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Promote the Vote unveils Detroit area map before ICRC, calls on committee, Michiganders to take action

Michigan coalition proposes new Unity Map to Independent Citizens' Redistricting Commission, calls on commissioners to include in upcoming evaluations

DETROIT – Promote the Vote, a coalition of Michigan organizations (including ACLU Michigan, ACCESS, APIA Vote-MI, Detroit Action, Detroit Disability Power, the NAACP Michigan State Conference, Michigan League for Public Policy, Miigwech, the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation, the League of Women Voters of Michigan, and more) has proposed a new, equitable state House district [Unity Map](#) to the Michigan Independent Citizens' Redistricting Commission (ICRC), and is encouraging the public to review the map and [sign their petition](#) in a show of support.

“The redistricting of Michigan’s maps is more than just lines on paper; it’s a vibrant opportunity for communities to actively engage and shape our democracy,” said Rebeka Islam, executive director of APIA Vote-MI. “This process empowers each voice, ensuring a direct impact in the tapestry of our state’s future. It’s a testament to the power of participation in the democratic journey.”

After a panel of U.S. District Court judges ruled that new draft maps must be drawn by February 2, Promote the Vote’s House district map offers the ICRC a helpful resource – one that allows the ICRC to comply with court orders without negatively impacting the many adjacent districts or partisan fairness of the enacted House district map. In addition to the proposed map, Promote the Vote also submitted supporting materials, including district analyses and narratives, map metrics, and more.

“Representation matters in our democracy, and maps should be fair - it’s that simple,” said Micheal Davis Jr., Executive Director of Promote the Vote. “Our Unity Map is more equitable than existing versions, and meets the same overall district totals as the 2010 maps without diluting the voices of minority communities in Detroit.”



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Promote the Vote’s 2024 Unity Map features [eleven \(11\) majority-minority districts](#) with a Black voting age population (BVAP) at 50%+, ranging from 51.6% to 60.1%, as any district with a BVAP below 40% is a red flag for racial gerrymandering. The Unity Map also protects communities of interest and preserves partisan fairness.

“We’re fighting to protect democracy for Detroit and Detroit area voters, and we’re doing so based on the demands made by the people of Michigan,” said Branden Snyder, executive director of Detroit Action. “Our Unity Map ensures that our communities are kept whole, while also empowering the marginalized voices of those who have not had a fair shake in the electoral process.”

The commission set a Friday afternoon deadline for selecting the maps it would move forward for voting rights analysis. A public map put forward by IPPSR at MSU was adopted by a commissioner on Wednesday, to be included in the pool of maps to be evaluated.

“After addressing the commission this morning, I am hopeful that our Unity Map will be considered by the commission for inclusion with other good public maps,” said Cindy Gamboa, executive director of MI-Poder. “The PTV Unity Map proves that the ICRC can develop fair, inclusive maps where BIPOC communities are represented by leaders who know us, and who will fight for what we care about and deserve.”

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Promote the Vote is a coalition of partner organizations committed to ensuring that Michigan’s voting system works for all. These partner organizations share a rich history and deep investment in preserving and advancing the rights and protections of marginalized communities and Michigan voters.

