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MICRC

06/24/21 1:00 pm Meeting

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> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right. I apologize for the technical difficulties. We are

going to start again from the beginning.

As Vice Chair of the Commission, I call this meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 1:05 p.m.

This webinar is being live streamed at YouTube. At [www.YouTube.com/MICHOS office/videos](http://www.YouTube.com/MICHOS office/videos).

For anyone in the public watching who would prefer to watch via a different platform than they are currently using, please visit our social media at Redistricting MI to find the link for viewing on YouTube.

Our live stream today includes closed captioning. Closed captioning, ASL interpretation, and Spanish and Bengali and Arabic translation services will be provided for effective participation in this meeting. E-mail us at [Redistricting@Michigan.Gov](mailto:Redistricting@Michigan.Gov) for additional viewing options or details on accessing language translation services for this meeting.

People with disabilities or needing other specific accommodations should also contact Redistricting at [Michigan.gov](http://Michigan.gov).

This meeting is being recorded and will be available at [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC) for viewing at a later date.

This meeting is also being transcribed, and those transcriptions will be made available at and posted at [Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://Michigan.gov/MICRC) along with the written public comment submissions.

There is also a public comment portal that may be accessed by visiting [Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://Michigan.gov/MICRC). This portal can be utilized to post maps and comments which can be viewed by Both the Commission and the public.

Members of the media who may have questions before, during or after the meeting should direct those questions to Edward Woods III, Communications and Outreach Director for the Commission at [WoodsE3@Michigan.gov](mailto:WoodsE3@Michigan.gov).

For the purpose of the public watching and the public record, I will now turn the

Department state Staff Who will take note of the Commissioners present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Good afternoon, Commissioners.

Please say present when I call your name. If you are attending the meeting remotely, please announce during roll call that you are attending the meeting remotely. And unless your absence is due to military duty, announce your physical location by stating the county, city, township or village and the state from which you are attending the meeting remotely.

I'll start with Doug Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: For purposes of the public record Commissioner Eid said present and we are currently working on his microphone. I will move on.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Present, attending remotely from Reed City, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present. Attending remotely from Battle Creek, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Present; attending remotely from Charlotte, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: 12 Commissioners are present and there is a quorum.

>> REBECCA SZETELA: Thank you,

As a reminder to the public watching, you can agenda at [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC). I will entertain a motion to approve the meeting agenda.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: So moved.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Motion made by Commissioner Witjes.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Second.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Seconded by Commissioner Lett. Is there any debate or discussion on the motion? Hearing none, it is moved and seconded that the meeting agenda be approved. All in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Aye. All opposed please raise your hand and say nay. The ayes prevail. The motion is adopted.

We will now review and approve the minutes from the June 17, 2021, regular Commission meeting held in the Detroit at the TFC Center. I would entertain a motion to approve the minutes from June 17, 2021, meeting which are posted at [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC).

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: So moved.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Second.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Motion made by Commissioner Lett, motion seconded by Commissioner Witjes. Is there any discussion or debate on the motion?

Hearing none, we will now vote on the motion to adopt the minutes of the June 17, 2021 meeting. All in favor raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All opposed raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes prevail and the motion is adopted. Thank you.

We will review and approve the minutes from the June 17th, 2021 public hearing at Detroit at the TCF Center. I will entertain a motion to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2021 public hearing which are posted at [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC).

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: So moved.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Second.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Motion made by Commissioner Witjes. Motion seconded by Commissioner Lett. Is there any discussion or debate on the motion?

Hearing none, all in favor raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All opposed same sign or say nay, I'm sorry.

The ayes prevail and the motion is adopted.

I will now entertain a motion to approve the minutes from the June 22nd, 2021, regular Commission meeting held at the Blue Water Convention Center in Port Huron.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: So moved.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Motion made by Commissioner Rothorn.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Second.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Motion seconded by Commissioner Vallette. Is there any discussion or debate on the motion?

Hearing none, we will now vote on the motion to adopt the minutes of the June 22, 2021 meeting. All in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All opposed raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes prevail and the motion is adopted.

Thank you.

We will now review and approve the minutes from the June 22nd, 2021, public hearing held at Port Huron at the Blue Water Convention Center. I would entertain a motion to approve the minutes from the June 22nd, 2021, public hearing, which are posted at [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC).

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: So moved.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Second.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Moved by Commissioner Rothorn and motion seconded by Commissioner Vallette. Is there any discussion or debate on the motion?

All in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All opposed, raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes prevail and the motion is adopted.

Without objection, we will now begin the public comment pertaining to agenda topics portion of our meeting. Hearing no objection, we will now proceed with public comment pertaining to agenda topics.

Individuals who have signed up and indicated that they would like to provide in-person public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so.

And actually I believe we have remote public comment; is that correct? Let me check. Is it remote?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That is correct.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: One individual for remote. All right. Individuals who have signed up and indicated that they would like to provide live remote public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so. I will call your name and our staff will unmute you. If you are on a computer, you will be prompted by the Zoom app to unmute your microphone and speak. If you are on the phone, a voice will say that the host would like you to speak and prompt you to press star nine to unmute.

I will call on you by your name or the last four digits of your phone number. Also, please note that if you experience audio or technical issues or we do not hear from you for 3-5 seconds, we will move on to the next person in line and then return to you after they are done speaking. If your audio still does not work, you can email [redistricting@Michigan.gov](mailto:redistricting@Michigan.gov) and we will help you troubleshoot so you can participate during the next public comment period at a later hearing or meeting.

You will have two minutes to address the Commission. And please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer.

First in line to provide public comment is Mr. James Gallant. Please allow a moment for our staff to unmute you.

>> Hello, can you hear me now?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can hear you. You are now invited to address the Commission.

>> Okay. My name is James Gallant. I'm with the Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition. And my community of interest is people who acknowledge the Robert's Rules of Order as the fundamental principles of parliamentary law in America.

And we are waiting a formal response from Jake Ralo who is responsible for the random selection process of this Commission at the Secretary of State. And there is some controversy, which I brought up at the last meeting. And one is party affiliation, political party affiliation.

And what I found is that the MC Rothhorn it said on the Internet he has no known affiliation and he said he is a democratic party affiliate.

So that question is going to be, okay, they are a member of the organization. I went on their website. And you can be a voting member of that organization for as little as \$10 a year. And so it would be good for members to just publicly acknowledge the ones that say you are party affiliated and what level you are affiliation. Are you a voting member of that organization? Some are saying, well, just two people getting together that are on the same page is affiliated. Well, that means everybody in this meeting right now and everybody in the state is all affiliated. So they can all say. So you folks can, may be put on your resume that you are affiliated with the Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition if you go by that definition. But either a specific membership organization, political party. And if you are not a member, officially recognized by them, which I'm sure that website said would look at the voter registration of the actual party. So if you folks could just say publicly for the record your level of affiliation to the political parties, that would resolve the issue of having to look into this and getting the county clerks to look into it. And we are looking for Dick Ralo and he would be the one that would have to make these decisions. And anybody have feelings about the rules of procedure to proceed before the seating of this Commission, Jake Ralo is the one that coordinated under Robert's Rules of Order the people under the state constitutional amendment, the people, the voters of the State of Michigan come together and they created a deliberate assembly.

In the Roberts Rules of Order book says, a representative of that assembly, which is Jake Ralo, comes to the table with the preceding set of rules and our rules of the 29 rules of parliamentary America, like Mr. Brady determined that Robert's Rules of Order and you must use it and that those were rules at the beginning.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Mr. Gallant, your allotted two minutes has ended. Thank you for making your statement to the Commission.

Okay. Moving on to the next item on our agenda is unfinished business. We do not have any unfinished business for the Commission today. So we will now move on to new business agenda item 7A.

Without objection, I would ask our communication and Outreach Director, Edward Woods, III to provide an update on communications and outreach.

Hearing no objections, please proceed Director Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I just want you to know that we have three, trying to think what I want to call them, we have three, let's just say, packages if, you want to go out to do county fairs, if you want to go out to festivals or something unique, it consists of a tablecloth with the MICRC logo. We are ordering the table tent that will go on top of the table.

Just so you know, the tablecloth is designed for an 8 foot table and designed for eight foot table. We have a table tent and we have handouts. So if you are interested, we have three sets of those, not just one.

So start making your requests so I know exactly where I need to send stuff and then we can establish a system to get it back and forth to the next Commissioner.

But I just wanted you to know that we do have those in our possession.

Within I think within the next week we should have everything.

So just wanted to share that with you because now I need to know dates and times.

I have a few.

But I want to make sure I have enough so that we are not competing. So if there is any festival, fair, event that is unique to your community or a community of Michigan, if you can just let me know those dates so that we can work out a system.

I want to thank Commissioner Lange, and I heard from Commissioner Eid and Commissioner Rothhorn and Commissioner Orton a willingness to go out and identify. And I just want to make sure we have the equipment so that we are not competing against each other. So if you can help me out with that, that would be greatly, greatly appreciated.

Last week I talked about where we were with regards to the communication efforts and some gaps. And I asked for some feedback from the Commission.

Just to give you some time to process it, because, you know, our meetings are not always as long as we might want them. So if there is any feedback from that, I wanted to take notes from that at this time.

Otherwise, that would conclude my report. But I would like to hear some feedback, if you have some feedback, all for it.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Are there any feedback or comments for Edward? Okay, go ahead, Mr. Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Thank you for that presentation, Mr. Woods.

I'm wondering if there has been any noticeable difference in attendance from before we had the time change in the meetings until after.

Have we seen anything like that?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: I can just pull it up for you. And I will go to the website and tell you what we have.

The time changed on the one after Novi, correct.

On the website we have a public engagement module off of our website that tells the attendance in person, the remote public comments and the total public comments. But I'm going to pull up my PowerPoint because it has a little bit -- it's a little bit more up to date. So let me just pull that up.

But if you go to the public engagement off the website, it's right there.

So in my report last week, we noticed that Dearborn had 152, Commissioner Eid. And our in person comments were 49, our remote were five, for a total of 54. So I think it might be a little bit early to kind of identify where we are at this point but in terms of making a definitive decision.

I do know that one concern that we did have to be open and transparent is that we got a bulk rate for advertising in small newsletters in Michigan.

But we had to use the same ad.

So probably by the time it changed, we did hear from someone in Port Huron that the ad was still 6:00, but that started off in May.

And we got a discounted rate for buying bulk all at one time. So that would be the only concern that I'm aware of, to note.

And last but not least, we want the entire Commissioner to know that we will be having a press conference in Grand Rapids at a remote location.

And we want all the Commissioner to be there at 10:00 on that Thursday.

And I'll share with you the details.

But I just want you to know and let the public know that we are having a press conference at 10:00 in Grand Rapids. And the focus will be illustrating the community of interest at the press conference.

That's all I have, Madam Chair. Thank you so much.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, thank you very much Commissioner -- Executive Director.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Please don't do that.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Director Woods.

I just promoted you.

All right. Moving on to new business, agenda item 7B, without objection our General Counsel, Julianne Pastula, will present the General Counsel report.

Hearing no objection, please proceed, General Counsel Pastula.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair and good afternoon. I'm very excited to report that earlier this week the MICRC had the

opportunity to present its case to the Michigan Supreme Court in support of our petition. And we await the Court's decision in that matter.

The RFP for litigation counsel, unfortunately, did not receive any responses. So an updated proposal will be forwarded to the Commission for consideration next week.

And that can be reposted so that it will have another opportunity for law firms to respond.

Shifting gears, I wanted to confirm that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners did not extend the declaration of the state of emergency, which is what we anticipated and expected.

Their meeting occurred, and it was not walked on, so the Commission's ability to meet virtually, remote, conduct remote meetings will expire on June 30th.

And that would conclude my remarks, Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you very much.

Moving on to new business agenda, item 7C, without objection we are ask Mr. Kim Brace from EDS to introduce the presenters and topics for continuing education today. Hearing no objections, please proceed, Mr. Brace.

>> KIM BRACE: Yes, thank you, Commissioners, and hello again.

I wanted to take a couple of seconds to introduce our people.

But I also wanted to point out that up on your website we have posted for today's date a number of the different documents and the spreadsheets that I was using for the last several meetings.

So they are all up there and complete and gives you all the views of what we were seeing and I was trying to show last week, but you can download them and use them to your heart's extent.

So, in terms of our people, I wanted to introduce two members of our team that will be conducting this next session.

Looking at elections and racial bloc voting. John Morgan is a member of our team, who has been long involved with elections and election analysis.

And then Dr. Lisa Handley is also a member of our team.

She has been a long compatriot of ours at Election Data Services. And she will be talking about racial bloc voting. So let me turn it over to John.

>> JOHN MORGAN: All right. Thank you. As you probably won't be surprised, but I will have a PowerPoint presentation.

So I should be able to share the screen and start that up.

All right. Is everyone able to see my screen or can someone just acknowledge that, please?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can see it.

>> JOHN MORGAN: I will talk about drawing the lines using election data. And also, I'm trying to keep things a little bit light here because there's a lot of information. But

basically, I want to go through some of the processes with GIS using the GIS, without getting specific into the software, because we have another member of our team who will actually show you the software.

So here is my overview slide from the end of the world to today. Avalanches, GIS and tonic, Marvin and Daffy, painting the Sistine Chapel, Rock n Roll groups and flexible boxes with bricks and chips. So that is my overview.

So let's start with the end of the world. So I attended the University of Chicago. I graduated with a BA in history from the University of Chicago where the end of the world began, that is the quote they use sometimes, because that was where the first sustained human created nuclear reaction occurred under the bleachers of the stadium in 1942.

I said when I first started here. I grew up in a small town Indiana along the Lake Michigan dunes.

The Duneland area was very important to my family.

We settled there in 1833.

And the very early days of Indiana.

But my father was involved in local politics in Indiana.

He was a county councilman. And so he had the bug for politics. And he later picked up the family and moved us to Washington D.C. Area and he worked in national politics and he served on the Regan campaign.

So for me at the University of Chicago and working with my father, I studied demographics and elections, American history. Over the years many of my clients have been republican legislatures and groups.

And for a time I was Executive Director of the national group where I did a lot of candidate training. And personally it was very interesting.

I really enjoyed traveling the country, meeting with first-time candidates and, you know, showing them some of the principles of being a good candidate.

So I've worked with hundreds of elected officials in my career.

I've got 30 years of redistricting experience.

I literally, the day after I graduated, I drove from Chicago to Lansing and began work on redistricting there.

I also worked in redistricting while I was in college in Indiana.

And, again, this was partly because or mostly because my father was involved in politics.

I did apply and was accepted to George Washington University for graduate school.

But I ended up deferring and later not going there.

Because it was right in the middle of redistricting.

It was 91-92. And I just started getting involved in that and it never really stopped in a sense.

So I worked this 20 states from 1991, 2001, 2011 and now I'm in my fourth redistricting cycle.

I served as a testifying expert in Court cases and as a non-testifying expert in litigation. And that's kind of my specialty.

However, a couple of hobbies, Kim talked about some of the things that he has done. For me, I keep track of every county that I've ever been in.

So I've actually been to every county in Michigan.

This is just, I guess, a part of my hobby.

I did finish that last year in 2020. I went to the remaining counties that I had not been in.

So I've been all over the state.

I've been to Ishpeming, Port Huron, Port Austin. You know, I've been to Traverse City, Mackinac, Benton Harbor, Kalamazoo, Calhoun. I've been, you know, in every county.

Not that that means I'm an expert in every county, but I think it does help that I have a little bit of perspective on the State of Michigan.

In addition some of my other interests, like I said, I keep track of every county I've ever been in. I've been in 49 states and about 60% of the counties.

I do hope I will get to all of them at some point in my life.

Some of my other interests, Kim had mentioned that he discovered a submarine.

Well, I have not quite discovered a submarine yet; but I do enjoy scuba diving, I'm relatively new at the sport, if you call it a sport. It's a pastime. But I like to scuba dive. And I've done two half Iron Man Triathlons and I do occasionally surf when I have the chance to go to the west coast. The east coast surfing, I've done a little bit of that as well.

Trying to think what else.

So, yes, I try to stay active.

The redistricting process, as I will say, is very stressful.

And as we go through this, I hope to be able to help you get through this process.

It's complicated.

But it is very interesting.

So let's talk about data.

There is a lot of data that is available.

What we will be looking at here, and Kim has talked about this extensively in his discussion of his data cube, is what types of data is going to go into the redistricting program.

So on the screen here I just got some spreadsheet views. And I had one from the Census Bureau, but it's funny, it deleted itself.

It said it needed some sort of permission for me to display it on the PowerPoint.

And, in any event, there is going to be election data from at least 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2020 available. And, again, we talked about how there is a hierarchy to this. But at the lowest level of election data is the voting precincts. So in the background this

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spreadsheet is the 2020 Presidential election with Joe Biden, the democrat, and Donald Trump, the republican. And this is just the precinct results from Allen Park in Wayne County.

So you will see this over and over again when we refer to data, there will be a democrat versus republican. So in this particular precinct it's pretty even, 577 to 575. But you have pages and pages and pages of spreadsheet data. And, again, at the precinct level, there is 15 precincts in Allen Park. And so we will add those up and have a total for these political elections for Allen Park.

We will have that for all the cities and the Townships with that political data. And then in addition, as Kim has said, we would break that down to the census block level to separate it out if needed to work below the level of the voting precinct.

So, again, there is a lot of data.

We talked about it coming from the census, coming from the Secretary of State in the form of election data. And then you have several years' worth of data, so we will be a wash in this data.

Fortunately, you don't have to look at it all at once.

What will happen in the redistricting software is you will have all this data available. But when we talk about GIS systems, the GIS system will have access to the data, but you won't necessarily have it displayed all at once. So we will have to pick some of the variables in the election data you want to look at.

So, again, I'll just give a little bit of general advice as well.

There is a lot of technology with the GIS software. You have already gone through many, many meetings where you are taking a lot of input. And my general advice is, you know, not to let the technology overwhelm the effort at the root of it.

You know, we are going to be looking at some data.

We are going to be looking at Townships and cities and sometimes voting precincts and census blocks.

But, in general, you know, we don't want to let the this, all this massive technology overwhelm things.

And, you know, I say that if a problem comes up, it's possible maybe the Commissioners might be working a little bit on their own.

Maybe you will be working only in the larger group.

Maybe you will have a subcommittee.

But at some point, you may run into a problem and so you want to try to know who to call. It might be me or another person on our team on or might be somebody else on your team.

And a word about deadlines.

We talked about this. You are already in Court over a deadline, so you know about that. But there will be other deadlines.

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There is the sort of the final timeline when hopefully the maps will be finalized, but you need a little bit of time to process those. And, you know, you may have to do a legal description of the districts that may be part of the code that actually creates the districts. And my experience with this is as you get closer do the deadlines, plan for a little more time.

Whatever the actual deadline is, just try to give yourself just a little bit more time because there is just a lot of moving parts to this.

So let's talk about GIS.

GIS and tonic is my shorthand for just pointing out mapping systems.

So GIS is geographic information systems. And in this case, it's mapping.

So I've used maps my whole life. My father has, you know, I love maps and I've studied them.

So this is from an older book called Southern Politics. And this is just an example of a map of counties in Mississippi, and the data shown on the map is for prohibition.

So after prohibition was repealed in 1933, the State of Mississippi enacted prohibition at the state level.

So in this case the areas of the state that voted against this new prohibition was Mississippi Delta and then the large cities Jackson, Meridian, and the coast of Biloxi and Pascagoula and the Gulf. And so there is a coalition here. And a lot of times what we use GIS for is it shows you patterns.

And so this is just an example of something that predates all of the computer technology that we have.

But in our case, when use GIS systems, all the data that will have election and census data is basically attached to the geography. So if you have a County or Township and you say, well, I want to put it in this District or that District, all that data is attached to it and then the GIS system will basically, dynamically, you know, create the calculations of the groups of that data, which you put into districts.

And, you know, that's how that works.

One thing I talk about here is when you use maps sometimes, you'll have the -- geography will be a little misleading or you might have an area that is a large geographic area but has a small population. And that is just one of the things that is just part of the GIS system.

We will be possibly using Thematic colors, pie charts, maybe shapes that you will have a larger shape, say, a larger circle for higher density of a particular variable. We will possibly be using percentages, which are useful because, you know, you scale from 0-100 and so you can compare political percentage. You can compare African/American percentages in different areas, and again a percent is just an easy concept to use.

So here is an example of just data on a map.  
But there is a lot of information here.

This is an older slide.

I'm just putting this as an example.

So this is the median home value at the Township and City level for Oakland County.

So you've got two things.

There is the actual data.

So Farmington Hills, the median home value in 2000, again time has gone by, was 227,000.

And then Holly Township is 130. So you've got this data, Troy 220, Pontiac 74, median home value.

That's just a single data point.

It's a number.

Now you also have two variables essentially because I'm comparing it to the County average. So in this case the County average is 181. So if it's above, it's going to be red and if it's below it's blue.

And so and basically using two variables on one slot, one piece of data on the map.

So sometimes you'll have -- you may want to condense some of these things. Like, for example, with political data, and I'll give an example of that, you may compare one party to the other party and use the difference between their percentages as a single data point.

Even though it's conveying more than one piece of information, so that's just one of the ways that you would use the data on a map.

So, again, in the redistricting software, which Fred Hagazi will show again at a later date, you may access other pieces of information.

You may say, well, I want to know what is Pontiac like? What are the demographic characteristics of Pontiac? Well, you can basically click on it and get more information about it.

Not just the single piece of information that's on this current map.

The maps I'm showing you are not dynamic.

These are just screen shots of maps and PowerPoint here. And so they are not dynamic. But the redistricting software is dynamic.

So here's an example of just some of the screen shots from the auto bondage software. And this is just Indiana.

This is something I have. And, again, Fred will go through this in great detail when he uses the software.

But when you have it, you will have Townships displayed. And as you zoom in it will bring up the voting precincts. As you zoom out you will have counties. And these are just some districts built in Indiana.

These are not the current Senate districts.

And then down below there will be a District view, so that District one, which is not on the screen but District three is on the screen, it has the total population, the target deviation and it shows you whether you are above or below that number.

In this case it's half a percent above the ideal number, a difference of 616 people.

Another thing we will use possibly are the thematic map. And this is a thematic map of Hispanic, voting age Hispanic population in basically zoomed in Lake County, Indiana.

Right here in the area of east Chicago where there is a pretty significant concentration of Hispanic persons.

So that's one of the things we will be using. And, again, Fred will give us a better idea of how to do that software.

So what about political data? Marvin and Daffy, this is my comment on the political parties, if you will.

The political parties may want to stake a claim to a particular District.

Mars versus the Earth in this case with Marvin the Martian and Daffy who is Duck Dodgers in this cartoon.

So what election data will you use? There will be a lot of available data, but there will be a question as to, well, what do you actually want to look at.

Sometimes you will see the political races are really strong for one party or the other.

And you'll have that data, but maybe that's not what you want to use to evaluate the elections. Or you may just find that you kind of start with a large group of data and maybe you narrow it down to one or two elections that really make sense for what you're trying to do.

How will you display the data and access the data.

And, again, there is many different ways to do it.

We talked about themes.

You will be able to put some label expressions possibly on the Townships and the City data.

And then what does the election data indicate about the proposal District? There will be -- I'm sure there will be plenty of discussion how to evaluate the districts and how you will want to use them, but let me give an example.

So when we talk about colors in politics, I know you already had a discussion on what colors to use on your logo, for example, and there was some debate on that.

But you chose your colors for the logo.

Referencing one book on the subject, The Historical Atlas of Political Parties, and I'll bring up another point here. A lot of times when you use colors you can go one dimensional.

You can just go from, say, you know a slight variation of one color all the way to a darker variation of one color.

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It's one dimensional. But a lot of times what people will do is you will use opposing colors, red and blue. And the pallet in between them gives you a range. And the colors work with your eye, you know, your visual interception of them. And so it will help you quickly get information from the maps.

And, again, there is a lot of information here. But basically in the case of this political party Atlas, and let's just say in the old days the conventions were that the republicans were blue and the democrats were red.

And the Professor Kenneth Martis who wrote this really amazing book, it goes through every election, it stopped in about 1990, 1988. He talks about how sometimes there are symbolic connotations with colors in other political systems the red identifies with labor, socialists, and other American labor parties would use the color of red.

But then later as he goes through it, he says, well, right now this was this 1980, he was pointing to the fact that there is no consistent color conventions.

But, you know, now there seem to be.

So here is a scattering. If you look around the world, in the UK the blue is for the conservatives.

And the red is for the labor party.

Same thing in Canada.

Here is an example of the same sort of thing in Australia.

But then in the U.S., this is the election coverage from 1984. And you have one network. NBC has the republicans in blue and then another network ABC had the republicans in red and the democrats in blue.

So where does that leave us? Well, you don't have to be red, blue. You don't really, you know, you don't have to attach meaning to that.

But it's just something that is possible.

You will possibly consider using a color theme for some of your maps because it's a quick way to give information.

And here is an example.

So this is the Presidential contest in 19 -- sorry, in 2016,

And statewide. Trump, the candidate, gets 2,279,000 votes, 47.5%. And Hillary Clinton, the democratic candidate, gets 2,068,000 and 47.3%, so that is a difference of 0.2%. Obviously, it was very close; but in Wayne County, which is strongly a democratic county, Trump gets 228,000, almost 229 and Hillary Clinton gets 519,000 or 66%.

So in looking at this I've got, you know, no colors on this map, I've got data points. So in Livonia I have Trump with 51 and Hillary Clinton at 43.6.

And then in Grosse Pointe Farms it's 54-41 but Grosse Pointe City it's 47-48.

And then in some of the other areas, Detroit City, President Trump got 3% or, he was candidate Trump then, and Hillary Clinton got 95%.

We look around and some of the other areas. Canton is 40-55.

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So you see I've got two different data points. But when you look at it there is not a lot of information that's going to draw your eye to any one particular area. But the information is there.

So when we use the GIS systems, all this data is attached to the geography. So if you want to look at something, you can look at it this way.

But here is an example of using color and using a combination data point.

So, in this case, I'm using red for the democrats and blue for the republicans.

And then I've condensed that comparison of republican, democrat or democrat, republican into one number, but there is a caveat.

It's one number with an above or below.

So I started with Livonia where it was, sorry, I'm backtracking there, so 51-44.5. So it's a difference of 7 percentage points. So in this case it's republican plus 7. And then the color themes are going, in this case the democrats are the red spectrum.

So dark red is over 25% margin.

So that's, you know, a difference in the percentage of more than 25 points.

Orange here is a closer color.

Taylor is democrat, 6 points.

And then the very light yellow color, South Gate, is three points democratic. And the flip is green. Wyandotte is 1 point republican. And then light blue, Trenton cities, is ten points republican. And then the heavier one, there are not many here, Huron, 26 points, Gross Eel 25. So now with the color you can quickly see where the differences are regionally.

And you can apply this, you know, again here we are at the Township level in Wayne County.

And then you also have that information at the larger county level and below it.

Now, here is exactly the opposite.

So this is the same information but just flipping the color scheme around. So this time the democrats are in blue and the republicans are in red. It's the same information. It's just a different choice of colors.

So when we actually get into working with the data, you may choose one color system or another.

There are many, many options.

This is just one example.

Again, same data, just a different color theme.

So I mentioned painting the Sistine Chapel.

I heard one of the Commissioners say a couple meetings ago, that I tuned into how, do we do this? Like where do we start? So what I point so here is in the Sistine Chapel Michael Angelo did not pick up his paint brush and just go, you know, from start to finish.

He, you know, he sectioned things off and he had a plan.

So if you looked at different areas and he filled things in. And it's my understanding that one of the first scenes was the biblical story of Noah. And there were a lot of figures in the story. And he did that first, even though it's kind of backwards in the presentation. It's one of the later scenes in the presentation.

But he did that first.

And what he found was that his figures were too small.

They weren't really visible as much as he would like.

So if you see the Sistine Chapel, you will notice it's a little different than the area he did first.

So as he kind of grew into it, he maybe got better what he was trying to do.

In the case of mapping for the State of Michigan, one thing I would recommend is we section off some of the areas. And we talk about this several times. Both me and Kim mentioned the idea of, you know, how many districts are in a county and how many Senate districts, how many House Districts.

You're not committing, if you will, to drawing individual districts.

But it does give you an idea of what the representation is.

In my experience, this idea of having checkpoints or putting regional breaks into a working plan I think is very helpful.

If you say there are seven seats in a particular county or seven seats in one area, you can maybe work through that because some of these areas will be difficult and some might not be.

So you can move around hopefully and, again, general advice, I would say, you know, rather than try to do a plan from start to finish, maybe do it in pieces.

Where you can work on one area, maybe you work to the point where you are not getting anywhere so you can take a break and try another area.

And in that sense, I say anticipate the bottlenecks.

So when you find these difficult areas, you are going to spend more time on those areas.

There is just no way around that.

So what you end up doing hopefully is you know maybe you will work for a while and you feel pretty settled on that even though you may not say this is the final plan, you know, we kind of like this draft, this District concept in this area.

And then you work on the harder stuff.

And then also I know you have received a lot of public input already. And I'm sure you will receive a lot more. And, you know, I commend you on your handling of it so far from what I've seen. So listen to what people have to say, where possible request a concept map if it's available.

If they say I think this area and that area are a community of interest and they are expressing this to you, maybe they don't, you know, maybe the public won't exactly know if something will work based on population, but they still have an idea.

Maybe they can produce a map, maybe somebody like me or others could create a map from their suggestion and then you can see whether it works under the other circumstances you have to consider.

So that is what I would say, you know, take down this information possible in maps or notes and then test it out and see what is what.

So let me just give like a quick pause here before I get into groupings. Are there any urgent questions from what I've gone through so far? I'm probably about two thirds through here.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I'm not seeing any questions here.

>> JOHN MORGAN: Okay, thank you. So I talk about Rock N Roll groups. So the concept here is these districts may be different. You are going to draw districts. They are all districts. In the Rock N Roll Hall of Fame you have "Rolling Stones," the Beach Boys, James Brown. They are all different but they are all in Rock N Roll. And all districts.

So when you create the districts, you know, districts just like the state will have different characteristics. So a lot of times the fact that people express this in the ideas of communities of interest, that's fine.

That's just part of how, you know, our states and how our Government works. I don't know, there is different areas.

And then the other thing about groupings is what I'm going to get into here, jump right into this. So we talked, both Kim and I, about, well, we got all these different counties. We've got all the population figures. We've looked at some possible groupings, Northern Michigan, Western Michigan, and he had his Jurys that he talked about. So this is a map of the ideal population of the Senate District in 2010 is 260,000, so this is the number of senate districts by County. Well Ottawa County happens to be perfect for one senate district. And this is 1.01. So not surprisingly when the map was drawn Ottawa is one Senate District.

Kent County, which is here, is 2.3 districts.

But, as you will see in just a moment, if you pair it with Van Buren, Allegan, you have two whole Districts in Kent, and the balance, that one-third, goes with Allegan and Van Buren to create a Senate District.

So here are just some county groupings.

These are some multiple county groupings. And, again, I'm not, you know, committing to drawing like specific districts, but this is one way you can look at the data as soon as we get the census data or in the case of what Kim and I provided, the estimated data, so here are the multiple county groupings, Kent, Allegan and Van Buren, just like I said. In the Lansing area, you've got Ingham, Eaton, Clinton, Shiawassee, together are two seats. But Ingham has enough for one whole seat. So basically a piece of Ingham goes with the other three counties and create as District.

Wayne County is exactly 7 seats or was in 2010. So that is a grouping. Without getting into the specifics of the seat, that is a grouping. Here Oakland is paired with Genesee and Saginaw, and that is 7 seats. And then Huron, Sanilac, St. Clair and Macomb is four.

And then this is just kind of filling in the single member seats. So in the UP, the whole counties are all grouped together and. You get to the line between Schoolcraft, Luce and Mackinac, and that is one District.

That's the 38th District.

And then here is the subdivision. So I mentioned looking at Kent County right here, you have one whole District, Grand Rapids, kind of the surrounding District, and then you've got a little piece that goes with Allegan and Van Buren, and that is three Senate seats.

Here is what I described in Ingham. You have Lansing and then basically two or three small Townships, sort of round out the districts with the other whole counties. And then in the Metro area it's, you know, it's a lot more population and so you got a lot of districts in there.

All right. Well, so you can pair these counties any which way, right? So if you just only look at the population, and, again, this is from 2010, you could theoretically create a District that goes from Escanaba to Ludington because these counties, if you add up their population it's 272,000, which is within the range; but that is not really something that I don't think anyone would really suggest.

It's -- according to my travel app here, it would actually be faster to take the ferry from Ludington and go through Wisconsin to get to Escanaba than it would to drive around. So when we see these possibilities, they are just possibilities.

You have to apply the sort of the full rubric of what you are trying to do with redistricting. And, again, I'm just -- I guess I'm not really suggesting that this is a District that somebody would create, but it does fulfill the population requirement. Probably not other requirements. I don't think Escanaba and Ludington are an obvious community of interest.

Same thing we talked about House Districts by county. And now I'm just going to use the House Districts to get a little more specific.

So let's look at Washtenaw County.

3.84 districts.

So that is basically 4 districts considering that the deviation can be on the lower end where it's going to be if each of the four districts is roughly 4% under populated, then you get your four districts.

Or you could take a piece of a neighboring Township and have more equally populated districts. But in the case of the 2010, four districts were drawn in Washtenaw.

Here are the County grouping by house.

Again 3.8 in Washtenaw.

Let's see. So Ottawa has exactly three seats in the House.

Metro Detroit, or, sorry, Wayne County with Monroe has 22 seats.

And as I talked about previously, those two counties together now has enough for 21 seats.

That's, you know, because of the shift in population.

Here you've got Macomb, St. Clair and Sanilac is 11.6. But it's actually 12 seats because, you know, this grouping is possible to have the districts in that grouping at the lower end of the deviation.

And then finishing it up, here is the county maps. But let's look at Washtenaw County.

So I wanted to get the idea, we talked about -- Kim talked about the windows of population.

I like to describe this maybe as flexible boxes.

So you have -- you basically have a box that is your ideal District size, but because of the deviation you can grow or shrink a little bit of the box. So here I have just a visual of bricks.

So the -- you basically fill in your boxes with bricks of different sizes, townships, cities and other things, or the different sized bricks build the districts.

And we will probably be talking about this a lot.

These are the ideal District windows from Kim's presentation. So for the Congressional seat, you know, you have the ideal District size of 775. And at a low 1% deviation you got the range of 779 down to 771.

For the State Senate you got the plus or minus five.

So it's--on the high end is 278 on the low end is 250. And, again, with the house with the ideal District size at 91.7, 600,000, it's up to 96 and down to 87.

Here are the population from 2010. We get new numbers. Only Detroit City has more population than a Senate District. So you, you know, obviously Detroit will have to be split between several Senate districts and several House Districts.

Grand Rapids has to be split between House Districts because it's greater than the basically 90,000. So these are the cities, the top cities that are above 90,000.

And if you look in the redistricting, let's look in Ann Arbor. So Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County is 113,000 people.

So that's greater than the 89.

So we will look at that in just a moment.

So I talked about the flexible boxes, what do you fill them with or what constitutes the districts? The Townships, the cities, the counties they are in all different shapes and sizes and the shapes matter a little bit in the sense that they contribute to the deviation. I'm sorry, the compactness scores.

But the size is I'm really talking about population. So you use the municipalities to form the bricks, to build the districts. But sometimes you split the bricks. Like in the case of Ann Arbor, you can't have it in one House District.

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It's just too big. So a portion of Ann Arbor will go in one District and a portion in another. Theoretically you could split it into three districts, but that hasn't been the case in Michigan.

And then you could split the municipalities and break them in to voting precincts or census blocks and for Congressional districts as we talked about, we will have to do that.

So here is Washtenaw County.

And as I said, it's basically enough for four seats.

These are the Townships with the population from 2010 with the brick pattern.

Here is the population with no pattern.

And then here is using a hot to cold map, with the hot higher population is red and the cooler town is blue here, and that's lower population. So you've got the smaller, rural townships.

You've got Ypsilanti, 50,000.

And then around you got Pittsfield and Scio Township.

So here is an example 50,000 plus 20,000 is 73 plus another 13,000, that's about a House District.

And that's how it went down.

So the House Districts in Washtenaw County are one District is entirely the City of Ann Arbor and then the leftover part of Ann Arbor goes with another District, which is a piece of Ann Arbor, and Ann Arbor Township, Pittsfield, York and Augusta.

And then I talked about the District here, it's 85. And if your ideal is 89, that works. And then the balance, the fourth District are the rural Townships.

And this is just a thematic on the districts.

So just in wrapping this up, that was, again, it wasn't really a redistricting exercise. It wasn't dynamic. But it just gives you an idea of like how the building blocks work together. Again, the GIS software is dynamic.

You will be able to make changes and say what if we put the Township with this and that one with the other District and you can test those out. And, you know, that is part of what we will do.

The last point is, after you do this, you're going to have a lot of data on these districts. So at some point we will need -- we or you really will have to decide what do you want to include in a report.

So if you are going to look just at those four Districts that we talked about or I talked about in Washtenaw, Ann Arbor, how do they look using political data? Using demographic and census data? So you probably will come up with a standardized report. So you can say, okay, we have taken input from the public and they have given us two ideas for Washtenaw County.

And looked at them and this is the information on it, and you will have a standardized report for them.

And then you can ask yourself, well, what are the features? What is the benefit or drawback of this plan versus that plan? Are things interchangeable where you could take somebody's idea in one part and somebody else's idea in another, blend them, there is many options.

And the last thing and the advice of the Fonz, stay cool. It's a stressful experience. You know, part of my job will hopefully be to smooth things over in the drawing process to give you a lot of options to consider.

So that's the end of my presentation.

I'll be happy to take any other questions. And then I know we have time for Lisa's presentation as well.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you so much for that presentation, Mr. Morgan. Does anyone have any questions at this time? Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes, hi, thank you, Mr. Morgan, for that presentation. You know, I understand that the records you were showing mostly centered on population within counties.

Can you tell us about other population factors that we will be able to see in the software? For example I remember when you know interviewed with us there was a community of interest drop down box.

It might be helpful to this Commission if we could somehow get a population for those communities.

>> John Morgan: So, yeah, I think I know what you're asking, you're asking for maybe demographics outside of population per se is that what you're saying?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

>> John Morgan: Yes, I see your gesture.

There are to variables or to sources of data do look at there is the data from the census and that will have the racial and ethnic break downs to a point.

There is some data that is directly available from the census as part of the public law redistricting set.

What you may also be interested in is possibly looking at the American community survey data which is also available from the census.

And that will give you some of the other estimates of other populations.

I guess in my experience a lot of times you might want to look at, say, a static map with that information so you can understand where the ethnicity of the population is that you're interested in.

Because if you use the American community survey data it's still going to be based on interviews and estimates rather than raw population enumerated counts like the census.

So it would be good to see the Thematic maps maybe as a static map the numbers as a static map and then you know maybe we can count them if you will in the redistricting software.

But I think you will gain a lot of information from seeing some static thematic maps because it will be clear for what you know subsection you're looking for of the population.

You will have some indication even if it's not you know an exact number because it's not counting people, it's based on interviews with representative samples.

I thought that was a little round about answer but hopefully that gets you some idea of how it's possible to get that information.

>> KIM BRACE: John, if I could add something here and certainly Commissioner Eid what I think he was looking for is the community of interest.

And that is something that we are also concerned about and something that we are -- excuse me phone coming in here, sorry about that -- the communities of interest is what will be clicked and we are looking at collecting those and those will be looked at from the computer side as overlays.

So you will see like on John's maps of his schematics but you will see kinds of outlines of the community of interest for example.

All of that kind of stuff would be coming from the portal.

Moon Duchin is going to talk to you in a couple of minutes in terms of some of that.

We are looking at incorporating all that in so you will be able to see that all at the same time like what John was showing you.

>> JOHN MORGAN: I'm focused on the data part of that, where the underlying data comes from. But these other communities of interest are self-defined in the sense that individuals from the public may give you input on this is a community of interest. Whether or not there is, you know, a census data with that information the community can give the input of what they think a community of interest is.

Okay, if there are no other questions, I guess we will turn it back to Kim to introduce Dr. Handley.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I don't see any additional questions, so go ahead.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay. Thank you very much, John, for that.

I want to now introduce to you Lisa Handley. Dr. Handley, she is our racial bloc voting analyst specialist.

She has been involved with redistricting for a long, long time.

And has been heavily involved in looking at racial bloc voting.

So Lisa, I'm going to turn it over to you.

>> LISA HANDLEY: It's no surprise I have a PowerPoint so can I just hit share screen? Or what's going to happen?

>> KIM BRACE: Share screen and identify which screen you want to share it.

>> LISA HANDLEY: Did this work?

>> KIM BRACE: We are getting there, very good and there you go.

>> LISA HANDLEY: Now how do I, oh, boy.

>> KIM BRACE: In the lower left hand if you move your mouse over the lower left hand side you will get some things that look like arrows going left and right, that is what PowerPoint gives you.

>> LISA HANDLEY: Well, here we go. So I'm a political scientist by training. I think I find my application to George Washington University a little bit better than John did.

Because I entered mid-decade and I finished my dissertation in 1991, just in time for redistricting.

I began working for EDS while I was studying for my Ph.D. And the information that data that I gleaned for my dissertation came from the work at EDS so I've been involved in redistricting at least from a studying point of view, from the 1980s.

After I graduated from GW, I went and talked at UVA the University of Virginia for a few years but they came along with an invitation to join an election mission to the Congo. And who can turn down a chance to go to Kinshasa. So I began working as a consultant for the U.N.

And got my chance to see the world, but I always do make it back to the U.S. in time for redistricting.

My work in redistricting here in the United States primarily involves statistical analysis of voting patterns to determine a redistricting plan or electoral system violates the Voting Rights Act and to ascertain if an existing District or proposed District provides or will provide minority voters with an opportunity to elect their candidates.

Let's see if I can figure this out how to put this down.

I can't.

So I want to begin discussing what is a redistricting criteria priority pyramid and we have a day cube. And I have a redistricting criteria pyramid. And the pyramid is based on the dictates of the U.S. Constitution, Federal law and specifically the Voting Rights Act and the Michigan State Constitution.

I listed the criteria in order of priority as specified by the Michigan State Constitution with the most important priority at the top of the inverted pyramid and the criteria identified 8th out of 8 listed last.

The good news is that the redistricting software you have chosen will help so you comply with a number of these criteria.

For example, the software will tell you the population of your districts as you're drawing them so you will know if you are complying with a population.

It will tell you whether your District is contiguous or not.

It will tell you how many counties, City and Township boundaries you have divided and the inter ocular test as you are mapping will tell you how compact your District is, and probably the software also includes some compactness measures.

I understand that you may also be able to identify some of these communities of interest assuming that boundaries are offered by the stakeholders identifying the communities of interest but let me turn to the second priority on the pyramid and that is compliance with the Voting Rights Act.

This is trickier.

The software is going to tell you the demographic composition the racial composition of the districts as you draw them.

But creating districts on the basis of the demographics of the District alone is likely to get you in trouble.

In fact, this is racial gerrymandering and it's a violation of the 14th amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Instead you have to conduct a District specific functional analysis to determine if minority Directors are required by the Voting Rights Act and if they are what shape and composition, they should take in a given area of the state.

This is where my expertise comes into play.

Section Two of the Voting Rights Act prohibits any voting standard practice or procedure including redistricting plans that result in the denial or dilution of minority voting strength.

Unlike Section five which the Supreme Court essentially struck down Section Two of the act is still very much with us and unlike Section five Section Two applies to all states and local jurisdictions including of course Michigan.

By the way, there were two Townships in Michigan Clark Township and Buena Vista Township. We were covered by Section five until it was struck down by the initial versus holder case.

This meant since changes were made at the County and not the Township level in Michigan, these two counties were required to seek justice department approval before they could make any proposed changes.

So, for example, and I'm not sure if I'm going to pronounce this right, Allegan County reduced the number of Commissioners on the county board from 11 to 7. They actually had to go to the justice department for approval for this change.

Okay, and Section five required covered jurisdictions to submit changes for approval redistricting plan believed to be diluted, must be challenged on an individual basis.

On a case to case basis.

So if a plan is Plaintiffs believe and minorities believe a plan violates Section Two of the Voting Rights Act, they will challenge it in Court. And it is unlikely that a plan seen as diluted will remain in place or will remain unchallenged throughout the decade.

There are four minority groups protected by the Voting Rights Act, African/Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Native Americans.

A redistricting plan can't fragment or unnecessarily pack a geographically concentrated community of one of these four groups at least not if white voters are consistently voting

against minority preferred candidates and these candidates usually lose as a consequence.

I think you're seeing this a few times before. Section Two of the Voting Rights Act was amended in 1982 to accomplish the intentional discrimination not be proven. And the Supreme Court said the 15th amendment did require intentional discrimination for Congress. And they specifically amended Section Two to make it clear that a violation of Section Two did not need a showing intentional discrimination.

And when the Supreme Court first considered the amendments to Section Two, they determined that Plaintiffs had to satisfy three conditions to qualify for relief. The minority group had to be sufficiently large and geographically compact to form a majority and a single member District. The minority group must be politically cohesive. And whites must bloc vote to usually defeat the minority preferred candidate.

What do we mean when we say that minority voters must be politically cohesive? And how do we know if white voters usually vote block the seat for candidates referred by minority voters? Well, according to Gingles, racially polarized voting is the evidentiary lynchpin regarding the racially polarized and minorities and white consistently vote for different candidates.

More specifically, if minorities consistently support the same candidates, they are said to be politically cohesive.

If white are not supporting these candidates, they are said to be bloc voting against the minority preferred candidates.

If voting is polarized and consistently polarized. It's minority preferred candidates usually lose, then the jurisdiction must create Districts that provide minority voters with an opportunity to elect their candidates of choice. This is, of course, assuming that the minority group is sufficiently large and geographically compact is the first prong.

So since we have a secret ballot in the United States, how do we know how good these two groups are voting? Statistical techniques have to be used to estimate the voting behavior of whites and minorities.

Individual level data is almost never available.

That is exit polls are rarely carried out for anything other than statewide contests. And, in any case, these might be less than reliable.

So what we're going to do is we are going to use aggregate level data to do this. And this aggregate level data in the United States is almost always election precinct data.

And we are going to need two separate pieces of information about these election precincts.

First, we are going to need to know the votes cast for each of the candidates, competing in the elections that we are interested in.

And because we are most interested in elections in which minority candidates are competing, we need to know the race of the candidates.

The second piece of information that we need to know is the demographic composition of the precinct.

And the closer you are to the voters, the better the data. So a number of states, particularly those in the south that were covered by Section Five, have registration where you can get turn out by race from these registration lists.

In Michigan we are not going to have that.

We are going to have voting age population by race.

But, as you well know, the PL data is not due out until August.

So at this point we don't have voting age population by race or 2020, which is the data that we would want to use to look at elections from about 2016 on. But we do have PL data for 2010, which would be the data we would most likely use to analyze elections before 2060.

And citizen age population, if minority groups you are interested in have a high non-citizenship rate, but that information has to come from the American community survey. And you have to do some estimation procedures since that is only available at the block group level to bring it in the precinct level. And I'm not clear at this point if we do that. Most likely we will here in Michigan.

Okay, so what do we do with this data? Now, we have two pieces of information about the precincts, what do we do? Well, the simplest method for looking for estimating voting behavior by race would be to compare voting patterns and election precincts that are composed of a single race. So, for example, if we identify those precincts that had only Black voters in them, and that 95% of the voters cast a vote for a particular candidate, we would be able to say that Black voter supported this particular candidate at a rate of 95%.

The problem with this, well there is two problems with this.

The first is that there are not very many precincts that are what we call homogenous. And, second of all, those precincts that are homogenous voters in those precincts might vote differently than those who live in precincts that are more diverse, that are more integrated.

So what we're going to do is we are going to turn to two standard statistical techniques for estimating voting patterns by minorities and whites.

It's ecological regression analysis and ecological inference analysis. And I know Bruce Adelson mentioned this to you and promised that I would go into detail. And I'm not going into too much detail at all. But he mentioned that there were positives and negatives about both. And that's true. And that's why actually I report... when I do my analysis, I report both sets of estimates.

In fact, I also report homogeneous if there are estimates. So the estimates that you see that you will see for Michigan are estimates that are derived from three different approaches.

Okay, so let's look at the first one.

This is called ecological regression.

What I've done here is I've placed every precinct, this is true data.

This is a County in Georgia that shall remain unnamed.

This is the 2021 runoff election for the special Senate seat with Raphael Warnock and Kelly Lauffer. And I looked at the election because we have contemporaneous Black turnout for Georgia, so this data is current.

This is I have the proportion Black in each precinct based on voter registration data. And I know the proportion of votes for it. So each precinct is placed on this what is called the scatter plot based on these two pieces of information.

And I think that you can probably see there is a pattern there. And the pattern is the higher the proportion of Black, the higher the proportion votes are for Warnock. And what regression does is simply put the best fitting line to this pattern. This is a linear pattern, so a line makes sense in this case.

You can put the best fitting line to this and you will use the estimate where the line hits the vertical axis over on the left as your estimate of the number of white votes for Warnock. And over on the right where Black turnout is 100% or the proportion is one, that's going to be your estimate of percentage of Blacks voting for Warnock.

A bit of a simplification, but this is basically how this works. And this has been introduced into the courts countless occasions. Well, even before Gingles and is regularly accepted by the Court. And it's one of two standard techniques.

We will get a little more complicated and talk about ecological inference.

One of the big drawbacks to ecological regression is that especially if voting is very polarized you can get estimates let's say 105% of Blacks voting for Warnock. So a professor at Harvard named Gary King developed a different method called ecological inference.

And this time, this is called a tomographic plot. And now instead of every precinct being a point, every precinct is a line.

And the line is developed based on the method of bounds.

What could possibly be the case, for example, in a precinct in which there are so many Black voters and so many white voters and candidate S got so many votes, if 100% of the Blacks voted for that candidate, how many whites would be left to vote for the candidate? And this is actual information about all of the precincts. The precincts are based on this graph, based on the method of bounds.

What is possible given the actual demographic composition of the precinct and the votes cast for the candidates.

And essentially, you're going to use the statistical estimation technique to determine the area that has the heaviest concentration of lines. And that's going to be your estimate of the percentage of Black voters who voted for Warnock.

So you can see over on the right side heavy concentration of red dots. These are the means of those distributions.

And this is going to be our estimate.

You can see it's between .8 and 1. It's going to be closer to .9. And here are the actual estimates that these two procedures produce for this County.

So according to ER, 94.9% Black voters voted for Warnock. According to EI it's 94.4%.

Looking at white voters, you can see that only about a fourth of white voters cast their votes for Warnock. And two thirds of them voted for Warnock opponent, the incumbent, Lafler.

This particular County, it happens that Warnock carried the County and Warnock carried the state as well, despite the fact that the majority of whites, both in this County and statewide, supported Lafler.

Okay. So this is an idea of what the procedure is and what the results will look like.

And I could pause for a moment.

Let me see.

Should I pause for a moment and ask if you have any questions? Because what I'm going to do next is I'm going to talk about what this means and then I'm going to give you some examples.

And I usually find that this is enough detail for my audience. And they are relieved when I say I'm not going to talk any more about these, but I want to give you a chance to ask any questions at this point if you're just dying to know more about these statistical techniques.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Let me take a look around the room and see if there are any questions. Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Thank you, Lisa, that was very informative.

I look at the last slide you have and it gives us the numerics and gives us a conclusion. But I didn't see where it said, yes, this conforms to the Voting Rights Act or no, this did not conform to the Voting Rights Act.

>> Lisa Handley: That is where I'm going next.

Yes, we will spend the rest of the time talking about how this helps us decide if this works with the voting -- my camera is not on, is it? What did I do? Did I.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: There you are.

>> Lisa Handley: Sorry about that.

So that's where I'm going to turn next.

I thought just in case you were going to know anything about the statistical techniques themselves I would give you an opportunity now, but that's where the PowerPoint goes next.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay any other questions? Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Thank you, Dr. Handley.

I'm wondering what do these data points look like when you have a less polarized election? You know, if I were to hypothesize that there is an election where the minority vote can match up with a majority vote, you know, maybe for like this past Presidential

election in Detroit perhaps I would assume that most of the minority probably voted for the democratic candidate but that also probably matched up with the overall majority of people.

So and in that situation how do these numbers look?

>> Lisa Handley: The numbers will tell you that you had let's say majority office both white and Black voters the scatter plot will look very different.

You are probably going to see a line along the top because all of the precincts have to lob their vote for the democratic candidate.

So it will look a lot different.

The plot will look different.

The estimates will look different but they will come the same format as the estimates that I showed in the last slide.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Any additional questions? I think you're good to go.

>> Lisa Handley: What does all of this mean? Why is it going back to the beginning? Oh, dear, sorry about this.

Okay this is where I wanted to go, okay, so this is what I have.

So if we see this pattern consistently over election after election, if voting is racially polarized and election after election and the candidates preferred by a cohesive minority and the minority is in this example are quite cohesive you found 94% voting for the minority for the candidate. And whites voted against this candidate, then you know that you have to draw districts that provide minorities with an opportunity to elect their candidates of choice.

Now, if districts already exist, but minorities are winning those districts only because those districts exist, in other words, voting is polarized but minorities are winning because you have a District that is substantially minority, then, according to the Voting Rights Act, you have to maintain these districts in a manner that continues to allow minority voters an opportunity to elect their candidates of choice.

So if we find a consistent pattern of racially polarized voting in specific areas of the State of Michigan, we are going to draw districts that give minority voters an opportunity to elect or we are going to make sure those that are drawn will still elect.

How do we know they elect? I'm not going to suggest demographics. How do we know if we have an effective minority District or not? There are two approaches to this.

The first is we can use the estimate that we derive from the racial bloc voting analysis to produce what's called a percent minority needed to elect in a specific area of the state. All of this is very area specific.

It's a District specific functional analysis that concentrates on voting patterns in a very specific area of the state.

So we are going to look at the typical amount of white minority cohesion and especially white crossover voting that we find in a particular area.

So, for example, in an area of, I'm going to give you an example later of Arkansas where you got white crossover rates, less than 10%, you're going to need a higher percentage minority chances are. A higher percentage minority in a District than a District in which you have consistently 30, 40 and 45% white crossover voting. I'm going to give you an example of a District like that later as well.

So these kind of calculations are actually just the solving Algebra equations using our...the estimates that we derived from our racial bloc voting analysis.

And we can do this before you even start drawing districts.

We can give you an idea of the minority composition would need in certain areas of the state in order to create a District that would provide minorities with an opportunity to elect.

After you have some proposed boundary lines, we have an even quicker way to do this.

Based on the racial bloc voting analysis, we are going to identify what I'm going to call the bellwether elections.

These are typical elections that are polarized.

Minorities are as cohesive as they typically are. You have the typical amount of white crossover vote. So we are going to identify these elections and we are going to recompile those election results to fall within the boundaries of the proposed District and see if the minority preferred candidate carries those districts.

Now, the software at this point will be able to do this essentially immediately.

Every time you draw some boundaries, you will be able to know using these bellwether elections, if the minority preferred candidate carries that District or not.

So it's going to be relatively simple once all the analysis is done in the first place to determine if you have got effective districts or not.

Okay. What I want to do now is give you a couple of examples if I have enough time. And I'm going to start with a state that you border.

I'm going to look at the 11th Congressional District in Ohio.

I did some work there.

There was a partisan gerrymandering you may have heard of.

In that particular suit, the state defended portions of their plan saying that the Voting Rights Act made them do it.

So they said that the 11th Congressional District was required by the Voting Rights Act.

Now, voting is polarized and it was absolutely true that they had to draw a District that would give minorities an opportunity to elect their candidates of choice.

What they didn't have to do was create a long, thin, strangely shaped District that dipped down, out of Piojo County down all the way to Akron.

The 11th Congressional District had always sat, since it was drawn in the 1960s, completely within Kihope County. And there was no reason that it had to go outside of Kihope County and no reason that it was as strangely shaped as it was.

And what it was, the District packed democrats. It was a District that was about I'm not going to remember the numbers exactly, but about 52 percent Black in composition. It was electing the incumbent with well over 75% of the vote. And not that she was a popular incumbent, every democrat carried the District with well over 70% of the vote. So there was absolutely no need to pack the District even more.

Now, the case, as I said, was a partisan gerrymandering case. And so it ultimately was declared moot after the Supreme Court said that partisan gerrymandering cases would not be considered by the Court.

But that is an example of a District, a minority opportunity District that didn't have to look that way.

The District could have looked much more compact than the District that was drawn.

Okay, and here is a different kind of example.

Now we are in Arkansas.

And we are looking at the 24th Senate, the State Senate District.

Now, this was the 16th District before it was redrawn in 2011.

It was about 57% Black in composition and it was electing an incumbent just barely. Just barely.

So we knew that District wasn't packed.

When the Commission, it was drawn by a Commission, when it was redrawn, they dropped the percentage from 57 down to a bare 50%. And the African/American community in the area sued. The suit took a while. And in the meantime, we had an election. And lo and behold the African/American incumbent lost to a white with no support from the Black community, but a lot of support from the white community.

This is an example of a District where the minority percentage had to be really very high, nearly 60% to ensure minorities an opportunity to elect their candidates of choice. There was virtually no white crossover vote. And it was depressed minority turnout for a variety of reasons having to do with historical discrimination.

I think I have time for one more.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Dr. Handley, I'm so sorry to interrupt you. I wanted to check how much more is left on your presentation because we do have another presenter as well and I don't want to cut their time, so they don't have time to present as well.

>> LISA HANDLEY: I have this slide and one more.

I have to give this example of Virginia. If we are really cutting it close and I want time for questions, so maybe I should just go to the conclusion and ask if there are any questions.

Okay, so what does this mean for this round of redistricting? Well, first of all, you're going to have to do a racial bloc voting analysis to determine if the voting is polarized in areas of the state with minority concentrations.

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And then if it is and you need to create or maintain minority districts, you need to do districts, specific functional analysis to ensure that the minority districts that you do draw provide minority voters with an opportunity to elect their candidates of choice.

And I'm adding a caveat that you have heard.

I know at least from Bruce Adleson and others who have spoken to you, nothing that I'm saying here means that you can't draw minority districts that are geographically concentrated, but say don't reach 50% or you are combining minorities. So long as they are communities of interest, so long as race is not the predominant factor, you can create these districts whether the Voting Rights Act requires them or not.

So what I'm talking about today is just what's required by the Voting Rights Act. And that is my conclusion.

And I'm happy to answer any questions.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you very much.

Do we have any questions? That is Rhonda.

Cynthia, did you have question? I see you have your hand raised. Go ahead, Commissioner Orton.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Am I understanding it correctly we won't really be able to make any of these determinations until we actually draw the line and then the software will tell us using all this data if we are in compliance or not is that true?

>> LISA HANDLEY: The analysis will be done prior to this to tell you if you have a problem with racially polarized voting.

You don't have to do that.

I will do that.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So before we draw that particular area, you can tell us if it's a problem area or not?

>> LISA HANDLEY: I hope so, but it's all dependent when I get the data.

The goal would be for me to be able to tell you in specific areas whether you have to draw the districts and even about the demographic composition of the districts. And then you will be drawing, you will have the demographic composition and hopefully some bellwether election results to recompile and tell you.

For the time you sit and draw, I sincerely hope that all you will need to be doing is paying attention to the demographic composition and the bellwether election results. So it will be just a matter of these things that will pop up on your screen as you are drawing.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay. Do we have any other questions? All right. I would just like to take a moment to thank Mr. Brace, Mr. Morgan and Dr. Handley for speaking to us today.

I'm sure we will be hearing more from you later at other meetings as well. But thank you very much for those informative presentations, that was very helpful.

Moving on to new business, Agenda Item 7D, without objection, we will ask Moon Duchin from MGGG to provide an update on reports from the public comment tool. Hearing no objection, please proceed, Ms. Duchin, is it Duchin?

>> DR. DUCHIN: I think I need permission to start my video though.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Department of State, can you assist? There I see you.

>> DR. DUCHIN: I will be brief and give you an update on how the public submission portal is going and what kind of input we are seeing. And actually some of this will speak well to Kim Brace's comment from earlier about how communities of interest are going to look to you when you are drawing.

So I'll start by sharing the portal itself.

And make a couple points about what you can look up on your own in the portal. And then show you a summary report that we prepared, just summarizing the first six weeks of input.

And before I do any of this, I will just say it's going really remarkably well. So you can take a look at any time by scrolling down to this advanced search feature.

I just want to remind you I think you have seen this already, but to show you how it looks. You could go, for instance, and say what has happened in the last week? So I'm putting in the date range of June 17th-24th. And then I search and I see 105 public submissions have been entered in last week.

And, within that, I can drill down and see what kind they are. So I can see, for instance, a lot of that was written testimony.

We have 60 hits for written testimony.

Districting plans made up 31 in the last week.

And communities of interest are 11. And I'll tell you a little bit more about what the trends have looked like over time. But this is just a reminder that you can, on your own, go in and search by tag, by keyword, by author, and get to see for yourself what kinds of things are coming in. And I hope you will do that.

We have been working in my lab on preparing summaries for you.

And so let me show you what those will look like.

Okay. Let's see, okay. So here is a summary of public feedback for the first six weeks of the portal's operation.

And this report is also available to you. So you can look at it on your own, just wanted to show you some elements of what we are finding so far.

So one thing is this contains a breakdown by week of whether you are seeing written districted or community of interest submissions. And within that a little bit of a split down of what kind they were.

For instance, within the written testimony, having read through them all, we can tell you that there is really two main kinds. A kind that I'm calling theory and a kind that I'm calling COI.

So theory means people who are writing in to tell you what they think they would like you to conceptualize as fair and good process for redistricting.

So some of them is, indeed, process.

Some of it is compactness.

People are...a lot of people out there in Michigan really want you to draw square districts.

And these are the kinds of things that you will see as either like theory of gerrymandering, what does it mean to do a good job here.

Or the second category is essentially a verbal description of a community of interest and what makes it cohere.

So these are the kind of things that it would be wonderful to have folks then submit as maps. So people are using the portal very effectively to communicate with you about their communities, but not all of them are taking that one next step and connecting that to the map.

The good news is that all the folks who have submitted to the portal, everyone who submitted written testimony has done so with a validated e-mail address. And so it's possible to contact them and offer them access to training sessions and encourage them to map their testimony, because, as I will show you in a moment, that will make it easier to work with when it comes to drawing the lines.

Okay. Within the report you will see some discussion of what kind of things people are talking about. I'll preview a few of them for you.

Counties, the importance of county lines and people talking about their County and why it is kind of consensually distinct. And that is a huge theme. So 111 in the first six weeks people talked about the importance of county lines.

Quite a few talk about math algorithms or various kinds of notions of compactness. So there is a little discretion of what people have to say about that.

Many people talk about school districts.

Typically, and I thought this was interesting, the folks who are writing in about school districts, unlike the County theme, aren't talking about their own school district and what makes it special. They are talking about the principle that school district lines should matter for you when you draw.

The verbal COI submissions are quite interesting. One trend that we noticed when we were reviewing them is that, and this may not surprise you, more often people are writing to tell you about areas that are alike and should be kept together rather than the counterpart where they are telling you about areas that are distinct and should be kept apart. But these are the things that you can work out by going into the portal and searching for keywords and trying to get a feeling for what people have to say.

The report goes on with a week by week breakdown of some of the themes, which you should read at your leisure.

I'll just highlight one thing that we noticed, which is in some cases you can tell that there was a public meeting that did a very effective job at mobilizing people to submit to the Commission.

So, in particular, there is a redistricting public forum on May 25th in Midland, and that produced a kind of burst of submissions in the subsequent day or two.

And so I think that's a nice reminder that the actual, you know, like themed and site specific public forums are still a very effective way to drive people to tell you what they want to tell you about their communities.

Okay. So this is a bit of overview.

And now let me show you some of what that might actually look like.

Okay. So here is one more screen share.

Okay. So in the first six weeks, 60 community of interest submissions, that is mapped submissions where people draw a region and tell you what it is that they want to say about it.

60 of those came in the first six weeks of the portal. And here is a picture that superimposes them all.

You heard Kim refer to this earlier. You will be interacting with these as overlays so you will see where they are on the map just like you see in this picture.

If you take that and you compare it to a map of Michigan and you look at what areas are seeing a lot of input, you will see some of the places you will see you expect. You will see Saginaw, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Detroit.

And then not only Traverse City, but sort of some of the lakeshore communities along Lake Michigan.

And, of course, up top you will see the one submitter wanted the entire UP to be conceived as a community of interest.

So that's why you see that shaded in.

Ultimately, in the end, what you will be able to do with these submissions, so you will be receiving a report from us synthesizing and aggregating the submissions that you saw. And we will be able to not only show you the individual submissions and the metadata that came with it, and a narrative description of what people had to say is important. But in addition we will be able to give you a heat map like the one you see here that shows you which areas got the most discussed and most mapped. And we will be trying to convey to you a sense of where submissions were coming from and what the themes were that came from them.

And I hope this will allow you to do several different things.

One is, as you draw and as you are making some of those tough decisions about where to split, you will be able to look at COI overlay. And that might help guide your hand when you decide to make this split or that one.

But another thing that this will do, that I hope you will find very useful, is when you do have proposed lines to draw, this will give you a sense of what kind of narrative commonalities there are in your districts.

So the hope is it will not only help you draw, but also help you describe your districts and community terms, which can be extremely useful when you communicate about your redistricting decisions to the public.

Okay. So I think that is a nice, quick overview of what you have available to you so far.

And I'd be happy to take questions.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, go ahead, Commissioner Lange. I see you have your hand up.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Thank you.

I have a quick question about the maps that you just showed with the overlay.

So the overlay is for communities of interest.

Are these communities of interest that as you and staff went through them that you determined were communities of interest? Or was this all comments?

>> DR. DUCHIN: No, this is all public submissions. This is simply an aggregation of no value judgments by us and no screening. This is simply an aggregation of the communities that the public has submitted through the portal.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Like the communities who say they want to kept together whether it be two or three counties, those are included on there?

>> DR. DUCHIN: Absolutely. This is unfiltered public submissions.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay, thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, I have a question relative to, well, let me give you an example.

The Traverse City area on your map.

Now when you determined that has a community of interest, did you determine also that the people that specified those things to us came from that area or did you just -- and how did you do that, through IP address?

>> DR. DUCHIN: This is a theme that has come up on several Commissioner meetings. And the determination was made not to require an address from submitters. So the submitters can elect to identify the City or County they are from, but it's elective. One of the reasons, just to recall that conversation for you, is that with Internet submissions, as is true with in-person testimony at a microphone, what you have is what people tell you about themselves. And typically you're not in the business of trying to verify that.

Verification is particularly difficult with Internet submissions.

So IP addresses, for example, there can be legitimate reasons why many submissions might come from the same IP address such as a college dorm or library. And, you

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know, conversely, it's quite easy for someone from another state or another country to spoof multiple IP addresses.

So IP addresses aren't a reliable way to be sure that you know where submissions are coming from.

So ultimately with the portal, as with in-person testimony in previous cycles, what you have is how people present themselves to you.

But, certainly, it's possible for you to go through and kind of review the COI submissions and the Commission could choose to make a credibility determination and to weight them accordingly.

On the kind of math and data science side of what we do with them, we can accommodate absolutely easily if you choose to discard some submissions or upweight some relative to others, that is something we can handle.

What we have chosen to do is not use our judgment, but to take unfiltered public submissions, pending review by the Commission and kind of requests by the Commission, we are making no determination about the relative value or merit of the different submissions that come from the public.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: In retrospect I think I would have looked at it differently when we did decide to do it that way and maybe just require something like a zip code or something. And so we could determine where these people lived that made the comments.

Okay, thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Anyone else? So I do have one comment. Is there a way that we can export the information like maybe into an Excel file? Could you do that for us?

>> DR. DUCHIN: Absolutely. And we started doing that on a weekly basis. So you will have access to a CSV, which you can open in Excel. But you will have access to a table with all the data. And Commissioners will have access to the contact information as well, which is not public facing. On the website we don't show people e-mail addresses of submitters, but you do have access to that.

So that's just another reminder, if you do want to follow-up with submitters, you do have contact info and are able to do that.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, yeah, I was just thinking more particularly for some of the maps that have been submitted to us, I know you are not making a value judgment on it. But some I am opening them up and looking at them. And there are maps they never would pass, number one, the Voting Rights Act. So I just want to make a note of that somewhere and say it doesn't comply, then I know I can wash that from my analysis and not come back to it by mistake a second time.

>> DR. DUCHIN: What I'm focused on right now are community of interest submissions, different from the Districting plans. And note the directing plans you are receiving, you might find them very interesting and informative just to see a range of

different examples. But remember that the plans that are coming insofar are balanced on old population. They are balanced on 2010 decennial census. So I think it's a valuable exercise for the public to be submitting them and showing what they think. But they should be taken with a grain of salt. I'm holding that apart from the communities of interest, which don't have to, you know, are not subject to the Voting Rights Act or other kinds of requirements of that kind.

But it did remind me actually, I wanted to return to a point that came up earlier during the EDS presentation and just show you one thing.

So the question was asked earlier: Is it possible to see how much population is in a community of interest? I just want to show you that you can do that in the portal. So that looks like, okay, so, for instance, I did a search here. I put in the keyword Traverse and got a couple of hits.

Here's communities of interest submission.

And if I want to see how many people are in this COI, I have the option to open it. And when you do, you see -- I see this person has drawn it as a District. So you can see the population of this particular identified community is 89,701 with respect to decennial census data.

When the new census data is released, we will update the populations in the tool. But if you are curious about a particular community of interest, you can open it in Districter and see lots of different information about the District using the Districter tool.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Just to clarify, say if someone drew this map now but when the data comes in, this will be updated so if I click on this two months from now, or whenever, it will have accurate population data even if it doesn't now?

>> DR. DUCHIN: Yes, you will have updated information data.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: And I just want to emphasize, you are using City Gate software as your main mapping tool. And we've already begun conversations about making this fully interoperation. So you will be able to open these up in City Gate and not rely on the portal. But my point is that for now you can already get a sense as you are going through and thinking about them, it's already possible to see a lot of information about them just using the portal.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Any additional questions?

>> KIM BRACE: Commissioner, this is Kim Brace again, and I wanted to reiterate what Moon was just saying. That we have been entertaining and having discussions with her in terms of how we can interface and get material from her to be an overlay onto the City Gate system. So we are working on that to help you out on that side too.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, fantastic.

Well, thank you to everyone. Thank you, Moon, for that presentation. It was very helpful.

All right. So I think we are going to move on, moving on to Agenda Item 8. Without objection, our Executive Director will provide an update on future agenda items.

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Hearing no objection, please proceed, Executive Director Hammersmith.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Kim Brace is working his way through the data cube and will be back on Tuesday to share some more continuing education with us and on Thursday we hope to have some options and recommendations from our redistricting process committee, which will meet on Friday and also on Monday. And that will be the full part of the discussion on Wednesday. So stay tuned.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Great. Moving on to announcements, thank you very much Executive, Director Hammersmith. Are there any announcements that any Commissioners would like to make? Go ahead, Mr. Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you. I just want to note I'm not a Commissioner but just want to announce that Kristin appreciates working with the Commission. She has a limited number of hours. That will expire next week, that she is doing, so she is still doing the hotel arrangements and things along those lines. But you will not see her at the public hearings between now and next week, but she is still doing things behind the scenes, so we do not go over on hours so thank you so much.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you. Without objections, our Executive Director will provide any additional announcements that she has.

Hearing no objection, please proceed Executive Director.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: I don't have any at this time. Thanks.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you very much as the items on the agenda have been completed and the Commission has no further business a motion to adjourn is in order.

Motion by Commissioner Lett and second by Commissioner Witjes. All in favor raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: The ayes prevail. The meeting is adjourned. Thank you for attending.

[ Meeting concludes ]