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## Washtenaw County - Apportionment Commission Public Input - Submission #11374

Date Submitted: 10/20/2021

### Washtenaw County Apportionment Commission

Per MCL 46.401, the Washtenaw County Apportionment Commission must meet "within 60 days after the publication of the latest United States official decennial census figures, the county apportionment commission in each county of this state shall apportion the county into not less than 5 nor more than 21 county commissioner districts as nearly of equal population as is practicable..."

Washtenaw County currently has 9 county commissioner districts.

Submissions on this form go directly to the Washtenaw County Apportionment Commission.

### Contact Information

Please provide your contact information. Any personally identifying information will be redacted in public records.

Name\*

Andrew

Email Address\*

Brouwer

Address\*

City\*

State\*

Zip Code\*

MI

48130

Phone Number

### Apportionment Input

To the Washtenaw County Apportionment Commission, We are writing to support a county apportionment plan that \*does not\* split the City of Dexter from Webster Township. As residents of Webster Township, we have a Dexter address and consider ourselves closely tied to Dexter, culturally and economically. Currently, only apportionment plans 11A, B, and C do not split Dexter from Webster Township, and we hope that the Commission will pursue these, or similar, plans. Sincerely, Andrew Brouwer & Martin Halprin

Please provide any input you would like to give to the Apportionment Commission.

### Commissioner District Apportionment

No Opinion

Decrease Commissioner Districts (5-8)

Maintain Commissioner Districts (9)

Increase Commissioner Districts (10-15)

Increase Commissioner Districts (16-21)

Please indicate if you would like to decrease district seats, maintain district seats, increase district seats, or have no opinion.

### File Upload

No file selected

Please provide any files you would like to share with the Apportionment Commission.

Note: If uploading GIS files, please submit a shapefile or a file geodatabase.

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## Washtenaw County - Apportionment Commission Public Input - Submission #11400

Date Submitted: 10/25/2021

### Washtenaw County Apportionment Commission

Per MCL 46.401, the Washtenaw County Apportionment Commission must meet "within 60 days after the publication of the latest United States official decennial census figures, the county apportionment commission in each county of this state shall apportion the county into not less than 5 nor more than 21 county commissioner districts as nearly of equal population as is practicable..."

Washtenaw County currently has 9 county commissioner districts.

Submissions on this form go directly to the Washtenaw County Apportionment Commission.

### Contact Information

Please provide your contact information. Any personally identifying information will be redacted in public records.

Name\*

Email Address\*

Desirae Simmons

Address\*

City\*

State\*

Zip Code\*

Ann Arbor

MI

48104

Phone Number

### Apportionment Input

I am attaching the responses to a community survey that the ICPJ network put out using [bit.ly/CountyMaps2021](https://bit.ly/CountyMaps2021). This was primarily to give folks an opportunity to express support for the specific maps that the commission is considering, and in particular, the number of districts.

Please provide any input you would like to give to the Apportionment Commission.

### Commissioner District Apportionment



No Opinion



Decrease Commissioner Districts (5-8)



Maintain Commissioner Districts (9)



Increase Commissioner Districts (10-15)



Increase Commissioner Districts (16-21)

Please indicate if you would like to decrease district seats, maintain district seats, increase district seats, or have no opinion.

### File Upload

#### Apportionment Comment with Survey Info.pdf

Please provide any files you would like to share with the Apportionment Commission.

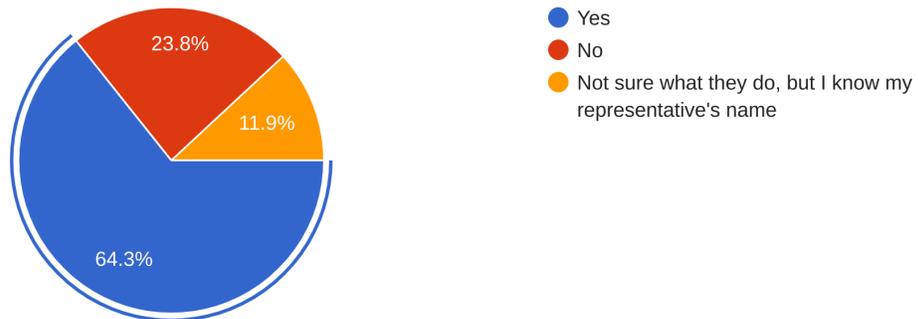
Note: If uploading GIS files, please submit a shapefile or a file geodatabase.

This informal survey was used to try to connect with people in areas that can be impacted by this apportionment process. We had hoped to be able to do some in-person events in particular areas like MacArthur Blvd in Superior Township and West Willow but were not able to do so ourselves. We definitely would encourage the commission to try.

The results are from 42 responses in about 3-4 days.

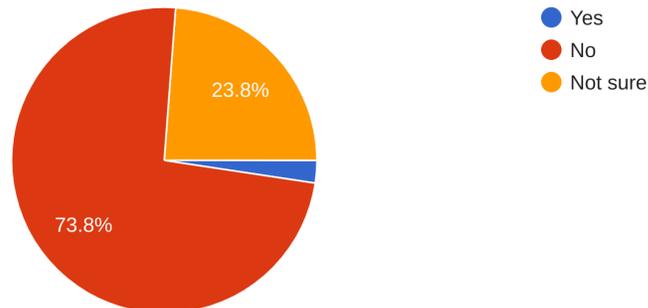
Do you know who your County Commissioner is and what they do?

42 responses



Does the status quo deliver appropriate funding resources for your community's needs?

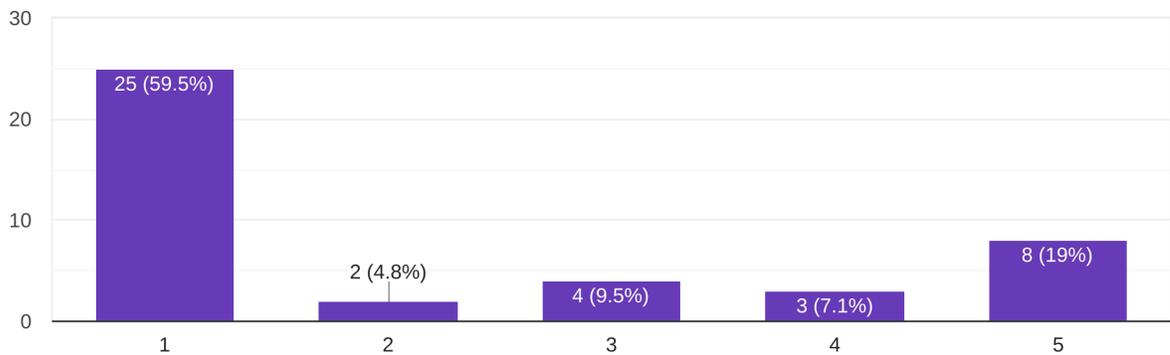
42 responses



Overall Goal - To accomplish the County Commission stated goal to achieve racial and economic equity throughout the county through expanded democratic representation: 1) Start map drawing on the east side of the county instead of the west side which has been the focus in the past. 2) A dedicated commissioner for Ypsilanti Township to address the structural inequities. 3) Equal proportional representation between Ann Arbor and other districts with similar population yet less wealth per the Opportunity Index. 4) 20,000-30,000 constituents per commissioner (on par with the rest of state). 5) Don't split up neighborhoods and keep alike communities together. 6) Expand access to county government for all and especially the most vulnerable populations.

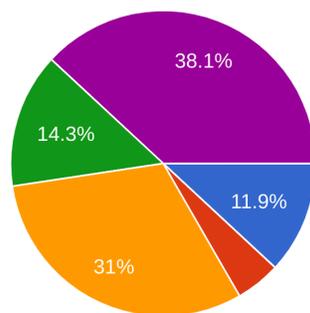
Do you agree with these criteria of centering racial and economic justice goals in this process?

42 responses



How many County Commissioners would you like to see?

42 responses



- 9 Districts: This map is based on our current districts with updates due to p...
- 11 Districts: This map would return us to the number of commissioners we had...
- 13 Districts: This map was drawn by a community member that is part of our...
- 15 Districts: This map would return us to the number of commissioners we had...
- 13 Districts: This map was drawn by a community member that is part of our...

Note: The purple and the orange are both for 13 districts. Based on feedback from a respondent, I updated the form to make clear that the 13 district map combined Ypsi Township and a part of Superior Township.

Sample of responses to “Anything else you’d like to share?”

“If the Washtenaw County commissioners want to truly act in congruence with the racial equity initiative enacted in 2018 with the creation of the Racial Equity Office, they should vote for the map with 13 commissioner districts developed by the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice network! That plan does not split neighborhoods and allows for equitable representation for the residents impacted by present and historical racial and economic inequity. County funding, development and oversight of all programs and services would all be more racially equitable with such commissioner representation. I live in Ypsilanti Township and have unfairly benefited with the institutional racism of county policies and programs because I am white. Please support the racial equity policy and put some teeth into it with your vote for the 13 commissioner districts map! This comment was submitted by Ypsilanti Township resident Janet Nord, from district 5 represented by Justin Hodge.”

“My support would be for 15 commissioners, with 13 as my fallback preference. It is critical that all county residents have knowledgeable representation.”

“I am still struggling with understanding what the best decision would be. I’m torn between keeping it as is and the 15 seat option. I’m worried about the southern district in ypsi and basically our board getting more conservative.”

“I like idea of 13-15 but not sure I agree with presented maps. I think we need new faces and more representation.”

“Ann arbor has a third of the population and will always have a third of the seats.”

“Ypsi twp will never have its "own" commissioner because its too big with 55k people. It would be nice to have another voice on the eastside though...”

“The 13-district map also has the virtue of creating a majority student district, or at least a student-centered one, in Ann Arbor.”

“I am deeply invested in the idea that districts should allow maximum representation to people of color to correct for historic structural injustices. I am in support of ICPJ’s plan.”