



## **Press Conference/Livestream Event**

### **MNA Launches Citizens Redistricting Campaign Supporting Historically Underrepresented Communities**

#### ***New Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission To Determine New Michigan Legislative District Maps by November 1***

**Wednesday, February 17, 2021  
11 a.m.**

LANSING – Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA) and a coalition of nonprofit organizations representing communities in Southeast and West Michigan will present a panel discussion on the launch of their efforts to achieve fair and impartial legislative district maps for Michigan.

The panel of statewide nonprofits will discuss the launch of formal efforts to help Michigan communities, especially those who have been historically underrepresented in Michigan’s political processes, by providing training and resources to help them provide testimony and legislative maps to the new [Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission](#) (ICRC).

“We are mobilizing nonprofits, to transparently achieve fair and impartial maps for Michigan, **specifically** to promote **racial equity** so that **communities of color** have a voice and participate in important decision-making processes that happen at the local, state, and federal levels,” said Mariana Martinez, director of Civic Engagement Initiatives at Michigan Nonprofit Association. “The establishment of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission represents a positive change in the way Michigan’s legislative district maps are drawn.”

The establishment of the ICRC represents positive change, elevating “communities of interest”, or COI, as the *third most important criteria* in the process of how Michigan’s legislative district maps are drawn.

The definitions of COI are vast and subjective, but they generally unite around populations who share economic interests or cultural or historical characteristics. While it is common to think COI means race or ethnicity, that is not the only meaning. COI can include historical communities, school districts, economic opportunity zones, or communities that shared environmental concerns.

Michigan Nonprofit Association's coalition is comprised of **20 nonprofit organizations**, representing diverse communities in Detroit, Flint and Grand Rapids.

"If our community realizes and understands that they have equal access, more people will be motivated to vote and to remain politically engaged," said Norman Clement, founder & executive director, Detroit Change Initiative.

### **EVENT SUMMARY:**

**DATE/TIME:** 11 a.m. EST on Wednesday, February 17. Media Q&A will immediately follow.

**ZOOM LINK:** <https://zoom.us/j/92828138378>

**LIVE STREAM:** The event will be livestreamed on the Michigan Nonprofit Association's Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/MNAonline>

### **FEATURED SPEAKERS:**

- **Panel:**
  - Sue Hammersmith, Executive Director - [Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission](#)
  - Norman Clement, Founder & Executive Director – [Detroit Change Initiative](#)
  - Cindy Gamboa, Community Organizing & Advocacy Director - [Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation](#)
  - Kathi Harris, Lead Organizer - [PROACTIVE](#)
- **Moderator:** Mariana Martinez, Director of Civic Engagement Initiatives, [Michigan Nonprofit Association](#)

### **ABOUT MNA:**

Founded in 1990, Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA) is a 501 © (3) charitable organization dedicated to nonprofits and the communities they serve by promoting anti-racism and social justice. MNA is a statewide membership organization that achieves its mission through advocacy, training, technology services and civic engagement. To learn more, visit <https://www.mnaonline.org/>

### **MEDIA CONTACTS:**

All media inquiries or interview requests with event speakers/organizers should contact: Maureen McNulty Saxton, [maureen@vandykehorn.com](mailto:maureen@vandykehorn.com), 517-899-5513.

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