

2021 Re-Appportionment

Commission Members

Andrea Krause, Prosecuting Attorney

Kristen Millard, County Clerk

JoAnne Vukin, County Treasurer

Mike Williams, Republican Chairman

Justin Johnson, Democratic Chairman

Background:

- Prior to 1962 redistricting of state and legislative bodies was infrequent and usually based on changes in population
- In 1962, the U.S. Supreme Court held that federal courts have jurisdiction to hear cases challenging legislative districting plans.
- It was determined that Michigan's constitution was unconstitutional in regards to districting
- The legal obligation to redistrict comes from the U.S. Constitution and State Law

Process

- Apportionment Commission is comprised of:
 - County Clerk, County Treasurer, Prosecuting Attorney, and the Chairpersons of the two major political parties in the County.
- Within 60 days after the release of the decennial census a county must be divided into not less than five nor more than 21 commissioner districts.
- If commission fails to complete a plan within 60 days, any registered voter may submit a plan and the commission must select a plan from those submitted to it.
- Within 30 days after the commission files its plan with the County Clerk, any registered voter may petition the Court of Appeals to review the Plan.

Redistricting Criteria

- Redistricting criteria are set forth in statutes. (MCL 46.404, 45.505 and 45.574)
- All districts must be single-member districts. ****Absolute***
- All districts must be “as nearly of equal population as possible”.
****Absolute***
 - Each district must be within 94.05% to 105.95% of the ideal district size.
 - Residents of state institutions who by law cannot register to vote shall not be counted.

Redistricting Criteria cont.

- All districts must be contiguous. **Absolute*
- Districts shall not be drawn so as to effect partisan political advantage. **Absolute*
- All districts must be compact and as nearly square as practicable.
- District lines must be drawn so as to preserve township, village, city and precinct lines to the extent that this can be done without exceeding the 11.9% allowable range of population divergence.

Montcalm County

Total Population: 66,614

Inmate Population: 4,966

- Population: 61,648 w/o inmates.
- $61,648 / 13 = 4,742$ Range: 4481-5024
- $61,648 / 11 = 5,604$ Range: 5296-5937
- $61,648 / 9 = 6,849$ Range: 6472-7257
- $61,648 / 7 = 8,806$ Range: 8322-9330
- $61,648 / 5 = 12,329$ Range: 11651-13062

Current Districts

- 1990, County Commission district increased from 5 to 13
- 2000, County Commission districts reduced from 13 to 9.
- 2010, County Commission districts remained at 9.

2020 Data

- The US Census Bureau delivered the raw data to the State and made it available on the State website on Aug 12, 2021
- The Bureau of Elections has stated that the refined data will be released to the Counties on Sept 30, 2021
- MACC legal opinion states that Aug 12, 2021, is the official date the data was delivered to the State and made available
- The Montcalm County Apportionment Commission unanimously voted to use the Aug 12, 2021, date as the official census release date to ensure the 60 deadline is not missed should a lawsuit be filed questioning the official release date

60 Day Completion Deadline

- The Commission has a 60 day deadline to complete the entire reapportionment process and file our plan with the state
- Failure to meet the 60 day deadline will result in the commission having to accept and approve a plan filed by a member of the public
- The deadline for Montcalm County is October 11, 2021

Close

- Decisions that were needed:
 - What date do we consider the date the data was delivered?
 - *August 12, 2021*
 - Rules of Procedure were adopted.
 - Will we use the State's free mapping tool?
 - *Yes, utilizing the State's CCD Reapportionment Mapping Tool*
 - Consolidation of voting precincts?
 - *Consolidation and creating new voting precincts possible*
 - Deadline that plans are due.
 - *September 21, 2021 at noon in Clerk's Office*
 - Who will verify plans?
 - *County Clerk*
 - How many meetings will we hold?
 - *4. One in Crystal, one in Pierson and 2 at the County*