

FAIR REPRESENTATION

BY ENDING *Prison Gerrymandering*

VOTERS
NOT POLITICIANS

Prison gerrymandering is a problem created by the Census Bureau when it counts incarcerated people in the wrong place as residents of a prison cell rather than in their home communities. This misrepresentation leads to incarcerated people being counted in districts where they do not live, leading to unbalanced district maps.

THE SOLUTION: PASS SB 033, introduced by Senator Santana

- **Maintain more detailed records** - Require that state prisons maintain up-to-date residential records for any person entering its custody including the last known complete street address prior to incarceration, the person's race, whether the person is of Hispanic or Latino origin, and whether the person is over the age of 18.
- **Share relevant data** - Direct state prisons within Michigan to share relevant residential information with the Secretary of State for the purpose of decennial apportionment.
- **Apportion appropriately** - The data prepared by the Secretary of State shall be the basis of congressional districts, state house of representative districts, state senate districts, and all local government districts that are based on population. Incarcerated populations residing at unknown geographic locations within the State of Michigan shall not be used to determine the ideal population of any set of districts, wards, or precincts.

FAIR REPRESENTATION

Accurately counting incarcerated people as residents of their home communities, where they have connections and will almost certainly return after they are released, will result in districts where lawmakers will better serve their constituents' interests.

- **Bring apportionment standards in line with Michigan Law.** MCL §168.11(2) states that, "An elector shall not be deemed to have gained or lost a residence...while confined in a jail or prison."
- **Incarcerated facilities will no longer give displaced political power to the political district in which prisons are located.** By artificially inflating the populations of these communities, prison gerrymandering gives disproportionate advantage to districts with prisons, resulting in skewed representation for every political district in the state.
- **The residential data collected by incarceration facilities will not be used to determine the distribution of any state or federal aid.** The policy will only impact political representation.

*Voters Not Politicians is the leading democracy and voting rights group in Michigan fighting for structural democracy reform to put voters at the center of policy-making. We are proudly working in coalition with **Voting Access For All Coalition** member groups to end prison gerrymandering in Michigan.*

