



# Selection Methodology

## Random selection of 200 semifinalists

### Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission for Fair Elections

How will the random selection process for the 200 semifinalist applicants “mirror, as closely as possible, the geographic and demographic makeup of the state” as required by the Michigan Constitution? This document details the proposed selection process for public review and comment. Email [Redistricting@Michigan.gov](mailto:Redistricting@Michigan.gov) to submit your comment on this process and methodology.

#### Public Comment

Though not required by the Constitution, Secretary Benson is inviting the public to comment on how the demographic and geographic makeup of the state will be considered in the commissioner selection process. Public comment will be open from February 27 to March 27.

To provide input on the application of geography and demography in the commissioner selection process, please email your feedback to [Redistricting@Michigan.gov](mailto:Redistricting@Michigan.gov) by March 27. We look forward to hearing from you.

#### Background

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

The Michigan Department of State launched the application process for the Commission in October 2019. It will conclude on June 1, 2020.

#### The Constitution

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

“From all of the applications submitted, the secretary of state shall:

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

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that the pools, as closely as possible, mirror the geographic and demographic makeup of the state...”

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

## The Mechanics

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

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

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

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

- The selection will be entirely random, and the results compared to the demographic makeup of the state.
- If the random selection fails to satisfy the stated criteria, the program will continue to make new random selections until the criteria are met.
- All of this will be done based solely on demographic and geographic data. The names of individual applicants will not be included in the program until after the selection is completed.

## Demographic Variables

As we demonstrated and explained as part of the application public comment process last summer, we will utilize census

categories and data for the demographic breakdown of the state. Specifically, we will utilize the following categories and population percentages provided by the American Community Survey of the U.S. Census Bureau to provide the weights for the random selection:

### Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

Yes – 4.9%      No – 95.1%

### Race

White – 78.7%      Black – 13.8%      Asian – 2.9%  
American Indian and Alaska Native – 0.5%  
Other – 1.3%      Two or more races – 2.8%

### Sex

Males – 49.2%      Females – 50.8%

### Age

18-34 years old - 28.7%  
35-54 years old - 33.0%  
55+ years old - 38.3%

## Geographic Variables

We will utilize basic regions across the state and weight proportional to the population of each region. The proposed breakdown can be found below:

### Southeast Michigan – 35.3% of the total state population

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

### Wayne County – 17.8% of the total state population

### West Michigan – 23.8% of the total state population

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

### East Central Michigan – 13.7% of the total state population

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

### Northern Michigan – 6.5% of the total state population

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

### Upper Peninsula – 3.1% of the total state population

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

## Provide Public Comment

The Department of State has drafted this overview of the selection process and criteria for the 200 semifinalist applicants.

To participate in this public comment process, please email your feedback to [Redistricting@Michigan.gov](mailto:Redistricting@Michigan.gov). We look forward to hearing from you.

Questions or comments?

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