

# **Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission**

Virtual Meeting via Zoom Webinar due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic,  
pursuant to 2020 PA 254 (MCL 15.263)

Full agenda, presentations, transcripts, and video recordings are available at  
[RedistrictingMichigan.org](http://RedistrictingMichigan.org)

**Thursday, January 28, 2021**

**3:00 PM – 5:58 PM**

## **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

**ABSENT:** N/A

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Suann Hammersmith, Executive Director  
Julianne V. Pastula, General Counsel  
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 3:00 PM.

## **ROLL CALL**

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

## **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Chair Lett called for a motion to approve the agenda. **Motion by Commissioner Wagner. Supported by Commissioner Curry. Chair Lett held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

## **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioners discussed the draft minutes and offered minor edits. Chair Lett called for a motion to approve minutes as amended. **Motion by Commissioner Wagner. Supported by Commissioner Weiss. Chair Lett held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Lett opened the floor to public comment. There was no public comment. A full inventory of live and written public comment is available at [RedistrictingMichigan.org](http://RedistrictingMichigan.org).

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Executive Director Hammersmith reported correspondence from Moon Duchin, MGGG Redistricting Lab of Tufts University requesting the opportunity to provide the Commission with redistricting services; the executive director redirected them to the Commission's website.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Executive Director Hammersmith updated the Commission that drafts have been developed for the Commission's 2021 calendar, a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Voting Rights Act (VRA) legal counsel and Rules of Procedure; all will be reviewed by the Commission during the current meeting. The executive director also hosted a brief ice-breaker activity.

## **LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT**

General Counsel Pastula reported that she will review with the Commission the RFP for the VRA legal counsel, as well as a first draft of the Rules of Procedure under New Business of today's meeting. She also notified commissioners she will be working towards drafts on various policies for the Commission, including Conflicts of Interest, Freedom of Information Act and communications.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

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

2. 2021 Regular Meeting Calendar. Executive Director Hammersmith presented the draft 2021 calendar, subject to change as needed.

**MOTION:** Amend the calendar to alternate morning and afternoon meeting times to every other week, beginning with the Feb. 4, 2021 meeting to be held from 9 am to 12 noon. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Orton. Chair Lett held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Voting Rights Act (VRA) Legal Counsel RFP. General Legal Counsel Pastula presented the draft RFP and responded to questions from commissioners.

**MOTION:** Accept RFP with minor edits, including removal of duplicate text on Page 18 and the requirement of Certificates of Good Standing and Permanent State Bar Member Number/P# for all attorneys involved. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Curry. Chair Lett held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Commissioners discussed process for review of proposals.

**MOTION:** Commission and MDOS staff will complete an initial review of VRA RFP applicants and remove non-qualifying applicants. Staff will rank remaining applicants for the Commission. The Commission will establish a VRA RFP subcommittee comprised of Commissioners Clark (Republican), Witjes (Democrat), Eid (Independent) and Szetela (Independent). **Motion by Chair Lett. Supported by Commissioner Rothhorn. Chair Lett held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

**MOTION:** Appoint Commissioner Szetela as the VRA RFP subcommittee chair. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Wagner. Chair Lett held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

2. Fiscal Year 2021 Budget. Executive Director Hammersmith reviewed budget with commissioners and answered questions.

3. Proposed Rules of Procedure. General Counsel Pastula reviewed the proposed draft with the Commission and will provide a revised draft incorporating commissioner feedback for further discussion at the next meeting of the Commission.
  
4. Upcoming Meeting Agenda Topics.  
Continued discussion on Rules of Procedure  
New 2021 Meeting Calendar  
Key Timeline Dates  
RFP Mapping Vendor Questions

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Lett called for a motion to adjourn.

**MOTION:** Adjourn the meeting. **Motion by Commissioner Rothhorn. Supported by Curry. Chair Lett held a voice vote. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 PM.