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MICHIGAN REDISTRICTING COMMISSION MORNING SESSION
SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

1 Remote meeting
2 Held on September 17, 2020
3 Morning Session
4
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10 Good morning to the commissioners and the
11 public watching. If you can give us one second to get
12 our slides to show not in the presenter mode, but just
13 in the kind of normal mirror mode, we will get started.
14 While we're doing that, let me just quickly say that my
15 name is Sally Marsh, and I am the director of special
16 projects as the Michigan Department of State. And, you
17 know, I want -- this is a perfect point to say that we
18 appreciate your patience and understanding as we operate
19 this public meeting virtually for the first time. I'm
20 sure there will be hiccups, as we're experiencing right
21 now, just to make sure we can make everything, you know,
22 view and work correctly. But we will do our best to
23 adjust and accommodate members of the public and the
24 commission as we go.

25 Before Secretary Benson officially calls

1 this meeting to order and while we are figuring out how
2 to best view our Power Point slides, I will go over a
3 few virtual logistics for this meeting for the public
4 who is watching today. We will briefly review the
5 agenda and answer any remaining administrative
6 questions. This may take anywhere around ten minutes,
7 but just want to be thorough and make sure everyone is
8 able to participate today.

9 So, first of all, a couple of notes about
10 the livestream. This Zoom webinar is being livestreamed
11 to Facebook and to YouTube. That looks great, Cathleen.
12 Awesome. So for anyone in the public watching, if you
13 would prefer to view via a different platform than what
14 you're currently using, please visit our social media
15 @RedistrictingMI or our website
16 redistrictingmichigan.org to find the link for either
17 viewing on YouTube or Facebook.

18 Our livestream today includes closed
19 captioning. You may already see that we have an ALS
20 interpreter and ALS interpretation available for this
21 meeting. If you're a member of the public who would
22 like easier viewing options for the ASL interpreter on
23 your screen, please email us at
24 Redistricting@Michigan.gov, and we will provide you with
25 additional viewing options. If we could go to the next

1 screen -- the next slide. Similarly, members of the
2 public who are limited English speaking and who would
3 like to access translation services during this webinar
4 can also email us at Redistricting@Michigan.gov for
5 details on how to access language translation services
6 for this meeting. They are available in both Spanish
7 and Arabic. Please email us and we will provide you
8 with a unique link and call in information.

9 This meeting is being recorded and will be
10 available as redistrictingmichigan.org for viewing at a
11 later date. This meeting is also being transcribed, and
12 those transcriptions will be made available and posted
13 on redistrictingmichigan.org along with public comment
14 submissions. Members of the media who may have
15 questions before, during, or after the meeting should
16 contact Tracy Whimmer (sic) and direct those questions
17 to her, the media relations director at the Department
18 of State. You all should have her contact information,
19 if you're a member of the media.

20 So briefly before Secretary Benson convenes
21 the meeting, we'll talk through the agenda for the next
22 few days so that people know what's coming. And,
23 Commissioners, you'll have the opportunity to ask any
24 administrative questions before we move on. Yeah.
25 Thank you. If we can go to the next slide -- perfect.

1 So the full agenda can be viewed at
2 redistrictingmichigan.org. Today and tomorrow you will
3 hear from academic and elections experts about some of
4 the key concepts and tasks ahead of you. This is an
5 introduction and an orientation. Hopefully it's helpful
6 as you begin your work. You'll begin making decisions
7 as a group and getting to know one another. So just
8 briefly to touch on each of these sessions this morning.
9 Once Secretary Benson convenes the meeting, we will
10 listen to public comment. You will take the oath of
11 office. You'll introduce yourself to one another and
12 elect an acting chair, someone to lead the group
13 through the remainder of the two-day session.

14 This afternoon you will begin an
15 introduction and dialogue about your role as a
16 commissioner and the requirements of the constitution.
17 Tomorrow morning you will hear more about the basics of
18 redistricting and transparency expectations outlined in
19 the amendment. And then, finally, tomorrow afternoon
20 you'll make your initial decisions as a group on how to
21 proceed with initial next steps, including when you will
22 meet next.

23 Don't worry, although these are two packed
24 days, you'll have off-camera breaks throughout. We hope
25 to have breaks in today's agenda, as indicated on the

1 slide that you can see in front of you. We'll be
2 flexible with that as we move forward. You'll have
3 breaks generally in between presentations to stretch
4 your legs and refresh your coffee, and that goes for the
5 members of the public as well.

6 So you'll see on this agenda and on the
7 agenda for the upcoming sessions as well that at the
8 beginning and the end of each day, there will be a
9 period of public comments. So a few notes about public
10 comments for this two-day session. Because this is a
11 virtual meeting, members of the public had to sign up in
12 advance to submit public comment to the commission.
13 Many members of the public submitted written public
14 comment, and some signed up to address the commission
15 live during this meeting. Written public comment will
16 be included as part of the permanent record of this
17 convening. If you would like to submit your thoughts to
18 the commission and you haven't yet, or participate in
19 public comment in an upcoming session, you can fill out
20 a form that's posted on your social media sites
21 @RedistrictingMI on Facebook and on Twitter. You can
22 also email our office Redistricting@Michigan.gov with
23 the subject line, "Public Comments," and we will provide
24 your written thoughts to the commission and part of the
25 record of this convening. There are a total of four

1 sessions of live public comment. So if you didn't sign
2 up for this morning session, the good news is you still
3 have time to sign up for a later date.

4 Now, I'd like to address meeting attendees
5 who will participating in live public comment today, or
6 people who are considering participating in live public
7 comment in future sessions. Let me just tell you
8 briefly what to expect. Our staff the at the Department
9 of State will unmute each member of the public for up to
10 90 seconds each on a first-come, first-serve basis.
11 That's in the order for which people sign up to address
12 the commission. Once the public comment portion of the
13 meeting starts, I will call your name and our staff will
14 unmute you. If you're on a computer, you will be
15 prompted by the Zoom application to unmute your
16 microphone and speak. If you're on the phone, a voice
17 will say that the host would like you to speak and
18 prompt you to press star six in order to unmute. I will
19 call on you by name or by the last four digits of your
20 phone number.

21 Also, please note that if you do have audio
22 issues and we don't hear from you for three to five
23 seconds, we will then move on to the next person in
24 line, and then return to you once they are done speaking
25 to see if you are able to speak at that point. But if

1 your audio still doesn't work, you can email us again at
2 Redistricting@Michigan.gov. We will help you
3 troubleshoot. And the good news is that today and this
4 morning, this is the first day, so there are still
5 opportunities in the future if you -- if your audio
6 doesn't work the first time.

7 **A reminder to all public comment**
8 **participants, whether written or live speaking comment,**
9 **this is an opportunity to address the commission on the**
10 **record. Commissioners will listen and take notes. This**
11 **is not a Q and A, but it is an opportunity to provide**
12 **your thoughts and your feedback. Again, please note you**
13 **will have no more than 90 seconds to address the**
14 **commission. And I will let you know when your time has**
15 **lapsed and ask that you quickly conclude or finish your**
16 **sentence before moving on.**

17 **At approximately 9:30 we will transition to**
18 **public comments. Again, if you'd like to submit your**
19 **thoughts to the commission either in writing or via live**
20 **public comment, you can find the form at**
21 **@RedistrictingMI on Facebook and on Twitter. You can**
22 **also email our office, once again at**
23 **Redistricting@Michigan.gov and we will -- with the**
24 **subject line, "Public Comment," and we will provide your**
25 **written thoughts to the commission.**

1 Are there any questions from the
2 commissioners about these administrative logistics?

3 If you could go on to the next slide. Just
4 to recap for those who may just be joining us in the
5 public, wanted to be sure I mentioned this one more
6 time, that we have closed captioning available for this
7 livestream. And, again, if you're viewing on a
8 livestream platform and you'd prefer a different one, we
9 are live streaming to both Facebook and to YouTube. You
10 can find those links on our website or our social media
11 platforms @RedistrictingMI. And then similarly we --
12 you may notice that we have ALS interpretation available
13 for this meeting. If you're a member of the public
14 watching who would like easier viewing options for the
15 ASL interpreter on your screen, please email us and we
16 will provide you with additional information on how to
17 access those viewing options. Members of the public who
18 are limited English speaking and who would like to
19 access translation services during the webinar can email
20 us, Redistricting@Michigan.gov, for details on how to
21 access language translation services. They are
22 available in both Spanish and in Arabic. Let me just
23 check now.

24 Again, to members of the public watching,
25 very much appreciate your patience and -- and your

1 understanding as we endeavor to have this first meeting
2 publically via Zoom and with all of these options
3 available. And if there are -- are there any questions
4 from the commissioners? Wonderful. Okay. Let me see.
5 I think we might have some technical difficulties
6 getting Secretary Benson on the line, but let me look
7 here. And for those who might be utilizing the Spanish
8 translation line, we are verifying right now to make
9 sure that you can still -- you can hear us and that you
10 can hear the translation. So if everyone can just give
11 me a moment there, that would be great. Again,
12 appreciate your patience.

13 And while we're waiting to make sure we have
14 all of the technology working and that everyone is able
15 to join us, I'll just briefly talk again for those who
16 might just be joining us about what's on the agenda this
17 morning. Again, the full agenda orientation materials
18 and resources, many different resources, are available
19 at redistrictingmichigan.org. This morning's session
20 will include a call to order from Secretary Benson, who
21 will officially call the meeting to order shortly. It
22 will include covering some meeting logistics. The
23 commissioners will able to take their oath of office.
24 Then, the commissioners will have the opportunity to
25 introduce themselves to each other and to the public.

1 And then the commission will have the community to elect
2 an acting chair for the remaining portion of the two-day
3 session to help facilitate their -- the remainder of
4 their agenda. And just seeing that attendees can hear
5 the Spanish translation line if they select that option
6 once they get into the Zoom webinar. So that is good to
7 hear. Sounds like it's working.

8 And I think we should -- we're having brief
9 technical difficulties. Just give me one second.
10 Thanks again to everyone in the public who is watching
11 and who is bearing with us as we figure this out this
12 morning. We are, I think, all familiar with the -- with
13 the advantages, and also the challenges of these virtual
14 meetings in this era, so if you can just give us one
15 moment. Want to make sure that -- it looks like we
16 might be able to -- all right. I think --

17 SECRETARY BENSON: Hi, everyone.

18 MS. MARSH: Hi, Secretary Benson. Can you
19 see us and hear us?

20 SECRETARY BENSON: I can. Thank you,
21 everyone, for your patience. Wonderful to see you all.
22 Hi. Sally, let me know when I can -- if you want me
23 to --

24 MS. MARSH: You're ready to go. Good to go.

25 SECRETARY BENSON: Well, good morning and

1 thank you for being part of this really extraordinary
2 moment in our state's history. It's wonderful to see
3 you all and welcome you to the inaugural meeting of
4 Michigan's first independent citizens redistricting
5 commission. This is a historic day. And it's such an
6 honor to be a part of it with all of you. And I have
7 such gratitude for each of you who have stepped up,
8 who've been a part of this process already, and for the
9 work ahead. You are a literally going to draw
10 Michigan's future, and the decisions you will make in
11 the next year throughout your tenure will impact every
12 citizen in this state for years to come. So thank you
13 for your willingness to serve and be a part of a moment
14 that will have great, positive rewards, not just for our
15 state, but for our entire country.

16 As the secretary without a vote on the
17 commission and in accordance with the constitutional
18 obligations set forth in Article IV Section 6 of -- in
19 subsection seven of the Michigan state constitution, I
20 call this first convening to order. And I would like to
21 first formally welcome each of the 13 commissioners
22 convened virtually here today. You will hear from me
23 this morning, but by the end of our session this
24 morning, you will make your first decision as a team and
25 select your chair. The acting chair will be elected by

1 all of you. And you will also then make a series of
2 decisions as a team at the end of this two-day meeting
3 to guide the direction of your work moving forward. And
4 with that said, it's an honor to be the first to say
5 directly to all of you convened today that you have not
6 just an incredible opportunity ahead of you, but also an
7 extraordinary responsibility. This process has been
8 citizen led from start to finish in a really tremendous,
9 extraordinary way. And each of you now have the eyes of
10 the State on you, the millions of citizens who organized
11 to create this commission to make it a reality. And
12 with the aspiration that 13 people just like you would
13 be selected to serve in these critically important
14 positions at this critically important moment. You have
15 been, as you know, randomly selected through multiple
16 processes out of a pool that ultimately had close to ten
17 thousand Michigan citizens from across the state. And
18 your work will fulfill the calls for fair districting
19 that led millions of citizens to vote to create this
20 commission in 2018. And so with that responsibility, to
21 draw the district lines for your fellow citizens, the
22 congressional level, at the state legislative, at the
23 state Senate level, I know that you are up to the task
24 and you will continue this task in a fair, transparent,
25 nonpartisan and bipartisan way. I know and we know from

1 talking with each of you that you've seen the importance
2 of the independence of your work, the citizen focus of
3 your work in the weeks ahead you will be, and I'm sure
4 you already have been, inundated with information and
5 requests, and hopefully a lot of citizen input to help
6 guide the decisions you'll be making. And, of course,
7 you will be expected to engage and involve the public in
8 the decisions you make and do it all in the sunlight of
9 open meetings. So through your work in the coming year,
10 you will create and set an example, not just for how
11 citizen-led redistricting will occur in Michigan this
12 decade, but how it will occur for years to come. Every
13 action you take, every vote you make, every decision
14 that you enter into will ultimately create a precedent
15 for every future independent citizen for redistricting
16 commission as well. And so I impress that upon you that
17 certainly been something that's been part of our work as
18 we work to get to this point knowing that the decisions
19 we make are not just about this year or this moment or
20 this decade, but about how this commission will operate
21 for years to come.

22 And then with that, I'll also underscore
23 that this goes beyond Michigan. Other states,
24 particularly in the Midwest, will be watching the work
25 that you do and will work to ensure that you are being

1 an example to all of them as they seek to decide whether
2 to go down this path as well for citizen-led
3 redistricting as an antidote to the, frankly, you know,
4 quite toxic hyper partisan political environment that we
5 all find ourselves in, in many ways. So this is a
6 momentous opportunity for you all to demonstrate to the
7 country that fair citizen-led redistricting can be a
8 antiseptic and an antidote to the moment that we're in,
9 and can -- through engaging and empowering citizens of
10 every background, on every perspective, all political
11 sides, we can collectively through, deliberation and
12 collaboration, come up with a decision that in this
13 instance will lead to the creation fair maps for our
14 state legislature and our members of Congress.

15 And I'll close by just emphasizing that, as
16 you know, Michigan's only the second state in the nation
17 to do something like this, to have randomly selected
18 citizens draw district lines. And one of only a few
19 state legislators are not involved in the process and
20 not responsible for drawing district lines. And so it
21 is not a hyperbole to say the eyes of the nation will be
22 on you. The eyes of our citizens certainly already are.
23 And I'm just so grateful that each of you stepped up to
24 serve in light of all that willingness to be a part of
25 history, and also embrace the importance of your role,

1 the historic part -- the historic importance of your
2 role in the weeks and months ahead.

3 So my role moving forward, again, is very
4 much the secretary without a vote. The Michigan
5 constitution states that the secretary of state is the
6 secretary of the commission without a vote. And in that
7 capacity, I shall furnish, under your direction, all
8 technical services that you deem necessary. My staff
9 and I are committed to serving and supporting your
10 efforts through providing secretarial administrative
11 assistance to simply enable you all to do your work. We
12 will work only at your direction here on out. You are
13 all autonomous. You are independent. You are
14 independent governing body. And you are able to make
15 decisions without approval beyond the consensus of your
16 fellow commissioners and colleagues. You do not have to
17 be important experts and to know all -- or are you
18 expected to know all of the answers to the questions
19 discussed today or tomorrow or in the weeks ahead.
20 Michigan voters called for this change where
21 intentionally redistricting experts and political
22 insiders are not the decision makers you are. And I'm
23 sure if you have a question or concern, at least one of
24 your fellow commissioners or your fellow Michigan
25 citizens watching will have that same question or

1 concern, so speak up on their behalf. Raise that
2 question, raise that concern, ask for clarification, and
3 engage the voices that you choose to engage on behalf of
4 the citizens, the millions of citizens throughout the
5 state that you now represent.

6 In just a moment, we're going to transition
7 to public comment. And after hearing from the public,
8 you will take the oath of office to serve as a public
9 official in the State of Michigan and a commissioner on
10 our first citizen redistricting commission. We'll then
11 discuss a few additional housekeeping pieces. We'll
12 have a quick break. And then you will have the
13 opportunity to introduce yourselves to one another and
14 to the public and elect an acting chair. But, first,
15 we're going to take roll call.

16 So I will at this point read out the
17 purposes of public watching and for public record our
18 Department of State staff will take note of the
19 commissioners present. And so I'm going to turn it back
20 to Sally Marsh to conduct the roll call. When your name
21 is called, please unmute and say present.

22 MS. MARSH: Thank you, Secretary Benson.
23 Okay. Anthony Eid.

24 COMMISSIONER EID: Here.

25 MS. MARSH: Brittni Kellom.

1 COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Present.
2 MS. MARSH: Cynthia Orton.
3 COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present.
4 MS. MARSH: Douglas Clark.
5 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.
6 MS. MARSH: Erin Wagner.
7 COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Present.
8 MS. MARSH: James or Ed Decker.
9 COMMISSIONER DECKER: Present.
10 MS. MARSH: Janice Vallette.
11 COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.
12 MS. MARSH: Juanita Curry.
13 COMMISSIONER CURRY: Present.
14 MS. MARSH: MC Rothhorn.
15 COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Present.
16 MS. MARSH: Rhonda Lange.
17 COMMISSIONER LANGE: Present.
18 MS. MARSH: Richard Weiss.
19 COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.
20 MS. MARSH: Steven Lett.
21 COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.
22 MS. MARSH: All commissioners are present.
23 SECRETARY BENSON: Wonderful. And we'll now
24 open the floor to public comment for members of the
25 public who signed up to participate for today's section.

1 And for anyone just joining us, a few reminders about
2 the public comment for this two-day session. There will
3 be multiple opportunities for public comment. And to
4 those members of the public participating in public
5 comment, please note that you will have no more than 90
6 seconds to address the commission this morning. Because
7 this is a virtual meeting, members of the public had to
8 sign up in advance to address the commission. And if
9 you would like to submit your thoughts to the commission
10 or participate in public comment in an upcoming session,
11 and, again, there will be three more opportunities in
12 the next two days for public comment, you can fill out
13 the form posted at redistrictingmichigan.org, or go to
14 Facebook or Twitter and go @RedistrictingMI and complete
15 a form there. You can also email
16 Redistricting@Michigan.gov to submit your interest in
17 public comment. And we will provide your written
18 submission to the commission.

19 Now, I would like to recognize Sally Marsh
20 again who will call on members of the public to address
21 the commission.

22 MS. MARSH: Thank you, Secretary Benson.
23 Individuals who signed up and indicated they would like
24 to provide live public commentary to the commission can
25 now -- will now be allowed to do so. For this initial

1 period of public comment, there is one member of the
2 public who would like to address the commission live. I
3 will call on your name in just a moment. So first in
4 line to provide public comment is Nancy Weng. Please
5 allow a moment for our staff to unmute you.

6 You are now unmuted and invited to address
7 the commission for 90 seconds.

8 MS. WENG: Hello. Congratulations and thank
9 you. I'm Nancy Weng, executive director and one of the
10 original Voters Not Politicians. We were the Grassroots
11 group of regular Michiganders who came together,
12 starting in 2017, to find a solution, a nonpartisan
13 solution, to end the decades of extreme partisan
14 gerrymandering that's wrapped our state. And, you know,
15 we started with 33 town halls and 33 days, which is the
16 handful of Michiganders who traveled the state to talk
17 with others who shared our concern, and see what kind of
18 solution we could craft for the State of Michigan that
19 was tailored to us and that would give us, you know, the
20 ideal of fair and impartial transparent citizen-led
21 redistricting. And now to see our vision come to
22 fruition in you and all of you is really -- it's an
23 indescribable feeling and it's a dream come true. We
24 know that you have a great task ahead of you that you've
25 been charged with drawing our district election lines

1 through a very fair and impartial and commissioned -- a
2 community-driven process. But we want you to know that
3 you're not alone. Voters Not Politicians has been
4 working with hundreds of community organization
5 throughout 2018 and 2019. And we know that there are
6 communities all throughout Michigan that are so excited
7 to be giving their input to tell you about the
8 boundaries of their communities so that they can be kept
9 intact. And their input is prioritized in the
10 constitutional amendment to help you, you know, craft
11 the district lines that really will make every
12 Michiganders' vote count, to make every voter feel that
13 they have an active part in this truly, what should be,
14 you know, democratic, again, you know, public
15 voter-driven redistricting process. So I -- again, I
16 thank you so much. I can't wait to see all of you do
17 your work and to see us coming into the 2022 elections
18 with districts that make all of our votes count and our
19 voices heard. So thank you again.

20 MS. MARSH: Thank you so much. That
21 concludes your portion of public comment. And that
22 concludes our public comments this morning.

23 SECRETARY BENSON: Thank you. And, again,
24 there will be another opportunity for public comment
25 later today and two tomorrow. And before we move to a

1 ten-minute break -- or are we doing -- I think, a short
2 break a few minutes, we have one important thing to
3 address now and that is taking the oath of office. So
4 Commissioners, you will all take the oath of office
5 together. In order to administer this oath remotely, I
6 will ask you all to unmute your microphones, raise your
7 right hand, and repeat after me. You can take a moment
8 to look at the oath on your screen, but our team will
9 also take it down shortly so that the members of the
10 public watching can all see you. Again, please unmute
11 your microphone. Looks like you all have. Raise your
12 right hand. Repeat after me. I do solemnly swear or
13 affirm.

14 ALL: I do solemnly swear or affirm.

15 SECRETARY BENSON: That I will support the
16 constitution of the United States.

17 ALL: That I will support the constitution
18 of the United States.

19 SECRETARY BENSON: And the constitution of
20 this state.

21 ALL: And the constitution of this state.

22 SECRETARY BENSON: And that I will
23 faithfully discharge the duties.

24 ALL: And that I will faithfully discharge
25 the duties of the office.

1 SECRETARY BENSON: Of the office of
2 commissioner.

3 ALL: Of the office of commissioner.

4 SECRETARY BENSON: Of the Michigan
5 Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

6 All: Of the Michigan Independent Citizens
7 Redistricting Commission.

8 SECRETARY BENSON: According to the best of
9 my ability.

10 ALL: According to the best of the my
11 abilities.

12 SECRETARY BENSON: Congratulations. We're
13 all commissioners. With that, we're going to take a
14 quick break. And, Commissioners, if you choose to step
15 away from your computer during this time, please turn
16 off your cameras and mute your microphones at the bottom
17 left hand corner of your screen. We will see you back
18 here at -- what time, Sally?

19 MS. MARSH: About 9:50.

20 SECRETARY BENSON: 9:50. So you have about
21 eight minutes. See you back here at 9:50 for
22 introductions and a few more housekeeping. Thank you.

23 (Brief break.)

24 MS. MARSH: Commissioners, when you're back,
25 if you could turn on your cameras so we know that you're

1 there, that would be great. Thank you.

2 SECRETARY BENSON: And a reminder to be on
3 mute for -- welcome back, everyone. We want to
4 reiterate that people who want better ASL viewing
5 options can also email us at Redistricting Michigan --
6 @Michigan.gov for ASL Arabic or Spanish translations.
7 You can also email us at Michigan --
8 Redistricting@Michigan.gov.

9 COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Sorry, Secretary
10 Benson. I hate to interrupt. I'm sorry. My -- it says
11 my -- I can't start my video on. This is MC. I can't
12 start my video.

13 MS. MARSH: MC, we'll try to troubleshoot
14 with you offline. Thanks.

15 SECRETARY BENSON: Okay. So the process
16 continues. Thank you all for coming back. Next on our
17 agenda are introductions. But, first, before we do
18 that, we have a couple remaining housekeeping and
19 logical items. I'm going to turn back to staff for the
20 Department of State to address a few remaining
21 housekeeping items. And then we'll move to commissioner
22 introductions.

23 MS. MARSH: Thank you, Secretary Benson. So
24 you all have met me, but I'm going to let my colleague,
25 Mike Brady, introduce himself as well.

1 MR. BRADY: Good morning. My name's Mike
2 Brady. I'm the chief legal director here at the
3 Michigan Department of State. Pleasure to be here with
4 you this morning.

5 MS. MARSH: Thanks, Mike. So,
6 Commissioners, before we move on to introductions. We
7 just wanted to briefly mention Robert's Rules of Order
8 and really answer the question what is it and, you know,
9 why was it included in your orientation material. So we
10 can go to the Robert's Rules of Order slide. Thank you
11 so much.

12 So it's -- basically, Robert's Rules of
13 Order is a framework and a tool. For those would of you
14 who haven't used it before, it's a framework and a tool,
15 to utilize in this meeting and moving forward, to help
16 organize conversation, debate, and decisions. That's
17 really what it is. It's an opportunity for a public
18 body or a group as large as yours to be able to focus
19 the conversation and make sure everyone's on the same
20 page about what you are talking about. So we're going
21 to briefly run through the high level basics just so
22 that you're able to participate fully. Highlight a
23 couple of key motions and points. And I want to direct
24 you to Pages 29 through 35 of your orientation
25 materials. Certainly don't want Robert's Rules of

1 Order, Commissioners, to be something that limits your
2 participation in this meeting. It's really meant to be
3 a tool to enable it and to better, you know, organize
4 the conversation for all of you.

5 So you'll see on the screen right now, it's
6 really two types of important actions that you can take
7 with Robert's Rules of Order. There's a motion and then
8 a point. A motion is essentially something to take
9 action. I move to do X. I think we should do X. And
10 then a point is typically used to request attention or
11 ask a question. You can see a more comprehensive list
12 of this in your orientation materials.

13 But I want to particularly flag for all of
14 you the point of order is an opportunity to ask a
15 question about procedure or the running of the meeting.
16 So if you're confused as to where you are or what you
17 should say in order to do what you want to do, point of
18 order is a great thing to say and then be able to
19 explain what your question is. And then point of
20 personal privilege is similarly something that's really
21 useful. If you want to ask for accommodations, muting
22 background noise, things like that, you can say point of
23 personal privilege and raise that issue. So we can go
24 on to the next slide.

25 MR. BRADY: So I'm going to highlight a few

1 actions where you may want -- that you might want to
2 take and how you can begin utilizing Robert's Rules to
3 make them. One of those would be to introduce a new
4 topic or action. As Sally said, you know, this would
5 start with a motion. So you would say, I move to the
6 agenda. I move to adjourn the meeting, et cetera, et
7 cetera. With that, when one person moves to do
8 something in order for the question to come before the
9 full commission, someone else needs to second the
10 motion. So just a different commission will say, I
11 second the motion. And if there's a second, then the
12 chair will call, All in favor? All opposed? And
13 proceed accordingly. If there's not a second, then it's
14 not called to question.

15 To end debate in order to make a decision,
16 someone could say, I move to previous question, and that
17 would also require a second. One person can say, you
18 know, I move to end debate. I move to, you know,
19 previous question. Then someone else would second, and
20 then the chair will say, All in Favor? All opposed?
21 And do a roll call vote at that point.

22 Similarly with the -- since the vote make
23 the decision, the chair would then, you know, state, Now
24 we will vote on, and then we'll restate the motion so
25 it's clear again what exactly is being voted on. And

1 then ask all in favor, all opposed.

2 Again, this is a high level code review.
3 Many specifics you might have questions about, and
4 naturally those will come about as you all get into the
5 work -- as you all get into the work of the commission.
6 The point right now is simply to start using the set of
7 rules as a tool to organize the meeting and keep
8 everyone focused. You don't have to be an expert. We
9 certainly all aren't either. With that said, any
10 questions from any of you at this point? Or know that
11 you can ask the questions, of course, as the meeting
12 goes on.

13 MS. MARSH: Thanks, Mike. Secretary Benson,
14 that concludes our overview of Robert's Rules.

15 SECRETARY BENSON: Thank you. And our next
16 item on our agenda are introductions. You will all be
17 working with each other quite a bit in the year ahead,
18 in the next several months. And so we set aside some
19 time for you to introduce yourself to each other and the
20 members of the public who are watching in the audience.
21 We've allotted about an hour for this or just about,
22 which is the equivalent about four minutes for each
23 commissioner. You're, of course, welcome to use
24 whatever time that you like. But, you know, we, of
25 course, want to keep things moving. To make things

1 easy, I call on you one by one to introduce yourselves.
2 You can mention whatever you'd like. Here are some
3 suggestion: Your name, where you're from, your past or
4 current professional or life experience, what you like
5 to do in your spare time, what brings you here, in other
6 words, why did you apply, and anything else you'd like
7 to share with your fellow commissioners and colleagues.
8 The commissioners I'm going to call in alphabetical
9 order by first name. And we're going to start with
10 Anthony Eid.

11 COMMISSIONER EID: Hey. Can everyone hear
12 me? Cool. Hi, everyone. My name's Anthony Eid. Let's
13 see. I'm 28 years old. I'm from Orchard Lake,
14 Michigan. So a little southbound by -- right by West
15 Bloomfield. Currently I split time between there and
16 midtown Detroit. I am an aspiring orthopedic surgeon.
17 I received two bachelor's degrees. One in biology and
18 one in psychology back in 2015. Then I received a
19 master's degree in medical science in 2017. And since
20 then, I've completed two years of medical school. I'm,
21 you know, surprised to be selected for this commission.
22 And I'm, you know, looking forward to working with all
23 of you to, you know, give back to the people of our
24 state. Some things I like to do in spare time are
25 volunteer, especially now during the COVID crisis. My

1 colleague and I have been doing a lot of volunteer
2 around the city for underserved population to make sure
3 they can get the safety and sanitary, you know,
4 requirements to help stop the spread of this, you know,
5 unfortunate pandemic that we all find ourselves in. I
6 also like to read. I like sports. I try to work out
7 every single day. Football started last week and I got
8 a win in my fantasy football team, so I'm happy about
9 that. Kind of a nerd. I like video games. You know, I
10 like statistics and evidence. Done a lot of research in
11 my life. Stuff like that.

12 What brings me here, you know, it's kind of
13 an interesting question. When I was in undergrad and in
14 my master's program, I was the president of the student
15 body at Wayne State and that kind of got me into
16 advocacy and getting my feet wet with, like, the
17 political process. So I thought this commission would
18 be a wonderful way to kind of, you know, continue with
19 that, give back to the people of our state, and, you
20 know, try to do it in a really fair, unbiased, and, you
21 know, evidence based way. So that's why I applied, you
22 know. I want to be able to give back and do it fairly.
23 And, yeah, that's about all I got. Hope we can all see
24 each other in person soon.

25 SECRETARY BENSON: Let's hope. Thank you

1 very much. Brittni Kellom.

2 COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Good morning,

3 everyone. As Mrs. Benson said, my name is Brittni

4 Kellom. I am an a native Detroiter. I'm absolutely in

5 love with the city and the moxie impulse that Detroit

6 has. It's truly -- Detroit hustle hard, absolutely,

7 Anthony. There's no other place like the city of

8 Detroit, so I really appreciate that uniqueness of the

9 city. My past or current professional or life

10 experience, that's a loaded one. I am a trauma

11 practitioner. I am a survivor of childhood trauma. And

12 I walk with that identity, because I believe that more

13 folks should be in those spaces and be able to have

14 impact. I am currently an advocate at the Survivor Law

15 Clinic where I assist those victims that are surviving

16 violent crimes. So to be able help them navigate the

17 legal system is an amazing experience, as well as I am

18 the executive director and lead consultant for just --

19 and the B+ METHOD we I implement trauma informed

20 practices and programming inside of schools and help

21 adults along side children. So I'm extremely passionate

22 about youth rights, education, and things that can

23 impact those areas in that way. I am a lover of culture

24 and music. I have a dog, Hendrix, that I truly, truly

25 adore, who is my first son, because I don't have any

1 children yet. And I really enjoy a lot of self-care
2 yoga mindfulness. Any type of pampering time and time
3 with my friends is extremely important to me, especially
4 as we're now gaining these unusual circumstances right
5 now in society. So my spare time and my time with
6 myself and my loved ones, my tribe, as I call them, is
7 extremely important.

8 I came to be a commissioner by chance, like
9 the rest of us. But I really think it's an honor and
10 there's a reason why all of us are here together. I
11 have always been a believer that those members of a
12 community should have an impact and a choice and
13 awareness as to what goes on. I'm a big proponent of
14 advocacy and giving folks a voice. So this role, to me,
15 there's no other way to kind of define those core values
16 and standards that I live by to be able to represent our
17 peers and to do things in a way that could be more just
18 and fair moving forward to set the tone for a great
19 political environment in the state of Michigan.

20 SECRETARY BENSON: Thank you, Brittni.

21 COMMISSIONER KELLOM: You're welcome.

22 SECRETARY BENSON: Cynthia Orton.

23 COMMISSIONER ORTON: Hi, everyone. I'm
24 Cynthia. I feel that my two fellow commissioners that
25 have spoken before very eloquent and educated, and I'm

1 just an average person, I feel like. I was born and
2 raised in Oregon, but lived in Michigan for the past 16
3 years. And I have lived in various places in Michigan.
4 So I've lived in Grass Lake and Jackson and Brighton and
5 Mattawan, and now we live in Battle Creek. And Michigan
6 is a beautiful state with many wonderful people. I
7 really like Michigan. I think, as with my fellow
8 commissioners, it's an honor to have been randomly
9 chosen for this commission and to come together with
10 each of our group and to work with the citizens of
11 Michigan and be able to represent our fellow citizens.

12 A little bit about me. I'm college student,
13 online college student. I'm majoring in administrative
14 assistance. I, for most of my adult life, have been a
15 stay-at-home mom. I have three college age children.
16 And I -- previous to my children, I was a hair stylist.
17 So that's about me personally. I have also lived
18 outside the country. I lived in the Netherlands and
19 Japan for several years, and so I speak those the
20 languages. And I love traveling and other cultures.
21 Learning about other people and other ideas. And so I
22 think that's it.

23 SECRETARY BENSON: Thank you, Cynthia.
24 Wonderful to have you. Douglas Clark.

25 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Good morning. I'm

1 Douglas Clark, and please call me Doug from here on in.
2 I'm from Rochester Hills, Michigan and I've lived here
3 since 1977. I came here after graduating from graduate
4 school in Washington D.C. And prior to that, I served
5 four years in the military and left the Army as a
6 Captain, which I got a lot of good experience from that.
7 I enjoyed that and see it as one of the bright spots of
8 my life. After getting out of graduate school, I moved
9 to Michigan and I've had management positions in General
10 Motors, Electronic Data Systems, and Hewlett-Packard.
11 And I retired approximately ten years ago from
12 Hewlett-Packard and retired a little early. In my spare
13 time, I like to golf and I like to travel. I have two
14 daughters. One in Texas. One in Huntington Beach,
15 California. And I like to travel and go see them when I
16 get an opportunity.

17 What brings me here is I wanted to help
18 ensure that we have a fair and impartial redistricting
19 process. And I thought that I could be able to bring
20 some positive things to the table to help make that
21 happen. I think I have some strong personal
22 characteristics, objective in the things that I do and
23 the ability to work with others through my experience
24 through the years. So I'm looking forward to it. I see
25 it as a great honor, and I'm going to be happy to meet

1 the others in person. So thank you.

2 SECRETARY BENSON: Thank you, Doug. And
3 thank you for your service.

4 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Thank you.

5 SECRETARY BENSON: Dustin Witjes. Did I say
6 that right?

7 COMMISSIONER WITJES: It's Witjes. Green
8 people on brooms flying around. A bit of a way to --

9 SECRETARY BENSON: Got it.

10 COMMISSIONER WITJES: So hi. My name is
11 Dustin Witjes. I am from Howell originally. I
12 currently reside in Ypsilanti where I am going to school
13 for a master's degree in mathematics. I currently work
14 for Thomson Reuters. I am a onboard specialist in myPay
15 Solutions, which is a payroll processing company. So I
16 set up new accounts and make sure that their employees
17 get paid on time and accurately, as well as helping
18 maintain or make sure that all their tax filings are
19 done correctly with the nice help of people. As far as
20 my spare time right now goes, I really don't have much,
21 because it's -- this work and a lot of homework almost
22 every day, so -- but I do enjoy disk golf quite a bit.
23 Being outdoors. And I know Cynthia and I are going to
24 be friends, because I also used to live in the
25 Netherlands, so good way for me to practice my Dutch, I

1 suppose.

2 As far as why I'm here, I voted for the
3 measure back in 2018. I thought it was interesting and
4 an interesting concept. So because of that reason, I
5 actually applied. I wasn't really expecting to make it,
6 but now that I'm here, I'm honored and humbled. And I
7 want to just make sure that everything is done fairly
8 for not only the next ten years, but also for future
9 generations to come. That's it for me.

10 SECRETARY BENSON: Thank you. Erin Wagner.

11 COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Hello. My name's
12 Erin. I am from Charlotte, Michigan, which is about 17
13 minutes, it depends how fast you drive from, Lansing --
14 south of Lansing. I started out pursuing a medical
15 degree, and then promptly got married and we have six
16 children, five boys and one girl. So I'm kind of used
17 to being in the middle of squabbles between the kids. I
18 homeschooled everyone until they got to an age they
19 wanted to be in public school. I have one son who is a
20 senior this year. And then they all fall within a year
21 of each other after that. I was so looking forward to
22 putting them all into public school this year, but one
23 chose to virtual school instead, so three are in school
24 and one is not. What I like to do. I read a lot. I
25 research anything I do not understand.

1 And what brought me here was I understood
2 there weren't a whole lot of -- I was under the
3 impression there was not a whole lot of people that had
4 applied for this, so I went ahead and threw my
5 application in there thinking, you know, there was never
6 going to be any chance I would actually sit on the
7 commission, and happened to catch the YouTube of the
8 drawing and saw my name pop up. And so I had been doing
9 a lot of reading in the orientation materials since it
10 was delivered. And I'm really looking forward to this
11 had auspicious occasion. Thank you.

12 SECRETARY BENSON: Thank you, Erin. James
13 Decker.

14 COMMISSIONER DECKER: Please call me Ed.

15 SECRETARY BENSON: Ed.

16 COMMISSIONER DECKER: Yes. My father called
17 me James. And when he did, i was usually in trouble, so
18 I prefer Ed. I was born in Detroit, raised in
19 Ypsilanti. Graduated from Eastern Michigan. And I
20 currently am a laboratory test engineer for General
21 Motors. And in a previous life, I also worked for
22 Electronic Data Systems as a network engineer. So
23 lifelong resident of Michigan obviously. And I have two
24 wonderful children. And I raised them to -- you know,
25 you can sit around and complain about things that you

1 don't like, or you can get involved and try and make a
2 difference. So I'm honored to be here as part of this
3 commission and I'm -- you know, I just wanted to see if
4 I could do something good and try to help out our state
5 during these very divisive and very challenging times.
6 So that's me.

7 SECRETARY BENSON: Thank you, Ed. Janice
8 Vallette.

9 COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: My name is Janice
10 Vallette. I've lived in Michigan my whole life. I
11 currently live in Highland, Michigan -- Highland
12 Township. My -- I worked 20 years in the banking
13 industry. I started in accounting and moved over to the
14 banking centers where I retired about three years ago as
15 assistant manager. In my spare time, I like to read and
16 do some crafts. My husband and I are always searching
17 for a place we haven't been to in Michigan. So if
18 anybody's got any suggestions, I'm more than open. I,
19 too, never thought that I would go through the process
20 and get here. So I just want voting to be free and fair
21 and want to give back to my community. That's it.

22 SECRETARY BENSON: Thank you, Janice.
23 Juanita Curry.

24 COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes. My name is
25 Juanita Curry. I am from Michigan -- Detroit, Michigan.

1 My past, current, professional life experiences are
2 many. One of them, I attended Wayne State University
3 and studied public relations and journalism, which I'm
4 just a few classes from getting bachelor's degrees in
5 both of them. I did get a two-year degree in associates
6 arts at Wayne County Community College. I also was a
7 specialized foster parent for the State of Michigan
8 where I dealt with children. I have a passion for
9 children. I love children. Helping them and raising
10 them and trying to get them on the right path in life,
11 and many of them have succeeded. I'm kind of done with
12 that right now. And I have a passion for souls. I
13 enjoy church work. In my spare time, I like to relax
14 and read a book or watch a good movie.

15 What brings me here, I want to do something
16 that would help Michigan and help our districting. So I
17 took a chance and applied for this particular job and
18 was very surprised that I made it, but I'm glad and want
19 to do the best that I can.

20 SECRETARY BENSON: Thank you, Juanita. MC
21 Rothhorn.

22 COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Yeah. My name is
23 MC. I'll start with my name has a story. I am the
24 first born here in the U.S. both my parents are from
25 Germany. My mom's from the north, my dad's from the

1 south. They say they come from a mixed marriage. And,
2 like I said, I'm first born in the U.S. MC is not a
3 Germany name, but it does relate to my father's story
4 with the Marine Corps. My name does not stand for
5 Marine Corps, but there's another story there, so I'll
6 just leave as far as my name. And I should also say
7 that Rothhorn is a combination of my bachelor name Roth,
8 which is the German part. And myself spouse, my
9 partner, her name was Horner, so we mushed them
10 together. So there's two Hs -- that's why there's two
11 Hs, because it's Roth and horn mushed together. I was
12 born and raised in Ann Arbor where my parents met each
13 other. And I went to Michigan State. And I've been in
14 Lansing since then. I met my spouse and we traveled
15 quite a bit overseas. We both speak German fluently.
16 And, yeah. I've spent good deal of time traveling, I
17 suppose, overseas. But we have found ourselves in
18 Michigan, and we're both -- I'm a life long Michigander.
19 I'm currently -- when we came back from overseas, we
20 wanted to live in a neighborhood where people wanted to
21 live in a neighborhood. So we founded an intentional
22 community called cohousing and that has been a real
23 blessing. It's sort of -- it feels like a neighborhood
24 where you sort of hear about it where the, you know, the
25 kids played out on the street until the streetlights

1 went on and people would take care of their -- you know,
2 help parent and help, yeah, care for each other. So
3 that's -- it's a little bit what we were looking for and
4 it's a lot of what we received. There's always
5 challenges. That's one of the reasons I applied for
6 this. I do enjoy the challenge. What I find is that I
7 have -- my spouse and I have two kids and we -- yeah.
8 My greatest learning is really through them. So it's
9 sort of the -- I get to learn about myself and some of
10 the -- let's say some of the good things that I've
11 learned along the way as an adult, and some of the
12 things I want to change before it gets to the end.

13 So I suppose the reason I'm here is because
14 I do feel like public service is something that helps me
15 grow. I do -- I live in an intentional community. I
16 also work with a cooperative -- I'm -- I work in the
17 accounting and, I guess, the maintenance pieces of that
18 cooperative. There are about 17 houses and 250 members
19 of that cooperative. And there's a lot of meetings and
20 a lot of listening and a lot of -- like I said, it helps
21 me understand how to bring some of things I learned back
22 into the my family and ultimately -- yeah. I guess,
23 hopefully be a good citizen. I feel like I'm a good
24 listener. I like -- I've worked in many groups, many
25 people have said volunteer work. I have studied, I

1 guess, the accounting profession. But right now I'm
2 working on understanding what it means to actually have
3 a less biased and a less -- have more, let's say,
4 radical hospitality. How to include people in radical
5 ways, that's including in my professional world, in my,
6 I guess, my cohousing world, my neighborhood. And I
7 suppose that could apply to this commission as well. I
8 think that's it.

9 SECRETARY BENSON: Thank you, MC. Rhonda
10 Lange.

11 COMMISSIONER LANGE: Good morning. My
12 name's Rhonda. I'm from Green City, Michigan. Town is
13 so small. You blink, you miss it. We're very rural.
14 My current occupation, I'm a real estate broker. In the
15 past, I was a certified medical assistant. I'm also a
16 U.S. Navy veteran. In my spare time, I guess I like to
17 do what most people in the rural country settings do,
18 camping, fishing, hunting, you name it. Anything
19 outdoorsy.

20 The reason I applied for the commission, I
21 really didn't know a lot about it. You read little bits
22 and pieces. But I thought it would be a way, the more I
23 found out about it, to serve the community. Especially
24 being in a rural community, sometimes you feel like your
25 voices aren't heard. Also being so spread out. So I

1 just figured the best way to find things out, new
2 adventure, I guess, is to put my hat in the ring, try
3 it, and here I am. I'm also kind of a very private
4 person, so this is stepping out of my comfort zone just
5 a little bit.

6 SECRETARY BENSON: Well, thank you, Rhonda.
7 Thank you very much for joining us. Richard Weiss.

8 COMMISSIONER WEISS: Morning to all my
9 talented and interesting commissioners. My name is
10 Richard Weiss. I'm from Saginaw, Michigan. I served
11 two years in the military at a younger age. I worked 30
12 years for General Motors. Retired. I have a daughter
13 and two wonderful grandsons. In my spare time, I took
14 up doing handyman stuff to kind of keep me busy and keep
15 me out of trouble. I make wine, also, on the side.

16 I guess what brings me here is I just figure
17 it's my duty to do this. I did jury duty here about a
18 year ago and, of course, I'm a little bit above the age
19 that I have to do it, so it's kind of one of the reasons
20 I decided to do this. I think I should do this. So --
21 and appreciate that I got chosen to do it. So thank
22 you.

23 SECRETARY BENSON: Thank you, Richard. And,
24 finally, we have Steven Lett.

25 COMMISSIONER LETT: (Microphone muted.)

1 MS. MARSH: Oh, Steven, you're muted.

2 COMMISSIONER LETT: Try it again. As the
3 secretary said, my name is Steve Lett. And I am
4 celebrating the 23rd anniversary of my 50th birthday.
5 Previously or currently, I am a lawyer. My practice was
6 primarily labor law and now I am a mediator and an
7 arbitrator. I do quite a few mediations and I do a lot
8 of them -- well, we do them all on Zoom now. I grew up
9 in Lansing and worked there my entire career until I
10 moved to Interlochen. I was in the Army during Vietnam
11 era. I graduated from MSU. I'm now married and have
12 two daughters. One who lives in Detroit, and the other
13 who lives in Boston. I moved up here to Interlochen in
14 2017 and that's probably why I got picked, 'cause I'm
15 the furthest north. I did apply when the applications
16 first came out. I thought it would be, number one, very
17 interesting to be on the commission, and, number two, it
18 would be an opportunity to hopefully set the course for
19 Michigan and redistricting for the decades to come. And
20 one of the things that you need to be careful of, I
21 guess, and I wasn't, was be careful what you wish for,
22 because I got picked and now I'm here. Thank you.

23 SECRETARY BENSON: Thank you. Thank you,
24 Steven. Thank you all. And we have one last item on
25 our agenda for our morning session and that is selecting

1 an acting chair. But before we get to that, I just
2 wanted to remark on, you know, with great gratitude that
3 each of you were selected and that you have stepped up
4 to serve. As we built this process from the ground up
5 beginning last spring, there was so much uncertainty
6 into how it would play out. Would a lot of people
7 apply? Would the people ultimately selected want to do
8 the jobs? Would they take seriously their role? And to
9 see all reflect the best of Michigan, the best of those
10 aspirations, and the values of those who drove and led
11 this reform is really just incredibly inspiring. And in
12 my time in public office, I've seen that good
13 governance, actually making things work for people,
14 depends on having both a good institution and good
15 people comprising that institution. The citizens of
16 Michigan built a good institution. They built a
17 citizens of redistricting commission and a plan to
18 create it. But you always have the question of who is
19 then going to populate that institution. You all bring,
20 you know, everything to the table that I believe the
21 drafters and those creating the institution, the
22 citizens, commission, hope to see. And it gives me
23 great confidence that you all will succeed, because you
24 are thoughtful, you are diverse, you are inquisitive,
25 and each of you in your stories have an underlying

1 emphasis on service. Of course, military, myself from a
2 military family as well, I know how that service ethos
3 pervades everything you do. So it is not surprising to
4 me that we see so many veterans and former service
5 members amongst the ranks. But also each of you in
6 describing your work, your passion, whether it's as a
7 parent, as a community member, as a public servant, you
8 all have built lives around serving others. And that
9 is, you know, precisely the type of ethos that we hope
10 to see now as you take on this great service in
11 furtherance of the citizens of the State of Michigan.
12 And the hope and the trust that they have placed
13 inadvertently in all of you, though as a random
14 selection process, certainly the trust that the process
15 itself would yield with such success. All of you is,
16 you know, I think something that we all are greatly
17 proud of. And I'm just so thrilled and excited to see
18 the work that you'll all accomplish together. So thank
19 you again for your willingness to serve your state, your
20 families, your communities throughout your lives. And,
21 of course, in this moment as well.

22 And now that you all have officially
23 convened as commissioners, it is important that you
24 elect a temporary acting chair. Tomorrow afternoon you
25 will have the opportunity to discuss a more permanent

1 structure. But for the remainder of this initial
2 meeting, both today and into tomorrow, you can elect an
3 acting chair to call the meeting to order, facilitate
4 discussion and decisions on agenda items, and then close
5 the meeting at the end of each day.

6 So does anybody have any questions first
7 about the role of the acting chair that will, again, be
8 just in this two-day meeting, at which point you all can
9 decide whether to elect a permanent chair on to the
10 leadership of that acting chair later on tomorrow? Are
11 there any questions about the role itself?

12 Sally, I'll depend on do you see any hands
13 raised in the chat?

14 MS. MARSH: I do not. Commissioners, any
15 questions?

16 SECRETARY BENSON: Okay. Well, then, first,
17 I will ask for volunteers. Anyone interested, please
18 indicate your interest through raising your hand in the
19 chat or visually and -- and/or visually. And then when
20 all who are interested have volunteered, we'll give each
21 volunteer the opportunity to speak for a few minutes
22 about why you'd like to serve as acting chair. And then
23 there will be an opportunity for discussion between you
24 all about this decision and who you want to vote for.
25 And then once you're ready to vote, one of you will need

1 to move to previous question, another will second. And
2 then if a majority wants to vote, you can then vote on
3 the acting chair. So who would like to volunteer to
4 serve as acting chair for this initial meeting?

5 COMMISSIONER WITJES: I'd like to put my
6 name forward humbly.

7 SECRETARY BENSON: And that was -- sorry, I
8 don't see.

9 COMMISSIONER WITJES: Dustin Witjes.

10 SECRETARY BENSON: Dustin. Okay. So we
11 have one volunteer. Dustin Witjes, thank you. Others?

12 COMMISSIONER EID: And I'd like to second
13 Dustin's request. And I'd also like to throw my name in
14 the running.

15 SECRETARY BENSON: Sorry. Who was that?

16 COMMISSIONER EID: Anthony.

17 SECRETARY BENSON: Okay.

18 COMMISSIONER LETT: Steve Lett, I would put
19 my name in.

20 SECRETARY BENSON: So we have Steve. Sally,
21 are you keeping track of this?

22 MS. MARSH: Yes.

23 COMMISSIONER KELLOM: And then Brittni,
24 Brittni Kellom.

25 SECRETARY BENSON: Other volunteers? And

1 then, Sally, you'll read the full list of volunteers
2 before we invite each to speak.

3 MS. MARSH: Yes. So, Commissioners, I have
4 Steven, Anthony, Dustin, and Brittni. Are there any
5 other volunteers at this time?

6 SECRETARY BENSON: Okay. Seeing none. I
7 will invite each to speak. We'll begin -- we'll go
8 backwards now. We went forwards on alphabetical order
9 to begin with, and now we'll go backwards starting with
10 Steven.

11 COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes. I would be honored
12 to serve as the temporary chair at this time. I have,
13 in my career, chaired a number of meetings, as well as
14 being familiar with Robert's Rules of Orders, such as
15 that may or may not be important. Also, as in my
16 profession as a labor attorney, I sat at the main table
17 bargaining for a lot of sessions, so I'm familiar
18 with -- unaccustomed as I am to public speaking, I think
19 I could probably do a good job. Thank you.

20 SECRETARY BENSON: Thank you, Steven. Next,
21 we have Dustin Witjes.

22 COMMISSIONER WITJES: I've also had to chair
23 a couple meetings a couple -- a few times, making sure
24 that we stay on points, that we don't get side tracked.
25 I don't necessarily have as much experience as Steven

1 does, but I have done it before, and I'll do my best
2 here to ensure that we stay on track and everyone's
3 voices are heard and that the rules of order are
4 followed correctly.

5 SECRETARY BENSON: Thank you, Dustin.
6 Brittni Kellom.

7 COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Hi, everybody, again.
8 I am interested in being the acting chair, because I
9 have some experience being the executive director of a
10 nonprofit, of holding meetings, not as the chair, but
11 being very familiar how to keep the flow of the meeting
12 going, and to make sure there is a collaborative spirit
13 in the group, as well as everyone gets to have their
14 say. And I am very comfortable with speaking, as well
15 as having that 30 seconds of silence to make sure those
16 that are a little bit more anxious or thinking that
17 someone else is going to respond gets their turn to
18 share. I am familiar -- I have a working knowledge with
19 Robert's Rules, but I think this would be an excellent
20 opportunity for me to learn more about the commission,
21 as well as running the structure of a meeting from an
22 acting chair position.

23 SECRETARY BENSON: Thank you. And Anthony
24 Eid.

25 COMMISSIONER EID: Hi, everyone. I also

1 would be honored to serve as temporary chair of this
2 commission until we set a more permanent structure. I
3 think the role of a chairperson for a committee like
4 this is to facilitate structure and order so we can
5 conduct the business that is on our agenda. I'm very
6 familiar with Robert's Rules of Order. When I was
7 president of the student senate at Wayne State
8 University, I chaired dozens upon dozens of meetings.
9 And during my time in medical school, I also chaired
10 dean searches, budget and finance committees, curriculum
11 committees, and just a whole other assortment of
12 committees that I was the chair of. So I think I do
13 have the experience for the role. And if you guys would
14 have me, I'd be honored. Thank you.

15 SECRETARY BENSON: We have our four
16 potential acting chairs. And, Commissioners, you now
17 have your first public deliberation and public vote.
18 And, again, this is simply acting chair. The term will
19 conclude, you know, if you all choose at the end of
20 tomorrow's session, at which point you'll have an
21 opportunity to, at the acting chair's direction, elect a
22 permanent chair of the commission. For now, you can
23 discuss, ask any questions, or make a motion to vote.
24 I'll open it up for questions and discussion. And,
25 Sally, since you can see who raises their hands, I'll

1 let you recognize commissioners as they indicate their
2 interest in asking a question.

3 MS. MARSH: Absolutely. MC, I see a hand.

4 COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Yeah. I'm wondering
5 if does it matter what sort of experience we might have
6 in terms of Zoom hosting facilitating? Just curious if
7 any of the candidates think if that's going to be an
8 issue related, yeah, if they could speak to that or if
9 that seems relevant or not.

10 SECRETARY BENSON: I'll give each person an
11 opportunity to respond to the about your experience with
12 Zoom and convening meetings via Zoom. And who would
13 like to go first? Brittni.

14 COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yeah. I'll just --
15 since I unmuted myself. I'm very comfortable with Zoom.
16 I just finished facilitating a training for the
17 University of Chicago on Friday. And I had to navigate
18 breakout rooms and, you know, hand clapping features, or
19 raising hand features, so I'm comfortable with Zoom and
20 patient with Internet connection challenges and things
21 that come with trying to navigate a virtual space.

22 SECRETARY BENSON: Dustin?

23 COMMISSIONER WITJES: Sorry about that. I'm
24 muted. Yep. Sorry about that. Well, I mean, since all
25 the classes on universities decided to go online, I've

1 been using Zoom for, oh, I don't know, the last year.
2 And then with me working with a technology company,
3 we've used many, many, many different kinds of virtual
4 meeting platforms, Jabber, Microsoft Teams. I think
5 we've used Zoom once, but it didn't really last very
6 long. I think it was for a -- just a meeting with
7 myself and an accountant that I was working with. So
8 familiar. I know how to navigate basically any kind of
9 computer program in about five minutes so that would not
10 be a problem.

11 SECRETARY BENSON: Thank you. Anthony and
12 then Steven.

13 COMMISSIONER EID: Hey, everyone. You know,
14 honestly, I would assume that over the last six months,
15 we've all become pretty proficient in, you know, video
16 meetings, such as this. I'm a tech guy. I'm perfectly
17 capable of running Zoom. Can also do Microsoft team,
18 Discord, GroupMe, WhatsApp. Got quite the setup here.
19 Yeah. I'm very comfortable with that.

20 SECRETARY BENSON: Okay. And Steve. Is it
21 Steve or Steven?

22 COMMISSIONER LETT: Take your pick.

23 SECRETARY BENSON: All right. Steve or
24 Steven.

25 COMMISSIONER LETT: I have no problem with

1 Zoom. I probably host between five and ten Zoom
2 meetings a month. That's what I've been doing for the
3 last -- well, ever since Zoom started with mediations
4 and anything in the court -- court world. So I've been
5 on those. I'm always the host, so I'm very comfortable
6 using Zoom.

7 SECRETARY BENSON: Thank you. Other
8 questions for our potential acting chairs? Or
9 discussion? We will be doing a roll call vote. We will
10 need a motion. If there are no questions or discussion,
11 we'll need a motion to move to question, and then a
12 second.

13 COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I guess I have one
14 more question. Sorry. I was hoping other commissioners
15 might say something. So I'm not necessarily, you know,
16 comfortable with Zoom. Honestly, I feel like there's a
17 connection I'm missing. And so what I'm asking, there's
18 a part of me that knows I want my facilitator to bring
19 energy and to be sort of, like -- yeah. So I guess what
20 I'm saying is I'm -- I'm wondering if you can speak to
21 the what's the role of the facilitator in making we each
22 do feel sort of, like, super included? Like, is that
23 a -- there a role or is it up to me?

24 COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I think it's up to the
25 person that is -- the other commissioners to chime in.

1 But my personal perspective, when you're running a
2 meeting, particularly when it's virtual, you are
3 responsible for kind of keeping a pulse or a vibe. And
4 it's important to visually -- sometimes you can play
5 with your virtual background as long as it's
6 appropriate, like mine. I think those things add to the
7 space of us being comfortable, number one, trying to
8 adjust to the format, but then also getting to know each
9 other. So I don't think -- yes, we have an individual
10 responsibility, but it would also be my responsibility
11 to make sure, MC, that you're comfortable and that you
12 know what's going on, even if that meant that, like, we
13 have a dialogue separately and I am walking you through
14 how to get more comfortable and Zoom savvy. Because
15 we're all kind of figuring it out together admittedly.

16 SECRETARY BENSON: Anyone want to take -- go
17 next or I'll call on someone?

18 COMMISSIONER LETT: I would comment that I
19 think the facilitator on the Zoom meeting is to make
20 sure that there is sufficient time given, that everybody
21 can express their opinion or comment. However, I think
22 the facilitator also needs to keep track of who may be
23 reticent to talk and speak up. I would find that
24 somewhat hard to imagine with the other 12 commissioners
25 in this group. But if that were the case, it would be

1 my -- my job to make sure that they were participating
2 should they want to. Some people may just not want to
3 and want to sit back and listen and see what everybody
4 else has to say. But they certainly should know that
5 they are welcome to speak.

6 SECRETARY BENSON: Dustin or Anthony?

7 COMMISSIONER WITJES: Go ahead.

8 COMMISSIONER EID: Thank you, Dustin. So I
9 kind of look on this in my little speech a couple
10 minutes ago. But I think the role of the facilitator
11 position, you know, is to keep structure and try to keep
12 the meeting moving forward to complete our agenda items.
13 Traditionally, you know, a more of a parliamentarian
14 role, would do this and do things like keeping the roll
15 call, making sure that, you know, whoever raises their
16 hand does get time to speak. You know, and other
17 actions such as that. But I think, you know, we are on
18 this committee. If my understanding is correct, we have
19 the authority to, you know, come up with whatever
20 structure we want, and I think we'll do that tomorrow.
21 So whatever we do today, you know, we should keep in
22 mind it's temporary until we do decide on that more
23 permanent structure. But I do agree with Brittni that
24 it is important that we facilitate a discussion between
25 the 13 of us. So thank you for that question, MC.

1 SECRETARY BENSON: And Dustin.

2 COMMISSIONER WITJES: Piggybacking off of
3 that, that is correct too. We just -- I want to make
4 sure that everyone has a -- you know, their voice is
5 heard. And if I start to potentially see that someone's
6 not, you know, coming or saying anything or quiet or
7 potentially shy, it is Zoom. So I can ask a question
8 privately to the person saying, Hey, do you have any
9 input that you'd like to share? And, yeah. So on and
10 so forth. But my understanding is that we just
11 facilitate to make sure that everything keeps moving
12 forward and stay pace while all of our voices are heard
13 at the same time.

14 SECRETARY BENSON: Thank you. Are there any
15 other questions for our potential acting chairs?

16 COMMISSIONER EID: I'd like to motion to
17 bring this to a vote. Since there are four of us, I
18 think we should do an initial vote, and then maybe redo
19 the vote when it's down to two people.

20 SECRETARY BENSON: Is there a second to that
21 motion? I think we have to -- Sally, correct me if I am
22 wrong, but since that would be a two-tiered, do we have
23 to vote on that motion to have a two-tiered election of
24 absenting chair?

25 MS. MARSH: Yes. You know, Commissioners, I

1 think the main option, because this is a virtual
2 meeting, we'll have to do a roll call, though, as
3 Secretary Benson mentioned. So, Anthony, could you
4 clarify is your motion to move to vote, or to move to
5 vote in the way that you just suggested?

6 COMMISSIONER EID: Well, I'm just wondering
7 what we will do if a majority is not reached upon the
8 first vote.

9 SECRETARY BENSON: So your motion -- so you
10 can make a motion to have one vote, and then the top two
11 candidates go to a runoff. Is that your motion?

12 COMMISSIONER EID: Yes, that's correct.

13 SECRETARY BENSON: Okay. Is there a second?

14 COMMISSIONER WITJES: I second that.

15 SECRETARY BENSON: Okay. We have a second.
16 All in favor of the motion for an initial vote of all
17 four candidates, and then a runoff between the top two,
18 you vote yes. And we have to roll call, because it's a
19 public meeting. So each of you can vote yes or no, and
20 Sally will go lieu the roll call. And I believe
21 candidates can also vote, correct? You don't lose your
22 ability?

23 MS. MARSH: Yes, yes. There is a motion
24 to -- yes.

25 SECRETARY BENSON: So Sally will now read

1 through the names, and you can vote yes or no. And,
2 again, the motion on the floor is to have a system where
3 we vote for -- you would vote for all four, and then the
4 top two vote getters would have a runoff and you have a
5 second vote at the time. So go ahead. We'll start in
6 alphabetical order by first name.

7 MS. MARSH: Okay. Thank you. Anthony?

8 COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

9 MS. MARSH: Brittni Kellom?

10 COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yes.

11 MS. MARSH: Cynthia Orton?

12 COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes.

13 MS. MARSH: Doug Clark?

14 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes.

15 MS. MARSH: Dustin Witjes?

16 COMMISSIONER WITJES: Yes.

17 MS. MARSH: Erin Wagner?

18 COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Yes.

19 MS. MARSH: James Decker?

20 COMMISSIONER DECKER: Yes.

21 MS. MARSH: Janice Vallette?

22 COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

23 MS. MARSH: Juanita Curry?

24 COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes.

25 MS. MARSH: MC Rothhorn?

1 COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Yes.

2 MS. MARSH: Rhonda Lange?

3 COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes.

4 MS. MARSH: Richard Weiss?

5 COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes.

6 MS. MARSH: Steven Lett?

7 COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

8 MS. MARSH: Wonderful. All commissioners
9 have voted yes.

10 SECRETARY BENSON: Okay. The motion passes.
11 Now, I'll entertain is there a call -- are there any
12 additional motions or is there a call to question on the
13 initial vote? Or a motion to vote on the candidates and
14 select an acting chair?

15 COMMISSIONER WITJES: A motion to vote --
16 move to vote.

17 SECRETARY BENSON: Move to vote. Is there a
18 second?

19 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah. I second that.

20 SECRETARY BENSON: Okay. We'll now do a
21 roll call vote on the four volunteers. And, again,
22 under the motion passed, the top two vote getters will
23 then move on to a runoff. Sally, I'll let you start
24 again, alphabetical order by first name. When your name
25 is called, indicate the individual who you're voting

1 for.

2 MS. MARSH: Thank you, Secretary Benson.
3 Again, I will go in alphabetical order by first name.
4 Anthony?

5 COMMISSIONER EID: Yes. I'd like to vote
6 for myself.

7 MS. MARSH: Brittni?

8 COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I'd like to vote for
9 myself humbly.

10 MS. MARSH: Cynthia?

11 COMMISSIONER ORTON: Steve.

12 MS. MARSH: Douglas?

13 COMMISSIONER CLARK: I'd like to Steve Lett,
14 please.

15 MS. MARSH: Dustin?

16 COMMISSIONER WITJES: I also would like to
17 vote for Steve Lett, please.

18 MS. MARSH: Erin?

19 COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I vote for Steve Lett
20 as well.

21 MS. MARSH: Ed?

22 COMMISSIONER DECKER: I'd like to vote for
23 Steve Lett as well.

24 MS. MARSH: Janice?

25 COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I'd like to vote for

1 Brittni.

2 MS. MARSH: Juanita?

3 COMMISSIONER CURRY: I'd like to vote for

4 Brittni.

5 MS. MARSH: MC?

6 COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Also for Brittni.

7 MS. MARSH: Rhonda?

8 COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'd like to vote for

9 Steve.

10 MS. MARSH: Richard?

11 COMMISSIONER WEISS: I'd like to vote for

12 Steve.

13 MS. MARSH: And Steve?

14 COMMISSIONER LETT: I vote for myself.

15 MS. MARSH: Wonderful. Okay. So,

16 Commissioners, we have -- let me just tally this. I
17 have eight votes for Steve, four votes for Brittni. And
18 one vote for Anthony. Which means that our two -- top
19 two contenders are Brittni and Steve. So --

20 SECRETARY BENSON: We'll now move to the top
21 two vote. I think we can go directly into that, because
22 that's the method that was -- correct? Or do we need
23 another motion?

24 COMMISSIONER LETT: Your first motion was a
25 two-step process. Process number two.

1 SECRETARY BENSON: Okay. Got it. So now
2 we'll move into the second -- the runoff vote. And the
3 remaining volunteers for acting chair are Brittni Kellom
4 and Steve Lett. And, again, I'll have Sally Marsh from
5 the Department of State do a roll call of the vote
6 beginning in alphabetical order by first name.

7 MS. MARSH: Thanks, Secretary Benson.
8 Anthony?

9 COMMISSIONER EID: I would vote for Steve.

10 MS. MARSH: Brittni?

11 COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Voting for myself.

12 MS. MARSH: Cynthia?

13 COMMISSIONER ORTON: Vote for Steve.

14 MS. MARSH: Doug?

15 COMMISSIONER CLARK: I vote for Steve.

16 MS. MARSH: Dustin?

17 COMMISSIONER WITJES: I will vote for Steve.

18 MS. MARSH: Erin?

19 COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I vote for Steve as
20 well.

21 MS. MARSH: Ed?

22 COMMISSIONER DECKER: I vote for Steve as
23 well.

24 MS. MARSH: Janice?

25 COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I vote for Brittni.

1 MS. MARSH: Juanita?

2 COMMISSIONER CURRY: I vote for Brittni.

3 MS. MARSH: MC?

4 COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Brittni.

5 MS. MARSH: Rhonda?

6 COMMISSIONER LANGE: I vote for Steve.

7 MS. MARSH: Richard?

8 COMMISSIONER WEISS: I vote for Steve.

9 MS. MARSH: And Steve?

10 COMMISSIONER LETT: I'll vote for me.

11 MS. MARSH: Thank you, Commissioners.

12 SECRETARY BENSON: The votes are in. And,
13 Sally, as you tally them and announce the acting chair,
14 I'll note that, again, moving forward, you all can have
15 a lot of latitude on the structures and officers as well
16 and leaders that you structure the commission that you
17 create moving forward. And, again, as acting chair will
18 serve until a permanent chair is selected. So, Sally,
19 would you like to reported the votes?

20 MS. MARSH: Yeah. It's a vote of 9 to 4.
21 The commissioners have voted to make Steve Lett the
22 acting chair.

23 SECRETARY BENSON: Congratulations. And
24 thank you all for volunteering. And we've now made it
25 successfully through your first public vote as a

1 commission. So congratulations on that as well. With
2 that, I will ask Steve Lett as acting chair to ask for
3 motions to adjourn the morning session with a reminder
4 we will reconvene as planned just before 2 p.m.
5 Commissioners will log on at 1:45 p.m. this afternoon to
6 begin the second portion of today's session.

7 So, Steve, as acting chair, I'll turn it
8 over to you again to entertain a motion to adjourn our
9 morning session.

10 COMMISSIONER LETT: Thank you, Secretary
11 Benson. I would now entertain such a motion to adjourn.

12 COMMISSIONER WITJES: Second.

13 SECRETARY BENSON: We have to make a motion
14 and then have a second.

15 COMMISSIONER ORTON: Second.

16 COMMISSIONER LETT: Cynthia, you're making a
17 motion?

18 COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes. I move to
19 adjourn.

20 COMMISSIONER LETT: And was that Dustin that
21 seconded it the first time?

22 COMMISSIONER WITJES: Correct.

23 COMMISSIONER LETT: Okay. So we're
24 seconding it the second time. We've had a motion to
25 adjourn and a second. Are we doing a roll call on this,

1 Sally?

2 MS. MARSH: If you ask for the ayes and it's
3 overwhelming, you -- Mike Brady, correct me if I am
4 wrong, but I believe you can say that in the ayes of the
5 chair, the ayes have it.

6 COMMISSIONER LETT: All right. We'll take a
7 voice vote on this. All in favor, say aye.

8 ALL: Aye.

9 COMMISSIONER LETT: All opposed -- all
10 opposed, the same sign. Hearing none. We are
11 adjourned. We will convene again this afternoon at
12 2 p.m. Thank you all for participating, and we'll look
13 for you back at that time.

14 SECRETARY BENSON: Thank you all. See you
15 at 2:00 this afternoon. Bye.

16 COMMISSIONER WITJES: Bye bye.

17 (Brief recess.)

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1 STATE OF MICHIGAN)

2)

3 COUNTY OF WASHTENAW)

4

5 CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY PUBLIC AND COURT REPORTER

6 I, Caitlyn Hartley, do hereby certify that the
7 foregoing audio sent to me was duly recorded by me
8 stenographically and by me later reduced to typewritten
9 form by means of computer-aided transcription; and I
10 certify that this is a true and correct transcript of my
11 stenographic notes so taken.

12 I further certify that I am neither of counsel to
13 either party nor interested in the event of this cause.

14

15

16



17 Caitlyn Hartley, RPR, CSR-8887

18

Notary Public,

19

Washtenaw County, Michigan

20

My Commission expires: August 15, 2021

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12 55:24
 13 12:21 13:12 56:25
 16 33:2
 17 2:2 36:12 41:18
 1977 34:3
 1:45 65:5

2

2 65:4 66:12
 20 38:12
 2015 29:18
 2017 20:12 29:19 44:14
 2018 13:20 21:5 36:3
 2019 21:5
 2020 2:2
 2022 21:17
 23rd 44:4
 250 41:18
 28 29:13
 29 25:24
 2:00 66:15

3

30 43:11 50:15
 33 20:15
 35 25:24

4

4 64:20

5

50th 44:4

6

6 12:18

9

9 64:20
 90 7:10 8:13 19:5 20:7
 9:30 8:17
 9:50 23:19,20,21

@

@michigan.gov 24:6
 @redistrictingmi 3:15 6:21
 8:21 9:11 19:14

A

abilities 23:11
 ability 23:9 34:23 58:22
 absenting 57:24
 absolutely 31:4,6 52:3
 academic 5:3
 access 4:3,5 9:17,19,21
 accommodate 2:23
 accommodations 26:21
 accomplish 46:18
 accordance 12:17
 accountant 53:7
 accounting 38:13 41:17 42:1
 accounts 35:16
 accurately 35:17
 acting 5:12 11:2 12:25 17:14
 45:1 46:24 47:3,7,10,22 48:3,
 4 50:8,22 51:16,18,21 54:8
 57:15 60:14 63:3 64:13,17,22
 65:2,7
 action 14:13 26:9 27:4

actions 26:6 27:1 56:17
 active 21:13
 add 55:6
 additional 3:25 9:16 17:11
 60:12
 address 6:14 7:4,11 8:9,13
 19:6,8,20 20:2,6 22:3 24:20
 adjourn 27:6 65:3,8,11,19,25
 adjourned 66:11
 adjust 2:23 55:8
 administer 22:5
 administrative 3:5 4:24 9:2
 16:10 33:13
 admittedly 55:15
 adore 31:25
 adult 33:14 41:11
 adults 31:21
 advance 6:12 19:8
 advantages 11:13
 adventure 43:2
 advocacy 30:16 32:14
 advocate 31:14
 affirm 22:13,14
 afternoon 5:14,19 46:24 65:5
 66:11,15
 age 33:15 36:18 43:11,18
 agenda 3:5 4:21 5:1,25 6:6,7
 10:16,17 11:4 24:17 27:6
 28:16 44:25 47:4 51:5 56:12
 agree 56:23
 ahead 5:4 12:9 13:6 14:3 16:2,
 19 20:24 28:17 37:4 56:7 59:5
 allotted 28:21
 allowed 19:25
 alphabetical 29:8 49:8 59:6
 60:24 61:3 63:6

ALS 3:19,20 9:12
amazing 31:17
amendment 5:19 21:10
and/or 47:19
Ann 40:12
anniversary 44:4
announce 64:13
answers 16:18
Anthony 17:23 29:10,12 31:7
 48:16 49:4 50:23 53:11 56:6
 58:3 59:7 61:4 62:18 63:8
antidote 15:3,8
antiseptic 15:8
anxious 50:16
anybody's 38:18
application 7:15 37:5
applications 44:15
applied 30:21 36:5 37:4 39:17
 41:5 42:20
apply 29:6 42:7 44:15 45:7
approval 16:15
approximately 8:17 34:11
Arabic 4:7 9:22 24:6
arbitrator 44:7
Arbor 40:12
areas 31:23
Army 34:5 44:10
Article 12:18
arts 39:6
ASL 3:22 9:15 24:4,6
aspiration 13:12
aspirations 45:10
aspiring 29:16
assist 31:15
assistance 16:11 33:14

assistant 38:15 42:15
associates 39:5
assortment 51:11
assume 53:14
attended 39:2
attendees 7:4 11:4
attention 26:10
attorney 49:16
audience 28:20
audio 7:21 8:1,5
auspicious 37:11
authority 56:19
autonomous 16:13
average 33:1
awareness 32:13
Awesome 3:12
aye 66:7,8
eyes 66:2,4,5

B

B+ 31:19
bachelor 40:7
bachelor's 29:17 39:4
back 17:19 23:17,21,24 24:3,
 16,19 29:18,23 30:19,22 36:3
 38:21 40:19 41:21 56:3 66:13
background 15:10 26:22 55:5
backwards 49:8,9
banking 38:12,14
bargaining 49:17
based 30:21
basically 25:12 53:8
basics 5:17 25:21
basis 7:10
Battle 33:5

Beach 34:14
bearing 11:11
beautiful 33:6
begin 5:6,14 27:2 49:7,9 65:6
beginning 6:8 45:5 63:6
behalf 17:1,3
believer 32:11
Benson 2:25 4:20 5:9 10:6,20
 11:17,18,20,25 17:22 18:23
 19:22 21:23 22:15,19,22 23:1,
 4,8,12,20 24:2,10,15,23
 28:13,15 30:25 31:3 32:20,22
 33:23 35:2,5,9 36:10 37:12,15
 38:7,22 39:20 42:9 43:6,23
 44:23 47:16 48:7,10,15,17,20,
 25 49:6,20 50:5,23 51:15
 52:10,22 53:11,20,23 54:7
 55:16 56:6 57:1,14,20 58:3,9,
 13,15,25 60:10,17,20 61:2
 62:20 63:1,7 64:12,23 65:11,
 13 66:14
biased 42:3
big 32:13
biology 29:17
bipartisan 13:25
birthday 44:4
bit 28:17 33:12 35:8,22 40:15
 41:3 43:5,18 50:16
bits 42:21
blessing 40:23
blink 42:13
Bloomfield 29:15
body 16:14 25:18 30:15
book 39:14
born 33:1 37:18 39:24 40:2,12
Boston 44:13
bottom 23:16
boundaries 21:8

boys 36:16
Brady 24:25 25:1,2 26:25 66:3
break 17:12 22:1,2 23:14,23
breakout 52:18
breaks 5:24,25 6:3
briefly 3:4 4:20 5:8 7:8 10:15
 25:7,21
bright 34:7
Brighton 33:4
bring 34:19 41:21 45:19 54:18
 57:17
brings 29:5 30:12 34:17 39:15
 43:16
Brittini 17:25 31:1,3 32:20
 48:23,24 49:4 50:6 52:13
 56:23 59:9 61:7 62:1,4,6,17,
 19 63:3,10,25 64:2,4
broker 42:14
brooms 35:8
brought 37:1
budget 51:10
built 45:4,16 46:8
business 51:5
busy 43:14
bye 66:15,16

C

California 34:15
call 4:8 7:13,19 10:20,21
 12:20 17:15,20 19:20 20:3
 27:12,21 29:1,8 32:6 34:1
 37:14 47:3 54:9 55:17 56:15
 58:2,18,20 60:11,12,21 63:5
 65:25
called 16:20 17:21 27:14
 37:16 40:22 60:25
calls 2:25 13:18
cameras 23:16,25

camping 42:18
candidates 52:7 58:11,17,21
 60:13
capable 53:17
capacity 16:7
Captain 34:6
captioning 3:19 9:6
care 41:1,2
career 44:9 49:13
careful 44:20,21
case 55:25
catch 37:7
Cathleen 2:6,7 3:11
celebrating 44:4
centers 38:14
certified 42:15
cetera 27:6,7
chair 5:12 11:2 12:25 17:14
 27:12,20,23 45:1 46:24 47:3,
 7,9,10,22 48:3,4 49:12,22
 50:8,10,22 51:1,12,18,22
 57:24 60:14 63:3 64:13,17,18,
 22 65:2,7 66:5
chair's 51:21
chaired 49:13 51:8,9
chairperson 51:3
chairs 51:16 54:8 57:15
challenge 41:6
challenges 11:13 41:5 52:20
challenging 38:5
chance 32:8 37:6 39:17
change 16:20 41:12
characteristics 34:22
charged 20:25
Charlotte 36:12
chat 47:13,19

check 9:23
Chicago 52:17
chief 25:2
childhood 31:11
children 31:21 32:1 33:15,16
 36:16 37:24 39:8,9
chime 54:25
choice 32:12
choose 17:3 23:14 51:19
chose 36:23
chosen 33:9 43:21
church 39:13
circumstances 32:4
citizen 12:12 13:8 14:2,5,15
 17:10 41:23
citizen-led 14:11 15:2,7 20:20
citizens 12:4 13:10,17,19,21
 15:9,18,22 16:25 17:4 23:5,6
 33:10,11 45:15,17,22 46:11
city 30:2 31:5,7,9 42:12
clapping 52:18
clarification 17:2
clarify 58:4
Clark 18:4,5 33:24,25 34:1
 35:4 59:13,14 60:19 61:13
 63:15
classes 39:4 52:25
clear 27:25
clicking 2:7
Clinic 31:15
close 13:16 15:15 47:4
closed 3:18 9:6
code 28:2
coffee 6:4
cohousing 40:22 42:6
collaboration 15:12

collaborative 50:12
colleague 24:24 30:1
colleagues 16:16 29:7
collectively 15:11
college 33:12,13,15 39:6
combination 40:7
comfort 43:4
comfortable 50:14 52:15,19
 53:19 54:5,16 55:7,11,14
comment 4:13 5:10 6:12,14,
 15,19 7:1,5,7,12 8:7,8,20,24
 17:7 18:24 19:2,3,5,10,12,17
 20:1,4 21:21,24 55:18,21
commentary 19:24
comments 6:9,10,23 8:18
 21:22
commission 2:24 6:12,14,18,
 24 7:12 8:9,14,19,25 11:1
 12:5,17 13:11,20 14:16,20
 16:6 17:10 19:6,8,9,18,21,24
 20:2,7 23:5,7 27:9,10 28:5
 29:21 30:17 33:9 37:7 38:3
 42:7,20 44:17 45:17,22 50:20
 51:2,22 64:16 65:1
commissioned 21:1
commissioner 5:16 17:9,24
 18:1,3,5,7,9,11,13,15,17,19,
 21 23:2,3 24:9,21 28:23 29:11
 31:2 32:8,21,23 33:25 35:4,7,
 10 36:11 37:14,16 38:9,24
 39:22 42:11 43:8,25 44:2
 48:5,9,12,16,18,23 49:11,22
 50:7,25 52:4,14,23 53:13,22,
 25 54:13,24 55:18 56:7,8
 57:2,16 58:6,12,14 59:8,10,
 12,14,16,18,20,22,24 60:1,3,
 5,7,15,19 61:5,8,11,13,16,19,
 22,25 62:3,6,8,11,14,24 63:9,
 11,13,15,17,19,22,25 64:2,4,
 6,8,10 65:10,12,15,16,18,20,
 22,23 66:6,9,16
commissioners 2:10 4:23
 8:10 9:2 10:4,23,24 12:21
 16:16,24 17:19 18:22 22:4

23:13,14,24 25:6 26:1 29:7,8
 32:24 33:8 43:9 46:23 47:14
 49:3 51:16 52:1 54:14,25
 55:24 57:25 60:8 62:16 64:11,
 21 65:5
committed 16:9
committee 51:3 56:18
committees 51:10,11,12
communities 21:6,8 46:20
community 11:1 21:4 32:12
 38:21 39:6 40:22 41:15 42:23,
 24 46:7
community-driven 21:2
company 35:15 53:2
complain 37:25
complete 19:14 56:12
completed 29:20
comprehensive 26:11
comprising 45:15
computer 7:14 23:15 53:9
concept 36:4
concepts 5:4
concern 16:23 17:1,2 20:17
conclude 8:15 51:19
concludes 21:21,22 28:14
conduct 17:20 51:5
confidence 45:23
confused 26:16
congratulations 20:8 23:12
 64:23 65:1
Congress 15:14
congressional 13:22
connection 52:20 54:17
consensus 16:15
constitution 5:16 12:19 16:5
 22:16,17,19,21

constitutional 12:17 21:10
consultant 31:18
contact 4:16,18
contenders 62:19
continue 13:24 30:18
continues 24:16
convene 66:11
convened 12:22 13:5 46:23
convenes 4:20 5:9
convening 6:17,25 12:20
 52:12
conversation 25:16,19 26:4
Cool 29:12
cooperative 41:16,18,19
core 32:15
corner 23:17
Corps 40:4,5
correct 56:18 57:3,21 58:12,
 21 62:22 65:22 66:3
correctly 2:22 35:19 50:4
count 21:12,18
country 12:15 15:7 33:18
 42:17
County 39:6
couple 3:9 24:18 25:23 49:23
 56:9
court 54:4
covering 10:22
COVID 29:25
craft 20:18 21:10
crafts 38:16
create 13:11,19 14:10,14
 45:18 64:17
creating 45:21
creation 15:13
Creek 33:5

crimes 31:16
crisis 29:25
critically 13:13,14
culture 31:23
cultures 33:20
curious 52:6
current 29:4 31:9 39:1 42:14
curriculum 51:10
Curry 18:12,13 38:23,24,25
 59:23,24 62:3 64:2
Cynthia 18:2 32:22,24 33:23
 35:23 59:11 61:10 63:12
 65:16

D

D.C. 34:4
dad's 39:25
Data 34:10 37:22
date 4:11 7:3
daughter 43:12
daughters 34:14 44:12
day 6:8 8:4 12:5 30:7 35:22
 47:5
days 4:22 5:24 19:12 20:15
deal 40:16
dealt 39:8
dean 51:10
debate 25:16 27:15,18
decade 14:12,20
decades 20:13 44:19
decide 15:1 47:9 56:22
decided 43:20 52:25
decision 12:24 14:13 15:12
 16:22 27:15,23 47:24
decisions 5:6,20 12:10 13:2
 14:6,8,18 16:15 25:16 47:4

Decker 18:8,9 37:13,14,16
 59:19,20 61:22 63:22
deem 16:8
define 32:15
degree 29:19 35:13 36:15 39:5
degrees 29:17 39:4
deliberation 15:11 51:17
delivered 37:10
democratic 21:14
demonstrate 15:6
Department 2:16 4:17 7:8
 17:18 24:20 25:3 63:5
depend 47:12
depends 36:13 45:14
describing 46:6
details 4:5 9:20
Detroit 29:16 31:5,6,8 37:18
 38:25 44:12
Detroiter 31:4
dialogue 5:15 55:13
difference 38:2
difficulties 10:5 11:9
digits 7:19
direct 4:16 25:23
direction 13:3 16:7,12 51:21
directly 13:5 62:21
director 2:15 4:17 20:9 25:2
 31:18 50:9
discharge 22:23,24
Discord 53:18
discuss 17:11 46:25 51:23
discussed 16:19
discussion 47:4,23 51:24
 54:9,10 56:24
disk 35:22
district 13:21 15:18,20 20:25

21:11
districting 13:18 39:16
districts 21:18
diverse 45:24
divisive 38:5
dog 31:24
Doug 34:1 35:2 59:13 63:14
Douglas 18:4 33:24 34:1
 61:12
dozens 51:8
drafters 45:21
draw 12:9 13:21 15:18
drawing 15:20 20:25 37:8
dream 20:23
drive 36:13
drove 45:10
Dustin 35:5,11 48:9,10,11
 49:4,21 50:5 52:22 56:6,8
 57:1 59:15 61:15 63:16 65:20
Dustin's 48:13
Dutch 35:25
duties 22:23,25
duty 43:17

E

early 34:12
easier 3:22 9:14
Eastern 37:19
easy 29:1
Ed 18:8 37:14,15,18 38:7
 61:21 63:21
educated 32:25
education 31:22
efforts 16:10
Eid 17:23,24 29:10,11,12
 48:12,16 50:24,25 53:13 56:8

57:16 58:6,12 59:8 61:5 63:9
elect 5:12 11:1 17:14 46:24
 47:2,9 51:21
elected 12:25
election 20:25 57:23
elections 5:3 21:17
Electronic 34:10 37:22
eloquent 32:25
email 3:23 4:4,7 6:22 8:1,22
 9:15,19 19:15 24:5,7
embrace 15:25
emphasis 46:1
emphasizing 15:15
employees 35:16
empowering 15:9
enable 16:11 26:3
end 6:8 12:23 13:2 20:13
 27:15,18 41:12 47:5 51:19
endeavor 10:1
energy 54:19
engage 14:7 17:3
engaging 15:9
engineer 37:20,22
English 4:2 9:18
enjoy 32:1 35:22 39:13 41:6
enjoyed 34:7
ensure 14:25 34:18 50:2
enter 14:14
entertain 60:11 65:8,11
entire 12:15 44:9
environment 15:4 32:19
equivalent 28:22
era 11:14 44:11
Erin 18:6 36:10,12 37:12
 59:17 61:18 63:18

essentially 26:8
estate 42:14
ethos 46:2,9
everyone's 25:19 50:2
evidence 30:10,21
excellent 50:19
excited 21:6 46:17
executive 20:9 31:18 50:9
expect 7:8
expectations 5:18
expected 14:7 16:18
expecting 36:5
experience 29:4 31:10,17
 34:6,23 49:25 50:9 51:13
 52:5,11
experiences 39:1
experiencing 2:20
expert 28:8
experts 5:3 16:17,21
explain 26:19
express 55:21
extraordinary 12:1 13:7,9
extreme 20:13
extremely 31:21 32:3,7
eyes 13:9 15:21,22

F

Facebook 3:11,17 6:21 8:21
 9:9 19:14
facilitate 11:3 47:3 51:4 56:24
 57:11
facilitating 52:6,16
facilitator 54:18,21 55:19,22
 56:10
fair 13:18,24 15:7,13 20:20
 21:1 30:20 32:18 34:18 38:20

fairly 30:22 36:7
faithfully 22:23,24
fall 36:20
familiar 11:12 49:14,17 50:11,
 18 51:6 53:8
families 46:20
family 41:22 46:2
fantasy 30:8
fast 36:13
father 37:16
father's 40:3
favor 27:12,20 28:1 58:16 66:7
features 52:18,19
feedback 8:12
feel 21:12 32:24 33:1 41:14,23
 42:24 54:16,22
feeling 20:23
feels 40:23
feet 30:16
fellow 13:21 16:16,24 29:7
 32:24 33:7,11
figure 11:11 43:16
figured 43:1
figuring 3:1 55:15
filings 35:18
fill 6:19 19:12
finally 5:19 43:24
finance 51:10
find 3:16 8:20 9:10 15:5 20:12
 30:5 41:6 43:1 55:23
finish 8:15 13:8
finished 52:16
first-come 7:10
first-serve 7:10
fishing 42:18

flag 26:13
flexible 6:2
floor 18:24 59:2
flow 50:11
fluently 40:15
flying 35:8
focus 14:2 25:18
focused 28:8
folks 31:13 32:14
football 30:7,8
form 6:20 8:20 19:13,15
formally 12:21
format 55:8
forward 6:2 13:3 16:3 25:15
 29:22 32:18 34:24 36:21
 37:10 48:6 56:12 57:12 64:14,
 17
forwards 49:8
foster 39:7
found 40:17 42:23
founded 40:21
framework 25:13,14
frankly 15:3
free 38:20
Friday 52:17
friends 32:3 35:24
front 6:1
fruition 20:22
fulfill 13:18
full 5:1 10:17 27:9 49:1
fully 25:22
furnace 16:7
furtherance 46:11
furthest 44:15
future 7:7 8:5 12:10 14:15

36:8

G

gaining 32:4
games 30:9
General 34:9 37:20 43:12
generally 6:3
generations 36:9
German 40:8,15
Germany 39:25 40:3
gerrymandering 20:14
getters 59:4 60:22
girl 36:16
give 2:11 10:10 11:9,14 20:19
 29:23 30:19,22 38:21 47:20
 52:10
giving 21:7 32:14
glad 39:18
golf 34:13 35:22
good 2:5,10 7:2 8:3 11:6,24,25
 25:1 31:2 33:25 34:6 35:25
 38:4 39:14 40:16 41:10,23
 42:11 45:12,14,16 49:19
governance 45:13
governing 16:14
graduate 34:3,8
graduated 37:19 44:11
graduating 34:3
grandsons 43:13
Grass 33:4
Grassroots 20:10
grateful 15:23
gratitude 12:7 45:2
great 2:5 3:11 10:11 12:14
 20:24 24:1 26:18 32:18 34:25
 45:2,23 46:10

greatest 41:8
greatly 46:16
Green 35:7 42:12
grew 44:8
ground 45:4
group 5:7,12,20 20:11 25:18
 33:10 50:13 55:25
Groupme 53:18
groups 41:24
grow 41:15
guess 41:17,22 42:1,6,16
 43:2,16 44:21 54:13,19
guide 13:3 14:6
guy 53:16
guys 51:13

H

hair 33:16
halls 20:15
hand 22:7,12 23:17 47:18
 52:3,18,19 56:16
handful 20:16
hands 47:12 51:25
handyman 43:14
happen 34:21
happened 37:7
happy 30:8 34:25
hard 31:6 55:24
hat 43:2
hate 24:10
hear 5:3,17 7:22 10:9,10 11:4,
 7,19 12:22 29:11 40:24
heard 21:19 42:25 50:3 57:5,
 12
hearing 17:7 66:10
Held 2:2

helpful 5:5
helping 35:17 39:9
helps 41:14,20
Hendrix 31:24
Hewlett-packard 34:10,12
Hey 29:11 53:13 57:8
hiccups 2:20
high 25:21 28:2
Highland 38:11
highlight 25:22 26:25
Hills 34:2
historic 12:5 16:1
history 12:2 15:25
holding 50:10
homeschooled 36:18
homework 35:21
honestly 53:14 54:16
honor 12:6 13:4 32:9 33:8
 34:25
honored 36:6 38:2 49:11 51:1,
 14
hope 5:24 30:23,25 45:22
 46:9,12
hoping 54:14
horn 40:11
Horner 40:9
hospitality 42:4
host 7:17 54:1,5
hosting 52:6
hour 28:21
housekeeping 17:11 23:22
 24:18,21
houses 41:18
Howell 35:11
Hs 40:10,11

humbled 36:6
humbly 48:6 61:9
hundreds 21:4
hunting 42:18
Huntington 34:14
husband 38:16
hustle 31:6
hyper 15:4
hyperbole 15:21

I

ideal 20:20
ideas 33:21
identity 31:12
imagine 55:24
impact 12:11 31:14,23 32:12
impartial 20:20 21:1 34:18
implement 31:19
importance 14:1 15:25 16:1
important 13:13,14 22:2 26:6
 32:3,7 46:23 49:15 55:4 56:24
importantly 16:17
impress 14:16
impression 37:3
impulse 31:5
inadvertently 46:13
inaugural 12:3
include 10:20,22 42:4
included 6:16 25:9 54:22
includes 3:18
including 5:21 42:5
incredible 13:6
incredibly 45:11
independence 14:2

independent 12:4 14:15
 16:13,14 23:5,6
indescribable 20:23
individual 55:9 60:25
Individuals 19:23
industry 38:13
information 4:8,18 9:16 14:4
informed 31:19
initial 5:20,21 19:25 47:1 48:4
 57:18 58:16 60:13
input 14:5 21:7,9 57:9
inquisitive 45:24
inside 31:20
insiders 16:22
inspiring 45:11
instance 15:13
institution 45:14,15,16,19,21
intact 21:9
intentional 40:21 41:15
intentionally 16:21
interest 19:16 47:18 52:2
interested 47:17,20 50:8
interesting 30:13 36:3,4 43:9
 44:17
Interlochen 44:10,13
Internet 52:20
interpretation 3:20 9:12
interpreter 3:20,22 9:15
interrupt 24:10
introduce 5:11 10:25 17:13
 24:25 27:3 28:19 29:1
introduction 5:5,15
introductions 23:22 24:17,22
 25:6 28:16
inundated 14:4
invite 49:2,7

invited 20:6
 involve 14:7
 involved 15:19 38:1
 issue 26:23 52:8
 issues 7:22
 item 28:16 44:24
 items 24:19,21 47:4 56:12
 IV 12:18

J

Jabber 53:4
 Jackson 33:4
 James 18:8 37:12,17 59:19
 Janice 18:10 38:7,9,22 59:21
 61:24 63:24
 Japan 33:19
 job 39:17 49:19 56:1
 jobs 45:8
 join 10:15
 joining 9:4 10:16 19:1 43:7
 journalism 39:3
 Juanita 18:12 38:23,25 39:20
 59:23 62:2 64:1
 jury 43:17

K

keeping 48:21 55:3 56:14
 Kellom 17:25 18:1 31:1,2,4
 32:21 48:23,24 50:6,7 52:14
 54:24 59:9,10 61:8 63:3,11
 key 5:4 25:23
 kids 36:17 40:25 41:7
 kind 2:8,13 20:17 30:9,12,15,
 18 32:15 36:16 39:11 43:3,14,
 19 53:8 55:3,15 56:9
 kinds 53:3

knowing 14:18
 knowledge 50:18

L

labor 44:6 49:16
 laboratory 37:20
 Lake 29:13 33:4
 Lange 18:16,17 42:10,11 60:2,
 3 62:8 64:6
 language 4:5 9:21
 languages 33:20
 Lansing 36:13,14 40:14 44:9
 lapsed 8:15
 large 25:18
 latitude 64:15
 law 31:14 44:6
 lawyer 44:5
 lead 5:12 15:13 31:18
 leaders 64:16
 leadership 47:10
 learn 41:9 50:20
 learned 41:11,21
 learning 33:21 41:8
 leave 40:6
 led 13:8,19 45:10
 left 23:17 34:5
 legal 25:2 31:17
 legislative 13:22
 legislators 15:19
 legislature 15:14
 legs 6:4
 Lett 18:20,21 43:24,25 44:2,3
 48:18 49:11 53:22,25 55:18
 60:6,7 61:13,17,19,23 62:14,
 24 63:4 64:10,21 65:2,10,16,
 20,23 66:6,9

level 13:22,23 25:21 28:2
 lieu 58:20
 life 29:4 30:11 31:9 33:14 34:8
 37:21 38:10 39:1,10 40:18
 lifelong 37:23
 light 15:24
 limited 4:2 9:18
 limits 26:1
 lines 13:21 15:18,20 20:25
 21:11
 link 3:16 4:8
 links 9:10
 list 26:11 49:1
 listen 5:10 8:10 56:3
 listener 41:24
 listening 41:20
 literally 12:9
 live 6:15 7:1,5,6 8:8,19 9:9
 19:24 20:2 32:16 33:5 35:24
 38:11 40:20,21 41:15
 lived 33:2,3,4,17,18 34:2
 38:10
 lives 44:12,13 46:8,20
 livestream 3:10,18 9:7,8
 livestreamed 3:10
 loaded 31:10
 log 65:5
 logical 24:19
 logistics 3:3 9:2 10:22
 long 40:18 53:6 55:5
 lose 58:21
 lot 14:5 30:1,10 32:1 34:6
 35:21 36:24 37:2,3,9 41:4,19,
 20 42:21 44:7 45:6 49:17
 64:15
 love 31:5 33:20 39:9

loved 32:6

lover 31:23

M

made 4:12 39:18 64:24

main 49:16 58:1

maintain 35:18

maintenance 41:17

majoring 33:13

majority 48:2 58:7

make 2:21 3:7 5:20 10:8,13
11:15 12:10,24 13:1,11 14:8,
13,19 16:14 21:11,12,18
25:19 27:3,15,22 28:25 30:2
34:20 35:16,18 36:5,7 38:1
43:15 50:12,15 51:23 55:11,
19 56:1 57:3,11 58:10 64:21
65:13

makers 16:22

making 5:6 14:6 45:13 49:23
54:21 56:15 65:16

management 34:9

manager 38:15

maps 15:13

Marine 40:4,5

marriage 40:1

married 36:15 44:11

Marsh 2:5,15 11:18,24 17:20,
22,25 18:2,4,6,8,10,12,14,16,
18,20,22 19:19,22 21:20
23:19,24 24:13,23 25:5 28:13
44:1 47:14 48:22 49:3 52:3
57:25 58:23 59:7,9,11,13,15,
17,19,21,23,25 60:2,4,6,8
61:2,7,10,12,15,18,21,24
62:2,5,7,10,13,15 63:4,7,10,
12,14,16,18,21,24 64:1,3,5,7,
9,11,20 66:2

master's 29:19 30:14 35:13

material 25:9

materials 10:17 25:25 26:12
37:9

mathematics 35:13

Mattawan 33:5

matter 52:5

MC 18:14 24:11,13 39:20,23
40:2 42:9 52:3 55:11 56:25
59:25 62:5 64:3

means 42:2 62:18

meant 26:2 55:12

measure 36:3

media 3:14 4:14,17,19 6:20
9:10

mediations 44:7 54:3

mediator 44:6

medical 29:19,20 36:14 42:15
51:9

meet 5:22 34:25

meeting 2:1,19 3:1,3,21 4:6,9,
11,15,21 5:9 6:11,15 7:4,13
9:13 10:1,21,22 12:3 13:2
19:7 25:15 26:2,15 27:6 28:7,
11 47:2,3,5,8 48:4 50:11,21
53:4,6 55:2,19 56:12 58:2,19

meetings 11:14 14:9 41:19
49:13,23 50:10 51:8 52:12
53:16 54:2

member 3:21 4:19 7:9 9:13
20:1 46:7

members 2:23 4:1,14 6:5,11,
13 9:17,24 15:14 18:24 19:4,
7,20 22:9 28:20 32:11 41:18
46:5

mention 25:7 29:2

mentioned 9:5 58:3

met 24:24 40:12,14

method 31:19 62:22

Michigan 2:16 12:19 13:17
14:11,23 16:4,20,24 17:9
20:18 21:6 23:4,6 24:5,7 25:3

29:14 32:19 33:2,3,5,7,11
34:2,9 36:12 37:19,23 38:10,
11,17,25 39:7,16 40:13,18
42:12 43:10 44:19 45:9,16
46:11

Michigan's 12:4,10 15:16

Michigander 40:18

Michiganders 20:11,16

Michiganders' 21:12

microphone 7:16 22:11 43:25

microphones 22:6 23:16

Microsoft 53:4,17

middle 36:17

midtown 29:16

Midwest 14:24

Mike 24:25 25:1,5 28:13 66:3

military 34:5 43:11 46:1,2

millions 13:10,19 17:4

mind 56:22

mindfulness 32:2

mine 55:6

minutes 3:6 22:2 23:21 28:22
36:13 47:21 53:9 56:10

mirror 2:9,13

missing 54:17

mixed 40:1

mode 2:12,13

mom 33:15

mom's 39:25

moment 10:11 11:15 12:2,13
13:14 14:19 15:8 17:6 20:3,5
22:7 46:21

momentous 15:6

month 54:2

months 16:2 28:18 53:14

morning 2:3,10 5:8,17 7:2 8:4
10:17 11:12,25 12:23,24 19:6

21:22 25:1,4 31:2 33:25 42:11
43:8 44:25 65:3,9

morning's 10:19

motion 26:7,8 27:5,10,11,24
51:23 54:10,11 57:16,21,23
58:4,9,10,11,16,23 59:2
60:10,13,15,22 62:23,24 65:8,
11,13,17,24

motions 25:23 60:12 65:3

Motors 34:10 37:21 43:12

move 4:24 6:2 7:23 21:25
24:21 25:6 26:9 27:5,6,16,18
48:1 54:11 58:4 60:16,17,23
62:20 63:2 65:18

moved 34:8 38:13 44:10,13

moves 27:7

movie 39:14

moving 8:16 13:3 16:3 25:15
28:25 32:18 56:12 57:11
64:14,17

moxie 31:5

MSU 44:11

multiple 13:15 19:3

mushed 40:9,11

music 31:24

mute 23:16 24:3

muted 43:25 44:1 52:24

muting 26:21

mypay 35:14

N

name's 25:1 29:12 36:11
42:12

names 59:1

Nancy 20:4,9

nation 15:16,21

native 31:4

naturally 28:4

navigate 31:16 52:17,21 53:8

Navy 42:16

necessarily 49:25 54:15

neighborhood 40:20,21,23
42:6

nerd 30:9

Netherlands 33:18 35:25

network 37:22

news 7:2 8:3

nice 35:19

noise 26:22

nonpartisan 13:25 20:12

nonprofit 50:10

normal 2:13

north 39:25 44:15

note 7:21 8:12 17:18 19:5
64:14

notes 3:9 6:9 8:10

notice 9:12

number 7:20 44:16,17 49:13
55:7 62:25

O

oath 5:10 10:23 17:8 22:3,4,5,
8

objective 34:22

obligations 12:18

occasion 37:11

occupation 42:14

occur 14:11,12

off-camera 5:24

office 5:11 6:22 8:22 10:23
17:8 22:3,4,25 23:1,3 45:12

officers 64:15

official 17:9

officially 2:25 10:21 46:22

offline 24:14

onboard 35:14

online 33:13 52:25

open 14:9 18:24 38:18 51:24

operate 2:18 14:20

opinion 55:21

opportunities 8:5 19:3,11

opportunity 4:23 8:9,11 10:24
13:6 15:6 17:13 21:24 25:17
26:14 34:16 44:18 46:25
47:21,23 50:20 51:21 52:11

opposed 27:12,20 28:1 66:9,
10

option 11:5 58:1

options 3:22,25 9:14,17 10:2
24:5

Orchard 29:13

order 3:1 7:11,18 10:20,21
12:20 22:5 25:7,10,13 26:1,7,
14,17,18 27:8,15 29:9 47:3
49:8 50:3 51:4,6 59:6 60:24
61:3 63:6

Orders 49:14

Oregon 33:2

organization 21:4

organize 25:16 26:3 28:7

organized 13:10

orientation 5:5 10:17 25:9,24
26:12 37:9

original 20:10

originally 35:11

orthopedic 29:16

Orton 18:2,3 32:22,23 59:11,
12 61:11 63:13 65:15,18

outdoors 35:23

outdoorsy 42:19

outlined 5:18
overseas 40:15,17,19
overview 28:14
overwhelming 66:3

P

p.m. 65:4,5 66:12
pace 57:12
packed 5:23
Pages 25:24
paid 35:17
pampering 32:2
pandemic 30:5
parent 39:7 41:2 46:7
parents 39:24 40:12
parliamentarian 56:13
part 6:16,24 12:1,6,8,13 14:17
 15:24 16:1 21:13 38:2 40:8
 54:18
participants 8:8
participate 3:8 6:18 18:25
 19:10 25:22
participating 7:5,6 19:4 56:1
 66:12
participation 26:2
partisan 15:4 20:13
partner 40:9
passed 60:22
passes 60:10
passion 39:8,12 46:6
passionate 31:21
past 29:3 31:9 33:2 39:1 42:15
path 15:2 39:10
patience 2:18 9:25 10:12
 11:21
patient 52:20

payroll 35:15
peers 32:17
people 4:22 7:6,11 13:12 24:4
 29:23 30:19 33:6,21 35:8,19
 37:3 40:20 41:1,25 42:4,17
 45:6,7,13,15 56:2 57:19
perfect 2:17 4:25
perfectly 53:16
period 6:9 20:1
permanent 6:16 46:25 47:9
 51:2,22 56:23 64:18
person 7:23 27:7,17 30:24
 33:1 35:1 43:4 52:10 54:25
 57:8
personal 26:20,23 34:21 55:1
personally 33:17
perspective 15:10 55:1
pervades 46:3
phone 7:16,20
pick 53:22
picked 44:14,22
pieces 17:11 41:17 42:22
Piggybacking 57:2
place 31:7 38:17
places 33:3
plan 45:17
planned 65:4
platform 3:13 9:8
platforms 9:11 53:4
play 45:6 55:4
played 40:25
Pleasure 25:3
point 2:17 3:2 7:25 14:18
 17:16 26:8,10,14,17,19,22
 27:21 28:6,10 47:8 51:20
points 25:23 49:24

political 15:4,10 16:21 30:17
 32:19
Politicians 20:10 21:3
pool 13:16
pop 37:8
populate 45:19
population 30:2
portion 7:12 11:2 21:21 65:6
position 50:22 56:11
positions 13:14 34:9
positive 12:14 34:20
posted 4:12 6:20 19:13
potential 51:16 54:8 57:15
potentially 57:5,7
Power 3:2
practice 35:25 44:5
practices 31:20
practitioner 31:11
precedent 14:14
precisely 46:9
prefer 3:13 9:8 37:18
present 17:19,21 18:1,3,5,7,9,
 11,13,15,17,19,21,22
presentations 6:3
presenter 2:12
president 30:14 51:7
press 7:18
pretty 53:15
previous 27:16,19 33:16
 37:21 48:1
Previously 44:5
primarily 44:6
prior 34:4
prioritized 21:9
private 43:3

privately 57:8
 privilege 26:20,23
 problem 53:10,25
 procedure 26:15
 proceed 5:21 27:13
 process 12:8 13:7 15:19 21:2,
 15 24:15 30:17 34:19 38:19
 45:4 46:14 62:25
 processes 13:16
 processing 35:15
 profession 42:1 49:16
 professional 29:4 31:9 39:1
 42:5
 proficient 53:15
 program 30:14 53:9
 programming 31:20
 projects 2:16
 prompt 7:18
 prompted 7:15
 promptly 36:15
 proponent 32:13
 proud 46:17
 provide 3:24 4:7 6:23 8:11,24
 9:16 19:17,24 20:4
 providing 16:10
 psychology 29:18
 public 2:11,19,23 3:3,12,21
 4:2,13 5:10 6:5,9,11,12,13,15,
 19,23 7:1,5,6,9,12 8:7,18,20,
 24 9:5,13,17,24 10:25 11:10
 14:7 17:7,8,14,17 18:24,25
 19:2,3,4,7,10,12,17,20,24
 20:1,2,4 21:14,21,22,24 22:10
 25:17 28:20 36:19,22 39:3
 41:14 45:12 46:7 49:18 51:17
 58:19 64:25
 publically 10:2
 pulse 55:3

purposes 17:17
 pursuing 36:14
 put 43:2 48:5,18
 putting 36:22

Q

question 16:23,25 17:2 25:8
 26:11,15,19 27:8,14,16,19
 30:13 45:18 48:1 52:2 54:11,
 14 56:25 57:7 60:12
 questions 3:6 4:15,16,24 9:1
 10:3 16:18 28:3,10,11 47:6,
 11,15 51:23,24 54:8,10 57:15
 quick 17:12 23:14
 quickly 2:14 8:15
 quiet 57:6

R

radical 42:4
 raise 17:1,2 22:6,11 26:23
 raised 33:2 37:18,24 40:12
 47:13
 raises 51:25 56:15
 raising 39:9 47:18 52:19
 random 46:13
 randomly 13:15 15:17 33:8
 ranks 46:5
 reached 58:7
 read 17:16 30:6 36:24 38:15
 39:14 42:21 49:1 58:25
 reading 37:9
 ready 11:24 47:25
 real 40:22 42:14
 reality 13:11
 reason 32:10 36:4 41:13 42:20
 reasons 41:5 43:19

recap 9:4
 received 29:17,18 41:4
 recess 66:17
 recognize 19:19 52:1
 reconvene 65:4
 record 6:16,25 8:10 17:17
 recorded 4:9
 redistricting 5:18 12:4 14:11,
 15 15:3,7 16:21 17:10 20:21
 21:15 23:5,7 24:5 34:18 44:19
 45:17
 Redistricting@michigan.gov
 3:24 4:4 6:22 8:23 9:20 19:16
 Redistricting@michigan.gov.
 8:2 24:8
 redistrictingmichigan.org
 3:16 4:10,13 19:13
 redistrictingmichigan.org.
 5:2 10:19
 redo 57:18
 reflect 45:9
 reform 45:11
 refresh 6:4
 regular 20:11
 reiterate 24:4
 relate 40:3
 related 52:8
 relations 4:17 39:3
 relax 39:13
 relevant 52:9
 remainder 5:13 11:3 47:1
 remaining 3:5 11:2 24:18,20
 63:3
 remark 45:2
 reminder 8:7 24:2 65:3
 reminders 19:1

Remote 2:1
remotely 22:5
repeat 22:7,12
reported 64:19
represent 17:5 32:16 33:11
request 26:10 48:13
requests 14:5
require 27:17
requirements 5:16 30:4
research 30:10 36:25
reside 35:12
resident 37:23
resources 10:18
respond 50:17 52:11
responsibility 13:7,20 55:10
responsible 15:20 55:3
rest 32:9
restate 27:24
reticent 55:23
retired 34:11,12 38:14 43:12
return 7:24
Reuters 35:14
review 3:4 28:2
rewards 12:14
Rhonda 18:16 42:9,12 43:6
 60:2 62:7 64:5
Richard 18:18 43:7,10,23 60:4
 62:10 64:7
rights 31:22
ring 43:2
Robert's 25:7,10,12,25 26:7
 27:2 28:14 49:14 50:19 51:6
Rochester 34:2
role 5:15 15:25 16:2,3 32:14
 45:8 47:7,11 51:3,13 54:21,23
 56:10,14

roll 17:15,20 27:21 54:9 56:14
 58:2,18,20 60:21 63:5 65:25
rooms 52:18
Roth 40:7,11
Rothhorn 18:14,15 24:9
 39:21,22 40:7 52:4 54:13
 59:25 60:1 62:6 64:4
rules 25:7,10,12,25 26:7 27:2
 28:7,14 49:14 50:3,19 51:6
run 25:21
running 26:15 48:14 50:21
 53:17 55:1
runoff 58:11,17 59:4 60:23
 63:2
rural 42:13,17,24

S

safety 30:3
Saginaw 43:10
Sally 2:15 11:22 17:20 19:19
 23:18 27:4 47:12 48:20 49:1
 51:25 57:21 58:20,25 60:23
 63:4 64:13,18 66:1
sanitary 30:3
sat 49:16
savvy 55:14
school 29:20 34:4,8 35:12
 36:19,22,23 51:9
schools 31:20
science 29:19
screen 2:6,9 3:23 4:1 9:15
 22:8 23:17 26:5
searches 51:10
searching 38:16
seconded 65:21
seconding 65:24
seconds 7:10,23 8:13 19:6
 20:7 50:15

secretarial 16:10
secretary 2:25 4:20 5:9 10:6,
 20 11:17,18,20,25 12:16 16:4,
 5,6 17:22 18:23 19:22 21:23
 22:15,19,22 23:1,4,8,12,20
 24:2,9,15,23 28:13,15 30:25
 32:20,22 33:23 35:2,5,9 36:10
 37:12,15 38:7,22 39:20 42:9
 43:6,23 44:3,23 47:16 48:7,
 10,15,17,20,25 49:6,20 50:5,
 23 51:15 52:10,22 53:11,20,
 23 54:7 55:16 56:6 57:1,14,20
 58:3,9,13,15,25 60:10,17,20
 61:2 62:20 63:1,7 64:12,23
 65:10,13 66:14
section 12:18 18:25
seek 15:1
select 11:5 12:25 60:14
selected 13:13,15 15:17 29:21
 45:3,7 64:18
selecting 44:25
selection 46:14
self-care 32:1
senate 13:23 51:7
senior 36:20
sentence 8:16
separately 55:13
September 2:2
series 13:1
servant 46:7
serve 12:13 13:13 15:24 17:8
 42:23 45:4 46:19 47:22 48:4
 49:12 51:1 64:18
served 34:4 43:10
service 35:3 41:14 46:1,2,4,10
services 4:3,5 9:19,21 16:8
serving 16:9 46:8
session 2:3 5:13 6:10,19 7:2
 10:19 11:3 12:23 19:2,10
 44:25 51:20 65:3,6,9

sessions 5:8 6:7 7:1,7 49:17
set 12:18 14:10 28:6,18 32:18
 35:16 44:18 51:2
settings 2:9 42:17
setup 53:18
share 2:6 29:7 50:18 57:9
shared 20:17
short 22:1
shortly 10:21 22:9
show 2:12
shows 2:8
shy 57:7
sic 4:16
side 31:21 43:15 49:24
sides 15:11
sign 6:11 7:1,3,11 19:8 66:10
signed 6:14 18:25 19:23
silence 50:15
similarly 4:1 9:11 26:20 27:22
simply 16:11 28:6 51:18
single 30:7
sit 37:6,25 56:3
sites 6:20
slide 4:1,25 6:1 9:3 25:10
 26:24
slides 2:12 3:2
small 42:13
social 3:14 6:20 9:10
society 32:5
solemnly 22:12,14
solution 20:12,13,18
Solutions 35:15
someone's 57:5
son 31:25 36:19
sort 40:23,24 41:9 52:5 54:19,

22
souls 39:12
Sounds 11:7
south 36:14 40:1
southbound 29:14
space 52:21 55:7
spaces 31:13
Spanish 4:6 9:22 10:7 11:5
 24:6
spare 29:5,24 32:5 34:12
 35:20 38:15 39:13 42:16
 43:13
speak 7:16,17,25 17:1 33:19
 40:15 47:21 49:2,7 52:8 54:20
 55:23 56:5,16
speaking 4:2 7:24 8:8 9:18
 49:18 50:14
special 2:15
specialist 35:14
specialized 39:7
specifics 28:3
speech 56:9
spent 40:16
spirit 50:12
split 29:15
spoken 32:25
sports 30:6
spots 34:7
spouse 40:8,14 41:7
spread 30:4 42:25
spring 45:5
squabbles 36:17
staff 7:8,13 16:8 17:18 20:5
 24:19
stand 40:4
standards 32:16

star 7:18
start 2:7 13:8 24:11,12 27:5
 28:6 29:9 39:23 57:5 59:5
 60:23
started 2:13 20:15 30:7 36:14
 38:13 54:3
starting 20:12 49:9
starts 7:13
state 2:16 4:18 7:9 12:12,15,
 19 13:10,17,22,23 15:14,16,
 19 16:5 17:5,9,18 20:14,16,18
 22:20,21 24:20 25:3 27:23
 29:24 30:15,19 32:19 33:6
 38:4 39:2,7 40:13 46:11,19
 51:7 63:5
state's 12:2
states 14:23 16:5 22:16,18
statistics 30:10
stay 49:24 50:2 57:12
stay-at-home 33:15
step 23:14
stepped 12:7 15:23 45:3
stepping 43:4
steps 5:21
Steve 44:3 48:18,20 53:20,21,
 23 61:11,13,17,19,23 62:9,12,
 13,17,19 63:4,9,13,15,17,19,
 22 64:6,8,9,21 65:2,7
Steven 18:20 43:24 44:1,24
 49:4,10,20,25 53:12,21,24
 60:6
stop 30:4
stories 45:25
story 39:23 40:3,5
streaming 9:9
street 40:25
streetlights 40:25
stretch 6:3

strong 34:21
structure 47:1 50:21 51:2,4
 56:11,20,23 64:16
structures 64:15
student 30:14 33:12,13 51:7
studied 39:3 41:25
stuff 30:11 43:14
stylist 33:16
subject 6:23 8:24
submission 19:18
submissions 4:14
submit 6:12,17 8:18 19:9,16
submitted 6:13
subsection 12:19
succeed 45:23
succeeded 39:11
success 46:15
successfully 64:25
sufficient 55:20
suggested 58:5
suggestion 29:3
suggestions 38:18
sunlight 14:8
super 54:22
support 22:15,17
supporting 16:9
suppose 36:1 40:17 41:13
 42:7
surgeon 29:16
surprised 29:21 39:18
surprising 46:3
surviving 31:15
survivor 31:11,14
swear 22:12,14
system 31:17 59:2

Systems 34:10 37:22

T

table 34:20 45:20 49:16
tailored 20:19
taking 22:3
talented 43:9
talk 4:21 10:15 20:16 55:23
talking 14:1 25:20
tally 62:16 64:13
task 13:23,24 20:24
tasks 5:4
tax 35:18
team 12:24 13:2 22:8 30:8
 53:17
Teams 53:4
tech 53:16
technical 10:5 11:9 16:8
technology 10:14 53:2
temporary 46:24 49:12 51:1
 56:22
ten 3:6 13:16 34:11 36:8 54:1
ten-minute 22:1
tenure 12:11
term 51:18
terms 52:6
test 37:20
Texas 34:14
thing 22:2 26:18
things 26:22 28:25 29:24
 31:22 32:17 34:20,22 37:25
 41:10,12,21 43:1 44:20 45:13
 52:20 55:6 56:14
thinking 37:5 50:16
Thomson 35:14
thought 30:17 34:19 36:3

38:19 42:22 44:16

thoughtful 45:24
thoughts 6:17,24 8:12,19,25
 19:9
thousand 13:17
threw 37:4
thrilled 46:17
throw 48:13
time 2:19 7:3 8:6,14 9:6 23:15,
 18 28:19,24 29:5,15,24 32:2,5
 34:13 35:17,20 38:15 39:13
 40:16 42:16 43:13 45:12 49:5,
 12 51:9 55:20 56:16 57:13
 59:5 65:21,24 66:13
times 38:5 49:23
today 3:4,8,18 5:2 7:5 8:3
 12:22 13:5 16:19 21:25 47:2
 56:21
today's 5:25 18:25 65:6
tomorrow 5:2,17,19 16:19
 21:25 46:24 47:2,10 56:20
tomorrow's 51:20
tone 32:18
tool 25:13,14 26:3 28:7
top 58:10,17 59:4 60:22 62:18,
 20
topic 27:4
total 6:25
touch 5:8
town 20:15 42:12
Township 38:12
toxic 15:4
track 48:21 50:2 55:22
tracked 49:24
Tracy 4:16
Traditionally 56:13
training 52:16

transcribed 4:11
transcriptions 4:12
transition 8:17 17:6
translation 4:3,5 9:19,21 10:8,
 10 11:5
translations 24:6
transparency 5:18
transparent 13:24 20:20
trauma 31:10,11,19
travel 34:13,15
traveled 20:16 40:14
traveling 33:20 40:16
tremendous 13:8
tribe 32:6
trouble 37:17 43:15
troubleshoot 8:3 24:13
true 20:23
trust 46:12,14
turn 17:19 23:15,25 24:19
 50:17 65:7
Twitter 6:21 8:21 19:14
two-day 5:13 6:10 11:2 13:2
 19:2 47:8
two-step 62:25
two-tiered 57:22,23
two-year 39:5
type 32:2 46:9
types 26:6
typically 26:10

U

U.S. 39:24 40:2 42:16
ultimately 13:16 14:14 41:22
 45:7
unaccustomed 49:18

unbiased 30:20
uncertainty 45:5
undergrad 30:13
underlying 45:25
underscore 14:22
underserved 30:2
understand 36:25 41:21
understanding 2:18 10:1 42:2
 56:18 57:10
understood 37:1
unfortunate 30:5
unique 4:8
uniqueness 31:8
United 22:16,18
universities 52:25
University 39:2 51:8 52:17
unmute 7:9,14,15,18 17:21
 20:5 22:6,10
unmuted 20:6 52:15
unusual 32:4
upcoming 6:7,19 19:10
utilize 25:15
utilizing 10:7 27:2

V

Vallette 18:10,11 38:8,9,10
 59:21,22 61:25 63:25
values 32:15 45:10
verifying 10:8
veteran 42:16
veterans 46:4
vibe 55:3
victims 31:15
video 24:11,12 30:9 53:15
Vietnam 44:10

view 2:22 3:2,13
viewed 5:1
viewing 3:17,22,25 4:10 9:7,
 14,17 24:4
violent 31:16
virtual 3:3 6:11 11:13 19:7
 36:23 52:21 53:3 55:2,5 58:1
virtually 2:19 12:22
vision 20:21
visit 3:14
visually 47:19 55:4
voice 7:16 32:14 57:4 66:7
voices 17:3 21:19 42:25 50:3
 57:12
volunteer 29:25 30:1 41:25
 47:21 48:3,11
volunteered 47:20
volunteering 64:24
volunteers 47:17 48:25 49:1,5
 60:21 63:3
vote 12:16 13:19 14:13 16:4,6
 21:12 27:21,22,24 47:24,25
 48:2 51:17,23 54:9 57:17,18,
 19,23 58:4,5,8,10,16,18,19,21
 59:1,3,4,5 60:13,15,16,17,21,
 22 61:5,8,17,19,22,25 62:3,8,
 11,14,18,21 63:2,5,9,13,15,
 17,19,22,25 64:2,6,8,10,20,25
 66:7
voted 27:25 36:2 60:9 64:21
voter 21:12
voter-driven 21:15
voters 16:20 20:10 21:3
votes 21:18 62:17 64:12,19
voting 38:20 60:25 63:11

W

Wagner 18:6,7 36:10,11
 59:17,18 61:19 63:19

wait 21:16
waiting 10:13
walk 31:12
walking 55:13
wanted 9:5 25:7 34:17 36:19
 38:3 40:20 45:2
Washington 34:4
watch 39:14
watching 2:11 3:4,12 9:14,24
 11:10 14:24 16:25 17:17
 22:10 28:20
Wayne 30:15 39:2,6 51:7
ways 15:5 42:5
webinar 2:7 3:10 4:3 9:19 11:6
website 3:15 9:10
week 30:7
weeks 14:3 16:2,19
Weiss 18:18,19 43:7,8,10
 60:4,5 62:11 64:8
Weng 20:4,8,9
West 29:14
wet 30:16
Whatsapp 53:18
Whimmer 4:16
who've 12:8
willingness 12:13 15:24 46:19
win 30:8
wine 43:15
Witjes 35:5,7,10,11 48:5,9,11
 49:21,22 52:23 56:7 57:2
 58:14 59:15,16 60:15 61:16
 63:17 65:12,22 66:16
wonderful 10:4 11:21 12:2
 18:23 30:18 33:6,24 37:24
 43:13 60:8 62:15
wondering 52:4 54:20 58:6
words 29:6

work 2:22 5:6 8:1,6 12:9 13:3,
 18 14:2,3,9,17,18,24,25
 16:11,12 21:17 28:5 30:6
 33:10 34:23 35:13,21 39:13
 41:16,25 45:13 46:6,18
worked 37:21 38:12 41:24
 43:11 44:9
working 10:14 11:7 21:4 28:17
 29:22 42:2 50:18 53:2,7
world 42:5,6 54:4
worry 5:23
wrapped 20:14
writing 8:19
written 6:13,15,24 8:8,25
 19:17
wrong 57:22 66:4

Y

year 12:11 14:9,19 28:17
 36:20,22 43:18 53:1
years 12:12 14:12,21 29:13,20
 33:3,19 34:5,11,24 36:8
 38:12,14 43:11,12
yield 46:15
yoga 32:2
younger 43:11
youth 31:22
Youtube 3:11,17 9:9 37:7
Ypsilanti 35:12 37:19

Z

zone 43:4
Zoom 3:10 7:15 10:2 11:6 44:8
 52:6,12,15,19 53:1,5,17 54:1,
 3,6,16 55:14,19 57:7