

VNP Policy Overview

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Redistricting in the US

Source: <http://redistricting.ils.edu/who.php>

- **State Legislatures:** In 37 states, the legislature has primary control of state legislative districts and 42 have primary control over congressional lines.
- **Advisory Commissions:** Iowa, Maine, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont appoint advisory commissions to assist redistricting.
- **Backup Commissions:** Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Texas utilize backup commissions if the legislature cannot agree on a plan.
- **Politician Commissions:** Arkansas, Colorado, Hawaii, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, and Pennsylvania have elected officials creating redistricting plans.
- **Independent Commissions:** Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana and Washington use Independent commissions whose membership are neither public officials or lawmakers.

Redistricting: redrawing of districts to reflect population size according to the most recent Census.

Frequency: Every 10 years

Data: US Census

District equality: Equal population

Minority protection: Voting Rights Act

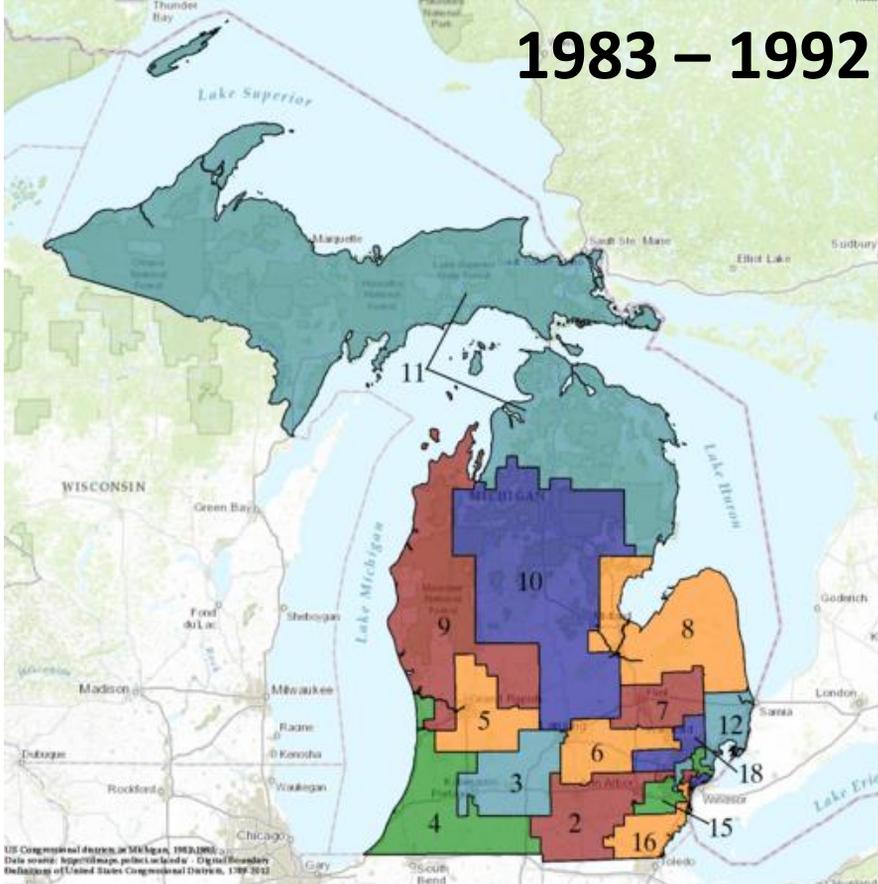
Redistricting in Michigan

Source: <http://redistricting.lis.edu/who.php>

State Legislature currently draws the state legislative district and congressional lines.

- › Committees in both houses, which are populated according to the majority party in the legislature are in charge of drawing both sets of lines.
- › Maps are submitted as statute to the legislature
- › Gubernatorial veto possible
- › Michigan Supreme Court can hear challenges

1983 – 1992



United States Congressional Districts in Michigan: 1983 – 1992

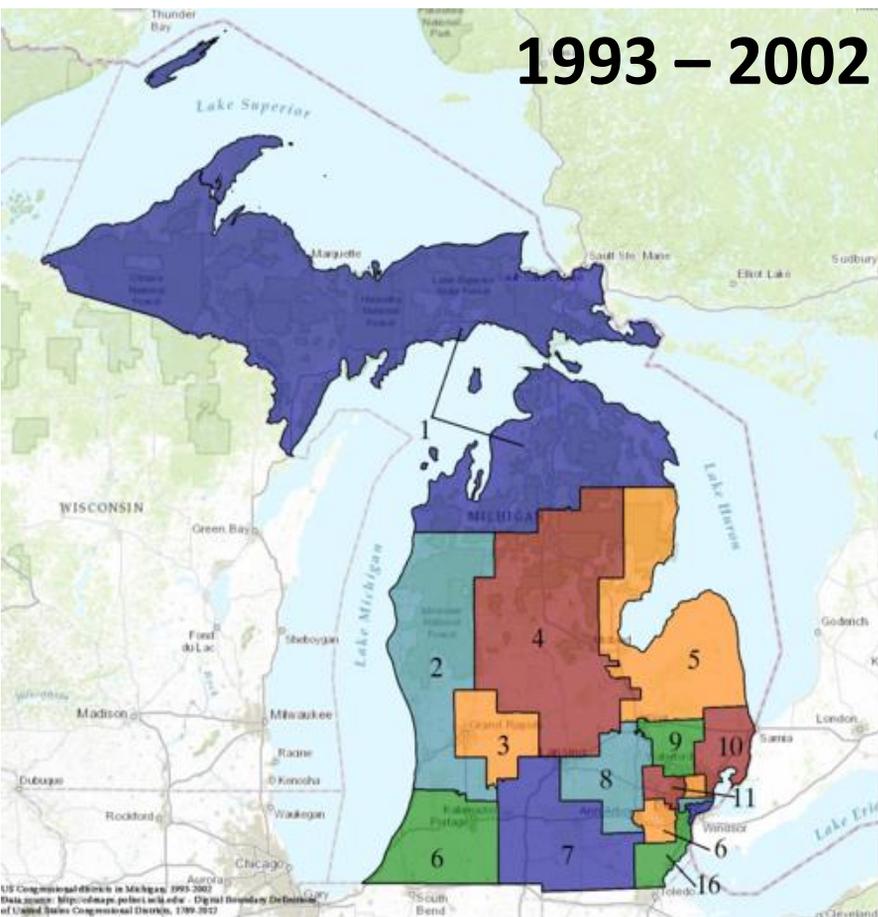
Detroit Metro Highlight



US Congressional Districts in Michigan, 1983-1992
Data source: <https://imgur.com/gallery/1983-1992>
Digitized Boundary Database of United States Congressional Districts, 1789-2023

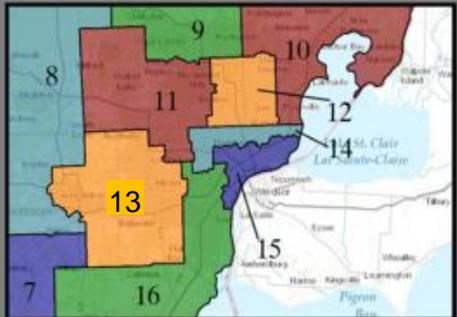
Wikipedia: Political Party Strength in Michigan

1993 – 2002



United States Congressional Districts in Michigan: 1993 – 2002

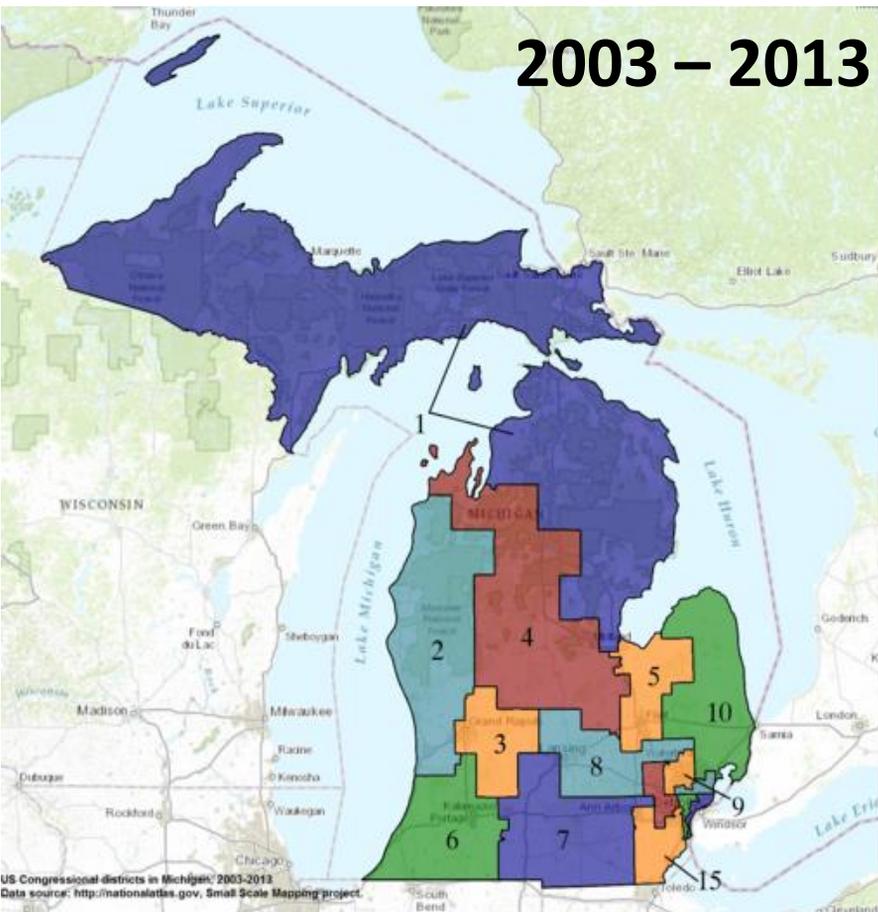
Detroit Metro Highlight



US Congressional Districts in Michigan: 1993-2002
Data source: Michigan.gov, 1993-2002
Digital Boundary Definition of United States Congressional Districts, 1999-2002

Wikipedia: Political Party Strength in Michigan

2003 – 2013



US Congressional districts in Michigan, 2003-2013
Data source: <http://nationalatlas.gov>, Small Scale Mapping project.

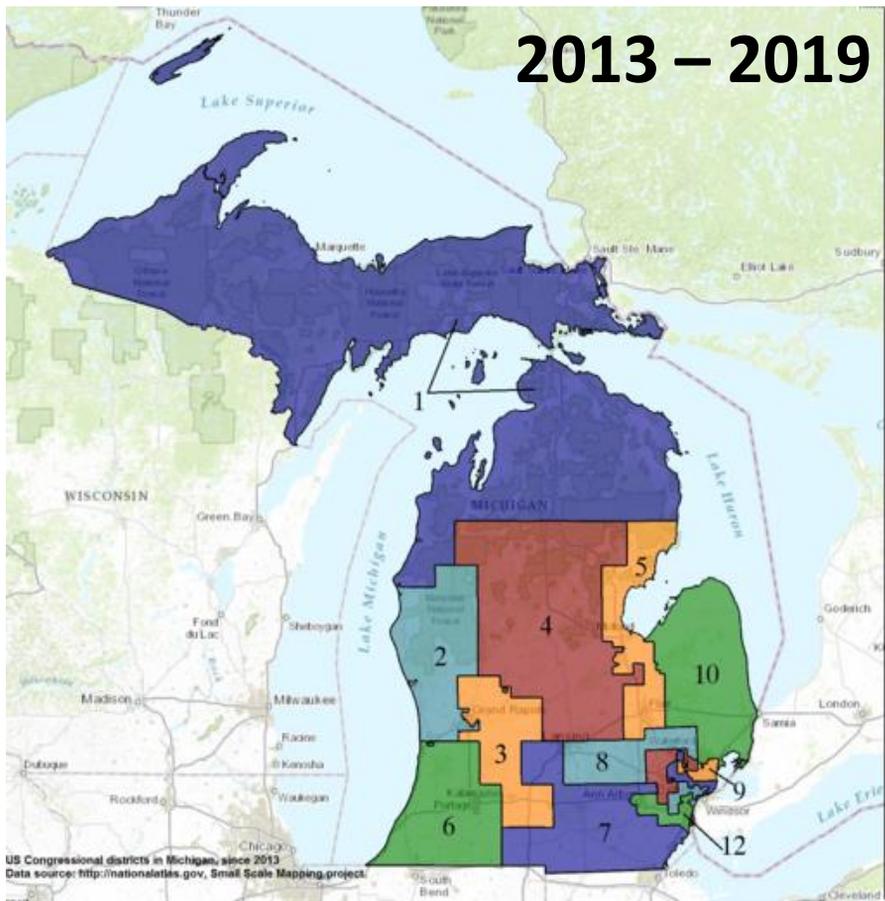
United States Congressional Districts in Michigan: 2003 – 2013

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Wikipedia: Political Party Strength in Michigan

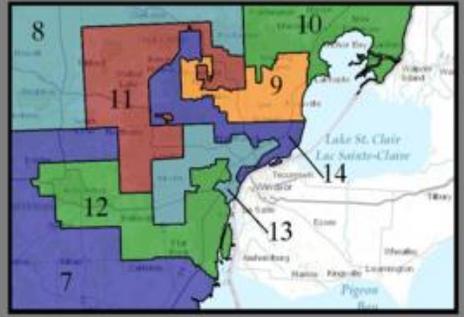
2013 – 2019



US Congressional districts in Michigan, since 2013
Data source: <http://nationstates.gov>, Small Scale Mapping project

United States Congressional Districts in Michigan: Since 2013

Detroit Metro Highlight



Wikipedia: Political Party Strength in Michigan

VNP Policy Process

- > **33 Town Hall Meetings:** Alpena, Detroit, Marquette, Lansing, and beyond.
- > **Citizen Education and Survey:** included question on what features Michiganders wanted in commissioners and which aspects of redistricting they wanted reformed
- > **Policy Committee of Michiganders:** broad membership, subcommittees, included people from all walks of life
- > **Built on Existing Policy:** APOL Standards included with the addition of population diversity, prohibition of favor/disfavor candidates and incumbents and respect for communities of interest

VNP Policy Overview

- > **Voters, Not Politicians:** Citizen-led commission of Michigan voters and no politicians.
- > **Fair:** Must adhere to Federal Constitution and redistricting criteria. Approved by majority of Commissioners.
- > **Independent:** Remove partisan bias by requiring diverse representation. Contains language preventing transfer of power or manipulation from 3 branches of state government.
- > **Transparent:** Public hearings, meetings, and reports are required.

Selection of Commissioners

PROPOSED PROCESS

- **Secretary of State** would be responsible for circulating 10,000 applications for the commission in various regions of state.
- **Secretary of State** would verify applicants' eligibility to serve and their partisan affiliation and eliminate applicants that do not meet qualifications.
- The applicant pool **must mirror** demographic and geographic makeup of the state.
- Randomly selected pools from each category will make up the commission.
- **13 Member Commission** made up of 4 Democrats, 4 Republicans, and 5 unaffiliated or affiliated with a minor party.
- The Secretary of State's role is **administrative**. They are not able to provide advice to commissioners as they complete their work.

Who draws the maps?

PROPOSED PROCESS

- Commissioners must **be registered to vote**.
- Commissioner service has **several restrictions**:
 - Must not be declared or elected officials for state, federal, or local office
 - A member of the leadership board of a national, state, or local political party
 - Paid consultants
 - Employees of the legislature
 - A registered lobbyist, or
 - Related (parents, spouses, or children) to anyone in the categories listed above

Commissioners are also ineligible from holding partisan office at the state, county, city or township level for **five years** after their service.

How are the maps drawn?

Maps drawn with partisan influence behind closed doors



CURRENT PROCESS

Maps drawn with clear criteria fairly and transparently



PROPOSED PROCESS

Map Criteria

PROPOSED PROCESS

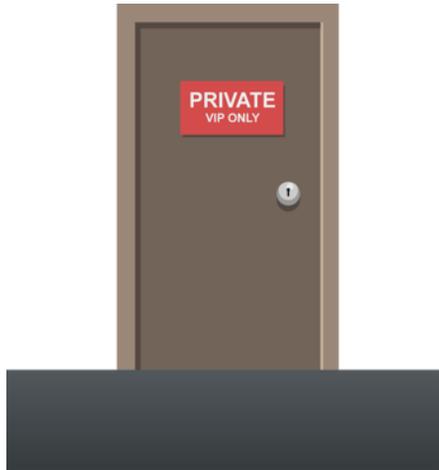
Each district must :

- **Equal Population** as mandated by the US Constitution **and** comply with the Voting Rights Act.
- **Geographically Contiguous**
- Reflect **diverse population** and respect **communities of interest**.
- **Not provide a disproportionate advantage** to any political party using an accepted measure of fairness.
- **Not be drawn to (dis)favor** any candidate or incumbent.
- **Reflect** county, city, and township boundaries wherever possible.
- Be reasonably **compact**.

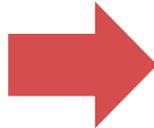
How is the public involved?

Few public hearings or oversight

Reports, methodology, and data must be made public



CURRENT PROCESS



PROPOSED PROCESS

Who approves the maps?

Michigan house, senate, and
governor



CURRENT PROCESS

Majority of Commissioners
including at least 2 Dem, 2 Rep,
and 2 Independents to approve



PROPOSED PROCESS

www.votersnotpoliticians.com

