# Questions from the MICRC to the Consultants

## Questions for EDS

### REGARDING PROCESS:
1. Can the Commissioners get a list of the data that will be loaded into the database and the value of each dataset to the MICRC?
2. What do the Commissioners need to know in order to decide if they want the EDGE mapping software or the web-based redistricting tool loaded into their laptops, or whether to access the EDS internet version of the software? What is the process and approximate timeline for downloading the database on laptops? Describe the hosted and online training that is available.
3. Please help us to understand the documentation you will provide for the mapping process, so we can determine what additional documentation regarding the decision-making process will be needed.
4. Please explain how the data from the MDOS public comment tool will be incorporated into the mapping process.
5. Please share the suggested process for incorporating the Voting Rights Act legal counsel and Racially Polarized Voting input into the process.
6. Who from the EDS team will attend the mapping meetings? In person? Estimated time line, considering Legacy data as well as the final census release?
7. How many hours do you anticipate it will take the Commission to map 161 districts in open meetings? Over what time frame?
8. Is there benefit to a computer algorithm dataset for the process or collaboration with an outside academic professional that creates districts based on partisan fairness or other criteria?
9. Understanding that the Executive Director is the EDS contract program manager/staff contact with the consultant, should all questions and requests from Commissioners go through the Executive Director?
10. What is your experience utilizing consensus for interim mapping decisions vs. a voting process prior to the mandatory final vote on each map that requires a majority vote, including 2 Republicans, 2 Democrats, and 2 Independents/Other Parties?
11. Do you have suggestions/options for process efficiency or effectiveness?
12. What are the advantages and disadvantages of creating teams of Commission members to make recommendations for specific regions of the state? Or do we work as a whole body building collaboration, creating mutually acceptable maps, and speaking in one voice?

### REGARDING MAPPING:
1. What is your experience beginning the mapping process with a clean slate vs. consideration of current maps? Advantages/disadvantages of JURGS?
2. Where should the mapping start? Criteria 1 to 7? With Congressional, House or Senate districts? Geographically? Nesting?
3. As the third criteria, how will EDS assure that Communities of Interest receive such high importance?
4. Is there value to assessing school district data and considering an overlay for the maps?

5. What data will be utilized to guarantee no partisan advantage for political parties, incumbents or candidates?
6. Is it possible to include an overlay of historically redlined municipalities when we draw the maps?

**REGARDING VRA LEGAL COUNSEL:**
1. Please provide some suggestions on documenting decisions.
2. Share your suggestions for continuing education for the Commission within your area of expertise.
3. How does the timeline for your work coordinate with the mapping process and the Racially Polarized Voting analysis?
4. Please help us to understand the documentation you will provide for adherence to the VRA, so we can determine what additional documentation regarding the decision-making process will be needed.