

# Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

Virtual Meeting via Zoom Webinar due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, in compliance with Section 6(10) of Article 4 of Michigan's 1963 Constitution and pursuant to the MICRC Rules of Procedure. Full agenda, presentations, transcripts, and video recordings are available at

[www.michigan.gov/micrc](http://www.michigan.gov/micrc)

**Thursday, March 10, 2022**

**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

## MINUTES

### **PRESENT:**

Douglas James Clark (*remotely from Huntington Beach, California*)

Juanita Curry (*remotely from Detroit, Michigan*)

Brittni Kellom (*remotely from Detroit, Michigan*)

Rhonda Lange (*remotely from Reed City, Michigan*)

Steven Terry Lett (*remotely from Lee County, Florida*)

Cynthia Orton (*remotely from Battle Creek, Michigan*)

MC Rothhorn (*remotely from Lansing, Michigan*)

Rebecca Szetela (*remotely from Wayne County, Michigan*)

Janice Vallette (*remotely from Highland, Michigan*)

Erin Wagner (*remotely from Charlotte, Michigan*)

Richard Weiss (*remotely from Saginaw Township, Saginaw, Michigan*)

Dustin Joseph Witjes (*remotely from Howell, Michigan*)

### **ABSENT:**

Anthony Eid

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Suann Hammersmith, Executive Director

Edward Woods III, Communications and Outreach Director

Michigan Department of State ("MDOS") staff

### **CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

Commissioner Szetela, Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) to order at 10:00 AM.

## **ROLL CALL**

MDOS staff called roll. A quorum was met.

## **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Amend the agenda to add “Discussion of reduction of Commissioners’ base salary to 25% of the governor’s salary” as New Business item 6.d. **Motion by Commissioner Wagner. Supported by Commissioner Lange. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION FAILED.**

**Voting no: Commissioners Clark, Curry, Lett, Rothhorn, Szetela, Vallette, Witjes, Kellom**

**MAIN MOTION:** Commissioner Szetela, Chair, called for a motion to approve the agenda. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Lett. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERTAINING TO AGENDA TOPICS**

Commissioner Szetela, Chair, put the motion "to begin the public comment pertaining to agenda topics portion of the agenda" which was adopted. Two persons provided remote public comment: James Gallant and Anthony Scannell.

A full inventory of live and written public comment is available at [www.michigan.gov/micrc](http://www.michigan.gov/micrc).

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

a. Draft Amendments to FOIA Procedures and Guidelines, Written Public Summary of MICRC FOIA Procedures and Guidelines, and FOIA Form, Resolution 2022.03.01 Executive Director Hammersmith provided an update.

**MOTION:** Adopt Resolution 2022.03.01, Approve MICRC Public Record Request Procedures and Guidelines, Written Public Summary of MICRC Public Record Request Procedures and Guidelines, and Public Record Request Form, as presented. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Witjes.**

**Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands.  
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

b. Proposed Amendments to Rules of Procedure, as presented February 24, 2022, Resolution 2022.03.02 The Commission discussed proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure.

**MOTION:** Amend Resolution 2022.03.02 to increase the public comment time period to three minutes per participant. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Lange. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION TO AMEND FAILED.**

**Voting No:** Commissioners Curry, Kellom, Lett, Orton, Szetela, Vallette, Weiss, Witjes

**MAIN MOTION:** Adopt the Resolution 2022.03.02, Proposed Amendments to the Rules of Procedure. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Rothhorn. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION APPROVED.**

**Voting No:** Lange, Lett, Weiss, Wagner

c. Reconsideration of Commission Pay Raise Commissioners discussed a pay raise.

**MOTION:** Motion to reconsider the vote on increasing the pay for the Commissioners by 7%. **Motion by Commissioner Szetela. Supported by Commissioner Lange. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION FAILED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.**

**Voting Yes:** Clark, Lange, ~~Lett~~, **Szetela**,<sup>1</sup> Orton, Weiss, Wagner

**Voting No:** Curry, Kellom, Lett, Rothhorn, Vallette, Witjes

## **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Staffing Changes Commissioners discussed staffing updates.

**MOTION:** Offer the position of Executive Director to Edward Woods III, including the responsibilities of both the Executive

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<sup>1 1</sup> Per the Open Meetings Act [[MCL 15.269\(1\)](#)] any corrections made by a public body to approved Minutes must “show both the original entry and the correction” and therefore all corrections are shown using font strikethrough to denote deletions and red font to denote corrections.

Director and Communications and Outreach Director, and negotiate the salary later. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by**

**Commissioner Curry. MOTION APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.**

**Voting Yes:** Commissioners Kellom, Lett, Orton, Vallette, Rothhorn, Witjes, Curry, Weiss, Szetela, Clark

**Voting No:** Commissioners Lange, Wagner

b. Elections Procedure Suggestions Commissioners requested that the election procedures proposed by Commissioner Eid be considered as a future agenda item.

c. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson Commissioners held a vote to determine the new Chair and Vice-Chair.

**Nominated for Chairperson:** Commissioners Eid, Rothhorn, and Witjes

**ROUND 1:** Commissioner Szetela, Chair, requested that MDOS conduct a vote for the new Chair by roll call, with the intent of eliminating the candidate with the lowest number of votes.

**Voting for Commissioner Eid:** Commissioner Clark

**Voting for Commissioner Rothhorn:** Commissioner Kellom, Lett, Orton, Rothhorn, Szetela, Weiss

**Voting for Commissioner Witjes:** Commissioners Curry, Lange, Vallette, Wagner, Witjes

Because he received the lowest number of votes, Commissioner Eid was eliminated from consideration for the Chair position.

**ROUND 2:** Commissioner Szetela, Chair, requested that MDOS conduct a Roll Call vote for a new Chair between Commissioner Rothhorn and Witjes.

**Voting for Commissioner Rothhorn:** Commissioner Curry, Clark, Kellom, Lett, Orton, Rothhorn, Szetela, Weiss

**Voting for Commissioner Witjes:** Commissioners Lange, Vallette, Wagner, Witjes

**Commissioner Rothhorn was elected Chair.**

**Nominated for Vice-Chairperson:** Commissioners Orton and Witjes

Commissioner Szetela, Chair, requested that MDOS conduct a Roll Call vote for a new Vice-Chair.

**Voting for Commissioner Orton:** Commissioners Clark, Orton, Rothhorn, Szetela

**Voting for Commissioner Witjes:** Commissioners Curry, Kellom, Lange, Lett, Vallette, Wagner, Weiss, Witjes

**Commissioner Witjes was elected Vice-Chair.**

d. Liaison between Commission and Legal Counsel The Commission discussed appointment of a Liaison between the Commission and all legal counsel.

**MOTION:** Appoint Commissioner Lett to serve as a communication liaison with legal counsel. **Motion by Commissioner Weiss.**

**Supported by Commissioner Curry. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION APPROVED.**

**Voting No:** Commissioners Lange and Wagner

## **STAFF REPORTS**

a. Executive Director. Executive Director Hammersmith provided a report.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Szetela, Chair, called for a motion to add \$100,000 to the EDS contract. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes.**

**Supported by Commissioner Rothhorn. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION APPROVED.**

**Voting No:** Commissioner Lange

**MOTION:** Commissioner salary changes shall go into effect beginning April 1, 2022, and Edward Woods' salary change will be effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, subject to salary negotiation. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Rothhorn. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION APPROVED.**

**Voting No:** Commissioners Lange and Wagner

**MOTION:** Commissioner Szetela, Chair, called for a motion to approve Commissioners Clark and Curry to negotiate the salary with Communications

and Outreach Director Woods, III for the position of Executive Director.  
**Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Rothhorn.  
Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION  
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

- b. Communications and Outreach Director. Communications and Outreach Director Woods provided a report.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioners requested records request publication be added to a future meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Adjourn the Meeting. **Motion by Commissioner Rothhorn.  
Supported by Commissioner Curry. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held  
a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.