

From: **EDWARD SARPOLUS**

Date: Wed, May 19, 2021 at 4:00 AM

Subject: Public Comment for California Citizens Redistricting Commission

I follow redistricting nationally and I understand questions have been raised in California regarding litigation filed in Michigan's Supreme Court related to adoption deadlines for our state's Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

I am not an attorney nor party to the suit, so I cannot speak to its legal intricacies. However, with over 30 years involvement in Michigan redistricting and national redistricting projects, I can address several ways the situations in Michigan and California are not analogous.

SUIT SEEKS FEWER DAYS THAN PROVIDED UNDER STATE CONSTITUTION

When voters adopted Proposal 2 in 2018, they established November 1 as the deadline for Michigan's Commission to adopt final plans. Under a normal redistricting timeline, voters granted our Commission approximately 7 months between the availability of census data and the adoption deadline (April 1 to November 1).

The suit does not seek a day-for-day extension for the release of census data. Rather the petition seeks an extension only to January 25, 2022. This would provide approximately 5.5 months after the release of the "Legacy" data format and 4 months after the release of the "PL 94-171" data format. The suit states this proposed timeline represents, "a significantly shortened period," but one that would still allow the Commission to perform its work.

Timeline	Census Data Receipt	Adoption Deadline	Days after Receipt
Normal	4/1/2021	11/1/2021	214
Legacy	8/16/2021	1/25/2022	162
PL 94-171	9/30/2021	1/25/2022	117

SUIT DOES NOT SEEK TO MODIFY STATE PRIMARY DATE

Michigan's primary is regularly held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in August, with the next primary currently set for August 2, 2022. The litigation does not seek to change this date. Rather it seeks only more limited changes to the electoral calendar, noting issues relating to the creation of the qualified voter role and candidate filing.

These are just a few examples. Michigan's current draft map deadline is September 17, a few weeks after the receipt of the Legacy format and before the release of the PL 94-171 format. This complicates use of the Legacy format both legally and practically. Michigan mandates a much longer 45-day public comment period for

proposed maps. Michigan has a “ranked choice” voting system to break deadlocks. And so on and so on.

Despite both having Independent Redistricting Commissions, different underlying circumstances may not make Michigan and California directly comparable. I hope this information is helpful to your deliberations.

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Return Receipt Requested.