



Public invited to learn about redistricting in Michigan and how Communities of Interest can play a crucial part in the process

Holland – The League of Women Voters of the Holland Area is partnering with the **Holland Museum** to hold a town hall event to educate Allegan and Ottawa County voters on the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission’s process in drawing new legislative and congressional maps. This will take place in conjunction with our National Day of Action on redistricting.

The virtual town hall will take place at 7 PM on Thursday, April 22 via ZOOM. Tina Pawlak, Voter Services Director and Lena Del Real, Membership Director, will discuss redistricting in Michigan, the redistricting commission, and opportunities for the public, including Communities of Interest, to provide input to the commission before it draws the maps.

“Redistricting in Michigan has been a very political process that has historically taken place behind closed doors and out of the public eye,” said, Claudia Berry, League President. “This new independent process gives regular, everyday Michigan residents the ability to draw the state’s legislative districts. We want the public to be empowered with information so they can participate in this important democratic process.”

Leagues across the state have undertaken a widespread educational effort to help voters understand redistricting and to ensure the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission is doing what voters have asked: helping citizens to draw district lines instead of legislators or special interests, and for the commission to respect Communities of Interest. Local Leagues across the state are holding town hall events throughout March and April.

**Registration information for the People Powered Maps Town Hall taking place on Thursday, April 22 at 7 PM can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/575ej3ue>

If you are a member of a community of interest (a population in a geographic area that shares cultural, historical, or economic interests) who feels that the legislative districts in your area have divided your group and diluted your influence with your elected representatives, then you may want to testify before the Michigan Independent Citizens Commission.

If you would like more information about what is involved in testifying before the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, please contact (western Allegan County) Cathy Brockington at cabrocking68@gmail.com or (eastern Allegan County) Catherine Kothari Catherine.kothari@med.wmich.edu . The League has guides for an effective presentations and access to mapping software to draw the boundaries of your community and we would be happy to share them with you. Tina Pawlak, Voter Services Director