

# Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

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

Full agenda, presentations, transcripts, and video recordings are available at  
[RedistrictingMichigan.org](http://RedistrictingMichigan.org)

**Thursday, April 29, 2021**

**9:06 AM – 11:21 AM**

## MINUTES

**PRESENT:** Douglas James Clark (attending remotely from Rochester Hills, MI)  
Juanita Curry (attending remotely from Detroit, MI)  
Anthony Eid (attending remotely from Detroit, MI)  
Brittni Kellom (attending remotely from Detroit, MI)  
Rhonda Lange (attending remotely from Reed City, MI)  
Steven Terry Lett (attending remotely from Grand Traverse County, MI)  
Cynthia Orton (attending remotely from Battle Creek, MI)  
MC Rothhorn (attending remotely from Lansing, MI)  
Rebecca Szetela (attending remotely from Wayne County, MI)  
Janice Vallette (attending remotely from Highland, MI)  
Erin Wagner (*left meeting at 9:43 AM, rejoined at 11:09 AM*) (attending remotely from Charlotte, MI)  
Richard Weiss (attending remotely from Saginaw, MI)  
Dustin Joseph Witjes (attending remotely from Ypsilanti, MI)

**ABSENT:** N/A

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

## **CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

Commissioner Kellom, Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) to order at 9:06 AM.

## **ROLL CALL**

MDOS staff called roll. All commissioners were present and a quorum was met.  
*Commissioner Wagner left the meeting at 9:43 AM and rejoined at 11:09 AM*

## **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

## **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioners discussed the draft minutes and offered no edits.

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Commissioner Kellom, Chair, opened the floor to public comment. There were three individuals who provided live public comment: Jacqueline Stewart, Donna Miller, and Frederick Nienstedt. A full inventory of live and written public comment is available at [RedistrictingMichigan.org](https://RedistrictingMichigan.org).

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Executive Director Hammersmith reported two pieces of correspondence and welcomed Commissioners to reach out to her if they wanted additional information.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Executive Director Hammersmith reported updates on negotiations with consultants. Regarding VRA Legal Counsel, Bruce Adelson has provided all the requested documentation. The release of the apportionment data delayed finalizing details with EDS. The two promotional consultant contracts for Southeast Michigan and the rest of the state are slated to be finalized by the end of the week. The venue contracts for the public hearings are also being executed. Regarding staffing, MICRC staff interviewed candidates for an Executive Assistant position

and decided to explore different options. Director Hammersmith will present an updated budget at next week's meeting. The Executive Director also hosted a brief icebreaker activity.

## **MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE (MDOS) UPDATES**

MDOS staff continues to work on finalizing the public comment portal and website. The portal is set to be live and available to the public next week, prior to the public hearings.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Contract for Video Production Services. Communications and Outreach Director Woods explained the MICRC's vision and funding for video production services. Director Woods asked Good Fruit Video, Message Makers, and Uno Deuce to respond to additional questions to identify their wow factors and obtain the best value. Along with his recommendation for Good Fruit Video, Director Woods listed the kinds of commercials and vignettes Good Fruit would create. Director Woods answered questions from the Commission.

**MOTION:** Approve Resolution 2021.04.15 Offer Contract for Videography Services to Good Fruit for the first round of Public Hearings in an amount up to \$49,999.99. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Szetela. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Public Hearing Details. Communications and Outreach Director Woods discussed the itineraries for the public hearings, including a daily itinerary/one-pager that will detail information related to each specific day. Itineraries for Tuesday will go out on the preceding Friday, while itineraries for Thursday will go out on the preceding Monday. Director Woods updated the Commission on the facilities, dates, and availability of AV contractors. Executive Director Hammersmith covered traveling logistics. MDOS Department Analyst Sarah Reinhardt illustrated the physical layout of the meeting and the appropriate technological features.

**MOTION:** Authorize Resolution 2021.04.20 Negotiation and Execution of AV Contracts for Public Hearings. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Rothhorn. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

## **BREAK**

Commissioner Kellom, Chair, called for a brief break from 10:01 AM to 10:11 AM.

2. Communications and Outreach Director Woods Updates. Director Woods updated the Commission on the MICRC Communications and Outreach Plan through its goals of fairness, awareness, transparency, and engagement.
3. Director Woods acknowledged and thanked partner organizations and Commissioners for their public awareness and engagement efforts. Director Woods announced Kristen Taylor would assist as an event planning consultant for the first round of public hearings. The Commission held a discussion on Resolution 2021.04.17.

**MOTION:** Approve Resolution 2021.04.16 Direct Media Buys to Promote Public Hearings totaling up to \$60,000 from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters, New Michigan Media, and the Michigan Press Association. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

**MOTION:** Approve Resolution 2021.04.17 Direct Media Buys for Billboard Advertising up to \$60,000 from Adams Outdoor Advertising, Lamar, and Outfront. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Szetela. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION APPROVED 10-2**

**Voting Yes:** Commissioners Clark, Curry, Eid, Lett, Rothhorn, Szetela, Vallette, Wagner, Weiss, Witjes

**Voting No:** Commissioners Lange and Orton

4. Updates from General Counsel Pastula. General Counsel Pastula informed the Commission it could elect to hold its May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting virtually based on the recent extension of the Declaration of the State of Emergency by the Ingham County Board of Commissioners. General Counsel Pastula then presented a request, with accompanying Resolution 2021.04.19, to the Commission for issuance of a bid request for a legal staffing agency. Their

work would be project-based, on an as needed basis and invoiced upon completion. After discussion by the Commission, the Resolution was not formally considered and the request will be addressed at the next meeting when an updated budget is submitted. General Counsel Pastula then discussed the apportionment data released on April 26. Lastly, General Counsel Pastula informed the Commission that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) does not require that people with disabilities be added to the front of the in-person public comment line.

**MOTION:** Approve Resolution 2021.04.18 Continued Electronic “Virtual” MICRC Meeting on May 6, 2021. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Orton. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

## **FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS**

General Counsel Pastula will continue researching costs associated with legal staffing agencies. Executive Director Hammersmith will present an updated budget next week. Director Hammersmith also answered general inquiries about future business.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

General Counsel Pastula will continue to research “prison gerrymandering”.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 AM.