

From: TOM MCMILLIN <tom_mcmillin@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Saturday, November 28, 2020 6:48 PM

To: Clark, Douglas (ICRC) <ClarkD32@michigan.gov>

Subject: Fw: McMillin written submission to MI Redistricting Advisory Committee for 10-17-20 meeting

Dear Commissioner Clark,

I'm forwarding my email that I submitted on 10/16/20 for public comment -- I just wanted to make sure it was distributed to commissioners.

I would only add to it that I think the position of General Counsel has similar importance as the ED position. When I've been on commissions or other organizations that had general counsel, their advice was usually accepted without question by members of those boards, so I imagine you all will get advice from this person like, "well, according to statute xyz, you can't do that" or "according to statute xyz, you must do this"...this kind of advice, whether completely true or not, will end up steering the Commission toward it's final results (and for very important decisions, it may be prudent to get a second opinion from another expert attorney). So having someone who really is independent and which can be somewhat verified by reviewing their past political campaign contributions (state and federal donations can be looked up online easily) and even their past social media posts, etc. would seem quite important.

Thank you again for serving on this important commission.

Sincerely,

Tom McMillin

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: TOM MCMILLIN <tom_mcmillin@sbcglobal.net>

To: Redistricting@Michigan.gov <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>

Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020, 04:22:42 PM EDT

Subject: McMillin written submission to MI Redistricting Advisory Committee for 10-17-20 meeting

October 16, 2020

RE: Executive Director Selection

Dear Members of the Michigan Redistricting Advisory Committee,

Thank you for serving on this committee and Commission. I know that a condition of being a candidate for the Commission was that you were not allowed to have been a recent partisan candidate for office. I will say that as someone who has been in politics since the late 1980s (as city councilman, mayor, county commission, state representative and now member of the State Board of Education), a position like Executive Director (ED) of the Michigan Redistricting Commission is critical to the success and true independence of the commission. The ED will, using his or her own biases (which we all have), filter out a lot of information and options that could be presented to the Commission. As you go through the process of redistricting, you will be given, say, five options for a key decision. The ED will have (either directly or indirectly) whittled down the plethora of possible options down to the five you are given. The ED's biases will have informed that paring process, perhaps very significantly. Obviously, you will not know what was not given to you.

Given the above, I would recommend that the Commission make public the list of anyone in the "final cut" and allow the public a couple weeks, at least, to search for

reasons why each candidate may hold biases that the Commission should know about, before the final selection. Those in the final cut should be required to reveal any social media posts that they have deleted in the last year and any other requirements that would allow the Commission and the public to fully understand the biases of the ED candidates.

I would like to add one option in selection of the ED, which would likely be very unconventional – that being to have co-Executive Directors and choose one who is clearly partisan as a Democrat and one who is clearly partisan as a Republican. That way each could check the other's work and the commission could require that both approve all options presented (and by implication options not presented) to the Commission. This may be a way to help eliminate partisanship and political biases from options and information filtered out and options and information given to the Commission.

I request that this email also be given to all members of the Michigan Redistricting Commission.

Sincerely,

Tom McMillin

Oakland Township, MI