

# cartographic perspectives

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## cartographic perspectives on the news

**CITIZENS MAP POLITICAL DISTRICTS IN MICHIGAN**  
Common Cause in Michigan is sponsoring a contest to encourage public participation in the highly politicized decennial remapping of State House and Senate seats. For \$25, citizens receive a kit containing 1980 district maps and 1990 census population data by county, city, township and selected census tracts. The Michigan State Chamber of Commerce has donated two \$1,000 prizes for Senate and House redistricting plans that best satisfy Common Cause's reapportionment criteria.

Consistent with Common Cause's goal to "demonstrate how election lines can be redrawn without political interference," the contest kit does not include data on party affiliation or historical voting trends. In fact, contest participants are required to sign a statement affirming that they "have not used political data" to inform their maps.

The four-member Common Cause board of directors will serve as judges. Entries will be judged on five criteria: the contiguity of proposed districts, minimization of population disparity among