the distribution of Congressional seats across the nation are subject to change – based on population movement.

States draw the districts based on roughly equal population for the U.S. Congress and state House & Senate.

Every state determines their own process.



How are Maps Drawn in Michigan?

Public Act 463 of 1996 & Public Act 221 of 1999 establish guidelines for the MI Legislature and Governor to draw the maps for the Congress, MI Senate, and House of Representatives.

Governor can veto the plans for MI Congressional or Legislative districts.

State Supreme Court can review the maps.

What has happened?

Gerrymandering, partisan redistricting, has occurred.

What Is the Problem?

Partisan politicians manipulate elections to keep themselves and their party in power.

	2012 MI Congress	
	R	D
Votes	46%	51%
Seats Won	64% (9)	36% (5)

	2014 State Senate	
	R	D
Votes	51%	49%
Seats Won	71% (27)	29% (11)

	2016 State House	
	R	D
Votes	49.2%	49.1%
Seats Won	57% (63)	43% (47)

2014 Election - Michigan House

Republicans receive 71,829 FEWER votes, but win 63-47 majority in the state House.

2012 Election - Michigan House

Republicans receive 352,034 FEWER votes, but win 59-51 majority in the state House.

What is the impact?

The vast majority of districts aren't competitive.

Elected officials aren't responsive to voters.



What are the options for redistricting?

Legislature: The Legislature drafts a plan and passes a plan by majority vote. The plan is subject to gubernatorial veto. 26 states have, including Michigan.

Advisory: Advisory commission drafts a plan, but it is subject to legislative approval. 6 states have, i.e. Maine.

Backup: Backup commission draws map before going to legislature, if needed. 5 states have, i.e. Illinois.

Politician: Elected officials may serve on commission and draw maps plan with no approval from legislature required. 7 states have, i.e. Colorado.

Independent Commission: Citizens draw maps with no approval from legislature required. 6 states have, i.e. California.

For more information go to:

Ballotpedia: <https://ballotpedia.org>

Brennan Center: www.brennancenter.org