

# REDISTRICTING MICHIGAN'S MAP

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PRAXIS FIELDWORK SEMINAR: POLITICS, POWER, POLICY

## MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FIELD SUPERVISOR DR. MELISSA SMILEY

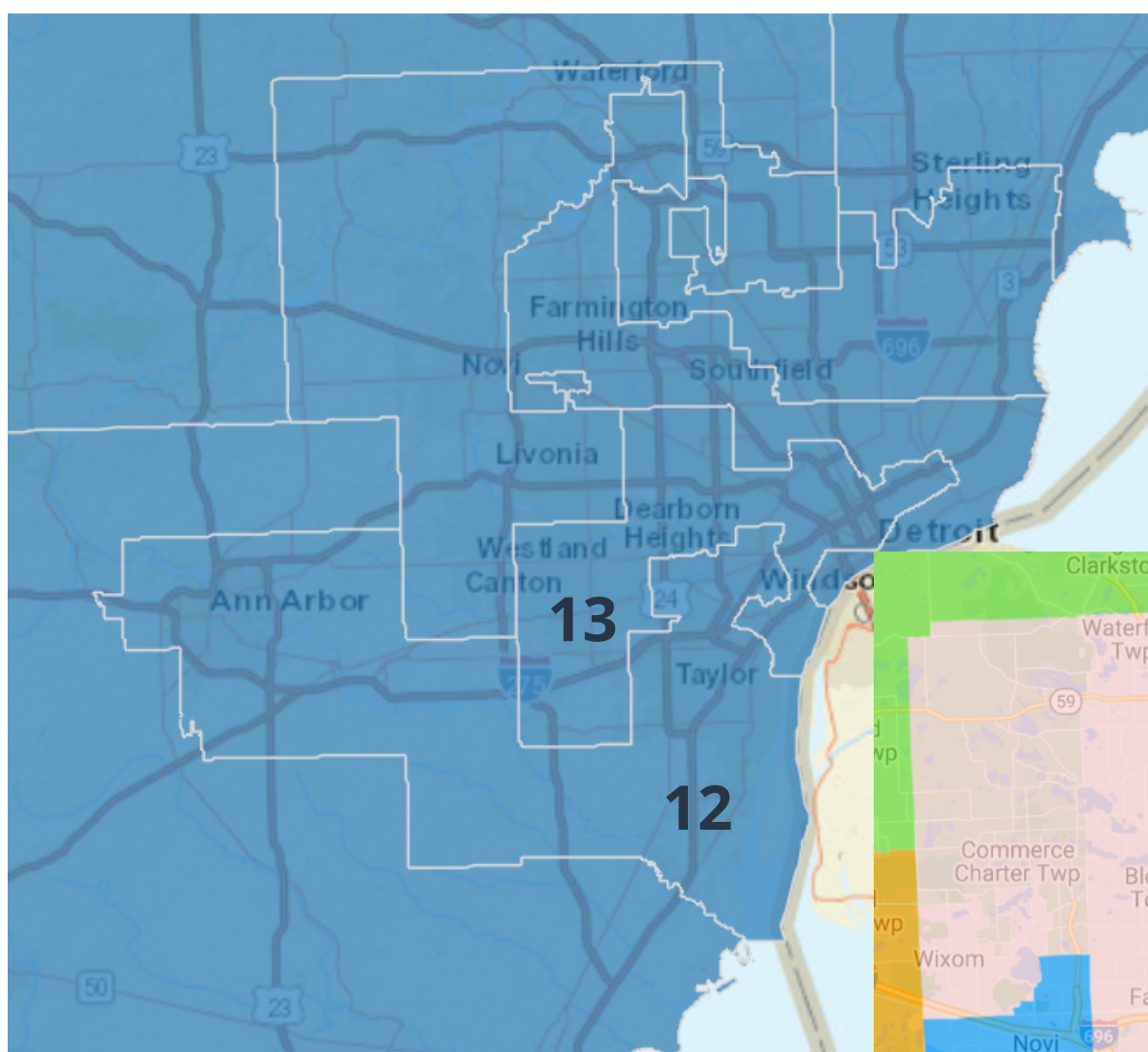
"The commission, and all of its responsibilities, operations, functions, contractors, consultants and employees are not subject to change, transfer, reorganization, or reassignment, and shall not be altered or abrogated in any manner whatsoever, by the legislature." -Michigan State Constitution, art. 4, sec. 6

### MORE POWER TO THE VOTERS

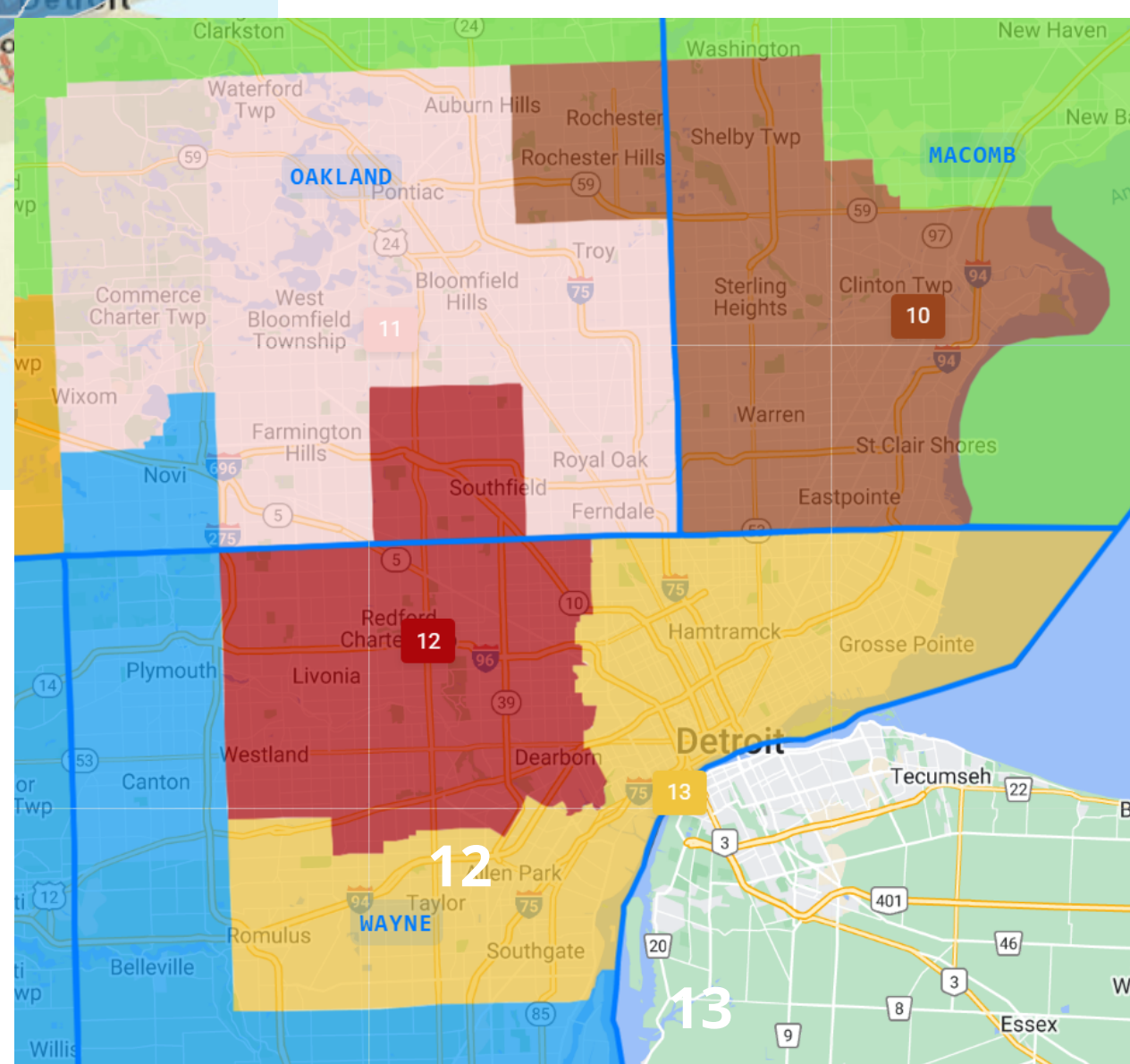
- Proposal 2 was passed in Michigan in 2018, creating the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, made up of 13 members
- This commission was designed to give more power to voters
- Ordinary citizens made up the commission instead of elected officials
- The mapping process began in 2020 and ended in 2021



MICRC Members on Panel



U.S. Congressional Map 2011



U.S. Congressional Map 2021

### INFLUENCE ON FUTURE MAPS

- My intention with this project was to provide concise information regarding how the commission was received.
- In 10 years, online journalism may transform but it is safe to assume our internet presence will have a large impact on our lives for years to come

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- A look into the archival process in the professional field
- Clear communication while working remotely
- Utilization of social media and the internet to improve government agencies

### GERRYMANDERING AND INJUSTICE

- Michigan's maps were severely affected by gerrymandering, noticeably in the Detroit area (see districts 12 and 13)
- While the new maps try to remove it, there are still issues
- There are fewer black majority districts in the 2021 maps, making minority voters feel less heard

### MAPPING AND JOURNALISM

- I have collected relevant news articles at the local and national level
- Articles ranged from the commission's creation to the final maps and their subsequent response
- Many articles also touched on how the independent commission has influenced other state's redistricting processes

### More than 6,000 apply for Michigan's new Independent Citizens' Redistricting Commission

Published: Feb. 27, 2020, 3:47 p.m.

### Michigan Supreme Court rejects Voting Rights Act challenge to new political maps

Published: Feb. 04, 2022, 12:30 p.m.

### Michigan – yes, Michigan – may hold the solution to Ohio's future redistricting problems