

**From:** David Dulio <[ddulio@oakland.edu](mailto:ddulio@oakland.edu)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 2, 2020 9:36 AM  
**To:** Marsh, Sally (MDOS) <[MarshS3@michigan.gov](mailto:MarshS3@michigan.gov)>  
**Cc:** Sawyer, Jennette (MDOS) <[SawyerJ@michigan.gov](mailto:SawyerJ@michigan.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: letter for Secretary Benson

Hello Sally.

I hope this email finds you well.

Per Secretary Benson's letter of July 20, my colleagues and I are submitting a request and supporting materials to the Redistricting Commission regarding a proposed research project for review and consideration.

Everything should be in the packet attached here.

Please feel free to contact me should anyone have questions or need clarification on anything in the packet.

Thanks, in advance, for your help.  
Dave

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David Dulio  
Director, Center for Civic Engagement  
Professor, Department of Political Science  
Oakland University  
Rochester, MI 48309

# OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

Department of Political Science

September 1, 2020

To the Members of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission,

We write to ask for your support of a research project we hope to conduct on the redistricting process in Michigan. The creation of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission and its use in the upcoming round of redistricting is a unique and exciting opportunity for political scientists to understand the operation of this vitally important innovation in redistricting. We respectfully ask for your approval of our project, which we describe in some detail below.

One of the co-investigators on this project is Dr. David Dulio, professor of political science at Oakland University and director of the Center for Civic Engagement at Oakland. The other two co-investigators are Dr. Stephen Medvic, Kunkel Professor of Government at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and Berwood Yost, director of the Center for Opinion Research at Franklin & Marshall. The project will be coordinated at the Center for Opinion Research, a full-scale survey research organization with state-of-the-art facilities and a team of experienced project managers (see attached description of the Center).

Independent, citizen-led redistricting commissions are likely to be adopted in more states in the near future. As such, it benefits policymakers, scholars, journalists, and citizens to understand the attitudes and motivations of those who participate in the process. To that end, we would like to conduct surveys of those who applied to serve on the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, including those of you who have become members of the Commission. With your cooperation, we'd also like to conduct interviews with Commission members once your work is finished. Individual survey responses will remain confidential at all times and collective responses will be reported in academic venues (e.g., conferences and journals) and only after the 2021 redistricting cycle is complete. The surveys we design will be scrutinized by our institutions to ensure they meet federal guidelines for the protection of survey respondents before we are allowed to administer them. We'd be happy to share a draft survey instrument for you to review, at your request. And of course we will share our data with all interested stakeholders.

Your support of this project will help us more easily obtain the cooperation of the applicants and, therefore, we respectfully request access to contact information for all applicants and your written approval of this project for use in inviting participation in our surveys. Feel free to contact Prof. Dulio at [dulio@oakland.edu](mailto:dulio@oakland.edu) or 248-370-2523 with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

David Dulio, Ph.D. (Oakland University)

Stephen Medvic, Ph.D. (Franklin & Marshall College)

Berwood Yost (Franklin & Marshall College)

## *Principal Investigators*

**David A. Dulio** is Professor of Political Science Department and Director of the Center for Civic Engagement at Oakland University. He teaches courses on campaigns and elections, Congress, political parties, interest groups, and other areas of American politics. Dulio has published twelve books, with two of his most recent being *Michigan Government, Politics and Policy* and *Cases in Congressional Campaigns: Split Decision*. He has written dozens of articles and book chapters on subjects ranging from the role of professional consultants in U.S. elections to campaign finance. Dulio is also a former American Political Science Congressional Fellow on Capitol Hill where he worked in the U.S. House of Representatives Republican Conference for former US Rep. J.C. Watts, Jr. (R-OK).

**Stephen K. Medvic** is The Honorable and Mrs. John C. Kunkel Professor of Government at Franklin & Marshall College. He received his Ph.D. in political science from Purdue University and taught at Old Dominion University in Virginia before joining the faculty at Franklin & Marshall in 2002. His research and teaching interests include campaigns and elections, political parties, the media and politics, and public opinion. In addition to a number of academic articles and book chapters, Dr. Medvic is the author of *Campaigns and Elections: Players and Processes*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Routledge, 2018), *In Defense of Politicians: The Expectations Trap and Its Threat to Democracy* (Routledge, 2013), and *Political Consultants in U.S. Congressional Elections* (Ohio State University Press, 2001). He is also editor of *New Directions in Campaigns and Elections* (Routledge, 2011), co-editor of *Shades of Gray: Perspectives on Campaign Ethics* (Brookings Institution Press, 2002) and an associate editor of the *Guide to Political Campaigns in America* (CQ Press, 2005). His latest book, to be published in 2021 by Polity Press, is *Gerrymandering: The Politics of Redistricting in the United States*. Dr. Medvic provides frequent political analysis for the media and his commentary has been used by, among others, NBC Nightly News, CNN, *The Washington Post*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Fox News Online and the NewsHour with Jim Lehrer. Dr. Medvic provides frequent political analysis for the media and his commentary has been used by, among others, NBC Nightly News, CNN, *The Washington Post*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Fox News Online and the NewsHour with Jim Lehrer.

**Berwood Yost** is the Director of the Center for Opinion Research and the Floyd Institute for Public Policy at Franklin and Marshall College where he also teaches courses in research methods and public health. He has substantial applied experience designing and implementing public opinion research using both qualitative and quantitative methods, and has conducted funded research on behalf of government, business, nonprofit organizations, public utilities, higher education, and the media. Mr. Yost's clients include major private and public organizations and institutions in the fields of health, education, and business. Mr. Yost has published many articles in refereed scholarly journals and has also made numerous conference presentations based on the results and analysis of survey research he has designed and administered. His scholarly research has appeared in *Addictive Behaviors*, *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, *American Journal of Public Health*, *Commonwealth*, *Criminology & Public Policy*, *Human Rights Quarterly*, *Nicotine and Tobacco Research*, *Political Communication*, *Tobacco Control*, and *Women's Health Issues*. His writings have also appeared in *The Polling Report*, *Pollster.com*, *Public Opinion Pros*, and *Survey Research*, which are

published for the professional survey research community. The results of Mr. Yost's research have also appeared in major newspapers, including the New York Times, USA Today, The Philadelphia Inquirer, and the Philadelphia Daily News, to name a few.

Mr. Yost is also the Co-Director of the Franklin and Marshall College Poll, formerly the Keystone Poll, which is conducted for the Philadelphia Daily News, Pittsburgh Tribune Review, WTAE-TV, and WGAL-TV. The Poll is an ongoing survey activity of the Center for Opinion Research and the Center for Politics and Public Affairs, both at Franklin and Marshall College, which tracks public attitudes toward public policy issues and political campaigns.

### *Organizational Sketches*

The **Center for Civic Engagement** at Oakland University acts as a “convener of conversations” on a variety of issues that impact the local, state and federal levels. These conversations are designed to lead to a more informed citizenry in the surrounding communities. Through our work as a “convener of conversations,” we invite and host policy experts to campus and create opportunities for the community to attend panels and engage with these experts. We provide forums for public dialogue to take place, host elected officials on campus to discuss important issues of the day, and work to take OU faculty into the community to share their expertise on a wide range of topics. Utilizing technology, these conversations are shared with an even larger audience through podcasts and social media channels. Where appropriate, CCE partners with community organizations — civic, nonprofit and other public organizations in southeastern Michigan and across the state — to expand our reach into different communities. We aim to help create a more informed citizenry and build democracy through non-partisan, respectful and deliberative discussions about important issues of public concern and policy.

The **Center for Opinion Research** at Franklin & Marshall College is a full-scale survey research organization that provides services to government agencies, nonprofit groups, healthcare organizations and hospitals, educational institutions, private corporations, and the media. Our team of expert project managers and highly skilled interviewers provide survey research, qualitative research, data entry and verification, transcription, program evaluation, and statistical analysis and reporting services. A full range of data collection methods are available, including telephone, web, and mail surveys, focus groups, and depth interviews. As a nonprofit organization situated within a liberal arts college, the Center is unique in Pennsylvania, and our research capabilities are greatly enhanced by our relationship with F&M. In addition to conducting survey research for clients, we also pursue scholarly research, studying the methodologies and mechanisms of survey research itself. Therefore, evidence-based practices guide our choice of methodologies, which results in very effective survey instruments and highly reliable data. Our philosophy is to design and conduct studies customized to the needs of each individual client, and our project management team has significant experience helping organizations evaluate needs, define research goals, and design effective research strategies. Over the years, the Center has established a reputation for outstanding accuracy and reliability and insightful data analysis. We combine strong academic research experience with the ability to adhere to project timelines and budgets and produce results that are meaningful and helpful to clients.

**Oakland University** is recognized as a student-centered, doctoral research institution with a global perspective. A public institution, we engage nearly 20,000 graduate and undergraduate students in distinctive educational experiences that connect to the unique and diverse opportunities within and beyond our region.

The university was established in 1957 through a generous donation from founders Alfred and Matilda Dodge Wilson. They contributed their historic estate and \$2 million to Michigan State University to establish a satellite school, named Michigan State University – Oakland.

Oakland provides a distinct educational experience with flexible class schedules and state-of-the-art facilities, student services, classroom technologies, research labs, internships and research opportunities with corporate partners. Located in the heart of Oakland County's Automation Alley, the university has forged hundreds of partnerships with hospitals, Fortune 500 companies, cities, government agencies and educational institutions.

**Franklin & Marshall College**, located in bucolic Lancaster, Pennsylvania, is a four-year liberal arts institution, one of the oldest in the country, with an enrollment of about 2,400 undergraduates who have a wealth of programs and initiatives to choose for their studies.

Founded in 1787 by four prominent ministers of the German Reform Church and the Lutheran Church, in conjunction with numerous Philadelphians, Franklin College was named for one of its original benefactors, Benjamin Franklin, who donated £200. It was established as a German college with the mission “to preserve our present republican system of government” and “to promote those improvements in the arts and sciences which alone render nations respectable, great and happy.”

In 1849, Franklin College and Marshall College in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, founded in 1836 and named for John Marshall, the fourth chief justice of the United States, explored a merger to secure the financial future of both colleges. Three years later, in 1853, the two became one with James Buchanan, four years before getting elected U.S. president, named the new college’s board president.



November 16, 2020

Dear Members of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the questions and concerns about our proposed research project related to the Commission. We appreciate the chance to respond and thank the Commission for their willingness to read our proposal.

In the email we received on November 12, 2020 from Ms. Sally Marsh, there were three questions or concerns raised. We would like to respond to each of those in turn.

We use the term "invitation" as a general description of the process we will use to encourage participation in the survey. Our current plan is to conduct a survey of everyone who submitted an application to be selected to be on the Commission. The survey we are proposing will be distributed by email for those applicants for whom individual email addresses are available; for those where an email address is not available, we will use regular US mail. Regardless of the mode of delivery, every applicant will be sent an invitation to participate. If by email, we will send an email invitation that describes the reason for the survey, the survey content, informed consent material, and a link to an electronic survey form. If by US Mail, we will send everyone a survey packet that includes a cover letter with the same information as described above, as well as the questionnaire in a paper-booklet format, and a pre-addressed, pre-paid return envelope. We would like to note that we are not seeking to survey Michiganders in general about the redistricting process; rather, only the applicants to the Commission. This will mitigate the issue raised in the email about only certain individuals being comfortable participating. In a normal survey project, these issues of representativeness would be paramount and if we were conducting such a survey, we would pay close attention to this. But, since we are focused only on those who applied to be a member of the Commission that concern is lessened as we presume those who were able to fill out the application would also be able to fill out the survey. This is also helped by the fact that the Secretary of State's office worked to encourage applications from a wide range of individuals from different backgrounds to apply to the process.

With respect to the research team doing this project, this process will be directed by Dulio, Medvic, and Yost and carried out by the staff of the Center for Opinion Research (COR) at Franklin & Marshall. Our training is established on the curriculum vitae included in the packet of materials submitted to the Commission. In addition, all aspects of this project -- including a vetting of those involved in handling the data that would come out of the project -- would have to go through a review process through each institution's Institutional Review Board (IRB).

The research team takes attention to detail very seriously and apologizes for the mistake in Prof. Medic's biography. The duplicated sentence in that biography was a rare oversight by scholars with long records of publishing rigorous, meticulous research. We can assure the Commission that we will not allow such a mistake to occur again in this project.

Thank you again for your willingness to consider our proposal. Should the Commission have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

David A. Dulio  
Stephen K. Medic  
Berwood A. Yost

#ICRC00216119 Class Zoom visit

9 Sep 2020 11:38 AM

In Progress

assigned to:  
Reeses2

raised by:  
Tim Bledsoe  
timbledsoe936@gmail.com

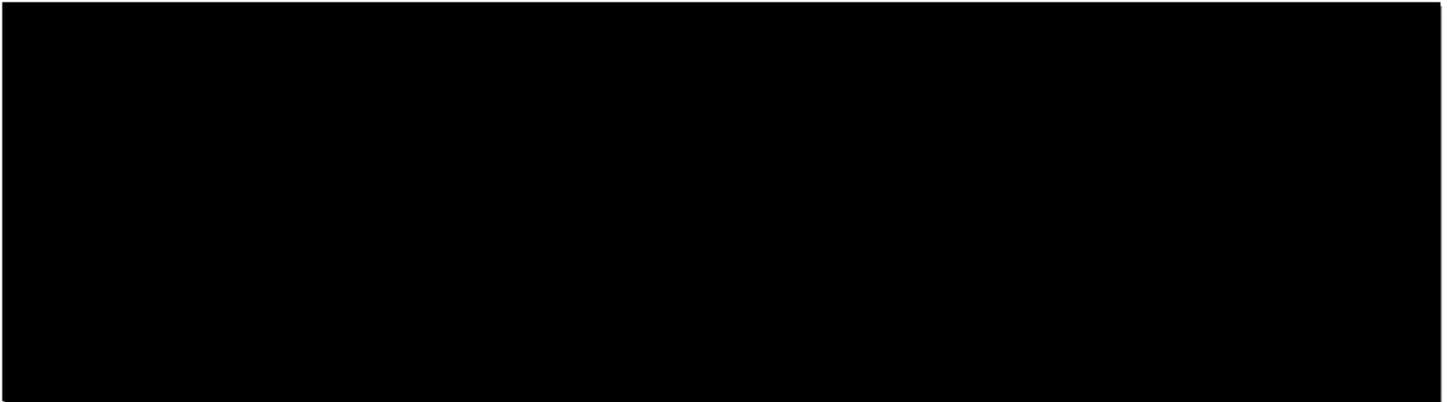
category:  
6. Independent  
Citizens  
Redistricting  
Commission

priority:  
Medium

due on:

Time Spent:  
0 minutes

Tags:



**Tim Bledsoe**

9 Sep 20 11:38 AM

I am teaching a class on Legislatures at Wayne State and would like to invite a Commissioner to visit the class via Zoom. Specifically, I believe Mr. Anthony Eid is a former Wayne State student and I would like to have him visit the class.

Please forward this email to Mr. Eid.

Thanks,

Tim Bledsoe, Ph.D.  
Professor

#ICRC00279991 McMillin written submission to MI Redistricting Advisory Committee for 10-17-20 meeting

16 Oct 2020 3:22 PM

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New	assigned to:	raised by:	category:	priority:	due on:
		<b>TOM MCMILLIN</b> tom_mcmillin@sbcglobal.net	<b>6. Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission</b>	<b>Medium</b>	

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Time Spent:	Tags:
<b>0 minutes</b>	<b>ICRC Meeting 10/16/2020, Public Comment for ICRC Meetings, Referral to Commission</b>

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**TOM MCMILLIN** October 16, 2020  
16 Oct 20 3:22 PM

RE: Executive Director Selection

Dear Members of the Michigan Redistricting Advisory Committee,

Thank you for serving on this committee and Commission. I know that a condition of being a candidate for the Commission was that you were not allowed to have been a recent partisan candidate for office. I will say that as someone who has been in politics since the late 1980s (as city councilman, mayor, county commission, state representative and now member of the State Board of Education), a position like Executive Director (ED) of the Michigan Redistricting Commission is critical to the success and true independence of the commission. The ED will, using his or her own biases (which we all have), filter out a lot of information and options that could be presented to the Commission. As you go through the process of redistricting, you will be given, say, five options for a key decision. The ED will have (either directly or indirectly) whittled down the plethora of possible options down to the five you are given. The ED's biases will have informed that paring process, perhaps very significantly. Obviously, you will not know what was not given to you.

Given the above, I would recommend that the Commission make public the list of anyone in the "final cut" and allow the public a couple weeks, at least, to search for reasons why each candidate may hold biases that the Commission should know about, before the final selection. Those in the final cut should be required to reveal any social media posts that they have deleted in the last year and any other requirements that would allow the Commission and the public to fully understand the biases of the ED candidates.

I would like to add one option in selection of the ED, which would likely be very unconventional – that being to have co-Executive Directors and choose one who is clearly partisan as a Democrat and one who is clearly partisan as a Republican. That way each could check the other's work and the commission could require that both approve all options presented (and by implication options not presented) to the Commission. This may be a way to help eliminate partisanship and political biases from options and information filtered out and options and information given to the Commission.

I request that this email also be given to all members of the Michigan Redistricting Commission.

Sincerely,

Tom McMillin  
Oakland Township, MI

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