The Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy | University of Michigan

Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) Memo #2 — Final Analysis of Public Comments on 2024 Remediated Senate Maps in Southeast Michigan

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Executive Summary

This brief provides a review of CLOSUP analysis of public comments submitted to the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) in spring 2024 as part of the effort to draw new maps in Southeast Michigan as directed by a federal court. The initial summary was presented in an earlier memo, and a final set of lessons learned, and future recommendations will be available in a subsequent memo.

The CLOSUP team analyzed 1,463 public comments to the MICRC from 415 individuals submitted between May 21 and June 21, 2024, on the proposed state senate maps for Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb Counties. The most popular of the twelve draft maps were Szetela (Plan #404) and Heron (Plan #376). The Kellom (Plan #403) and Cardinal (Plan #373) maps also received many positive comments. In general, commenters most frequently noted a map's partisan fairness performance, how the map handled relevant Detroit-area COIs, and how the map protected major jurisdictions within the new state senate districts. The team analyzed the comments by map:

- **Szetela (#404):** Szetela received the most positive comments and the highest overall net favorability rating (the number of "like" commenters minus "dislike" commenters). Commenters consistently praised the Szetela map's partisan fairness metrics and Voting Rights Act (VRA) compliance. Commenters appreciated the protection of Detroit-area COIs and many Oakland County jurisdictions. Some commenters were apprehensive about the Szetela map's splitting of the Chaldean COI in Sterling Heights and Troy.
- **Heron (#376):** Heron received the second most positive comments and the second highest overall net favorability rating. Commenters consistently praised Heron's partisan fairness

Key Takeaways

- **Data:** 1,463 public comments on MICRC revised maps, 415 unique commenters, 4,082 specific points addressed
- **Most Common Concerns:** 1. Partisan Fairness, 2. Keep Jurisdictions and Communities of Interest (COIs) whole
- **Most Preferred Maps: 1. Szetela (Plan #404), 2. Heron (Plan #376)**
  - » **Szetela (#404)**: Most popular and commented on map. Commenters liked strong partisan fairness metrics and protection of Detroit and Oakland County COIs.
  - » **Heron (#376)**: Second most popular. Commenters liked strong partisan fairness metrics with some hesitation on Metro Detroit COIs.
  - » **Kellom (#403)**: Third highest favorability rating. Commenters liked strong partisan fairness metrics, but not as many comments as other preferred maps.
  - » **Cardinal (#373)**: Heavily commented on map, but polarizing. Commenters liked the protection of the Chaldean COI, but disliked the partisan fairness numbers.
- **Region-Specific Comments**
  - » **Szetela (#404) and Kellom (#403)** received consistently positive comments across all regions.
  - » **Heron (#376)** received positive feedback from all regions except Macomb County, which gave negative feedback overall.
  - » **Cardinal (#373)** received the most disagreement across regions with negative feedback overall from all regions except Macomb County, which gave positive feedback overall.

metrics and VRA compliance. Commenters appreciated the protection of Wayne and Oakland COIs, but there was greater criticism from Macomb County residents of the map's treatment of the Chaldean COI and Macomb County communities.

- **Kellom (#403):** The Kellom map received the third highest net favorability rating, but did not receive as many total comments as the other positively rated maps. Commenters appreciated the Kellom map's treatment of Detroit's COIs, the preservation of many Oakland County jurisdictions, and the map's strong VRA compliance. Commenters did not like some of the COI districting decisions and thought that the partisan fairness metrics, while good, could have been stronger.
- **Cardinal (#373):** Cardinal received the most comments of any map with many positive comments, particularly from Macomb County commenters. Positive commenters appreciated the protection of the Chaldean COI in Sterling Heights and Troy. However, the map received a negative net favorability rating from all other regions for its poor partisan fairness metrics.
- **Other Maps**: All other maps received negative overall favorability ratings. Crane (#385), Dove (#364), and Finch (#399), while receiving negative overall ratings, did receive positive favorability ratings overall among Macomb County commenters. Generally, commenters on the remaining eight maps pointed out the poor partisan fairness metrics and lack of protection for COIs and Detroit-area jurisdictions.

Background

In November 2018, the citizens of Michigan passed Proposal 2, which amended the Michigan Constitution to place congressional and state legislative redistricting in the hands of a new Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC). The Commission drew and passed new maps for the state in 2021-22, however, in December 2023, a federal court ruled in the case of *Agee v Benson* that the MICRC must redraw seven State House and six State Senate maps. The analysis below provides details on the comments submitted in spring 2024 during hearings on the Commission's proposed remediated State Senate maps.

Methodology

The CLOSUP team followed a similar "coding" methodology as it did in its May 20, 2024 memo. The team coded publicly submitted comments through close-of-business June 21, 2024.

Map Preference Coding: For the purposes of this memo, the team focused on draft map preferences among commenters. First, the team assigned each of the twelve draft maps a new "600" map code within its database.[1] Second, the team then used a system of decimal subcodes to indicate a comment's level of support for the maps it mentioned: 6XX.1 indicated support, 6XX.2 indicated opposition, and 6XX.3 indicated a suggested modification. For example, a comment that supported the Szetela map but disliked Dove would receive codes 611.1 (support for Szetela map) and 603.2 (opposition to Dove). The team also assigned unique Commenter ID codes to every person who submitted a comment, to track multiple submissions by a single commenter (Note: This database will be available for downloading from the CLOSUP website for any stakeholders to examine in detail.)

Using these map preference codes and the unique commenter IDs, the team evaluated each map's **net favorability rating**. The team calculated a map's net favorability by subtracting the number of unique "dislikes" from the

number of unique "likes" each map had. Because the calculation used only unique likes and dislikes, each commenter could only affect a specific map's count once, but the team would still aggregate their "votes" across multiple comments. For example, if a unique commenter expressed support for Heron in twelve separate comments, it would still only count as one positive vote for Heron. If the same commenter then opposed Dove in a different comment, that opposition would be added to that commenter's unique file as one negative vote for Dove.

After tallying up all positive and negative comments from each unique commenter, the team calculated the net favorability of the maps. One way to think about this calculation is as a voting ballot: each commenter could vote for, against, or make a suggestion on each map, with their single ballot aggregated across their multiple comments. Commenters could spread their thoughts across multiple comments, but could not vote on an individual map multiple times.

The team used the University of Michigan GPT AI service, with human review of its findings, in order to synthesize the broad trends across the many comments. For a further explanation of our process, please see the Appendix. All AI results were confirmed by hand to ensure their veracity.

As was discussed at previous Commission hearings, there were likely advocacy campaigns in favor and against certain draft maps. Nonetheless, our goal was to faithfully report each unique commenter's mapping preferences. As such, we did not filter out any comments that expressed an opinion on the draft maps, even if the comment appeared to be copied from a template or mimic other comments. So long as the comment came from a unique commenter, their comment was included in our analysis.

Following the initial memo draft submitted to the Commission on June 24th, the team updated this memo, conducting quantitative and qualitative analysis of comments including:

- All Mapping Portal comments through close-of-business on Friday, June 21, 2024
- The 76 comments made at the June 13, 2024 Public Hearing
- The 26 comments made at the June 20, 2024 Public Hearing

These comments were broadly consistent with the previously described broad trends, including sentiments about COIs and specific jurisdictions. The following findings analyze all public comment submitted between May 21, 2024 and June 21, 2024.

Findings

Overview/Quantitative Counts

From the May 21, 2024 Remote Meeting through close-of-business June 21st, 2024, the team coded 1,463 comments from 415 individual commenters. Across those submissions, the team identified 4,082 specific points addressed using its codebook. The Mapping Portal made up the bulk of the comments, with 1,189 coming from that portal. 186 comments came from the Commission's town halls, public hearings, and remote meetings. By comparison, 84 comments came from the Public Comment Portal, 2 by letter, and 2 by email. Many commenters made repeat appearances across forums, submitting a comment in the Mapping Portal, speaking at a hearing or meeting, and following up their testimony in the Public Comment Portal. Again, their support or opposition to specific maps

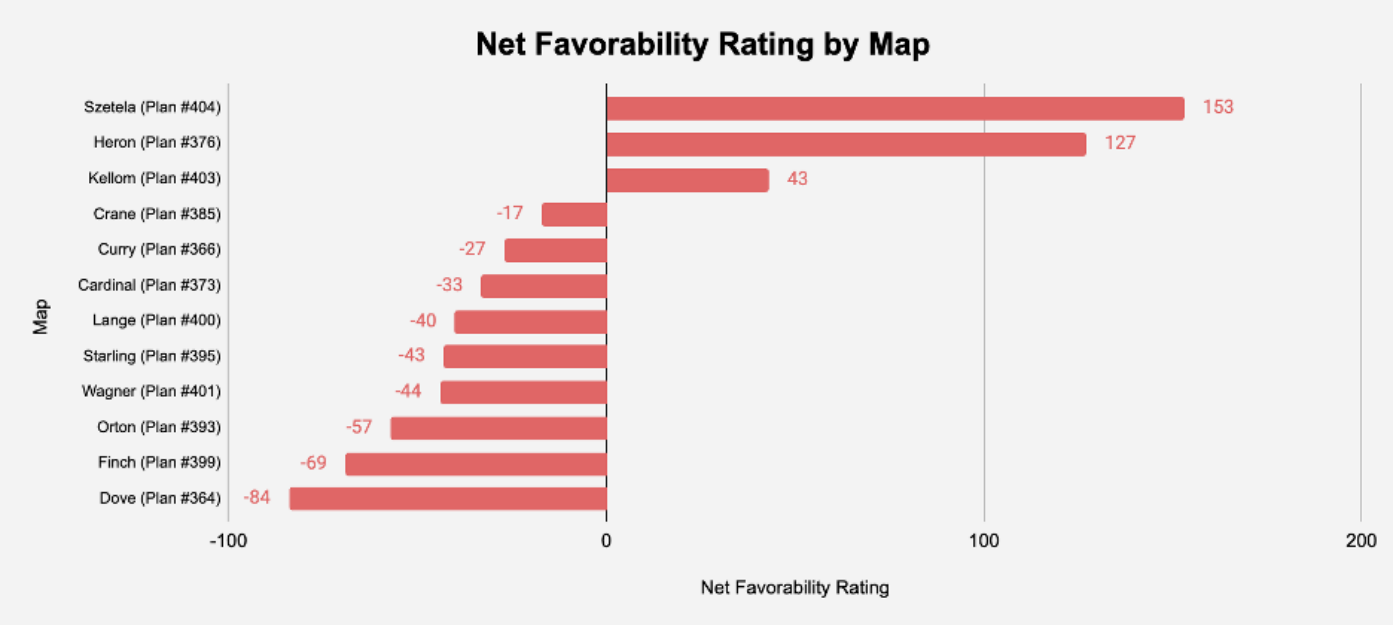
would only be counted once per map, regardless of how many times they may have expressed that support or opposition across these public input paths.

On one hand, this is an impressive level of resident participation over a short period of time in a process that before 2020 was conducted behind closed doors and which was not accessible to them. On the other hand, the 415 unique people who submitted comments represent just a tiny sliver of Michiganders. In total, 268 people submitted comments from Detroit and the metro Detroit area at issue in the redistricting. 147 commenters submitted their feedback from other parts of the state (or did not state where they were submitting from), including the Ann Arbor, Lansing, and Grand Rapids areas.

A number of speakers represented groups as opposed to speaking solely for themselves.[2] Several comments (5) came from representatives of the Detroit Downriver Chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI) to advocate for Downriver Wayne County COIs. These commenters generally advocated for keeping the Downriver communities in the same district as the City of Detroit, as opposed to surrounding metro Detroit communities. Several comments (10) came from the Chaldean Community Foundation and Chaldean Voices Matter groups, advocating for the protection of the Chaldean-American COI. Several comments (7) came from representatives of the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS) to advocate for protecting MENA COIs in Dearborn and western Wayne County. Others (2) spoke on behalf of Voters Not Politicians (VNP) in support of VNP's partisan fairness memo or in support of politically equitable redistricting. Some municipal politicians (3) spoke on behalf of their constituents.

Individual Map Analysis

Four maps came to the forefront of our analysis: Szetela (#404), Heron (#376), Kellom (#403), and Cardinal (#373). Szetela, Heron, and Kellom maps were the only maps that received a positive net favorability rating overall. While Cardinal has negative net favorability, we included it in our analysis due to the large number of comments in both directions.



The Overall Net Favorability Rating of Each Draft Map

Szetela (Plan #404)
253 of the 415 unique commenters commented on the Szetela map, the most of any map. This map was the most popular in terms of total positive comments and net favorability rating, with 194 commenters in support of the map and 41 in opposition. Eighteen commenters noted potential changes to the map.

Partisan Fairness: Commenters praised the Szetela map's strong performance in partisan fairness, with numerous positive comments highlighting balanced representation across political parties. The Szetela map received the highest number (over 100) of favorable mentions for this criterion compared to other maps. While a few comments raised concerns about community divisions potentially impacting partisan fairness, these were significantly outweighed by positive assessments.

Geographic Representation: The map generally received positive feedback for its representation of various counties and cities, particularly in Wayne County and Oakland County. It was praised for effectively maintaining community integrity in Detroit and representing communities in Southwest Detroit. However, some concerns were raised about the division of certain communities, especially the Chaldean community, and the handling of areas like Taylor and Farmington Hills.

Communities of Interest: The Szetela map garnered significant praise for its representation of various COIs, including Latinx communities in Southwest Detroit and the MENA COI in Dearborn and Oakland counties. However, a notable criticism emerged regarding the inadequate protection of the Chaldean COI, with multiple comments indicating that this community was split across several districts. Some concerns were also raised about the division of other ethnic groups, such as the Arab community in Macomb County.

Heron (Plan #376)
245 of the 415 commenters commented on the Heron map. Heron was the second most popular map in terms of net favorability rating, with 181 commenters in support and 54 in opposition. Eleven commenters had proposed suggestions for the map.

Partisan Fairness: Heron is widely praised for its approach to partisan fairness. Although there are some critiques, the critiques are not very specific and the positive comments significantly outnumber the negative ones.

Geographic Representation: Heron received mixed feedback regarding its treatment of specific jurisdictions, viewed as representing some communities well, while splitting others. Heron was praised for protecting cities in Wayne and Oakland County like Pontiac. Some comments raised specific concerns about splits in Sterling Heights and Troy and issues with combining it with districts containing Detroit residents.

Communities of Interest: Heron is seen as fair and protective of various COIs, including Arab, Black, Latino, and LGBTQ communities, with several mentions praising its enhancement of racial equity. However, the most prominent criticism is related to the treatment of the Chaldean COI, with many comments asserting that the map either disrespects or splits this community across multiple districts, with a particular focus on fracturing Chaldean communities in the 11th district.

Kellom (Plan #403)
95 of the 415 commenters commented on the Kellom map. This map had the third highest net favorability rating, with 67 commenters in support and 24 in opposition. Four commenters had proposed suggestions for the map. Despite the Kellom map's positive reception from those that did comment, it did not receive even half as many commenters as either Heron or Szetela.

Partisan Fairness: The Kellom map received mixed feedback regarding its partisan fairness, with some comments criticizing its partisan fairness metrics. A few comments mention the need for tighter adherence to VRA compliance. While much of the feedback leans negative, some comments suggest that the Kellom map ranks well or second-best after the Szetela map in achieving balanced representation.

Geographic Representation: Some commenters acknowledge that the Kellom map protects certain geographic communities, particularly Oakland County interests, while others disapprove of the map's boundary decisions affecting cities like Royal Oak. Some say the map does well in preserving community boundaries surrounding Detroit. Several comments approved of the Kellom map's representation of Detroit, as well as downriver communities and their industrial-related needs, while others noted that the Kellom map was not representative of Detroit areas. Some comments suggested that the Kellom map combines areas that may not share common interests, such as merging Harper Woods and Detroit with the Grosse Pointes, or linking Southern Oakland County with Macomb.

Communities of Interest: Several comments note that the map effectively keeps Southwest Detroit together, aligning with the interests of the Hispanic community in that area. Other comments assert that the Kellom map divides COIs like the Chaldean community.

Cardinal (Plan #373)
220 of the 415 commenters commented on the Cardinal map. Cardinal had the sixth highest net favorability rating (though it's negative overall), with 90 commenters in favor of the map and 123 in opposition. Seven commenters had proposed changes for the map.

Partisan Fairness: Negative sentiment on partisan fairness stands out, with a substantial number of comments arguing that Cardinal is bad for partisan fairness.

Geographic Representation: Several comments note that Cardinal divides Romulus, noting the importance that the municipality be kept whole because of its unique needs due to Detroit Metro Airport and other transportation infrastructure. Commenters laud the map for keeping certain areas in Macomb County whole. Others mention that the map protects Detroit neighborhoods. Some criticism comes from the mention that while Cardinal keeps specific communities together, it fails to be as representative or inclusive of all community needs, such as the industrial-related needs of downriver communities, compared to other maps like Heron and the Kellom map.

Communities of Interest: Many of the positive commenters on Cardinal noted the map's protection of the Chaldean COI akin to the old Linden map. Other commenters mentioned that Cardinal also protects Arab communities and the Clinton River Watershed. Meanwhile, some comments broadly mention that the map fails to promote racial equity and question whether the map would comply with the VRA.

Other Maps

The remaining maps received consistently negative feedback overall. Crane received 77 commenters and had the fourth highest net favorability rating, with 28 positive commenters and 45 negative commenters. Curry received 64 commenters and the fifth highest net favorability rating, with 16 positive commenters and 43 negative commenters. Lange received 64 commenters and the seventh highest net favorability rating, with 11 positive commenters and 51 negative commenters. Starling received 60 comments and the eighth highest favorability rating, with 7 positive commenters and 50 negative. Wagner received 58 comments and the ninth highest favorability rating, with 6 positive commenters and 50 negative commenters. Orton received 72 commenters and the ninth highest favorability rating, with 7 positive commenters and 64 negative commenters. Finch received 100 commenters and the tenth highest rating, with 14 positive commenters and 83 negative commenters. Dove received 126 commenters and the lowest favorability rating, with 19 positive commenters and 103 negative commenters.

Partisan Fairness: The public commentary on the proposed Crane, Starling, Dove, Finch, Curry, Lange, Orton, and Wagner maps was significantly dissatisfied overall with partisan fairness. This trend is pronounced in remarks about Dove, Orton, Finch, Lange, and Wagner. Many comments also raised potential issues with the Voting Rights Act, where commenters were concerned that the Lange, Wagner, and Curry maps would not provide sufficient minority-majority representation compared to the original Linden map.

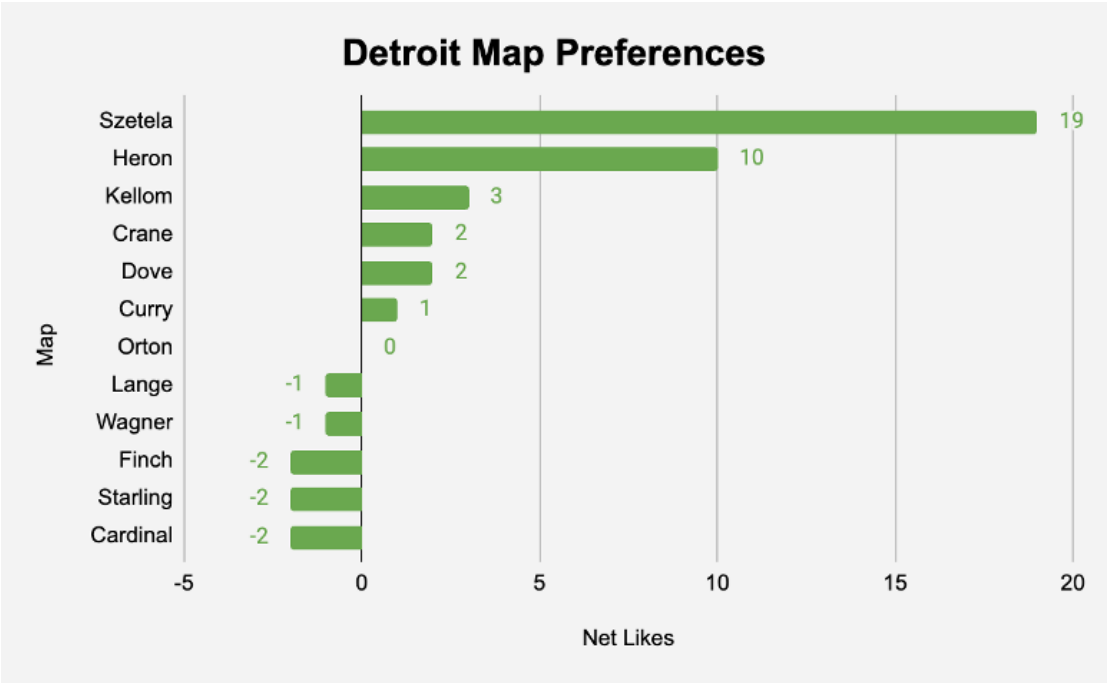
Communities of Interest: The handling of communities of interest (COIs), including the representation of minority groups, emerged as another significant concern from the comments. Commenters criticized these specific maps for their handling of diverse ethnic COIs, with the Chaldean community frequently cited as a group that has been unfavorably split, particularly by the Orton and Wagner maps. Moreover, commenters contended that maps like the Lange and Curry maps undermined the African American COI's representation in and near Detroit, noting potential VRA compliance issues. Downriver communities also argued that Crane failed to represent the unique economic and environmental interests of more industrial Wayne County communities.

Geographic Representation and Community Boundaries: Comments also address the issue of geographical cohesion and respect for community boundaries in the proposed maps. Commenters criticized the combination of distinct communities—linking urban to rural communities or grouping districts that do not share common interests—in the Starling and Wagner maps. Commenters disliked the connection between disparate communities such as Harper Woods, Detroit, and Grosse Pointes, or Sterling Heights and rural Macomb County.

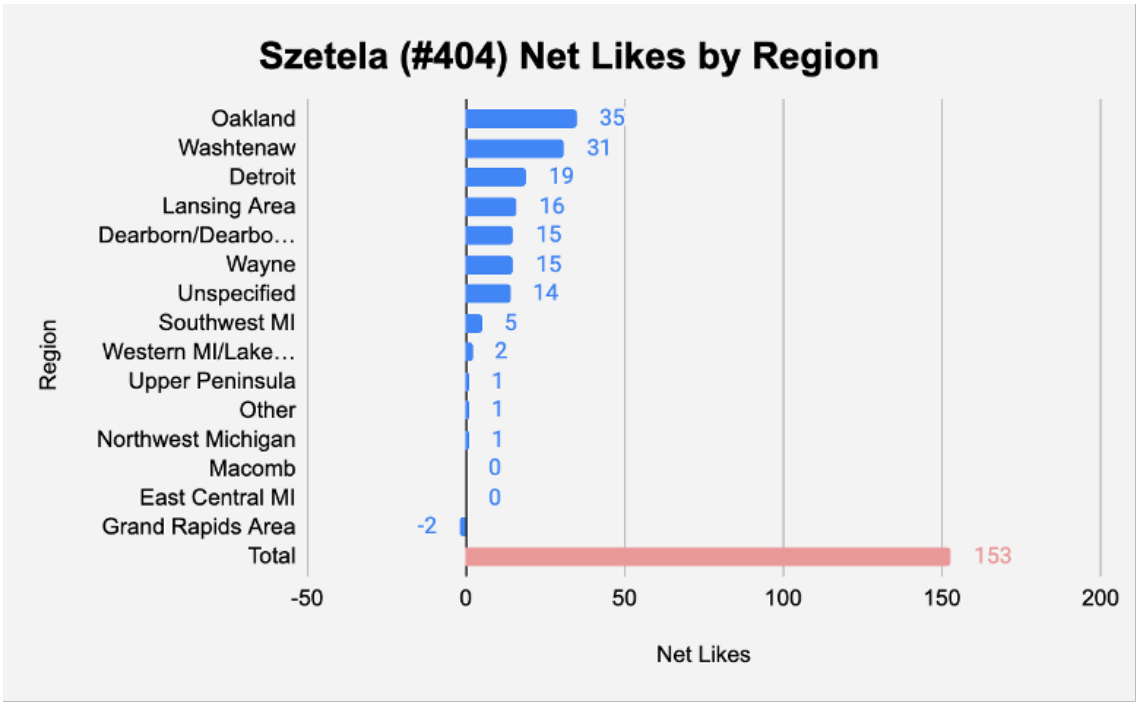
Regional Map Preferences

We analyzed the relationship between a commenter's location and their mapping preferences. In total, 102 commenters came from Oakland County, 59 from Macomb County, 51 from Detroit, 19 from Dearborn and Dearborn Heights, 37 from other Wayne County areas, 49 from the Lansing area, 40 from Washtenaw County, 4 from the Grand Rapids area, 7 from Southwest Michigan, 2 from East Central Michigan, 2 from Western Michigan, 2 from the Upper Peninsula, 1 from Northwest Michigan, and 39 from an unlisted or unreported location.

As a whole within each region, commenters tended to be in agreement with one another about liking or disliking a map. Commenters from Detroit rated the Szetela and Heron maps most favorably. Oakland County commenters were largely in agreement on liking the Szetela, Heron, and Kellom maps, and Macomb County commenters vastly favored Cardinal. Washtenaw County commenters liked the Szetela and Heron maps most, Finch and Cardinal least.[3]



Next, we examined the regional breakdown in preference for each individual map. While we calculated the aggregate net favorability rating for each map, this additional analysis broke down that number further. Many maps showed agreement across regions. The Wagner, Orton, Lange, and Starling maps all consistently had a negative net favorability rating across almost all regions.[4] Finch, Dove, Curry, and Crane were additionally quite consistently negative apart from Macomb County comments which were net positive. The Szetela and Kellom maps both received mostly consistently positive net favorability ratings across regions.


Szetela (#404) Net Likes by Region
Region
Oakland
Washtenaw
Detroit
Lansing Area
Dearborn/Dearbo…
Wayne
Unspecified
Southwest MI
Western MI/Lake…
Upper Peninsula
Other
Northwest Michigan
Macomb
East Central MI
Grand Rapids Area
Total
35
31
19
16
15
15
14
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2
1
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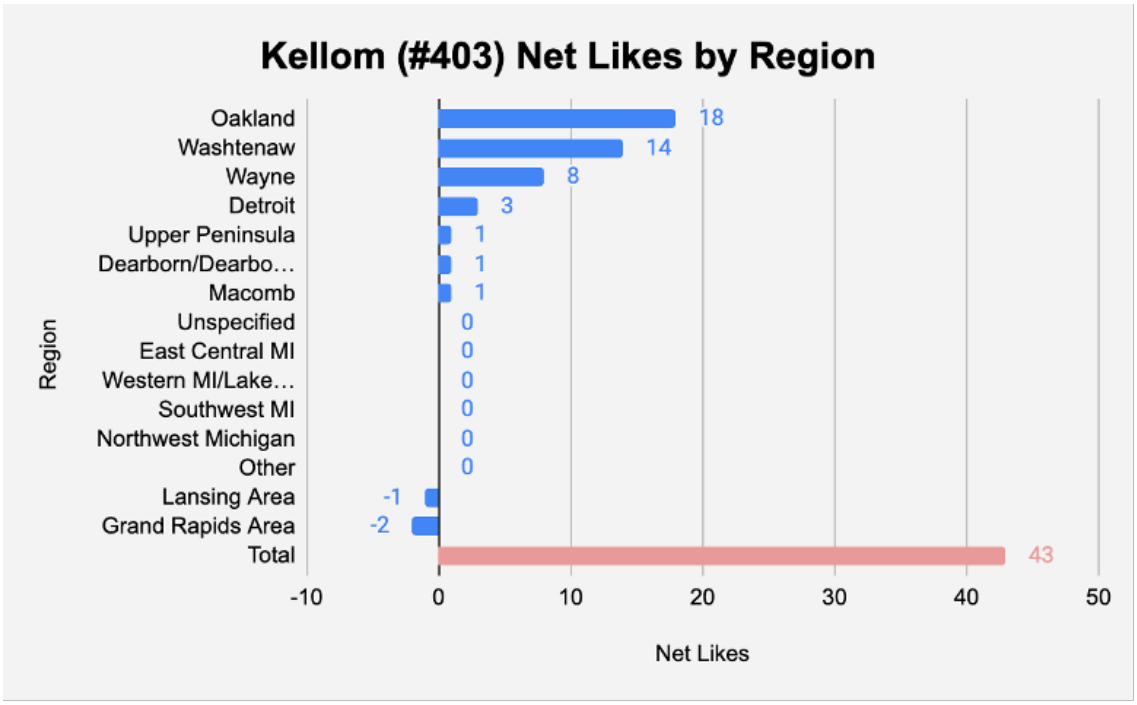
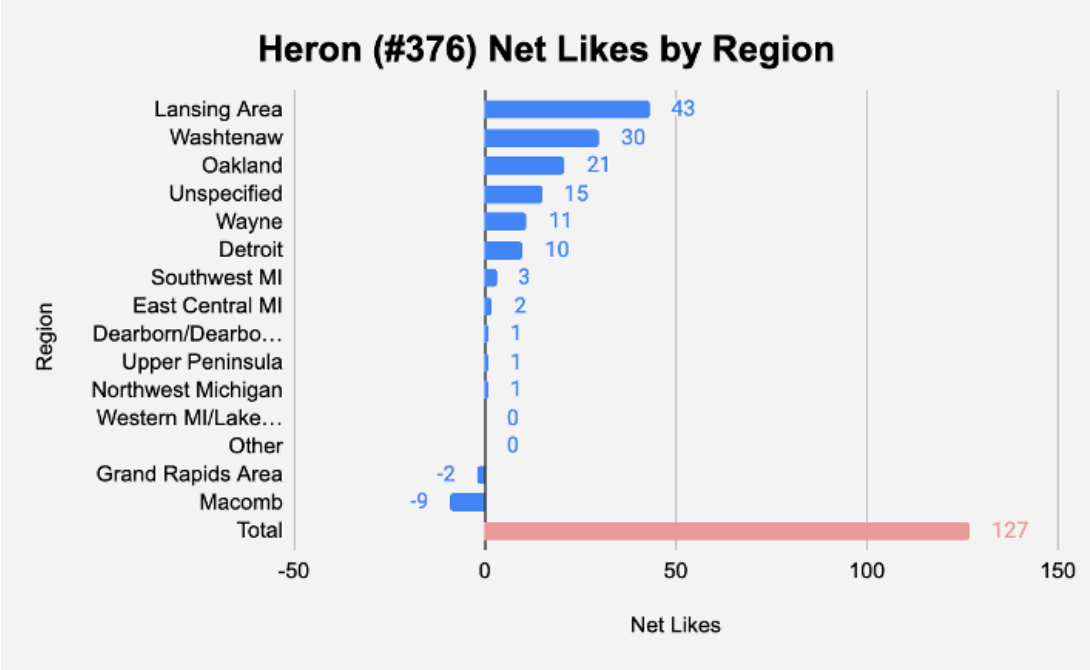
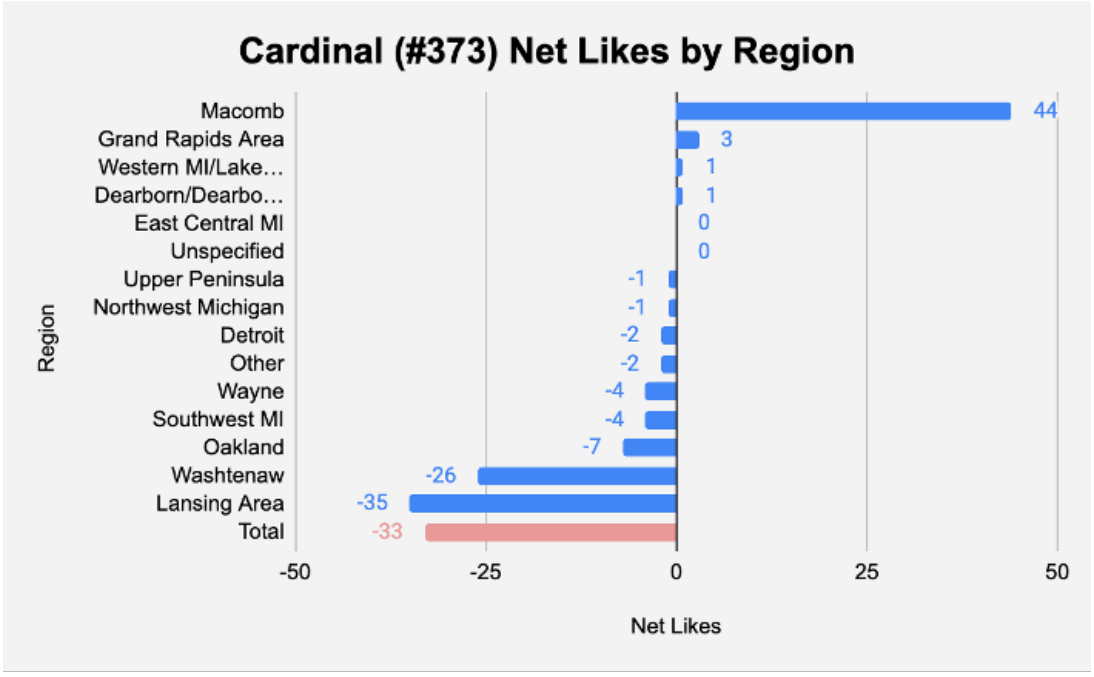
1
0
0
-2
153
-50
0
50
100
150
200
Net Likes


Kellom (#403) Net Likes by Region
Region
Oakland
Washtenaw
Wayne
Detroit
Upper Peninsula
Dearborn/Dearbo…
Macomb
Unspecified
East Central MI
Western MI/Lake…
Southwest MI
Northwest Michigan
Other
Lansing Area
Grand Rapids Area
Total
18
14
8
3
1
1
1
0
0
0
0
0
0
-1
-2
43
-10
0
10
20
30
40
50
Net Likes

Heron (#376), Cardinal (#373), and Macomb County

Heron and Cardinal received split feedback across regions. Heron, while receiving an aggregate positive net favorability rating of 127, was overall disliked by Macomb County residents (-9). Commenters from the Lansing area (+43), Washtenaw County (+30), and Oakland County (+21) comprised the majority of positive net commenters. Cardinal, however, received the most disagreement across regions. While the aggregate net favorability rating shows a net negative of -33 commenters, Macomb County commenters overwhelmingly favored this map with a net positive of 44 commenters. Oakland County (-7), Washtenaw County (-26), and Lansing area (-35) commenters, however, had net negative comments.





Conclusion

In conclusion, the Szetela (#404), Heron (#376), and Kellom (#403) maps received the highest net favorability ratings, with the Szetela map receiving the highest overall rating. The Cardinal (#373) map also received many positive commenters, but still had an overall negative net favorability rating. The remaining eight maps received broadly negative ratings.

In making their comment, commenters emphasized (1) the importance of partisan fairness metrics and (2) the protection of their COI and jurisdiction. There were regional preferences among the different maps, but the Szetela map was still positively rated overall across all regions.

The CLOSUP team will provide suggestions and changes to the public comment solicitation and analysis process for future redistricting cycles in a later memo.

Notes

1. See the Appendix for a breakdown of the new 600 codes.

2. JUNE 25, 2024 UPDATE: These totals changed with the introduction of new mapping data. These numbers are not updated.

3. See the Appendix for the map preferences of other, non-Detroit regions.

4. See Appendix for regional breakdowns of Wagner, Orton, Lange, Curry, and Starling.

Appendix

CLOSUP Annotated Codebook

Note: The numbers in the codebook have not been updated since the initial June 24, 2024 memo. The CLOSUP team's annotated codebook and the frequency of codes in the 1155 total comments.

NOTE: the listed frequencies **do not** account for unique commenters.

01	Region (Either commenter residence or focus of comment)
101	City of Detroit—111 comments
102	Metro Detroit—610 comments (often touched on multiple counties) • Oakland County—366 comments • Wayne County—78 comments • Macomb County—166 comments • Taylor
103	Lansing area—198 comments • Ingham County
104	Grand Rapids area—21 comments • Kent County
105	East Central MI—4 comments • Flint • Midland • Saginaw • Tri-Cities
106	Upper Peninsula—8 comments (single commenter) • Marquette
107	Western MI/Lakeshore—9 comments • Muskegon • Berrien County • Ottawa County
108	Washtenaw County—185 comments • Jackson • Ann Arbor • Ypsilanti
109	Southwest MI—13 comments • Kalamazoo
110	Northwest Michigan—1 comment • Traverse City
111	Thumb—0 comments • Port Huron • Kingston

112	Northern Michigan—0 comments • South of UP, usually rural
113	Dearborn/ Dearborn Heights—30 comments
199	City, County, Municipality Other than Listed—7 comments

02	COI
201	MENA (Middle Eastern North African)—143 comments • Also Muslim community • Mention of ACCESS
202	African American/Black Community—87 comments
203	Native Americans/Indigenous Community—0 comments
204	Bengali—5 comments
205	Hispanic/Latino—14 comments
206	AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander)—13 comments
207	Unions—0 comments • UAW (United Auto Workers)
208	Watershed/ Environmental COI—10 comments
209	Farming/agriculture—0 comments
210	Religious Community—4 comments
211	Schools and School Districts—12 comments • Includes universities
212	Shared Publicly Funded Resources—19 comments • Utilities like Water & Electric • Community Centers • Fire & Police Departments • Hospitals
213	Other economic communities—22 comments • Auto companies (not to be confused with unions) • Tourism
214	Minority Community- Unspecified—9 comments
215	Neighborhoods—10 comments
216	LBGTQI+ Community—17 comments
217	Rural Community—8 comments
218	Urban Community—11 comments
299	Other COI—109 comments • Includes Chaldean COI

03	Process
301	Hiring Staff—0 comments
302	Hearing Conduct—9 comments
303	Technology/Portal—1 comment
304	Request for Meetings/Continue Process—0 comments
305	Budget/Salaries—0 comments
306	Accessibility—4 comments
307	Pro-Staff—0 comments
308	Con-Staff—4 comments • Use also for con staff hiring
309	Legality of process—8 comments • Concern with constitutionality of law
310	Ensure Fair Map Voting procedure—0 comments • In reference to when **commissioners** were voting on maps
399	Other process comments—30 comments

04	Map Themes
404	Partisan Fairness & Competitive Districts—677 comments
405	Compactness—7 comments
406	Concern that Maps Mishandle Jurisdiction Boundaries—64 comments • i.e., respect County, City, and Township Boundaries
407	Concern that Maps Mishandle COIs—38 comments
409	Voting Rights Act issues—44 comments
410	Prioritize keeping COI whole—387 comments
411	Prioritize keeping Jurisdictions whole—119 comments
499	Other comments on maps—3 comments

05	Other
501	Prison Gerrymandering—0 comments
502	Name & Address Requirement for Public Comment—0 comments
503	Secret Memos/Private Meeting Concern—1 comment
504	Commissioner Political Affiliation—0 comments
599	Other unspecified—0 comments

06	Draft Maps (total pro/con/change comments, including by repeat commenters)
601	Cardinal (Plan #373) • 601.1, Pro—163 comments • 601.2, Con—136 comments • 601.3, Change—7 comments
602	Crane (Plan #385) • 602.1, Pro—54 comments • 602.2, Con—47 comments • 602.3, Change—4 comments
603	Dove (Plan #364) • 603.1, Pro—35 comments • 603.2, Con—116 comments • 603.3, Change—4 comments
604	Finch (Plan #399) • 604.1, Pro—26 comments • 604.2, Con—87 comments • 604.3, Change—3 comments
605	Heron (Plan #376) • 605.1, Pro—219 comments • 605.2, Con—112 comments • 605.3, Change—11 comments
606	Starling (Plan #395) • 606.1, Pro—7 comments • 606.2, Con—72 comments • 606.3, Change—3 comments
607	Curry Map (Plan #366) • 607.1, Pro—29 comments • 607.2, Con—45 comments • 607.3, Change—5 comments
608	Kellom (Plan #403) • 608.1, Pro—89 comments • 608.2, Con—26 comments • 608.3, Change—5 comments
609	Lange Map (Plan #400) • 609.1, Pro—21 comments • 609.2, Con—56 comments • 609.3, Change—4 comments
610	Orton Map (Plan #393) • 610.1, Pro—19 comments • 610.2, Con—70 comments • 610.3, Change—1 comment

611	Szetela Map (Plan #404) • 611.1, Pro—234 comments • 611.2, Con—94 comments • 611.3, Change—20 comments
612	Wagner Map (Plan #401) • 612.1, Pro—11 comments • 612.2, Con—55 comments • 612.3, Change—5 comments

University of Michigan GPT Analysis

The CLOSUP team used the following prompts to track broad trends from the CLOSUP public input database. First, the team created short summary sentences ("Heron protects partisan fairness.") for each of the public comments to provide the U-M AI clear, consistent data. Such sentences were quite short given the size of the comment database.

Second, the team asked the AI the below prompts in order to summarize those sentences.

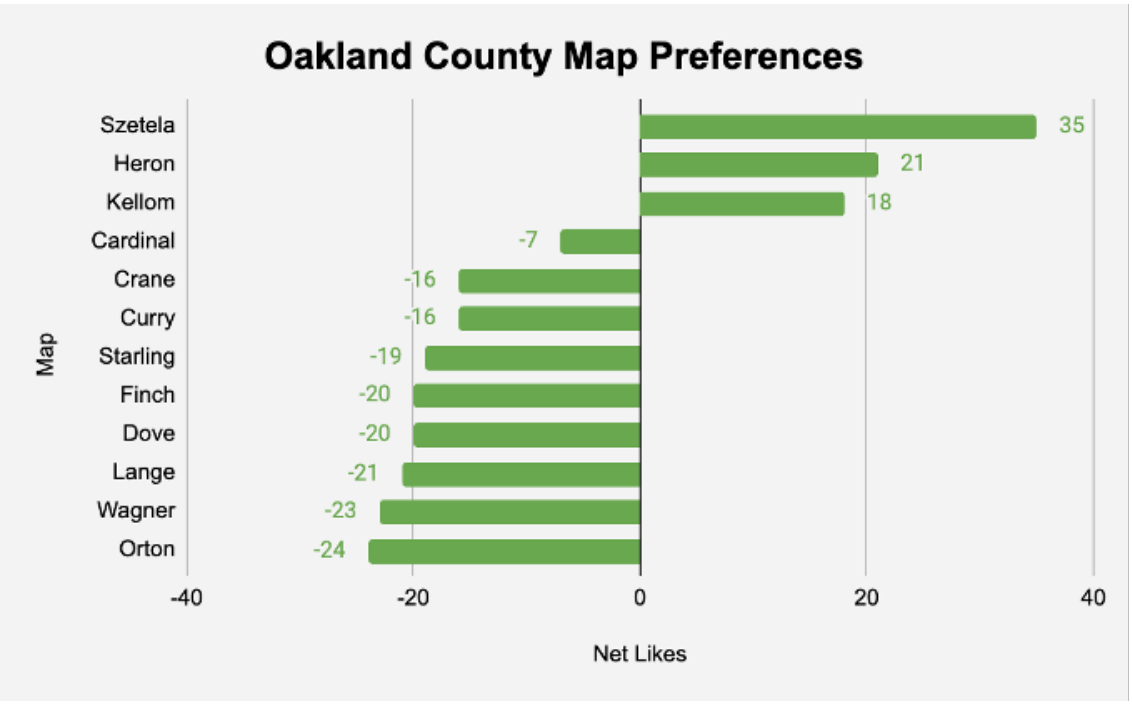
1. Please use the following sentences, each of which is a unique comment, to extract topline trends about the [XX] map. Consider commenters ' suggestions for changes to the map, disadvantages of the map, and advantages. Please explain which share of comments were negative/positive, etc. and be as specific as possible. Please accurately refer to the share of comments when possible to explain trends.

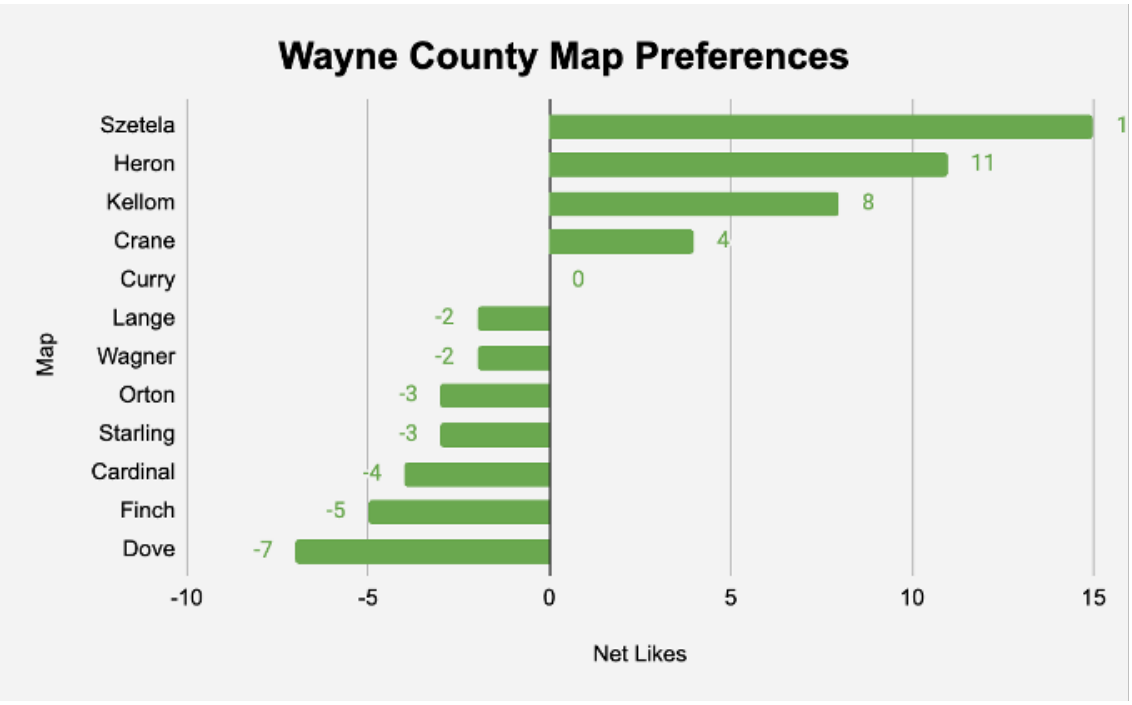
2. Using the comments above, please analyze each of the following themes: 1). How many comments believe the map to have partisan fairness? How many criticize partisan fairness? What are the general takeaways about fairness in this map? 2). What do the comments say about how the map draws districts in specific locations, including in Macomb County? Wayne County? Oakland County? The city of Detroit? 3). What do the comments say about the map's treatment and representation of communities of interest (COIs) and minority communities?

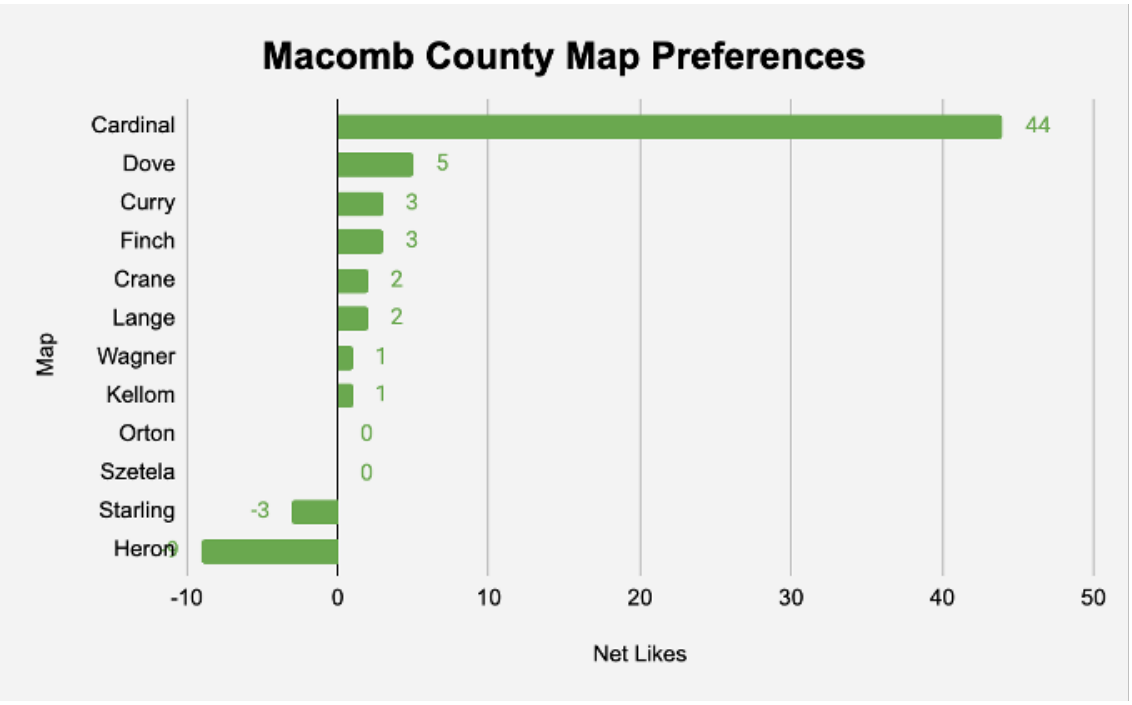
Information extracted from U-M GPT was subsequently cross referenced in the public comment database by members of the CLOSUP team. Although the team members hand-coded every comment in the database, there were simply too many comments to offer an unbiased and complete analysis of the feedback. Nonetheless, the team made necessary corrections to the AI's responses summarizing the map preference trends in the below map-specific findings. The U-M GPT interface can be found here.

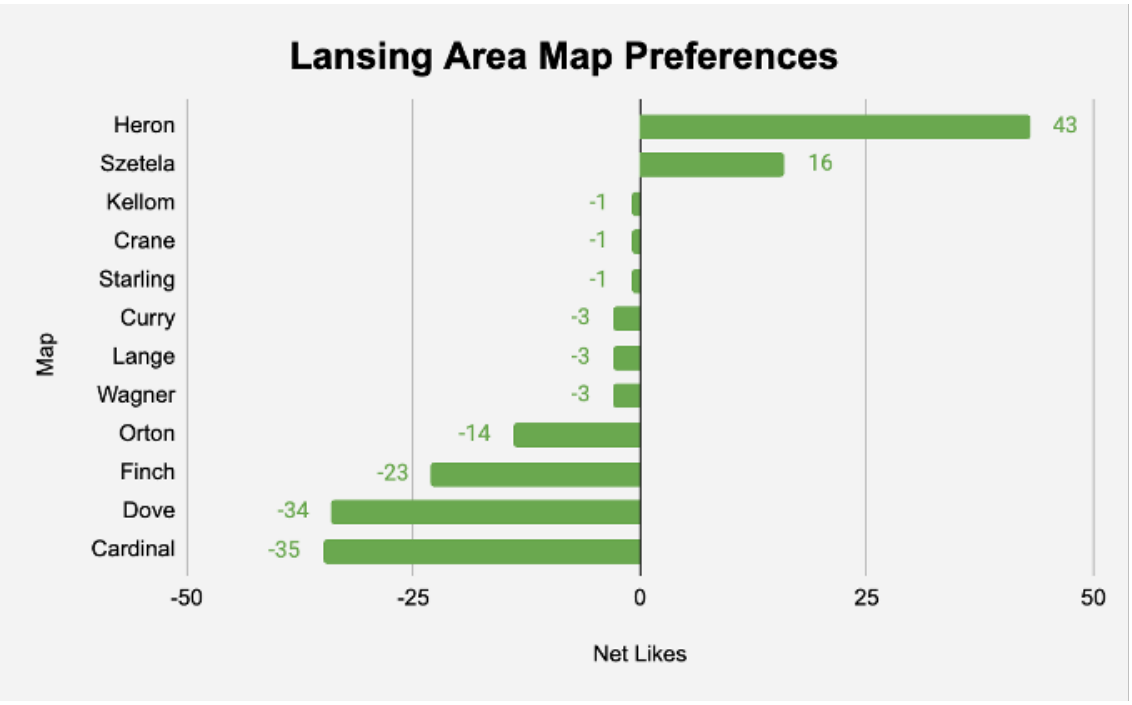
Other Regional Preference Data

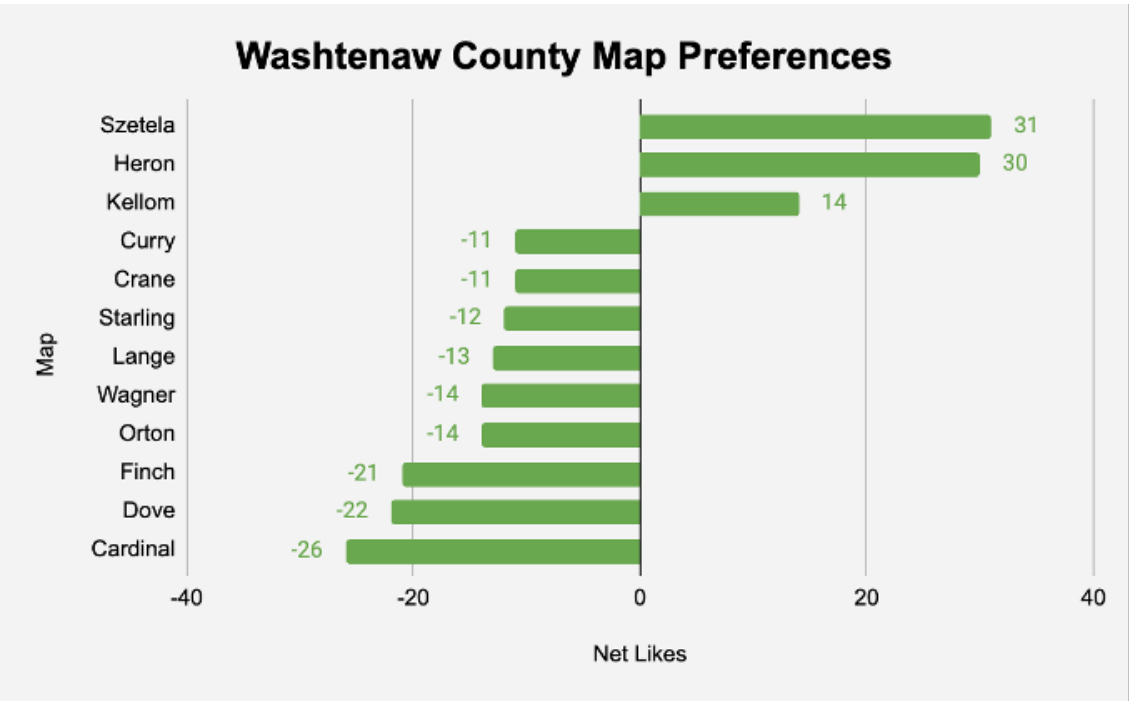
The map preferences of regions with the most commenters.

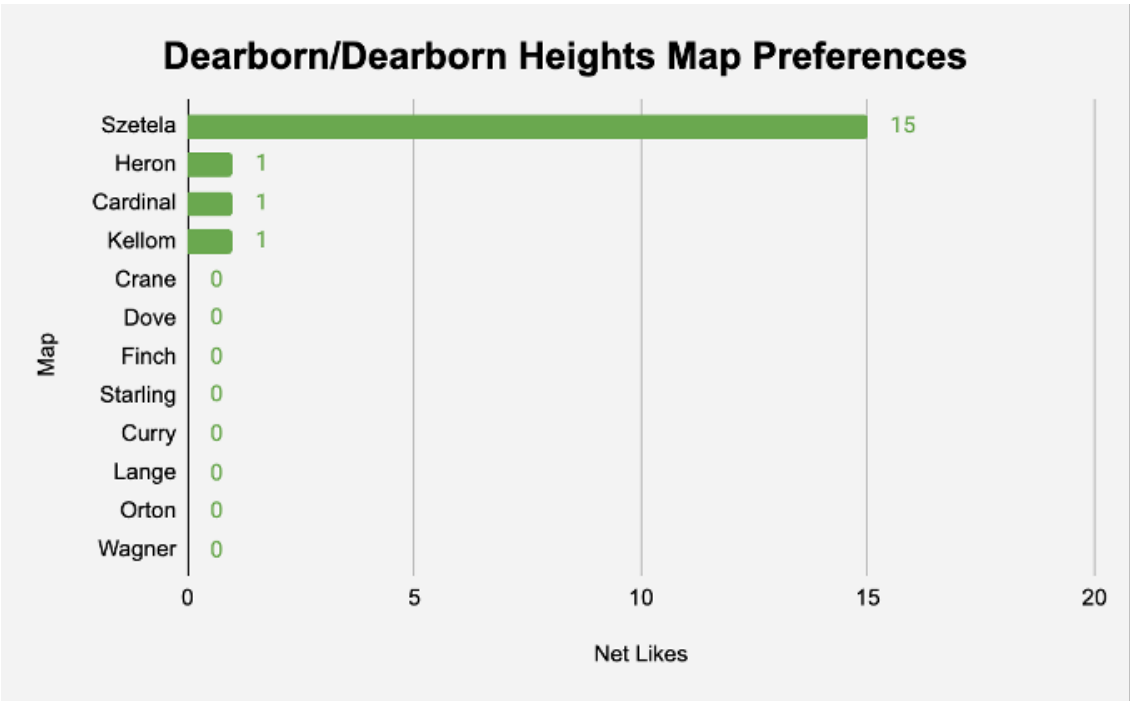




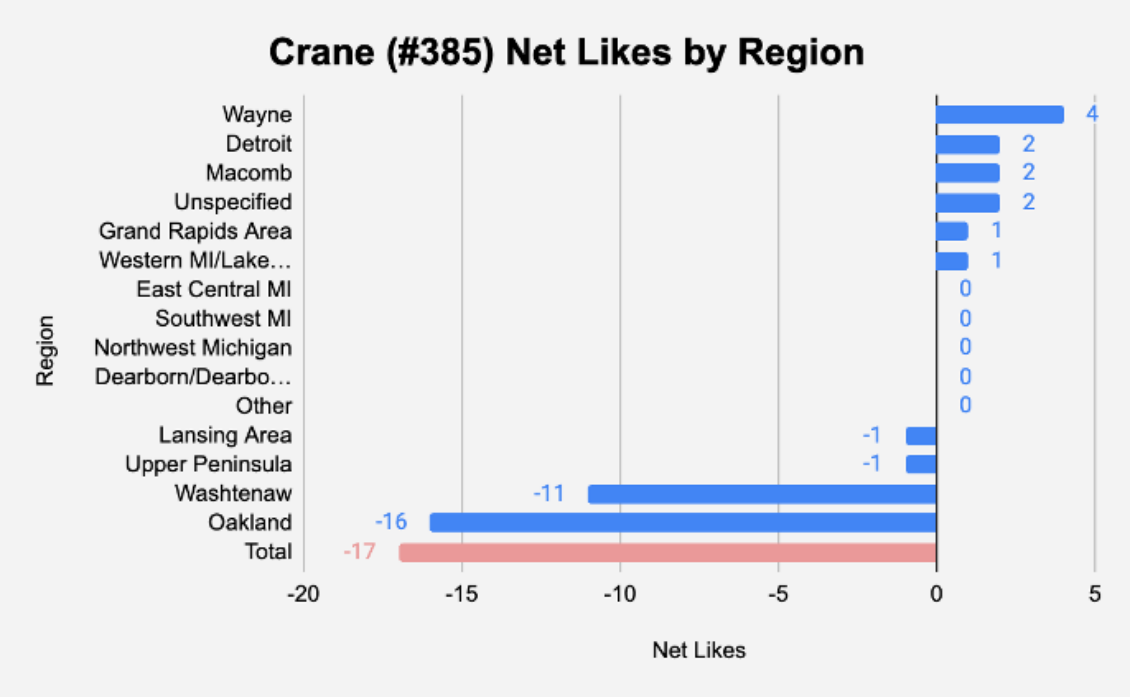

Macomb County Map Preferences
Cardinal
Dove
Curry
Finch
Crane
Lange
Wagner
Kellom
Orton
Szetela
Starling
Heron
44
5
3
3
2
2
1
1
0
0
-3
-10
0
10
20
30
40
50
Map
Net Likes

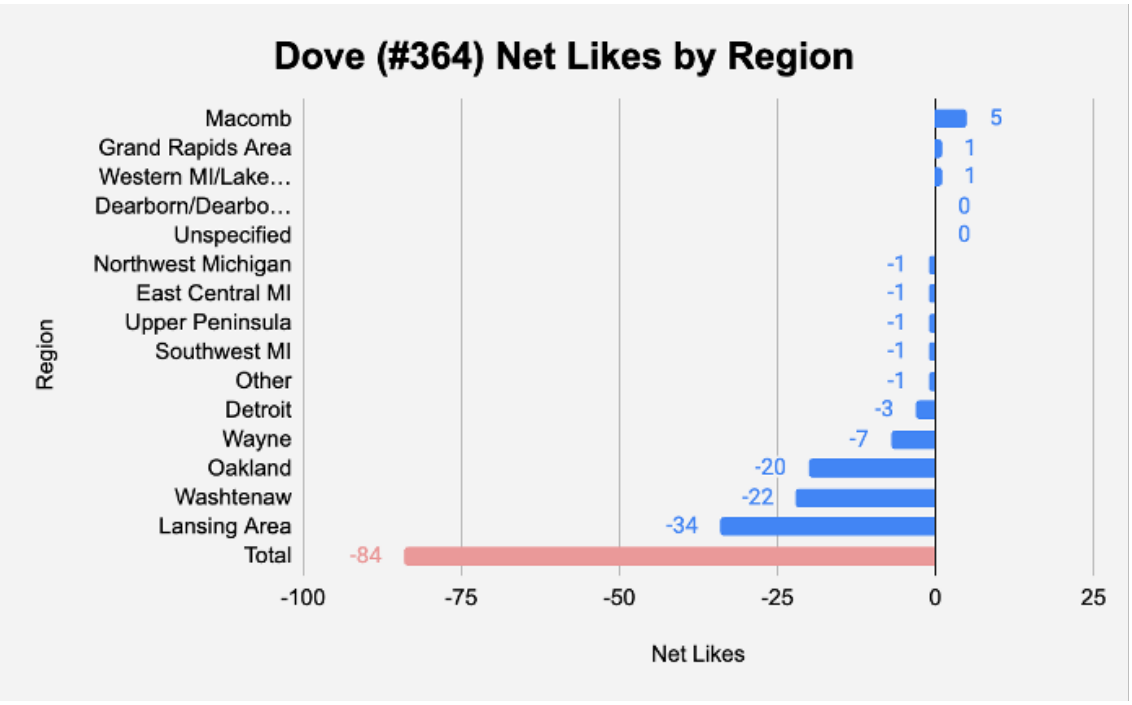

Lansing Area Map Preferences
Heron
Szetela
Kellom
Crane
Starling
Curry
Lange
Wagner
Orton
Finch
Dove
Cardinal
43
16
-1
-1
-1
-3
-3
-3
-14
-23
-34
-35
-50
-25
0
25
50
Map
Net Likes

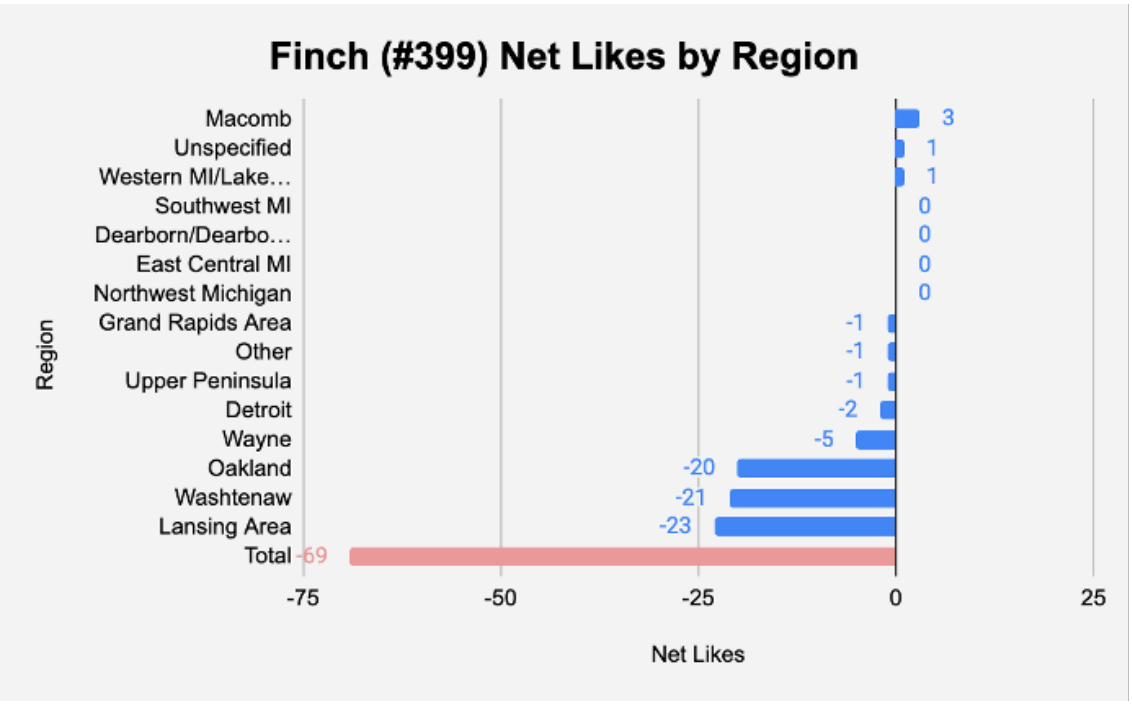

Washtenaw County Map Preferences
Szetela
Heron
Kellom
Curry
Crane
Starling
Lange
Wagner
Orton
Finch
Dove
Cardinal
31
30
14
-11
-11
-12
-13
-14
-14
-21
-22
-26
Map
-40
-20
0
20
40
Net Likes

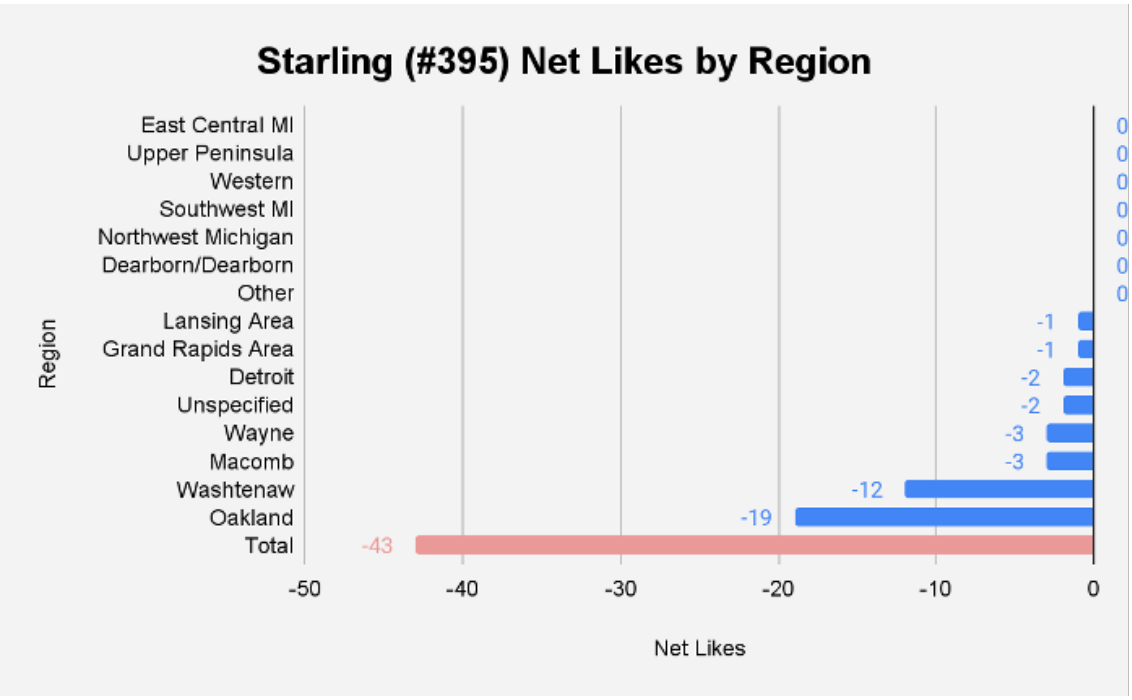

Dearborn/Dearborn Heights Map Preferences
Szetela
Heron
Cardinal
Kellom
Crane
Dove
Finch
Starling
Curry
Lange
Orton
Wagner
15
1
1
1
0
0
0
0
0
0
0
0
Map
0
5
10
15
20
Net Likes

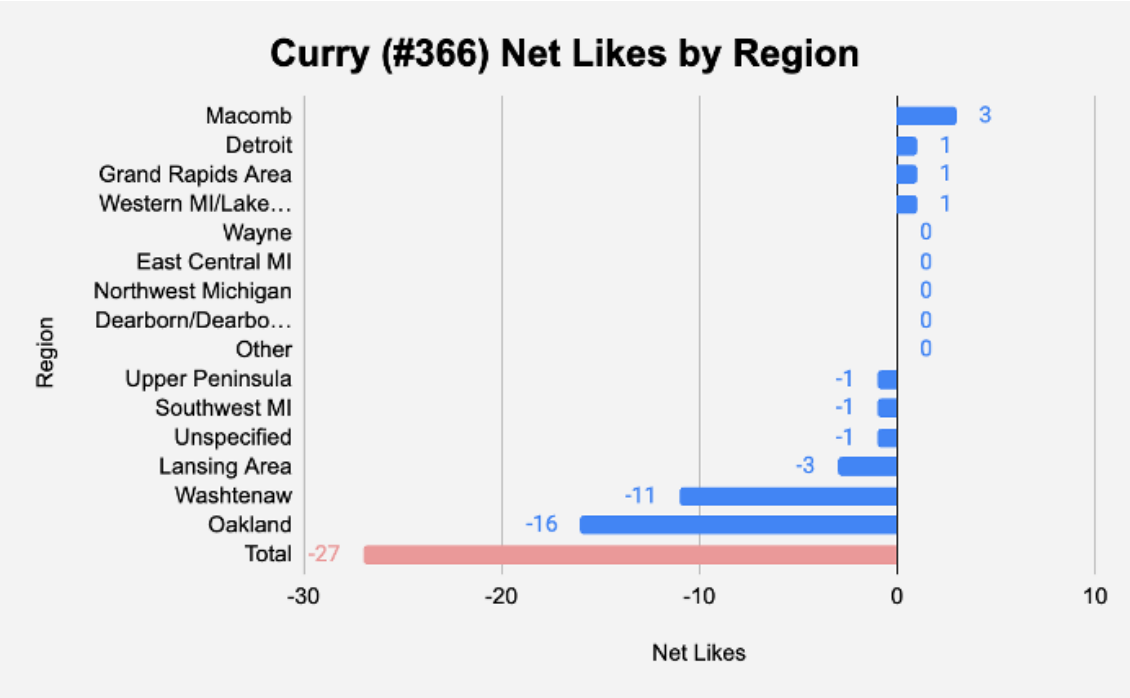
The regional net favorability ratings for the remaining eight maps.

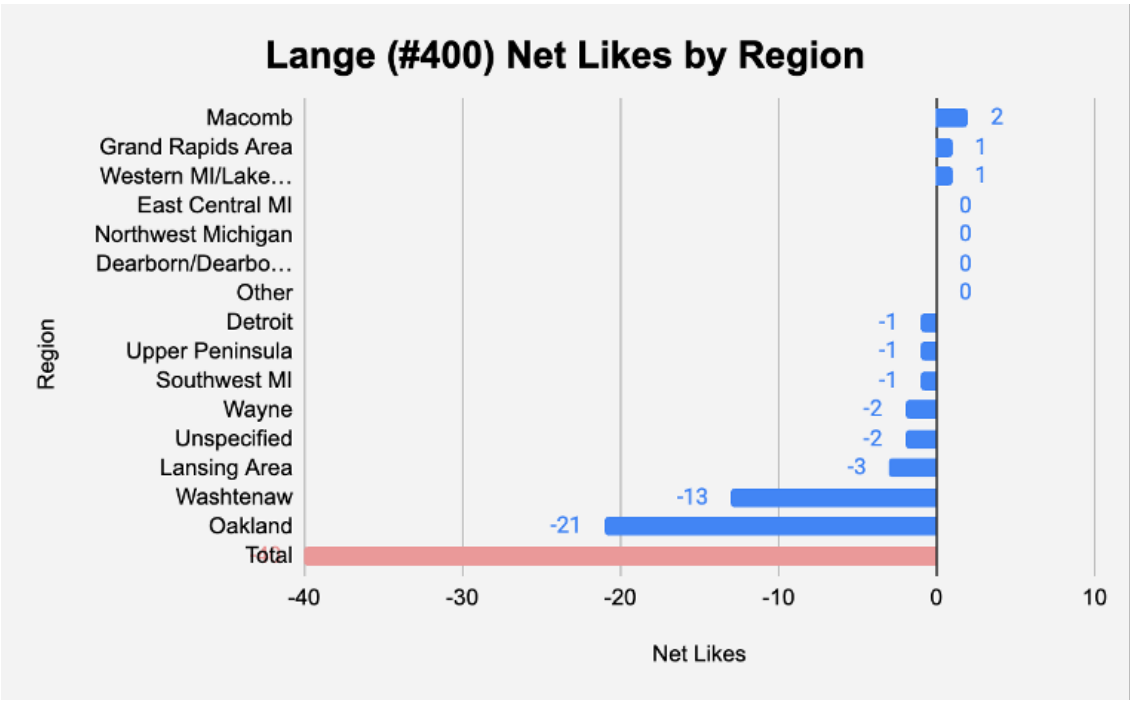


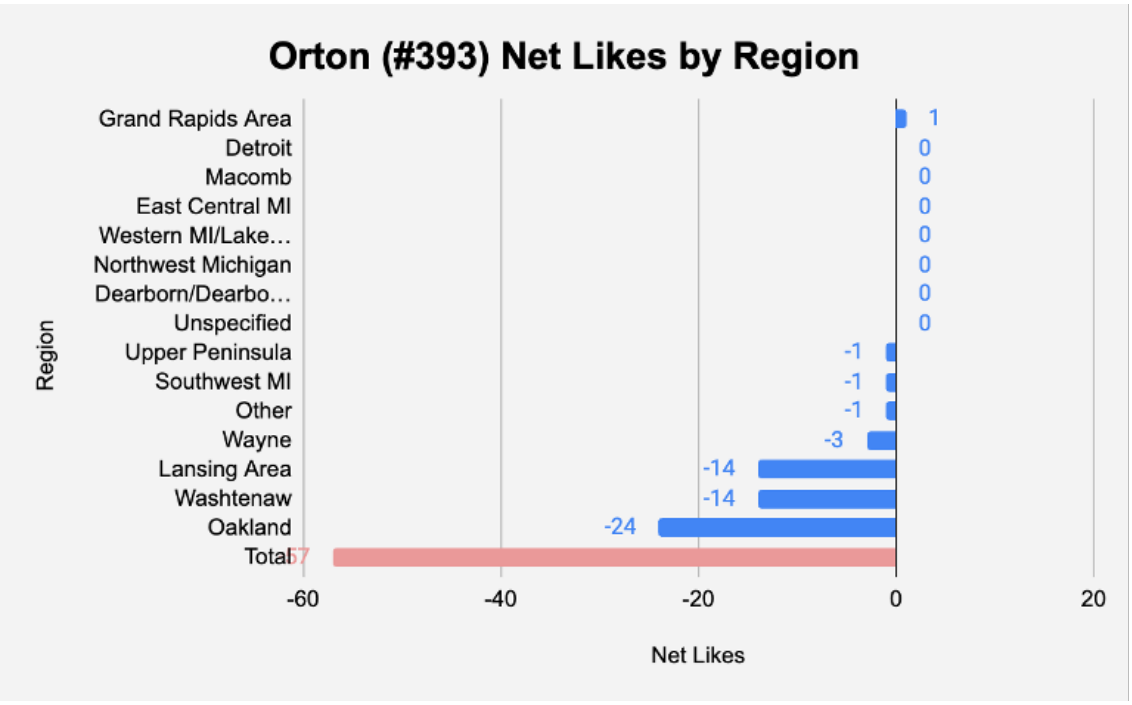


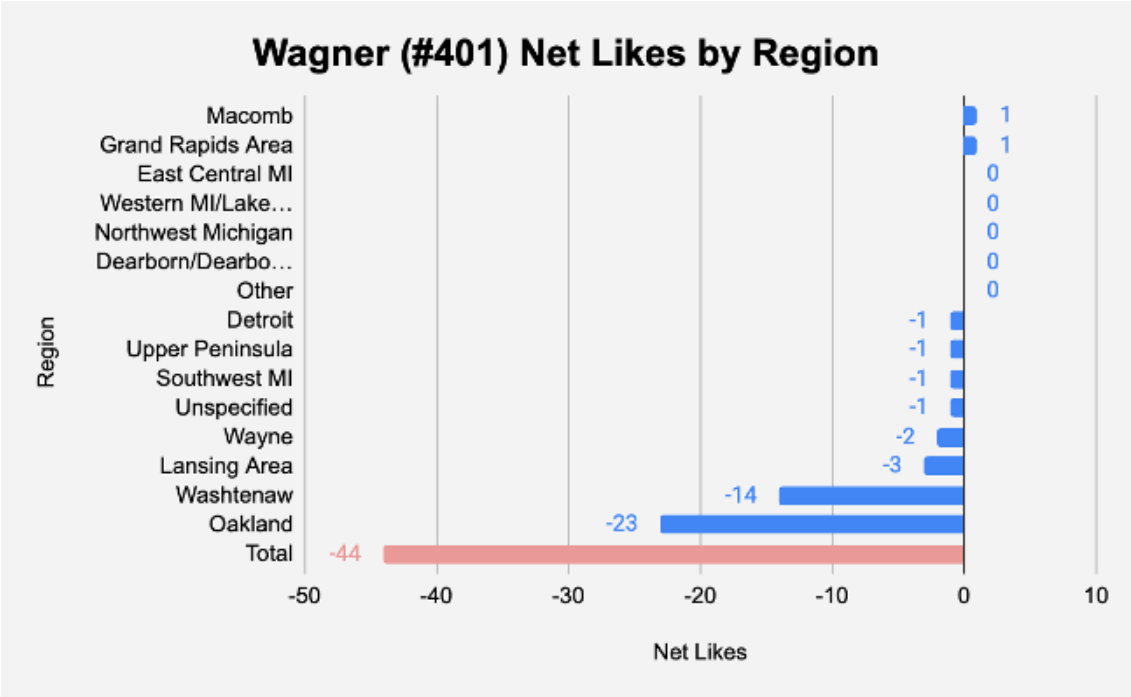

Finch (#399) Net Likes by Region
Region
Macomb
Unspecified
Western MI/Lake…
Southwest MI
Dearborn/Dearbo…
East Central MI
Northwest Michigan
Grand Rapids Area
Other
Upper Peninsula
Detroit
Wayne
Oakland
Washtenaw
Lansing Area
Total
3
1
1
0
0
0
0
-1
-1
-1
-2
-5
-20
-21
-23
-69
-75
-50
-25
0
25
Net Likes


Starling (#395) Net Likes by Region
Region
East Central MI
Upper Peninsula
Western
Southwest MI
Northwest Michigan
Dearborn/Dearborn
Other
Lansing Area
Grand Rapids Area
Detroit
Unspecified
Wayne
Macomb
Washtenaw
Oakland
Total
0
0
0
0
0
0
0
-1
-1
-2
-2
-3
-3
-12
-19
-43
-50
-40
-30
-20
-10
0
Net Likes


Curry (#366) Net Likes by Region
Region
Macomb
Detroit
Grand Rapids Area
Western MI/Lake…
Wayne
East Central MI
Northwest Michigan
Dearborn/Dearbo…
Other
Upper Peninsula
Southwest MI
Unspecified
Lansing Area
Washtenaw
Oakland
Total
3
1
1
1
0
0
0
0
0
-1
-1
-1
-3
-11
-16
-27
-30
-20
-10
0
10
Net Likes


Lange (#400) Net Likes by Region
Region
Macomb
Grand Rapids Area
Western MI/Lake…
East Central MI
Northwest Michigan
Dearborn/Dearbo…
Other
Detroit
Upper Peninsula
Southwest MI
Wayne
Unspecified
Lansing Area
Washtenaw
Oakland
Total
2
1
1
0
0
0
0
-1
-1
-1
-2
-2
-3
-13
-21
-40
-30
-20
-10
0
10
Net Likes


Orton (#393) Net Likes by Region
Region
Grand Rapids Area
Detroit
Macomb
East Central MI
Western MI/Lake…
Northwest Michigan
Dearborn/Dearbo…
Unspecified
Upper Peninsula
Southwest MI
Other
Wayne
Lansing Area
Washtenaw
Oakland
Total
1
0
0
0
0
0
0
0
-1
-1
-1
-3
-14
-14
-24
-57
-60
-40
-20
0
20
Net Likes


Wagner (#401) Net Likes by Region
Region
Macomb
Grand Rapids Area
East Central MI
Western MI/Lake…
Northwest Michigan
Dearborn/Dearbo…
Other
Detroit
Upper Peninsula
Southwest MI
Unspecified
Wayne
Lansing Area
Washtenaw
Oakland
Total
1
1
0
0
0
0
0
-1
-1
-1
-1
-2
-3
-14
-23
-44
-50
-40
-30
-20
-10
0
10
Net Likes

Funding for the project has been provided by the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC), in addition to CLOSUP's own funds.

The analysis presented here represents the views of the authors. It does not necessarily reflect the views of the University of Michigan or the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC).

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