

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Selection Public Comment  
from February 27 to March 27, 2020*

**From:** Kurt Metzger  
**Sent:** Friday, February 28, 2020 11:43 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Would Appreciate Some Help Here

The "Selection Process" overview, drafted by the Department of State, covers the selection process and criteria for the 200 semifinalist applicants.

The devil is in the details, so I am requesting a detailed summary of the steps...from the originally hoped for 10,000 to the eventual "Final 13."

Thank you.

Kurt Metzger

Kurt R. Metzger  
Mayor, City of Pleasant Ridge  
Founder and Director Emeritus, Data Driven Detroit  
Principal, Kurt R. Metzger & Associates  
Pleasant Ridge, MI  
[www.cityofpleasantridge.org](http://www.cityofpleasantridge.org)

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** DANIEL OLSON  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 3, 2020 6:11 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Virginia must pass the redistricting amendment now - The Washington Post

----- Original Message -----

From: Daniel Olson  
To: Daniel Olson  
Date: March 2, 2020 at 8:49 PM  
Subject: Virginia must pass the redistricting amendment now - The Washington Post

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[Opinion | Virginia must pass the redistricting amendment now](#)

Any shortcomings are significantly outweighed by the positives of the amendment and redistricting commission legislation.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/03/02/virginia-must-pass-redistricting-amendment-now/?utm\\_campaign=wp\\_opinions\\_pm&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=newsletter&wpisrc=nl\\_popns](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/03/02/virginia-must-pass-redistricting-amendment-now/?utm_campaign=wp_opinions_pm&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&wpisrc=nl_popns)

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

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**From:** Jay Kilpatrick  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 3, 2020 3:30 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Question on Weighting the Pool

Hello,

I am one of the 3,033 citizens that has submitted an application to serve on the ICRC. I just read the Selection Methodology information posted and am curious as to how the weighting process will actually work.

I understand that the pool is supposed to mirror the State's population and the Selection Methodology article indicates that to make the selection pool reflect the State with respect to gender, applications from women would be given greater weight (assuming the current trend continues). That makes sense to me. But the article does not explain how that weighting process would work.

A very simple method of conforming a sample to a larger population, is to discard from the sample a sufficient number of randomly selected over-represented applicants until the remaining pool of both genders is reflective of the total. However, I don't believe this will work for the ICRC applicants, because it is also necessary to weight the pool to reflect the racial, age and geographic profile of the state's population. It seems to me that each round of discards would compromise the sample's representativeness with regard to previously completed adjustments.

I expect there are more sophisticated techniques that will be used and I would appreciate an explanation of that process, or a referral to a resource that I can study to better understand it. This will be useful to

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me just for my own education. And, if I am so fortunate to be selected to serve on the ICRC, I expect I might need to explain it in public meetings.

Thanks

Jay Kilpatrick

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**From:** Thomas Sawyer <tsawyer1957.ts@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 9:52 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Its easy

Just cut Wayne county into 4 counties and the rest of michigan is already redisrict. Make it county by county. Less work for everyone. Not cost millions. 100% fair. Representatives can have up to 3 counties to work for.



## **Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission for Fair Elections**

### **Selection Methodology: Random Selection of 200 Semifinalists**

#### *Questions and Comments of the League of Women Voters of Michigan*

The Department of State has released a methodology for winnowing down the total number of applications submitted to a “semi-final” group of 200. This group will be comprised of 60 Democrats / 60 Republicans / 80 Independents. The Selection Methodology document describes a process to select the 200.

The following questions are raised by this process:

1. The document states that the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) has been used to develop the demographic shares. However, there is no indication as to the year of the ACS file. The ACS is conducted every year, and the Census Bureau produces 2 separate files each year – a one-year file that covers surveys completed that year (the most recent is 2018) and a five-year file that aggregates data collected during the current year, as well as the four previous years (the most recent is 2014-2018). What file year is the State using?
2. Are the relevant selection demographics based on the total population or the voting age population (18 and over)? If the latter is used, does it consider all voting age people or only citizens?
3. The Census Bureau releases annual estimates of state and county populations. The most recent state population is for 2019, while the most recent county estimates are for 2018. What estimates are being used to create the geographic shares?
4. If the Hispanic, Latino, and Spanish origin share of the population is part of the formula, are racial categories calculated from the remaining non-Hispanic population?
5. When the random selection process begins, how will the universe of applicants be organized? Origin of application? Date of application? Alphabetical order? Partisan affiliation? Some other organizing principle?
6. How does the State plan to combine the requirement for the partisan breakdown on the Commission (30%/30%/40%) with the rule that the selection process should “use accepted statistical weighting methods to ensure that the pools, as closely as possible, mirror the geographic and demographic makeup of the state”?

There is no way to determine the cross tabulation of the population's partisan affiliation and their sex, age, race, ethnicity, and geographic regions. The second page of the document implies that the State will 1) apply a demographic/region-based weight to each applicant, and then 2) use these weights to fill-in the required number of people in each partisan group (30%/30%/40%). However, there is no guarantee that this procedure would lead to a demographically representative group of semi-finalists given the non-random overlap of people's partisanship and demographic characteristics in Michigan. This is especially true since it's not clear that the required 30%/30%/40% partisan split actually reflects the partisan breakdown in Michigan's population because Michigan voters do not register by political party.

7. Does the State plan to use raking to apply the demographic weights to the group of applicants prior to selecting semi-finalists? If so, what is the exact function in the visual basic program? If raking is not used, what weighting algorithm will be used?
8. How does the State plan to validate its weighting procedure?
9. How large a deviation from the target population proportions is the State willing to accept in the pool of 200 semi-finalists? For instance, would the State accept a pool of semi-finalists that is 52% female rather than 50.8%?
10. What does it mean when the document states that, "If the random selection fails to satisfy the stated criteria, the program will continue to make new random selections until the criteria are met"? Does this mean that the random selection process starts over? If not, how will the State decide which selected semi-finalists to drop so that it can make "new random selections"? Will the State disclose the names of applicants initially selected and then discarded in favor of "new random selections"?
11. Will the State disclose the software and the underlying computer code used in the random selection process so it can be reviewed and validated by outside groups?

March 23, 2020

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines  
Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

**From:** Richard Maloley II  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 18, 2019 3:44 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Public Comment: Citizens Redistricting Commission

I've read through the drafts and I approve. Great job!

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**From:** Jonathan Levine  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 18, 2019 3:50 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Application Draft Text for Public Comment

Regarding the draft text for the application to the Independent Citizens' Redistricting Commission:

1. I note the requirement for notarization and suggest that free notarization of this form be offered at any Secretary of State branch office.
2. Item 2a: "A declared candidate for a partisan election office in federal, state, or local." Suggested rephrasing: "A declared candidate for election to a partisan federal, state, or local office."

Jonathan Levine  
Ann Arbor

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**From:** Steve DeWitt  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 18, 2019 4:45 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment

Keep it the same

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**From:** Lynda Wolfe  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 18, 2019 6:25 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Suggestion for redistricting

The easiest and least expensive way to redistrict would be to use existing county lines.

It makes sense and is fair that politicians should represent all citizens in these well recognized areas, where residents have common interests and concerns. County lines are drawn in an organized way, do not change and are not subject to manipulation by any political party.

It's SO SIMPLE.

Lynda Ayn Wolfe  
Ypsilanti

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines  
Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

**From:** Edward Kowalski  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 18, 2019 7:50 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Redistricting

Will retired State of Michigan employees be eligible to serve on Redistricting Commission?

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**From:** Austin Glass  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 18, 2019 8:37 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Comment on draft Redistricting Commission Eligibility Guidelines

Hi there,

I hope this email finds you well. I have read through the draft Eligibility Guidelines and chased down the references therein to the Michigan Campaign Finance Act and I have a point of confusion that, if my assumption is correct, may be a recommendation for an adjustment to the wording.

In part, Subsection 1 of the draft document states:

What the Constitution says:

*"Each Commissioner shall: ... not currently be or in the past 6 years have been ... a declared candidate for partisan federal, state, or local office."* MI Const Art 4 §6(1)(b)(i).

Guidance:

The Michigan Campaign Finance Act defines a "declared candidate for partisan federal, state, or local office" as any individual who does one of the following:

- (a) files a fee, an affidavit of incumbency, or a nominating petition for an elective office;
- (b) is nominated as a candidate for elective office by a political party caucus or convention and whose nomination is certified to the appropriate filing official;
- (c) receives a contribution, makes an expenditure, or gives consent for another person to receive a contribution or make an expenditure with a view to bringing about the individual's nomination or election to an elective office, whether or not the specific elective office for which the individual will seek nomination or election is known at the time the contribution is received or the expenditure is made;
- (d) is an officeholder who is the subject of a recall vote;
- (e) holds an elective office, unless the officeholder is constitutionally or legally barred from seeking reelection or fails to file for reelection to that office by the applicable filing deadline.

which is a copy of the text of MCFA Section 3(1).

However, the MCFA lead-in to Section 3(1) states:

**169.203 Definitions; C.**

Sec. 3. (1) "Candidate" means an individual who meets 1 or more of the following criteria:

- (a) Files a fee, an affidavit of incumbency, or a nominating petition for an elective office.
- (b) Is nominated as a candidate for elective office by a political party caucus or convention and whose nomination is certified to the appropriate filing official.
- (c) Receives a contribution, makes an expenditure, or gives consent for another person to receive a contribution or make an expenditure with a view to bringing about the individual's nomination or election to an elective office, whether or not the specific elective office for which the individual will seek nomination or election is known at the time the contribution is received or the expenditure is made.
- (d) Is an officeholder who is the subject of a recall vote.
- (e) Holds an elective office, unless the officeholder is constitutionally or legally barred from seeking reelection or fails to file for reelection to that office by the applicable filing deadline. An individual described in this subdivision is considered to be a candidate for reelection to that same office for the purposes of this act only.

The discrepancy is that the guidance in the draft document seems to indicate that the stated definition is for a declared candidate for a partisan election, when in fact the MCFA definition doesn't appear to specify anything about this being a definition tailored only to candidates in partisan elections.

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Is there some other provision of law that indicates MCFA Sec. 3(1) applies only to partisan elections? If not, I believe the first sentence in the draft document, Subsection 1, Guidance should be changed to say:

"The Michigan Campaign Finance Act defines a "candidate" as any individual who does one or more of the following:" or similar, and the first sentence of Subsection 1's "Reasoning behind this guidance" should be changed to say: The Constitution does not define "**declared candidate for a partisan elected office at the federal, state, or local level.**" However, the term "candidate" is defined in the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (as above) and, while a statutory definition is not binding on the Constitution, it may nonetheless be instructive. and another sentence should be added just after that one giving guidance (or referring to the other Subsections which touch on this) explaining what "partisan" means.

If an individual, for example, who had filed a fee to run in a non-partisan office read this sentence in the Guidelines and the items in the list with the current definition, they might be reasonably confused as to why it doesn't apply to them (without, of course, looking at the FAQ, but that's no reason to keep incorrect wording). Unless I missed something (I have no legal knowledge or training, so this is quite possible), I think this is worth changing to less confusing wording.

Good luck!

Austin Glass

Rules Chair, Central Student Government

Ph.D. Student, Dept. of Climate and Space Sciences and Engineering

University of Michigan

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**From:** Jay Noble

**Sent:** Thursday, July 18, 2019 9:32 PM

**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>

**Subject:** Public Comment

I believe this application should have a "prefer not to answer" option for gender and ethnicity.

Your Friendly Neighborhood,

Me

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**From:** Sabrina G

**Sent:** Thursday, July 18, 2019 10:40 PM

**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>

**Subject:** Public comment regarding Application Draft Text

My comments are regarding the proposed Application Draft Text for applicants that are interested in serving on the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

The Secretary of State should stop requesting Male or Female information (gender) on all application materials for voters, including for citizens that desire to serve on the independent redistricting commission. Removing it from the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission application is the first step in removing an arbitrary item that has been added to the QVF files, and is not required by law.

I trained and supervised election inspectors, and the gender of an individual was not a factor that impacted evaluating an individual's eligibility to vote.

50 years difference in birthdate (son was marked as voting when it was the father), misspelled names or similar names, voter showing up at wrong precinct, voter not registered in time, were primary reasons a voter would be ineligible to vote.



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Election inspectors and/or City/township/village clerks would not have access to birth certificates or medical records for all registered voters in their assigned precincts to match QVF gender information, so using gender would be a highly inaccurate method "to assess the eligibility of an elector" 168.509q(e).

Michigan Election Law, Chapter 168, Act 116 of 1954, MCL 116 et al. has no requirement to include female or male (gender identifiers) on registration applications.

Below is the text of what is required:

**MICHIGAN ELECTION LAW (EXCERPT)**

**Act 116 of 1954**

168.495 Registration application; contents.

The registration application **must** contain all of the following:

- (a) The **name** of the elector.
- (b) The **residence address** of the elector, including the street and number or rural route and box number and the apartment number, if any.
- (c) The **city or township and county** of residence of the elector.
- (d) The **date of birth** of the elector.
- (e) The **driver license or state personal identification card number** of the elector, if available.
- (f) A statement that the elector is a citizen of the United States.
- (g) A statement that the elector is at the time of completing the affidavit, or will be on the date of the next election, not less than 18 years of age.
- (h) A statement that the elector has or will have lived in this state not less than 30 days before the next election.
- (i) A statement that the elector has or will have established his or her residence in the township or city in which the elector is applying for registration not less than 30 days before the next election.
- (j) A statement that the elector is or will be a qualified elector of the township or city on the date of the next election.
- (k) A space in which the elector shall state the place of the elector's last registration, if any.
- (l) A statement that the registration is not effective until processed by the clerk of the city or township in which the applicant resides.
- (m) A statement that the applicant, if qualified, may vote at an election occurring on or after the date of completing the application.
- (n) A statement authorizing the cancellation of registration at the elector's last place of registration.
- (o) **A space for the elector to sign and certify to the truth of the statements on the application.**

168.509q lists what information shall be stored in the QVF (Qualified Voter file):

Section (e) of 168.509q, uses a *subjective, arbitrary* statement to allow the SOS to collect all kinds of information: "any other information that is necessary to assess the eligibility of an elector".

**Election inspectors compare photo IDs and signatures when evaluating a qualified voter - eye color, age, and other facial identifiers are some factors used when matching identification to the voter. The sex of an individual is not an accurate eligibility qualification, thus it should not be included on the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission application.**

168.509q Qualified voter file; information to be contained for each voter.

Sec. 509q.

The qualified voter file shall contain all of the following information for each qualified voter:

- (a) The **name; residence address including house number and street name or rural route and box number, and the apartment number, if any; city; state; zip code; and date of birth.**
- (b) The **driver's license number or state personal identification card number** or similar number issued by a designated voter registration agency.

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(c) Jurisdictional information including **county and city or township; village**, if any; metropolitan district, if any; and school district.

(d) **Precinct numbers and ward numbers**, if any.

(e) *Any other information that the secretary of state determines is necessary to assess the eligibility of qualified electors or to administer voter registration or other aspects of the election process.*

(f) **Voting history for a 5-year period.**

(g) The most recent digitized signature of an elector if captured or reproduced by the secretary of state or a county, city, or township clerk from a voter registration application pursuant to section 509hh, or captured or reproduced by the secretary of state pursuant to section 307 of the Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.307.

Thank you for your consideration in removing this question from the application.

Sabrina Gross  
Ann Arbor

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**From:** Tony Lentych  
**Sent:** Friday, July 19, 2019 8:43 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** This question is poorly worded...

2. The Commission will be made up of 13 commissioners: 4 commissioners who identify as Republican, 4 commissioners who identify as Democrat, and 5 commissioners who do not identify with either major party.

To meet this requirement, we need to know your political affiliation (please select one)

- a. I do not affiliate with either the Republican or Democratic Party.
- b. I affiliate with the Democratic Party.
- c. I affiliate with the Republican Party.

I am not sure this is clear enough. The words "affiliation" and/or "membership" may be implied but should be explained. PLUS the 5 "other" commissioners may or may not be members of, or affiliated with, another political party but that is not asked. I know you ask for an "explanation" later in the application but this is the heart of the selection process and this just needs more work. How one affiliates may not be perceptible to the public or to a review committee.

I appreciate how hard it would be to craft this part of the application. It just might be better to let folks self select which seat they are applying for and then make them explain.

Just a thought or two.

Good luck!

T Lentych  
Traverse City

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From: Dot & Lee Barnett  
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 9:32 AM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Public Comment

Regarding the Draft for Public Comment:

Please define "affiliated." For instance, I have voted, and therefore had to declare myself in order to vote in a primary, Republican. But in the general election, I usually vote for Democrats. I consider myself to be independent, but am I according to this form and criteria?

Dorothy Potter Barnett  
Grand Ledge

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From: Laurie  
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 10:14 AM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Public Comment

Secretary of State Benson,

Thank you for your efforts to address this most critical & fundamental right within our state & Democracy, the right for every citizens vote to count.

I believe you have laid the ground work for a solid bipartisan process for Redistricting. My only comment is that making the ability to travel a requirement will greatly limit the ability of disabled, elderly, lower income, and mothers to participate on the commission. These are the same demographics of citizens that are most affected by the current gerrymandered districts, please do not exclude them from this opportunity. With today's technology for Teleconferencing and Web Streaming the "requirement" to travel should be removed.

Sincerely,  
Laurie Macpherson

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**From:** joe  
**Sent:** Friday, July 19, 2019 10:43 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Citizens Redistricting Commission

I feel very strongly that for the five commissioners that would not represent either major political party should be proven to have no party affiliation. This could be done by cross checking prospective appointees against campaign finance reports and donor lists.

Anyone who has donated to a campaign for partisan office within a certain time period, arguably 6 years, is ineligible to hold one of the five "No party affiliation" seats. If someone has donated to a candidate for partisan office within that time period, then they would be eligible to hold only a seat representing either of the party affiliation seats.

Joe Zurawski  
Milan

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**From:** Patti Pacola  
**Sent:** Friday, July 19, 2019 11:08 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Redistricting Application

Good morning; Just some thoughts on your "application for public comment":

1. Reword: "tell us why you care about this" to maybe: "tell us why you are interested in this Commission or tell us why we should choose you"
2. I'm not so sure about asking for the "birth year" but asking about highest level of school or degree will give you the same general answer?
3. Maybe ask for professional strength and weakness?
4. How about an optional Resume attached? And/or Letter of Interest? Optional Letters of Recommendation?

Thank you for asking for the public's input!!  
Have a great weekend;  
Patti Pacola  
Lake County Clerk/ROD  
County Elections Administrator  
Baldwin

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**From:** Mike Bolf  
**Sent:** Friday, July 19, 2019 12:19 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment - Draft Application Text and Eligibility Guidelines

I have read through the draft application and eligibility guidelines. I agree with the eligibility descriptions because they seem to capture the spirit of the constitutional amendment which is to remove partisanship from the redistricting process. I have two comments on the draft application:

1. I consider myself an ideal candidate for the commission because I am politically independent and furious with how partisanship inhibits cooperation and progress among elected officials, yet very willing to cooperate and compromise to make progress. One of the problems is the Commission requires 20-40+ hours per week with an approximate compensation of \$40,000. This will discourage many potentially well-qualified candidates that either cannot afford to or are unwilling to take a pay cut to serve. In other words, many of us already work full time, at a higher salary. I doubt there is a budget to increase the compensation, but maybe if there was a way to decrease the time commitment you might attract a better variety of candidates. Due to the mentioned constraints, candidates may be disproportionately low income, unemployed, or retired. The commission should represent a fair cross section of the entire electorate. The full time working middle class would be under-represented. Another idea is to enable some of the town halls or meetings to be held remotely via Skype or other related technology. This would reduce the time commitment associated with travel and also entice more rural or people to apply.

2. The application has a couple of related questions, but I think the following question is explicit, and suggest adding it: *"If selected to serve on the Commission, are you committed to protecting and advancing the common good of the people, and willing to hold this ideal above the interests of any single political party or single political issue?"*

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and to participate in the democratic process.  
Mike Bolf  
Marquette

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**From:** Bob LaBrant  
**Sent:** Friday, July 19, 2019 1:40 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment

The Independent Redistricting Commission established by the 2018 constitutional amendment will consist of 13 individuals, who within the last six years have had no partisan governmental or political experience or have any close family relatives who do.

Those 13 individuals will be randomly selected by the Secretary of State using “accepted statistical weighting methods to ensure that the pools as closely as possible mirror the geographic and demographic make-up of the state.”

The constitutional amendment does not detail what specific demographic questions will be asked on the application. The text of the proposed amendment only says the Secretary of State shall make applications available to the general public no later than January 1 of the year of the federal decennial census (January 1, 2020).

Is the Secretary of State in drafting the Commissioner application exempt from the Michigan Administrative Procedures Act? Is choosing which demographic characteristic to select or omit from the application subject only to the whim of Secretary of State? Is the inclusion or exclusion of a question subject to judicial review like the legal challenge to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce’s attempt to include a citizenship question on the 2020 census form? On these questions I offer no opinion.

The 2018 constitutional amendment says the Commission should be made up of Commissioners who reflect Michigan’s demographic and geographic diversity.

The 2018 redistricting amendment does not specifically define “demographic.” Absent a definition in the text of the constitution the Michigan Supreme Court has looked to a term’s ordinary meaning including its dictionary definition. Demographic information refers “to the statistics that describe a population and can be used to divide that population into different groups. Examples of demographic information include age, gender, race, income, marital status, educational attainment and political preference.”

The draft application is extremely thin on questions asking for demographic characteristics. So thin in fact, that it fails to meet the constitutional charge that Commission “should mirror the geographic and demographic makeup of the state.” The Commissioner application as currently written does not meet the test of ensuring diversity because the draft application does not ask at all about such demographic characteristics like educational attainment or income. The questions currently asked in the draft application would permit all 13 Commissioners to be millionaires or have income below the poverty level, all 13 Commissioners could have Ph.D.’s or be high school dropouts.

I would suggest that Secretary of State Benson draft a Redistricting Commissioner Application using the same categories found in the **U. S. Census Bureau’s Michigan Electorate Profile** based upon its most recent **American Community Survey**. Using those categories here is what the Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission would likely look like using data from their 2016 survey:

**% of the Michigan Electorate**

**Gender**

Male 48.65%

Female 51.35%

Six Commissioners

Seven Commissioners

**Voting-age population**

18-24 years 18%

Two Commissioners

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25-44 years 26.2%	Three Commissioners
45-64 years 35.9%	Five Commissioners
65 years and over 19.9%	Three Commissioners

**Race and Hispanic origin**

White 79.3%	Ten Commissioners
Black 13.9%	Two Commissioners
Other	One Commissioner
Asian 3.1%	
American Indian 1.2%	
Hispanic 3.9%	

**Median household income (MHI) \$52,492**

Higher than MHI	At least six commissioners
Lower than MHI	At least Six Commissioners

<b>Income below the poverty level</b> 13.3 %	Two Commissioners
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**Educational attainment**

Bachelor's degree or higher 28.3%	Four Commissioners
Less than a college degree 71.7%	Nine Commissioners

<b>Veteran Status</b> 7.2%	One Commissioner
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<b>Disability status</b> 14.5%	Two Commissioners
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**Political Party allocation required in the VNP amendment:**

Self-identified Republicans	Four Commissioners
Self-identified Democrats	Four Commissioners
Self-identified as having no party affiliation	Five Commissioners

**Geographical Allocation:**

Wayne, Oakland, Macomb Counties	Five Commissioners
Thumb, Genesee, Saginaw, Bay, and surrounding counties	Two Commissioners
West Michigan-Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Holland, Kalamazoo, Benton Harbor, etc.	Three Commissioners
Mid-Michigan- Ann Arbor, Brighton, Lansing, Battle Creek, Mt. Pleasant, Jackson, Monroe	Two Commissioners
Northern Lower Michigan & the U.P.	One Commissioner

Modeling the Commissioner application to reflect the same categories found in the U.S. Census Bureau's Michigan Electorate Profile would better ensure a Commission that reflects Michigan's diversity. The two optional questions included in the draft application (why you politically identify with a party or do not ; and why you want to serve on the Commission) are irrelevant because these subjective personal essays have no constitutional basis in the selection process.

The 2018 redistricting amendment does not require anyone to have experience, training, education, skills or expertise. Selection as a Commissioner is based entirely on an applicant's geographic residence and the demographic characteristics, they possess.

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
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Under the 2018 redistricting amendment an applicant does not ever have a face to face job interview. This is in sharp contrast with a thorough interview process Independent Redistricting Commissioner applicants have in California and Arizona. By my reading of the amendment, no one would ever know if an applicant is a bigoted social misfit until the first meeting of the Commission if that person is somehow randomly drawn as a Commissioner . But that was the choice of the drafters of the amendment to make selection purely random.

The draft application does make a non-binding feel good attempt to get applicants to pledge in their application (1 e. and f) that he or she will act impartially, with integrity, and will work collaboratively with fellow commissioners to reach a consensus.

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**From:** Pam Bethune  
**Sent:** Friday, July 19, 2019 2:29 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment

I have read the draft and like it. I am not sure you need the age question, but I like the rest of it.

Pam Bethune  
Thanks /Je vous remercie / Vielen Dank / Gracias /谢谢

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Jim Conboy  
**Sent:** Friday, July 19, 2019 4:09 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** age requirement

Question 4 under eligibility states "I am disqualified for appointed or elected office in Michigan Yes No". This requirement precludes anyone over 69 from serving as a commissioner since to be a candidate for a judicial position in Michigan the candidate must be licensed to practice **law** in the state, under the **age** of 70, and have five years of experience practicing **law**. Michigan Constitution. I doubt the age requirement was the intent of the voters in approving the establishment of the Commission. And I suppose it could be argued if one is not an attorney licensed in Michigan with 5 years of experience that would also preclude appointment.

Jim Conboy  
Cheboygan

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**From:** David Frye  
**Sent:** Friday, July 19, 2019 5:33 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** comment on draft application text

Typo: Singnature

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines  
Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

**From:** nick esper  
**Sent:** Friday, July 19, 2019 5:39 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** application comments

Have all applicants disclose all political donations for the previous 10 years.

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From: Janice Wheelock  
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 5:49 PM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Public Comment

I reviewed both draft documents for the Redistricting Commission. The application language is far easier to understand than the eligibility background language since it comes from the Constitution. I hope there will be a person to answer the FAQ...I think a common citizen who receives an application in the mail would be overwhelmed by the information.

The application might simply state "for clarification of eligibility, contact——." The document should also be available online of course, but not all voters use the internet. It might be helpful to list positions that would not exempt a person from serving: nonpartisan school board members, nonpartisan community mayors and council members, nonpartisan library or college board trustees, nonpartisan judges or legal officers, nonpartisan community boards such as museum, hospital or foundation board members, church boards, etc.

In terms of the application itself, all questions should be able to be answered as TRUE to proceed to the next question. A visual arrowed flow chart might help as well. "If you answered TRUE, please proceed. If not, (insert little stop sign) you are not eligible to serve at this time. Thank you for your interest."

Possible revised #1: I AM a registered voter or will be registered by August 15, 2020.  
"If you answered TRUE, please proceed. If not, (insert little stop sign) you are not eligible to serve at this time. Thank you for your interest."

Revised #2: I am NOT now, nor have I been at any time since 2014...  
a,b,c,d,e,f,g  
a. "If TRUE, please proceed to b. If not, (stop sign)  
b. "If TRUE, please proceed to c. If not, (stop sign). Etc. c-g

Revised #3: I am NOT a parent, stepparent... If you answered TRUE, please proceed. If not, you are not eligible to serve at this time. Thank you for your interest.

Revised #4: I am NOT disqualified...  
If you answered TRUE, please proceed. If not, you are not eligible to serve at this time. Thank you for your interest.

I wish you every success with this project. I am so proud of the people of our state demanding a more fair district drawing process. Thank you.

Jan Wheelock  
Greenville



*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
*Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

From: Jenny  
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2019 8:59 AM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Public Comment

To Whom It May Concern:

This draft for the Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission application is put together and thought out very well. It provides the applicants with all the necessary information they need to apply and gives the State of Michigan all the appropriate information needed to select who will serve on the commission. I think the fact that it has to be notarized is an excellent decision and will help weed out applicants who are not serious about serving. The only suggestion I have would be to make the two questions a requirement instead of optional. Each applicant should have to explain their political beliefs and why they want to serve to give the members of the state legislature more information for choosing the commission members. It is important to make sure we have individuals who can express themselves as they will need these skills to participate with other members on the commission.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to starting the application this fall!

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Richardson  
Troy

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From: Ruth Ziel  
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2019 3:48 PM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Public Comment

I have reviewed the application draft and feel it is well written and reflects our Redistricting amendment.

Ruth Ziel

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**From:** Paul Jordan  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 20, 2019 5:45 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** draft application

I think the application is fairly straightforward. I like that it clearly states the degree of the time commitment required.

I don't know if some kind of affirmation under penalty of perjury is required of anyone selected for or applying for the commission, but if so then I think that statement should be on the application. This is serious business, and lying on the application should be subject to penalty.

Paul G. Jordan  
Flint

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
*Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

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**From:** Sam Larson  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 20, 2019 10:16 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Comments on application draft

Hello!

The draft of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission application seems pretty straight forward.

The biggest item that jumped out at me was the demographic question about Sex. If we are confident that that data is relevant, we should ask about Gender Identity, not [biological] sex. To which a sample question might appear as:

"To which gender to you most identify?"

Female

Male

Transgender Female

Transgender Male

Gender Non-Conforming

Not listed / Other:

Prefer not to answer

Out of curiosity, and maybe it would lend itself to more clarification as well, does the question "A declared candidate for a partisan election office..." automatically disqualify someone who ran as an Independent? It seems like it would... and probably should.

Looking forward to seeing how this develops! Thanks,

Sam Larson  
Ann Arbor

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**From:** Ed Aboufadel  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 21, 2019 5:54 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment

Regarding the application draft, for section 2 on eligibility, shouldn't there also be a question that addresses this part of the Constitutional language?

(vii) an unclassified state employee who is exempt from classification in state civil service pursuant to Article XI, Section 5, except for employees of courts of record, employees of the state institutions of higher education, and persons in the armed forces of the state;

I realize that language is a bit clunky and hard to parse. But, as an employee of a state institution of higher education, I came to understand that I could not serve on the Commission. But I'm not sure as I read this again, and it would help to have clear language on the application form related to this passage.

Edward Aboufadel  
Ada

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
*Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

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From: Jo Foley  
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2019 8:10 AM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Public Comment

This is my comment on the draft application for redistricting Commission :

This plus the guidelines is very clear about what would disqualify an applicant.

The area that is not clear is what exactly “affiliation with a party” means. Does it mean actual membership in a party? Does it mean that one mostly votes for a particular party? Should be made more clear.

Thank You  
Jo Foley

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**From:** Arthur C. Spalding  
**Sent:** Monday, July 22, 2019 11:12 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment on draft application text

Recognizing that the constitutional amendment in §6, Part 2(A)(iii), and in other subsections, uses the word “affiliate”, I believe the word needs further explanation.

Even looking at a dictionary definition does not give sufficient information in order to know with certainty what the word “affiliate” means in the context of the Constitution and the Application requirements. For example, if a person has regularly voted a straight party ticket for a Major Party, does that mean the person affiliates with that party?

If a person has attended campaign rallies or fund raisers for only one party, does that mean the person affiliates with that party? If a person has made campaign contributions to a Major Party, does that mean the person affiliates with that party? If a person is a member of a Major Party, does that mean the person automatically affiliates with that party?

There are certainly many more examples that may lead to confusion as to who does or who doesn’t “affiliate” with a Major Party. Or does the applicant, who doesn’t get excluded by §6 Part 1, get to select whether they are an affiliate of one or neither of the Major Parties, even if the answer to one or more of the questions above is “yes”? For example, what happens if a person who is a member of one of the Major Parties attests that they affiliate with the other Major Party? How is such an attestation challenged?

The Secretary of State needs to provide additional guidance on the word “affiliate” and how that will be determined for persons selected to serve on the Commission.

Art Spalding  
Attorney & Counselor  
Rhoades McKee – Attorneys  
Grand Rapids

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines  
Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

**From:** William Burdick  
**Sent:** Monday, July 22, 2019 1:30 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment

To Whom It May Concern:

Regarding the draft application to become a member of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission:

The term “partisan” should either be defined in the application, or replaced with a more easily understood term throughout (for example, define partisan as “political party based”).

My high-school English teachers would want “parallelism”: every time the phrase “federal, state, or local” is used, the order of the words should be the same, not sometimes “local, state, or federal”.

Regarding question 1: If an applicant is not certain of being a registered voter in Michigan, in addition to suggesting they use the Michigan.gov/vote website, the application should contain at least one other (non-internet-based) method of making this determination (for example, an automated toll-free phone number). It is still true that not everyone has easy access to the internet.

Question 2a is poorly worded “A declared candidate for a partisan election office in federal, state, or local”. Suggested re-wording: “... elected office in federal, state, or local government”

Respectfully submitted,  
William A. Burdick  
Kalamazoo  
Registered voter

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From: Deborah Stevens  
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2019 5:04 PM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Public Comment

The Proposed Commissioner Application does not say where any work would be done (other than statewide hearings) and does not speak to reimbursement for travel related to that work and those hearings. This could deter people from applying if they assume they have to pay for gas and or lodging. Perhaps this area could be clarified.  
Deborah A. Stevens

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**From:** Sami Walton  
**Sent:** Monday, July 22, 2019 8:32 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Software solutions for redistricting

As a resident of southwest Michigan, I am curious why we can't use technology to fairly draw political districts.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2014/06/03/this-computer-programmer-solved-gerrymandering-in-his-spare-time/?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.9342867fed40](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2014/06/03/this-computer-programmer-solved-gerrymandering-in-his-spare-time/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.9342867fed40)

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*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
*Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

From: Nancy Mroczkowski  
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2019 9:06 AM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Public Comment

I think by and large the draft application is fair. I wonder though, about the section titled "Tell us why you care about this". If the selection is truly random, what purpose do these questions serve? I understand the demographic questions so that applications can be sorted in such a way as to mirror the demographics of the state as a whole, but I don't know what purpose the opinion questions will serve. If someone is judging an application based on opinion, then it's not a random selection, is it? Thank you for trying to make this process as transparent as possible!

Nancy Mroczkowski  
Grand Rapids

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**From:** Allen Wolf  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 23, 2019 10:16 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** language for Redistricting Commissioners

I have reviewed the language for the applications for Redistricting Commissioner positions. I found it to be very clear and precise.

The one area of concern is that partisan people may try to identify themselves as being Independent. I believe more guidance may be needed here. For example, are you an Independent if:

- You have campaigned exclusively for candidates of one party or the other during the last 3 years?
- Made campaign contributions to more than one candidate in the past 3 years and 75% or more have been to a candidate of one party?
- Consistently vote 90% or more for candidates of one party in the past three elections?
- Paid dues to a party in the last 3 years, but stopped in the past year?

I don't think "affiliation" means the same thing to everyone. Someone might define it as paying dues to a party. If someone votes Democratic 95% of the time but is not a paying member of the Democratic Party are they "affiliated?" If someone pays dues to both parties, are they Independents?

As you can see, I have raised the issue but I am not able to propose a solution. I leave that dilemma to you.

I believe the success of this initiative will rest in large part on having Independents who are truly independent.

Thank you.

Allen Wolf

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-----From:

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines  
Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

Bob Wilson  
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2019 11:36 AM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Public Comment - Redistricting Eligibility

I am very interested in any method to correct the gerrymandering that has occurred in Michigan.

I was under the impression that the referendum required a portion of the commission could/should be composed of those elected to local office.

I am presently a Township Trustee.

If the present application is 'draft', I suggest that those questions regarding eligibility be modified to allow for Township officials to serve on the commission. Simply stated, Michigan Townships are formed geographically and not by any boundary effort that could instill political flexibility over time. I believe this applies to both Charter and General Law Townships.

The same could be said about cities where they are not subsequently sub-divided to 'wards' or the equivalent. City boundaries can change by annexation but that is limiting in and of itself. But this change should not apply to County Commission seats which vary their boundaries by population.

Therefore, those of us elected to local Township office could bring a view of public service. And to deny participation through these eligibility questions seems unfair.

I live in a township and was elected by the 'primary' in August 2016 - the township is Republican by a significant majority.  
Algoma Township - Kent County

But I, personally, do not adhere nor condone the present course of the Michigan or National Republican Party as myopic and too conservative.

I believe the present manifestations of gerrymandering in Michigan and across the country have contributed to our present discord in state and national government.

Please let me know if you have any questions or dispute these suggestions.

Robert (Bob) Wilson  
Rockford

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**From:** kgrike  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 23, 2019 12:26 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Comments on draft application

**Comments on Application Language for Citizens Voter Commission**

*Two General Questions:*

1. Can part of the 20-40 hours of week required for service on this commission be done online at home?
2. Do these requirements bias the Commission to the disadvantage of low-income voters?

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
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*Under 'Eligibility' in the Draft Application*

2a. comments:

Awkward wording. Add 'election' immediately before the Yes No responses, or reword the entire phrase.  
Suggestion – A declared candidate in a federal, state, or local partisan election. Yes No

2b. comments:

Also awkward. Suggestion in synch with my 2a phrase – An elected official in a federal, state, or local partisan election. Yes No

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**From:** Hugh Purcell

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 23, 2019 2:53 PM

**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>

**Subject:** Public Comment

Thank you for letting me comment.

Prompt 2: "I am now, or have been at any time since August 15, 2014" is awkward and confusing.

To make this clearer, I suggest changing that phrase to: "Are you now, or have you been at any time since August 15, 2014?(Answer every prompt)"

Also make each, "a" through "g" prompt, a question.

Prompt 4: Missing final period(.).

Recommended changes to more full express the gravity and importance of being on the Commission:

Change from: "Being part of this Commission is an exciting opportunity. It also requires a significant commitment of time and energy. "

to: "Being part of this Commission is an exciting and historic opportunity. It (replace "also requires" with "will require") a significant commitment of time and energy. " (say it definitively)

Add "after your service ends?" to the end of 1.a:

from: "...these elected offices for five (5) years? Yes No"

to: "...these elected offices for five (5) years after your service ends? Yes No

I had to read the above prompt a couple of times, to be clear what it was asking. Additional phrase removes ambiguity.

Again, thank you.

Hugh Purcell

Democratic Precinct Delegate

Rochester Hills Precinct 29

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*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
*Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

**From:** Thane Richard  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 23, 2019 8:07 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Public comment: restriction on MI voters?

Hello,

I am curious to know whether there is a specific stipulation in the amendment language prohibiting someone who is registered to vote in another state from participating. From my reading, this is not specifically prohibited.

I bring this up because I am registered to vote in Montana but pay taxes in Michigan because of my business in Detroit. I care deeply about Michigan, own property in Michigan, and spend several months a year here. But I do not vote here.

I think that the voter registration restriction should be replaced with another restriction (like taxes, property, something else) for a few of the seats. I agree that there should be some tangible vested interest in Michigan to qualify someone, but consider widening the net to include some of the "Michigan diaspora." Someone like me would bring an element of impartiality that a registered voter could not bring by nature of being a registered voter.

Thank you for your consideration and best of luck! It is great and important work you are doing. Huzzah!

Sincerely,  
Thane Richard

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**From:** Al VanderKlipp  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 23, 2019 9:03 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment on RD Commission App Draft

Good evening SOS Team,

First of all, thank you for opening up this process for public comment! Love the transparency. I had a couple of thoughts and questions on the draft application, which I'll list below:

- Re: "what to expect" #1F, the wording is a little unclear on the vote threshold requirement. Does the final map have to be approved unanimously, by majority, or by majority with at least one "yes" vote from each party?
- In the demographic information section, it might be wise to include questions on disability status and/or LGBTQ+ identification, as long as you can guarantee neither would affect the hiring process.
- In the "tell us why you care about this" section, I personally prefer a word limit, just so I know I'm not over or under-shooting what you're looking for in a response.
- Finally, I was wondering if you could provide more information about the process by which congressional leaders can remove candidates from consideration. Is there a lottery system to decide who picks first? If the same candidate is picked by different leaders, does someone get to pick again?

I hope you don't mind me getting down into specifics- I just find the process interesting and important. Thank you again for the opportunity to get a word in! I look forward to applying in the Fall.

Best,

Al Vanderklipp

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*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
*Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

**From:** Kevin Quiggle  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 24, 2019 8:07 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment

I would like to submit the following comments:

1. I suggest the phrase:

*You are not eligible to serve on the commission if you answer "Yes" to any of the prompts in question #2-4 below.*

be moved to between questions 1 and 2 to clarify it's relevance to those questions.

2. The yes/no responses should be made in two columns of check boxes, either to the left or right of the questions. This will make it easier to check that all questions have been answered.

3. This phrase seems out of place:

The Speaker of the House, House Minority Leader, Senate Majority Leader, and Senate Minority leader may each remove up to five (5) applicants from consideration.

I suggest this phrase be moved to immediately after the section starting "Commissioners will be randomly selected . . ."

4. Optional questions: Some clarification regarding the length of the response desired would be helpful; are you looking for a brief response, a paragraph, an essay, or is any length response acceptable? I recommend that language be added indicating that a *brief* response be given - this will encourage clarity in the responses and make life easier for the poor souls who have to read all the responses.

5. With regard to notarization, language should be added to the signature section to note that the signature must be made in the presence of the notary. E.g.:

Signature (sign only in presence of the notary).

Sincerely,  
Kevin Quiggle

-----**From:**

Sandra Marsh  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 24, 2019 8:41 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment

This is a very difficult process to put in place! We cannot ask for a more qualified Secretary of State to oversee it. Precinct Delegates are not recognized as part of the election system, during the Board of Canvassers process nor as holding a second elected office at elections. Is that a conflict in the eligibility criteria? Also changing parties is common, is any criteria set to identify and firmly establish members for the two parties to qualify?

Sandy

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*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
*Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

**From:** margare goodly  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 24, 2019 12:12 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** comment Citizen Redistricting Commission

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and make suggestion to this Citizen Redistricting Commission. I the would like to suggest the following to either/or both the eligibility or application requirements. Considering the times that we live in, I believe the social media background of potential members are important.

A. I am not a member or have affiliation with any groups related to anti-government, ethnic intimidation, etc, which discriminate anyone based on sexual orientation, race, social-economics, religion or etc... **(use the criteria supported by the State of Michigan)**

B. I have never created, posted, liked or participated in any social media, podcast, or video (i.e. youtube) that consists of inappropriate or inflammatory comments related to ethnic, political party, or etc  
**(May I suggest language similar to what beauty pageants use or similar groups which a person's social media and participation may embarrass or harm the reputation of that group)**

C. I have never created or participated in any written documents/research that would seek to affirm or discriminate anyone based on sexual orientation, race, religion, etc..

Sincerely,  
Margaret Goodly, Ph.D.

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**From:** Bilky Joda-Miller  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 24, 2019 1:15 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comments:

Hi; My name is Bilky Joda-Miller, my phone number is 517.898.2899 and I would like to submit a comment/suggestion:

While some people might understand what a bipartisan office holder is I don't think most would.

I think it would make sense to have the offices/position actually listed, especially at the local level somewhere on the application so everyone will know exactly what it means and what it is. Some county delegates or county office holders might need clarification.

Thank-you;  
Bilky:))

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**From:** Diana Neering  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 25, 2019 9:20 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Redistricting

I support this constitutional amendment and encourage the State Legislature to fund it properly so the law can be executed in a fair and efficient manner.

Diana

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines  
Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

From: Tom Lewand  
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2019 6:14 AM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Public Comment

The draft guidelines and application look great!

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**From:** T CORDES  
**Sent:** Friday, July 26, 2019 2:58 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft application to serve on the Citizens Redistricting Commission. I offer one theme with a few subparts, and I end with an eligibility question.

Comments

My theme concerns the representation in the application narrative that the selection process is "random." I would submit that it is not.

First, other text indicates that potential commissioners should "mirror the geographic and demographic makeup of the state." (Where this quote is taken from is not identified, incidentally) The selection cannot be random, then, if demographics are, at some point, to be taken into consideration.

Second, if Legislators will be selecting the Commission from the 200 finalists then, again, this is not a random selection.

Eligibility Question

I understand that one is ineligible if "*a paid consultant or employee of a federal, state, or local elected official or political candidate, of a federal, state, or local political candidate's campaign, or of a political action committee.*" MI Const Art 4 §6(1).

**In my role as a County Administrator, do I work for the partisan Board of Commissioners or do I work for the County?**

Thank you.  
Tracey Cordes

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**From:** Kim Harris  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 28, 2019 10:29 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment

Good Afternoon,

My name is Kim R. Harris, and this correspondent is to provide comments on the draft of the new Commissioner Redistricting Map Application.

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
*Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

First, I would like to say, thank you for implementing a citizen led Commission that all Michiganders can participate in. I've had the opportunity to read the draft in its entirety. I've also decided to apply during the Fall.

Secondly, the draft application has a unequivocally clear outline of it's qualification requirements, responsibilities, restrictions, and it's intended objective.

Thirdly, I think that the Secretary of State did a fair job at drafting a user friendly application. Whereby, allowing great opportunities for it's citizens to participate in.

This public service initiative would bring a vast amount of talent that would've naturally gone untapped.

In conclusion, thanks again for having a diversified process of inclusion, which would bring fresh ideas to the Community of Commissioners in it's solutions of redistricting the Map of Michigan.

Best regards

Kim R. Harris

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**From:** Doug Williams  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 28, 2019 1:27 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment

Dear Sir or Madam,

I write to comment on the draft application for the new Michigan Citizens Redistricting Commission. The current draft is reasonably clear and consistent with the new constitutional language.

For clarity and accuracy, I would like to see more detailed advice in the instructions to applicants about how political party "affiliation" will be assessed in the application review process. If I typically vote for one party more than another, does this constitute an affiliation? If so, at what level of preference should I consider that I am affiliated? 60%, 80%, more than 80%? Will party or candidate donations, including volunteer work, be relevant and, if so, to what extent?

Thank you for considering my thoughts. I look forward to an improved redistricting system.

With regards,  
Paul Douglas Williams  
Kalamazoo

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**From:** Kelsea Wierenga  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 28, 2019 5:31 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment

Under the responsibilities section, describe the duties involved specifically with hosting town halls. Is public speaking a large part of being a commissioner?

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*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines  
Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

**From:** Gary Bird  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 28, 2019 5:40 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** redistricting Michigan

Gary Bird  
Maple Rapids

Redistricting Commission, for the sake of honesty and fairness, please, see that any redistricting is not overly favorable to either party. If no solution seems available, leave the districts as they are,  
Respectively,  
Gary Bird

I am a citizen of 80 yr. old. lived here in Maple Rapids for the last 29 years., also a 20 yr veteran.

Keep this thing above suspicion .

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**From:** sreardon@larkintwp.com  
**Sent:** Monday, July 29, 2019 8:38 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** I Never Heard

I had requested to be involved on this project. I never got a response, nor a reply.  
I'm curious how this was set up and how/who chosen to be on committee.  
Thanks. I'm just hoping for fairness and transparency.

Sandy Reardon  
Larkin Charter Township  
Clerk

---

-----**From:**

**From:** rabbibigman  
**Sent:** Monday, July 29, 2019 11:42 AM  
**To:** Brady, Mike (MDOS)  
**Cc:** Tapia, Loida (MDOS) ; Marsh, Sally (MDOS)  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from Secretary Benson

Dear Mr. Brady,

I took a look at the application form as requested and the only thing that jumped out at me (not being a lawyer) is the question about sex. It should definitely have more than just the male/female option.

All the best,  
Amy

Rabbi Amy B. Bigman  
Congregation Shaarey Zedek  
East Lansing

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
*Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

Jennifer Smith

**Sent:** Monday, July 29, 2019 2:49 PM

**To:** Marsh, Sally (MDOS)

**Cc:** Triplett, Sarah (MDOS)

**Subject:** RE: Letter from Secretary Benson

Sally & Sarah,

Thanks again for letting me review these documents. I noticed some grammatical and punctuation type things if you want those, but there is one more specific thing I would suggest.

Under your frequently asked questions about "what is a lobbyist agent" I think it would be good to either have a second question about organizations or just clarifying in the answer that the organization is not an agent. For instance, we have 30 employees here at MASB but only 4 are registered lobbyists. In reading this it's not clear whether or not the other 26 employees would be eligible or not. And we are a small example. I think spelling that out would be helpful.

Other than that, it looks good to me.

Let me know if you have any questions or what I can do to continue to help.

Jen

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**From:** Patti Pacola

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 30, 2019 12:31 PM

**To:** Brater, Jonathan (MDOS)

**Subject:** RE: Letter from Secretary Benson

Good afternoon;

Thank you for including the County Clerks in this process. I am wondering who is going to select the Commissioners?

Thank you;

Patti

**Patti Pacola**

Lake County Clerk/ROD

County Elections Administrator

Baldwin

---

**From:** Rob Otto

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 30, 2019 3:07 PM

**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>

**Subject:** Comments on redistricting application draft

I am VERY excited that my fellow Michiganders voted with me for this. I would love to serve, but if not, I trust the Commission that will be selected because the process MAKES me trust it.

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines  
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As for my suggestions:

- Do you have to be a current resident of Michigan to be on this Commission? Some people do not change their voter registration when they move. Maybe a couple Eligibility questions like this: "Is your current permanent address in Michigan?" and "Did you live in Michigan at least six months over the last year?"
- You may want to be clear on HOW the "Tell us about yourself" data will be part of the selection process
- Perhaps add a drop-down list of every county in Michigan and the prompt "Indicate which Michigan counties in which you have resided (select all that apply, including your current county)" That may help if you don't currently have any qualified applicants from a certain area (like the U.P.), then you can at least get someone who USED to live there or near there
- Rather than 'Sex' the question should be 'Gender,' and 'Other' should be a choice
- How about adding "How many years have you been a full-time Michigan resident?"

Good luck! I am looking forward to filling out this application myself when it is available.

Rob Otto

---

**From:** Todd Ellis  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 30, 2019 3:30 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment

Good afternoon,

After reviewing the draft application, my only suggestion would be to establish character or word limits on the optional free response questions. That will help set expectations for the level of detail you would like applicants to provide. Without a limit, I could foresee applications that range from multipage screeds to 10-page term papers to one sentence answers (though the last item would likely not be chosen to serve).

Otherwise, you might find more valuable information if you also included an open-ended question that shows something of how that individual works in groups and/or solves problems. Behavior-based interview questions (searching for that term will turn up many resources) might serve well here. Examples that seem relevant:

- Describe an example of how you worked with a team.
- Describe a decision you made that was unpopular and how you handled implementing it.

It might give people additional relevant information for making a decision.

Thank you!

Todd

**Dr. Todd D. Ellis**, Assistant Professor  
Mallinson Institute for Science Education and the Department of Geography  
Western Michigan University

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines  
Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

**From:** Jeff Kruer  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 30, 2019 4:28 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** 07-30-19 Tell The Republicans NO !!!!!

Dear Sirs,

Please do whatever is possible to stop this effort by the republicans from stopping the decision by the voters of Michigan, to put redistricting in the hands of an impartial and unbiased group of Michigan citizens. This disgusting effort by the republicans to continue their crooked attempts to steal elections, must not be allowed to go back to the questionable arrangement allowing one party to "draw" unfair and slanted districts.

Thank You  
Jeff Kruer  
Ada

-----From:

John A Erich  
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2019 4:57 PM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Public Comment

I do not understand how the sex and ethnicity will be worked into the pool of commissioner candidates. What is the process for this? Will applicants be classified as ineligible if they are in an ethnic or sexual grouping with too many applicants?

John Erich

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**From:** Dana McGrew  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 30, 2019 5:25 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Comments

Hi,

I have reviewed the application and believe that it is structured to get the information that you need.

I believe that you need to tell the applicants that reimbursement for travel is also available including lodging. If it is out of pocket, many potential applicants would not apply. Also, you need to let potential applicants know how long, far, and often travel maybe required. Spending 20-40+ hours may not be a problem for some people but if it is away from home for a week at a time and they do not know that up front, applicants may quit on you.

Overall, a great start!

Thank you,  
Dana McGrew



*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines  
Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

**From:** Bob LaBrant

**Sent:** Thursday, August 1, 2019 12:27 PM

**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>

**Subject:** Public Comment on Redistricting Commissioner Application (These August 1, 2019 comments supersede my previous comments submitted on July 19, 2019)

**SECRETARY BENSON'S DRAFT REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONER APPLICATION IS FAR TOO SKIMPY ON DEMOGRAPHIC CATEGORIES; MORE DEMOGRAPHIC CATEGORIES NEED TO BE ADDED TO THE APPLICATION TO ACHIEVE A REDISTRICTING COMMISSION THAT ACTUALLY MIRRORS MICHIGAN'S DIVERSITY**

**Public comment submitted to Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson by Bob LaBrant.**

The Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission was established when voters adopted Proposal 2 on the November 6, 2018 statewide ballot. The Commission will consist of 13 individuals, who within the last six years have had no partisan governmental or political experience or have any close family relatives who do.

Those 13 individuals are to be randomly selected by the Secretary of State using "accepted statistical weighting methods to ensure that the three pools (Republican, Democratic and no-party affiliation) of applicants as closely as possible mirror the geographic and demographic make-up of the state."

The constitutional amendment does not detail what specific demographic questions will be asked on the application. The text of the proposed amendment only says the Secretary of State shall make applications available to the general public no later than January 1 of the year of the federal decennial census (January 1, 2020).

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson claims under the 2018 amendment she is not required to ask for public comment on the draft Commissioner application that is posted on her department's website, but in the interest of transparency she will accept public comment on her proposed Commissioner application until August 9, 2019.

Although not specifically addressed in the 2018 constitutional amendment, a case can be made that the Secretary of State is not exempt in her limited redistricting role, as the Secretary of State, from the Michigan Administrative Procedures Act (rulemaking, notice, comment, judicial review). She certainly would not suggest that in choosing which demographic characteristic to select or omit from the Commissioner application is subject only to her whim? Nor, as a former law school dean, would Secretary Benson maintain that the inclusion or exclusion of a question is not subject to judicial review since the U.S. Supreme Court recently reviewed a legal challenge to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce's attempt to include a citizenship question on the 2020 census form under the federal Administrative Procedures Act. Her decision in this draft application to prohibit all precinct delegates and their close relatives from submitting Commissioner applications (may or may not be correct) but should be subject to APA rulemaking.

The 2018 constitutional amendment says the Commission should be made up of Commissioners who reflect Michigan's demographic and geographic diversity.

The 2018 redistricting amendment does not specifically define "demographic." Absent a definition in the text of the constitution the Michigan Supreme Court says to look to the term's ordinary meaning including its dictionary definition.

"Demographic information refers to the statistics that describe a population and can be used to divide that population into different groups. Examples of demographic information include age, gender, race, income, marital status, educational attainment and political preference."

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
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Secretary Benson's draft application is extremely thin on questions asking about the demographic characteristics of an applicant limiting them to just four categories: age, voting address, gender and race. These categories are so thin that it fails to meet the constitutional requirement that the Commission "should mirror the geographic and demographic makeup of the state."

The Commissioner application as currently written does not meet the test of ensuring diversity because the draft application fails to ask at all about such demographic characteristics as educational attainment, income, veteran or disability status.

The demographic questions currently asked in the draft application would permit all 13 Commissioners to be millionaires or in the other extreme all 13 Commissioners could have incomes below the poverty level. Without having a question on educational attainment all 13 Commissioners could have Ph.D.'s or all 13 Commissioners could be high school dropouts.

Secretary of State Benson should revise her draft Redistricting Commissioner Application. In revising the application, she need not look any farther than the **U. S. Census Bureau's Michigan Electorate Profile** and use the same categories found in that profile based upon the U.S. Census Bureau's most recent **American Community Survey**. Using those same categories here is what the Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission would likely look like:

**% of the Michigan Electorate**

**Gender**

Male 48.65%	Six Commissioners
Female 51.35%	Seven Commissioners

**Voting-age population**

18-24 years 18%	Two Commissioners
25-44 years 26.2%	Three Commissioners
45-64 years 35.9%	Five Commissioners
65 years and over 19.9%	Three Commissioners

**Race and Hispanic origin**

White 79.3%	Ten Commissioners
Black 13.9%	Two Commissioners
Other	One Commissioner
Asian 3.1%	
American Indian 1.2%	
Hispanic 3.9%	

**Median household income (MHI) \$52,492**

Higher than MHI	At least Six Commissioners
Lower than MHI	At least Six Commissioners

<b>Income below the poverty level</b> 13.3 %	Two Commissioners
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**Educational attainment**

Bachelor's degree or higher 28.3%	Four Commissioners
Less than a college degree 71.7%	Nine Commissioners

<b>Veteran Status</b> 7.2%	One Commissioner
<b>Disability status</b> 14.5%	Two Commissioners

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
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**Political Party allocation required in the 2018 amendment:**

Self-identified Republicans	Four Commissioners
Self-identified Democrats	Four Commissioners
Self-identified as having no party affiliation	Five Commissioners

**Geographical Allocation:**

Wayne, Oakland, Macomb Counties	Five Commissioners
Thumb, Genesee, Saginaw, Bay, and surrounding counties	Two Commissioners
West Michigan-Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Holland, Kalamazoo, Benton Harbor, etc.	Three Commissioners
Mid-Michigan- Ann Arbor, Brighton, Lansing, Battle Creek, Mt. Pleasant, Jackson, Monroe	Two Commissioners
Northern Lower Michigan & the U.P.	One Commissioner

Modeling the Commissioner application to reflect the same categories found in the U.S. Census Bureau's Michigan Electorate Profile would ensure a Commission that is a true reflection of Michigan's diverse population.

The two optional questions included in the draft application (1) Why you politically identify with a party or do not ?, and (2) Why you want to serve on the Commission?) are unfortunately irrelevant because those subjective personal essays have no constitutional basis in a strictly random selection process. The only rationale offered for these two essays is to give the four legislative leaders something to consider when each leader gets to blackball up to five semi-finalists out of a field of 200 applicants who have survived the statistically weighted random draw.

We need to remember that unlike the California Independent Redistricting Commission, the 2018 Michigan redistricting amendment (Proposal 2) does not require anyone to have experience, training, education, specialized skills or expertise. Selection as a Commissioner is based entirely on an applicant's geographic residence and the demographic characteristics they possess.

Under the 2018 redistricting amendment an applicant does not ever have a face to face job interview. This is in sharp contrast with a thorough personal interview process Independent Redistricting Commissioner applicants have in California, but that was the choice of the drafters of Proposal 2 to make Commissioner selection purely random.

The draft application does make a non-binding attempt to get applicants to pledge in their application (1 e. and 1 f.) that he or she will if selected act impartially, with integrity, and will work collaboratively with their fellow Commissioners to reach a consensus. Again, there is no constitutional basis for those non-binding pledges in the application and they should be deleted in favor of adding more demographic categories to the application.

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*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines  
Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

**From:** Linda Pell  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 1, 2019 1:45 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Application Draft Text

**Eligibility Section #3 at bottom of page 1/4.**

Should read: 3. I am a parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, or spouse of a person to whom one or more sections (a) through (g), above, would apply. Yes No

**Eligibility Section:** at the end of this section, you should make it clear to a person if they have been disqualified based on their answers to questions in section 3. Current wording does not make this clear and applicants might take the time to complete the rest of the application and submit it thinking they are eligible when they are not. More transparency is needed in this section.

**What to expect if you're selected section 1a Page 2/4.**

Should read: a. If selected to serve the Commission, you will not be eligible.....

Thank you for making this available for public comments AND thank you for continuing to move forward on a process that is clearly the will of the voters in Michigan.

Linda Pell

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**From:** Ben Deutsch  
**Sent:** Friday, August 2, 2019 10:27 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** PROTECT THE COMMISSION

Dear Secretary Benson:

"I support Michigan's citizen redistricting committee because independent commissions put power directly in the hands of the people and will result in fair maps that accurately reflect and represent our communities. This proposed commission will be good for democracy because...

It includes a 6-year barrier that will prevent people who have been affiliated with elected officials, lobbyists, or a paid consultants from serving -- ensuring the commission is non-partisan and independent.

The commission would provide compensation to commissioners, eliminating a barrier for those who are financially disadvantaged to ensure that the commission better reflects Michigan!

The maps the commission approves must be supported by members of the Democratic and Republican parties, as well as unaffiliated voters. This need for wide support would strengthen the validity of the maps as fair and impartial.

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines  
Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

**From:** John Bueltel  
**Sent:** Friday, August 2, 2019 12:20 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Comments of Application draft for redistricting

Currently, #2 says "The Commission will be made up of 13 commissioners: 4 commissioners who identify as Republican, 4 commissioners who identify as Democrat, and 5 commissioners who do not identify with either major party

To meet this requirement, we need to know your political affiliation (please select one)

- a. I do not affiliate with either the Republican or Democratic Party.
- b. I affiliate with the Democratic Party.
- c. I affiliate with the Republican Party."

I believe for this question to be helpful in selection it should further define "affiliate". What is the intent? Does it mean?

- I contribute / donate to a party or party sponsored political action committee
- My line of thinking generally aligns with a specific party
- I am a registered member of a political party
- ...

Simply put "affiliate" is ambiguous. Please clarify or you may not get the best information from applicants.

I am happy to discuss this further, if desired.

Thank you  
John Bueltel

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**From:** Julie Berz  
**Sent:** Friday, August 2, 2019 12:47 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment

I've read it all and found it clear, understandable and fair. Good job!

---

**From:** Elliott Zelenak  
**Sent:** Friday, August 2, 2019 2:07 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Redistricting Commission

I just wanted to email my support for the redistricting commission, and also offer myself as a potential member of the commission if requested.

Thanks,  
Elliott Zelenak

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
*Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

From: Lee LaVanway  
Sent: Friday, August 2, 2019 2:45 PM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Fair Maps

The thought that the will of Michigan voters could even be challenged in court is really scary; if voting doesn't count, it is the end of democracy.

Lee LaVanway

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**From:** Lori lynch  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 7:54 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Draft application text feedback

Hello,

I was reviewing the draft of the application and I see that the app will need to be notarized. I'm just curious about this requirement. It seems like it might be a burden to someone who would otherwise qualify and be inclined to apply. Just looking for an explanation on this one issue as I don't recall that from the ballot language.

Regards,  
Lori Lynch

---

**From:** "Rama Paruchuri"  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 8:07 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Fair Maps in Michigan - Redistricting Process

"I support Michigan's citizen redistricting committee because independent commissions put power directly in the hands of the people and will result in fair maps that accurately reflect and represent our communities. This proposed commission will be good for democracy because..."

- It includes a 6-year barrier that will prevent people who have been affiliated with elected officials, lobbyists, or a paid consultants from serving -- ensuring the commission is non-partisan and independent.
- The commission would provide compensation to commissioners, eliminating a barrier for those who are financially disadvantaged to ensure that the commission better reflects Michigan!
- The maps the commission approves must be supported by members of the Democratic and Republican parties, as well as unaffiliated voters. This need for wide support would strengthen the validity of the maps as fair and impartial.

Sincerely,  
Rama K Paruchuri

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*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines  
Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2019 8:18 AM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Michigan's citizen redistricting committee

I support Michigan's citizen redistricting committee, because I want fair elections, and I believe the committee is an important step in that direction, a belief obviously supported by the Michigan electorate.  
Dr. Lynda Crane

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**From:** tiyi schippers  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 8:20 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Redistributing Commission

As a local elected official in Cadillac I support Michigan's citizen redistricting committee. An independent commission will put power directly in the hands of the people and will result in fair maps that accurately reflect and represent our communities. This proposed commission will be good for Michigan for the following reasons:

- A 6-year barrier will prevent people who have been affiliated with elected officials, lobbyists, or a paid consultants from serving ensuring the commission is non-partisan and independent.
- The commission should provide compensation to commissioners. This will make it possible for those from diverse economic groups to participate, so that the commission better reflects Michigan.
- The maps the commission approves must be supported by members of the Democratic and Republican parties, as well as unaffiliated voters. This need for wide support would strengthen the validity of the maps as fair and impartial.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Sincerely,  
Antoinette (Tiyi) Schippers, Cadillac

---

**From:** Sue Beaver  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 8:25 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Michigan's citizen redistricting committee

As a resident of one of the most gerrymandered districts, I support Michigan's citizen redistricting committee because independent commissions put power directly in the hands of the people and will result in fair maps that accurately reflect and represent our communities. This proposed commission will be good for democracy because...

- It includes a 6-year barrier that will prevent people who have been affiliated with elected officials, lobbyists, or a paid consultants from serving -- ensuring the commission is non-partisan and independent.
- The commission would provide compensation to commissioners, eliminating a barrier for those who are financially disadvantaged to ensure that the commission better reflects Michigan!
- The maps the commission approves must be supported by members of the Democratic and Republican parties, as well as unaffiliated voters. This need for wide support would strengthen the validity of the maps as fair and impartial.

Sincerely,  
Susan Beaver, Grand Haven

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines  
Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

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**From:** nikolauk1  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 8:26 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for the Michigan Redistricting Committee I Voted for

To Whom It May Concern,

I support Michigan's citizen redistricting committee because independent commissions put power directly in the hands of the people and will result in fair maps that accurately reflect and represent our communities. This proposed commission will be good for democracy because...

- 1) it includes a 6-year barrier that will prevent people who have been affiliated with elected officials, lobbyists, or a paid consultant from serving - ensuring the commission is non-partisan and independent.
- 2) The commission would provide compensation to commissioners, eliminating a barrier for those who are financially disadvantaged to ensure that the commission better reflects Michigan.
- 3) The maps the commission approves must be supported by members of the Democratic and Republican parties, as well as unaffiliated voters. This need for wide support would strengthen the validity of the maps as fair and impartial.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Nikolauk

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**From:** harasrich  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 8:27 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Fair maps

"I support Michigan's citizen redistricting committee because independent commissions put power directly in the hands of the people and will result in fair maps that accurately reflect and represent our communities. This proposed commission will be good for democracy because it give equity to all people especially POC.

---

**From:** David Scheel  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 8:28 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** redistricting commission

Dear Secretary of State Benson

Due to gerrymandering and increases in limits for political contributions, our state legislature has been bought by millionaires and billionaires over the last two decades. It has impacted several areas of our government but possibly none more than our education system.

Our education system in Michigan was historically in the top 10 nationally as evaluated by independent groups, however, we have dropped dramatically to the bottom 10 to 15 states.



*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
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We need fairly drawn legislative districts so that our elected officials are well informed and work to make our schools, roads and water the envy of other states.

Sincerely,

David Scheel  
Marine City

---

From: Robert J Krueger  
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2019 8:35 AM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Proposal two support

My wife and I support the creation of an independent public commission to create fair Election districts. The present manner of drawing boundaries is hopelessly broken and subject to monied interests interference. We need this commission to show the rest of our country the right way to do things. A way that is fair to all concerned. Do not let the lobbyists destroy what the people have decided. That more than anything else is what is wrong with our current system.

Robert and Beth Krueger  
Big Rapids

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**From:** David Frye  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 8:36 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** redistricting committee  
Hello,

I am writing to support the Michigan citizen redistricting committee. I voted for the amendment that established this independent commission because I support democracy and I strongly a system in which politicians choose their voters instead of allowing the people to choose their representatives.

I particularly support the 6-year barrier preventing people who have been affiliated with elected officials, lobbyists, or a paid consultants from serving on the commission. This is the only way to insure that it will be non-partisan and truly independent.

I support the small salary that will be offered to commissioners, which will allow ordinary citizens to serve.

Thank you,  
David Frye  
Ann Arbor

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
*Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

**From:** Clarence Stamm  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 8:39 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Redistricting

I support this 100%.for to long the Republicans Have had the advantages and that must stop

---

**From:** Janet Walker  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 8:51 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Redistricting

Secretary Benson,

"I support Michigan's citizen redistricting committee because independent commissions put power directly in the hands of the people and will result in fair maps that accurately reflect and represent our communities. This proposed commission will be good for democracy because..."

- It includes a 6-year barrier that will prevent people who have been affiliated with elected officials, lobbyists, or a paid consultants from serving -- ensuring the commission is non-partisan and independent.
- The commission would provide compensation to commissioners, eliminating a barrier for those who are financially disadvantaged to ensure that the commission better reflects Michigan!
- The maps the commission approves must be supported by members of the Democratic and Republican parties, as well as unaffiliated voters. This need for wide support would strengthen the validity of the maps as fair and impartial.

Thank you for supporting fair elections in Michigan.

Janet Walker  
Farmington Hills

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**From:** maryoneillandted  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 9:00 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Redistricting commission.... I feel that Prop 2 is necessary to bring voters in charge of who represents them than politicians by gerrymandering our state so they pick who they represent. I used to be independent but when Trump was elected I could no...

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From: David Haskell  
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2019 9:02 AM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Support for Fair Voting Maps

Be Fair!

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*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
*Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

**From:** Brett Seabury  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 9:05 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** redistricting support

I support Michigan's citizen redistricting committee because independent commissions put power directly in the hands of the people and will result in fair maps that accurately reflect and represent our communities. This proposed commission will be good for democracy because it will cut out the influence of lobbyists and political elites who benefit from our rigged system. Please move forward on these changes.  
Brett Seabury

---

**From:** Michael DeRiso  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 9:10 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Proposal 2

Dear Secretary of State Benson,

I'm writing to let you know I support Michigan's citizen redistricting committee because independent commissions put power directly in the hands of the people and will result in fair maps that accurately reflect and represent our communities. This proposed commission will be good for democracy because the maps the commission approves must be supported by members of the Democratic and Republican parties, as well as unaffiliated voters. This need for wide support would strengthen the validity of the maps as fair and impartial.

It worries me to hear that highly partisan groups who don't care about the will of the people are launching lawsuits to try to stop implementation of Prop 2. Thank you for supporting and defending the democratically determined intentions of Michigan citizens like me.

*Mike DeRiso*  
*Clarkston*

---

**From:** Norman Viaches  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 9:11 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** comment

I am writing to express my support for the much-needed Michigan's Citizen Redistricting Committee, which a majority of us Michiganders mandated through our votes. It is a common sense approach to assuring fairness and impartiality when drawing maps, which were originally intended to accurately reflect and represent our communities, rather than what they had become due to partisan political skullduggery. This commission will be good for our democracy and should be formed and placed into service as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Norm Viaches  
Irons

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*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
*Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

From: Lynn Gustafson  
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2019 9:05 AM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Redistributing

Jocelyn Benson,

The district maps in our state are a maze of ridiculous pieces. As a lifelong resident of Michigan I want to encourage you to greatly simplify that map. At the very least a district should be contiguous, with no other districts inside it. They should be as regularly shaped as can be. I would like to see them follow county lines.

Thank you for the changes you are incorporating to facilitate the accessibility of our government to Michigan's citizens.

Lynn Gustafson

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From: Suzan Kucukarslan  
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2019 9:14 AM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Support for fair maps

I support a democratic voting process where every vote counts toward representation. It is absurd that voting districts do not align with who the people choose to represent them. So the new commission to oversee a fair process for establishing meaningful voting districts is important. (Meaningful for the people living in the district).

Suzan Kucukarslan

Northville

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From: Connie  
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2019 9:16 AM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: REPRESENTATION!

Please continue the effort to support fair representation in Michigan. It the basis of our democracy. That democracy only works if we are all represented equally!

Connie Degen

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**From:** Bill Riesesbeck  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 9:17 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Michigan's citizen redistricting committee

I support this proposed commission.

Bill Riesenbeck

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*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
*Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

**From:** GARY CYNOWA  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 9:19 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Redistricting Commission Proposal

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson:

As a retired public school social studies and Spanish teacher from L'Anse Creuse Public Schools and a registered Macomb Township voter, I want to state my strong approval of the Voters Not Politicians proposal that we in Michigan passed in 2018 and your office's efforts to make certain that the guidelines you have recommended for its implementation are adequately followed and fully funded to assure their viability.

Thank you again for your efforts to make certain that the will of the people as expressed in their votes on this issue so vital to a fair and efficient democracy is followed.

Gary E. Cynowa  
Macomb Twp

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**From:** Susan Halteman  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 9:29 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Fair Maps

Dear Madame Secretary,

I live in Grand Rapids, MI and I support Michigan's citizen redistricting committee. It is vitally important that an independent commission be tasked with this effort. I know it will result in a fairer map that reflects our community - especially with a 6-year barrier that ensures the commission is non-partisan.

Thank you for listening to the voices of the people of Michigan.

Susan Halteman  
Grand Rapids

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**From:** nancy.varner  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 9:34 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** REDISTRICTING

Secretary State  
Jocelyn Benson

I support Michigan's citizen redistricting committee because independent commissions put power directly in the hands of the people and will result in fair maps that accurately reflect and represent our communities. This proposed commission will be good for democracy because..."

- It includes a 6-year barrier that will prevent people who have been affiliated with elected officials, lobbyists, or a paid consultants from serving -- ensuring the commission is non-partisan and independent.

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
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- The commission would provide compensation to commissioners, eliminating a barrier for those who are financially disadvantaged to ensure that the commission better reflects Michigan!
- The maps the commission approves must be supported by members of the Democratic and Republican parties, as well as unaffiliated voters. This need for wide support would strengthen the validity of the maps as fair and impartial.

**I worked getting petitions signed and people out to vote. THIS COMMISSION IS VERY IMPORTANT TO MICHIGAN.**

Nancy Varner  
Detroit

-----**From:**

mikebrierty

**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 9:38 AM

**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>

**Subject:** independent citizen commission

I support Michigan's citizen redistricting committee because independent commissions put power directly in the hands of the people and will result in fair maps that accurately reflect and represent our communities. This proposed commission will be good for democracy because...

- It includes a 6-year barrier that will prevent people who have been affiliated with elected officials, lobbyists, or a paid consultants from serving -- ensuring the commission is non-partisan and independent.
- The commission would provide compensation to commissioners, eliminating a barrier for those who are financially disadvantaged to ensure that the commission better reflects Michigan!
- The maps the commission approves must be supported by members of the Democratic and Republican parties, as well as unaffiliated voters. This need for wide support would strengthen the validity of the maps as fair and impartial.

Thanks

Mike Brierty, Holland

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**From:** Grimm, Michele  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 9:38 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines

The current eligibility guidelines appear to be the most equitable way to determine who might serve on the commission. If individuals with political experience or connections are allowed to apply, they may claim that this experience makes them more qualified to serve than "average" citizens - and thus move to exclude the general citizens who will hopefully be making decisions on districts based on logic rather than on what may benefit themselves or their family members. The 6-year exclusion period is not permanent, but mirrors lobbying moratoria following government service. Avoiding apparent conflicts of interest will generate the most public trust.

Michele Grimm, PhD

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines  
Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

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**From:** Shane Jackson  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 9:46 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** I Support the Citizen Redistricting Committee

Secretary Benson,

Last year I voted for ballot Proposal 2. It's passage made me proud to live in Michigan. I continue to support Michigan's citizen redistricting committee because independent commissions put power directly in the hands of the people and will result in fair maps that accurately reflect and represent our communities. This proposed commission will be good for democracy because:

- It includes a 6-year barrier that will prevent people who have been affiliated with elected officials, lobbyists, or a paid consultants from serving -- ensuring the commission is non-partisan and independent.
- The commission would provide compensation to commissioners, eliminating a barrier for those who are financially disadvantaged to ensure that the commission better reflects Michigan!
- The maps the commission approves must be supported by members of the Democratic and Republican parties, as well as unaffiliated voters. This need for wide support would strengthen the validity of the maps as fair and impartial.

Please ensure that this redistricting measure gets put in place ASAP and adheres to the original intent of the ballot proposal without influence from outside actors trying to gain an upper hand.

Thank you,

Shane A Jackson  
Oak Park

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**From:** Candy  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 9:47 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Gerrymandering

I am so happy that we have Democratic leadership in our beautiful state. The people voted to end gerrymandering. Please do not let republican efforts take away the will of the majority!!

Kathleen Provenzano  
Plymouth

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**From:** Steve Wiener  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 9:54 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Redistricting Commission

I support Michigan's citizen redistricting committee because independent commissions put power directly in the hands of the people and will result in fair maps that accurately reflect and represent our communities. This proposed commission will be good for democracy because..."

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- It includes a 6-year barrier that will prevent people who have been affiliated with elected officials, lobbyists, or a paid consultants from serving -- ensuring the commission is non-partisan and independent.
- The commission would provide compensation to commissioners, eliminating a barrier for those who are financially disadvantaged to ensure that the commission better reflects Michigan!
- The maps the commission approves must be supported by members of the Democratic and Republican parties, as well as unaffiliated voters. This need for wide support would strengthen the validity of the maps as fair and impartial.

I'm furious that the Michigan Republican Party is seeking to overturn or undermine the citizen voted independent commission in a Stalinist attempt to wrest power from citizens. Please do all you can to bring about fair maps.

Respectfully,  
Steve Wiener  
Fair Haven

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**From:** Terrence Williams  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 9:58 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Michigan's Redistricting

"I support Michigan's citizen redistricting committee because independent commissions put power directly in the hands of the people and will result in fair maps that accurately reflect and represent our communities. This proposed commission will be good for democracy because..."

- It includes a 6-year barrier that will prevent people who have been affiliated with elected officials, lobbyists, or a paid consultants from serving -- ensuring the commission is non-partisan and independent.
- The commission would provide compensation to commissioners, eliminating a barrier for those who are financially disadvantaged to ensure that the commission better reflects Michigan!
- The maps the commission approves must be supported by members of the Democratic and Republican parties, as well as unaffiliated voters. This need for wide support would strengthen the validity of the maps as fair and impartial.

Sincerely,

Terrence Williams  
Pontiac

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**From:** cprard  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 10:09 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:**

If we are to have one person, one vote and each vote counted fairly, we MUST have FAIR AND JUST REDISTRICTING. The People have spoken now it's time government follows through.

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*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines  
Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

From: William Hoffer Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2019 10:22 AM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Make it fair  
I volunteer !

William A. Hoffer

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**From:** Novick Kerry Kelly  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 10:25 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Preserving democracy

Dear Jocelyn Benson,

As a Michigan voter, I care deeply about my voice and that of every other Michigander being heard equally. Democracy only works when everyone's vote counts equally. That means having electoral districts that are equitably drawn and leave choices in the hands of the voters.

Please protect the commission to redraw our districts from tendentious, politically-motivated attacks and proceed with the sacred task of providing free and fair elections to the people of Michigan.

With thanks for your efforts,  
Kerry Kelly Novick

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**From:** JOHN RIVETT  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 10:29 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** New Districting

"I support Michigan's citizen redistricting committee because independent commissions put power directly in the hands of the people and will result in fair maps that accurately reflect and represent our communities. This proposed commission will be good for democracy because..."

- It includes a 6-year barrier that will prevent people who have been affiliated with elected officials, lobbyists, or a paid consultants from serving -- ensuring the commission is non-partisan and independent.
- The commission would provide compensation to commissioners, eliminating a barrier for those who are financially disadvantaged to ensure that the commission better reflects Michigan!
- The maps the commission approves must be supported by members of the Democratic and Republican parties, as well as unaffiliated voters. This need for wide support would strengthen the validity of the maps as fair and impartial.
- Sincerely
- John Rivett, Tammy Rivett
- Clio

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From: Eric Cockrell  
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2019 10:32 AM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: I support fair elections

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**From:** Heidi Huck  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 10:41 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for Prop 2

I continue to support an independent citizen-based redistricting committee. Please proceed with whatever is needed to make that a reality.

Thank you,  
Heidi V Huck

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From: chandlerandmary  
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2019 10:49 AM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Support the commission

This is what we voted for: impartial, nonpartisan, and fair drawing of district lines. Enough partisan gerrymandering! Every voter must have equal representation.  
Mary Matthews

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-----From:  
Elizabeth Stern  
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2019 10:50 AM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Adopt prop 2 as written.

I am writing to support the proper and prompt adoption of all of the measures outlined in ballot proposal 2 regarding an independent commission to draw district voting boundaries. The aspects of the proposal were clearly stated and understood by Michigan voters and resoundly approved. The people have spoken and deserve to have this proposal implemented as written.

Sincerely  
Elizabeth Stern

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-----From:  
Ron Fine  
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2019 10:54 AM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Proposal 2 on redistricting

I still stand for the proposal as passed by a majority of voters. It's a necessary overhaul.  
Ronald Fine, M.D.

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
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From: Tom Pentecost  
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2019 10:56 AM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Redistricting commission

I am writing to support the establishment of the nonpartisan commission for redistricting. This was approved by the voters and any attempt to weaken or stop the work of this commission is an attack on democracy.

Please do what is right.

Tom Pentecost  
Jenison

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**From:** Nancy Boyd  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 11:19 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Protect our democracy

Please do not allow redistricting policies that unfairly give advantage to one party over another. We need every area to fully represent the people who live there, without regard to party affiliation. Please act for We The People and not for powerful money interests.

Thank you.  
Nancy Boyd  
Big Rapids

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**From:** vickie.wagner  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 12:19 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** MI Citizen Redistricting Committee

I support Michigan's citizen redistricting committee. **Independent** commissions put power directly in the hands of the people and will result in fairer maps that accurately reflect and represent our communities. This proposed commission will be good for democracy because

- It includes a 6-year barrier that will prevent people who have been affiliated with elected officials, lobbyists, or a paid consultants from serving -- ensuring the commission is non-partisan and independent.
- The commission would provide compensation to commissioners, eliminating a barrier for those who are financially disadvantaged to ensure that the commission better reflects Michigan!
- The maps the commission approves must be supported by members of the Democratic and Republican parties, as well as unaffiliated voters. This need for wide support would strengthen the validity of the maps as fair and impartial.

Sincerely,  
Vickie M Wagner  
Three Oaks

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-----From:

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
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David Wolter

Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2019 12:28 PM

To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>

Subject: redistricting

Secretary of State Benson

We have a chance to put a sheen on Michigan governing by putting this varied group together to draw lines that truly represent all the people of Michigan. Those that appose the makeup of this group should be free to advise members of the group as long as all contacts are logged and verified. Please don't let our national politics present direction push you away from a truly democratic process.

David Wolter

retired educator in Chelsea MI

-----**From:**

Bruce Kirkland

**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 12:38 PM

**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>

**Subject:** Redistricting

I support Michigan's citizen redistricting committee because independent commissions put power directly in the hands of the people and will result in fair maps that accurately reflect and represent our communities. This proposed commission will be good for democracy because..."

It includes a 6-year barrier that will prevent people who have been affiliated with elected officials, lobbyists, or a paid consultants from serving -- ensuring the commission is non-partisan and independent.

The commission would provide compensation to commissioners, eliminating a barrier for those who are financially disadvantaged to ensure that the commission better reflects Michigan!

The maps the commission approves must be supported by members of the Democratic and Republican parties, as well as unaffiliated voters. This need for wide support would strengthen the validity of the maps as fair and impartial.

-----**From:**

Sharon Sheldon

**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 12:59 PM

**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>

**Subject:** Support for redistricting committee

Dear Secretary Benson,

I support the vote and passage of Proposal 2 which will form an independent redistricting commission which passed overwhelmingly with 61% of voters supporting the proposal during the 2018 election, The redistricting committee will be independent from political parties and paid lobbyists and consultants and its recommendations must be supported by both the Democratic and Republican parties thereby making the maps valid and impartial.

Thank you for continuing to implement the results of our most recent election by forming and seating members of the redistricting commission.

Sharon P Sheldon

Rose City

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
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**From:** Patricia Hackney  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 1:05 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** My voice

The ability to stop gerrymandering is crucial for democracy. It has already cause extensive damage to the state of Michigan. Let me know what I need to do to ensure gerrymandering and all forms of voter suppression are haunted permanently.

Regards,

Tricia Hackney  
Vylla Home  
Agent

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**From:** Schaefer, Jerry  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 1:23 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** New plan

The new plan for redistributing districts by an independent group is a great idea. Very logical.

**Jerry Schaefer**  
Ambassador

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**From:** Chuck Folkerts  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 1:33 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Comments on Redistricting Commission Eligibility

The requirements for the commission appear to be reasonable. However, the 6-year barrier should be changed to lifetime barrier for lobbyists, paid political consultants, and people affiliate with elected officials. These people have demonstrated that their opinions can be bought or they have strong political views. For a non-partisan redistricting plan to work, we need people on the commission who have not clearly demonstrated that they have strong political views or that their views can be bought. To allow these types of people to participate as commissioners would taint any resulting redistricting map.

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**From:** Vijay Kataria  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 1:43 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Proposal 2 - Commission Eligibility and application Guidelines

I support Michigan's citizen redistricting committee because independent commissions put power directly in the hands of the people and will result in fair maps that accurately reflect and represent our communities. This proposed commission will be good for democracy because lawmakers should not chose who their constituents are, rather it

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should be other way around to make democracy work. At best, the names should be selected at random by public lottery from eligible pool of applicants.

- It includes a 6-year barrier that will prevent people who have been affiliated with elected officials, lobbyists, or a paid consultants from serving -- ensuring the commission is non-partisan and independent.
- The commission would provide compensation to commissioners, eliminating a barrier for those who are financially disadvantaged to ensure that the commission better reflects Michigan!
- The maps the commission approves must be supported by members of the Democratic and Republican parties, as well as unaffiliated voters. This need for wide support would strengthen the validity of the maps as fair and impartial.

Vijay Kataria

---

From: (email address)  
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2019 2:04 PM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Support fair maps

I voted for maps to be fairly drawn so that nonsense gerrymandering gymnastics don't silence my voice when I vote.

Last I checked this is a democracy and I'd like to preserve it as such.

I chose the politicians, politicians do not choose me.

Thank you

Alex Dugan

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**From:** Jim Collins  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 2:16 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Redistricting with fair maps!!

The new redistricting law is great for Michigan. The people of Michigan have spoken. Republicans have drawn unfair maps for the last ten years. They are attempting to silence the democratic voters. I have argued repeatedly to Mike Shirkey (Senate Majority Leader) about this very issue. It is basically cheating to win (stealing seats), Shirkey denies this. He is on the bandwagon that wants the new law tossed. I guess he and his Republican ilk feel they must cheat to win and elections should not be fair!! They will do anything to hold onto power.

If we do not stop the Mike Shirkey's of the world the big money will continue to influence our elections and continue to steal seats to hold onto power. This is not what is best for Michigan. It is the Republicans who do not want to play fair at all. They still want to stack the deck and continue to bully their way with big corporate backers. They walked all over Rick Snyder who never had the backbone to stand up to his own party for the betterment of Michigan. Simply put. He was a wimp (ala Right to work/ Right to Freeload). It is "a divisive issue". Then big money got a hold of Ricky and he changed his tune!! I still feel Right to Work was a shady deal done by the Repubs in the dark of night!! But that is a different issue!! But I am still upset on how they so sneakily did that without hearings. Just like Shirkey and the boys played a shady deal with paid sick days and minimum wage. Adopt it and then change it. This was flipping the

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middle finger salute to the voters who made it clear what they wanted. But Shirkey and the boys saw differently. Another bad display of the Republican party here in Michigan. If they have an R behind their name.... I do not trust them at all!!

We need fair maps. GERYMANDERING is wrong!! Unless you are a Republican of course. Then it seems to be alright by their sorry standards!!

Jim Collins  
Albion

-----From:

Karen Schymanski  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 2:22 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Redistricting Committee

"I support Michigan's citizen redistricting committee because independent commissions put power directly in the hands of the people and will result in fair maps that accurately reflect and represent our communities. This proposed commission will be good for democracy because..."

- It includes a 6-year barrier that will prevent people who have been affiliated with elected officials, lobbyists, or a paid consultants from serving -- ensuring the commission is non-partisan and independent.
- The commission would provide compensation to commissioners, eliminating a barrier for those who are financially disadvantaged to ensure that the commission better reflects Michigan!
- The maps the commission approves must be supported by members of the Democratic and Republican parties, as well as unaffiliated voters. This need for wide support would strengthen the validity of the maps as fair and impartial.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Karen Schymanski  
Midland

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**From:** JEAN SOVA  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 2:40 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Unfair maps

Ms. Benson,  
The primary criteria for a fair/unbiased commission is to make sure that NO politicians/lobbyists are involved. This commission should be made up of individuals who are dedicated to a fair minded electorate where EVERY vote counts. It cannot be made up of only older people, or only white people, or only men, or only women, but must be made up of the percentage of eligible voters in MI, notice I did not say registered voters only, regardless of gender/sex/ethnic/religious background. Make sure they can do the math, also. This is a complicated process and the blinders/biases need to come down. These new maps cannot look like the old squiggly maps of today that make no rhyme nor reason for their makeup other than to try to ensure that a certain party gets elected even though the electorate is not fully represented.  
Thank you for asking for input.  
Jean Sova  
Holly

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**From:** Ruth Lezotte  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 2:42 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** redistricting

The people of MI spoke loudly and clearly: we want our district lines to be drawn cleanly and fairly. Although the challenge by the Republicans is not a surprise, it is despicable.(sp?)  
Is VPN raising money to fight off this craven move? If so, let me know.

---

From: Pamela Trotman Reid  
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2019 4:08 PM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Support for new redistributing plan

Dear Planners of redistributing:

I wholeheartedly support the new plan especially since iT includes a 6-year barrier that will prevent people who have been affiliated with elected officials, lobbyists, or a paid consultants from serving -- ensuring the commission is non-partisan and independent.

I look forward to this reform.

Sincerely,  
Pamela Trotman Reid, Ph.D.  
Detroit

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From: Barbara Greenberg  
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2019 4:53 PM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Vote

We voted. The voice of the citizens of Michigan should count! I support the proposal the Michigan voters approved.

---

From: John Guinn  
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2019 5:21 PM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Support for the citizen redistricting committee

My support for Michigan's independent citizen commission for redistricting is based on the need to return to fair maps that represent the wishes and views of the people in accordance with democratic principles. The included 6-year barrier serves to ensure the commission's independence. The provision of compensation for commissioners will enhance fair representation on the commission by enabling the participation of those who are financially disadvantaged. The requirement of bipartisan support, plus the support of unaffiliated voters, will validate the impartiality of the maps. This commission is essential to a fair, democratic voting process in Michigan.  
John Guinn, Orion



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From: Gerald Schommer  
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2019 6:45 PM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Proposal 2redistricting

Dear secretary Benson,

It is extremely important that we uphold proposal 2 which allows the redistricting of maps for Representatives for the state of Michigan. The people have spoken on that and it is important that the state follow through and allows the redistricting Under they appointed commission made up of an equal number of Democrats and Republicans and independents. It is not a fair system to leave it the old way where the party in power always gets to draw the lines. Please make sure that the people of been heard and allow the commission to ask and redraw the districts. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,  
Gerald Tom Schommer  
Sanilac County

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Daniel Tholen  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 8:12 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Comments on Draft Application for Redistricting

Dear SOS –

I want to thank you for the effort that has gone into the draft application requirements. I appreciate the consideration that you have given to the requirements of the ballot resolution and to the current political realities. I think that you have done a brilliant job with the draft application requirements, and I hope that the draft survives any lawsuits from partisan opponents.

I have a few comments on specific points:

Section on "What to expect..." Clause 1.b and 1.c You might make it clear that the position will require 20-40 hours per week at crucial times, perhaps for several consecutive weeks, but not on a regular basis for the term of the appointment. Annual compensation should be capped at \$20,000, because citizens who serve on this commission should have other primary means of income.

Section on "Tell us about yourself"

In Section 5 a) I recommend keeping the Male/Female selection despite many comments you might receive in opposition. While I support alternative identifications, I think it is unnecessarily divisive and not necessary for this commission.

In Section 5 b) I recommend a category of "Mixed" because that is simply a reality for nearly everyone. However, if the categories are specified in important State or Federal documents, then I withdraw my recommendation.

Respectfully,

Dan Tholen, M.S.  
Dan Tholen Statistical Consulting  
Traverse City

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From: Audrey  
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2019 8:43 PM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: passage of Proposal 2

I support the passage of Proposal 2 which won by a significant margin in a vote by Michigan residents. It is deplorable that our Republican held Congress does not except the will of the people that they represent and instead blocks and reversed the will of the citizens of Michigan voted in in good faith that their majority vote would be upheld and acted upon accordingly!

Audrey

-----From:

Bruce F. Bayha  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 8:59 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Proposal 2 - Redistricting Commission

To Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson

In 2018, Michiganders came together to support creating an independent citizen commission -- and the ballot initiative passed with widespread support. This victory cannot be overstated.

Now i read that **former Governor** Scott Walker and others from outside our state wish to overrule our citizen's wishes. This is not acceptable and needs to be stopped. Walker and his ideas weren't liked by the voters in his state. Why would we want him messing up our state? Walker and his big-time funders will try to block this independent commission from having the chance to draw fair maps in 2021. At the very least, they are trying to make sure that politicians and lobbyists can infiltrate and influence what is meant to be an independent, non-partisan body.

This is totally unacceptable. How many times do we, the Michigan citizens need to repeat this?

"I support Michigan's citizen redistricting committee because independent commissions put power directly in the hands of the people and will result in fair maps that accurately reflect and represent our communities. This proposed commission will be good for democracy."

Thank you for the efforts on behalf of our state's citizens. We will support you in any way needed.

b.f. bayha - 48185

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**From:** Ronald Katz  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 3, 2019 10:58 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Redistricting

"I support Michigan's citizen redistricting committee because independent commissions put power directly in the hands of the people and will result in fair maps that accurately reflect and represent our communities. This proposed commission will be good for democracy because..."

- It includes a 6-year barrier that will prevent people who have been affiliated with elected officials, lobbyists, or a paid consultants from serving -- ensuring the commission is non-partisan and independent.
- The commission would provide compensation to commissioners, eliminating a barrier for those who are financially disadvantaged to ensure that the commission better reflects Michigan!

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
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- The maps the commission approves must be supported by members of the Democratic and Republican parties, as well as unaffiliated voters. This need for wide support would strengthen the validity of the maps as fair and impartial.
- Our current system of redistricting is broken and unfair.

Ronald S. Katz  
Huntington Woods

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From: Dedria Humphries  
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2019 10:59 PM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Support for commission

August 3, 2019  
Madam Secretary of State:

I support the commission that will redraw the congressional maps. It is a fair way to shift the political power dynamic of our state and preserve democracy.

I campaigned with my feet on the ground for a new deal for voters in Michigan. I also contributed money to support the organization Voters Not Politicians.

It is crucial that Michigan follow through on the voters mandate and the commission structure is the one that VNP explained at the front doors of hundreds of thousand voters.

Voting is a sacred American right. Please support that right by supporting the commission.

Thank you,  
Dedria Humphries Barker  
Author, Mother of Orphans: The True and Curious Story of Irish Alice, a Colored Man's Widow Coming in 2019

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From: Judy Oliver  
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2019 11:15 PM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Appointing the redistricting commission

Michigan voters embraced and approved the use of a redistricting commission to draw new maps. The proposed rules were carefully drafted to make the commission as representative of our voters as possible. There is no need to tinker with the process.

The approved procedure allows for payment so that anyone can afford to participate. It provides for equal input from people who claim affiliation with each of the two major parties, plus those who claim no affiliation. It guards against undo influence by special interests.

As a voter, I expect to see this commission develop according to the expressed demand by our citizens without interference that would thwart the intentions of voters.

Judith Oliver  
Kalamazoo

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
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**From:** Marsha Reeves  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 4, 2019 6:56 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Redistricting commission

Michigan's citizen redistricting is a vital step in returning election fairness to Michigan voters. An independent commission will put power directly in the hands of the people. It will result in fair maps that accurately reflect and represent our communities.

This proposed commission will be good for democracy because it includes a 6-year barrier that will prevent people who have been affiliated with elected officials, lobbyists, or a paid consultants from serving, making it more likely that the commission will be non-partisan and independent. The commission will provide compensation to commissioners, making it possible for those who are financially disadvantaged to participate in the commission. We need the commission to represent people from all areas of our citizenry. The maps the commission approves must be supported by members of the Democratic and Republican parties, as well as unaffiliated voters, making it a truly bipartisan plan.

I strongly support a fair and independent redistricting commission.

Marsha Reeves  
Newaygo

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**From:** Frances Hull  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 4, 2019 11:25 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Long Overdue

I support Citizens Redistricting Committee for fair representation.  
Democracy is the voice of all of its citizens.

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**From:** B A  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 4, 2019 1:27 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** We Need a Truly Independent Redistricting Commission

In 2018, Michigan voters overwhelmingly expressed their desire to end partisan gerrymandering in our State. Now we are seeing all kinds of ridiculous challenges to the clear intent of the ballot initiative (now law) from trying to deny it the funding it needs to undermining the integrity of its truly independent, citizen-led nature. This cannot be allowed!

We must firmly and unwaveringly insist that the Redistricting Commissions rules, as specified in the ballot language, and as voted for by a nearly two-thirds majority in our State, is implemented as written, without any modifications by special interests.

Bradley Aaron, M.S.  
Ann Arbor

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines  
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**From:** Nick Najor  
**Sent:** Monday, August 5, 2019 9:03 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment Submission

Feedback & Questions on Application

- Is there penalty for lying on this application?
  - For the eligibility questions, could language be added to dissuade providing false answers?
- “Commissioners will be randomly selected from the pool of eligible applicants.”
  - Perhaps add one more sentence about how it’s randomly selected, and who is doing the random selecting.

Feedback & Questions on Guidelines

- Perhaps the opening section of the guidelines could include the full language of the constitutional amendment itself? That way each of the bolded excerpts referenced throughout are placed in context.

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**From:** Dan G Hacker  
**Sent:** Monday, August 5, 2019 9:20 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Redistricting

I would like to voice my support for continuing the work of the redistricting commission. Eliminating gerrymandering and allowing for fair districts so the true voice of the people can be heard should be a priority for any patriotic person. Thank you for your time.

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**From:** Diane Harmon  
**Sent:** Monday, August 5, 2019 11:20 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Continuing on path toward a fair voting process

Proposal 2 needs to go forward promoting the ability for all sides in the voting process to have a say in the district mapping. Proposal 2, as it was passed, appears to take that need into account. Outside groups who want to derail this process cannot be allowed to do so. Please don’t let their influence take over. Thank you.

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**From:** Lymon Hunter  
**Sent:** Monday, August 5, 2019 3:17 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Redistricting Maps

I support Michigan's citizen redistricting committee because independent commissions put power directly in the hands of the people and will result in fair maps that accurately reflect and represent our communities. This proposed commission will be good for democracy because:

- It includes a 6-year barrier that will prevent people who have been affiliated with elected officials, lobbyists, or a paid consultants from serving -- ensuring the commission is non-partisan and independent.
- The commission would provide compensation to commissioners, eliminating a barrier for those who are financially disadvantaged to ensure that the commission better reflects Michigan!

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines  
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- The maps the commission approves must be supported by members of the Democratic and Republican parties, as well as unaffiliated voters. This need for wide support would strengthen the validity of the maps as fair and impartial.

Cordially,  
Lymon C. Hunter III

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From: David Hopkinson  
Sent: Monday, August 5, 2019 4:01 PM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Draft Application to Serve

I am a volunteer presenter with Voters Not Politicians.  
I recently made a presentation to a town hall in Lansing.

After the town hall there were 5 people from the audience who were sincerely interested in serving on the commission who all had the same concern.

They each felt that they could justify identifying themselves as a member of two of the three groups on the commission.

They were each concerned about how to decide, about being challenged, etc.

I told them I could say the same but was not too concerned about being challenged because I am not the kind of person the parties are likely to be on guard about.

I told them they should make a determination that they had confidence about.

VNP will be helping applicants with these kinds of questions when the time comes.

Could you think about wording in that part of the application to the effect that this is the best determination of the applicant?

Thank you for your efforts in this regard.

David R. Hopkinson  
Regional Field Director  
Voters Not Politicians, Region 4

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**From:** Janelle Cavis  
**Sent:** Monday, August 5, 2019 4:41 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** redistrictinnng

Good afternoon, I would like to add my support for the commission that will be deciding on redistricting in Michigan. I support Michigan's citizen redistricting committee because independent commissions put power directly in the hands of the people and will result in fair maps that accurately reflect and represent our communities. This proposed commission will be good for democracy. The people of Michigan obviously voiced their opposition to the status quo. We need to keep the drawing of our voting maps out of the hands of politicians.

Sincerely,  
Janelle Cavis, St. Clair

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*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
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From: Gary Tower  
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2019 4:18 AM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Independent Commission

Dear MI Sec of State

I voted to change the system of redistricting to make elections more fair for both parties. Please honor our votes, and defend the proposal.

Thanks  
Gary Tower  
Fenton

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From: Rman06  
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2019 9:08 AM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Redistricting

We need to get this done

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From: Campbell Laird  
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2019 11:16 AM  
To: MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
Subject: Public Comment, Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission

Dear Secretary of State:

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on your draft of the application form to join the commission. Please consider the following addition to you draft:

You inform the applicant about the proposed job compensation, but you raise the expectation that the commissioner will be required to travel and you do not mention that the State will pay travel expenses, and offer benefits. You do intend to do this, do you not? Without the encouragement of expenses, etc, the demands of the job will be discouraging, and you will lose applicants.

We greatly appreciate the effort that you are putting into this exciting new venture. Thank you!

Best wishes,  
Campbell Laird  
congressional district 8

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-----From:

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
*Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

Adel Easterday

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 6, 2019 11:23 AM

**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>

**Subject:** fight for fair maps in Michigan

Dear Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson,

I would like to applaud and support the majority vote of the people of Michigan to support the redistricting of our corrupt Michigan gerrymandered maps. As the courts have requested it will be necessary to uphold that vote for eligibility guidelines and the commission application to make this work. You can not have any of the former people involved in this process, you can not have any people that have worked in gov't in the last 10 years or any people that are steeped in party work of any kind to be on the new commission if you expect a different outcome.

It is so disheartening to read yet again that the majority vote of the people of Michigan was all for nothing and this situation is likely not going to change until one particular party can be reined in. If you are trying to encourage people to vote you are in actuality working too hard against that purpose. Think back. Refresh your memory with these examples;

1. Snyder wanted a new bridge to Canada. The majority vote was NO. He built his bridge anyway.
2. The majority vote for a wolf hunt was NO. They had it anyway.
3. Snyder wanted to cut the school budget and the majority vote was NO. He did it anyway.
4. Snyder moved public school money to fund Betsy DeVoss private charter Catholic Schools which violates Michigan Constitution. (page 41 Michigan Constitution Paragraph 3-Constitutionality (in the small print) omits separation of church and state). This has not been ratified so it would be a good time to change that back to the 1908 Constitution which does recognize the U.S. Constitution of Separation of Church and State-Non public Schools , prohibited aid).
5. Snyder wanted to raise the gas tax, took a vote, the majority said NO, he did it anyway combined with license tags and insurance.
6. The majority of the people voted to legalize marijuana in the State of Michigan. The GOP has stripped that bill down to nothing. Most people don't know if it is legal or not or which towns it might be legal in etc. etc. etc. Headline news says that our jails are filling yet crime is down and no one knows why.
7. The majority of the people of Michigan voted for a minimum wage increase. The GOP threw it in the garbage.

**LASTLY, THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN VOTED FOR THE VERY NON-GERRMANDERING LAWS THAT WERE LAID OUT ON THE BALLOT WITH THE DESCRIPTION OF WHO WOULD BE ALLOWED TO SERVE ON THE COMMISSION. THEY VOTED FOR THAT CHANGE. THE MAJORITY VOTED FOR THAT CHANGE TO STOP THE GOP FROM STEALING ALL ELECTIONS FOREVER IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN AND NOW THEY ARE THROWING THAT OUT!**

One last question for you. Do you expect an increase in voter turn out in Michigan? How can there be? We haven't had a democracy in this state in many, many years.

Sadly submitted,  
Adel Easterday  
Sault Ste. Marie

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*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
*Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

**From:** Reba Chimono  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 6, 2019 11:30 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** I support Michigan's citizen redistricting committee

I support Michigan's citizen redistricting committee because independent commissions put power directly in the hands of the people and will result in fair maps that accurately reflect and represent our communities. This proposed commission will be good for democracy because it includes a 6-year barrier that will prevent people who have been affiliated with elected officials, lobbyists, or a paid consultants from serving -- ensuring the commission is non-partisan and independent. The commission would provide compensation to commissioners, eliminating a barrier for those who are financially disadvantaged to ensure that the commission better reflects Michigan. The maps the commission approves must be supported by members of the Democratic and Republican parties, as well as unaffiliated voters. This need for wide support would strengthen the validity of the maps as fair and impartial.

Reba Yousif  
Sterling Heights

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**From:** Mary Lucille Janowiak, OP  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 6, 2019 1:01 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Redistricting Guidelines

Thank you for the opportunity to give input for Redistricting Guidelines. I am not commenting on the constitutionality of the guidelines found on the Website. I trust those will be attended to by lawyers and constitutional experts. In addition to Constitution guidelines, I would offer the following criteria in making selections of individuals.

- Someone with technical abilities in such areas as demographics in order to analyze data, project and envision trends that are developing for the good of the State over the next 25 years, or that there be funding for the newly established Commission to hire such an individual.
- A person of integrity and respect for others on the Commission.
- A person able to listen and to learn from others
- That there be a cross section in gender, race, economic categories proportional to the make-up of Michigan voters.
- Able and willing to invest their time and energy into this important project.
- Has evidenced a sense of civic responsibility by their past engagements with the broader community.
- Willing to voice their view and rationale which may differ from the majority.

Regarding the objections to having and/or funding the Redistricting Commission, I wish to say that those who have been or are serving in a public office capacity, have or are enjoying the opportunity to make their voices heard in government. The Commission would give others a chance to share their skills for the common good which is an important element of democracy.

Again thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,  
Mary Lucille Janowiak OP  
Grand Rapids

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines  
Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

**From:** Maureen Rosette  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 6, 2019 5:09 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Redistributing

I support Michigan's citizen redistricting committee because independent commissions put power directly in the hands of the people and will result in fair maps that accurately reflect and represent our communities. This proposed commission will be good for democracy because..."

- It includes a 6-year barrier that will prevent people who have been affiliated with elected officials, lobbyists, or a paid consultants from serving -- ensuring the commission is non-partisan and independent.
- The commission would provide compensation to commissioners, eliminating a barrier for those who are financially disadvantaged to ensure that the commission better reflects Michigan!
- The maps the commission approves must be supported by members of the Democratic and Republican parties, as well as unaffiliated voters. This need for wide support would strengthen the validity of the maps as fair and impartial.

Maureen Rosette, BSN, RN, CWOCN  
Royal Oak

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**From:** Claire Sheldon  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 6, 2019 7:07 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Redistricting commission

Dear Secretary Benson,

It is vital that the will of voters and the spirit of the anti gerrymandering proposal that the voters of MI passed be upheld. The redistricting commission must be kept free of party officials, big money donors and special interest groups. It should be comprised of regular citizens willing to do their civil service protecting the rights of all voters in the State regardless of party.

Thank you,

Claire Sheldon  
Livonia

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**From:** Toni  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 7, 2019 12:00 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Redistricting process in Michigan

District maps in the hands of politicians have curtailed democracy in the US. Our government was established to be a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, but when representatives decide who votes for them, we become wolves and sheep voting on what to have for dinner.

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines  
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I was very happy that Michigan's citizens voted to put an independent commission in charge of creating our districting maps, placing government back in the hands of the people.

I hope that an independent commission will result in fair maps that accurately reflect and represent our communities. This proposed commission will be good for democracy because..."

- It includes a 6-year barrier preventing people who have been affiliated with elected officials, lobbyists, or paid consultants from participating p -- ensuring the commission is non-partisan and independent.
- Providing compensation to commissioners will provide the opportunity for those who are financially disadvantaged to participate ensuring that the commission better reflects Michigan
- The maps the commission approves must have a wide buy in from members of Democratic and Republican parties, in conjunction with unaffiliated voters providing the infrastructure to strengthen the validity of the maps as fair and impartial.

As Abraham Lincoln said... "America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves". Letting politicians pick their voters was a step towards destroying democracy, the people of Michigan rose up and took back our democracy when we voted to create district maps via an independent commission!

---

**From:** Jason Gideon  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 7, 2019 11:02 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment

So anything beyond a computer program (like Excel?) allocating congressional districts solely on population totals invites yet more waste, boondoggling and bi-partisan foolery. The shape and size of the districts should be fairly uniform... This is basic common sense and should take less than five minutes and \$50. Respectfully, an MBA and real-live-blue-dog-liberal.

---

**From:** Kris Walton  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 7, 2019 12:18 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** redistricting

Hello,

I'm concerned about the fairness of Michigan's redistricting. I want to believe you to be honest, fair and play by the rules/laws. I haven't seen it yet. Especially since you were/are on the board of the southern poverty law center. There is nothing biased about this group. How do you plan to instill trust in Michigan voters.  
Very Concerned citizen

*Kris Walton*

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*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
*Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

**From:** Leah Marcus  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 7, 2019 2:06 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for redistricting commission

Hello,

I'm writing in support of Michigan's citizen redistricting committee because I value fair (and accurate and representative) maps, and also because independent commissions return power to the people whom elected officials are supposed to serve.

I believe that the commission that's proposed will benefit our democracy because of the following:

- 1) It includes a 6-year barrier that prevents anyone who's been affiliated with lobbyists, paid consultants, or elected officials from serving. This protects the non-partisan and independent nature of the commission.
- 2) The commission would compensate commissioners, which removes a barrier for those who are financially disadvantaged and ensures that the commission better reflects all of Michigan.
- 3) The maps the commission approves must be supported by members of the Democratic and Republican parties, as well as unaffiliated voters. This need for wide support would strengthen the validity of the maps as fair and impartial.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my views.  
Leah F. Marcus

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**From:** Abby Kutner  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 7, 2019 2:59 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Feedback on the Application to serve

Hello. My name is Abby Kutner. I intend to apply to the commission when that process begins. So, I read through the draft with that goal in mind.

Here is my feedback.

- 1) The draft is well written. It's clear, unambiguous and easy for applicants to understand.
- 2) What are the tasks required of the commissioners? Here are just a few questions....
  - What is my responsibility at public hearings?
  - Will I be conducting interviews with voters to understand their concerns?
  - What hard skills are necessary to perform the job, i.e. computer skills, phone app skills, documentation skills?
  - What soft skills are necessary to perform the job., i.e. group meeting facilitation, interviewing?

I have never served in government before, so I'm not even sure how much of that information you are able share at the application stage of the process. To the degree that you are able to share, in my experience, you'll get a better result if applicants have a tangible understanding of the job.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Abby Kutner

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines  
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Berkley

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**From:** Jeff Glindmeyer  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 7, 2019 4:17 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment

This redistricting action is a welcome positive change for the voters of Michigan, long over due. I very much like the group of 13 overseeing the proper application of the law. I especially like that a minimum of one member from each of the two major parties must vote in support of all actions before implementation of any ruling. My vote feels like it has an equal chance to count, unlike the grossly unbalanced system that currently exists.

J. Glindmeyer  
Lawrence

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**From:** Bette Glindmeyer  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 7, 2019 6:39 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Redistricting Commission

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Bette Glindmeyer  
**Date:** August 7, 2019 at 6:14:47 PM EDT  
**To:** [Redistricting@Michigan.org](mailto:Redistricting@Michigan.org)  
**Subject:** Redistricting Commission

Comments on Redistricting plans. Very pleased that neither party will be able to control the vote on how lines will be drawn and that the commission will be comprised of Michigan registered voters not serving in elected positions. I hope that there will be a thorough vetting process for applicants so as not to choose any persons to serve that might have a conflict of interest, including working for organizations that participate in party affiliated lobbying.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.  
Sincerely,  
Bette Glindmeyer  
Lawrence

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**From:** C C  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 7, 2019 10:24 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment

-Read through Draft Application to Serve- it looks good.

The Commissioner Eligibility Guidelines draft seems alright, from what I can tell. I found the structure helpful (quote from constitution, guidance, reasoning & faq's)

Kudos to you for seeking public input! I hope this whole endeavor is a true success!!

Carla Corazzol  
Ann Arbor, MI

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
*Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

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**From:** Tacie Draznin  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 8, 2019 3:55 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission - application and eligibility guidelines

I supported Proposal 2 and am in agreements with the draft application and draft eligibility guidelines as posted on the Michigan Secretary of State website.

Tacie Draznin  
Kalamazoo

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**From:** Scott Urbanowski  
**Sent:** Friday, August 9, 2019 12:46 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Public comment on draft application for Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

To whom it may concern:

Having reviewed the draft application for the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, I would like to suggest the following amendments to the application text:

1. Under "Tell us about yourself," Question 5a asks people to identify themselves as male or female. Not everyone identifies as male or female. In order to allow gender non-conforming individuals to participate, this question must be open-ended.
2. Question 5b should allow people to select "Arab" or "Middle Eastern". While most of the Middle East is on the continent of Asia, it's important to distinguish between Middle Eastern ethnicity and Far Eastern ethnicity.
3. In Question 2 under "What to expect if you're selected", the words "Republican" and "Democrat" should be pluralized so that it reads "4 commissioners who identify as Republicans, 4 commissioners who identify as Democrats," etc.
4. The signing statement ("By signing below," etc.) should also include a statement that the applicant acknowledges that they will be sworn to uphold the U.S. and Michigan Constitutions, including Article IV, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution.

Thank you for providing this opportunity for public comment!

**Scott Urbanowski**

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*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines*  
*Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

**From:** McCauley, William  
**Sent:** Friday, August 9, 2019 7:31 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Power to the people

Thank you Ms. Benson for allowing me to speak on this subject, I do support Michigan's citizen redistricting committee because we have to continue this grand idea of democracy and put the power in the hands of the people in order to accurately reflect and represent all communities.

Regards,  
William McCauley  
Test Engineer, EMC

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**From:** Christopher Davis  
**Sent:** Friday, August 9, 2019 6:09 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment

Hello

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the new citizen-led redistricting commission. I was one of the many who voted in favor of Proposal 2018-2, and before I cast my vote I did the background research necessary to understand how the commission would be constituted and the way it would work. Restoring to the people control of this fundamental part of the electoral process will be nothing less than a significant revitalization of democracy in Michigan - starting from the fact that constituencies will more honestly reflect the communities from which they are derived.

I was impressed by the care and thought that had been put into the procedures on which the proposal was based. I am equally impressed with the further steps that have been taken by the Department of State to assure that the application is clear to all citizens, that remuneration makes participation possible for most people, that people will understand what will be expected of them, and that they will have clear guidance as to their eligibility. I particularly appreciate the very precise exposition of eligibility criteria.

All of this is to say that I am delighted by the transparency with which our Secretary of State is taking this forward. I note that the clear majority by which the proposal was passed means that this is something on which Michiganders - despite our different locations and lives - can agree. The transparency will help maintain our broader popular solidarity in an otherwise rather fractured political period. It will also help us to defend what we have gained against the attempts of special interests to take it from us.

With best wishes,

Christopher Davis  
Ann Arbor

August 9, 2019

Dear Secretary Benson,

On behalf of the thousands of volunteers who came together to create a fair, impartial, and transparent redistricting process, we thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the initial draft of the application to serve on Michigan's first Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

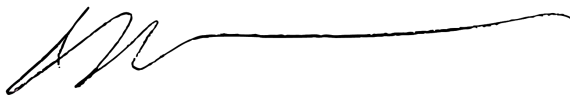
Article IV, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution was drafted by Michigan voters following a series of town halls to gather input from citizens across the state. Thousands of volunteers dedicated their time, talent, energy, and resources to place it on the ballot, and an overwhelming majority of voters supported Proposal 18-2 to take the power to draw election districts out of the hands of politicians and special interests and entrust it with the people.

Transparency is the cornerstone of the amendment, and we appreciate your commitment to ensure the public is "part of this transparent, independent process at every step."

Attached is a memorandum from our volunteer Policy Committee, many members of which assisted in the drafting of the amendment language itself. This feedback is based on the premise that the redistricting process should be open and accessible to anyone who is constitutionally eligible to serve on the commission. Please consider this the official response from Voters Not Politicians on the draft application.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Nancy Wang  
Executive Director  
Voters Not Politicians





## MEMO

TO: Jocelyn Benson, Michigan Secretary of State

FROM: Nancy Wang, Executive Director, on behalf of the Voters Not Politicians Policy Committee

RE: Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Draft Application

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This memorandum sets forth comments and suggested changes to the Secretary of State's ("SOS") initial draft of the application to serve on Michigan's first Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission ("Application"). We offer these with the goals of achieving:

- A Commission that is **diverse** demographically and geographically;
- A map-drawing process that is **fair, impartial and transparent**;
- An **inclusive** process in which voters feel heard, particularly historically underrepresented and marginalized voters; and
- A process that Michiganders have **confidence** in regardless of their party, employment, where they live, or other affiliations, and that restores faith in our democratic institutions.

### ELIGIBILITY

We suggest replacing the wording, "The law includes some guidelines for who can serve on this commission," with "Article IV, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution includes requirements for who can serve on this commission." The term "guidelines" implies that the requirements in the amendment do not need to be followed. A specific reference to the Constitution is warranted and more accurate.

The Application is missing the criteria concerning unclassified state employees as specified by Sec. 6(1)(b)(vii).

The heading, “How this application will be used,” should be changed to: “Disclosure Statement.”

### WHAT TO EXPECT IF YOU’RE SELECTED

Voters Not Politicians supports the SOS’s efforts to provide applicants with information about what they should expect if selected to serve on the Commission. For the Application form, however, we recommend simply listing the information in this section as expectations, not presenting them as questions requiring a Yes or No response. The current format suggests that there are additional selection criteria that are not a part of the law, *i.e.*, that a “No” answer would disqualify an applicant from serving on the Commission, when that is not the case.

Further, the affiliation question in this section should be moved to a separate section, as it does not address expectations, but is a constitutionally-required self identification. We also recommend including a dictionary definition of the word “affiliate” to guide applicants in their response.<sup>1</sup>

Should the SOS continue with a question format, we suggest:

1. Replacing the word “appointed” in Question 1 (“Indicate whether you agree to the following conditions if you’re *appointed* to the Commission.”) with “randomly selected to serve on” the Commission, as “appointed” improperly suggests that the SOS or other official will appoint members to the Commission; and
2. Adding to Question 1(b) the employer requirements under Sec. 6(21) that dictates, “no employer shall discharge, threaten to discharge, intimidate, coerce, or retaliate against any employee” for serving on the Commission.

### TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

The Amendment requires the SOS to use statistical weighting to randomly select a semi-final pool of 200 applicants that, as closely as possible, “mirror[s] the geographic and demographic makeup of the State.” This requirement ensures that if groups over- or under-apply, the pool will represent the state’s population and not the applications.

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., [https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/affiliate?utm\\_campaign=sd&utm\\_medium=serp&utm\\_source=jsonld](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/affiliate?utm_campaign=sd&utm_medium=serp&utm_source=jsonld) (“to associate as a member”).

Voters Not Politicians recognizes that a constraining factor in determining demographic categories of data to collect in the Application is the need to align with information that is available statewide. There are any number of possible demographic factors, however, many of them are not widely measured or known, *i.e.*, there is no reliable central database that could be used as a benchmark. Another factor is the number of categories to be considered: for the statistical weighting required by the Amendment to be robust, the number of categories must be fairly limited.

Voters Not Politicians supports the SOS's decision to limit demographic categories to the following categories/data-points. They capture the main ones commonly measured and available in the U.S. Census Bureau's 2018 American Community Survey ("ACS"), which is the most accurate statewide demographic information available.<sup>2</sup>

- Name
- Address
- Birth year (to determine age)
- Sex
- Race & ethnicity (but see comments below)

On the issue of race and ethnicity, we recommend changing the questions on the Application to conform to the data available, by asking the applicant to first identify their racial background (allowing them to select all that may apply) and then separately asking the applicant to state whether they are of Hispanic or Latino background. The Application conflates race and ethnicity, which are measured as two different categories by the Census Bureau.

According to the Census Bureau, race is defined as: "a person's self identification with one or more social groups. An individual can report as White, Black or African American, Asian, American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander. Survey responders may report multiple races." Meanwhile, an ethnicity "determines whether a person is of Hispanic origin or not. For this reason, ethnicity is broken out in [sic] two categories, Hispanic or Latino and Not Hispanic or Latino. Hispanics may report as any race."<sup>3</sup>

We also suggest including the Census Bureau definitions of race on the Application:

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<sup>2</sup> There are revisions to the ACS for 2019, but the data will not be available for this application cycle.

<sup>3</sup> United States Census Bureau Race & Ethnicity data sheet, January 2017.

**White** – A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

**Black or African American** – A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.

**American Indian or Alaska Native** – A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America) and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.

**Asian** – A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.

**Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander** – A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.<sup>4</sup>

Voters Not Politicians supports the SOS’s decision not to include questions about educational attainment, income, veteran or disability status, as their inclusion would significantly increase the complexity of the statistical weighting and, particularly in the case of educational attainment and income, may deter eligible applicants from applying.

The Application does not indicate how the SOS will divide Michigan into geographic regions for purposes of selection into the pool of 200. Voters Not Politicians recommends use of the six Michigan Public Policy Survey Regions, with the U.P. being its own region.<sup>5</sup>

#### TELL US WHY YOU CARE ABOUT THIS

The Amendment replaces Michigan’s politician-controlled redistricting process with a fair, impartial, and transparent process “of, for and by” all of the people of the state. Citizen redistricting commissioners in other states often describe their gratitude at being able to be a part of “democracy in action” and to serve the voters, not politicians or special interests.

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<sup>4</sup> [census.gov/topics/population/race/about.html](https://census.gov/topics/population/race/about.html)

<sup>5</sup> The Michigan Public Policy Survey is a program through the University of Michigan that has conducted bi-annual, statewide surveys of local government leaders in Michigan since 2009. See <http://closup.umich.edu/michigan-public-policy-survey/>.

We appreciate the SOS wishing to give applicants the chance to express their enthusiasm for Michigan's first Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission and their reasons for wanting to serve. However, to Voters Not Politicians, it is paramount that the new process is intentionally open, accessible, and inclusive from the onset; therefore, we strongly object to the inclusion of essay-type questions in the Application – even those designated “optional” – because they risk discouraging eligible applicants from applying and may cause the public to question the impartiality of the process. We would omit the questions in this section in favor of making the application process as simple and easy as possible within the framework of the Amendment's requirements. That means asking applicants only what is needed to sort applications according to the Amendment's eligibility requirements and the requirements for geographic and demographic diversity in the pool of 200.

First, the essay questions of the sort proposed raise an additional hurdle for applying, even though they are optional. Some applicants may feel that their chances of selection would be increased if they provide answers. Others may feel that their chances of selection would be harmed if they do not provide answers and therefore either feel compelled to provide answers, or simply not apply at all. Applicants whose first language is not English could struggle with the essays even though they are able to answer. Again, they may be dissuaded from applying out of frustration. Similarly, native users of English with poor writing skills, or self-perceived poor writing skills, could also be discouraged from applying.

Secondly, the SOS has a strictly ministerial role under the Amendment and the use of essay questions raises concerns that there would be some sort of vetting process by the SOS not permitted by the Amendment. Although the questions are labeled as optional, their tone suggests that some sort of evaluation will be done based on the answers, or non-answers, provided. This may reduce the public's confidence in the impartiality of the process and cause confusion or doubt as to whether the selection process is truly random.

On balance, in a mostly random selection process (except for limited legislative leader strikes), questions regarding an applicant's party self-affiliation and reasons for applying are more likely to create confusion and other issues than to yield information that is particularly illuminating or helpful. For example, with party affiliation, suppose Citizen A self-affiliates as a Democrat and is randomly selected to be on the Commission as a Democrat. However, they are known by their neighbors to have voted for Republicans in the past and, based on that information, their neighbors deduce that the Commissioner is really a Republican and lied to get on the Commission. But there is more to affiliation

than past voting habits. The Amendment leaves it to the individual citizen to determine their affiliation based on whatever criteria the citizen deems pertinent. The wide variety of possible answers to the question of “why or how” a citizen determines their affiliations, combined with the subjectivity of anyone evaluating the answers to that question, subjects answers to suspicion or attack. At the same time, any list of criteria to determine party affiliation that is provided would be necessarily too narrow unless it was clear that the list of examples is not exhaustive. As for the legislative leaders, answers could introduce bias into the process, as the leaders could choose to eliminate those providing answers they deem to be most adverse to the leaders’ own interests and those of their party.

The inclusion of the second question regarding why an applicant wishes to serve on the Commission may lead applicants to believe that certain responses are better than others, *i.e.*, that their answers will affect the applicant’s eligibility or chances of being selected for the pool of 200, when that is not the case. It may also deter eligible citizens from applying. With respect to their usefulness to legislative leaders, applicants who answer risk being penalized, because their answers would be the only ones available to the legislative leaders to read and evaluate in their decision making process.

As stated above, Voters Not Politicians would omit optional questions from the Application.

### SIGN AND COMPLETE

Most applicants are likely to be unfamiliar with how to notarize documents. Directions should be included that inform the applicant to only sign the document in the presence of a notary and where notaries can often be located, and to advise the applicant to bring the appropriate identification when getting their application notarized.

### MISCELLANEOUS

We recommend adding a Yes or No question asking if the applicant has already applied to the Commission for tracking and sorting purposes.



August 9, 2019

The Honorable Jocelyn Benson  
The Office of the Michigan Secretary of State  
Michigan Department of State  
Lansing, MI 48918

**Re: Public Comments on the Citizens Redistricting Commission Application Draft Language**

Dear Secretary Benson:

The Campaign Legal Center (“CLC”) respectfully submits these public comments in response to the Citizens Redistricting Commission Application Draft Language for Public Comment.

CLC is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and strengthening the democratic process across all levels of government. Since the organization’s founding in 2002, CLC has participated in major redistricting, voting rights, and campaign finance cases before the U.S. Supreme Court as well as numerous other federal and state court cases. Our work promotes every citizen’s right to participate in the democratic process.

Michigan voters recently approved an amendment to the state constitution creating a Citizens Redistricting Commission. The Secretary’s leadership in the implementation of the Commission is crucial in ensuring the voters receive the fair and transparent redistricting process they voted for. We appreciate the Secretary’s efforts to expeditiously develop eligibility guidelines and application text and to seek public comments. These documents will give potential commissioners a clear understanding of the eligibility requirements and deadlines.

**I. CLC Recommendations**

The Campaign Legal Center supports the Secretary of State’s efforts to implement the Citizens Redistricting Commission and ensure broad participation from Michigan voters in the redistricting process. We make the following recommendations in an effort to ensure that the eligibility criteria mirror the constitutional language, the demographics of applicants are properly represented and that applicants have sufficient instructions and notice about deadlines.

**A. The application should indicate that an employee of a lobbyist *agent* is not eligible to be a commissioner.**

The Michigan Constitution states that each “Commissioner shall: . . . not currently be or in the past 6 years have been . . . any person who is registered as a lobbyist *agent* with the Michigan Bureau of Elections, or any employee of such person.”<sup>1</sup> Question 2(g) of the draft application differs in an important respect from the Constitutional language, however, asking applicants if they now, or have been any time since August 2014 “[a]n employee of a lobbyist registered with the Michigan Bureau of Elections.” CLC recommends that Question 2(g) in the final application appears as: “An employee of a lobbyist agent registered with the Michigan Bureau of Elections.” CLC makes this recommendation in order to keep the application consistent with the language in the Constitution and because the terms “lobbyist” and “lobbyist agent” have different definitions under Michigan law. Although the term “lobbyist agent” is not defined in the Constitution, the draft guidelines indicate that the Michigan Lobbying Act is instructive in interpreting this term. The Michigan Lobbying Act defines a lobbyist agent as “a person who receives compensation or reimbursement . . . for lobbying” on behalf of employers or clients.<sup>2</sup> The Act defines a lobbyist as a person who makes expenditures or enters into an agreement to make expenditures to lobby public officials.<sup>3</sup> Because the Constitution limits lobbyist *agents* and their employees but not lobbyists, the final application should do so as well.

Leaving question 2(g) as is will likely lead to confusion for applicants. The Lobbying indicates that the word “person” in both the lobbyist agent and lobbyist definitions include corporate entities such as a “business . . . firm, partnership, joint venture, syndicate, business trust, labor organization, company, corporation and association.”<sup>4</sup> Applying the Lobbying Act to the draft application would mean employees of corporations that spend money on lobbying efforts would be disqualified from serving on the commission. But employees of lobbyist *agents* would be eligible even though the Constitution explicitly forbids this.

**B. The Demographic Information section should allow for more race/ethnicity options and give applicants the option to identify their race/ethnicity if the applicant chooses “other.”**

The draft application provides for six race/ethnicity options: (1). “White/Caucasian;” (2). “Black/African-American;” (3). “Hispanic/Latinx;” (4). “American Indian/Alaska Native;” (5). “Asian;” and (6). “Other.” The application does not allow an applicant to enter a race/ethnicity for the “other” option.

CLC recommends that the Secretary of State allow applicants to input information in the “other” option and add more detail to the applicant demographic information to allow for a more robust understanding of the makeup of commission applicants. The California Citizens

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<sup>1</sup> Mich. Const Art 4 §6(1)(b)(vi) (emphasis added).

<sup>2</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws § 4.415; *see also* Michigan Lobby Manual, [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/LobbyManual082911\\_377601\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/LobbyManual082911_377601_7.pdf) (last visited Aug. 8, 2019).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws § 4.416



Redistricting Commission application, for example, allows applicants to choose from a larger selection of race/ethnicity options.<sup>5</sup> The 2020 California redistricting application has four race/ethnicity “groups:” Latino, Asian, Pacific Islander and Other. Each group then has several choices. For example, the Latino group lists Cuban, Mexican/Mexican American, Puerto Rican, and “Other Hispanic/Latino Groups” as options. The Other group includes Aleut, American Indian/Native American, Black/African American, Eskimo, White, and “Other Racial Group.” Notably, the application allows applicants to specify which race/ethnicity if they choose “Other Racial Group.” This type of breakdown could be useful, particularly where different communities within a race/ethnicity group have different concerns or historical experiences.

**C. The Draft Application should begin with an instruction page clearly listing all of the requirements found in the application.**

The draft application begins discussing the history of the commission, thanking applicants for their interest, and providing some details about how the commission process works. In addition to the information listed in the introductory section, CLC recommends that the application begin with an instruction page detailing all of the introductory information and important guidelines and deadlines. The 2010 Arizona Commission application, for example, begins with instructions on how to complete the application by hand, typewriter, or word processor.<sup>6</sup> It also discusses the documents needed for the application to be considered complete, the commission mailing address, and relevant deadlines. Having these instructions in two places—on the first page and throughout the application—will help ensure that applicants have an exceeding amount of notice and clearly understand the requirements, deadlines, and other important information.

**II. Conclusion**

In conclusion, we applaud the Secretary’s leadership in implementing the Citizens Redistricting Commission. We also respectfully urge the Secretary to consider adoption of our recommendations for the draft application as outlined in these comments. We appreciate the opportunity to submit public comments regarding this important part of the implementation process and we would be happy to answer any questions or provide additional information to assist the Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Catherine Hinckley Kelley  
Director, Policy and State Programs

/s/

Christopher Lamar  
Legal Counsel, Redistricting

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<sup>5</sup> 2020 Citizens Redistricting Commission Application, <https://apply.shapecaliforniasfuture.auditor.ca.gov/initial> (last visited Aug. 7, 2019).

<sup>6</sup> The application is no longer available online but a copy of the 2010 application is attached as an exhibit.

## **EXHIBIT A**

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORM  
FOR THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

***The application and all attachments are public documents and will be open for public inspection. All applicants are advised their application or any part of their application, except the confidential section, will be posted on the Commission's website to facilitate public comment on applicants.***

**1. Type or print all answers.**

**For applications prepared by hand or on a typewriter:** If more space is needed, attach additional pages to the end of the application form and place the corresponding question number next to the information.

**For applications prepared on a word processor:** Include all information immediately after the question and allow the word processor to repaginate the document.

The application form can be downloaded at [www.arizona-redistricting-nominations.com](http://www.arizona-redistricting-nominations.com). To receive the form on disk, bring or mail a disk to the Human Resources Division, Administrative Office of the Courts, 1501 W. Washington, Suite 221, Phoenix, AZ 85007. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. If mailed, include with the disk a self-addressed envelope or disk mailer. The disk will be mailed or available for pick-up within 24 hours of receipt. To request the form via e-mail, send your request to: [jnc@courts.az.gov](mailto:jnc@courts.az.gov)

- 2. Completely answer all questions.** If a question does not apply, write "Not applicable" in the space provided. If the information is not available, write "Not available" and state the reason(s) the information is not available. Sign the application.
- 3. Securely attach all required attachments.** Applications that do not include the required resume or biographical statement, and a statement of interest, will be considered incomplete and will NOT be considered for nomination.
- 4. Sign the application and have your signature notarized.**
- 5. Send or deliver the signed, notarized application and attachments to:**

Commission on Appellate Court Appointments  
Attn: Annette Corallo  
1501 W. Washington, Suite 221  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

**Applications must be received at the address above by 5:00 p.m. on October 15, 2010. Late applications will not be considered.**

**APPLICATION (INCLUDING ATTACHMENTS) FOR  
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

**Answer all items in print or type. Attach additional sheets as needed to answer completely.**

FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE'S NAME (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY OF RESIDENCE \_\_\_\_\_ RESIDENT OF ARIZONA SINCE \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ OFFICE PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EDUCATION: Include name(s) of institution(s) and year diploma(s) or degree(s) received.

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List **all** political activities for **at least** the past ten years. Include dates of service and indicate **all** offices held in any organization. (Use attachment if necessary.)

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List **all** professional and occupational memberships for **at least** the past ten years. Include dates of service and indicate **all** offices held in any organization. Please include honors, awards and other forms of recognition. (Use attachment if necessary.)

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List **all** civic and community service activities for **at least** the past ten years. Include dates of service and indicate **all** offices held in any organization. Please include honors, awards and other forms of recognition. (Use attachment if necessary.)

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**ATTACH A RESUME OR BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT. Applications that do not include a resume or biographical statement will be considered incomplete and will NOT be considered for nomination.**

**ATTACH A STATEMENT OF INTEREST EXPLAINING WHY YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION. Applications that do not include a statement of interest will be considered incomplete and will NOT be considered for nomination.**

**COMPLETELY ANSWER ALL OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

1. Are you committed to applying the provisions of the Arizona Constitution, Article IV, Part 2, Section 1 in an honest, independent and impartial fashion, and to upholding public confidence in the integrity of the redistricting process? Yes ( ) No ( )

2. Will your employment and/or personal circumstances permit you to attend meetings of the Independent Redistricting Commission in their entirety? Yes ( ) No ( )
3. Are you a registered Arizona voter? Yes ( ) No ( )
4. Have you been continuously registered for at least the past three years with the same political party or as unaffiliated with a political party? Yes ( ) No ( ) If no, attach explanation.

Indicate political registration for the past three years: \_\_\_\_\_

5. During the past three years, have you:
  - a. been appointed to, elected to, or a candidate for any other public office, including precinct committeeman or committeewoman, but not including school board member or officer? Yes ( ) No ( )
  - b. served as an officer of a political party or as an officer of a candidate's campaign committee? Yes ( ) No ( )
  - c. served as a registered paid lobbyist? Yes ( ) No ( )

If your answer to any part of this question is "Yes," attach an explanation.

6. Is there any possible conflict of interest or other matter that would create problems or prevent you from fairly and impartially discharging your duties as an appointee to the Independent Redistricting Commission? Yes ( ) No ( ) If your answer is "Yes," attach an explanation.
7. Are you now an officer, director, or majority stockholder, or otherwise engaged in the management, of any business enterprise? Yes ( ) No ( )

If your answer is "Yes," give details by attachment, including the name of the enterprise, the nature of the business, the title and description of your position, the nature of your duties, and the term of your service.
8. If your parents, siblings, spouse, or children are employed or engaged in any business or profession, state (by attachment) their names and the name and address of their employer or the business in which they are engaged.
9. Have you filed your state or federal income tax returns for all years you were legally required to file them? Yes ( ) No ( ) If your answer is "No," explain by attachment.
10. Have you paid all state, federal and local taxes when due? Yes ( ) No ( ) If your answer is "No," explain by attachment.
11. Have you ever violated a court order including but not limited to an order for payment of child or spousal support? Yes ( ) No ( ) If your answer is "Yes," explain by attachment.
12. Have you ever been expelled, terminated, or suspended from any employment or school or course of learning on account of plagiarism, cheating, or any other "cause" that might

reflect in any way on your integrity? Yes ( ) No ( ) If your answer is "Yes," explain by attachment.

13. Are you, in any jurisdiction, currently charged with or have you ever been arrested for, convicted of, or pleaded guilty to any felony, misdemeanor (excluding civil traffic violations), or violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice? Yes ( ) No ( ) If your answer is "Yes," explain by attachment.
14. If you performed military service, please indicate the date and type of discharge. If other than honorable discharge, explain by attachment.
15. List and describe by attachment any litigation involving an allegation of fraud in which you are or were a defendant.
16. In the past year, have you ever been reprimanded, demoted, disciplined, placed on probation, suspended, or terminated by an employer as a result of your alleged consumption of alcohol, prescription drugs, or use of illegal drugs? Yes ( ) No ( ) If your answer is "Yes," explain by attachment the circumstances under which such action was taken, the name(s) of any persons who took such action, and the background and resolution of such action.
17. Have you failed to vote in any general election held during the past eight years? Yes ( ) No ( ) If your answer is "Yes," explain by attachment.
18. Have you ever refused to submit to a test to determine whether you had consumed and/or were under the influence of alcohol or drugs? Yes ( ) No ( ) If your answer is "Yes," state the date you were requested to submit to such a test, type of test requested, the name of the entity requesting that you submit to the test, the outcome of your refusal and the reason you refused to submit to such a test.
19. Within the last five years, have you ever been formally reprimanded, demoted, disciplined, placed on probation, suspended or terminated by an employer? Yes ( ) No ( ) If your answer is "Yes," state the circumstances under which such action was taken, the date(s) such action was taken, the name(s) of any persons who took such action, and the background and resolution of such action.
20. Has a judgment or finding that you failed to comply with the substantive requirements of any business or contractual arrangement, including but not limited to bankruptcy proceedings, ever been entered against you? Yes ( ) No ( ) If your answer is "Yes," explain by attachment.
21. List by attachment all elected or appointed offices that you have held and/or for which you have been a candidate, and the dates.
22. Provide any additional information relative to your application or qualifications you would like to bring to our attention at this time.

#### **BY SIGNATURE OF THIS APPLICATION:**

If appointed to the Independent Redistricting Commission I understand I will be ineligible for Arizona public office or for registration as a paid lobbyist during my term on the Independent Redistricting Commission and for three years thereafter, pursuant to the Arizona Constitution, Article IV, Part 2, Section 1.

I have reviewed the constitutional requirements governing the Independent Redistricting Commission and attest that I meet those requirements.

I authorize investigation of all of my responses to this application and further authorize the references listed in the confidential section of this Application to give you any and all information concerning my qualifications they may have, personal or otherwise, and release all parties from all liability for any damages that may result from furnishing information to you.

I understand that the Commission which reviews my application may or may not conduct an interview, and may make its decision based on my responses to this Application and any due diligence.

The statements contained in this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

State of Arizona        )  
                                  ) ss.  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ )

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2010, by  
\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires:  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### OPTIONAL SECTION

*The Commission on Appellate Court Appointments strives for diversity in its appointments. Therefore, in this optional section, we ask you to consider providing us with information that will help us evaluate our progress in achieving this goal.*

RACE/ETHNICITY:        ( ) WHITE (Not Hispanic)   ( ) NATIVE AMERICAN  
                                  ( ) HISPANIC                               ( ) ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER  
                                  ( ) BLACK

GENDER:                   ( ) MALE   ( ) FEMALE

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE ADDRESS BELOW BY 5:00 P.M. ON OCTOBER 15, 2010. LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

**RETURN TO:**                   Commission on Appellate Court Appointments  
                                  Attn: Annette Corallo  
                                  1501 West Washington, Suite 221  
                                  Phoenix, Arizona 85007



**CONFIDENTIAL SECTION OF APPLICATION FOR  
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

APPLICANT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION:

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**LIST THREE REFERENCES (PERSONAL, OCCUPATIONAL OR PROFESSIONAL):**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Reference's Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Applicant (personal, professional, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Reference's Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Applicant (personal, professional, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Reference's Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Applicant (personal, professional, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_



MIKE SHIRKEY  
SENATE MAJORITY LEADER  
16TH DISTRICT

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 30036  
LANSING, MI 48909-7536

## MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE

LEE CHATFIELD  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
107TH DISTRICT

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 30014  
LANSING, MI 48909-7514

August 9, 2019

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson  
Michigan Department of State  
Richard H. Austin Building  
P.O. Box 30204  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Secretary Benson,

Thank you for reaching out and inviting our input into the draft application for the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. We appreciate the opportunity to weigh in.

We believe that the "Eligibility Guidelines" document is very helpful for those who may wish to apply to be commissioners. The format of the document and the inclusion of the "Guidance" and "Frequently Asked Questions" components should prove to assist potential applicants.

That being said, we do have some concerns with the draft application itself.

- 1) The requirement to obtain a notarized signature is potentially concerning. While we support efforts to ensure the information provided is truthful and accurate, this requirement may be a barrier to entry and an unnecessary burden for citizens throughout the state. Many citizens may not have access to a notary public and may disqualify themselves because of the cost or trouble locating someone to notarize their application. In addition, we are not convinced that the constitutional amendment requires notarization.
- 2) The wording of the two questions that appear under the heading "**How this application will be used**" may lead to confusion. We believe that these two sections are intended to notify applicants that their information will become public if they are one of the 200 applicants chosen but that otherwise the information will be kept confidential. We suggest that that section be revised and condensed to avoid confusion.
- 3) Under "**What to expect if you're selected**," the questions asked in 1(a)-(f) appear unnecessary. These types of statements should be included to merely provide additional information to the applicant on what may or will be expected of them should they be selected to serve on the Commission. Because the answers to these questions are

irrelevant to the random process under which the applications will be selected this type of information should only serve as helpful guidelines to the applicant.

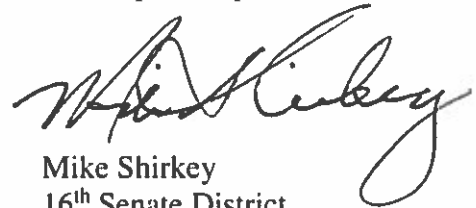
- 4) Lastly in this section, the party affiliation question does not fit the title of this section. It would perhaps be more appropriate to include it in the **"Tell us about yourself"** section.
- 5) We also have concerns about the questions in the **"Tell us why you care about this"** section. The answers to these questions are unnecessary to select the members of the Commission and would perhaps make applicants believe the process is not as random as it should be. While we understand that the questions are optional, and the intent is to assist the legislative leaders, we believe it would be better to send these questions as a follow-up to the 200 semi-finalists.

Please understand that these suggestions are meant to assist your office in carrying out this important task and are in no way meant to criticize the effort that has gone into this process thus far. Again, we wish to thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important process.

Sincerely,



Lee Chatfield  
107<sup>th</sup> House District  
Speaker of the House



Mike Shirkey  
16<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
Senate Majority Leader

*Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application and Eligibility Guidelines  
Public Comment from July 18 to September 29, 2019*

**From:** Nathan Favel  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 10, 2019 12:41 AM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:**

I read the documents and they looked good. I'd mention a bit more on how sexuality and personal perspectives that are non-violent are not a factor in who is picked. It seems pretty good and ready for a final draft otherwise.

Sincerely,  
Nathan Favel

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**From:** Tasawwar Rahman  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 10, 2019 4:09 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment

Dear Sir/Madam,

Good afternoon, my name is Tasawwar Rahman and I'm a Michigander interested in Redistricting. I have a couple comments about the draft application:

- I am deeply concerned about the notarization requirement, I believe that it will create a considerable impediment to minority voters applying.
- It should explicitly say includes precinct delegates as a disqualification.
- Each completed application should include a completion code (or something along those lines) so that if someone had already completed their open track application, they can move it to the mail in category should they receive an application. This can also take the form of a question on the mailed application asking if they had previously submitted a normal application.

Thank you for your commitment to a fair and impartial redistricting process, I look forward to seeing what revisions you all come up with.

Sincerely,  
Tasawwar Rahman

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**From:** Bruce Hartman  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 22, 2019 2:49 PM  
**To:** MDOS-redistricting <redistricting@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Comments on Application Form for the Redistricting Commission

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson and her deputies, to whom this may be directed,

I am sending this email to a comment on the draft application form for the new Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. I am commenting on the draft application released by the Secretary of State for comment and posted on the web at: [https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633\\_91141\\_93804\\_93835-501805--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633_91141_93804_93835-501805--,00.html)

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My name is Bruce Hartman. I am a long time resident (30 years) of Pittsfield Township, Washtenaw County here in Michigan. I am also a long time registered voter. I have a number of comments.

1. Sequential Numbering Please

Please number questions on the application in sequential order. Having five different questions numbered “2.” is just unnecessarily confusing. (I would go so far as to say “expletive deleted” annoying.) Having reviewed this document, finding and referencing anything is a royal pain. Sequentially numbering sub questions (a., b., etc.) is not ideal but is acceptable in my opinion. I think it should be minimized but it is acceptable in my opinion.

If the current numbering scheme simply must be retained (and I don’t see why), at least number the form’s sections with Roman numerals or something. In this scheme I would number the bold heading “Eligibility” as I., the bold heading “How this Application Will Be Used” as II., the bold heading “What to Expect If Selected” as III., the bold heading “Tell Us about Yourself” as IV., and the bold heading “Tell us why you care about this” as V. This would at least give people a way of seeing an outline form for paragraph and sub paragraph referencing. (I personally think that Roman numerals, Arabic numerals, letters, and small case Roman numerals will be likely the most awkward outline form possible. It would still be a vast improvement.)

There is a reason that both sequential numbering and the outline form have become so popular. Unambiguous referencing has got to be part of that reason. Please use it.

2. Race and Ethnicity Are Not the Same Thing!

When you ask for demographic information of the potential commissioners, you ask a single question:

“5. Demographic Information

- a. Sex
  - i. Male
  - ii. Female
- b. Birth year: XXXX
- c. Race / Ethnicity
  - i. White / Caucasian (Non-Hispanic)
  - ii. Black / African American
  - iii. Hispanic / Latinx
  - iv. American Native / Alaskan Native
  - v. Asian
  - vi. Other”

(Note I have changed the formatting somewhat from the posted text. I assume that this formatting is what was intended. Hopefully it will show up in your email as I wrote it. As an aside, indented numbering would be easier to read and I recommend it. If the formatting is garbled too much by the email transfer process, please refer to the web link listed above.)

Race and ethnicity are not the same thing! They are two different words that each describes a different thing. The Census Bureau considers “race” and “ethnicity” to be two separate things, particularly when applied to the term “Hispanic”. Someone could be Native American and be from Mexico. Someone could be Black and be from the Dominican Republic. Someone could be White and be from Argentina or Spain. I am not trying to say that my characterization is always true (it is not). Instead I wish to offer these three examples of race that are not defined by ethnicity or country of origin.

I believe that the Census Bureau has a much better way of asking about both race and ethnicity; they ask about each individually. See the 2010 Census form [https://www.census.gov/2010census/pdf/2010\\_Questionnaire\\_Info.pdf](https://www.census.gov/2010census/pdf/2010_Questionnaire_Info.pdf) I

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am asking that the Secretary of State use essentially the same wording that the 2010 Census Form uses to ask about race and ethnicity. I would rewrite the Census question for use on the Redistricting Commission application form as follows:

--> Please answer BOTH Questions 8 5.c. about Hispanic origin and Question 9 5.d. about race. For this census application, Hispanic origins are not races.

8. 5.c. Is Person 1 the applicant of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

- ☐ No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin.
- ☐ Yes, Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano
- ☐ Yes, Puerto Rican
- ☐ Yes, Cuban
- ☐ Yes, another Hipanic, Latino, or Spanish origin,
  - Print origin, for example Argentinean, Columbian, Dominican, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Spanish and so on in the space below.

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

9. 5.d. What is Person 1's the applicant's race? Mark one or more boxes.

- ☐ White
- ☐ Black, African American, or Negro
- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native – Print name of enrolled or principal tribe in the space below.

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

- ☐ Asian Indian      ☐ Japanese      ☐ Native Hawaiian
- ☐ Chinese          ☐ Korean          ☐ Guamanian or Chamorro
- ☐ Filipino          ☐ Vietnamese      ☐ Samoan
- ☐ Other Asian – Print race, for      ☐ Other Pacific Islander –

example, Hmong, Laotian, Thia,      Print race, for example,  
Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on,      Fijian, Tongan, and so on,  
in the space below.                      in the space below.

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

- ☐ Some other race. Print race in the space below.

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□”

(Note underlined text is added to the original. Strikethrough text is deleted from the original.)

I am recommending that the Secretary of State use the demographic profile question(s) stated as nearly as practical to wording on the Census form of 2010. I propose this for several reasons.

As with all surveys it is important how questions are phrased. To get responses that are most accurate and just as important, to get responses most in line with the Census data, the Application needs to ask the questions as closely as possible to the questions on the Census form.

The Census Bureau has been collecting demographic data since 1790. They may actually know what they are doing by now. Their demographic classifications have survived peer review. Their demographic classifications have survived political jostling all through the Civil Rights era. (And this was, and likely still is, an era if intense political jostling.)

Census Bureau information is likely the gold standard for “geographic and demographic” information. This gold standard is particularly true as it relates to racial and ethnic variation. This gold standard is particularly true in maters of population composition and geographic distribution. This gold standard is particularly true as it relates to voting and redistricting.

Detailed Census Bureau information is broken down by geography. This geographic information will be required by the “accepted statistical weighting methods” required in the Michigan Constitution as amended by Proposition 18-2.

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The Census Bureau information is likely free or available for minimal cost. The legislature has given the Secretary of State little money to do the “accepted statistical weighing methods”. Other similar information is likely to be expensive to purchase. I believe it would represent an expenditure that would be hard to justify.

Other similar information is likely to be perceived as proprietary or closed source and not available to the public or available for peer review. Proprietary or closed source information is likely to be perceived (by at least someone) as a way of playing favorites. The perception of playing favorites is the last thing either the Secretary of State or the new Redistricting Commission needs.

Here is some additional information for consideration by the Secretary of State.

The other information survey the Census Bureau uses to collect data about the people in this country is the American Community Survey. This form is sent to a small, rolling sample of people residing in this country. It asks significantly more questions than the Census form. This form (for 2019) asks for Race and Ethnicity in exactly the same way that the 2010 Census Form does. It asks no additional question on race and ethnicity. It does ask more questions about citizenship, income, housing, etc. This form can be found at <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/methodology/questionnaires/2019/quest19.pdf>.

The 2020 Census data for redistricting purposes is required by law to be released to the states by April 1, 2021. It could be released a month or two earlier. This is too late to be of use in the “accepted statistical weighting methods” by the Secretary of State on the commission applications. The final, pre-challenge lists needs to be presented to the leaders of the legislature no later than July 1, 2020.

Questions planned for the 2020 Census are discussed at <https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/4426784/Planned-Questions-2020-Acs.pdf>. (Note the Citizenship question has since been removed from the census form by court challenge.) It appears that the 2020 Census form will allow people who check white or black as races to also enter their ethnicity or country of origin. Otherwise the two questions on race and ethnicity will be phrased the same way.

Although this is way in the future and all sorts of things could intervene between now and then (including several elections for Secretary of State), it may not be too early to start thinking about the applications for the Redistricting Commission around the 2030 Census. I believe it would make sense to use questions about race and ethnicity as close as practical to the questions on the 2020 Census for the 2030 Redistricting Commission applications.

### 3. Ask for Exact Birth Date

If you are going to ask for the age of potential Redistricting Commissioners, I would go ahead and ask for their birth date too. Back when I was doing databases for my local County Party, exact birth dates were easier to deal with. They would automatically update to the correct current age with the right programming. I would also keep both the year and the exact birth date as a double check on the accuracy of the application.

This is also in keeping with the format that the Census Bureau uses on its Census form. That form asks for both age and birth date. As with all surveys, it is important how questions are phrased. To get responses that are most accurate and most in line with Census data, the Application needs to ask the question as similar to the Census form as practical.

Having the exact birth date would also allow the Secretary of State or the legislative leaders to look up voter registration records. A birth month along with a zip code (or a driver’s license number) is required to look up if one is registered on the Secretary of State’s external website, <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/>. I assume that a birth month (or a birth date) is also required for internal searches. Make your job easier. You may not have that much money to do your job as it is. Make the job of the leaders of the legislature easier too.

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I would also recommend keeping the exact birth date confidential. Every time I go to the doctor or the pharmacist I get ask my birth date several time each visit. The birth date has become like another PIN number or Social Security number. It should be kept private to prevent hacking and fraud. Your application needs to state this explicitly if you do ask for an exact birth date.

#### 4. Voter Registration after Application Is Highly Problematic

One of the questions on the draft application reads, “1. a. If you are not currently registered, will you be registered by August 15, 2020?” This is highly problematic. (This is the first question 1. a.) (Again note how awkward it is to reference questions numbered the same.) My interpretation is that The Michigan State Constitution as amended by Proposition 18-2 requires a commission applicant to be a registered voter in the State of Michigan at the time their application is notarized.

A copy of the State Constitution of Michigan of 1963 (as amended by Proposition 18-2), Article IV, § Section 6, Independent citizens redistricting commission for state legislative and congressional districts -- can be found at Michigan Legislature - Article IV § 6. It reads in part:

“(1) An independent citizens redistricting commission for state legislative and congressional districts (hereinafter, the "commission") is hereby established ... Each commissioner shall: (a) Be registered and eligible to vote in the State of Michigan; ...”

So this section, as I interpret it, requires serving commissioners be registered voters in the State of Michigan.

"(2) Commissioners shall be selected through the following process: (a) The Secretary of State shall do all of the following: ... (iii) Require applicants to attest under oath that they meet the qualifications set forth in this section; ...”

Note the present tense of the verb “meet” above. So this section as I interpret it requires commission applicants to attest under oath that they meet the requirements of the larger section for commissioners. I also interpret the notarization of the application as the applicant attesting under oath to the notary public. In my interpretation, applicants must attest that they currently meet all requirements to server as a commissioner at the time their application is notarized, including the requirement to be eligible to vote and registered to vote in the State of Michigan. I don’t believe that registration after application is permitted by the Michigan Constitution as amended by Proposition 18-2.

I am not a lawyer. (I don’t even play one on TV.) Please check with your legal counsel. However, I believe the Secretary of State is setting herself up for a nasty court challenge. (And regrettably, court challenges have become all to frequent in this polarized political climate.) Don’t give those who would kill off Proposition 18-2 by a death of a thousand court challenges anymore ammo that necessary. Please.

There is a second major problem with delayed registration in the draft application. The Michigan Constitution of as amended by Proposition 18-2 requires that the Secretary of State (and her office) to complete the random selection of the pool of 200 qualified applicants by July 1, 2020. This pool will be made available to the majority and minority leaders of both houses of the legislature at this time for striking up to 20 names. The legislative leaders must do this by August 1, 2020. However on your application, you ask if the applicant will register by August 15. The legislative leaders would in theory need to employ a clairvoyant to determine if all of the applicants in the pool of 200 would indeed register by a date 15 days after they are required to submit their applicant strikes to the Secretary of State. This does not compute. (I can also think of better uses for true clairvoyants.)

I am proposing to simply ask the applicant if they are “registered to vote in the State of Michigan” or if they are “currently registered to vote in the State of Michigan”. I would strike the question 1. a. that ask if the applicant will be register by August 15. The applicant can stop by any Secretary of State office and register to vote before they go



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hunting for a notary public to notarize there application. Granted some minorities do have problems with transportation. However, as your application points out, “1. d. Being a commissioner also requires travel to public hearings across Michigan. ...” (This is the third question 1.) (Again note how awkward referencing multiple questions with the same number is.) If they can’t get to a local Secretary of State’s office, how are they going to get around Michigan? This kind of misinterpretation of the law is the kind of thing that invites a law suit by those who would undue proposition 18-2. Don’t give them that opening.

Even if you must keep delayed registration (and I still think that would be a bone head move), please insist on registration to vote in the State of Michigan by say June 1, 2020. June 1 is the application deadline. Voter registration roles will have an excellent chance of including all new voter registrations through June 1 by July 1. By July 1 or earlier, the random selection of the pool of 200 will be required. The legislative leaders would be very annoyed if some of the pool of 200 contained people who had not registered to vote. They want to use their 20 challenges to remove party hacks, or uncompromising blowhards, or mentally incompetent or mentally unqualified people. Don’t make them waste challenges on those who cannot fill out a form truthfully.

5. Improve Certification that the (Primary) Address Is Where The Applicant Is Registered to Vote.

You may wish to consider asking an additional question (under the first question 1.) “1. b. The address above is my true residence for purposes of voting registration. ☐ Yes ☐ No”. (Also note again how awkward it is to reference questions that are numbered the same.)

Alternatively, the application can ask the first question 1. as, “Where are you registered to vote?” I believe it would be appropriate to add language or a web link for additional information on voter registration following this question. Example, “If you are a natural or naturalized citizen of the United States of America and you are a resident of the State of Michigan, you can register to vote at any Michigan Secretary of State office. For more information see [Web Link].”

6. Clarify the Deadline and Procedure for Application

You need to make clear exactly when the deadline for accepting the application is and how it will be determined whether an application is on time. Because this application must be notarized, I assume that all application must be a paper application. (That is to say, electronic applications are not on the table.) This means you need to choose either a cutoff date for notarization of the application or cutoff date for postmark of the application or a cutoff date for receiving the application by the Secretary of State’s office. You could also do a hybrid of these. An example would be, “Applications must be notarized by June 1, 2020 and received by the Secretary of State by June 8, 2020.” (Note both June 1 and June 8 of 2020 are Mondays.) Please select an option and make it clear on the application form what exactly is required to meet the deadline.

Does the Secretary of State want to accept applications for the Redistricting Commission at local Secretary of State offices or will applications by mail be the only acceptable means of applying? Decide and distribute the necessary instructions to the local SOS offices depending on your decision. Does the Secretary of State wish to receive applications at their office in Lansing?

I believe you should post your submission instructions including application delivery address or addresses and any additional ways to submit the form on the form itself. (An example of this is that the Michigan Department of Treasury putting return to mailing addresses on their Income Tax forms.) I believe you should also post submission deadlines at the same place. I would place this information at the end of the application form just after the instructions for get the form notarized.

7. Add a Way to Update Application

There appears to be no way for applicants to update their application. It appears that the Secretary of State will be

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offering application forms before the January 2020 mandated start of the application process, possibly in October 2019. I think that that is a good idea. The mandated application process ends June 1, 2020. Applications could be waiting for selection for up to six (6) months or even up to nine (9) months. In that period of time, people may need to move due to jobs, marriages, divorces, god forbid house fires and lots of other reasons caused by the turmoil of life. (This may include moving out of state.) Phone numbers may need to be changed because phone plans are changed or cell phones are lost, etc. Emails may need to be changed because email accounts have been compromised, etc. Changing job or domestic demands could make serving on the commission impractical. As I see it there is no way for the applicant to change any information on the application or any apparent way to withdraw from consideration.

I recommend that the Secretary of State put an additional question on the form. "Is this application an amended application? ☐ No ☐ Amended". This question would allow the Secretary of State to substitute any revised applications for initial applications. I believe that this could be done under the authority of the State Constitution of Michigan of 1963 (as amended by Proposition 18-2) Article IV, § Section 6, (2), (d), (i) "Eliminate incomplete applications and applications of applicants who do not meet the qualifications in parts (1)(a) through (1)(d) of this section based solely on the information contained in the applications;". A revised application would presumably make the first (or previous) application "incomplete". This is a legal question and perhaps a thorny one. Please confirm this with your legal counsel.

I recommend a whole new application because I believe that a new "attesting under oath" is required. A new notarization should be required for revised information. I don't believe that notarization for the entire revised application would add any additional burden. I would make the cutoff date for these revised forms the same as the initial forms, June 1, 2020.

#### 8. Discourage Multiple Submissions

It would be unfair to allow some applicants to submit multiple applications if this would increase the chances of that applicant being chosen. To discourage multiple submissions, I would put a question on the application form that asks if this is the only application the applicant has submitted. Putting this question on the form makes the applicant liable for multiple submissions. The Secretary of State will likely have a limited ability to review the applications. Asking this question can alert the staff to search for a duplicate application in the initial pool of applicants and remove it from further consideration.

This would be a good question to ask before the question above on revised applications. Suggested wording, "Is this the only application you have submitted? ☐ Yes ☐ No"

The Secretary of State may have authority to eliminate duplicate applications under the "accepted statistical weighting methods" language in Article 2, Section 6, (2) (d) (ii). What ever the Secretary of State's plan, a way of handling duplicate submissions should be in place.

The application form should in someway indicate that multiple applications are not wanted (except perhaps to update application) and will not increase the chances of the applicant being selected. If the Secretary of State only considered the latest application form from an applicant this aim would achieved.

#### 9. Clarify How to Resign from Consideration for the Commission.

There does not appear to be a way to withdraw from consideration for the Redistricting Commission on the application form. Some applicants will inevitably need to move out of state or will find that work or domestic responsibilities will prevent them from serving on the commission.

I think the application form should contain information on how to resign from consideration for the commission. Serving commissioners can resign by submitting a resignation in writing to the Secretary of

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State. The State Constitution of Michigan, Article IV, § Section 6, (3) states, “Except as provided below, commissioners shall hold office for the term set forth in part (18) of this section. If a commissioner's seat becomes vacant for any reason, the secretary of state shall fill the vacancy by randomly drawing a name from the remaining qualifying applicants in the selection pool from which the original commissioner was selected. A commissioner's office shall become vacant upon the occurrence of any of the following: ... (b) The secretary of state's receipt of the commissioner's written resignation;”. I am wondering if this can be extended to applicants. This is again a legal question. (And I may be stretching here.) Please check with your legal counsel.

I would put a statement to this effect on the form (or on the instructions that accompany the form). This statement needs to say if you need to resign from consideration for the commission, submit your written resignation to the Secretary of State. I would use the same address for resignations as used for accepting applications. Perhaps a July 1, 2020 deadline is appropriate. Perhaps resignations can be extended to August 1, 2020 for the pool of 200. This may be good for applications that are proven to be non-factual. Voluntary resignation of potential applicants if problems are found with their application would give the Legislative Leaders more challenges to use for other reasons. It may also allow for the random selection of additional applicants to fill the pool of 200. Again check with your legal counsel. This may also be a legal stretch.

10. Clarify Confidentiality of Temporary Mailing Address

You need to make clear that the Temporary Mailing Address (as you call it) will be kept confidential in the same manner that the address where you are registered to vote is kept confidential. That is my preferred correction. Barring that solution, you need to state clearly that the Temporary Mailing Address will not be kept confidential. Privacy is important. Precision is desirable.

11. Change Temporary Mailing Address to Alternate Mailing Address

I once lived in Eastern Kentucky. I had a post office box as my official mailing address. I realize that Rural Free Delivery has come a long way since that time (the late 70's). In fact Rural Free Delivery was rolled out in the area where I lived in by the time I moved. Some people will for reasons of remoteness or convenience want to have their mail delivered to a post office box or some alternate address. Calling the alternate mailing address a “temporary mailing address” may make these people who use an alternate mailing addresses feel excluded from the selection process. I would suggest the word “alternative mailing address” in place of “temporary mailing address”.

12. Improve Certification That Application is Truthful

I also recommend upgrading the heading of your questions of eligibility from “Eligibility ... please fill out these questions to the best of your ability” to “I certify that” or “I certify to the best of my knowledge that”. If you expect your commissioners to make difficult and legal binding decision, I believe you need to ask, up front, for a legally binding certification of eligibility. Public and political interest in the working of the commission and its commissioners could be intense. Welcome to politics, future commissioners. Those not ready for the heat need not apply. Not to say the Secretary of State should not recruit widely. But the Secretary of State needs to recruit those ready for leadership. In their own way, every commissioner will hold a leadership position. I will do no good at all to select minorities (or anyone else for that matter) that are just going to get rolled. A strong certification of the answers on the application form is a small but meaningful check on the question, are you ready for this adventure in government.

13. Upgrade Heading on Readiness to Serve as a Commissioner

One of your bold headings reads, “What to expect if selected.” This sounds to me as if the section that follows is merely informational. The section is not informational. It asks a number of questions about the applicant's readiness to be a commissioner. I would suggest the heading should instead say, “Are you ready to serve as a commissioner?”

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14. Clarify When & How Selected Applicant Names Will Be Released

As I read it, proposal 2 does not speak to when and how the names of the potential commissioners will be released. I recommend that the Secretary of State release the names of the 200 randomly selected to the public as soon as practical after selection process. I assume that these names will be released on or before July 1 of 2020. This will facilitate public to comment to their elected representatives on the persons selected. If this recommendation is adopted, this data release date should also be made clear on the application form or perhaps on accompanying instructions for the application.

15. Distribution of Application Forms

In the interest of distributing application forms for the Redistricting Commission widely, I have two suggestions.

The Secretary of State could make the application form available on the web as a downloaded document at the Secretary of State's website. The IRS and the Michigan Department of Treasury currently make tax forms available in this manner. Both of these agencies have chosen the PDF format for their tax forms. I recommend the PDF format for the application form. The Secretary of State needs to determine if they want to use a static PDF form or a PDF form that can be filled out on a computer. The IRS and the Michigan Department of Treasury use forms that can be filled out on the computer. The applicant would of course still need to sign and date the paper form and the notary public would need to stamp and sign the paper form.

Serving on the commission does not require a computer or a computer printer. (I'm not saying those things would not be helpful to a commissioner, but they are not required.) I suggest that the Secretary of State also make printed forms available at local Secretary of State offices. This way a Michigan citizen who does not have a computer and a computer printer (or those who have a computer or printer malfunction) could pick up a paper form and fill it out by hand.

16. Second Draft Needed for Review and Checking of Formatting

It is hard to make comments on a document in such a rough draft form. I understand that the Secretary of State could have concerns about posting a form for comment that could mistakenly be used instead as an application form. However the devil is not only in the details but the devil may even be lurking down in the formatting. I would personally like to see a second draft with realistic formatting.

In addition to my comments on PDF forms above, I have the following suggestions.

If you are using an outline form for you application, please also use outline indenting.

Use boxes for check mark questions. Example: "Yes ☐ No ☐

Leave enough space for answers, especially for open ended questions. Some people will be filling out the form in handwriting. Give them enough space to write. Allow for attachments for the open ended questions.

Use a reasonably large text on the form so that people with low vision or us old people with presbyopia (stiff corneas) can read the form.

Thank you for considering my suggestions.

Bruce Hartman