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MICRC

07/29/21 12:00 pm Meeting

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>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Good afternoon.

As Vice Chair of the Commission, I call this meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 12:03 p.m.

This Zoom webinar is live streamed at YouTube at www.YouTube.com/MICHSOSoffice/videos.

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

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

People with disabilities or needing other specific accommodations should also contact Redistricting at Michigan.gov.

This meeting is also being Recorded and will be available at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC for viewing at a later date and is being transcribed and those transcriptions will be made available And posted at Michigan.gov/MICRC along with the written public comment submissions. There is a comment portal that may be accessed by visiting Michigan.gov/MICRC, this portal can be utilized to post maps and comments which can be viewed by both the Commission and the public.

Members of the media who may have questions before, during or after the meeting should direct those questions to Edward Woods III, our Communications and Outreach Director for the Commission. WoodsE3@Michigan.gov. 517-331-6309.

For the purpose of the public watching and the public record, I will now turn the Michigan Department state Staff to take note of the Commissioners present.

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

Please say present when I call your name If you are attending the meeting remotely state And unless absence is due to military duty disclose your physical location stating the county, city, township, or village where you are attending the meeting remotely.

I'll start with Doug Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.

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>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

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

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON:

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN:

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

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

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present.

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

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Is it 12 or 11? 11 Commissioners are present thank you. Thank you, Department of State.

At this time as a reminder you can view the agenda at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC. Everybody has the meeting agenda. I do need to add one item to it if that is accessible to everybody. Under new business we are going to add a new A, which is going to be downloading mapping software on Commissioner laptops. That will cause them to be relettered BCD and E.

General Counsel, do I need to do a motion on that? So I will make a motion to adopt adding new business, item 6A, downloading mapping software on Commissioner laptop. Seconded by Commissioner Clark.

All in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

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

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The ayes prevail and the motion or the agenda is adopted or amended to add 6A.

I will now entertain a motion to approve the meeting agenda.

>> So moved.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Motion made by Commissioner Witjes and seconded by Commissioner Lett. Is there any discussion or debate on the motion? Okay, hearing none, it is moved and seconded that we adopt the meeting agenda as amended.

All in favor please raise your hand and say aye

>> Aye.

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

The ayes prevail and the agenda is adopted.

Without objection, we will now begin the public comment pertaining to agenda topics portion of our meeting. Hearing no objection, we will now proceed with public comment pertaining to agenda topics. Individuals who have signed up and indicated they would like to provide live remote public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so. And just to clarify for the record, we do not have anyone signed up currently to provide in-person public commentary.

So we are going straight to the remote public commentary.

I will call your name and our staff will unmute you. If you are on a computer, you will be prompted by the Zoom app to unmute your microphone and speak.

If you are on the phone a voice will say that the host would like you to speak and prompt you to press star six to unmute. I will call on you by your name.

Also please note that if you experience technical or audio issues or we do not hear from you for 3-5 seconds we will move on to the next person in line and return after they are done speaking.

If your audio still does not work, you can mail Redistricting@Michigan.gov and we will help you troubleshoot so that you can participate during the next public comment period at a later hearing on meeting.

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

The first person in line to provide public comment is Mr. James Galant. Please allow a moment for our staff to unmute you.

>> Good morning, Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Good afternoon, Mr. Galant. Please proceed.

>> Thank you.

James Galant with the Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition and these are my opinions.

And, first, I'd like to start by saying the pledge of allegiance.

[Pledge of Allegiance]

For those who would like to participate.

And I've come across some new research, in my little research I've done in the last few days. I spoke to the guy from the University of Michigan in the close up center there. And we had a long discussion about, a super nice guy though, Tom. He but he pointed out to me when we were talking about the rules because I'm just asking about the rules here, what are the rules and are you following them. And come to find out Robert's Rules of Order the phrase, the words spoken in the English language are not contained in the database at Michigan, University of Michigan.

I searched it.

He told me it wasn't there.

He said that is not really addressed in the issue in the database.

So I checked and the keyword search and it's not in there.

I contacted Mr. Grossman for University of Michigan or Michigan State and come to find out not mentioned in their database either. So appears that I have pulled on the right thread and asking the right question. And seems that nobody has ever asked are there...are a few rules here, identify what they are and identify if they are being followed or not and then identify whether or not the breaching that are...that you are doing right now, motion without a vote or motion without a second, and discussion before the motion. And the other things I brought up. Come to find out nobody knows what the rules are, never been identified.

I'm attempting to get Michigan State University to include that in their upcoming evaluation of this Commission.

What are the rules here, elections across the state. They have policy about the state and election policy is created except not the rules on how to do it.

And the variations between the counties, it's my understand every county uses Robert's Rules of Order. 90% of America uses this. And these specific breaches, there cannot be any other more fundamental breaches. It's how you bring the liberty, deliberately bring the business to the Commission.

You have to do it by immediately pending question.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Mr. Galant, your two minutes has ended. Please conclude your statement.

Thank you, Mr. Galant.

Individuals who have signed up and indicated they would like to provide public in person, I'm sorry, skip that, individuals who have signed up and indicated they would like to provide second live remote public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so. We will use the same process as the first round.

First person in line to provide public comment is James Galant. Please wait for staff to unmute you.

>> Can you hear me, Madam Chair?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, Mr. Galant. Please proceed.

>> You said I could finish my sentence and somebody is cutting me off immediately without your permission to cut me off. And I don't know what that is. Somebody who is ever controlling the button, you said I could finish my sentence and then they cut me off and you just proceeded. So it seems to be a process and doubling down on your unreasonableness to the public. And you know I'm the only one here.

You know it.

I should be getting the four minutes straight up.

I noticed the Secretary of State did not include in the notice for today's meeting under the Open Meetings Act that there is an opportunity for it. It says two minutes only per person it says in the notice today.

I'm not sure why that is. But the Commission should maybe request get a request from Secretary of State why she does that and why she is doing it like that.

But you know I guess the whole idea here is we are trying to get this included. They said there is a new grant of Michigan and do analysis. And he said it will take a couple years. The League of Women Voters lady said. I talked to the president there, Ms. Schlit, and going to take a couple years to do analysis on this. I said, well, this needs to be analysis in real time. And what happened at the last meeting is to prove unacceptable and why it's not feeling confident in the decision making process because when you were attempting to approve an emergency procurement request from staff, you never even voted on it.

That is why your lawyer has told you and recommended to you on the record, said this is why I told you, you may not have discussion before a motion.

Because you get confused. And it confuses and meant to confuse the members. And it's in the introduction for Robert's Rules of Order 2010 that this is the most the biggest cause of confusion at meetings is not knowing what you will vote on next. So I'm wondering why you want to do that first, when you want to vote on something you know what it is.

[Inaudible]

And recorded in the law to request clarification efficiently and effectively from the Chair. Kind of like maybe we didn't vote on that one.

And then the Chair, thank you for pointing out that mistake and didn't correct it. So it's still a mistake. At this point it's not a mistake. It's willful disregarding the constitution.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Mr. Galant, your two minutes has ended. Please conclude your statement.

>> Can I finish or get cutoff? Please request this report from staff about your Robert's Rules of Order and why the attorney allowed you to make, approve motions that are completely out of order. She knew it in advance and why.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: That concludes our public comment for this afternoon. We will now move on to unfinished business agenda item 5A.

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Staff contract amendment options. Without objection, I will ask General Counsel Pastula to provide general resolutions. Hearing no objections, please proceed, General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I think the Executive Director is advancing that proposal. Thank you.
I'm available to answer questions.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you, Executive Director Hammersmith.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: We did bump the agenda item first on downloading the software on Commissioners' computers if I can do that real quickly.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: We put that under new business.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Sorry I'm with you.

So for your consideration our two options for amending staff contracts, the first does provide for vacation time and two personal days off per month starting August 1st of this year.

The second one would also offer a pay out if personal time off is unused at the end of a contract.

So those were provided for each individual and each of the individual contracts were provided for you, so I would entertain any questions that you might have regarding those.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I have a question and a comment.

You're saying a pay out if it's not used and paid time off.

Are you asking for the same rate of pay? Are you asking for an increase in pay?

Before I make my comment, I want to understand exactly what's being asked.

Because salary my understanding is you are paid what you are paid the entire year.

So I'm not exactly sure how that works as far as a payout.

So I want that question first and then I have a comment, please.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: It would be the same rate it would be the current rate of pay.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay on the one you said there would be a payout though.

So how does a payout work?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: If there were ten days that were unused at the end of the contract and personal time off, then that would be paid at the end of the contract.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay I'm confused by that because if you're paid what you're paid, then wouldn't that be additional?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: It would be additional pay in lieu of working on a day that you are supposed to have off.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay, then my comment and I'm not being disrespectful, I respect everybody's work and I will probably be unpopular with this, but upon thinking on it, everybody signed their contracts as is.

My understanding on how salary works is you're paid regardless of if you're there or not you get a salary.

As far as the holiday days, staff has pretty much set their schedule.

I know I've never once said to staff that you can't have this day and you can't have that day or holidays are included or not.

So you guys have pretty much set your own schedule.

So I don't understand about the holidays, why don't you just take them off? I'm getting confused by this.

And these contracts almost a month off for 12 months of service when basically you're temporary employees.

I have an issue with that.

It's not like full time.

And don't think I don't appreciate the work that you guys put in because I know you put in long hours.

But yet you guys make your own hours.

I've never once seen a breakdown of the hours you put in and I'm not saying you don't.

But I don't understand how this paid time off is supposed to work when you're salaried already if you need time off, take it off.

I don't understand why doing this amendment.

I'm definitely not for doing a payout above and beyond what the contract price was.

So those are just my thoughts.

I mean no disrespect to anybody and that's all I got.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I agree with Rhonda.

But what I wanted to know is staff not taking weekends and holidays? Because I was under the impression that that was what was occurring.

So I am completely against any kind of pay out as well over and above what your contracts say salary.

But I was really under the impression staff was taking weekends and holidays.

So could you answer that, please? Suann?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Yes, as far as I know staff are not taking any holidays and I think most I think we are working most of the weekends.

So I know personally I work 60, 70 hours a week and anticipate Julianne and Edward are doing the same.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Any follow-up Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I think that if you're working that long hours and not able to take the weekend as most other people would do, you obviously need help working and we should look into that.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Commissioner Wagner.
Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON:

>> Commissioner Orton, we need your microphone on.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: We can't hear you.

There you go.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Is that on? Okay, so I agree that they probably need help but for the thing that's before us I would like to put forth a motion that we adopt option one.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner or General Counsel could you clarify what the distinction is between option one and option two for the Commission?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Certainly Madam Chair so option one that is before the Commission would include the paid time off and the set holidays which are the State of Michigan observed holidays set forth in the proposed amendment.

As a part of the rate of pay that's currently in the employment contracts.

Option two is the option that Executive Director referenced which is that the paid time off would be any unused paid time off would be paid out at the end of the contract period.

And that, again, would be a portion of the rate of pay and would modify that rate of pay. So the first option one is the days are included in the established rate of pay and option two it would be above that.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you General Counsel.
Go ahead Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Could you clarify on option one how many days of PTO? Per month?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: The current language and option in all of the options, Commissioner Clark, through the Chair is that they would be accrued at a rate of two business days per complete month worked.

So that would be one day biweekly, you know, one day every other week for full time work.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay and your definition of PTO includes vacation and other times such as healthcare and so forth.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: As I love to say Commissioner Clark what I think doesn't matter but what is in the text is that PTO may be used as individual or consecutive days off and it may be used as vacation time, sick time or to take care of personal matters.

So it would be all inclusive.

The only distinction would be between the paid time off days that an employee would select versus Section 3.4 which are the holidays which the employee would not select.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Correct.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Neither are addressed in the current correct.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: I will second Cynthia's motion.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Any additional comments? I have one but I want to make sure someone else doesn't first.

To clarify my understanding is choice one is not treating the PTO as earned and not paying it out at the end of the contract.

Option two is paying at the end of the contract; is that correct?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: That is correct Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I want to comment on option two because that is the one, I'm in favor of.

We know our staff are overworking working 60 to 70 hours a week giving PTO is meaningless if they can't take it and if they can't take it then that should be paid out at the end of their contract.

Because they weren't able to enjoy the PTO during the time.

I think we have a problem we need to hire more staff but giving people PTO if they can't use it is really a meaningless gesture, I prefer to have it something that accrues and is earned and if they can't take those say ten days or whatever it turns out to be then that should be paid at the end of the contract because they did not get to use the PTO so I would personally be in favor of option two, I think that is pretty standard at companies nowadays you earn the PTO and gets paid out and particularly in a situation where we know that our staff are overworking and giving them PTO is not likely to result in them actually taking time off right now.

I think it would be nice to give them that additional pay at the end to represent the time they did not get to take off during the contract.

Any additional comments or discussion? We have a motion on the floor by Commissioner Orton, seconded by Commissioner Clark to adopt option one.

Which is the first amendment to the employment contract presented to everybody.

General Counsel, do we need to do these one by one per person? Or can we do them in a bulk of.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair the language in all three documents for both option one and two is identical aside from the name of the employee and the dates that their original contracts were signed so it would be appropriate to move all of them at once.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay so then assuming you are okay with it Commissioner Orton that it includes all of at this time I would like to call that for a vote if

there is no further discussion and I would actually ask Department of State we take this on a roll call vote.

This is for just to clarify the motion is to adopt option one which is the option that does not have the pay out of unused time at the end of the contract.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you Madam Chair, please indicate your support of the motion with a yes or no and I will call Commissioners name in alphabetical order starting with Rebecca Szetela?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Doug Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: One moment, please.

Thank you for your patience.

By a vote of 7 in favor to 4 the motion carries.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you very much.

All right moving on to our next item of unfinished business, 5B additional information regarding system security plan exception, Executive Director Hammersmith, are you handling this?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Yes, thank you Commissioner Szetela.

So we had a meeting yesterday regarding the systems security plan exception that the Commission approved last week.

But you had asked for additional information on that.

So we wanted to come back with you.

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That meeting included Gina Hyde and Autumn Howke from MDOS as well as Sarah Reinhardt and Mike Brady and General Counsel Pastula and myself.

So the key discussion points from that were there are three primary risks and they are confidentiality, availability and integrity.

So regarding confidentiality the information on the mapping system is basically available to the public and through the Internet, my Districting so since it's public data that is utilized to build out the database, that there is no personal information contained in that database, so that should be a solid point for the Commission.

The confidentiality will be fine.

Availability would be if your software goes down.

So the software may go down.

If it does, we do have an agreement with our mapping firm that high service area will be critical service will be resolved in three hours, high service in four hours, medium service in two business days.

There is unlimited telephone and online support 24/7.

However, if DTMB detects an issue they will either shut down the database if it's system wide or if it occurs on one Commissioner's computer then they would shut down that computer.

And they would have to work with the contractor to bring the software back up.

And if they shut down your computer because something has come in, then you would have to have your computer wiped and rebuilt.

So that's what would happen with availability.

On integrity they said well we can't really assess integrity because we are not doing the 3-6 month security plan but the contractor in the contract says they will monitor and proactive monitoring 24/7 for all hosted functions, the servers, the firewall, and other components of the system.

High volumes of activity sometimes cause systems to crash, but I don't know if it would be other people, there is only going to be 13 Commissioners or and 11 who want it right now.

And a couple of staff members on this software at any given time so I can't imagine how that would crash your software.

So they also suggested some actions, the Commissioners can take, and I will send you this link.

There is a cyber security training that is required of all state employees.

And they highly recommended that all Commissioners take this training.

And I will send you that link.

It's called the new employee security awareness training.

They suggested strong passwords, never use a password a second time.

Use the dual authentication.

Be very careful when opening e-mails.

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If you see anything unusual don't dismiss it.

And if you see things changing that you don't think should be changing report it immediately.

So those were their suggestions to the Commissioners.

On the security.

So that really updates I think you with what they feel the risks are.

The Commissioner did vote last week to go ahead without this system security, to do the systems security plan exception so not go through the whole process for the security.

So if you have questions, I'm available to answer them.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Suann I do have a question.

You mentioned that staff wanted the software put on their computers as well.

And I'm wondering why that is necessary, thank you.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Yeah, I really didn't want it but Kim told me I had to have it.

You know the only reason we have it is to help Commissioners.

So Edward was interested in having it on his computer as am I since I'm told I needed it.

But again that would only be to assist the Commissioners in some way.

It would not be because we are doing any mapping.

That is the Commission job, not ours.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA:

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Thank you then I will save that question.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I'm sorry is Commissioner Wagner what was the second part of what you said?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I will save that question for Kim and ask him why staff why it's necessary, thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Kim is here if you want him to answer right now.

He is in the room with us.

Do you want him to address that?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Sure, I would love it, thanks.

>> KIM BRACE: Sure this is Kim Brace coming to you live from Detroit.

It's exciting to be here.

We have always thought that the staff is very useful to have access to the system.

They would then become familiar with it.

And be able to handle any kind of emergency first off if that's the case.

More than likely they will elevate it to us to deal with anything.

But they would be one of your first contacts.

And so having them have access to the system, we always have thought that as key.

Not that they would end up necessarily drawing districts themselves.

But they could.

But it's your guys' responsibility as Commissioners to be the line drawers and the map drawers.

Staff is there to assist on that side.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Mr. Brace.

Does that answer your question, Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Not really considering the push back we had wanting the software on our computers in the first place.

So, no, it doesn't really answer the question but thanks any way.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay Commissioner Lange I saw you had your hand up, do you still have a question?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes, Sue based off the notes that you read so as far as the Department of State is concerned there is no concern on their end of, say, an entire infrastructure breach of their program.

So there is no repercussions we have to worry about.

It's more or less narrowed down to those three possible scenarios, they are not worried about hackers getting into our stuff and crashing the whole state department.

Because when I asked the question that's kind of what I was leaning towards.

Is that something that could happen? And if so, are we responsible in any way for it.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: So the State of Michigan diligently watches for any kind of malware or any issues on the state system.

They are watching us all the time.

They are the watchdog because we have the state computers.

They said more than likely should anything happen, it might be a single person who would allow something into the system.

They shut that down immediately.

The option of an individual being able to crash the state system is not likely at all.

I mean, it's just I can't say it would never, ever, ever happen because people are trying all the time.

But we have a commitment from our mapper to have and Fred who has the software to have the firewalls in place.

And I also see Sarah wants to comment on this.

>> KIM BRACE: I would add that we spend about 2, 2.5 hours on the phone this morning with the state people in terms of configuration.

And I think we've got a mechanism to help that process forward.

But, certainly, it is key to being the security that they have installed themselves on that side.

So I think we will be okay.

Just make sure that you're not opening some strange e-mail.

KBrace@AOL everybody should know that and that is me.

I also do KBrace@Election Data Services.

If you get something other than those two and it says Kim Brace, don't open it on that side.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: A quick "Yes" or "No" can I get a "Yes" or "No" if it were to happen the chances are very slim probably next to nothing if it were to happen this Commission is not held responsible in any way, shape or form correct not monetarily, not in any way.

That is my question and what I asked last week just a simple "Yes" or "No" is all I want to know.

Just to set my mind at ease.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I don't know you're the right one to answer that Mr. Brace so feel free not to answer that and I don't think it's addressed to you.

General Counsel, do you want to weigh in on that?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Certainly Madam Chair so the answer and I'm going to subdivide it Commissioner Lange because you snuck in two questions so the answer to the first part of the question is yes.

That is our understanding that it is very unlikely, but the possibility always does exist as the Executive Director indicated.

And also wanting to reiterate what Mr. Brace said about not clicking links from e-mails that are unknown.

That apparently is one of the largest indicators and the most common way of malware. The yes-or-no answers the second part of your question which would be the liability to the Commission or individual Commissioners, that depends on what happens and how it happens and how it unfolds.

But, again, they were indicating that a total system shut down was highly unlikely, that it would generally affect one individual Commissioner's computer, that would be the source of that issue.

And so hopefully the second part was not a yes-or-no answer but hopefully it was responsive to your question.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Do you have a follow-up Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: It's not responsive to my question.

And I will let it go back because it doesn't sound like I'm going to get an answer but that was my question last week.

When I abstained because there wasn't enough information.

My specific question was would this Commission be held accountable in any way monetarily or otherwise? And so now it's saying maybe, maybe not.

So I think I'm just as confused now as what I was last week but I will yield the floor back because we've got a lengthy agenda so thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Commissioner Lange. Seeing no further questions, oh, Commissioner Weiss go ahead.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Mr. Brace I have a question I heard many years ago about software downloads.

And a friend of mine who did a little bit of work he said there is always a backdoor built into the software for maybe that individual to get in.

I guess I understand maybe the state being a little hesitant to do this.

I think was in last week's meeting.

Do you know if I guess you can't really answer that I suppose because but I think it's a possibility that that does happen, you think? Thank you.

>> KIM BRACE: You have I guess anything is possible these days and ages on that side.

I think what we have tried to set up and what the state has set up greatly prevents that sort of thing.

That's the key from our side.

We talked with the people this morning and we are actually going to work with you today and tomorrow morning in terms of installing some of the software.

They will come on to your computers.

They being the state.

And be able to install.

So they are doing the install on your computers.

It's not us.

We are helping to configure it.

But we went through that all 2.5 hours this morning.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Thank you.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: So I think again it would be important to highlight that the DTMB the department of technology management and budget that we were meeting with on the cyber security issues again the purpose of the system security plan is to identify those risks.

So they have -- that would be the process by which to do that.

I would also note that other agencies in the State of Michigan Government have used this software in the past.

So while that is not you know dispositive in this regard that this is not a quote new software in this environment.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you General Counsel.
Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I can appreciate Commissioner Lange's concern of whether or not we would be liable monetarily or otherwise.

However, there is no requirement that any of us individually download the program.

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So if that is a concern, which obviously it is, she always has the option not to download the program and just use off the Internet.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you I would also add as an individual user, we have the ability to choose strong passwords, to choose our own activities on clicking on links all of those things they teach you in security training make our use of this program more secure and that really falls on the individual user.

I can tell you from working in the security industry and the IT space that most security breaches are actually caused by people compromising their passwords.

That is the cause of almost all security breaches is someone has compromised a password.

All right any additional questions or discussion? All right I think we are going to move on at this point to our new business.

Agenda 6A which is now downloading mapping software on Commissioner laptops.

If we have no objections, we will proceed with that agenda item.

And hearing no objections it's back to you again, Executive Director Hammersmith.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Thank you Commissioner Szetela so the Commissioners who want the software on their computer should have received an e-mail requiring you to fill out a very short form.

You need to put in your computer name, so that and actually Dustin is probably the best one to help you if you need it on break.

But you need to put in your computer name, the computer agency, they have a drop down list.

So we will have to use MDOS because we are part of affiliated with MDOS.

The reason for this is administrator rights are required to use Autobound edge because they will be providing additional software as they get new data sets for example.

The legacy data or the census data.

So simply and the reason why you need this put admin rights required to use Autobound edge software for the MICRC then you have to scroll down and hit agree and submit.

I almost forgot to do that after I filled out the form.

They also wanted a master list of Commissioner names and your computer name.

So if you will provide your computer just e-mail your computer name to me, I will make sure that they get a master list and then they will follow-up.

The reason I stepped out a minute ago for a phone call was from one of the people we were meeting with this morning.

And because of there is no state Internet system in this room, we need to go to a different spot in the building to be part of the state Internet because the software is downloading in like two hours and that is not a practical way to do it.

I mean it should be very, very quick if you're on state Internet.

So Sarah agreed to help Commissioners if you receive a teams invite to get the software downloaded, she will help you get to the appropriate place.

So you can get on the state network to do that.

If we can do a person at a time during the meeting or if we want to take a break to do that, I'm not sure how long it would take to take care of all Commissioners.

But, again, we can help access that today.

So you can have the software you need in order to work with tomorrow, which Kim would really like you to have.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Executive Director Hammersmith.

Any comments or discussion?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: I put in MDOS simply because that's who we work with, Sarah, am I in trouble? Yeah, I don't know is legislature an option? I don't think it is.

It has to be a department.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Was the link you sent us where that form was supposed to be? Because I know I was not able to open that link.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: In order for that link to work Rhonda you have to use your VPN on your computer, log in that way.

It's a state site.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: All right would that include if it were on the phone too? Does it have to be on the laptop? Because it wouldn't open it on the phone either.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: That I don't know.

All I know is that they came into my computer, they said I needed a VPN into it too to open that link and I said okay let me do that real quick then I can open it.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'll try that then.

Thank you.

>> KIM BRACE: That would be the same for Erin also since she is remote and anybody else that is not here that would be remote, we need to be cognizant of them too.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So you only need to use the VPN if you are remote, if you are in the building you don't have to.

>> KIM BRACE: From my understanding you will go someplace and maybe that is where the VPN gets you in or something.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: It's automatically connected.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: This is Sarah Reinhardt with the Department of State and Commissioners who are here in person you will be able to connect to the state network Wi-Fi so you will not need to connect to your VPN.

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But for Commissioners who are remote you will need to connect to your VPN to connect to the state network.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay thank you very much.

Any additional questions or discussion? All right hearing none let's move on to our next agenda item.

Which is new business which is now 6B budget update resolution 20210708.

Without objection I will ask Executive Director Hammersmith to provide information on the budget.

Hearing no objections please proceed Executive Director Hammersmith.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Thank you Commissioner Szetela.

Provided for your information is a budget in the same format that you have seen before. I did add the very last column which is a projected plus or minus.

It appears that some of the budget will be over.

Some will be under.

Which is very typical in a budget.

Especially when you're starting something new like this.

Commissioner, if you look at the lines, I did number them this time and line one is legislative appropriation for this fiscal year which ends September 30th.

Lines two and three and four are salaries.

Five and six are general mileage and travel, so the amount that's been expended is in there.

Then additional projected numbers are there and they total the approved budget column.

For technology, again that is line seven and eight we've added technology.

And then when you get down to nine there is a green line, if you copied in color and gray if you printed that it says in person meetings facility and AV.

When we started this budget, we did not know that the MICRC was going to have to pay for the AV for our in person meetings.

And if we have to get a facility and the reason we may have to get or pay for a facility would be that we have September meetings scheduled that go until 7:00 p.m. and if we are going to be in a state facility, we have to be out at 5:00 or 5:30 at the latest.

So we either have to consider the cost of paying for rooms or getting hotels to give us rooms if we stay there.

Or maybe ending our meetings at 5:00.

So just I share that for you to think on that.

It will be approximately 50,000 to pay for the AV through September for the meetings. Averaging out the cost for this vendor in Detroit and the vendor we used in Lansing.

For in person meetings, there is -- I added meals and hotel to that.

That was not in the budget either.

I didn't add or change any numbers, but I just added those categories to item number ten.

11 is public hearings.

Edward did a phenomenal job getting public hearings to come in at significantly less than budget.

We knocked 40,000 off his budget when we amended it in May.

I'm going to ask you to take 40,000 from that line item and ten from the town halls which is line 15 and put that up in line nine to cover the AV for our future meetings through this fiscal year.

That is my recommendation today.

The lines 11-14 are all the public hearing costs that have been incurred so far, if Commissioners have not turned in reports for any of those meetings, please get them to me as soon as possible.

Ideally, very quickly so we can get them paid out yet this month.

Our consultant line items come next, 16, 17 and 18.

And what the expected pay outs are through September.

And the area of communications and outreach, we have 221,000 expended.

About 70,000 that has been committed for a total of 290 and we have 109,000 left in that area.

And then lastly office supplies and continuing education.

When you come down to the yellow highlight the balance of the appropriation that is unspent at this point is 139,000 so we have that for additional expenses we may incur prior to year-end.

And then very lastly a recommendation that we amend this budget to move 40,000 from line item 11, which is the public hearings facility AV security and parking, and 10,000 from line item 15 which is town halls to the new line item 9 for in person meetings facilities and AV.

Any questions?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I would like to put a motion forward that we make those changes that you just identified sue.

>> Second.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Motion made by Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Witjes to adopt the proposed changes to the budget proposed by Executive Director Hammersmith.

Is there any discussion? Steve did you have anything? Okay Dustin beat you. Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yeah, I just wanted to say for line item 11 public hearings, that's the number for all 16 of the public hearings we've had already?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: That is but there may be some outstanding bills from those.

Not a lot.

I think we have tracked down almost everything.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I just wanted to say that is pretty impressive.

That is under 15,000 a meeting so great job to the staff on you know keeping the bills as low as they can be and if you were to ask me just from being there, I would have expected them to cost much more than that in total so I agree with the proposed motion. I just wanted to thank you all.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: And thank Edward.

He did the heavy lift for those.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Edward.

All right seeing no further discussion, at this point we will we have a motion by Commissioner Clark to amend the budget utilizing that resolution 20210708 seconded by Commissioner Witjes all in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

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

Okay the motion carries and the resolution is adopted.

We will now move on to new business, boy I can't talk new business agenda item 6C. Without objection I will ask Executive Director Hammersmith to provide information regarding future audio visual procurement.

Hearing no objection please proceed director Hammersmith.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Well, as you know we have been doing emergency procurements for the meetings in Lansing because the AV wasn't able to even see the facility or get in and really assess the needs until the day before the meeting so that necessitated those.

What we would like to do is have a process going forward whereby we can utilize vendors who have who we have used through the public hearing process.

Have those on a list.

And go through the same process where Edward would negotiate with those vendors to try to get the best price for the facility we will be in.

MDOS does schedule the meeting space for us.

So and it's harder to find right now because people are going back to work.

So they assure us they are working diligently to get space for us.

They had to bump some people out of this room I think next week for us.

But we will be here again next week also.

So they are doing their best to get the meetings booked as much ahead of time as possible.

However if you would allow us to use vendors we've previously utilized we know the quality of the service they provide.

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We can get pricing from Chase Creative, there is two Encores spelled differently premier and blue water we use at the hearings and I would appreciate for me to be able to execute the contracts that you just approved budget for going forward at least through the fiscal year which is September 30th again.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.

Any comments or discussion? Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, I'd like to put a motion forward that we give the staff the authorization and flexibility to negotiate the contracts in our best interest.

>> Second.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Just to clarify is the motion to adopt the resolution that was presented 20210709? Is that what we are moving?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Yes please.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: We have a motion by Commissioner Clark to adopt resolution 20210709 seconded by Commissioner Witjes.

Is there I'm sorry Mr. Lett, sorry.

Is there any discussion on the motion? All right seeing none let's move ahead with our vote all in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

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

The ayes have it and the motion is adopted.

We are now going to move forward to new business agenda item 6D.

Without objection I will ask communications and Outreach Director Edward woods III to provide information on this item.

Hearing no objections please proceed director Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you and before you is from the Michigan association of broadcasters.

Earlier today I sent you the proposal they provided because we are a Government entity, we get a special rate for advertising on commercial television stations as well as public television stations and you notice it came in under the 50,000 and the resolution but I do want to make sure that they included the Michigan coverage of Wisconsin, Indiana and Ohio.

They have not gotten back to me with regards to that.

And so if it's okay with you, I would like it to be up to 50,000 but you see the proposal that was e-mailed.

If there is any questions, I can take them at this time.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I'll put forth the motion to adopt resolution 2021710.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA:

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Can I ask a question before we do that, please?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Sure go ahead Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Communications director, Mr. Woods, I just wanted to make sure that that 50,000 is already included in your budget.

And if it is, why do we need to vote on it? If it's already approved in your budget.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: We have been bringing everything back to the Commission but you're absolutely correct.

It's in the budget.

Commissioner Wagner.

But we brought the billboard advertising to the Commission for vote.

We brought the media to the Commission.

With regards to voting.

And so we are just following the same process for open and transparency.

But if the Commission would like to change the process more than happy to hear and follow that process as well.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: To build on director woods' statement, the -- any expenditures over 5,000 need to be approved by the Commission.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Any additional questions Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: No, thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Edward I have a question.

Can you have just explain to me I just didn't understand what it means when you say the Indiana, Wisconsin part of the Michigan.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: For example I grew up in Berrien county we do not have Michigan channels we have Indiana and in the UP towards the west they have Wisconsin channels and, in the south, they use Ohio channels.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I see thank you.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: No problem.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: In looking at the map, and I see that they are using basically WCMU is it possible to use WICA up in Traverse City which is the Interlochen public radio.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: These are television stations.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: No, these are all TV stations.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Yes, and then there is two, one has the public television and then there is another map that has the commercial television stations.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I just assumed they were radio, sorry.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Commissioner Lett.

All right at this point we have a motion to adopt the resolution 202107 at 10TV media buys to increase awareness and engagement.

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Do I have a second on that motion? Seconded by Commissioner Clark.

Is there any further discussion or debate on the motion? Seeing none let's move forward with our vote.

All in favor of adopting resolution 20210710 please raise your hand and say aye
>> Aye.

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

We are now going to move on to new actually before we do this, because we do not have an...our Chair Commissioner Kellom is not here today and I am the Vice Chair, I want to designate Commissioner Clark to be acting Chair in the event I need to step out of the room and I want to take care of that now for the record just in case I need to step away during this meeting because we do have a few hours booked today.

Now I would like to move on to new business agenda item 6E without objection I will ask Kim Brace from Election Data Services to work with the Commission on determining geographic regions on which to begin mapping.

Hearing no objection please proceed, Mr. Brace.

>> KIM BRACE: Thank you, Commissioner.
It's a pleasure to be with you and not having to be on Zoom.
In my basement on that side.

So what we wanted to do this afternoon is talk about what your homework assignment has been.

As you recall when we met last week, I asked everyone to get on to the Internet web capabilities that we set up.

And to draw some regions.

We set up a number of different possibilities to draw.

And I think everyone has gotten into the system.

Let me ask the general question if anybody has not been able to get in.

Juanita, you haven't been? Okay, so we will have to work with you in terms of trying to figure out what's going on, on your machine.

I know Steve had some problems and I worked with him a couple of days to get him on to the system.

At least initially and then he couldn't get on and then he got on again.

So we will have to see what's going on.

I'm going to end up sharing my screen so that we can show some of what we have been seeing.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Can I interrupt Cynthia has a question as well.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Just for reference I was able to get in and do the homework but now I can't get in so.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay, I don't know if it's a question in terms of the Internet here.
There was a question of whether or not we could get in Internet wise.

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I'm hard wired.

So I'm not on the Wi-Fi.

So that would be thank Heavens we have a technically inclined Commissioner.

We can go over.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: We can continue on, Kim, as they resolve the technical issue.

>> KIM BRACE: Right.

So I am sharing my screen.

I have lots of different things on my screen.

I'm not at home where I would have dual monitors.

So I have to kind of hide or be underneath the single monitor that I have.

What we have, if you recall last week, there are two systems set up for the Internet system.

We have an administrator side of the equation, which is the screen that I'm showing you now.

Which is what I can see has taken place on your side.

Let me see if I can, I didn't want to do that one.

Let me back up to full screen.

It's not the right one.

Let me go down.

I grabbed the wrong screen.

Okay, we will move everybody's pictures off to the side.

So this is the administrative screen that I end up seeing.

This is -- I can see who signed on in terms of users.

And so I can see that people have signed on and they have been verified.

The system is set up so that you can verify yourself and get on.

But I can also verify you on that side.

So that is there from my side.

And we have just about -- I haven't cross checked this against everybody, but I have it other than Juanita everybody else has gotten on and signed into the system.

That's the key on the first pass.

So yes Steve.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I don't know how it's working for other people, but I cannot sign in as we went through before off the Internet.

I have to go back to where Sarah gave me a link and that one is working.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay, so Sarah, on your side you had given a link into this Wi-Fi that Steve has? Or this was Wi-Fi that you had even at home, you had to do, right?

>> I did the same thing.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I did the same thing, I came through outlook which is a little different than the Internet.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: A little different with edge.

>> KIM BRACE: What you have we are operating off of a browser and so the browser has basically been Microsoft edge that is not Autobound edge.

It's Microsoft edge.

It's their browser.

It used to be Internet explorer if you remember the old days.

That is not as secure.

And so we have moved away from Internet explorer.

Some of the early people that may have tried to get on had some problems with Internet explorer.

But that's been basically disabled by Microsoft.

So we are trying to move everybody over to either edge or chrome or fire Fox.

All three of those browsers will work fine.

But I don't know how much the various computers that you have from the state will let you do other browsers.

And I don't think so, right, Sue?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: We have edge on the state computers so you should go through edge, Microsoft edge.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: When I click on the link, we were sent it automatically prompts in Internet explorer if I copy the web address and goes back into edge it worked fine.

>> KIM BRACE: It worked fine at that point, yes.

So I think we do have everybody at least able to get in.

At one point in time.

We will work with you Juanita on your side.

And then what we asked everybody to start looking at is creating plans.

And so I'm in the administrator's plan manager.

This is different than your plan so I just flipped over to the user side which is what you see okay? You have a dashboard that tells us everybody that is online or on the system.

It also has a plan manager similar to what you see in the administrative side.

This lets us see all the different plans that people have come in on.

As a user.

So this is what you would end up seeing.

So if the so if the map you created, you are going to see your own here in plan manager.

And as administrator I see all the plans is basically the difference of what we are seeing.

And in plan editor this is your plan editor the user, that is where you can end up editing a plan and it would bring up the image of the state on that side now, I'm right now

configured for slightly different because I'm going to end up showing you stuff, we will do tomorrow and you will see the entire state and the entire state is assignment on your side.

If I go in to, no, if I go into the plan manager on the administrator side here again is where I'm seeing all of your great activities and people have been going hog wild on drawing regions which is great.

We if you recall we set up originally, we had nine regions and then we expanded it to ten regions.

And then last week on Friday I e-mailed to everybody that we had expanded the number of regions and asked you to experiment.

We set up region possibilities anywhere from five regions up to 14 regions.

And we wanted you to see what the impact would be as you started to increase the number of regions you are drawing.

The same impact you will see when you are doing the Congressional districts versus the State House versus the State Senate.

Keep in mind we are dealing with three different levels of geography from your main task so we are trying to kind of simulate that same kind of thought process that we want you to go through in this instance in terms of the regions.

And so we ended up setting up four or five, six, seven all the way up to 14.

I asked all of you to draw four districts.

Then to draw 14 districts.

And then given those outer perimeters, look towards what might make the most sense from your side in terms of how many regions.

We started you off with nine.

You know, do you come back to nine? Do you go something in a seven or eight? Do you do 12 or 13? We wanted to let you get the experience of different kinds of scenario possibilities.

And so we see that people have been going hog wild.

Rhonda, you have been doing tremendously up there on your own in terms of drawing different districts and different number of regions.

Cynthia has a whole bunch of different tests on that side.

And I'm showing you my screen so I'm seeing you know Steve has got a bunch of them. And all sorts of different possibilities.

Has everybody been able to draw something? Let me ask that question first.

Besides Juanita, I know you've had a problem.

Everybody else has been able to draw? Erin and Rhonda? Erin you're not able to.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I am not, I was actually locked out of my state computer until yesterday.

>> KIM BRACE: We need to work with you remotely in terms of seeing what is happening.

Rhonda, have you been okay? I see you have different plan possibilities it looks like you at least have been successful in getting in.

Okay, good.

Okay, so what I wanted to do today is kind of lead a discussion for all of you to look at and think of and give us your feedback and your views on what you think makes the right number of regions to describe the State of Michigan.

These are regions just for the practice purposes.

They are not based on population if you recall.

You do have when you open up the plan, you see what the populations are.

And what you have drawn.

But these are regions just in geographic nature for you to think about.

I know Richard you came to me and said that you had tried to balance some of your regions in terms of equal population and discovered that was kind of hard when I kept you just at the county level and Wayne is a little bit big, right? So it's difficult to create that.

That was partly on design.

I knew that would probably be the case that you would have that difficulty on that side. Because you'll start seeing that as you start looking at drawing districts, you may need to get down to lower geographic levels to be able to see things and do things.

I kind of kept you at the highest level this last week, but we are going to turn you loose to start playing with lower geographic levels also.

But for right now I just wanted to get your feedback and your thoughts as you have gone forward in terms of doing the regions.

And for each of you what seemed to make sense and what didn't, what difficulties you might have had, what -- how easy was it, all of that sort of thing so Dustin?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I just had a quick question because I wasn't here on Friday but tried to pay attention as best as I could.

If I submit a plan I can't open it again, is that by design?

>> KIM BRACE: No, you should be able to submit it and if it's been submitted, you still should be able to open it.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: What I'm seeing is that the status is submitted and open validate buttons are grayed out to the point I can't do anything.

Like they don't highlight like yours are once I submit them.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay, so as a user, you're not able to open.

If I go over to my user screen, and particularly, oops, I wanted to really look over here at the plans.

So MC is not here and Dustin, that's you.

So you've submitted, okay, yeah, as a user I see you're not able to open either.

As a user on your own.

Okay, I'll have to ask Fred.

Did you do the validation process?

>> FRED HEJAZI: I did to make sure.

>> KIM BRACE: It looks like you did do the validation from that side.

So sorry MC is not here to see these also.

So I can open up each of your plans if you want me to go through and show what you have drawn, I can do that.

Because I can do that as an administrator.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: If you want to put me on the spot go ahead, start with the seven one.

>> KIM BRACE: So the number seven, the seven one, okay.

Okay so your seven districts, is that your final thoughts and recommendations? Or.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: That was the number of regions I thought would be best suited for the state based on my personal opinions when I was doing it.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay, so in your mind, UP would not be separated from upper Michigan then.

You combine them together.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I did, yes.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay, that's fine.

And reasoning behind that? What kind of communities of interest did you see in that side?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Well, heavy forest, all rural for the most part.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: When I travel up to my cap bin it's forest land and goes up to who knows where.

>> KIM BRACE: You just want to be in District one, right? So, okay, good.

These are all acceptable reasons in terms of doing regions.

Sometimes they are acceptable reasons for doing districts also.

So just looking at that from a variety of different possibilities is what we are looking at.

And so the other question I would have for you, Dustin, is that you're not looking at Wayne being by itself.

You're looking at a more regional approach for the Wayne, Detroit area?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Yeah, I looked at the like the greater Lansing area, the greater Detroit area for the blue one and the yellow one that is where Wayne County is.

>> KIM BRACE: Yeah, I think it comes in as orange here.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Yes, so greater Detroit area, greater Lansing area Mid-Michigan thumb and Bay and then the Lake Michigan shoreline.

Plus the border counties.

>> KIM BRACE: All right that sounds good.

Okay, so let me ask you one other question then.

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In the thumb area, you have not included Saginaw.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: That would have been a miss click.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay, all right.

So you would put Saginaw in with the thumb?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Correct yes.

>> KIM BRACE: We have in the second one we are going to do tomorrow so we went back and forth on that one last night in trying to do that.

Sorry to pick on you, Dustin.

But I just wanted to highlight some of the differences on that side.

Okay, all right, that's good.

Who else wants to be guinea pigs? Doug?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, I have a plan that Rebecca and I discussed the other day.

It's number test plan number five.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay, I've got.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: It's got ten regions.

>> KIM BRACE: The ten regions for Doug.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Test plan five.

It should be down toward the bottom.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: And I did this one at the end after I did all the others because it made sense to me.

>> KIM BRACE: Test plan five, okay.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Plan five, yes.

>> KIM BRACE: All right, I will bring that one up.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Let me explain where I got the regions from.

How I did the regions.

And then we will have some discussion about the Lansing and the Detroit area.

The regions came from what were the state and the Federal Government has defined as our opportunity zones.

And the Federal Government created opportunity zones from the 2017 tax cuts and jobs act.

But those are the zones, not the regions.

The regions from what I can understand consolidated certain opportunity zones and it was done by the state.

Okay? To manage it.

This is commonly used in the state Government.

This map.

So I wanted to put it in front of everybody so they understood how it was done.

Now, if you notice, Detroit area consists of Metro Detroit itself and Macomb and Oakland County both.

But Oakland and Macomb County are the major suburbs coming from there.

And my opinion, personal Ann Arbor should be included, but I didn't want to split that County because I feel that is a major suburb of Detroit as well.

And one of the items we got at the public hearings out of Kalamazoo and Battle Creek and Jackson was that the west half of the Washtenaw County was rural and really associated with us but we don't want to be associated with Ann Arbor.

Because they have different values than we do.

Their values are more associated with Detroit.

And then the Lansing area is the other one with high concentration of people. So that is smaller.

And I think that is acceptable to be small like that because we are going to have more districts.

So it may be easier to work with.

But that's where these regions came from.

They are a standard used in the state and it's ten regions.

And I found by going through the exercise with the five regions and the ten regions and the 15 regions that either eight or nine or ten would be acceptable to work with.

And in this instance, I chose ten.

And I thought that that would be a good way to move forward with it.

Rebecca may have some comments on this as well.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, I just like this because I think it's and this is something I brought up last week I was looking at the state star map, which is eight, this is the economic development which is ten.

I think either one of those maps would work.

>> KIM BRACE: I know you worked on the eight one last week.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I did not hit submit and I don't know if you can see it or not.

>> KIM BRACE: I can and probably will.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I have one that has the eight regions and that is the safe start plan and used throughout the state Government for different purposes.

But I think operating off of one of these plans that is already in existence that's widely accepted widely used I think is kind of an easy and safe starting spot for us.

I think just looking at the plans they make sense.

They are sort of centered around you know economic areas and you know we can all agree on what those are and maybe we have some disagreement but my plan is similar to his with two less districts so I think either one of those, they are both standardized plans and think they work well for dividing up the state.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay, all right, so you can end up seeing these within the system, one of the things I'm going to do for everybody is right now you are in here as a user. I'm going to elevate all of you guys to administrators. So that you can end up seeing the other person's plans that are here. You will be able to see everybody's plans. And be able to look at them. My preference would be don't make changes to them. You know, if you like something, then you can clone and copy it to make, you know, Kim's version of Anthony's plan or whatever the case may be. But please try to keep, you know, what people have done as theirs so that we have kind of a record of it. But certainly giving you the capabilities of seeing what everybody has done is what I wanted to move towards and giving you administrative side to be able to see that. You will be able to see that in that instance similarly.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I just wanted to add one comment on the ten versus this, what is up for everybody is the eight District plan and I actually prefer Doug's to this because I feel like the District eight which is the Metro Detroit area is significantly broader than what most people would think of Metro Detroit area and that is a huge population covered in those areas because you've got I think you have Flint in there too so you have Flint and Oakland or maybe that is Livingston I think Flint may be just above it but that is a huge population area where if you look at Doug's plan it's a little more focal to Ann Arbor and focal to the Lansing area and that huge direction eight is actually chopped up a little bit differently so it's more manageable.

>> KIM BRACE: You can see down on the bottom of the spreadsheet yeah you have in District eight you have 5.2 million people. Now, these are the estimates coming from the Census Bureau. These are not the final ones but that is what you are seeing in this instance. So you can see how big it is. If you go back in to let's see Doug yours was towards the bottom.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: It's plan 53 if that helps.

>> KIM BRACE: 53.

So opening that one back up again. So, you know, just the three counties you have for Wayne and District ten you've got 3.8 million compared to 5.2 million. Just in the difference between those two. So that helps show some of the distinctions and differentials on that side in that regard.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: These are state defined regions used for other things.

>> KIM BRACE: Yes, and again that is what the design was is to look at territory as opposed to number of people but also you need to see the number of people does make a difference on these.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: When you have three counties and it's highly densely population, you're going to have more districts, particularly with the house, State House and the State Senate.

>> KIM BRACE: That's right and that is part of the key to keep in mind as we move towards the District sides of things.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: What I like about it I felt that approach with the high density districts is more manageable when we go to create the house and the Senate districts.

>> KIM BRACE: Yes.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: So that caught my attention.
And thanks to Rebecca.

She brought this up in the last meeting.

And I thought this was a decent approach.

So I wanted to share it with everybody.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay, great, others? Anthony?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yeah, I agree.

I quite like this break down of the regions.

I like that they are, you know, state defined and more economically based and because there is ten of them and they are a little bit more focal that makes them easier to turn in to what we eventually have to come up with which is the 13 Congressional or 38 State Senate and 110 House Districts.

Yes, so I really like that one.

That was just displayed.

>> KIM BRACE: So you created two yourself, right?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Madam Chair can I make a point of order please.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Certainly.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: When we discussed our business process, we said we were going to document major decisions and the e-mail that came out today or yesterday relative to this conversation is we were going to determine the different regions and that is what we would move forward with.

So do we have somebody available that is document that will document this for us as part of our documentation process?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: This can be documented but you are not mapping.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Not yet that is true.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: I thought the documentation you wanted was for the.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: When we define.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Mapping.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Then we did the mapping process be but before the mapping process there were the single items that we were going to address and we didn't talk about in all fairness we didn't talk about documenting that. But as I reflect back on what Kim has said in the past and what Bruce has said in the past document everything. And we decided we are only going to document major decisions. But.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: And you made the major decision to use the regions and that is documented we did a resolution and it's in the minutes to proceed in this manner.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: I would suggest that maybe we make a note of it and whoever is going to do the documentation we can include it in that at some point. Thank you.

>> KIM BRACE: Yeah, the system, the web-based system lets us export a shape file. And an XML file. Both of which are basically map files.

And so that way we can document what each of these plans are.

And so we will do that in terms of all of your plans.

And provide it to Sue in terms of the documentation for the Commission on that side.

Again, by giving you all administrative rights, you will be able to see that yourself and look at these, you know, this evening and whatever in that regard.

I brought up Anthony's second plan and I noted, first off, that he is dividing the UP in half.

So you want to say again.

[Off mic]

So.

>> I'm sorry whatever Anthony's response was I cannot hear it, I'm sorry.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Eid could you turn on your microphone and repeat what you just said.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: No I was just pointing out a text box appeared on the screen.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay so Anthony ended up drawing two districts for the UP why was that?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I split the UP into two different regions just because when I look at it, you know, it's a very large land mass.

And that is pretty much the only reason why regionally I feel like often times the UP gets put up into one conglomerate of being just the UP which you know might be practical for population reasons.

But we are doing this regionally now so I didn't really take population into account when doing it.

>> KIM BRACE: And in the testimony that you have heard when you guys have gone up to the UP, were people making a distinction between the eastern part and the western part?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: They were.

We had a meeting in Marquette where you know one of the things said is oh, you know the UP is always just grouped into one big District because of population.

And then when we were on the east side in a smaller group in Sault Ste. Marie, they echoed the same comment.

We also heard a few people say they would rather see it split up north and south instead of east to west like how I did it in this map.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay.

These will -- keep these in mind as you move forward.

Because clearly when we are doing Congressional districts, I don't think you can cut the UP up for -- it just doesn't have enough to support parts of two Congressional districts on that side.

But clearly when you start looking at State Senate, State House districts then you can start looking at how would you want to depict those districts up in the UP.

And that's one key from that side.

So I'm glad that Anthony moved in that direction to show that kind of circumstance for people to keep in mind.

And then for down state you took kind of a collective, different take on Detroit area, not coming all the way down to the border.

So you think Monroe is more of a border county than a Detroit County area?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I would say so.

Definitely more in the Metro Detroit area is just my opinion.

My District in the Metro Detroit area it's kinds of an in between, between Doug's and Rebecca's that we saw a little while ago.

It's not quite as large as Rebecca's was but not quite as focused as Doug's was.

>> KIM BRACE: Right.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I think it includes Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Livingston and.

>> KIM BRACE: Washtenaw.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

>> KIM BRACE: Yes.

And then the other question I noticed up you have a District nine up here just on the edge of the thumb.

You see that as distinctively different than the thumb region itself basically?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I think that is the sentiment that we heard during our public comments tour is that people in those lakeshore areas that are on the eastern side of

the state or like the mid-eastern side of the state saw themselves a little differently than a little bit more east in the thumb area.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: I would concur with Anthony on that.

What he has in region nine is more the industrial Bay City, Midland, Saginaw where the thumb is purely rural.

>> KIM BRACE: Rural right.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: I think that's a good split.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay, what we have done in looking forward to tomorrow, we have actually combined both of those together.

For the purposes of you being able to start looking at drawing districts in this area, and that is what our exercise tomorrow is going to be, because we recognized a pure rural area as well as the urban area and we have gone down and included Flint on that side and Genesee.

So we wanted to try to get both urban and rural together in an area so that you can start experimenting and seeing what does that mean in terms of drawing the districts.

We will have the entire state ultimately, but for this next exercise of a test plan, not conducive to State Senate, State House or Congressional but just a test plan for you to experiment with tomorrow.

That's what we are going to talk about tomorrow on that side.

But I did want to note that's what we have kind of looked at to experiment with, okay.

.

Other people? Other plans?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I'd love to see one of Rhonda's plans if she has one, she likes a lot.

I don't know if you know the numbers, Rhonda, but.

>> KIM BRACE: Yes, let's see.

Rhonda, we had nine District plan, your first one and I think I saw that we have a Congressional although I think you were trying to experiment with that one if I'm right.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: That was to try and fix the computer issue I believe.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay, but you've got several other different possibilities down here.

So which one would you like to show first?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: It really doesn't matter, so you can pick.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay, I couldn't totally hear what you had to say.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'm sorry I said you can pick because it doesn't matter.

They are all fairly similar except for sizes.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay, all right, so let's go to the other side of the extreme with the 15 districts.

Okay, so you've got 15 districts and you, you started off by starting in Wayne as opposed to going UP.

So immediately we start seeing some differences from that side.

So, Rhonda, you -- tell us your distinctions on this side.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Well, the distinction is Wayne was by itself because of population.

I mean when we are looking at population, we know there is going to be multiple districts in Wayne County because of that.

A lot of the public comment we received was keep rural rural and urban urban so that's the approach I took.

As far as that goes you will notice that Grand Rapids is by itself also because that is another dense population area.

The we also received public comment about the lakeshores.

So although the entire side of the state is grouped together for lakeshore, I tried to do large areas for the lakeshore and then you will see like the center is basically rural.

And like number four I believe to be rural.

Number two is, again, larger I believe that encompass Ann Arbor.

And surrounding areas.

There was talk about Battle Creek and Kalamazoo being kept together I believe.

I think I did that in this one.

I'm not sure.

So more or less it was just taking a wide variety of public comment and trying to mash it altogether into 15 and 15 was the largest amount I wanted to see what it looked like.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Lange this is Sarah Reinhardt with the Department of State I just wanted to clarify for the public record that this is regions that you drew here, correct?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Regions not districts I'm sorry regions.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That is perfectly fine I just wanted to clarify.

Thank you.

>> KIM BRACE: Good catch, yep.

Okay, and so you also like Anthony believe in the border counties being one whole region that side in that regard.

And you followed Anthony's idea of splitting the UP between two different regions I noticed.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Uh-huh.

>> KIM BRACE: I think Anthony was that county there was in Anthony's 15 in essence as opposed to 14 so you did a little bit different split than Anthony on that regard with this only.

Okay any other distinction? So I guess, Rhonda, from your side, I know that you created multiple different plans and different numbers of districts or regions, I'm sorry.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Just the numbers that were required in the homework. I believe there was a nine, a 14 and a five that was required and a do one on our own.

>> KIM BRACE: Yeah, so you had a five, 14, 15 and you had the earlier nine as I recall.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Uh-huh.

>> KIM BRACE: So for the five let's take the other side of the extreme, is it too inhibiting to look at regions with only five areas?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I don't think so.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Pretty much it's quartering up the Lower Peninsula and then the UP is whole.

There is larger areas in the northern area because I know that that's a rural area so the population would be lower.

So that's why it seems like those practice regions are bigger than the ones in the southern part of the state.

>> KIM BRACE: Right, okay, all right, good ideas.

All right, and so where did you come down on? Which do you think is the best way of depicting State of Michigan?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: You know, I'm not sure.

I'm not -- I honestly couldn't say.

We received a lot of public input and everybody has an idea.

I think larger regions would probably be easier because we can merge and unmerge as needed.

But I think if we limit it too small of areas it might be difficult.

But then again, I could be wrong.

I've never done this before so I honestly can't say.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay, all right, all good thoughts and comments and all are correct on that side.

And apropos in that regard.

Okay, who else hasn't? Are we, let's see we have 1:53 we are supposed to go until when?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: We are supposed to go to 2:25.

Do we need to take a break Commissioner Lett? Yes, okay.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay I think this is probably a good time to adjourn unless there are some objections to adjourning.

Recess.

Recess, sorry.

Recess.

>> KIM BRACE: Recess.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So we are going to recess for is ten minutes enough for everybody? All right it's 1:53 right now.

We will take a recess until 2:05.

Thank you everybody.

[Recess]

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I call this meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 2:13 pm. Will the secretary please call the roll.

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

Please say present when I call your name and please state the location
If you are attending the meeting remotely from by stating county, city, township,
or village where you are attending the meeting remotely.

I'll start with Doug Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.

Brittini Kellom.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

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

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Present.

Attending remotely from Charlotte, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I will return to Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: 10 Commissions are present and
there is a quorum.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you now we will resume new business item 6E
determination of geographic regions with which to begin mapping.

Mr. Brace?

>> KIM BRACE: There we go, thank you there.

Okay, we have other people that have generated plans.

Janice, I know you have done some.

Can I call upon you? Okay you have a 5 and a 14 plan I saw.

Which one would you like to show first?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Let's show the 14.

>> KIM BRACE: 14, okay.

So first off, I note what Anthony had mentioned before is the different way of showing the UP on that side instead of an east west you have the northeast o.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Mr. Brace I think you need to share your screen again.

>> KIM BRACE: You are right, you are right.

Hold on here.

There we go.

Okay.

Sorry about that, soak, go ahead Janice.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: And I tried to do like maybe we are on the lake, you know, like superior and then I was thinking maybe that it would split the cities up a little bit better.

You know like more of them are north or south rather than in the middle.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay, this all of your testimonies that you had from the UP, was it more that people wanted east west or was it more that people wanted north south?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I don't know.

I really don't know.

I originally thought that we probably weren't going to split them up but because I needed to have 14, I was trying to figure out how to get 14 in there.

I honestly don't remember.

I know Anthony seemed to think they wanted east and west separate but.

>> KIM BRACE: Anthony? What were you hearing? You participated in the UP efforts.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: The north south versus east west?

>> KIM BRACE: Do you have a feel for that yet?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I mean east west is what the State House is currently divided in to.

So doing it north, south would definitely be a new thing.

But you know there were people that suggested that they wanted it to be that way.

How many people I'm not sure about it.

I would have to go back into my notes and check.

But you know either way could work.

I'm not sure how it breaks down the population but either way it could work.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I think my population is kind of even but I don't remember what yours was.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Can I interrupt for one second to reflect for the record that Commissioner Curry has rejoined the Commission and is now present.

>> KIM BRACE: So what Janice has is District one the northern part is 137,000 people while the southern part along the border is 173,000.

So it's a little bit different.

You know, probably a State House difference on that side.

Not quite.

But moving to at least half of the State House seat, between the two.

On that side.

So but it is a different distinction in that regard which is important for everybody to kind of recognize which is good.

So glad you drew it that way Janice on that side.

Going down into the other part of the state, you divided the border counties into three different pieces as opposed to one long piece along the border.

That's a different take on the mechanism, on that side.

Reasoning for that?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Like I said I was just trying to -- I was looking more at populations and trying to keep the populations even, but I really didn't have a distinction.

I think I might have done and I'm not sure now but one with less regions in it where I did do more of the lakeshore together.

>> KIM BRACE: Together, okay, all right.

Okay, good, and you ended up putting in with the Lansing and everything, Saginaw and Tuscola and both of those went in to there as opposed to anything with the thumb, okay.

>> This is the interpreter speaking and I'm not sure if we were not able to hear something.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I was trying to balance the population and trying keeping them compact but the one doesn't look too compact.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: You know this is actually interesting to me how you drew it, Janice.

And it is a way to draw it.

>> KIM BRACE: Sure.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I mean it's different than what I drew.

That does not mean it's an invalid way.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Is anybody here left handed and I am and my family says it's I'm left-handed that everything is different.

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>> KIM BRACE: Yep, okay, good, all right, who else haven't I called upon? Cynthia? Several for you.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I kind of liked the one with five areas, but I also drew a ten area one which I think was just like Doug's because I used an already established map.

And I think that's probably a good way to go.

But I kind of like Simplicity of the five.

I wasn't going by any public comments since these are not districts, just regions that we are going to work in, I just went with area and that's it.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: For the five.

>> KIM BRACE: So your five is this one here similar to who was it somebody else had a southern part of the state being just in quads on that side, a little bit different variety than yours but that certainly is one possibility in that regard. So you're more comfortable with the five is what you are saying.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I was originally but I like the idea of using established maps that people are familiar with already to work in regions.

>> KIM BRACE: Right, right, okay, all right, all right, who else? Did I pick on everybody now?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: MC is not here but I know he put in some time in some of the maps that he drew so maybe one of his would be good to go over.

>> KIM BRACE: That's true.

He ended up doing early on the economic recovery regions for the nine that were there so he put those in.

And let's see he doesn't have others down here I only see two from him.

The first one he did with the eight regions.

This is the first one he drew.

And this he drew early on in the process as I recall.

So he did the north, south side for the UP.

Also.

So he picked up that scenario.

And he has the larger territory for the Detroit and expanded territory of the state.

In that regard.

So that is certainly another way of looking at it in that regard.

So and he had put in the this one, the economic area.

It's a little bit different variety.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Can you go back to that one Kim?

>> KIM BRACE: This one.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: The one MC did.

>> KIM BRACE: This is what MC did.

This is the economic recovery regions is what I think it was something that Rebecca, didn't you come up with that one originally and he drew it in?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: For the ten economic regions, yes.

>> KIM BRACE: Yeah, now he only put in eight of them.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: There is two so there is the economic development regions which has ten and there is the Michigan safe start map which is also used for multiple things and used with COVID for staging the state into when things can reopen so if he is using eight then he is using the COVID map.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay, okay, so that is a variety on the mix, Doug?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay thank you I just wanted that.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay, all right.

Okay, so I think we have gone through most of everybody's.

As I said what we are going to do is turn all of you into administrators so you can look at each other's maps.

Again don't make changes to them.

Make a clone if you want to make a variety of what Dustin did or somebody like that.

Just don't change the original so that we've got that.

We are going to end up as I said create shape files for each of these and those will go up on the website for the Commission.

So that they are documented and available to everybody to be able to see and comment and that sort of stuff.

So just be cognizant on that side.

And the reason or one of the other reasons why for my Districting, the web-based software, this is also as you can see on the administrative table here as administrators you can see communities of interest.

This is where we are hoping to get in the material coming from Moon Duchin on her side.

So that they can be overlays on top of any of the districts that are here.

So communities of interest are here and when this site is also viewable by the general public, they will be able to put plan comments on here.

I think Moon has that capability on her's, but it is here also and the plan comments will end up giving you a list of all the comments and their types and people that have submitted them.

And then you can click on the individual ones and it will pop up on the screen.

Of where that region is.

And you will be able to see, you know, the comment and has a little icon sitting there on top of the area that they put that comment on.

So they might want to put a comment that I don't think you should have used this line to divide these two districts.

You should go over here.

Or something like that.

You will be able to see that right there on the map and on the plan that they were commenting on.

So that you will be able to get that feedback also.

And that will be part of the MyDistricting component on that side.

So that's where the usefulness of some of that will be even more so when we get further along in the process.

In that regard.

So those are the main parts of the comments in terms of the web-based software.

Does anybody have any questions on that? I know Juanita, we need to work on your computer so that we can get you online.

Any other comments? Questions on the web-based software? Yes, Cynthia?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Well, I think so some of the Commissioners won't be using the software on the computer they will be using the web-based one, right?

>> KIM BRACE: The public has the -- will be having the capability of drawing on the web based just like what you have done.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Okay.

>> KIM BRACE: On that side so that is where they can come in on using that piece of software to come in and draw with.

Moon's software is slightly different.

So it's getting shape files from her on how the public is drawn and bringing those in.

That is what we are still trying to work with her on in terms of that sort of capability.

But hopefully you will be able to see both kinds of plans and comments from people.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So when I was doing -- since we were just doing regions that weren't really districts it didn't matter so much but I noticed it was really challenging because we don't have the names of the counties.

So I think when we are actually doing the redistricting, drawing the districts we will need the names of the counties and townships.

>> KIM BRACE: Right if you notice in the one that I was showing you, as you move the mouse over, they implemented that change so that the county names showed up as well as the population.

If I were to have gone down to the Township level then all the Township names would show up so if we had gotten that request.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: That's great.

>> KIM BRACE: That has been implemented on that side.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: And I also think you said that we could have up to 20 lines on the spreadsheet that is down below.

I think we would have to be able to have.

>> KIM BRACE: Not 20 lines but 20 columns.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So I think if I were to be using that to try to make actual districts, I would have to have a little more information like the election information or something so that I could make sure I was fitting in all the criteria, those are my comments.

>> KIM BRACE: Good point, good point.

I will bring up and do MC's since we opened up his before.

Indeed, if you use the system now, as I mentioned, and you Zoom across and with your hand or your pan button you see how the name of the county shows up on that side?

Okay, so that those are there.

And if we were to go down and go to a lower level and notice that I told you to stay at the county level, which is partly by design.

I didn't want to get you too far into the weeds quite yet.

But you could go down to counties and Townships and precincts and even down to census blocks.

All of those layers would be available to the public for them to draw too on that regard.

And when you're at those other levels, you can -- the tool that shows up when you're running the mouse over will show the different other pieces.

So the precinct name or the Township name and even the census block ID is what shows up at the block level.

As well as the total population for that piece of geography that you're running across.

So that will be available to any of the public when they want to draw within this system in that regard.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: That will be really helpful, thank you.

>> KIM BRACE: And as I mentioned, we don't have it yet in the system, but you would end up having a scroll bar down here at the bottom so that you can scroll over to more than just the eight columns of information.

One of the other things that he has implemented, but I don't see it here, is that he has implemented two lines for each District.

So that you would see the population on top, the raw number and then underneath it would be the percentage so you would be able to see the percentage Hispanic or the percentage white alone or the percentage African/American, all of those kind of numbers will show up now with both raw numbers and percentages.

So that that would be something that can help inform you as you draw districts ultimately and help inform the public as they are drawing districts on that regard.

So those are some of the changes that I know are being implemented in that regard.

Yes, Juanita?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: The cycle we went to the different town meetings and we took notes.

Can we -- are we firsthand drawing from our notes or you know going over our notes and just trying to draw or are we just doing it from the basis of that first? Because wouldn't the notes be important in any part of it?

>> KIM BRACE: Yes.

Good question.

It will be important and you'll start seeing more of that as we get into tomorrow's exercise on that regard.

And so, yes, notes are very useful.

And whatever you have taken, part of the assignment moving towards tomorrow is to go back into the planned comments or the comments that the communities of interest that people have put in Moon's system to start taking a look at that sort of thing more closely.

Because certainly in this I'm calling it the state of thumb, which is what this piece of the state that we are doing for tomorrow's exercise.

And so reviewing some of the comments that people have put in for that area will be useful I think, yep.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Thank you.

>> KIM BRACE: Other questions? Comments?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I have went Kim and I'm not sure if you will be able to address it or not.

But looking at the comments that will be in there for the communities of interest, I have raised this before, will that include all comments? I know we got received public comment today that was written, so will it include the written or only the communities of interest where they did maps?

>> KIM BRACE: I'm hoping that eventually they are going to include everything.

We are trying to work with Moon in terms of getting her material in as additional pieces coming into this communities of interest piece.

And so I'm just trying to work with Moon in terms of what is possible.

That is what we are working on right now.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay.

>> KIM BRACE: Any other questions?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Seeing no other questions, at this point so if everybody is agreeable, we can move on to our next agenda item which is 6EB which we determined the number of regions that we want to use.

Hearing no objections let's go ahead and proceed with agenda item 6EB to determine the number of ideal regions.

Any discussion on the topic? So we've seen a couple different maps today go ahead Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So excuse me, we have seen a lot of maps.

And we've discussed them quite a bit already.

I for one really like those economic District maps that I think Doug drew out.

And I think it was the ten region plan.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, those were the opportunity zones and then the regions that represented those results, which was used here in the state and they represent ten regions.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Kim, what is the purpose of setting regions whether I mean you said ideal regions, what are we using the regions for?

>> KIM BRACE: Actually, it was one additional piece that if you wanted to participate in.

I don't think there is an ideal number.

We asked you this question to get you to start thinking about it.

But I'm not sure that there is a full answer on that regard.

I was more interested in using that as a guinea pig to get to or, you know, see how everybody was thinking together or not thinking together.

So it was an exercise to draw out different scenarios from everybody.

As I've said, there really is no ideal number of regions.

You will find when you start drawing districts themselves there is no ideal way of drawing districts.

That's part of what we wanted to explore with all of you so that you start understanding that there could be a whole bunch of different ways of skinning this cat on that regard.

So certainly getting people to start understanding that scenario.

Certainly you could set up an ideal number of regions, but I would also point out to you that you know, you may have a set region, but when we start drawing districts, we are going to go across the region boundaries.

And I think we've talked about that before.

But you will start seeing that even more so on that regard.

So they are kind of beginning points to teach you basically is what we have done.

Without setting up something firm and concrete, hopefully you will have some of these ideas that will carry forward as you start drawing districts and thinking of, well, does this District, you know, it's going into a different region per se.

Is that what people have talked about? Or not talked about? So it's kind of a straw man for people to think about in that regard.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Mr. Brace.
Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Sorry my phone is going crazy.

I like the idea of using fewer regions.

It incorporates more people, gives you more room to play and while the other map is very put together very well, honestly, I don't like the idea that somebody else did it.

And we should kind of come up with our own regions to look at in my opinion.

And I liked how it looked when you quartered the state or even put it in six. It just seemed like it was bigger regions and would be easier to incorporate where you're not condensing it too much like Kim said we could end up going out of those regions.

But why do it if we don't have to.

And I think it could pull in more communities of interest into one region and have a better look at that as a whole.

But just my opinion.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Commissioner Lange.

Department of State?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Hi yes this is Sarah Reinhardt with the Michigan Department of State.

Just addressing Commissioner Lett question.

I believe the recommendation to create regions came from your committee for establishing the procedure for mapping.

And if I recall correctly, the suggestion to create regions was so that it would be a very loose guideline for how -- for picking areas where you could start or proceed to next.

But Commissioner Witjes was the Chairperson for that committee so if he would like to speak more to it, I will allow him to do so.

Thanks.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: This is Commissioner Witjes.

That is indeed correct.

These regions were just created to have starting points where to look and start mapping.

And then move from a region to another region if we are either stuck or once we are done in a region move to adjacent, so on and so forth.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark, did you have a comment?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, relative to the number of regions, I felt through the mapping exercise that either eight, nine or ten would be the most manageable to deal with.

So the recommendation on fewer regions I don't think will work.

I think they are too big.

And when we get up to 14 or 15, I think there is too many regions to work with.

So I would recommend that as we analyze these and come to a decision that they be either eight, nine or ten regions.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, I personally like the ten.

I like the map that Doug drew.

I might be bias because I know it came from my suggestion but I think honestly, I think we should go with ten.

I think that works.

I mean obviously there is lots of different things we could do but I think that works and I think everybody is pretty comfortable with it.

And I also like the way that Doug has drawn that map using the economic document zones as well.

Commissioner Lange you had your hand up but were you just taking it down from the last time?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Correct.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.

Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: This is Commissioner Witjes again.

I concur with ten.

I just redrew another plan of regions with ten and it looks better than the original seven one that I did so ten regions seems good and I also like the one Doug did with the economic impact areas as well

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I take it that this exercise is not locking us into ten, five or two or 20.

This is an exercise.

Am I wrong in that?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: It is an exercise correct but we certainly could decide as a Commission we like the number ten or five or whatever number we like and decide that is the number we are going to go with and move forward.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I guess my point being that this is we have just started this and while we are calling them regions, I don't want to see us locked in to borders that we're not going to cross when we start drawing districts.

I don't want the public to think that we have made a determination that the ten regions are cast in stone.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: And I don't think that is what anybody has expressed here Mr. Brace just expressed we are going to go across the region lines.

Commissioner Witjes I think expressed the same opinion.

I think Sarah Reinhardt expressed the same opinion.

It's just a sort of starting point for where we are going to start drawing lines for the redistricting but we are not locked into it and nothing requiring us to stay in the region and we can cross the line if we want to.

Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: This is Commissioner Witjes again just to add to that.

Think of it like just a place where we can focus all of our attention at once and if we go beyond whatever boundary we set on this particular region that we decide on so be it. Then we would just once we are done with one particular region and we are done drawing the districts, we can shift the map of the actual regions over and continue on. Just to springboard so to say.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I couldn't really hear what Commissioner Witjes was saying so this might be the same thing but I just thought the regions would be helpful when we are doing the districts.

We can you know when we are having a conversation about it, we can say look at region ten and you know, whatever, it will help guide us is how I was thinking of it. But, yeah, we will have to cross those boundaries because those are not boundaries for districts.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Anyone interested in making a motion to adopt Doug Clark's plan 56 which is the ten regions based upon the economic development plan? Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Can I see that plan again?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: It's number 53.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Test plan five.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yep.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Mr. Brace just a reminder to turn on your microphone.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Mr. Brace your microphone is not on.

>> KIM BRACE: There we go, sorry.

Okay, so these are the ten regions.

UP being only contained and there is the down state.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Mr. Brace.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: We are not seeing your screen.

You need to share again.

I think you disconnected.

>> KIM BRACE: I'm sorry.

There we go.

Sorry about that.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Now, Doug, you had mentioned that Saginaw should have been included is Saginaw supposed to be included in the blue? Because I know that came up when you were talking about your plan.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Saginaw and Genesee County

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay maybe a different plan, all right.

Any thoughts? Comments? Concerns? Discussion? If you are not ready to move on and we don't want to decide on something that is fine too please speak up Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I'm not quite ready to move on.

I would like to at least draw one before we makeup some kind of a.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yeah, I agree with Juanita.

I'm not ready to move on either.

Doug's map might be what I end up accepting but that's not what I understood this exercise was that we were going to reach a map that everybody liked.

I certainly didn't draw my maps to impress anybody.

I drew them to figure out however many it was on a map.

So if the idea is we are going to try to draw regions that everybody is going to accept, I think we need to go down that path rather than simply an exercise and getting familiar with how the program works.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So if I'm understanding you Commissioner Lett, you don't want us to make a decision today on regions and that we're just going to continue to work on this in a later session?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Correct.

I think it should be understood that we are going to do an exercise in which anybody that wants to can draw a map to present that person thinks here's what I think the regions ought to be for us to choose between those

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I drew I don't know five maps, I guess.

I wouldn't put up any of them for you guys to pick

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So in light of that is there any thought about settling on a number of regions that we think is appropriate so that we can all be drawing similar maps? So instead of us having like six, seven and 15 or whatever can we reach a consensus on the number of regions we want on our maps? Or even arrange honestly.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Probably not today we just started so just give it a couple days

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I think what you said at the very tail end the range I think would be appropriate.

But you could change my mind.

You can vote and change my mind

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Any other thoughts or commentary? Looks like Commissioner Lange might have her hand up.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'm going to agree with Juanita and Steve about not determining today because the same circumstances were for me, I basically did it as a homework exercise.

Didn't put in consideration that something was going to be picked today and I'm also I see that there is support for the ten already.

But what bothers me is that it seems there was discussion already about the ten.

So I guess I'll just flat out ask are any other considerations going to have equal attention and given the same consideration? Because it does seem like some already have their minds made up.

So I mean I don't want to waste my time if it's already a done decision I guess is what I'm saying.

And that's all I got.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So the map of the ten was brought up last week during one of the meetings.

I suggested it with the map and the state start map which is why people are familiar with it because the map Doug created was driven off of that map essentially so he is just so that is why people are familiar with it because it was discussed at the last meeting.

Pretty much at length I specifically asked about using those maps.

Okay so what do we want to do here guys? Do we want to propose a range and potentially get a motion and vote on it or do we just want to make those decisions later?

All right it doesn't seem like there is a lot of interest in picking a range Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I would like Kim to weigh in on this and have his input as to what a range of regions might be reasonable to look at.

>> KIM BRACE: I guess I selected that range originally from five to 14.

You've got arguments that can be made on, you know, less.

You have arguments that could be made to reflect more.

All of them are legitimate arguments.

So I think any number of regions is fine.

They are after all kind of arbitrary decision points.

We are going to end up drawing districts that will probably go across any one of those borders in that regard.

So it was more of an exercise to give you some experience on doing the software.

I didn't really envision necessarily you having to decide, you know, X number or Y number.

I think keeping an open mind, that's part of what redistricting is, to understand people's perceptions in that regard.

So I certainly I couldn't recommend to you a given number today.

I can give you that wide range is what I gave you originally.

And I think everybody saw and saw the differences on that.

They are all relevant this that regard.

As we get into drawing districts, then we will start narrowing things down, but I think for right now keeping it open is fine.

I don't think you need to make a decision in essence on regions today.

We will have these regions as I said as shape files for the public to look at also.

And they can comment on it in that regard.

Those shape files can also be part of the element that can come in to play and be overlaid as you draw districts.

So that if as you draw districts you wanted to see well how do these districts I'm drawing, how do they deal with the opportunity zones that we've talked about before?

Well, you can bring that in as a layer to look at.

You may not have even recognized those or whatever the case may be.

But you will be able to see them as overlays and lines, additional lines from play on that side.

So.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I do think it's important that we eventually if it's not today it can be tomorrow, whenever we reach consensus but I do think it's important that we eventually do and make this decision.

Just from an efficiency standpoint on how we are going to work together to draw the maps.

Because like Mr. Brace just said, they are rather arbitrary as far as where the borders are.

Or the number.

Because we know the number of districts we are going to have to make for every type of map.

I was on the subcommittee that made the recommendation and the whole idea behind it was to just make it so that we can actually do the work together efficiently.

So just think we should keep that in mind as well.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, go ahead.

State your name too.

>> John Morgan I'm working with Kim from EDS.

The whole point of this is these are informal and not tied to the population.

You don't know the exact number of districts per region.

And it just helps you.

You can refer to them by a name at some point rather than just region one or region two.

You will be able to quickly say, okay, we are going to work in this named region, central Michigan, the UP whatever it is it's a good informal device to help you be more efficient.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right any additional comments, discussion? So I have two items on the agenda 6EB which I feel like we've already discussed a little bit which is to determine ideal number of regions and then 6EC, which is Commissioners reach consensus on the regions to utilize to begin mapping.

It seems like we are not ready to do those today is that fair? So do we want to move on let's move on to 6ED.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Ly motion to at least get the range part of this down and my motion will be for the range to be nine to ten regions.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Motion by Commissioner Eid to make the number of regions a range of nine to ten.

Seconded by Commissioner Clark.

Is there any discussion on the motion? Go ahead Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I just think based on the maps we saw today, you know, we saw some that had five, some that had eight and some that had nine and some had ten and some had more and seemed to me like the nine or ten would be easiest to work with given that these are arbitrary regions, not set in stone.

Like I already mentioned in my previous comments.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right seeing no further hands raised let's go ahead and vote on Commissioner Eid's motion seconded by Commissioner Clark to adopt nine to ten regions when we start to determine the number of regions.

All in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

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

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Nay.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So by a vote of.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Let's get a roll call vote I think 8-3 but Department of State can you do a roll call.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Absolutely Madam Chair Commissioners indicate your support of the motion with a "Yes" or "No" and I will call on Commissioners in alphabetical order starting with Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Doug Clark?

- >> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry?
- >> COMMISSIONER CURRY: No.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?
- >> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?
- >> COMMISSIONER LANGE: No.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?
- >> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?
- >> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?
- >> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Eight in favor to three the motion carried.
- >> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you very much.

So moving on to our next agenda item that will be 6ED homework Commissioners to review maps and public comments with Flint and fry cities Saginaw Midland and Bay City and be ready to practice drafting some fictional areas.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Madam Chair can we go back to what we voted on.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, so reach consensus on regions.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Correct I'd like to put forward a motion that we adopt the regional plan that I had put forward, to test plan five which I will call the Szetela plan. She came up with the idea.

But all I did was map it.

So I put the motion forward that we adopt that and it's arbitrary and it does not cast any districts in stone or and I think it's usable at this point so.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Do we have a second for that motion?

>> I'll second.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Seconded by Commissioner Orton.

So Commissioner Clark could you restate the motion just for clarity sake?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: We adopt the plan that represents the opportunity zones as regions throughout the State of Michigan as the regional plans that we move forward with.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay so we have a motion by Commissioner Clark and seconded by Orton.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: The restatement did not match up with the original. The original motion to adopt a regional, the regional plan is test plan number five was that the motion? So the motion as I captured it was to adopt region the regional plan as test plan number five.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Test plan five drafted by Commissioner Clark to clarify in case there is more than one in there.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay any discussion or debate on the motion?
Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: It was before Commissioner Clark made his motion, I was going to ask the question of when we were going to consider the nine or ten that Commissioner Eid suggested.

I think if we vote today on Commissioner Clark's then nobody has an opportunity to take another look and determine whether or not they want to submit a nine or a ten or nothing.

That certainly is up to them.

But I think people should have an opportunity to take another look at it now that we are to the position that we are going to adopt a region that we can then use as references so I would be opposed to adopting that today.

Might end up be in favor of it tomorrow but not today.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: What I wanted to do is move this forward since these were arbitrary because we can sit here for three hours and argue which plan to adopt. And I think there is more important business we got to get to in understanding how to do the redistricting.

So that is why I brought that motion forward so I yield.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: I wasn't sure where you were going.

I wanted to also highlight for the Commission when this topic was just discussed a number of Commissioners expressed an interest or more than one Commissioner expressed an interest in the opportunity to draw regional plans for consideration as well. So.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I just wanted to ask the Commissioners who didn't like I understood that what we were doing was the homework was to create the different districts that we would discuss and not to adopt but there were Commissioners that didn't understand that I guess.

So I wanted to ask those Commissioners if they still want a chance to draw a nine or ten area map? Which apparently Steve does.

But I do think we should just move along with this as well.

So tomorrow should we vote on it? Or would people have plans ready to submit tomorrow? Or how long are we talking about?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: The world is not going to end on it if we vote on it today, we have a motion and a second so if it gets voted down, we can vote on it again

tomorrow and we can vote to adopt it tomorrow if the vote doesn't carry so
Commissioner Lange it looks like you might have your hand up.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I don't think by voting on it today we are being very fair for those who have not had an opportunity to draw any of the regions because they had issues with their computers.

And that's just my thought on it.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: While I like the map, you know, enough people have said that you know they want some time to be able to do their own thing, I wouldn't be in support of that motion today.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right, seeing no further comments or discussion we have a motion and a second so we are going to go ahead and vote on it.

So all in favor do you know what let's do a roll call vote on this one as well before I even say anything else Department of State?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you Madam Chair.

Commissioners please indicate your support of the motion with a yes or a no.

I will call on Commissioners in alphabetical order starting with Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I'm abstaining as some Commissioners have not had a chance to utilize the software yet.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I defer to General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair allow me to pull the language up.

One moment

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Under Section 9.1 due to the vote the two reasons that a member may abstain from voting is if they A have a conflict of interest as set forth in the rules.

Or, B, lack sufficient information about the issue to be decided.

And in that case, they shall state for the record their intention to abstain and the reasons for doing so prior to the vote.

So I would offer that the reason proffered by Commissioner Witjes would be not allowed under the rules.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you General Counsel.

Doug Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: By a vote of 8 not in favor to 3 the motion does not carry.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you very much Department of State staff.

All right so having go ahead Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So one last thing given that vote we do need to decide on this eventually, hopefully soon.

So if the Commissioners that want to look at the software and submit their own map and play with it, see whether they want nine or ten that's totally fine and I 100% support them doing that but let's try to get that done ex expeditiously.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I have a question can we view are Commissioners able to view Mr. Clark's map?

>> KIM BRACE: Not yet.

I need to make everybody administrators but I will this afternoon so you will be able to see it.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Once we are administrators, we can look at that and it was.

>> KIM BRACE: Right.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Test.

>> KIM BRACE: Test plan five and it was listed as number 53 on the list just for everybody's reference.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: The regional, the proposed regional maps that were discussed from discussion purposes only today will be made available on the Commission's website for the benefit of the public and the Commissioners as well.

That way you are just able to view them and not make changes or comment or any of those other items.

So I just wanted to make the Commission aware of that as well as the public.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay thank you.

All right any further Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes, as far as to Anthony's I want to know if everybody would be okay if it was addressed next Thursday.

That way it gives people the weekend to actually sit down and look at it and we are not dragging it out too long.

Would that be acceptable compared to tomorrow?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, I was going to say I think that kind of just depends on the Commission and how people are feeling tomorrow because again the same issue anybody can move to adopt a region and we can vote on it and we can see what happens.

So we could end up in the same situation tomorrow or we could reach a consensus and move on.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: We can't ask it to be added to the agenda for next Thursday?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: You certainly can.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I would like to add it to the agenda for next Thursday, please.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I wholeheartedly disagree.

This is something that we need to make a decision on five minutes ago.

And I would like to see it added tomorrow as opposed to next week.

I'm going to help Juanita get into her computer and into the system.

So she can actually look at it this evening and then we can look at it and take this up again tomorrow.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Any further comments or discussion? All right.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I do.

So.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: The agenda item how does it work if we have two conflicting agenda items that people have asked to add? I don't think we've had this before so I'm just curious how this works do, we have to vote on this now?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I make a motion that we put it on the agenda for tomorrow.

>> Second it.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: We have a motion by Dustin Witjes.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I would like to amend that motion and have it put on the agenda for Thursday of next week.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: General Counsel would you care to wear in here.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Motion to amend would change the actual date.

What the Commission may want to consider is just as it was a line item today that was advanced and not adopted that the Commission could elect to have it on the agenda until it is finalized and adopted and the Commission -- because it should be a discussion item.

My recommendation would be a discussion item for tomorrow as well if this exercise is going.

And I believe the consultants are here tomorrow as well.

Again, I don't think it needs to be in either or kind of an issue.

Of course recognizing and acknowledging that if the Commission took action on it tomorrow but that would be if the full Commission felt that the members that were asking for an opportunity to take it beyond an exercise of just homework into something more official or along that line in that the regions that the majority of the Commission would feel comfortable adopting.

So I would recommend that maybe not take a formal vote to have it placed on the agenda but that have it on the agenda item as a discussion item going forward until it's resolved.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you General Counsel.

Mr. Brace, are you with us next week in person?

>> KIM BRACE: Yes.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So you guys are here so if it does fall over, you will be here to assist us.

Okay I think that is helpful as well.

Go ahead Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I will rescind my motion.

Withdraw my motion sorry.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you so the motion is withdrawn.

So taking General Counsel's advice I think we should just leave the continued discussion item on the agenda for tomorrow and I'm sorry.

[Off mic]

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Just a reminder to all Commissioners and staff to turn on your microphone when you speak, please.

Thank you.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: The motion to amend would not be in order because it subsumed the motion and it changed the entire the date of it.

The body can choose to move on it if it wishes.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: We don't even have a second.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I will second it.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right let's take a roll call vote on Commissioner Lange's motion, seconded by Commissioner Wagner to amend Commissioner Witjes' motion to place the discussion or I'm sorry Commissioner's reach consensus on regions to utilize to begin mapping on the agenda tomorrow.

So let's go ahead and take a roll call vote on that Department of State.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair may I make a suggestion? The goal was to try to avoid the either or thing but if the Commission would like to move forward for a vote, I would suggest in the past the Commission has taken votes for either option A or option B by roll call.

I would suggest that this would be an appropriate manner in which to do that as well. That if the Commissioner could vote or the question be put before the Commission would you like to see the regions considered on tomorrow's agenda or next Thursday's and people could indicate either Thursday being next Thursday or Friday being tomorrow would be my suggestion that way you don't have to have multiple votes that are.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: As a matter of procedure do I need a motion on that? Or can we just proceed with saying that's it.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: My recommendation would be to start fresh so that everybody is clear what is doing and as I understand it the motion is whether to discuss, continue the discussion for adopting regions either at tomorrow's meeting being Friday's meeting of July 30th or at next Thursday meeting, which is Thursday, August 5th. And again if I misstated the intention of either of the original moving Commissioners, please correct me.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay so we are going to take a vote and you are going to state your preference as to which day would you prefer to have this discussed tomorrow, which is Friday, July 30th? So if you prefer tomorrow, you're going to say Friday and if you prefer next week which would be Thursday, August 5th you will say Thursday so the choices are Friday or Thursday.

Friday being tomorrow.

Thursday being next week.

I'll hand it over to you Ms. Reinhardt.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you Madam Chair. Commissioners, please indicate your support of the motion using the terms that Madam Chair Szetela just outlined.

By stating your preference for tomorrow or next Thursday.

I will go in alphabetical order starting with Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Friday.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Friday.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Doug Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Friday.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Next Thursday.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Friday.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Thursday.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Thursday.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Friday.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Friday.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Friday.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I was under the impression the motion was voted and seconded it needed to be voted on and not amended but I will go with next Friday or next Thursday.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: By a vote of seven in favor of Friday to four in favor of next Thursday, the motion carries as Friday.

Thanks.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you very much Department of State. All right, so now we will finally go ahead Commissioner Eid? You are just a troublemaker today.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: It's one of those days if it comes to tomorrow and we are still not ready to adopt the regions we can always just vote it down just like we did today.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Absolutely. This is not the hill to die on.

All right moving on to new business agenda item 6ED which is our homework, I'm not going to read off that long list of what the homework is again and I will just hand it back to you, Mr. Brace.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay, and I'm going to share my screen this time without being told to because I know I need to on that side.

What we want to do is move into the next phase of what we are going to be dealing with.

And this is where we are going to end up -- let me find my other part of my presentation. Here we go.

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We are going to move into the other piece of software, okay? We are going to move off of the MyDistricting, the web-based software.

And I'm going to start showing you some of the desktop software.

The desktop software is what we have talked about before.

And what is still outstanding for you to get installed with.

So before you leave today, maybe we adjourn a little bit early so that Sarah can take you to the other room of where we are getting everybody's machines installed.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: That's no longer necessary.

It can happen in this room.

>> KIM BRACE: Ah, okay.

So the goal is to ultimately give you the capability of playing with another piece of software.

And so I wanted to show you some of the elements of that other piece of software and show you how it operates.

This is software called Autobound edge.

This is a software that is more a desktop oriented piece of software as opposed to what we have been seeing so far with the web based software.

The desktop software gives you a lot more capabilities.

And we are going to use these capabilities to draw some districts in a given region.

And as you can see on my screen here, we have set up the region of the thumb and Midland, Saginaw and Flint.

All of that territory is what we've called now the state of thumb for lack of a better term.

And we are going to end up basically we've set up the system so that you're really only going to be drawing in this region.

We basically took the entire state data set that we had created and made a piece of it, the thumb piece of it.

So that is why you are only seeing this part of the area in what you're seeing.

Ultimately, when the full thing gets installed, you will have access to the rest of the state.

But for right now we wanted to focus on this area, this region, this state of thumb as I've been calling it now.

And I'm going to show you some of the component pieces of the software.

Part of your assignment over the next week is hopefully the software will be installed on your machine.

So that you can start playing.

You can start devising and coming up, with District compositions in this region, in this state of thumb.

But these districts are not in total relationship to what the rest of the state is.

And what we will be drawing later on.

And let me show you one of the things that we have done is we have looked at the population of this region.

The state of thumb has 1,067, 630 people in it.

We have here on this spreadsheet under the residential column, column D as in dog that is the total statewide population coming from the Census Bureau, this is the population for the purposes of redistricting, not nor the purposes of apportionment. If you remember my discussions before, this is the residential population.

That's the numbers that will be drawing with.

And this is a spreadsheet that we've created several decades ago actually to kind of start taking a look at what is possible.

And what is the ideal District size.

So what we have in the let me see if I can expand this a little bit.

And I can, I think.

Can't I Zoom in? I will have to play with that one.

So what we have here is if we were to create for example in the top row for State Senate we have 38 members for the State Senate, and that ideal District size is 265,193.

If we were to draw 38 districts in the state of thumb, that ideal District size would be 28,000 people.

We are not going to go down that far.

We are not going to create that number of districts in this state of thumb.

But we -- I started taking a look at what kind of makes sense.

And you've got a variety in these columns of number of districts.

Because what I'm trying to see is if I'm looking at in the State House, we have an ideal District size of 91,000, okay? That's the population that we are ultimately going to be drawing.

I want to get something that's kind of away from 91,000.

So that we are not really drawing State House districts yet, okay? So this is why I put together this spreadsheet.

And so what I'm looking at is really creating 15 districts in this state of thumb.

15 districts, the ideal District size is going to be 71,175 people.

Little bit less than the State House District.

But it will start giving you some experience on this side.

So that's what the goal is.

And if you look in column M in the spreadsheet, the acceptable deviation we are going to be shooting for is like what you will be doing with the State House, State Senate, we are looking at overall 10% deviation that we will be playing with.

And if you look at the raw numbers the ten% is 7,118 people that's the window that you have to get your districts within.

That is on one side 3559 people.

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In essence high or low? So your range for the ideal size of 71,000 is your districts could go up to 74,000 or be down to 67,000.

And so that is the range that we have with that 10% deviation for your districts to be drawn in.

That gives you a fairly good range to play with.

But you will keep in mind that as you start playing with and start putting things together you could end up making use of that range and a lot of the range possibly that is part of what redistricting is all about is understanding what kind of leeway that you might have in terms of drawing.

So right now we will draw with 15 districts 71,000 is the ideal District size so keep that in mind as we go forward and I will send a copy of the spreadsheet so you have the numbers and can look at them and refer to them.

So what we are going to do is we are going to end up working within Autobound edge.

We have set up Autobound edge to give two elements of data we have access right now.

We have the American community survey that comes from the Census Bureau.

That is the results of the ACS basically that came out in 2019 if you remember my discussions before with you the American community survey is on the basis of a sample survey that the Census Bureau conducts every year.

But in order to get data down to the lowest geographic level that they have available, which is down at the block group you have to take five years' worth of that survey.

And so the endpoint of that survey is 2019 but what it really reflects is responses from 2015 to 2019.

So it's a good range of possibilities.

If you think of what was taking place in those five years, there was a whole bunch of stuff taking place in the American population and I'm sure in Michigan too so it's going to see a bunch of different responses on that side.

When we look at the five year range what the demographers say is take the mid-point of five years and that is where the data basically sits where the majority is within that mid-point so what this ACS data is saying is that this is the population that is estimated about 2017.

Three years before the census took place and three years before everything takes place but the ACS would give you that data set and if you look at the bottom of the spreadsheet I'm showing you, that is the columns and the data in purple on that screen in kind of blueish on my screen.

That's the ACS data.

And this is where you will end up seeing in this target population tabulation the results of when you add territory to the districts and those numbers will start fluctuating as we build districts.

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That's from the ACS on the far right hand side is the other major data set that we have in here and that is the data set from ESRI, ESRI, they are the mapping company, the biggest one in the world.

They have a demographic subset of their company and they have been putting together population estimates on a yearly basis that a lot of major companies purchase.

Trying to figure out where should my next Chick-fil-A go or you know McDonald's or whatever, they are all buying that kind of data and ESRI puts out data every year and their most recent one is 2020.

That is before the census came out but it is closer to where we are today in 2021 than the ACS was being over three years old.

So we put both of these in here in the data set that you will be looking at and seeing.

And when we get the PL data the public long 94171 data when that comes out on August 16th, that basically supplants both of the data set.

But what we are going to do is we are going to simply add additional tabs for the PL so we will still be able to see kind of where the ranges were because the major question that a lot of people are starting to deal with is how good is the census? Did they do a good enough job? So we will be able to see and have in the data set both the estimates from before as well as the real numbers they come out with on August 16th so we will end up adding to and expanding on the active matrix that you see on the bottom of your screen.

We will end up adding to the data files themselves what is behind all this.

So that will be a larger data file and we have been talking with the state in terms updating the data so everybody would have the most recent one too.

That update process is probably going to take a chunk of that week of August 16th so we won't have it totally in the system until the end of the week is what we are shooting for.

But what we will have and I think I mentioned this before is that my goal is that by the afternoon of the 16th or the morning of the 17th we are going to start knowing some of those numbers.

We are going to start generating tables that says this is the population that the Census Bureau just released of all counties in the State of Michigan, of all Townships, all of those are summary levels that come to us as part of that data set that they release.

It will have a lot more data in there and that is what gets embedded in here but we will have the capability of extracting that out to be able to look at that.

One of the other components that we will have being able to be extracted out is what is the populations of each of the Congressional districts.

Each of the State Senate districts and each of the State House districts.

And we will be able to see for the first time who is high or low? What is the range that we are starting with basically in terms of drawing? Is the UP so low that we can't get something out of there? Or whatever the case may be.

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We will be able to see each and every District and what is their deviation from the ideal for that District.

As a starting point.

And it's not to say that this is what you will you know you're starting with those districts.

No, not really.

You're just understanding what those districts were.

That is part of what sometimes the courts look at.

That is known as kind of the benchmark.

What was it at the beginning of the process? What was the data particularly when they are looking at minority seats when the new population comes out you look at the existing districts and what is the minority populations in each of those.

So that you get some dimension of what are some of the perimeters we need to look towards, okay? So that is some of the components that we will be providing to the Commission early on in the process so you will be able to see that and start understanding the dimensions of this monster that we have suddenly been given from the Census Bureau in that regard.

What we have on the spreadsheet here we have ACS and the ESRI data and for each of those we have different ways of looking at the minority populations.

And so you will see for the ACS there is the white NH.

What is NH? Non-Hispanic.

Yep.

If you remember my discussions with you and what the census data is, this is the way that we set up so that we can have both ethnic origins and race in the same responses. In order to avoid that double counting of Hispanics or Blacks or Asians or whatever and we need to pull the Hispanics out of the individual race groups so that it's non-Hispanic white.

It's non-Hispanic Black.

It's non-Hispanic Asian and it's Hispanic.

And then we start getting so that we can look at true dimension of each of those groups as we look towards the redistricting side of things.

So we have that with the ACS data.

You can see that on the bottom of the screen.

We also have the same thing in terms of the ESRI data.

And what we have done in terms of the spreadsheet is we have added a combined minority.

So that is basically all nonwhites.

Put altogether into a quote unquote minority group.

So that you have individual minority groups but you also have a combined minority group.

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Lisa will talk to you more in terms of what to be cognizant of and paying attention on that side, but it's certainly things you can look at and have the information there if you look across the bottom of the active matrix that is the spreadsheet portion, we have additional tabs.

We have the population of ACS.

And it gives more dimensions of the ACS data not only the racial data but we have from the ACS we is citizenship voting age population.

If you remember all the steppingstones we talked about multiple, multiple times walking down from total pop to voting age to citizen ship and then dealing with registration and turn out so all those steppingstones.

The Census Bureau and the ACS does give you the capability of pulling out citizens and noncitizens.

And so that is there within the voting age population.

And because you can also look at just the Hispanics and within the Hispanic group which ones are white Hispanics, which ones are Black Hispanics, Native American Hispanics, other Hispanics, multiple Hispanics, all of those characteristics are there within the ACS and that is that second tab that's on that spreadsheet.

The third tab is the population for the way that ESRI reports the racial data.

Little bit different than the ACS.

But you get the general, same kind of idea.

And then we have the racial demographics tab for both ACS and ESRI with more detail and information in terms of the non-Hispanic or the Hispanic and the other races, all of in the raw numbers are coming in here as well as percentages.

A lot of that information on the racial demographic tabs are what gets put over into the overview tab.

So that overview is kind of an overall catch all of where things are but the raw numbers themselves are down in the racial demographic tab for both ACS and ESRI.

And then the final tab that is on this active matrix is the CVAP data citizenship voting age population.

And how that data is shown and broken apart.

This is all the demographic characteristics we have put into the data set right now.

We are also going to be adding more tabs with some of the political data and having that characteristics also being shown.

And being there as additional tabs so that we will be able to see how the districts lean politically on that side too.

So all of these are part of this more extensive data set that is in the standalone version of Autobound edge.

The desktop version that you will all have.

I think everybody has said they wanted to have that or almost everybody.

So you will have that more expansive data set in order to draw with.

So that's kind of an overview of all the data that will be there in this more extensive program that you will all have access to so are there any questions that people have in terms of the data set itself? Okay, so what we are going to do and one other housekeeping for you and as you guys were figuring out how many regions you did or did not want to have, I went ahead and made all of you administrators so you are all now administrators within the web-based software.

I may have to send you another link for that administrative tab to show up but let me explore that with a couple of you on your programs and what you've got but I have gone ahead and made all of you administrators on that side.

That is on my Districting side of things back to the Autobound edge.

The desktop software.

Besides the tabs and the data across the bottom there are a lot of tools that are there for everyone to potentially use.

And it is now getting on to 4:00.

What we could do is depending upon the Chair and the staff, we are kind of in a spot where we could stop.

We can work with your machines and make sure that we can get things up and running on your machines.

And then we could continue the training in more in depth tomorrow as you then would have some of that software on your machines.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Rebecca stepped out for a minute.

>> KIM BRACE: Now our life has been changed I'm trying to stall a little bit for you to get back there Rebecca.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: And I appreciate that Mr. Brace, I really do.

Okay, so we are I'm assuming done with where we were at on the agenda?

>> KIM BRACE: I believe so.

We are we have given you some initial views on the desktop software.

I have not gone into the training of that yet.

But I have given you some overviews of some of the data that is there.

So that the goal I think from my standpoint was to get you to a stage where we could get the software then installed on your machines.

And then if everything were to go right later on today and tomorrow morning, we can start using your system looking at the new stuff and doing further training on how that software operates.

As we were looking at the time clock and everything else this might be a good spot for us to say okay let's hold and not get into, you know, turn or hit this button or that button to do this or that.

We will do that tomorrow.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Sounds fantastic thank you Mr. Brace and Mr. Morgan for being here today.

It was very helpful.

All right so we have a little cleanup we need to do with respect to our earlier motion. There were some things that were not done properly so we are going to revote on something.

So we had just to sort of restate for everybody we had a motion from Commissioner Witjes for scheduling discussion tomorrow or on Friday.

That was seconded by Commissioner Orton.

And then Commissioner Lange made a motion to amend that was not seconded at the time at which point there was some discussion from General Counsel at which point Commissioner Witjes withdrew his motion.

So at that point his motion had been withdrawn.

At that following that then Commissioner Wagner seconded Commissioner Lange's motion but at that point we no longer had an active motion on the floor.

So we no longer had an active motion from Commissioner Witjes, we no longer had a motion to amend from Commissioner Lange because the original motion had been withdrawn.

Then we moved on and voted without having a motion and a second.

So the point that we are at right now is we need to redo that process.

I need a motion from somebody to schedule the discussion on regions for Friday.

Or to schedule it for the following Thursday which is August 5th and I need a second on that motion and we are going to revote.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Just again to clarify the motion that I suggested where you toggle switch either selecting Thursday or Friday, that suggestion for a motion is what was not moved by a member of the Commission.

Although it was eloquently worded it was not moved or supported so that is what needs to be taken for that vote.

That vote will enable the main motion for having the discussion continued tomorrow as well as the substance of the motion to amend which is improper because it would have turned into a rejection of the main motion that was adopting to amend so that was the reason it was improper but again what we are curing again is that I can only make suggestions for activities and that it would need to be moved and supported as the Chair has stated.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So can I get a motion from somebody?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Let's see if I got this right so I'll make a motion that we add the discussion on regions and we will have to make a vote on if we are going to take it up on Friday, which is tomorrow, or next Thursday and then we can vote on it by saying either Friday or Thursday.

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>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Second.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Motion by Commissioner Witjes, seconded by Commissioner Clark.

I will ask Department of State staff to please do a roll call vote on this.

So again to clarify you are saying whether you want the hearing or the discussion to continue tomorrow, which is Friday, or Thursday of next week which is August 5th.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you Madam Chair Commissioners please indicate which day you would like the discussion to continue on.

I will call your name in alphabetical order starting with Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Friday.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Doug Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Friday.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Next week Thursday.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Friday.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Thursday.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Friday.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Friday.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Friday.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Friday.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Thursday next week.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Friday.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: By a vote of 8 for Friday to 3 for next Thursday, Friday carries.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Ms. Reinhardt.

All right moving on to the next item on our agenda we will now review and approve the minutes and I will entertain a motion to approve the meeting minutes from July 15, 2021, if there are no proposed edits.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: So moved.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Motion made by Commissioner Lett I'm sorry motion made by Commissioner Witjes.

>> Second.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Seconded by Commissioner Lett.

Is there any discussion on the motion? Hearing none it is moved and seconded to approve the meeting minutes from July 15, 2021, all in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

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

Ms. Hammersmith and Mr. Woods would like to provide staff reports today without objection I will ask Executive Director Hammersmith to provide a staff report.

Hearing no objection please proceed Ms. Hammersmith.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Thank you Vice Chair Kellom.

You've heard several reports from me already so this will be short.

I wanted to mention that the agendas this week and last week have been built according to the Commission request that was a motion by Commissioner Lett in Benton Harbor on the 15th so we are trying out this new agenda order, if everybody likes it with will finalize it in the rules of procedures so we will see how the goes and I mentioned earlier the regular meetings in September have been billed out until 7:00 p.m. which will preclude use of state facilities so understanding that if this Commission wants to consider being in state facilities we would have to amend that schedule to stop those meetings by 5.

But we also have to assume that the hours will be adequate to do the work.

So we would let Mr. Brace weigh in on that.

Regarding the 24/7 technical support on the Autobound edge software if you have a PC technical issue call them directly.

If it's any other map issue then go through me, please on that so again we do have the 24/7 technical support so if it's 11:00 p.m. and you are working on something and your software crashes that's when you call them.

And then on getting the software, I kind of need to know where we are as far as how many have it downloaded already.

But I have been informed after we came back from the break that MDOS is saying that the admin rights you are getting can only be used to download the software and those will be removed those rights will be removed so that seems to be another technical issue we will have to work through to move forward so just so you're aware that we keep working on the issues.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you very much Executive Director Hammersmith. Without objection I will ask communications and outreach director Edward woods III to please provide a staff report.

Hearing no objection please proceed director woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you just a second, I just gave the Department of State the report that you will be able to see on the screen but it's a brief report. Not a long report for your consideration.

While we are waiting, we can really just go straight to the information items our weekly Commission meetings will be on the MICRC YouTube channel starting next week, working with MDOS on that.

There has been a lot of concern with regards to identifying where to find it on the website.

We do have our own YouTube channel MICRC does have its own YouTube channel and starting next week you will be able to find our meetings on the YouTube channel. Thursday, August 19th we are looking to hear back from MDOS today as to where we will be on the 19th but looking to do a group photo so for pictures.

So I know I want to make sure I let everyone know in advance, I've gotten in trouble when I have not given people enough notice that they are going to be photos so if there is anything that needs to be done before then I don't know if people want to get a haircut or if they are going to the beauty parlor, I just want to make sure you had advanced notice.

This is three weeks' notice that we are going to take a picture, a group photo on the 19th.

PBS news hour will be here.

Also on the 19th out of New York they will be coming here to interview but also do background footage.

So if we can do that and wood TV out of Grand Rapids will also be present at that meeting.

So just wanted to share with you what will be taking place on the 19th so it's on your schedule and know we will have media there throughout the entire broadcast, in person. We will make sure they are not in your way with regards to that.

But wanted to make sure that that information was made available.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you very much are you all done?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you very much I just gave that team them and we are going to put this up.

This is giving a second slide talks about the engagement as it relates to our first round of public hearings.

This is the first round of public hearings what you see on the screen is the first eight that we did.

The first eight that we did.

We did a mid-term report for the press as relates to the first eight.

Our attendance was usually counted.

Once the public hearings started or not too long after that it was a hand count that I did with regards to that.

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The in person and the remote were provided by MDOS staff.

And it includes the in person remote and the total public comments that we have then the virtual public comments as provided by the Moon and her team who has the contract with the Secretary of State that provides us with those weekly updates that you see every week.

And the reason why you see it every other column is so it represents what we receive that week.

For example, we had the public hearing in Jackson and Kalamazoo in the same week. And so therefore you're seeing it on the Kalamazoo that we had 121 public comments that came in for that week.

55 for afterwards, 102, 51, 329 total.

So if you look after the eight public hearings and I will be definitely sharing the presentation so no need to write it down we had 881 in attendance, 411 in person, 21 remote, 432 public comments.

And 329 virtual public comments.

If you go to the second one, for the second eight we had 970 people in attendance. 526 in person comments.

57 remote comments.

582 public comments.

And then 627 for the second round or the last eight I should say of the public hearing where there were more in populated areas which gives us a grand total 1851 in attendance, 936 in person comments.

78 remote public comments.

And 1014 total public comments.

956.

So obviously what we are seeing is people are more comfortable doing in person comments versus mapping and so therefore we know that that is a gap that we need to increase.

Doug and I Commission Doug Clark and I yesterday with the Filipino organization and requested assistance for maps so there is I don't want to say outcry but there is a desire for people to help with map assistance as they draw their community of interest, as they draw their State House, State Senate as well as Congressional maps.

For those who may not be technologically inclined just doing that and being able to provide comments so just wanted to share that with you.

As we know our communications plan follows our straw the strategic plan fairness awareness transparency and engagement.

Fairness we want to make sure we share the process so you should be receiving in August updated presentations.

We want to share the process for adopting maps so people know how that is done in a fashion that includes each affiliate group.

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We want to make sure that is clear.

We want to continue to request Michigan residents to provide public comments maps and communities of interest.

And we want to make sure that we address gerrymandering by sharing the 7 redistricting criteria.

No gerrymandering is still an issue and people understand gerrymandering and that is a word they use in their vernacular, awareness in the redistricting process billboards and television ads.

The first round we did the billboards in the rural areas.

The Commission authorized 60,000 and with the rest of the money we are going to now put it in the areas where we hosted our public hearings and looking at doing social media campaign.

We want to start a candid conversations where we do a recap of our meetings so people know exactly what is taking place.

And can identify where we are.

And of course invite the Commissioners to come one by one to share their perspectives about where we are.

And then we need to resume our press forms.

Try to identify the best time to do those.

We were meeting 9-12 or 1-4 and usually do our press forms right after that.

So just trying to do that so that we can also coincide with timelines to be on the news.

Transparency model transparent redistricting process.

I talked to executive director Sue Hammersmith as well as to identify the Commission meetings where the region districts are being discussed for targeted promotion and once they are identified we can share with people who live there you may want to pay attention we are going to talk about your region or District today so we can do targeted promotion across the state.

Show how public comments maps and communities of interest are incorporated into the mapping process, people want to make sure that what they wrote, what they submitted is being included or considered.

The best word would probably be considered in the mapping process.

And then we want to enhance the website.

Last week we shared how we thanked our communication and outreach team and we've got feedback.

There are Commissioners Szetela and Commissioner Rothhorn, Commissioner Orton, and then our Executive Director Sue Hammersmith and our General Counsel Julianne Pastula met with our different groups and they provided some enhancements to the websites and we want to consider so that is a little bit more easier and transparent to find information.

So I want to thank them for that.

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And then last but not least engagement.

We've had a lot of engagement, and some additional engagement requests for town hall forums and with these town hall forums presentations to include mapping we are asking those that sponsor the town hall forums to provide computers now or provide tablets where people can submit maps or submit comments on their own.

So that we can get that feedback in real time.

We continue with training the trainer public comment portal with our communication outreach team and working identifying ambassadors or people that influence.

And respective communities.

For those who do not trust Government or have challenges there is always someone that has credibility.

We are looking to identify that.

Then we are also developing material for translation.

Primarily in Arabic Spanish and Bengali and there are other languages that have been mentioned as well so that we can have a more a better response from diverse populations who may not speak English.

Going to the screen the informational items I mentioned earlier about MDOS making sure our YouTube channel starting next week will be included as well as we will know where our location is by today.

We will hear from MDOS and group photo on August 19th, PBS news hour August 19th and wood TV.

If there is any questions Madam Chairperson, I can take them at this time.

And thank you so much Mustafa for making this happen.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you so much Mr. Woods.

Commissioner Clark did you have a question? Any questions or comments for Mr. Woods? All right thank you very much.

At this point I will ask our General Counsel Julianne Pastula if she has a staff report for us at this time.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you Madam Chair.

Not at this time.

Tom, thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you very much.

Without objection I will ask Sarah Reinhardt from Michigan Department of State to provide a report.

Hearing no objection please proceed Ms. Reinhardt.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Hi Commissioners I have one very short update which I think you already aware of next week's meeting will be right here in this room once more.

And that's all I have for you.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you very much.

There's no correspondence today to discuss which is our agenda item number 10 so we will move on to agenda item number 11 future items and without objection I will ask Executive Director Hammersmith.

Hearing no objection please proceed Executive Director Hammersmith.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Mapping mapping mapping is the thrust of all the future agendas so get ready.

Get ready, make sure you are ready to get some mapping down because even though we are utilizing you will be utilizing alternative data sets in the short term, it's great practice.

It's going to get you somewhat close to where you want to be in the future and that will be the majority of the work.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you very much.

Any questions or comments for our Executive Director? All right, are there any announcements from anyone?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: If you are staying at the St. Regis hotel, please get with me after this meeting.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you any other announcements? Executive Director do you have any announcements? All right, as the items on the agenda are completed and the Commission has no further business a motion to adjourn is in order may I have a motion to adjourn.

>> So moved.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Motion made by Commissioner Witjes, seconded by Commissioner Curry.

All in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All opposed please raise your hand and say nay. The ayes prevail and the meeting is adjourned at 4:11.

Thank you very much everybody.