

In late December, the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission completed their work and voted to adopt new district lines for Michigan's Congressional, State Senate, and State House. These districts are a dramatic departure from the current seats and will change the landscape for the 2022 election.

This analysis will look towards the Primary and General Elections later this year. If you want to read more about how the Commission operated and what criteria they used, please click [here](#) to see the analysis we published in November.

## [Congressional Map](#)

Based on partisan base numbers, there are five safe Democratic seats, five safe Republican seats, and three competitive seats. On the Republican side, Reps. Jack Bergman, Tim Walberg, Lisa McClain, and John Moolenaar all have safe GOP seats to themselves. Rep. Fred Upton and Rep. Bill Huizenga have been drawn into the new 4<sup>th</sup> District, which is also a safe GOP seat. Huizenga has declared his intention to run here, but it is still unclear whether Upton will challenge him in a primary.

On the Democratic side, Rep. Rashida Tlaib, Rep. Dan Kildee, and Rep. Debbie Dingell all have a solidly Democratic district to themselves, even though Dingell must move to the Ann Arbor area to secure her seat. Rep. Andy Levin and Rep. Haley Stevens are both in the new 11<sup>th</sup> District and it is expected that they will both run to keep this seat rather than move. The winner of this primary would be heavily favored to keep this seat in November. Rep. Brenda Lawrence has announced her retirement and Tlaib will be moving into the Southfield/Dearborn/Detroit District that Lawrence lives in. This leaves the other Detroit district open.

The Commission also created three competitive seats. Rep. Peter Meijer saw his district change dramatically. He now has the City of Grand Rapids and its inner-ring suburbs, many of which are trending towards the Democrats. He also picks up Northern Ottawa County and Southern Muskegon County. The addition of the Cities of Muskegon, Muskegon Heights, and Grand Haven all add Democratic areas to this seat. The Redistricting Commission's data puts this seat at 50.1% GOP and 49.9% Democrat. No Democrat has emerged yet, but a rematch with Kent County Democrat Hillary Scholten seems likely.

Rep. Elissa Slotkin has announced that she will move to the Lansing area and run in the new 7<sup>th</sup> district where she will face off against State Senator Tom Barrett. The Commission's data says this district has a 50.4% Dem to 49.6% GOP split, so it is a true tossup. Slotkin will undoubtedly have some incumbency advantage, but Barrett has represented much of the district and should have a strong name ID.

Lastly, the Commission created a competitive seat that includes most of Southern Macomb County as well as Rochester and Rochester Hills in Oakland County. Commission data says this district

has a slight Democratic advantage—51.2% Dem to 48.8% Republican. Rep. Andy Levin represents much of this district but has opted to stay in the 11<sup>th</sup> and run against Rep. Stevens.

It appears that two previously announced primary challenges will proceed. State Rep. Shri Thanedar had announced he is running in the 13<sup>th</sup> District against Rep. Rashida Tlaib, but now Tlaib is moving to the 14<sup>th</sup> because of Rep. Lawrence's retirement. Thanedar has indicated that he will commit \$5 million of his own money to the race, but he will certainly face stiff competition for the Democratic nomination in this open seat. State Rep. Steve Carra had previously announced that he was running against Rep. Fred Upton. Under the new district lines, Carra's House district is in Rep. Tim Walberg's new Congressional District. Carra has indicated that his challenge of Upton will continue, but it's unclear if he will move into the district or run from where he is. The entrance of Rep. Bill Huizenga into this race also complicates things for Carra.

### [State Senate Map](#)

Based on the partisan data used by the Commission, the new State Senate maps will give the Democrats their best chance in 30 years to take back control of the upper chamber. There are 17 seats that where the Democrat has a significant advantage and 15 that should be safely Republican. Control of the Senate will come down to six competitive seats, with the Republicans needing to win five of six to retain control.

- The new 12<sup>th</sup> District contains Eastern Macomb County, Southern St. Clair County, plus Harper Woods and all five of the Grosse Pointes in Wayne County. The data used by the Commission says this is a pure 50/50 district, but the area has trended towards the Republicans recently. Rep. Kevin Hertel is a likely candidate for the Democrats. Republican Rep. Pam Hornberger has announced she will run in this district; it is unclear if there are any other Republican challengers at this time.
- The new 30<sup>th</sup> District contains the Northern part of the City of Grand Rapids, some of the Northern suburbs, and the Northeast portion of Ottawa County. Sen. Mark Huizenga will run for reelection here. No Democrat has yet announced, but Rep. David LaGrand could be a potential candidate.
- The 32<sup>nd</sup> District runs from Muskegon County north along the lakeshore to Benzie County. Most of this district is in Sen. Jon Bumstead's current district, but Bumstead does not live in the new 32<sup>nd</sup>. Sen. Curt VanderWall lives in the Northern part of the district. Bumstead has indicated that he will move into Muskegon County and run for reelection in this district, pitting him against VanderWall in the primary. Rep. Terry Sabo is the likely candidate for the Democrats in what will inevitably be a very competitive general election.
- The 9<sup>th</sup> District contains Troy, Rochester and Rochester Hills, part of Oakland Township, and the Western part of Sterling Heights. Former Representative Michael Webber has declared for the seat as a Republican. Webber represented the Rochester area during his

three terms in the House. No Democrats have declared, but Rep. Padma Kuppa would be a natural candidate for the Democrats.

- The 11<sup>th</sup> District contains a small portion of the City of Detroit, then runs North through Eastpointe, Roseville, and portions of Clinton and Macomb Townships. On paper this district favors the Democrats. Sen. Mike MacDonald is hoping his incumbency advantage will help him prevail over whoever the Democrats nominate to oppose him.
- The 35<sup>th</sup> District contains the cities of Midland, Bay City, and Saginaw. The Commission pegs this as a 53% seat for the Democrats, but outside of Saginaw, the district is trending towards the GOP. Rep. Annette Glenn is in for the Republicans. Former Rep. Tim Kelly is also looking at a run. The Democrats don't have a candidate yet, but there are a lot of former House members in the district that will inevitably take a look.

Not surprisingly, there are many potential primaries looming in August. On the Republican side, Sens. Rick Outman and Jon Bumstead both live in the new 33<sup>rd</sup> District. However, as mentioned above, Bumstead is likely to move into Muskegon County and run in the 32<sup>nd</sup> and run against Sen. Curt VanderWall.

Sens. Aric Nesbitt and Kim LaSata both currently live in the new 20<sup>th</sup> District, but almost all LaSata's current district is now in the new 17<sup>th</sup>. If LaSata is willing to move, she will have that new district to herself.

On the Democratic side, the new 8<sup>th</sup> District contains the current residences of Sens. Marshall Bullock, Mallory McMorrow, and Rosemary Bayer. Bayer is likely moving to the new 13<sup>th</sup> District. McMorrow has indicated she is staying put and running against Bullock in the primary. Bullock is unlikely to move. Any move to a neighboring district would create a primary against another incumbent Democrat.

Sen. Stephanie Chang has announced she will move into the new 3<sup>rd</sup> District, setting up a primary with Sen. Adam Hollier.

### [State House Map](#)

The new House Map adopted by the Commission creates a path to victory for both Democrats and Republicans this fall. There are 39 seats that seem safe for the Democrats and 43 seats that seem safe for the Republicans, leaving 28 seats in play. The Commission focused on unpacking Democratic voters in urban areas by splitting up cities into multiple districts and pairing them with the surrounding suburbs and rural communities. This has created new competitive seats based in the suburbs of Grand Rapids and Lansing in addition to the traditionally competitive areas Downriver and in Oakland and Macomb Counties.

With so many seats in reach for both parties, national and statewide trends will have a larger impact on the balance in the State House than in years before.

There are potential primaries in the House as well. But with a significant portion of the current membership leaving due to term limits, the potential primaries are limited. On the GOP side, Reps. Jack O'Malley and John Roth were both drawn into the new 103<sup>rd</sup> District. This week the two announced that O'Malley would run in that district while Roth would move to the neighboring 104<sup>th</sup>, which is an open seat.

Reps. Matt Hall and Sarah Lightner have been drawn together in the new 45<sup>th</sup> District. This district, consisting of parts of Kalamazoo, Calhoun, and Jackson Counties, is made up of much of Hall's existing district. Lightner has indicated that she is not going to move, even if the geography gives her a disadvantage. If he is so inclined, Hall could move into the neighboring 42<sup>nd</sup> District.

Reps. Gary Eisen and Andrew Beeler have both been placed into the new 64<sup>th</sup> District. Geographically, the new district significantly favors Beeler. Neither Representative has indicated what they plan to do next.

There are three potential primaries on the Democratic side. Reps. Helena Scott and Regina Weiss have been placed together in the 6<sup>th</sup> District, Reps. Stephanie Young and Mary Cavanaugh are both in the 16<sup>th</sup> District, and Reps. Tyrone Carter and Cynthia Johnson are both in the 1<sup>st</sup> District. Weiss has stated that her current plan is to remain in the 6<sup>th</sup> and run for reelection there. None of the other five candidates have publicly discussed their plans at this time.

### **Litigation**

A group of current and former African American legislators have announced a lawsuit challenging all three maps produced by the Commission. The plaintiffs will argue that the maps are not in compliance with the Federal Voting Rights Act because they do not create enough majority-minority districts. A majority-minority district is a district where a single minority group makes up a majority of the voting age population. The Commission's Voting Rights attorney argued that the VRA does not require minority-majority districts. Rather, he claims that it requires districts that give minority groups the ability to elect their candidate of choice. Based on his analysis, this allowed the Commission to create districts with a lower percentage of African American voters that they claim are still in compliance with the Voting Rights Act.

Even if this lawsuit, or any that come later, succeeds, the Commission would still control the drafting of any required revisions to the maps. Because of this, wholesale rewriting of the maps is unlikely.

This redistricting process has been new for all of us, and we won't know the full impact until after the elections in November. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your GCSI executive.

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