

Attn: Washtenaw County Apportionment Commission

Via upload @ <https://www.washtenaw.org/formcenter/clerk-25/washtenaw-county--apportionment-commiss-199>

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing in support of the proposed map a copy of which is attached and identified as (Current Districts Modified by Clerk/Register Lawrence Kestenbaum) and shown on: <https://washtenaw.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=c1a72b7c88aa4fad80cb4147dd84e83d> .

The current structure of a nine member Board of Commissioners serves the residents of Washtenaw County well and should not be changed.

I support maintaining the current structure based in part on the following:

1. Effective Government
 - a. Increasing the number of Commissioners will:
 - i. Cause a dilution of each Commissioner's vote resulting in minority opinions having less influence.
 - ii. Increase factionalism as a result of each Commissioner representing less diverse communities.
 - iii. Leave less room for consensus.
 - iv. Within each district less diversity of interest will result in increasing divisiveness and extremism where majority opinion will dominate without listening or negotiating with minority views.
 - v. Result in longer meetings and more grandstanding.
 - vi. Result in less time for public comment and physical space for the public in the meeting room.
2. Increasing the number of Commissioners is a poor use of limited County resources.
 - a. The County Administrator estimates the cost of each additional commissioner will result in a recurring cost of approximately \$50,000 for each new commissioner every year.
 - b. The County Administrator estimates the cost of increasing the number of Commissioners will result in a one-time cost of more than \$220,000 for such things as to modify the physical space, and to provide working tools such as laptops and mobile phones.
 - c. Every penny spent on Commissioners takes away from the County's core focus on providing for the wellbeing of its residents, including the most vulnerable.

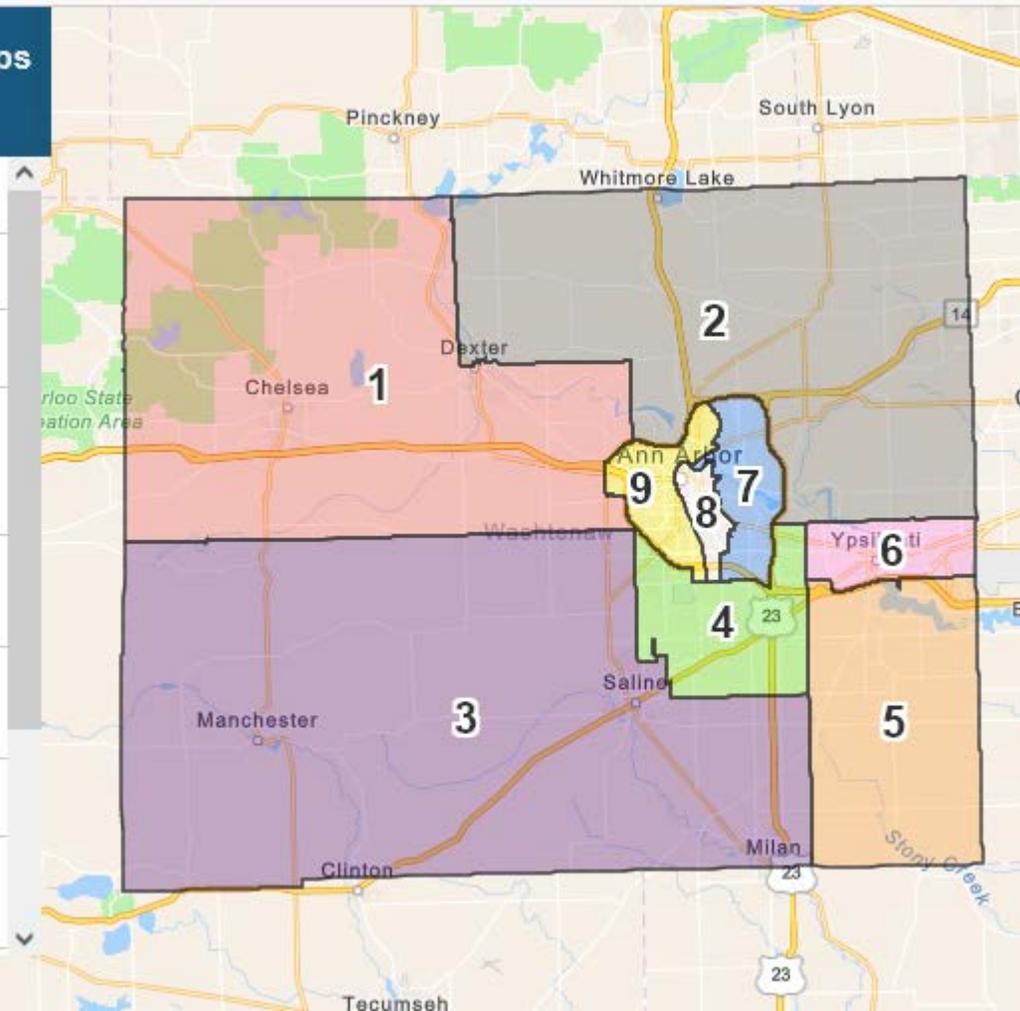
- d. Money spent on additional Commissioners will not be available to the County wide departments such as the Prosecutor and the Treasurer's offices.
- 3. Increasing the number of Commissioners will result in more Bureaucratic power and authority.
 - a. Increasing factionalism and the greater difficulty in the Board acting by consensus will weaken the direction the Board gives the Bureaucracy.
 - b. With less clear oversight the Bureaucracy will take the responsibility and authority to make decisions without effective oversight.
 - c. Commissioners are directly accountable to the residents and with less authority they will be less able to provide outcomes for the benefit of their respective constituents.
- 4. Increasing the number of Commissioners will result in less responsiveness.
 - a. There will be less time for public comment and space for the public in the meeting room.
 - b. There will be less money for public communication as funds are diverted to pay for the costs associate with additional Commissioners.
 - c. The ability of each Commissioner to communicate with Administration will be reduced.
- 5. The current structure is effective and responsive.
 - a. Commissioners report no issue responding to constituents inquiries.
- 6. An increase in the number of Commissioners would be out of the norm when comparing Washtenaw to its peers (*see attached*).
 - a. 47,531 is the average number of residents per commissioner for Michigan counties with more than 200,000 residents.
 - b. 41,333 is the Washtenaw average with 9 commissioners.
 - c. 21,882 would be the Washtenaw average with 15 commissioners.
- 7. L. Kestenbaum's Redrawn 9 Commissioner Map is an improvement.
 - a. This map balances population taking into consideration changes over time.
 - b. It also addresses some communities of interest issues present in the current map.

Sincerely,

Washtenaw County Resident

Submitted Apportionment Maps

- Municipalities
- Voting Precincts
- 9 District Map (Current Districts)
- 9 District Map (Current Districts Modified by Clerk/Register Lawrence Kestenbaum)**
- 11 District Map (Prosecutor Eli Savit)
- 13 District Map (A) (Margaret Schankler & Desirae Simmons)
- 13 District (B) (Dirk Mayhew)
- 13 District Map (C) (Carrie Rheingans)



Number of Commissioners per Resident

<u>County</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Residents per Commissioner</u>
Wayne	1,800,000	15	120,000
Oakland	1,275,000	21	60,714
Macomb	881,000	13	67,769
Kent	657,000	19	34,579
Genesee	406,000	9	45,111
Washtenaw	372,000	9	41,333
Ottawa	296,000	21	14,095
Ingham	285,000	14	20,357
Kalamazoo	262,000	11	23,818

Average 47,531

Average without highest and lowest 40,566

Washtenaw @15 21,882

Washtenaw @13 28,615

Washtenaw @11 33,818

Listing of Michigan Counties with Population in Excess of 200,000