

Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

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

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

Thursday, March 25, 2021

12:32 PM – 4:21 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT: Douglas James Clark
Juanita Curry
Anthony Eid
Brittni Kellom (*left the meeting at 3:50 PM*)
Rhonda Lange
Steven Terry Lett (*joined the meeting at 2:32 PM*)
Cynthia Orton
MC Rothhorn
Rebecca Szetela
Janice Vallette
Erin Wagner
Richard Weiss
Dustin Joseph Witjes

ABSENT: N/A

OTHERS PRESENT: Suann Hammersmith, Executive Director
Julianne V. Pastula, General Counsel
Edward Woods III, Communications and Outreach Director
Michigan Department of State (“MDOS”) staff

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Commissioner Kellom, Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) to order at 12:32 PM.

ROLL CALL

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

Commissioner Lett joined the meeting at 2:32 PM.

Commissioner Kellom, Chair, left the meeting at 3:50 PM.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Kellom, Chair, called for a motion to approve the agenda. **Motion by Commissioner Rothorn. Supported by Commissioner Clark. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioners discussed the draft minutes.

MOTION: Commissioner Kellom Chair, called for a motion to approve the minutes. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Weiss. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Kellom, Chair, opened the floor to public comment. There was no public comment. A full inventory of live and written public comment is available at RedistrictingMichigan.org.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Hammersmith reported that the system used for public comment crashed yesterday, however all comments have been retrieved and are being provided to the Commission. She also reported that today's meeting was extended to accommodate the Commission's workload. Due to earlier scheduling, the continuing education portion for today's meeting will be held at the originally scheduled time as not to inconvenience the presenters, though normally continuing education will occur at the end of the agenda. She also notified commissioners that the Voting Rights Act (VRA) legal committee will meet on Tuesday, March 30 at 8:00 AM to review the proposals. Committee members include Commissioners Szetela (committee chair), Eid, Clark and Kellom. The executive director also hosted a brief icebreaker activity.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE (MDOS) UPDATES

MDOS staff had no update.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Census Data and Dates for Relief Request to Michigan Supreme Court – Resolution 2021.02.17. General Counsel Pastula presented two date options regarding the petition to the Michigan Supreme Court for an extension of the current redistricting process deadline due to the delay of census data slated for release on Sept. 30, 2021.
 - Option 1: 61-day period after receipt of census data on September 30, 2021; deadline of January 14
 - Option 2: 72-day period after receipt of census data on September 30, 2021; deadline of January 25
 - Commissioner Szetela, Vice Chair, led the discussion.

MOTION: Approve Resolution 2021.02.17 with Option 2 as the proposed dates for relief. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Curry. Commissioner Szetela, Vice Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

2. Public Hearings Locations and Times. Communications and Outreach Director Woods requested the Commission consider time frames for public hearings and conflicts that may arise involving venue locations. Commissioner Szetela, Vice Chair, led the discussion.

MOTION: Provide Communications and Outreach Director Woods the flexibility to pursue venue location changes as needed in adjacent communities. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Orton. Commissioner Szetela, Vice Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

MOTION: Hold one public hearing per location beginning at 6 PM and extending until all public comments are heard. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Szetela, Vice Chair, held a vote by show of hands.**

MOTION FAILED 2-10.

MOTION: Hold one public hearing per location from 12 PM to 5 PM. **Motion by Commissioner Orton. Supported by Commissioner Lange. Commissioner Szetela, Vice Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION FAILED 2-10.**

MOTION: Approve one of two options for public hearing times:

- **Option 1** (two sessions per public hearing) from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM.
- **Option 2** (one session per public hearing) beginning at 6:00 PM until all public comments are heard.

Motion by Commissioner Eid. Supported by Commissioner Clark. Commissioner Szetela, Vice Chair, called for a roll call vote.

Option One: Commissioners Curry, Rothhorn, Eid, Weiss

Option Two: Commissioners Clark, Lange, Orton, Wagner, Kellom, Witjes, Szetela, Vallette

BY A ROLL CALL VOTE OF 8-4, MOTION WAS APPROVED FOR OPTION TWO.

General Counsel Pastula advised that while the Commission can set an allotted time for individual public comment, public hearings must extend until all public comment is heard. According to current Commission rules, individual public comment is limited to two minutes.

MOTION: On the days of public hearings, conduct the Commission's regularly held meetings at 5:00 PM, one hour prior to the start of the public hearings. **Motion by Commissioner Eid. Supported by Commissioner Lange. Commissioner Szetela, Vice Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

MOTION: Provide Communications and Outreach Director Woods the flexibility to change location and times of public hearings as it relates to the needs of the venues. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Rothhorn. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION APPROVED 10-2.**

BREAK

Commissioner Kellom, Chair, called for a brief break from 2:17 PM to 2:32 PM.

3. Continuing Education – Practice Mapping with Ohio Map. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, introduced the following presenters:
 - Matt Grossman, Ph.D., Director, MSU Institute of Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR)
 - Eric Guthrie, Demographer, State of Michigan

NEW BUSINESS

1. Acronyms and Glossary. Executive Director Hammersmith provided the documents for the commissioners' information.
2. Job Posting for an Executive Assistant Position. Executive Director Hammersmith presented the posting for consideration.

MOTION: Approve job posting. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Rothhorn. Commissioner Szetela, Vice Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

3. Draft Strategic Plan-Resolution 2021.02.18. Executive Director Hammersmith responded to commissioner questions and advised that the strategic plan will help guide the work of the Commission and provide the framework in which staff will execute their duties.

MOTION: Approve Resolution 2021.02.18. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Clark. Commissioner Szetela, Vice Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

4. Upcoming Meeting Agenda Topics.
 - Agenda and procedures for presentations for public hearings
 - Processes and procedures relevant to communities of interest
 - Processes and procedures for interfacing with EDS and other consultants
 - Pledge of allegiance at all MICRC meetings and public hearings

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Szetela, Vice Chair, called for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting. **Motion by Commissioner Orton. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Szetela, Vice Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 PM.

*Future Meetings: March 30 from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; April 8 from 12:30-5:30 p.m. (to be cancelled if in-person meetings are required); April 15 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
VRA Legal Counsel Committee – March 30 from 8:00-9:30 a.m.*