

Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

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

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

Thursday, August 12, 2021

11:03 AM – 4:21 PM

at

Cadillac Place, L150 Room

3044 West Grand Blvd, Detroit, MI 48202

MINUTES

PRESENT: Douglas James Clark
Anthony Eid
Rhonda Lange (attending remotely from Reed City, MI)
Steven Terry Lett
Cynthia Orton
MC Rothhorn
Rebecca Szetela
Janice Vallette
Erin Wagner (attending remotely from Charlotte, MI)
(joined the meeting at 12:24 PM)
Richard Weiss
Dustin Joseph Witjes

ABSENT: Juanita Curry
Brittni Kellom

OTHERS PRESENT: Suann Hammersmith, Executive Director
Julianne V. Pastula, General Counsel
Edward Woods III, Communications and Outreach Director
Michigan Department of State ("MDOS") staff
Kim Brace, Election Data Services ("EDS")

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) to order at 11:03 AM.

ROLL CALL

MDOS staff called roll.

Commissioner Szetela left at 12:10 PM and returned at 12:13 PM. Commissioner Szetela left again at 2:45 PM and returned at 2:49 PM.

Commissioner Wagner joined at 12:24 PM.

Commissioner Vallette left at 12:33 PM and returned at 12:36 PM.

Commissioner Lett returned from recess at 3:38 PM.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERTAINING TO AGENDA TOPICS

Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, put the motion "to begin the public comment pertaining to agenda topics portion of the agenda" which was adopted. One individual provided in-person public comment: Ahmed Harajii. 10 individuals provided remote public comment: Sandra Sorini Elser, Connie Cook, Lois Maharg, Susan Smith, James Gallant, Quentin Turner, Richard M. Barron, Mark C. Payne Jr, Jerome Reide, Braden Lucan Crimmins.

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

Pursuant to Section 7.4.1(F) of the Rules of Procedure Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, designated Commissioner Witjes as Acting-Chair in the event she has to leave the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Draft Meeting Schedule – Resolution 2021.08.03 Approve Update Future Meeting Schedule. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, put the motion “for

Executive Director Hammersmith to provide information on the meeting schedule draft” which was adopted. The Commission held a discussion on the future meeting schedule.

MOTION: Add Public Hearing in Kalamazoo with the Data and Time Subject to the Discretion of Director Woods III. **Motion by Commissioner Orton. Supported by Commissioner Clark. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION APPROVED**

Voting Yes: Commissioners Clark, Eid, Lett, Orton, Rothhorn, Szetela, Vallette, Weiss, Witjes

Voting No: Commissioner Lange

MOTION: Approve Revised Commission Meeting Schedule. **Motion by Commissioner Rothhorn. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION APPROVED**

Voting Yes: Commissioners Clark, Eid, Lett, Orton, Rothhorn, Szetela, Vallette, Weiss, Witjes

Voting No: Commissioner Lange

- b. Q & A with Kim Brace, Election Data Services (EDS), Regarding Sending Shapefiles to EDS. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, put the motion “for Kim Brace with EDS to answer questions regarding Shapefiles” which was adopted. Mr. Brace answered questions from the Commission on how to send Shapefiles.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Proposed Questions for the Litigation Counsel Interview. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, put the motion “for General Counsel Pastula to cover the proposed questions” which was adopted. General Counsel Pastula provided an overview of the questions and answered questions from the Commission. The Commission discussed who would ask the questions.

MOTION: Add the Question “How Is the Firm’s Political Law Group Structured, How Would That Work Support the Commission, and How Would that Group be Distinct from Other Clients?” to the Proposed MICRC Litigation Counsel Interview Questions. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Szetela.**

**Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by show of hands.
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

- b. Subsection 11 Review. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, put the motion “for General Counsel Pastula to do a Subsection 11 Review” which was adopted. General Counsel Pastula provided the review and answered questions from the Commission.
- c. Mapping Process Compendium. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, put the motion “for Executive Director Hammersmith to share information about the Mapping Process Compendium” which was adopted. Director Hammersmith and General Counsel Pastula provided overviews of the various documents and answered questions.

MOTION: Postpone Item 6c. Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Rothhorn. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

RECESS

At 1:05 PM, Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, put the motion “to recess for twenty minutes until 1:25 PM”.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission back to order at 1:35 PM.

PRESENT:

Douglas James Clark
Anthony Eid
Rhonda Lange (attending remotely from Reed City, MI)
Steven Terry Lett
Cynthia Orton
MC Rothhorn
Rebecca Szetela
Janice Vallette
Erin Wagner (attending remotely from Charlotte, MI)
Richard Weiss
Dustin Joseph Witjes

ABSENT: Juanita Curry
Brittini Kellom

NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

- d. Communication and Outreach Action Items. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, put the motion “for Communication and Outreach Director Edward Woods III to present Communication and Outreach Actions Items” which was adopted. Director Woods III sought approval to allocate funds in the Communication and Outreach budget. Director Woods III answered questions from the Commission.

MAIN MOTION: Approve Additional Billboard Advertising and Spend the Funds Before the End of the Current Budgetary Year.

Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Clark. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

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

Voting No: Commissioner Lange

MOTION: Amend the Main Motion to include, “and Spend the Funds Before the End of the Current Budgetary Year”. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION APPROVED.**

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

Voting No: Commissioner Lange

MOTION: Approve Direct Mail Campaign up to \$49,999.99. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Rothhorn. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

- e. Interview with BakerHostetler Regarding Litigation Counsel Proposal-Presentation, Interview Questions from the Commission, and Answers. The Commission interviewed BakerHostetler.

RECESS

At 3:25 PM, Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, put the motion “to recess for ten minutes until 3:35 PM” which was adopted.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission back to order at 3:36 PM.

PRESENT: Douglas James Clark
Anthony Eid
Rhonda Lange (attending remotely from Reed City, MI)
Steven Terry Lett (*joined the meeting at 3:38 PM*)
Cynthia Orton
MC Rothhorn
Rebecca Szetela
Janice Vallette
Erin Wagner (attending remotely from Charlotte, MI)
Richard Weiss
Dustin Joseph Witjes

ABSENT: Juanita Curry
Brittini Kellom

- f. Post-Interview Deliberation. The Commission deliberated on BakerHostetler’s presentation and interview.

MOTION: Hire BakerHostetler as Litigation Counsel. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Weiss. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by roll call.**
MOTION APPROVED.

Voting Yes: Commissioners Lange, Lett, Orton, Rothhorn, Vallette, Wagner, Weiss, Witjes, Clark,

Voting No: Commissioners Szetela and Eid

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioners discussed the Litigation Counsel Review Committee minutes on August 5th. The Commission also reviewed the August 5th and 6th meeting minutes. The Commission offered no edits.

MOTION: Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, called for a motion to approve the committee meeting minutes from August 5th. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Lett. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

MOTION: Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from August 5th. **Motion by Commissioner Rothhorn. Supported by Commissioner Lett. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

MOTION: Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from August 6th. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Orton. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

STAFF REPORTS

- a. Executive Director. Director Hammersmith provided a report.

MDOS UPDATES

There were no updates.

CORRESPONDENCE

Commissioner Eid made a comment about the public comment.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Executive Director Hammersmith reported on future agenda items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioners Witjes and Eid provided announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 PM.