Want to fix Michigan politics? Here's how

If a drop in population means a congressional seat must be eliminated, it comes from the other team’s territory. Both parties want to keep their incumbent legislators in office. So the main objective is to herd the opposing party’s voters into the fewest legislative districts possible while spreading its own party’s voters as evenly as possible among the remaining districts.

That’s the way it’s always been. And that’s the way it’s always going to be — unless the constitution is changed. And that will take an amendment to the state constitution.

It starts with a petition drive to gather sufficient signatures to place the proposal on the ballot. But that’s just the start. It will take another petition drive, this time to collect the signatures needed to place it on the ballot for voters to consider.

The act compelled parts of the country with the greatest potential for discrimination at the polls to submit election data to the federal government, just one of the provisions of the Voting Rights Act that were struck down two years ago by the U.S. Supreme Court.

It certainly does not. Ruff is right that escaping the sting of partisanship is complicated. But other states have hit on innovative ways to create neutral lines.

Changing the way we draw our districts would end the cycle, and ensure that Michigan’s elected officeholders are chosen based on the merits of the candidates, not the parties they represent.

Isn’t this a power grab by Democrats, who just want more seats? That’s the maddening, hopeful conundrum confronting folks who want to change the way we choose our elected representatives. Do we care enough to make the process more democratic and fair?