



Redistricting Process

The Redistricting Process

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Citizens Research Council

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- Statewide
- Non-partisan
- Private not-for-profit
- Promotes sound policy for state and local governments through factual research – accurate, independent and objective
- Relies on charitable contributions from Michigan foundations, businesses, and individuals
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Redistricting

What is redistricting?

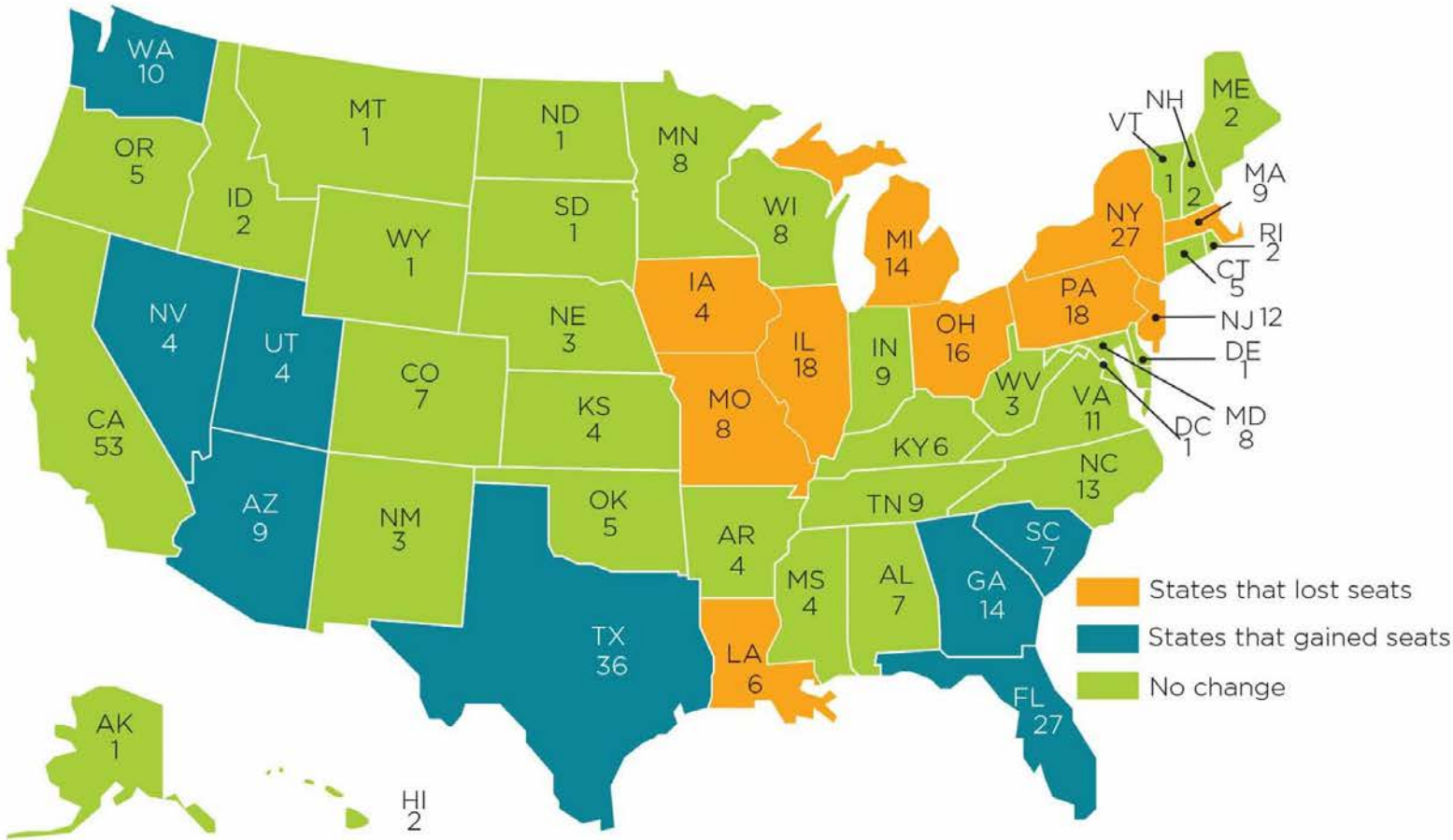
- Process by which a state is divided into geographic districts.
- Fundamental to democracy because it matches potential candidates to constituencies, setting the parameters for representation.
- Redistricting can turn into bitter political battles because how the district lines are drawn will have a lot to do with who gets elected.

Apportionment vs. Redistricting

Apportionment: process of determining how many members of the U.S. House of Reps will represent each state, following the census

Redistricting: process of drawing the districts for those members as well as for members of the state legislature.

House Apportionment for Elections in 2012–2020



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "Apportionment Data," 2010.census.gov/2010census/data/apportionment-data-text.php.

Michigan's History of Redistricting

- Prior to independent commission, MI had a politically controlled process of redistricting.
- Redistricting committees of elected lawmakers in the state senate and state house craft Michigan's districts, and the governor approves them.
- Michiganders voted to amend state's constitution in 2018 to establish a new citizen-led commission for redistricting.

What does redistricting involve in Michigan?

Redrawing:

- the state's congressional districts for the representatives serving in the U.S. House
- the 110 districts that make up the Michigan House
- the 38 districts that constitute the Michigan Senate

Gerrymandering

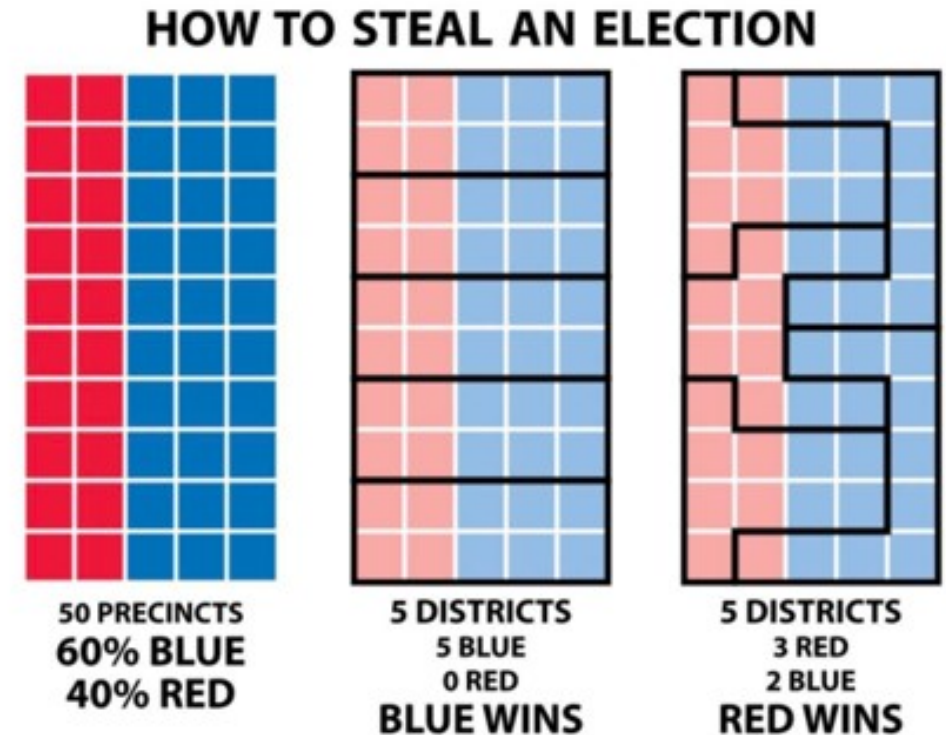
What is gerrymandering?

- Redistricting to benefit a particular group.
- Three types of gerrymandering:
 - Partisan
 - Pro-incumbent
 - Racial



Partisan Gerrymandering

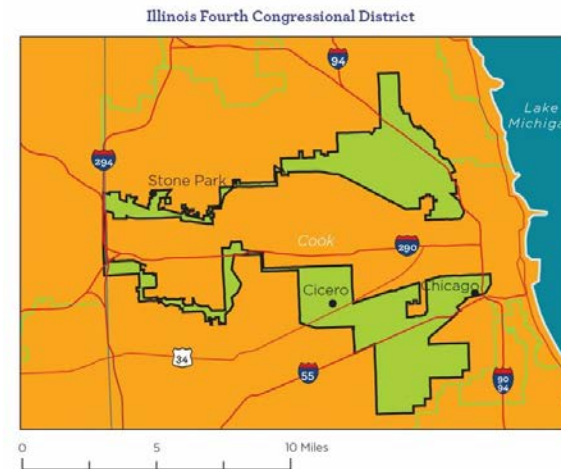
- Process whereby the majority party draws districts to maximize the number of seats their party can win.
- Multiple techniques, but often utilize two types of tactics:
 - "Cracking"
 - "Packing"



Racial Gerrymandering

- Occurs when district lines are drawn to favor or disadvantage an ethnic or racial group.
- Concentrates enough minority citizens to elect one of their own.
 - At the same time, it takes these voters out of the pool of voters in other districts – a process called “bleaching”.

Gerrymanders and Earmuffs



Pro-Incumbent Gerrymandering

- Happens when legislators agree to create districts to enhance the electoral security of the current members of both parties.
- Tend to occur when a state legislature is divided so closely that neither party can dictate the redistricting process.



Is Michigan gerrymandered?

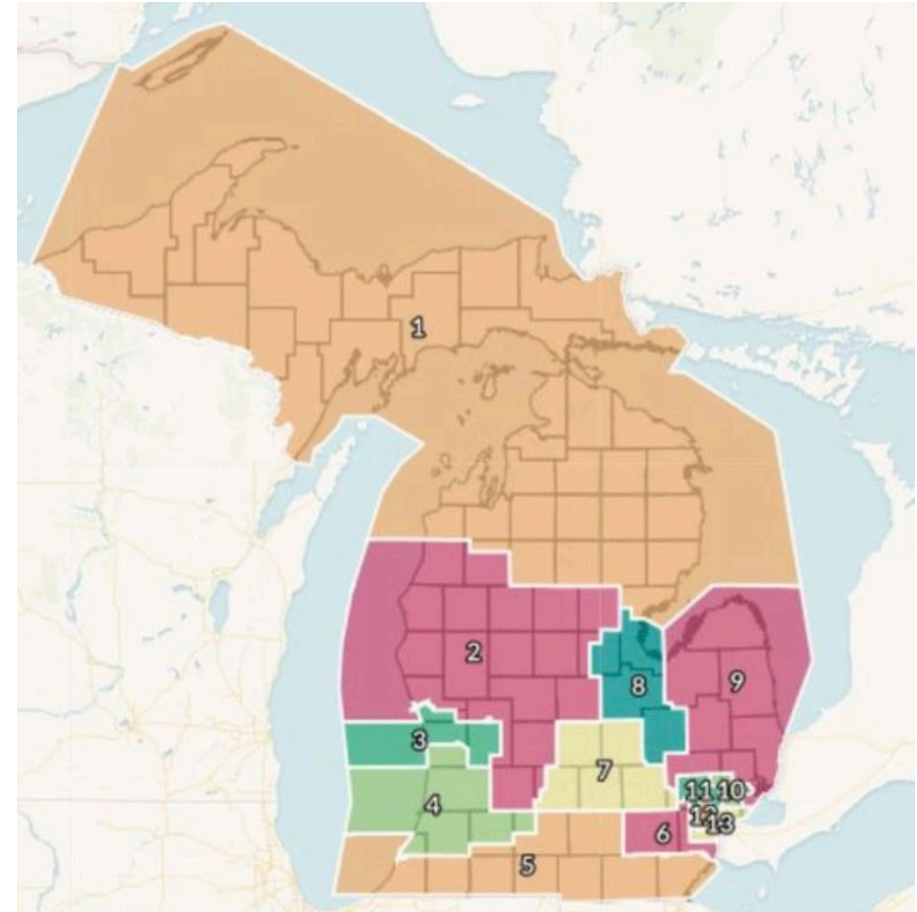
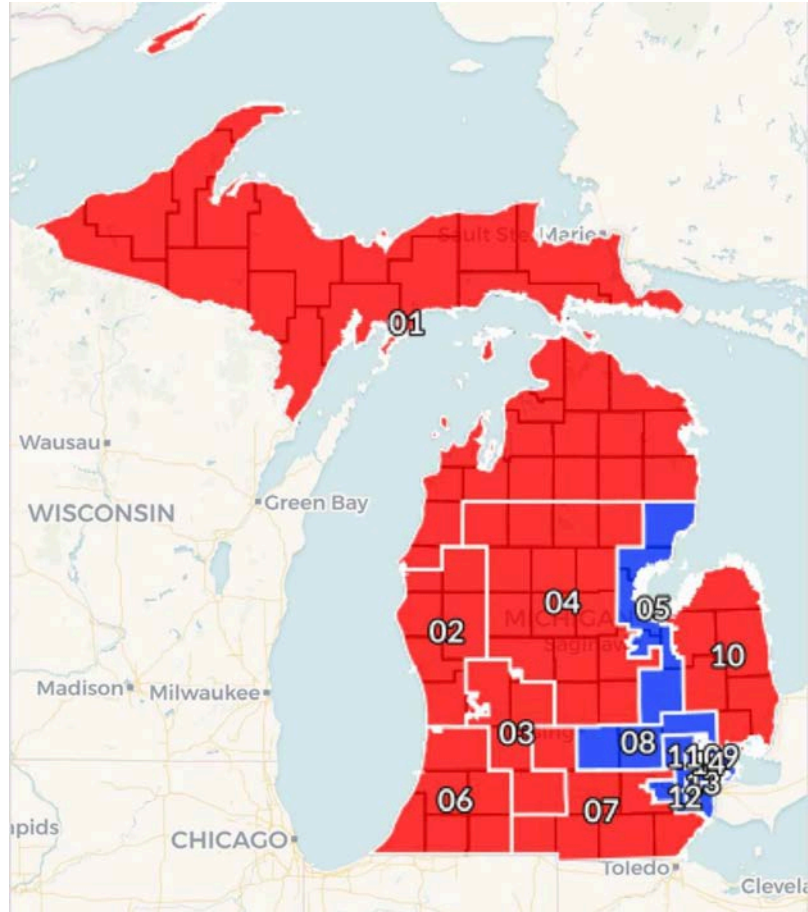
- Yes. We are home to some of the most gerrymandered districts in the country.
- Our [2018 report](#) quantified the level of gerrymandering.
- We found that both our congressional and legislative districts are gerrymandering to advantage Republican candidates.

New and Current Maps

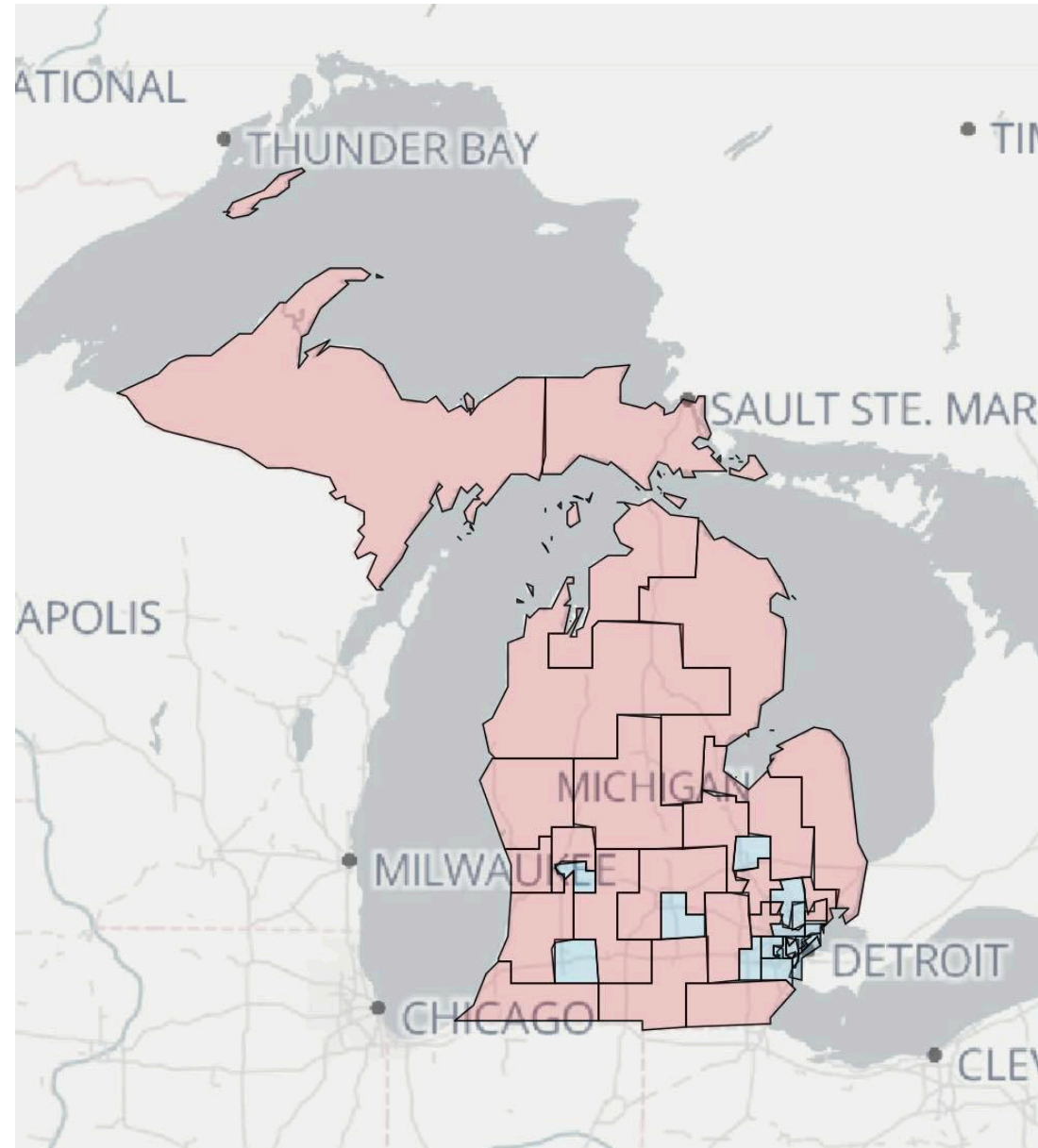
Who drew the new districts?

- A commission of citizens who all draw Michigan's U.S. Congressional districts, 110 Michigan House districts and 38 Michigan Senate districts.
- A 13-member body with 4 Democrats, 4 Republicans and five members who are "non-affiliated", independent registered voters.
- Elected lawmakers or state employees not allowed to be on the commission. Also prohibits candidates, certain relatives, and lobbyists from serving on the commission.

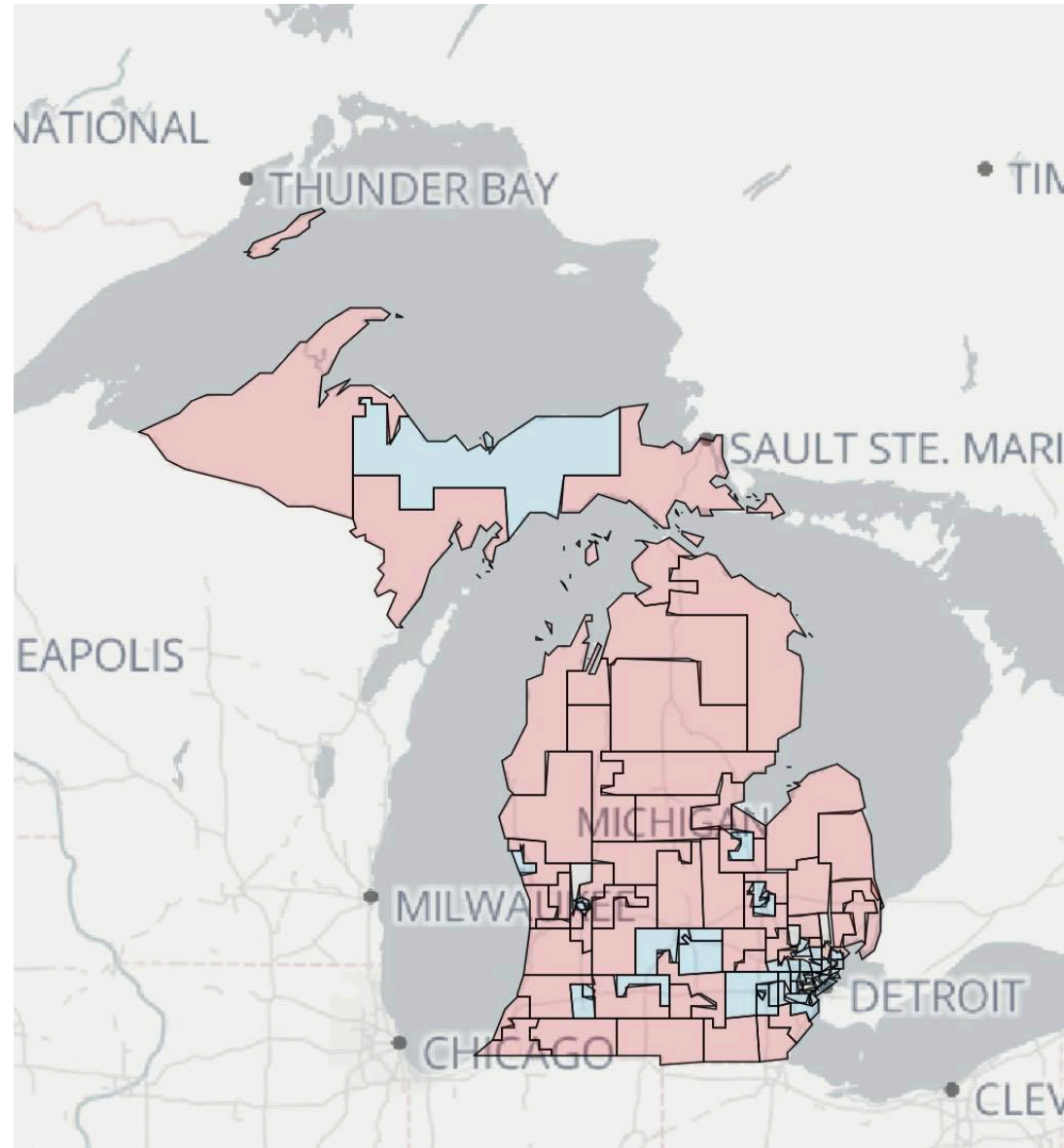
Current and New Congressional Maps



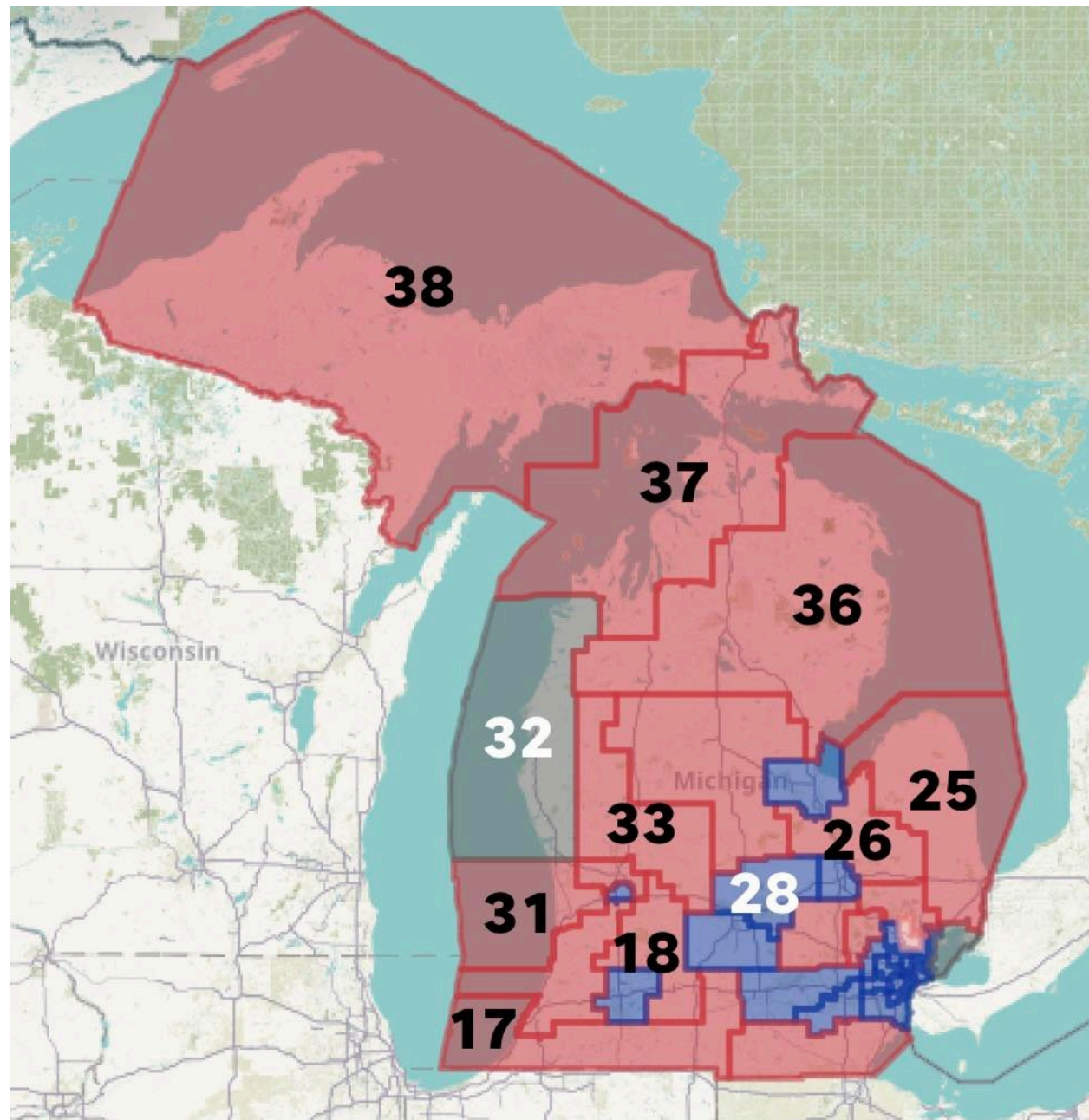
Current State Senate Map



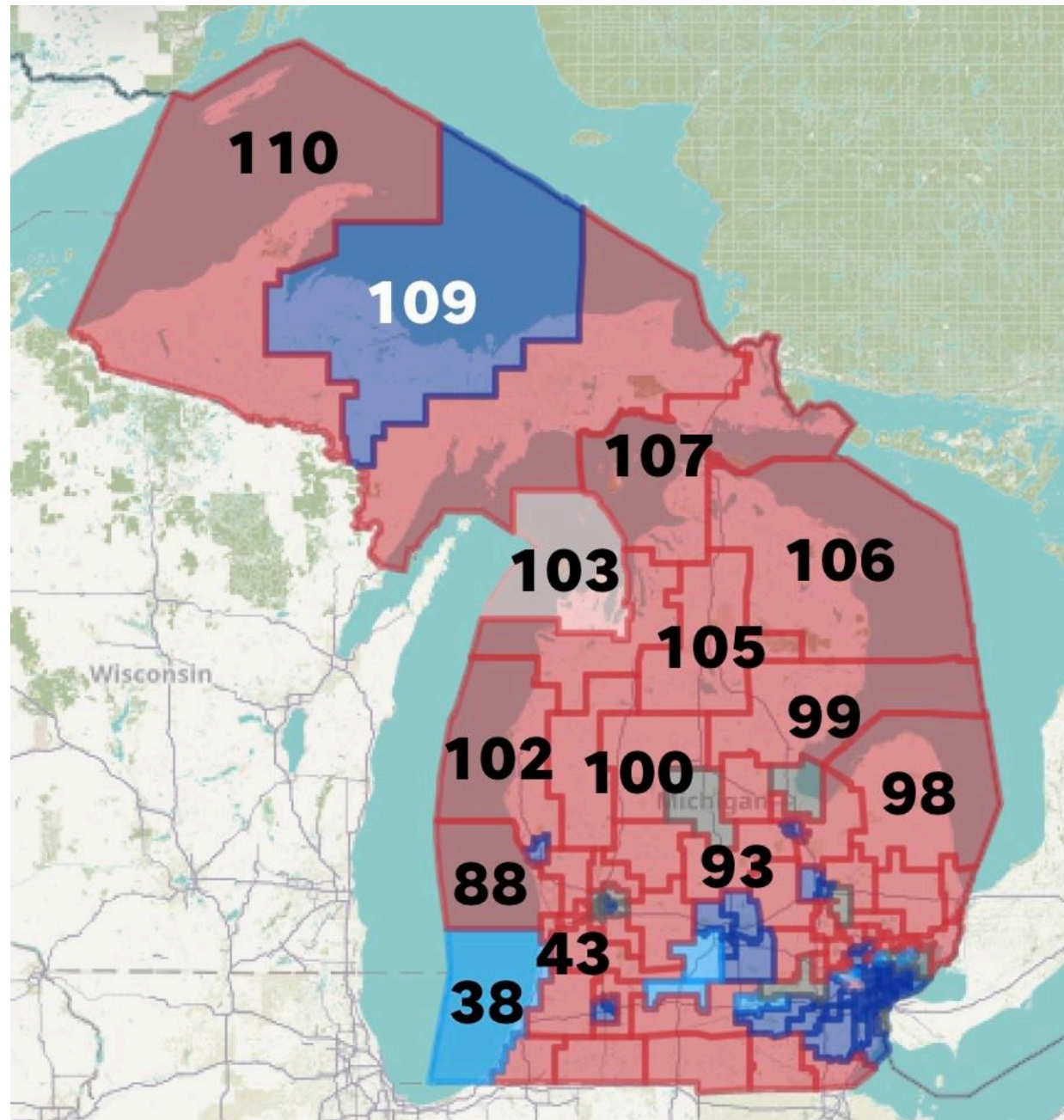
Current State House Map



New State Senate Map



New State House Map



Representation

- Dilution of Black representation by the maps offered.
- Commission had to balance the need to comply with the VRA, while not providing disproportionate advantage to any political party.
- Commission's legal advisors said this could be done with less than a plurality of minority voters in a district because voters may still vote for a minority candidate.

Constitutional Requirements – Top to Bottom

- a. Districts shall be of equal population and comply with VRA.
- b. Districts shall be geographically contiguous.
- c. Districts shall reflect state's diverse population and communities of interest.
- d. Districts shall not provide disproportionate advantage to any political party.
- e. Districts shall not favor or disfavor incumbents or candidates.
- f. Districts shall reflect consideration of municipal boundaries.
- g. Districts shall be reasonably compact.

Questions?

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