

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE SUPREME COURT

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
MICHIGAN, AMERICAN CITIZENS FOR
JUSTICE, APIA VOTE-MICHIGAN,
DETROIT ACTION, LGBT DETROIT,
NORTH FLINT NEIGHBORHOOD
ACTION COUNCIL, RISING VOICES,
KENT BLOHM, CATHY BROCKINGTON,
DENISE HARTSOUGH, DONNA
HORNBERGER, GILDA JACOBS, JUDY
KARANDJEFF, MARGARET LEARY,
ATHENA MCKAY, CHRISTINE PAWLAK,
KATHERINE PRIMEAU, RONALD
PRIMEAU, SUSAN ROBERTSON, SUE
SMITH,

Supreme Court No. 164022

Plaintiffs,

v

INDEPENDENT CITIZENS
REDISTRICTING COMMISSION,

Defendant.

/

**SECRETARY OF STATE JOCELYN BENSON'S AMICUS CURIAE
BRIEF REGARDING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION TIMELINE AND MAP
IMPLEMENTATION**

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Dated: February 9, 2022

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STATEMENT OF JURISDICTION

This is an original action brought by Plaintiff League of Women Voters of Michigan and several other voting rights agencies and individual voters against the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. This Court has jurisdiction over this original action under article 6, § 4 and article 4, § 6(19) of the Michigan Constitution, as amended. Section 4 of article 6 provides that this Court has “the power to issue, hear and determine prerogative and remedial writs[.]” Const 1963, art 6, § 4. Subsection 6(19) of article 4 expressly provides that this Court, “in the exercise of original jurisdiction, shall direct the secretary of state or the commission to perform their respective duties[.]” Const 1963, art 4, § 6(19).

STATEMENT OF QUESTION PRESENTED

1. As a remedy to any unconstitutionality of the state house districting plan, should the Court vacate the plan and remand to the ICRC to promptly correct the plan?

Plaintiffs' answer: Yes.

ICRC answers: No.

Amicus Curiae Benson answers: Any change to the state house plan should be effectuated as quickly as possible.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY PROVISIONS INVOLVED

Const 1963, art 4, § 6 provides, in relevant part:

(1) An independent citizens redistricting commission for state legislative and congressional districts (hereinafter, the "commission") is hereby established as a permanent commission in the legislative branch. The commission shall consist of 13 commissioners. The commission shall adopt a redistricting plan for each of the following types of districts: state senate districts, state house of representative districts, and congressional districts. . . .

(4) The secretary of state shall be secretary of the commission without vote, and in that capacity shall furnish, under the direction of the commission, all technical services that the commission deems necessary. The commission shall elect its own chairperson. The commission has the sole power to make its own rules of procedure. The commission shall have procurement and contracting authority and may hire staff and consultants for the purposes of this section, including legal representation.

(7) The secretary of state shall issue a call convening the commission by October 15 in the year of the federal decennial census. Not later than November 1 in the year immediately following the federal decennial census, the commission shall adopt a redistricting plan under this section for each of the following types of districts: state senate districts, state house of representative districts, and congressional districts.

(8) Before commissioners draft any plan, the commission shall hold at least ten public hearings throughout the state for the purpose of informing the public about the redistricting process and the purpose and responsibilities of the commission and soliciting information from the public about potential plans. The commission shall receive for consideration written submissions of proposed redistricting plans and any supporting materials, including underlying data, from any member of the public. These written submissions are public records.

(9) After developing at least one proposed redistricting plan for each type of district, the commission shall publish the proposed redistricting plans and any data and supporting materials used to develop the plans. Each commissioner may only propose one redistricting plan for each type of district. The commission shall hold at least five public hearings throughout the state for the purpose of soliciting comment

from the public about the proposed plans. Each of the proposed plans shall include such census data as is necessary to accurately describe the plan and verify the population of each district, and a map and legal description that include the political subdivisions, such as counties, cities, and townships; man-made features, such as streets, roads, highways, and railroads; and natural features, such as waterways, which form the boundaries of the districts.

(10) Each commissioner shall perform his or her duties in a manner that is impartial and reinforces public confidence in the integrity of the redistricting process. The commission shall conduct all of its business at open meetings. Nine commissioners, including at least one commissioner from each selection pool shall constitute a quorum, and all meetings shall require a quorum. The commission shall provide advance public notice of its meetings and hearings. The commission shall conduct its hearings in a manner that invites wide public participation throughout the state. The commission shall use technology to provide contemporaneous public observation and meaningful public participation in the redistricting process during all meetings and hearings.

(13) The commission shall abide by the following criteria in proposing and adopting each plan, in order of priority:

(a) Districts shall be of equal population as mandated by the United States constitution, and shall comply with the voting rights act and other federal laws.

(b) Districts shall be geographically contiguous. Island areas are considered to be contiguous by land to the county of which they are a part.

(c) Districts shall reflect the state's diverse population and communities of interest. Communities of interest may include, but shall not be limited to, populations that share cultural or historical characteristics or economic interests. Communities of interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

(d) Districts shall not provide a disproportionate advantage to any political party. A disproportionate advantage to a political party shall be determined using accepted measures of partisan fairness.

(e) Districts shall not favor or disfavor an incumbent elected official or a candidate.

- (f) Districts shall reflect consideration of county, city, and township boundaries.
 - (g) Districts shall be reasonably compact.
- (14) The commission shall follow the following procedure in adopting a plan:
- (a) Before voting to adopt a plan, the commission shall ensure that the plan is tested, using appropriate technology, for compliance with the criteria described above.
 - (b) Before voting to adopt a plan, the commission shall provide public notice of each plan that will be voted on and provide at least 45 days for public comment on the proposed plan or plans. Each plan that will be voted on shall include such census data as is necessary to accurately describe the plan and verify the population of each district, and shall include the map and legal description required in part (9) of this section.
 - (c) A final decision of the commission to adopt a redistricting plan requires a majority vote of the commission, including at least two commissioners who affiliate with each major party, and at least two commissioners who do not affiliate with either major party. If no plan satisfies this requirement for a type of district, the commission shall use the following procedure to adopt a plan for that type of district:
 - (i) Each commissioner may submit one proposed plan for each type of district to the full commission for consideration.
 - (ii) Each commissioner shall rank the plans submitted according to preference. Each plan shall be assigned a point value inverse to its ranking among the number of choices, giving the lowest ranked plan one point and the highest ranked plan a point value equal to the number of plans submitted.
 - (iii) The commission shall adopt the plan receiving the highest total points, that is also ranked among the top half of plans by at least two commissioners not affiliated with the party of the commissioner submitting the plan, or in the case of a plan submitted by non-affiliated commissioners, is ranked among the top half of plans by at least two commissioners affiliated with a major party. If plans are tied for the highest point total, the secretary of state shall randomly select the final plan from those plans. If no plan meets the requirements of this subparagraph, the secretary of state shall randomly select the final plan from among all submitted plans pursuant to part (14)(c)(i).

(15) Within 30 days after adopting a plan, the commission shall publish the plan and the material reports, reference materials, and data used in drawing it, including any programming information used to produce and test the plan. The published materials shall be such that an independent person is able to replicate the conclusion without any modification of any of the published materials.

(16) For each adopted plan, the commission shall issue a report that explains the basis on which the commission made its decisions in achieving compliance with plan requirements and shall include the map and legal description required in part (9) of this section. A commissioner who votes against a redistricting plan may submit a dissenting report which shall be issued with the commission's report.

(17) An adopted redistricting plan shall become law 60 days after its publication. The secretary of state shall keep a public record of all proceedings of the commission and shall publish and distribute each plan and required documentation.

(19) The supreme court, in the exercise of original jurisdiction, shall direct the secretary of state or the commission to perform their respective duties, may review a challenge to any plan adopted by the commission, and shall remand a plan to the commission for further action if the plan fails to comply with the requirements of this constitution, the constitution of the United States or superseding federal law. In no event shall any body, except the independent citizens redistricting commission acting pursuant to this section, promulgate and adopt a redistricting plan or plans for this state.

(20) This section is self-executing. If a final court decision holds any part or parts of this section to be in conflict with the United States constitution or federal law, the section shall be implemented to the maximum extent that the United States constitution and federal law permit. Any provision held invalid is severable from the remaining portions of this section. . . .

MCL 168.133 provides:

In order for the name of a person as a candidate for nomination by a political party for the office of representative in congress to appear under a particular party heading on the official primary ballot in the election precincts of a congressional district, a nominating petition shall have been signed by a number of qualified and registered electors residing in the district as determined under section 544f. . . . Beginning January 1, 2014, if the congressional district comprises more than 1

county, the nominating petition shall be filed with the secretary of state no later than 4 p.m. of the fifteenth Tuesday before the August primary. . . . Beginning January 1, 2014, if the congressional district is within 1 county, the nominating petition shall be filed with the county clerk of that county no later than 4 p.m. of the fifteenth Tuesday before the August primary. Nominating petitions shall be in the form as prescribed in section 544c.

MCL 168.163 provides:

- (1) To obtain the printing of the name of an individual as a candidate for nomination by a political party for the office of state senator or representative under a particular party heading upon the official primary ballots in the various election precincts of a district, there must be filed nominating petitions signed by a number of qualified and registered electors residing in the district as determined under section 544f. If the district comprises more than 1 county, the nominating petitions must be filed with the secretary of state. If the district comprises 1 county or less, the nominating petitions must be filed with the county clerk of that county. Nominating petitions must be in the form prescribed in section 544c. The secretary of state and the various county clerks shall receive nominating petitions for filing in accordance with this act up to 4 p.m. of the fifteenth Tuesday before the August primary.
- (2) In lieu of filing a nominating petition, a nonrefundable filing fee of \$100.00 may be paid to the county clerk or, for a candidate in a district comprising more than 1 county, to the secretary of state. Payment of the fee and certification of the name of the candidate paying the fee are governed by the same provisions as in the case of nominating petitions. The fee must be deposited in the general fund of the candidate's county of residence and must be used only for the purchase and maintenance of voting equipment.

INTRODUCTION

With respect to the redistricting process in Michigan, the Secretary of State wears two hats.

The first hat: Under the state Constitution, the Secretary of State acts as a non-voting secretary to the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, tasked with supporting the work of the Commission. Const 1963, art 4, § 6(4). Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson fulfilled her duties under the Constitution with respect to the new plans adopted by the Commission, and in doing so played no role in drawing or approving the new maps, including the plan challenged here.

The second hat: The Secretary of State is also the “chief election officer” with “supervisory control over local election officials in the performance of their duties under the provisions of this act.” MCL 168.21. The Legislature has delegated the task of conducting proper elections to the Secretary, an elected executive-branch officer, and the head of the Department of State. Const 1963, art 2, § 4, art 5, §§ 3, 9. It is in this capacity that Secretary Benson appears before this Court as amicus curiae.

After the adoption of new redistricting plans, the Secretary, through her Bureau of Elections, must update Michigan’s electronic list of approximately eight million registered voters to ensure that voters are placed within the correct voting districts. This is a labor-intensive process that involves considerable back and forth with the 1,520 local clerks around the state and thus typically takes months to implement—historically, no less than six months. The intent of the Bureau is to

have the updates finalized for congressional and state house and senate districts by the April 19, 2022 filing deadline for these offices.

Plaintiffs ask this Court to declare the new state house plan unconstitutional and to remand to the Commission for the possible redrawing and adoption of a new plan. But time is of the essence here. The plans were adopted by the Commission on December 28, 2021, and for the last six weeks the Bureau of Elections has worked diligently to implement the new districts into the voter roll. Nevertheless, the Bureau has weeks of work left to do. If this Court is persuaded to grant Plaintiffs' relief, this Court should order the Commission to adopt a new plan on an expedited basis. The Court may also wish to consider ordering additional relief related to the statutory deadlines for candidates seeking these offices.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Secretary Benson adopts and incorporates the facts as set forth in the Defendant Commission's brief in opposition to the complaint. The Secretary, as amicus curiae, states only those facts necessary to support her position in this brief.

As this Court is generally aware from the lawsuit brought by Secretary Benson and the Commission in June of 2021, see *In re Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission*, Case No. 162891, the U.S. Census Bureau's delay in releasing final redistricting data delayed the work of the Commission, causing it to miss constitutionally imposed deadlines. The delay of the Commission's redistricting work in turn delayed the critical work of the Secretary's Bureau of Elections, which begins after redistricting plans are adopted. Const 1963, art 4, § 6(17).

A. The Secretary of State's duty to implement the new maps.

The Bureau of Elections maintains Michigan's qualified voter file (QVF), which is an electronic list of all registered voters in the state—currently over eight million people. MCL 168.509o. For each voter, the QVF contains the list of all districts in which a voter lives, i.e., federal and state house and senate districts, as well as county, city, and school board districts, etc., which is used, among other things, to determine what ballot¹ a voter receives. MCL 168.509q. The QVF also includes a “street index” of addresses for all registered voters in the state. MCL 168.509p(d). After new maps are adopted by the Commission, the Bureau must update the QVF.

The update generally takes place in three phases. In phase one, the new district lines will be added to the QVF. In phase two, the “street index” will be reviewed to identify where districts have changed, and an update to registrations will be made where voters’ districts have changed. To accomplish these updates, the Bureau will do what it can to electronically move large groups of voters at one time. Even so, manual, address-by-address changes will still be required for thousands and thousands of voters where district boundaries limit the use of large or global moves. In the third and final phase, the Bureau of Elections in collaboration with the over 1,500 local clerks will manually review and modify voting precincts, as necessary. See MCL 168.654a, 168.661. This is an extensive

¹ In a statewide election year, there are upwards of 50,000 unique ballot styles in use around the state after accounting for the many and varied layers of offices up for election.

and time-intensive process with several discussions between the local clerks and the Bureau.

With respect to the last redistricting cycle in 2010-2011, the update to the QVF took approximately six months. The Commission's constitutional deadline of November 1 to adopt plans would ordinarily accommodate the Bureau of Elections' multi-month process of updating the QVF. The updates to the QVF should be completed in time to accommodate candidates seeking to run in the August 2, 2022 primary election.

The deadline to collect signatures and file nominating petitions for accessing the primary ballot is April 19, 2022 (the 15th Tuesday before the primary).² This includes nominating petitions for congressional representatives, MCL 168.133, and state senators and representatives, MCL 168.163. The completion of this process is essential to the nomination process so the potential candidates can know not only *whom* they would represent, but whether or not they *can*, as Michigan Election Law requires candidates to live in the state senate and house district they wish to represent. MCL 168.162. But more significantly, the Bureau of Elections and the local clerks need to have the QVF updated in order to canvass nominating petitions and determine whether petition-signers are registered to vote in the candidate's district. As a result, the QVF updates for these offices must be completed by the April 19 filing deadline.

² See Michigan Election Dates 2022, p 3, available at [2022 Election Dates Booklet \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/elections/0,4601,0,0,0,0.html).

B. Status of the Bureau of Elections' update of the qualified voter file.

The Commission adopted new congressional and state house and senate plans on December 28, 2021. Shortly thereafter, the Bureau began working to update the QVF.

The Bureau is presently working on phase one of the update (and has been working on phase one since the districts were drawn more than a month ago). In this phase, the Bureau is automatically updating county commissioner, state house, state senate, and congressional district assignments for jurisdictions that are within a single district. For example, Munising Township in Alger County is entirely contained within a single state house, state senate, and congressional district. This phase should be completed in the next two weeks. (Ex 1, Bureau Bulletins.)

In the second phase, the Bureau will geocode QVF addresses and pre-assign updated district values to street segments based on their location. (*Id.*)³ This means that new county commissioner, state house, state senate, and congressional district values will be applied (as necessary) to all street segments in jurisdictions split by a district. (*Id.*) For example, Munising Township is split by county commissioner districts 1 and 2. All QVF street segments in Munising Township will automatically be assigned their new county commissioner district during phase two. (*Id.*) Geocoding, a new process for the Bureau, will speed up the

³ Geocoding is a technique that assigns location values (latitude and longitude coordinates) to addresses. This allows QVF addresses to be placed on a map, and seen relative to the new county commissioner, state house, state senate, and congressional districts. (Ex 1.)

updates, but because it does not always result in the address being placed in the correct district location, the third phase of the update is significant. (*Id.*)

In phase three, local clerks will (1) review the pre-assigned district values and (2) communicate precinct boundary changes to the Bureau. (*Id.*) This manual review step is critical again because geocoding will not always automatically assign addresses the correct district values. (*Id.*) For example, Munising Township will visually compare the new automatically assigned county commissioner district values in the QVF to the new county commissioner district maps approved by the Alger County Reapportionment Committee. If the township is satisfied that the county commissioner district assignments in QVF match the map, and if the township is not altering the precinct boundaries for the districts, no further action is needed. (*Id.*)

Assuming all three phases go according to plan, the Bureau presently estimates that the updates to the QVF will be completed by April 19, 2022 for congressional and state house and senate districts.

ARGUMENT

I. Secretary Benson has no position whether the state house plan adopted by the Commission meets the constitutional criteria. If this Court remands for the drawing of a new plan, it should consider ordering the process be expedited and further consider ordering additional relief relating to candidate filing deadlines.

Secretary Benson was not involved in drawing or approving the adopted maps and has no position on their constitutionality. Indeed, defense of the maps is best left to the body that drew them—the Commission. The Secretary's purpose in filing this amicus curiae brief is to advise the Court of impending deadlines

impacting the August 2, 2022, primary election. While this date may seem distant, in the election context it is right around the corner.

Below is a list of important deadlines:

Date and Time	Action	Statute
March 23	State house or senate candidate must have resided within city or township in district at least 30 days before filing deadline.	MCL 168.10, 168.161
April 19	Candidates for partisan office must file nominating petitions (or fee if applicable) and affidavit of identity for the August primary	MCL 168.93, 168.133, 168.163
April 22	Deadline for candidates to withdraw from the August primary	MCL 168.133, 168.163
April 26	Deadline to submit challenges against nominating petitions filed by partisan candidates to filing official	MCL 168.552
May 31	Board of State Canvassers must complete canvass of nominating petitions filed by candidates for the August Primary; Secretary of State certifies candidates eligible to appear on August primary ballot to county election commissions by June 3.	MCL 168.552
June 3	Approximate date county clerks can begin process of printing ballots for the August primary	
June 18	Delivery of military and overseas absent voter ballots must begin	MCL 168.759a
June 18	Deadline for county clerks to deliver absent voter ballots for the August primary to local clerks	MCL 168.714
June 23	Deadline for absent voter ballots to be made available to voters	Const 1963, art 2 § 4
August 2	State Primary	

As noted above, under the current schedule and based on the adopted, existing plans, the Bureau **anticipates** having the QVF updated for the new congressional, state house, and state senate districts by April 19. This would

ensure that the new districts may be utilized for filing and canvassing nominating petitions, although accomplishing this task in the census-delay shortened timeline is difficult.

The Secretary of State is the filing official for congressional candidates and state house and state senate candidates whose districts cross county lines. MCL 168.133, 168.163.⁴ Candidates whose districts lie solely within one county file nominating petitions (or fees as applicable) with the county clerk. (*Id.*)⁵ So, the Secretary of State and the county clerks will receive numerous nominating petitions come April of 2022. These filing officials will then have to canvass the nominating petitions to determine whether they are supported by the requisite number of valid signatures from registered voters within the districts, see MCL 168.544f, and process any challenges to nominating petitions that are submitted by the deadline. The candidates must then be certified to appear on the ballot, which must occur by May 31, 2022. After that date, counties will begin preparation for printing ballots. By June 18, 2022, absent voter ballots must be available for delivery to military and overseas voters.

In addition to candidate filings, the Secretary of State and local clerks may also be processing petitions to place proposals on the ballot. For example, the Secretary is the filing official for petitions to initiate legislation. See Const 1963, art 2, § 9. These petitions may be filed with the Secretary of State until June 1,

⁴ See Filing for Office, Bureau of Elections, January 2022, p 2, available at [Filing for Office Partisan Offices 2022 719292 7.pdf \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/bureauofelections/filingforofficepartisanoffices2022_719292_7.pdf),

⁵ *Id.*

2022. MCL 168.471. Accordingly, the Secretary's Bureau of Elections may, and usually is, canvassing initiative petitions and nominating petitions at the same time. This involves reviewing hundreds of thousands of signatures.

The April 19 deadline for nominating petitions is just one of many deadlines that carefully control the election processes leading up to the August 2, 2022, primary election. These deadlines help ensure that the filing official responsible for canvassing such petitions has time to perform the canvass, that the slate of candidates can be properly certified and that ballots can be printed, proofed, and ready for delivery by the local clerks to absent ballot voters, including military and overseas voters.

A remand to the Commission for redrawing and adopting a state house plan would, or could potentially, re-start the QVF update all over again, depending on how different the maps turn out to be. And the Bureau would not be able to continue the process until the Commission adopted revised maps. Candidates, of course, have been using the previously proposed and adopted maps to determine whether to run and in which district. And while residency in the district is not an issue for congressional candidates, and circulating petitions is not an issue for state house or state senate candidates, by April 19, 2022 all candidates must file affidavits of identity that disclose the office and numerical district sought. See MCL 168.551.⁶ If a candidate's affidavit of identity includes the wrong numerical

⁶ Candidates for state house and senate seats do not need to file nominating petitions. Instead, they can pay a \$100 filing fee and file an affidavit of identity to access the primary ballot. MCL 168.163, MCL 168.558. However, these candidates must live in the districts in which they seek to run for 30 days prior to the filing

district, the candidate's filing will be disqualified.⁷ But if the Court remands for redrawing and the adoption of a new plan, it is unclear to the Secretary that the QVF will be updated by April 19, 2022 for these races; completing this task under an even more significantly shortened timeline may not be possible.

Given these concerns, if this Court is inclined to remand for the adoption of a new plan, the Secretary suggests the Court order the Commission to complete the plan under an expedited timeline.

There is, of course, the possibility of an additional remedy. Because the filing deadline is set by statute, the Legislature could relieve the Bureau and candidates by briefly extending the deadline through legislation. Indeed, such legislation was previously introduced, extending the filing deadline until May 10, 2022 (the 12th Tuesday before the primary election). See House Bills 4642 and 4643.⁸ The legislation has not moved. Regardless, this Court has previously extended the deadline to file nominating petitions and filing fees in the context of directing the adoption of a redistricting plan. See *In re Apportionment of State Legislature – 1972*, 387 Mich 442, 458 (1972). Thus, the Court on its own initiative could provide additional relief.

deadline. Congressional candidates do not have a filing fee option and must file nominating petitions, but congressional candidates do not need to live in their districts at the time nominating petitions are filed. MCL 168.131. 168.133.

⁷ See Filing for Office, Bureau of Elections, p 3, available at [Filing for Office Partisan Offices 2022 719292 7.pdf \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/bureauofelections/filingforofficenonpartisanoffices2022_719292_7.pdf) (accessed February 9, 2022.)

⁸ The bills are available at [Michigan Legislature - House Bill 4642 \(2021\)](https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Bills/Details/HB/4642/2021) (HB 4642) and [Michigan Legislature - House Bill 4643 \(2021\)](https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Bills/Details/HB/4643/2021) (HB 4643) (accessed February 7, 2022).

CONCLUSION AND RELIEF REQUESTED

For the reasons set forth above, Amicus Curiae Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson respectfully requests that if this Court grants relief and remands to the Commission for the redrawing and adoption of a state house plan, the Court order maps be redrawn and adopted on a significantly expedited schedule while adjusting other statutory and constitutional deadlines that are impacted.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Heather S. Meingast

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Dated: February 9, 2022

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SECRETARY OF STATE JOCELYN BENSON'S AMICUS CURIAE
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EXHIBIT 1

1. Secretary of State News Updates

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Michigan Secretary of State's Office

1/27/2022 News Update - Redistricting Edition #2

Michigan Secretary of State sent this bulletin at 01/27/2022 04:54 PM EST

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January 27, 2022

Special Redistricting Edition



The Bureau of Elections is currently working to update the QVF with new district assignments based on post-2020 census redistricting. Compared to prior redistricting cycles, BOE has modernized the redistricting approach in order to make QVF updates as efficient as possible for BOE and clerks. Updates to QVF are proceeding in 3 phases. During the first phase, BOE is automatically updating County Commissioner, State House, State Senate and US Congressional district assignments for jurisdictions that are within a single district. This phase should be completed within the next two weeks. In the second phase, BOE will geocode QVF addresses and pre-assign updated district values to street segments based on their location. In Phase 3, local clerks will both review the pre-assigned district values and communicate precinct boundary changes to BOE. Geocoding addresses to pre-assign them significantly speeds up the process but because it does not always result in the address being in the correct district location, the third phase is critical to ensure addresses are in the right districts.

Clerks may submit precinct boundary changes either by submitting a "marked up" street index listing report (the system used after the 2010 redistricting), or can use the newly developed electronic redistricting module in QVF. Instructions on how to use this new module will be available soon. If anyone would prefer to start the process of determining new precinct boundaries before their redistricting is complete in QVF, a custom voter list can be exported from QVF to help with this process. See the related article, *Custom Voter List for Precinct Totals*.

The Bureau will continue to communicate updates via these weekly special redistricting News Updates to keep you apprised of the progress. Stay tuned for next week's newsletter for details about new voter information (ID) cards.

In this issue:

- Overview
- What is Geocoding?
- Approved Maps from Independent Redistricting Commission
- Custom Voter List for Precinct Totals

What is Geocoding?



Geocoding is a technique that assigns location values (latitude and longitude coordinates) to addresses. This allows QVF addresses to be placed on a map, and seen relative to the new County Commissioner, State House, State Senate, and US Congressional Districts.

Approved Maps from Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

Approved, interactive maps can be viewed at [this webpage](#).

Shape Files: For those using local GIS assistance to draw new precinct boundaries, the shape files for the approved maps (Chestnut, Linden & Hickory) can be downloaded from [this webpage](#).

The new maps will soon be viewable in the state of Michigan District Locator webpage, which includes municipal and precinct boundary layers as well as the district layers. Currently, the tool still has the post-2010 redistricting layers. BOE will inform clerks when this website is available with the updated maps.

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Custom Voter List for Precinct Totals



A Custom Voter List can be used to estimate voter population totals for new precincts. To generate the report from QVF, follow the steps below. Once the report is generated, you may apply filters, then sort columns based on street name and/or house number. Using the report in this way requires you to visually check the location of streets within your new precincts on a separate map, then tally up the voter records on the custom voter list for that area. Although it can be time-consuming, this method does give you an idea of voter population for new precincts. Inactive/IVF voters may be excluded from the calculation of precinct size. They are still considered eligible voters, but are not counted toward the maximum allowable precinct population. For the purpose of planning resources for running a precinct, you can choose to leave them off this report. Refer to the optional criteria shown below.



Reports>Custom Voter List, Report Options:

Output Format: Listing

Report Format: CSV

Grouping: Ward Precinct

Sort: Address/Last/First/Middle

*Optional Report Criteria

- Select specific precincts for export using the Geography & Precincts tabs
- Exclude the voters on the inactive file by checking the "Exclude Voters in IVF" box

Questions? Please contact the Bureau of Elections at 1-800-292-5973 or elections@michigan.gov.

The Bureau of Elections News Update will always be sent to the Clerk and Deputy Clerk email accounts. If other election administrators would like to receive this newsletter as well use the Subscribe link below to have it sent directly to another email account.

It is recommended that you add [miso@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov](mailto:misos@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov) and MISOS@public.govdelivery.com to your safe senders list.



Questions?
[Contact Us](#)

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1/27/2022 News Update - Redistricting Edition #2

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2/3/2022 News Update - Redistricting Edition #3 - Voter ID Cards, Three-Phase Redistricting Approach and Recall Elections in May/Ballot Admin



Michigan Secretary of State sent this bulletin at 02/03/2022 04:01 PM EST

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)



February 3, 2022

Special Redistricting Edition #3



Voter Information Card (Voter ID Card) Tool for Voters Impacted by Redistricting

The Bureau is developing a special feature in QVF to help you manage your Voter Information Cards (Voter ID cards) for voters impacted by redistricting and reapportionment. The feature will assist you in keeping these cards separate from cards you print on a regular basis from the Inbox. You may choose to print the cards yourself in-house, or export the data to send to a vendor for printing. We anticipate this report/export will be available in QVF by late March. Prior to printing new Voter Information Cards, clerks must review their QVF Street Index changes for accuracy, and any necessary polling location changes should be completed before printing/exporting Voter Information Cards. Once BOE has the functionality and administrative steps in place, we will communicate how changes can be reviewed, and how Voter Information Cards can be generated from QVF.

In this issue:

- Voter Information Card (Voter ID Card) Tool for Voters Impacted by Redistricting
- Three-Phase Redistricting Approach in Detail
- Recall Elections in May and QVF Ballot Admin



Three-Phase Redistricting Approach in Detail

The Bureau of Elections is currently working to update the QVF with new district assignments based on post-2020 census redistricting. Updates to QVF will happen in 3 phases. During the first phase, BOE is automatically updating County Commissioner, State House, State Senate and US Congressional district assignments for jurisdictions that are within a single district. For example, Munising Township is entirely contained within a single State House, State Senate, and US Congressional district – 109, 38, and 1, respectively.

These districts will automatically be assigned during Phase 1. This phase should be completed within the next two weeks.

In the second phase, BOE will geocode QVF addresses, and pre-assign updated district values to street segments based on their location. This means that new county commissioner, State House, State Senate and US Congressional district values will be applied (as necessary) to all street segments in jurisdictions split by a district. For example, Munising Township is split by county commissioner districts 1 and 2. All QVF street segments in Munising Township will automatically be assigned

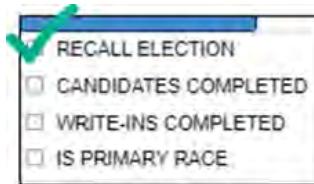
Recall Elections in May & QVF Ballot Admin



Recall elections on the May 3rd, 2022 ballot must be conducted using the boundaries prior to the 2022 redistricting & reapportionment. The Bureau will refrain from applying district and precinct boundary changes to those communities with a recall until after the May election. It is important to note that counties must check the recall box while completing Ballot Admin, to indicate when an office on the ballot is a recall, no later than

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March 7th, the deadline for the May Election Ballot Admin. Please notify the Bureau ASAP if you anticipate a recall election in May by emailing ElectionData@Michigan.gov.



their new county commissioner district during Phase 2.

In Phase 3, local clerks will (1) review the pre-assigned district values and then (2) communicate precinct boundary changes to BOE. This manual review step is critical, because geocoding address will not always automatically assign addresses the correct district values. For example, Munising Township will visually compare the new automatically assigned county commissioner district values in QVF to the new county commissioner district maps approved by the Alger County reapportionment committee. If the township is satisfied the county commissioner district assignments in QVF match the map, and if the township is not altering their precinct boundaries, no further action is needed.



Helpful Links



Questions? Please contact the Bureau of Elections at 1-800-292-5973 or elections@michigan.gov.

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