

Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

Hybrid Meeting held in-person and via Zoom Webinar due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, pursuant to 2020 PA 254 (MCL 15.263 and 15.263a), and in compliance with Section 6(10) of Article 4 of Michigan's 1963 Constitution

Full agenda, presentations, transcripts, and video recordings are available at www.michigan.gov/micrc

Thursday, June 24, 2021

1:05 PM – 3:09 PM

at

MRCC Banquet Center

23401 Mound Rd., Warren, MI 48901

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Douglas James Clark

Juanita Curry

Anthony Eid

Rhonda Lange (attending remotely from Reed City, MI)

Steven Terry Lett

Cynthia Orton (attending remotely from Battle Creek, MI)

MC Rothhorn

Rebecca Szetela

Janice Vallette

Erin Wagner (attending remotely from Charlotte, MI)

Richard Weiss

Dustin Joseph Witjes

ABSENT:

Brittni Kellom

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 Szetela, Vice-Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) to order at 1:05 PM.

ROLL CALL

MDOS staff called roll. All Commissioners were present except Commissioner Kellom and a quorum was met.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, called for a motion to approve the agenda. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Lett. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon separate motions, Commissioners discussed the public hearing minutes from June 17th and 22nd, as well as the June 17th and 22nd meeting minutes. The Commission offered no edits.

MOTION: Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, called for a Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes from June 17th. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

MOTION: Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, called for a Motion to Approve the Public Hearing Minutes from June 17th. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Lett. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

MOTION: Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, called for a Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes from June 22nd. **Motion by Commissioner Rothhorn. Supported by Commissioner Vallette. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

MOTION: Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, called for a Motion to Approve the Public Hearing Minutes from June 22nd. **Motion by Commissioner Rothhorn. Supported by Commissioner Vallette. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

PUBLIC COMMENT PERTAINING TO AGENDA TOPICS

Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, put the motion "to begin the public comment pertaining to agenda topics portion of the agenda" which was adopted. One individual provided public comment: James Gallant

A full inventory of live and written public comment is available at www.michigan.gov/micrc

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Communications and Outreach Update. Communication and Outreach Director Edward Woods III reported there were three sets of materials to utilize for communicating about the MICRC at county fairs, festivals, or events and anyone wishing to use the materials should contact him. Director Woods thanked Commissioners Lange, Eid, Rothhorn, and Orton who volunteered in this capacity. The Commission provided feedback to Director Woods on the communication strategy.
- b. General Counsel Update. General Counsel Julianne Pastula updated the Commission on its petition to the Michigan Supreme Court. The RFP for Litigation Counsel did not receive any responses and an updated proposal will be forwarded to the Commission next week for approval and posting. The Ingham County Board of Commissioners did not extend the declaration of a state of emergency so the Commission's ability to conduct remote meetings will expire on June 30th, 2021.
- c. EDS Continuing Education. Kim Brace, John Morgan, and Dr. Lisa Handley with Election Data Services (EDS) provided continuing education to the Commission on data and map-drawing. John Morgan introduced himself and discussed GIS systems, demographic analytics, and methods of drawing. Dr. Lisa Handley's presentation, "Determining if a Redistricting Plan Complies

with the Voting Rights Act”, outlined the criteria of priority for redistricting, compliance with the Voting Rights Act, and racial bloc voting analysis.

- d. MGGG Reports for the Commission. Moon Duchin, Executive Director of the Metric Geometry and Gerrymandering Group (MGGG), reported on the input received in the public comment portal. Ms. Duchin deconstructed written testimony on theory and verbal descriptions of communities of interest. She also highlighted the overall themes and comments from the portal. Lastly, Ms. Duchin presented “heat maps” to illustrate where the public comment submissions are coming from.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Executive Director Hammersmith indicated that Kim Brace will be back next week to continue his presentation on “The Data Cube”. The Redistricting Process Committee will be meeting on Friday and Monday to develop recommendations for the full Commission on Wednesday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Woods informed the Commission that Kristin Taylor had a limited number of contracted hours remaining, so she would not be attending future hearings.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:09 PM.