

Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

Virtual Meeting via Zoom Webinar because of Covid-19 pandemic,
pursuant to 2020 PA 228 (MCL 15.263)

Full agenda, presentations, transcripts, and video recordings are available at
RedistrictingMichigan.org

Thursday, December 17, 2020

9:00 AM – 11:37 AM

MINUTES

PRESENT: Douglas James Clark
Juanita Curry
Anthony Eid
Brittni Kellom
Rhonda Lange
Steven Terry Lett
Cynthia Orton
MC Rothhorn
Rebecca Szetela
Janice Vallette
Erin Wagner
Richard Weiss
Dustin Joseph Witjes (left meeting at 9:17 AM)

ABSENT: N/A

OTHERS PRESENT: ICRC executive director Suann Hammersmith;
Michigan Department of State (“MDOS”) staff

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chair Lett called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 9:00 AM.

ROLL CALL

MDOS staff called roll. All commissioners were present and a quorum was met.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Chair Lett called for a vote by show of hands to approve the agenda, as presented.

AGENDA UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Lett called for a vote by show of hands to approve the minutes, as presented.

MINUTES UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Lett opened the floor to public comment. There were two requests for public comment to address the live commission meeting: Daniel Cook and Susan Smith.

A full inventory of live and written public comment is available at

RedistrictingMichigan.org.

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

Chair Lett led the introduction and welcome of the Commission's new Executive Director, Suann Hammersmith.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Administrative Items. MDOS staff provided an update on the Commission's administrative requests.

Chair Lett called for a vote by show of hands to approve the Executive Director's authority to approve Commission payroll and expenses, per state guidelines, with Chair Lett and Vice Chair Kellom providing review and approval. **COMMISSION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

2. General Counsel Hiring. Vice Chair Kellom led the Commission's discussion on the hiring of their General Counsel.

Chair Lett called for a ranked roll call vote to select the Commission's General Council.

Commissioner Lange:	Julianne Pastula
Commissioner Clark:	Katherine Kerwin
Commissioner Weiss:	James Lancaster
Commissioner Rothorn:	Julianne Pastula
Commissioner Wagner:	James Lancaster
Commissioner Orton:	Julianne Pastula
Commissioner Curry:	Julianne Pastula
Commissioner Vallette:	Julianne Pastula

Commissioner Szetela:	James Lancaster
Commissioner Eid:	James Lancaster
Vice Chair Kellom:	Julianne Pastula
Chair Lett:	James Lancaster

The first round of ranked voting resulted in no candidate receiving a majority of votes, a constitutional requirement for the Commission to retain paid staff. MI Const. Art. IV, § 6(12). **ROLL CALL VOTE FAILED.**

Chair Lett called for a second roll call vote of the top two candidates resulting from the first rank vote.

Commissioner Lange:	Julianne Pastula
Commissioner Clark:	Julianne Pastula
Commissioner Weiss:	James Lancaster
Commissioner Rothhorn:	Julianne Pastula
Commissioner Wagner:	James Lancaster
Commissioner Orton:	Julianne Pastula
Commissioner Curry:	Julianne Pastula
Commissioner Vallette:	Julianne Pastula
Commissioner Szetela:	James Lancaster
Commissioner Eid:	James Lancaster
Vice Chair Kellom:	Julianne Pastula
Chair Lett:	James Lancaster

The final round of ranked voting resulted in one candidate receiving a majority of votes consisting of at least one vote from a Commissioner of each party affiliation, both of which are constitutional requirements for the Commission to retain paid staff. MI Const. Art. IV, § 6(12).

BY A ROLL CALL VOTE OF 7-5, THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE HIRING OF JULIANNE PASTULA AS GENERAL COUNSEL

By a show of hands, the Commission unanimously authorized Executive Director Hammersmith and Commissioners Rothhorn and Wagner to perform the ministerial duty of engaging in an initial discussion on the General Counsel offer of employment with Ms. Pastula and bringing back a written draft of the employment offer for consideration by the full Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Schedule and agenda for January.

- a. Communications and Outreach Director interviews and selection timeframe

MOTION: Expand the number of final candidates for Communications and Outreach Director from six to seven individuals, including: Janet Lebson, Sonya Howell, Edward Woods III, Andrea Taylor, Bill Froehlich, Amy Hybel, and Walter Sorg. **Motion by Commissioner Lange. Supported by Chair Lett. Chair Lett called for a vote by show of hands. MOTION APPROVED 7-5.**

MOTION: Authorize Executive Director Hammersmith to pre-interview the seven candidates of **for**¹ Communications **and** Outreach Director and provide a recommendation to the Commission for final interviews. **Motion by Chair Lett. Supported by Commissioner Wagner. Chair Lett called for a vote by show of hands. MOTION APPROVED 11-1.**

- b. The commission discussed future meeting dates.
- c. Commission discussed outstanding correspondence.
- d. Executive Director Hammersmith presented a short term focus list, including: budget status/projection, RFP/RFQs for expertise and software, onboarding of staff, continuing education for commissioners, spokesperson for commission and procedural correspondence on behalf of commission.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Lett called for a vote by show of hands to adjourn. **ADJOURNMENT UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 AM.

¹ Per the Open Meetings Act [[MCL 15.269\(1\)](#)] any corrections made by a public body to approved Minutes must “show both the original entry and the correction” and therefore all corrections are shown using font ~~striethrough~~ to denote deletions and red font to denote corrections.