



Selection Methodology

Random selection of 200 semifinalists

Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

How will the random selection process for the 200 semifinalist applicants “mirror, as closely as possible, the geographic and demographic makeup of the state” as required by the Michigan Constitution? This document details the selection process.

The Constitution

The [Michigan Constitution](#) designates the Secretary of State as administrator of the application and selection process for the Commission, as well as “secretary without a vote” providing administrative support to the Commission once formed.

The Constitution requires that between June 1 and July 1 of 2020:

“From all of the applications submitted, the secretary of state shall: ... (ii) Randomly select 60 applicants from each pool of affiliating applicants and 80 applicants from the pool of non-affiliating applicants. 50% of each pool shall be populated from the qualifying applicants to such pool who returned an application mailed pursuant to part 2(a) or 2(b) of this section, provided, that if fewer than 30 qualifying applicants affiliated with a major party or fewer than 40 qualifying non-affiliating applicants have applied to serve on the commission in response to the random mailing, the balance of the pool shall be populated from the balance of qualifying applicants to that pool. The random selection process used by the secretary of state to fill the selection pools shall use accepted statistical weighting methods to ensure that the pools, as closely as possible, mirror the geographic and demographic makeup of the state...”

In plainer language, this dictates that half of the 200 semifinalists will come from the pool of

applicants who received a random mailing about the process. The other half will come from the rest of the applicants. The proportion of Republicans, Democrats and unaffiliated applicants will match the proportion of the final Commission (30%/30%/40%). But what are the “accepted statistical weighting methods,” and how will they ensure the pools of 200 semifinalists “mirror the geographic and demographic makeup of the state”?

The Mechanics

As previously announced, the Department of State engaged Rehmann LLC, an independent third-party certified public accounting firm, through a standard public bidding process. Rehmann LLC will perform the random selection of the 200 semifinalists.

The random selection performed by Rehmann will include the following components:

1. **Randomness:** A computer program will randomly select 200 applicants from the pool (60 who affiliate with the Democratic Party, 60 who affiliate with the Republican Party, and 80 who do not affiliate with either party).

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**The 13-member commission
will be seated by Sept. 1**

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2. Statistical weighting: Statistical weighting methods will adjust the applicant pool statistics to reflect census proportions. This methodology ensures that the statistical likelihood of selection for applicants from different geographic and demographic backgrounds are equal to the statistical proportion of that population according to the census.

3. Representativeness: Ensure that the pool of 200 applicants “as closely as possible, mirror the geographic and demographic makeup of the state” by establishing the tolerance parameters for an acceptable random draw.

In order to perform this random selection, Rehmann LLC has developed a custom software program, using Microsoft Visual Basic for Applications within the framework of Microsoft Excel. This program will accept inputs on the demographics of the state regarding the sex, age, race, ethnicity, and geographic regions of the population. After applications to serve on the Citizens Redistricting Commission are received, the Department of State will remove any personally identifiable information, and provide the application information to Rehmann in June 2020.

Rehmann’s program will compare the demographic data of the submitted applications and apply a weighting factor, using accepted statistical weighting methods, to give each application an appropriate likelihood of being selected. For example, if the Michigan population is 51% female, but only 40% of the submitted applications are from females, then applications from females will be given additional weight (i.e., more likelihood of being selected) to balance that.

Next, Rehmann’s program will randomly select the 200 semifinalists in a way that mirrors, as close as possible, the geographic and demographic makeup of the state.

A few key points:

- All of this will be done based solely on demographic and geographic data. The names of individual applicants will not be included in the program until after the selection is completed.
- The selection will be entirely random, and the results compared to the demographic makeup of the state.
- If the random selection fails to satisfy the stated criteria, the program will continue to make new random selections until the criteria are met. The computer algorithm will not accept a random selection outside the statistical parameters below. Additionally, at least one applicant from each demographic and geographic sub-category (including all racial groups and all geographic regions) must be included in the group of 200 semifinalists.

Sex: 5.0% tolerance Age: 5.0% tolerance
Race: 3.0% tolerance Region: 5.0% tolerance
Hispanic: 2.0% tolerance

Demographic Variables

We will utilize data from the 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate, which is available to the general public via the American Community Survey Data Profiles online search tool. Michigan demographic information can be viewed [online](#), and detailed tables with data for [race and ethnicity](#), [age and sex](#), and [geographic distribution](#) are also available.

Note: The statistics published in our original public comment posting was for the 2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate. Since our original posting, the US Census Bureau has updated its website to the Data Profiles tool citing 2018 data. We have updated our percentages accordingly.

The variables will be defined as follows:

Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

Yes – 5.0% No – 95.0%

Race White – 78.52% Black – 13.81% Asian – 3.06%
American Indian and Alaska Native – 0.53%
Other – 1.23% Two or more races – 2.85%

Sex Males – 49.2% Females – 50.8%

Age 18-34 years old - 28.8%
35-54 years old - 32.4%
55+ years old - 38.8%

Geographic Variables

Southeast Michigan – 35.4% of the total state population

Eaton, Ingham, Livingston, Oakland, Macomb,
Jackson, Washtenaw, Hillsdale, Lenawee, Monroe

Wayne County – 17.7% of the total state population

West Michigan – 23.8% of the total state population

Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta, Isabella, Muskegon,
Montcalm, Ottawa, Kent, Ionia, Allegan, Barry, Van
Buren, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph,
Branch

East Central Michigan – 13.6% of the total state population

Midland, Bay, Huron, Gratiot, Saginaw, Tuscola,
Sanilac, Clinton, Shiawassee, Genesee, Lapeer,
St. Clair

Northern Michigan – 6.4% of the total state population

Emmet, Cheboygan, Charlevoix, Presque Isle, Antrim,
Otsego, Montmorency, Alpena, Leelanau, Grand
Traverse, Benzie, Kalkaska, Crawford, Oscoda, Alcona,
Manistee, Wexford, Missaukee, Roscommon, Ogemaw,
Iosco, Mason, Lake, Osceola, Arenac, Clare, Gladwin

Upper Peninsula – 3.1% of the total state population

Gogebic, Ontonagon,
Houghton, Keweenaw, Baraga,
Iron, Marquette, Dickinson,
Menominee, Alger, Delta,
Schoolcraft, Luce, Mackinac,
Chippewa

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