

KALAMAZOO COUNTY CENSUS 2020

| Jurisdiction | 2010 Population | 2020 Population | Change % (-/+) |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| ALAMO TOWNSHIP | 3,762 | 3,805 | 1.10% |
| BRADY TOWNSHIP | 4,248 | 4,445 | 4.60% |
| CHARLESTON TOWNSHIP | 11,975 | 1,904 | -3.60% |
| CLIMAX TOWNSHIP | 2,463 | 2,364 | -4.00% |
| COMSTOCK TOWNSHIP | 14,854 | 15,231 | 2.50% |
| COOPER TOWNSHIP | 10,111 | 10,418 | 3.00% |
| KALAMAZOO TOWNSHIP | 21,918 | 22,777 | 3.90% |
| OSHTEMO TOWNSHIP | 21,918 | 23,747 | 3.90% |
| PAVILION TOWNSHIP | 6,222 | 6,387 | 2.70% |
| PRAIRIE RONDE TOWNSHIP | 2,250 | 2,369 | 5.30% |
| RICHLAND TOWNSHIP | 7,580 | 8,693 | 14.70% |
| ROSS TOWNSHIP | 4,664 | 4,851 | 4.00% |
| SCHOOLCRAFT TOWNSHIP | 8,214 | 9,183 | 11.80% |
| TEXAS TOWNSHIP | 14,697 | 17,691 | 20.40% |
| WAKESHMA TOWNSHIP | 1,301 | 1,341 | 3.10% |
| CITY OF GALESBURG | 2,008 | 2,049 | 2.00% |
| CITY OF KALAMAZOO | 74,252 | 73,598 | -0.90% |
| CITY OF PARCHMENT | 1,804 | 1,926 | 6.80% |
| CITY OF PORTAGE | 46,292 | 48,891 | 5.60% |
| Kalamazoo County Total | 250,331 | 261,670 | 4.50% |

Source: <https://www.mlive.com/public-interest/2021/08/where-are-michigans-fastest-growing-cities-see-population-changes-from-2010-2020.html>

County Board Size

When county boards of supervisors shifted to being directly elected county boards of commissioners, most became much smaller. The net effect of the reapportionment actions collectively reduced the total number of county commissioners in the state significantly. Many county boards were reduced to five or seven members, even though the law would have allowed them to have more. The county boards that increased in size were the exceptions.

In the reapportionment after the 1990 census, CACs were less predictable. Some reduced the size of their county commissions even more; others increased the board sizes. (See Table 2-3 for the changes in board sizes from 1968 to 2015.)

Table 2-3. Size of County Boards by Region: 1968, 1972, 1982, 2002, 2015.

| County | 1968* | 1972 | 1982 | 1992 | 2002 | 2015 |
|------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Alcona | 14 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Alger | 12 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Allegan | 40 | 21 | 13 | 9 | 11 | 7 |
| Alpena | 16 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Antrim | 15 | 9 | 11 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| Arenac | 17 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Baraga | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Barry | 20 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 7 |
| Bay | 45 | 21 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 7 |
| Benzie | 14 | 10 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 7 |
| Berrien | 48 | 21 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 12 |
| Branch | 21 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 5 |
| Calhoun | 41 | 19 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Cass | 18 | 21 | 11 | 7 | 15 | 7 |
| Charlevoix | 25 | 15 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Cheboygan | 25 | 15 | 11 | 9 | 7 | 7 |
| Chippewa | 25 | 13 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 5 |
| Clare | 23 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Clinton | 22 | 11 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Crawford | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 7 |
| Delta | 27 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Dickinson | 19 | 15 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Eaton | 31 | 21 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Emmet | 22 | 11 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Genesee | 62 | 17 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 |

| County | 1968* | 1972 | 1982 | 1992 | 2002 | 2015 |
|----------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Gladwin | 22 | 11 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 5 |
| Gogebic | 21 | 15 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 7 |
| Grand Traverse | 18 | 15 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 7 |
| Gratiot | 26 | 9 | 11 | 7 | 7 | 5 |
| Hillsdale | 22 | 9 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 5 |
| Houghton | 18 | 15 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Huron | 30 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Ingham | 42 | 21 | 20 | 17 | 16 | 14 |
| Ionia | 24 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 7 |
| Iosco | 19 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Iron | 21 | 15 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Isabella | 21 | 15 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Jackson | 27 | 21 | 15 | 15 | 12 | 9 |
| Kalamazoo | 37 | 17 | 13 | 9 | 17 | 11 |
| Kalkaska | 12 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Kent | 77 | 21 | 21 | 19 | 19 | 19 |
| Keweenaw | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Lake | 15 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 7 |
| Lapeer | 22 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 7 |
| Leelanau | 11 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Lenawee | 11 | 21 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| Livingston | 21 | 15 | 5 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| Luce | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Mackinac | 15 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Macomb | 71 | 21 | 25 | 25 | 26 | 13 |
| Manistee | 14 | 11 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Marquette | 44 | 21 | 5 | 10 | 9 | 6 |
| Mason | 22 | 15 | 15 | 9 | 10 | 7 |
| Mecosta | 21 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Menominee | 7 | 15 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 9 |
| Midland | 21 | 19 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Missaukee | 17 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 7 |
| Monroe | 22 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| Montcalm | 28 | 9 | 5 | 13 | 9 | 9 |
| Montmorency | 18 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Muskegon | 45 | 15 | 11 | 9 | 11 | 9 |

| County | 1968* | 1972 | 1982 | 1992 | 2002 | 2015 |
|--------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Newaygo | 32 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Oakland | 87 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 25 | 21 |
| Oceana | 18 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Ogemaw | 18 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 5 |
| Ontonagon | 11 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Osceola | 21 | 15 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 7 |
| Oscoda | 16 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Otsego | 11 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| Ottawa | 35 | 21 | 11 | 13 | 11 | 11 |
| Presque Isle | 22 | 13 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 5 |
| Roscommon | 12 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Saginaw | 55 | 21 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 11 |
| Sanilac | 29 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 5 |
| Schoolcraft | 13 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Shiawassee | 31 | 17 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| St. Clair | 59 | 15 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 7 |
| St. Joseph | 24 | 12 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 5 |
| Tuscola | 25 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 5 |
| Van Buren | 26 | 15 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Washtenaw | 39 | 13 | 9 | 15 | 11 | 9 |
| Wayne | 135 | 26 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Wexford | 23 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 9 |
| Totals | 2229 | 3005 | 2698 | 2692 | 2701 | 2637 |

*The 1968 commissioner numbers are presented here (rather than the post-census 1962 numbers) because of the U.S. Supreme Court rulings in the mid-1960s—and the subsequent passage of Michigan laws to comply with those rulings—that shook up how county commissioner districts were drawn.

Citizen Challenges to Apportionment Plans

County commissioners and members of the public have relatively few options for limiting partisan or political influences on apportionment decisions. CAC meetings are subject to the OMA, so it's possible to find out at least a little bit about what information members used in their deliberations and how each member voted. Such information could be helpful when filing a court challenge against a CAC's final decision.

Any registered voter in a county is permitted by law to file a direct challenge to the county's new apportionment plan with the state Court of Appeals within 30 days after the plan's adoption. A few such challenges are filed after each reapportionment process, but the courts have seldom given much weight to arguments that a particular apportionment commission didn't follow the second-tier guidelines properly.



BOARD SIZE HAS DECLINED

- Declined every apportionment

| Year | Total | Average |
|------|-------|---------|
| 1968 | 2229 | 26.9 |
| 1972 | 1034 | 12.5 |
| 1982 | 716 | 8.6 |
| 1992 | 703 | 8.5 |
| 2002 | 686 | 8.3 |
| 2012 | 622 | 7.5 |



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Commissioners today more directly represent the people
- Many still maintain close ties to townships
- Commissioners also need to consider the best interest of the entire county



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- The “service” role of counties lends itself well to less partisan decision-making
- Service related decisions need broad input from citizens
- “Fiduciary” role – Not just finance, but “...acting on behalf of another...bound both legally and ethically (and voluntarily) to act in the other’s best interests.” (investopedia.com)

