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MICRC

20240111-1000 Meeting

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>> We can hear you, Kent.

We are live.

>> Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: As Chair of the Commission I call this meeting of the MICRC to order at 10:02 a.m.

This Zoom webinar is live streamed on YouTube on the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission YouTube channel.

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This meeting is also being transcribed and those closed caption transcripts will be made available and posted on the Michigan.gov/MICRC website and written along with written public comment submissions.

Members of the media who have questions before, during or after the meeting should direct those questions to Edward Woods III Executive Director for the Commission at Woods E3@Michigan.gov or 517-331-6309 for the public watching and the public record I will turn to the Department of State to take note of the Commissioners present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Good morning Commissioners, roll call Commissioners please say present when I call your name.

If you're attending the meeting remotely, please announce during roll call where you are attending the meeting remotely and unless your absence is due to military duty announce your physical location by stating the county, City, Township, village and the state from which you are attending the meeting remotely.

I will begin roll call.

Commissioner Elaine Andrade?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Present from Imlay Township, Michigan.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Donna Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Present from Mexico.

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>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Juanita Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Present and attending remotely from Detroit, Michigan.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Good morning present and remotely attending from Detroit, Michigan.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Brittini Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Good morning attending from Wayne County, Michigan.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Present attending remotely from Reed City Michigan.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Steven Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present attending from Lee County, Florida.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Marcus Muldoon?

>> MARCUS MULDOON: Present from Lincoln Park, Michigan.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Cynthia Orton?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Present attending remotely from Battle Creek, Michigan.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Rebecca Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Present attending remotely from Wayne County Michigan.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present from Highland Township Michigan.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Present are attending remotely from Charlotte Michigan.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present attending from Saginaw Township Saginaw Michigan.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: We have 13 present, and we have a quorum, thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: As a reminder to the public watching you can view the agenda at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC.

I would now entertain a motion to approve the meeting agenda.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: So moved.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Curry, Commissioner Lett will you second that.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I will.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: I have an amendment.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I didn't see your hand would we do that during discussion?

We can now have discussion on the motion.

Do you want to talk about that then?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: So we have an item on there. I'm sorry. I was trying to pull up the agenda to get the exact number, but it was to discuss the process for the notice of vacancy.

I'm just wondering if we can take it off because it does not sound like anything will be happening in the next two weeks or so and seems like we have time to consider that and focus on things other than mapping I would like to remove that agenda item.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Any other comments about that?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: We do have a.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yeah Director Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you we have a timeline that we have from 60 days to complete the proceedings.

We also have to give the person who responds has to provide a notice seven days prior to.

So it's somewhat of a timing schedule.

We also have to set a date for the notice between 14 days and 30 days of the receipt in terms of when the meeting will take place according to our rules so as much as it would be a great thing to do I just want to make sure the Commission is aware of the timelines as listed in our rules and procedures.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: So just to clarify that point I'm not talking about taking off and I have the agenda in front of me the discussion about the notice to vacate against Anthony Eid or notice to vacate for myself.

I'm talking the notice to vacate draft proceedings document which doesn't have anything in it that pertains to timing of responses, timing of scheduling meetings.

It's solely about how the meeting on those notices is going to be conducted.

So there's nothing time sensitive in that document and I just think rather than having a lengthy discussion about it we should pull it off the agenda for today and then you know we can add it in a week or so before mapping and add it on then.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I think she has a good point when it comes to that.

We do have a pretty full schedule and I'm sure there's going to be lots of conversation. So I would actually be okay with that also.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Sarah Reinhardt?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Hi Commissioners.

I'll preface my statement with you know is the Commission whether or not to keep this item on the agenda, but I do just want to point out regarding the amount of time that you have scheduled for mapping over a period of about three weeks.

If you're talking about like reserving time for having this discussion or using that time for mapping purposes, I would recommend that mapping take priority during your mapping sessions particularly because public comment will also be part of those sessions, which as we all know sometimes can take up quite a deal of time of meeting time.

So my recommendation would be to utilize as much mapping time as possible during those sessions.

But of course I defer to the judgment of the Commission on your agenda.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you.

Rebecca, you have something else?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Sorry, I agree with her.

I'm not suggesting that we should put this on the agenda for Monday.

I think we can put it after mapping.

From my understanding the proposed scheduling that Edward was suggesting, sorry, was February 8.

So it's quite a ways off in the future so what I'm anticipating we will focus on mapping for the next two weeks when we get that done we still have two more weeks before these hearings are going to be held to talk about the actual process of the conduct of the hearing.

So that's exactly what I have in mind, Sarah, is that we would actually do mapping first. And then come back to this document.

Because like I said it doesn't really impact anything in terms of responses or it's really just about how those notice hearings are going to be conducted.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Madam Chair I'm not disagreeing with regards to the timing, but you also have to give the responding party at least they have to have their notice posted a week before.

So that would be a February 1st timeline.

Just so we are all clear so Commissioner Szetela, if you have a suggestion in terms of how that works because not only do you or Commissioner Eid need to know notice of proceedings if this is to go through, but you also have to know when your timelines are. And according to our rules and procedures if we immediate on the 8th the responding party has to have a response in by February 1st.

So that means they're going to also need time to prepare.

So it's the Commission's judgment I just want to make sure everyone is clear about the rules and procedures so that the responding party has time to submit their rebuttal.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Szetela and then Commissioner Lange.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yeah, and I believe that's already covered under our current rules of procedure, that is what specifies that timing seven days before. And it's my anticipation hearings are going to be scheduled during those prior agenda items, the notice to vacate Commissioner Eid and notice to vacate Commissioner Szetela. So we will be studying that and then the parties at that point will know the date.

But the process document has nothing to do with those dates whatsoever, that is my only point.

Not something to discuss today.

We have a lot of things to talk about and let's take it off the agenda and focus on the other things.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Okay. Well, the reason why that's important, and let me go back, is from 60 days from the time of the receipt we have to be done.

And I believe for Commissioner Eid it's either the 13th or the 14th of February that a decision has to be made unless both parties agree to extend the date.

So once again I've deferred to the Commission, the Commission's decision, I just want to make sure everyone is clear about the timelines that are listed, one.

And then, two, the recommended timeline for the proceedings was going to be February 8th, so that we would meet the 60-day timeline as listed in the rules of procedure from the time of notice from the Michigan Department of State.

So that's what we have.

Yes once again if both parties agree, the Commission as well as the person that has received the notice to vacate, we can go beyond the 60 days.

The proceedings are here for everyone to have enough time to provide the document, one, and the Commission has a process to follow.

Once again I defer and the way to get around that if the Commission is willing is to see if both parties the Commission as well as the one to receive the notice of vacate is willing to go beyond the 60-day timeline.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: I would just comment I don't see why that would be remotely necessary.

The timeline is set out in the rules of procedure.

Originally the hearing was supposed to be with a special meeting 14 to 30 days.

That didn't happen obviously.

So hearings and proceedings have to be concluded within 60 days.

We cannot decide.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Lange say what she was going to say before you started this back and forth.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

I was just going to restate that the document that Commissioner Szetela is talking about that's on our agenda has absolutely nothing to do with the procedure as far as it relates to timelines.

More or less all it has to do with is how much time is going to be given to present cases, how much time is going to be given to ask questions and how much time is going to be given to come to a decision.

So it's strictly how that particular meeting is going to be held and has nothing to do with the timelines of scheduling that meeting or anything else.

So I think everybody needs to take that into consideration.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Anything else Commissioner Szetela?

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>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yeah, so I would just echo what Commissioner Lange said is that this document has nothing to do with the timing or the notice. Not looking at it today is not going to change any of those timelines that are already in our rules of procedure so I would formally move at this point to remove agenda item of new business.

It's 6G.

Notice to vacate draft proceedings document.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'll second it.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Apologies for the interjection there was motion to approve the agenda and seconded on the floor, Commissioner Szetela the proper motion then would be a motion to amend the motion to approve with the agenda item removed.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Okay so we can do a motion to amend then. Normally we call for any amendments before we ask for a motion, which is why the procedure is a little off now.

>> CHAIR ORTON: So there has been a motion to amend the agenda, all in favor.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I will second it.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Amending the agenda.

Sorry, what?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I was saying I would second the motion.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Right it was seconded, yes.

So all in favor raise your hand and say aye.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Can we get a roll call please.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Sure.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Good morning again Commissioners.

This is a roll call vote to amend today's agenda.

A yes vote means that you are in favor of amending the agenda and a no vote means you do not approve of amending the agenda.

We will.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Apologies Yvonne. To clarify the motion, the motion is to amend the main motion to approve the agenda with that particular agenda item removed, which I'm trying to look up the exact agenda item.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: To remove 6G.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yes, that's correct.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: C.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: 6C.

The agenda I have it looks like it's 6G.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: G as in George.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Notice if to vacate draft proceedings document.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: That's what I have too is that correct Rebecca?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: That's what I have.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Yeah.

Are we good, Sarah?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes, roll call, please.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Okay, Elaine Andrade?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Donna Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Juanita Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Given that one of the notices have to do with me I'm going to abstain on this one.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Brittini Kellom?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Apologies for the interruption.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: No problem.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Under your rules of procedure, abstentions are conflict of interest or lack of information. Can you clarify which one of those you are abstaining under?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Conflict of interest given that one of the notices has to do with me.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Brittini Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE:

>> YVONNE YOUNG: You're on mute.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: There you go.

Thank you.

Steven Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Marcus Muldoon?

>> MARCUS MULDOON: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Cynthia Orton?

>> CHAIR ORTON: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Rebecca Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yes.

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>> YVONNE YOUNG: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: With a vote of 7 no to five yes and one abstention the no votes prevail.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay then we go back to the agenda.

Which we have a motion and second on the floor.

Edward, do you have something?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Yes, I just want to if we can move the Southeast Michigan Council Government presentation to immediately after public comments, there is a time crunch there and want to be able to let them do their presentation and then leave.

So it could be hopefully an issue of personal preference because it is on the agenda. It's just moving the order.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay so, Sarah, can you help me with how to do that then?

Do we just.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Sure, that would be an additional motion to amend that would need to be seconded so it would be a motion to amend the original motion to approve the agenda to a motion to approve the agenda with that item moved earlier as Executive Director Woods laid out.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay Commissioner Eid?

You're on mute.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Sorry, a motion to amend the agenda to move that agenda item to after public comment.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Second.

>> CHAIR ORTON: So we have a motion by Commissioner Eid, second by Commissioner Vallette to move that item up to just after public comment which amends the agenda.

Can we have a vote.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: And adopt the agenda as well.

>> CHAIR ORTON: And adopt the agenda.

So let's just have a show of hands unless anybody has otherwise.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Roll call vote please.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Then we will have a roll call vote.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Good morning Commissioners.

This vote is to -- am I echoing to anybody?

Yeah.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Try again.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Let's see if this makes a difference.

Do I sound better now?

Thank you.

Rebecca's head is shaking so I'm good.

Thank you.

This vote is to amend the agenda to move the item that the Executive Director mentioned after public comment and to adopt the agenda.

A yes vote means you agree with the motion.

And a no vote means that you oppose the motion I'm going to start with Donna Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Juanita Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Brittini Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Steven Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Marcus Muldoon?

>> MARCUS MULDOON: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Cynthia Orton?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Rebecca Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Elaine Andrade?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: With a vote of ten yes to three no's the vote carries.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you.

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>> YVONNE YOUNG: You're welcome.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay so without objection we will begin the public comment pertaining to agenda topics portion of our meeting.

Hearing no objection we will proceed with public comment.

Individuals who have signed up and indicated they would like to provide live remote public commentary to the Commission will be allowed to do so now.

I will call on your name and our staff will unmute you.

If you are on a computer you will be prompted by the Zoom app to unmute your microphone and speak.

If you are on the phone a voice will say that the host wants you to speak and prompt you to press star six to unmute.

I will call on you by name.

Also, please note that if you experience technical or audio issues or do not hear or we do not hear from you for three to five seconds we will move on to the next person in line and return to you after they are done speaking.

If your audio still does not work, you can e-mail redistricting@Michigan.gov and we will help you trouble shoot so you can participate during the next public comment period at a later meeting.

First in line to provide public comment is Dustin Witjes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not present.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, thank you.

Next is James Galant.

>> Hello, can you hear me now?

>> CHAIR ORTON: We can.

>> Thank you very much. This is James Galant, Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition and these are my opinions. And, Madam Chair, I believe you may recall that Mike Brady instructed you to follow Robert's Rules of Order in the instructions before you convened the first meeting, the Secretary of State did.

Please demand that the Secretary of State, Joyce Benson, be preset here to fulfil her duty as the secretary without a vote.

You can't have a meeting under Robert's Rules of Order. You have to have two officers, the chair a secretary, and the Secretary of State is it.

And about today I say please entertain a motion because Page 366, Line 8 of Robert's Rules of Order says, there shall be no debate before there is a motion with a second to approve a specific action.

So please entertain a motion to approve the final maps today, the ones that -- the new maps that replace the unconstitutional maps first thing.

You have to have a motion before you discuss the maps. So you do have a motion to approve the maps before any debate.

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And then entertain a motion to divide the question so you can then maintain appropriate semblance of order consistent with our common parliamentary law in the United States of America that requires one question at a time. And all your statements shall be through the immediately pending question.

Please don't be persuaded to follow any Marxist style consensus decision making shenanigans. And please demand that Joyce Benson, the Secretary of State, come here and fulfill her duty.

Now, the applications. The one application, Number 61051, is stamped for June 2nd, 2020, that is past the deadline of June 1st.

Mr. Muldoon didn't answer the questions on Page 7 that are required for the conflict of interest. And the Application 46086 chose not to answer the required questions, just like Commissioner Lett did, just like, I believe, you have to review, and Commissioner Szetela and Commissioner Kellom all said choose not to answer on the required application questions, which means that is not a complete application. And you all should be thrown right to the curb and then we just get new people in here again.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next in line is Michael Davis.

>> Good morning.

Can you all hear me now?

>> CHAIR ORTON: I can hear you.

>> Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Michael Davis. I'm executive director of Promote the Vote, the coalition of the Michigan based organization representing historically marginalized and disenfranchised communities across our state.

This partner organization has a rich history of pro-voter education and advocacy and is committed to ensuring that our state's voting system works for all Michiganders. And fair maps are foundational for that.

In fact, there was a case brought by our partners of the League of Women Voters of Michigan that highlights just how badly gerrymandered the Michigan state maps were. A lot of that imbalance was due the packing of voters in the City of Detroit, the same geography now to redraw districts yet again because of insensitivities to minority voters according to the Voting Rights Act.

Mapping is hard.

You went through the process step by step, every step of the way in '21 and 2022. When you received advice regarding the VRA, our coalition of Michigan NAACP, ACCESS, Detroit Action had tough conversations about our next steps. In the end we submitted another three sets of unity maps with advice you received. So we recognize the difficulty involved in the mapping process, we also recognize the unique opportunity the Commission now has to meet the mark of the constitutional amendment.

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The Commission should evaluate and move the districts in consideration into all of the mapping criteria to improve and ensure fairness. The Commission can comply with Court orders to redraw the districts without impact of any adjacent districts.

And to do that, any special maps that are selected and not having a history of clear partisan bias or bias that shows up in the maps created.

You saw from the outpouring of testimony during your public hearing series that people and communities of our state are committed to your success in the process.

We ask again that the Commission consider and review submissions from the public.

Given the urgency and timelines, those submissions should be a resource and not a burden and include the most supporting materials, metrics, VRA, and partisan analysis as to not add more to your plate. Because at the end of the day you as Commissioners should be in control of the process and final maps. And much like our beloved Wolverines, the Commission has a chance to finish the job for fair and equitable maps.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next in line is Sarah Howard.

>> Good morning, Commissioners.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Good morning.

>> I'm Sarah Howard some of you may remember me as the attorney for the Michigan AFLCIO fair maps project.

Welcome to those who are new and hello to Ms. Young and Ms. Reinhardt.

The Michigan AFLCIO is a federation of labor unions representing over one million active and retired dues paid union members and families making it Michigan's largest community of interest representing 10% of all Michigan residents in every corner of the state with a diversity of racial, ethnic, religious and political backgrounds.

The public comment you heard from public members in 2021 was overwhelming.

My voters want maps that have 0 partisan bias and represent our communities including in and around Detroit.

It's worth noting that thousands of public commenters, especially at your Detroit public hearing told you exactly what mistakes you were making with the advice that you had and what the results would be.

We can't fix the past.

But we can move forward.

The Federal Court decision gives you an opportunity to fix some of the mistakes that were made in 2021.

Time is short of course.

You should take input and feedback from the public and from nonpartisan groups to help you as you fix the maps.

You can and you must comply with the Court order and the Michigan Constitution by ensuring that your new maps lessen partisan bias in the original maps.

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Partisan bias is not a nice thing to partisan fairness is not a nice thing to have if you can get it, it's your constitutional duty along with fixing the districts that you're here to fix in the next few weeks.

Racial justice and partisan fairness go hand in hand.

You must ensure fair representation for communities of color and ensure partisan fairness.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next in line is Natalie Bien-Aime. I might be saying that wrong.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Natalie you are unmuted and free to address the Commission.

>> Good morning.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Good morning.

>> Thank you for listening to my public comment. My name is Natalie.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I can't hear you, Natalie.

>> Hello.

>> CHAIR ORTON: We can hear you now.

>> I want to thank the Commission to take the time to listen to my concerns as a citizen of Detroit as well as the State of Michigan.

I just want to stress that maps need to represent minority majority districts.

>> CHAIR ORTON: You went out again sound wise.

So I think there might be a weak connection.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Natalie, if you hear us, it sounds like you may be having technical difficulties.

You may try logging out of the Zoom and logging back in again or dialing in.

>> Previously investigated by the Commission for taking jobs at a nonprofit who backed on the website of our democracy group for engaging with the MICRC.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Natalie we didn't hear much of what you said.

Commissioner Lange, do you have something?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I was going to ask if we could restart her time one more time because we missed a big part of it.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I think Sarah is taking care of that.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yes absolutely.

Natalie if you are still on you have one minute remaining.

>> Vacate Anthony Eid should be immediate.

The Commissioner Anthony Eid is under investigation.

>> CHAIR ORTON: We can't hear you again.

I don't know.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Natalie I apologize but you keep dropping in and out. It seems to be a technical issue.

If you would like to try logging out and logging back in we can restart your time.

Otherwise I recommend you submit written public comment to the Commission.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I'll go on to Chris Andrews and we can come back to Natalie if she rejoins.

>> Hi this is Chris Andrews from Haslett.

I'm glad to hear that the Commissioners will be redrawing the Detroit House Districts in the next few weeks without the imposition of a special master.

It's up to voters like you, not politicians, not special masters, not judges to do the work. It's critical that the new maps ensure Black voters are treated fairly and that the maps retain or improve statewide fairness.

It is disheartening to read that accounts that the Commission is dysfunctional, that Commissioners are distrustful and that your lawyer told judges that it is impossible to say whether you will put aside differences and redraw the districts.

Simply put, that is your job.

You must commit yourself to that.

There are people who want this Commission to fail.

None of you can be among them.

When the current maps were drawn, the overwhelming majority of Commissioners collaborated for the greater good.

Don't get distracted by when former members resigned, whether salaries are adequate or by past grievances.

Time is short for you to draw maps that fix flaws that unintentionally harm Black voters. I followed the process closely enough to know that no Commissioner intended to do that.

If you as individual Commissioners can commit yourself to working together, you must. If you have any doubt thank you for your service and please resign so that someone else can bring a spirit of cooperation and optimism to support democracy and racial fairness.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next is Anthony Skinnell.

>> Hello, can you hear me?

>> CHAIR ORTON: We can.

>> Thank you, Commission.

I'm joining you from the unconstitutional first Senate District in the unconstitutional first House District.

So I don't know honestly I didn't think they were too bad.

But apparently they are.

So with the Senate, it was all -- you know, I will say that for the district diamond the first and the first and the state and the House and the Senate.

I mean the ones that go up in the Oakland and Macomb county those were spaghetti noodles.

That's the best way to put that.

So and the Senate it was the Chestnut map chosen and I went back to the website to see what other submitted draft plans there were and I thought hey if we can take a look at one of the other ones and adopt that real quick, that might be another option.

Well I looked at that.

You had the Spruce also for the Senate.

Cherry, Elm and three Commissioners submitted maps and they were all pretty much the same.

In the Senate area in Detroit so I don't think you can just adopt it offhand any one of those.

And in the House you had the Hickory map was adopted.

There was also Peach, Oak, Pine, three Commissioners submitted maps too.

And same thing there for the most part all of them were the same in the House in the Detroit area.

So I don't know how you can draw completely new maps without changing all the other districts or really the whole state.

I mean if we have to change the whole state I don't think we should shy away from it.

But the other thing I'm concerned about is especially with new Commissioners too added on you are supposed to qualify you say you affiliate with two of the major parties or don't affiliate with.

And, one, I don't what is the measure of affiliate with a party?

We don't register by party in Michigan.

So what does that mean?

You vote for the party.

You think good things about the party.

That's a good question to me, affiliate with.

And that you filled out the application two, three, four years ago I don't know even know how far back it was.

Are you still...

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next person on the list is Steven Liedel.

>> Good morning, Commissioners.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Good morning.

>> Members of this body, I'm Steve Liedel, a member of the Dykema law firm and represent Commissioner Anthony Eid relating to the notice to vacate filed against him. I have a few brief comments on agenda item 6G.

The grievance, substance of the document do not object to procedures proposed in the document and reserve the right to object to any other changes in your procedures.

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Procedurally I would ask the Commission to consider the following: Section 3.4E of the Commissioner's rules of procedure adopted by the Commission consistent with the Constitution already address procedures applicable to a notice to vacate or removal request.

If the Commission seeks to add or otherwise change those procedures, Section 4.2 of your rules of procedures would appear to require an amendment to the rules, not adoption of another document.

With the changes in that amendment identifying specific existing new or new sections of the rules subject to amendment being specifically identified.

The draft document before you today on your agenda does not do so.

I urge the Commission to adopt any amendments consistent with the requirements of Section 14.2.

Identify the specific sections amended and provide at least three days' notice prior to the meeting which formal actions on rules amendments are taken by the Commission. Next the draft procedures document before you would appear to permit someone other than General Counsel to function as the parliamentarian that is inconsistent with rule 4.6 which designates the Council the general Council as the parliamentarian for the Commission.

I'd urge the Commission to either designate a General Counsel who would function as a-parliamentarian or amend the rules if you seek to designate someone else as parliamentarian.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Ms. Reinhardt, do we have anyone do we have Natalie back?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yes Natalie is on so with the Chair's permission I will start her time with two minutes.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I would like to say beforehand public comment time is not a time to attack any specific Commissioners.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> Can you hear me?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> Thank you for readdressing my time.

Certainly appreciate it.

Just want to make a few comments here.

You can and you must fix the maps.

Your constitutional duty is right in front of you.

Racial justice and partisan fairness needs to be implemented now.

I understand why we want to take time out to address the Commission.

We just want to make sure that maps are representing minority majority districts, that they have VRA compliance, that emerging minority voting districts of political influence are represented.

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Maintaining communities of interest and similar interests are represented and partisan fairness represented now.

In reference to the support of the -- for Commissioner Eid, I totally support it.

Eid has been -- previously been investigated by the Commission for taking a job.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I'm going to stop you on that because in our rules it states that public comment time is not a time to attack any Commissioner.

>> I'm not.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Point of order Madam Chair pardon me point of order I don't believe she is attacking and stating things that happened within the Commission meetings.

I don't hear her making personal attacks towards Commissioner Eid and the public does have a right to express concerns they may have about what we have done in our meetings.

Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Chair I have a comment as well if I may.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Go ahead.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: I was just going to say a week or two ago into Commissioner former Commissioner Witjes called in and also publicly commented on the notice he filed against me and made comments about that against me, and he was not stopped from speaking at all.

So the notices before the Commission, it's a matter before the Commission, I think it's perfectly appropriate for her to offer public comments on it because it's a pending matter before the Commission.

Frankly when my notice came up there was no objections about someone talking about me.

So Commissioner Eid should be subject to the same treatment.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Anthony, do you have a comment?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yeah, our rules are clear under Section 12.4 with all due respect to Commissioner Szetela she didn't raise that concern and I am raising that concern.

Please follow-up Section 12.4 that addresses slanderous personal or slanderous remarks on Commissioners.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: May I respond?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Sure.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Addressing a notice before the Commission is not slanderous, that is something that is untrue and there is a notice for Commissioner Eid and what she is taking is truthful he did work for voices and API votes.

There was objections to him doing that and concerns about conflict of interest.

Everything she said is truthful.

He may not like the truth but that is the truth and it's not slander us if it's the truth.

That is a defense to defamation period.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay Natalie you can have the rest of your time and may address things that are on the agenda.

But.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you Madam Chair Natalie, you have one minute remaining.

>> Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to complete my thoughts. And one of the things I want to make sure to do is that I do not support Rebecca Szetela being vacated.

Now going back to Commissioner Eid as I was making my statements, he previously.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Just a point of order.

>> Taking a job with a nonprofit.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Slanderous, the Commission never voted I had a conflict of interest so Madam Chair I'm asking you to, you know, follow Section 12.4, please, thank you and take a vote if you want.

>> CHAIR ORTON: So we are not allowed to say anything slanderous or whatever the other word is.

But I have not heard that.

So Natalie can complete her statement.

And we will call it out of order if there is anything that is slanderous.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Sorry, I had to reset my time.

Natalie, you can continue, and you have 50 seconds remaining.

>> I just want to just share on multiple occasions the MICRC changed course and edited their maps in real time, directly impacted by our partner's public comments. After the maps were completed, the nonprofit offered Eid a job through he resigned from the position after accepting it in the wake of the Commission's investigation.

It's time out for all of the chaos that's going on.

We need people who understand fairness and represent the community as a whole.

We need folks who understand that we need maps drawn now.

We don't have time for the shenanigans and the political trickery that is happening with the Commission.

Eid has been in the position.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

That concludes our public comment for today.

Please feel free to e-mail comments to the Commission at redistricting@Michigan.gov.

We appreciate everyone who offers public comment in whatever way they choose.

Next on the agenda is, I'm sorry, I need to get to the...is the new business that we moved forward, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

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Without objection I will ask MICRC Executive Director Edward Woods III to facilitate this item.

Hearing no objection please proceed Mr. Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you Chair, and I will welcome Xuan Liu, PhD, The director of research for the southeast Government. He will provide a demographic overview of Metro Detroit.

Presentation and open it up for Q and A.

So without further ado, Dr. Liu, thank you for coming and your willingness to provide a presentation for the Commission.

>> Xuan-Liu.

Thank you and good morning everyone with me today are Patti our demographic coordinator and also Jeff Nutting who is our forecast coordinator.

Really thank you for the opportunity to share some information about the communities City of Detroit and adjacent communities.

You know, we all understand that each community is unique.

But there are similarities and differences among them.

Today I'm going to use an interactive tool that we created a few years ago but updated with 2021 American community survey data or ACS five-year data to demonstrate how we can explore some of the characteristics of these communities.

Let me share my screen here.

Hope you can see my screen now.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> Thank you.

So the tool is called community explorer.

It's very easy to access for everyone.

So right now we are seeing SEMCOG home page which is SEMCOG.org so if you click on the button, data and maps, it takes us to the data and map Page.

There is a lot of things over there and you can access the community explorer a couple of ways.

One way is to go to map galleries to access that or you can use the drop-down menus. The first one is about demographic.

Click on that and the community explorer is right in the middle of that drop down list.

So the format of this tool is on the left you see a map that shows geography that you're interested in.

And on the right are the data and graphics to show data for every community in the Southeast Michigan region, there are 233 cities, Villages and Townships in the region.

On the top you get to the population and population by five-year age cohort for male and for female from three to four years old to 85 plus.

And by default we are showing the region number when you open the Page.

On the right is the distribution of households' median income.

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After that those who are always on the top.

After that there are 40 additional variables for each community.

We grouped them into five categories for population, households, Internet accessibility, housing characteristics and economic indicators.

You can map all of these variables on the left-hand side.

So by default this map shows total population.

But I click on that you see all the variables that are available.

So for population you can see total population, population density.

Median age and a bunch of other age variables.

And then education attainment, metric by percent of Bachelor degrees or higher.

Poverty and four major race and ethnic categories.

So let's pick one of them to show how we can compare these communities.

I'm going to pick median age.

So I click on median age.

Now everything is changed to that variable.

And the chart for median age is also extended.

Now it's bigger.

Easier to look at.

So let's click on City of Detroit.

Now, the map is not automatically, and I zoomed into the City of Detroit and surrounding areas.

And it shows that the median age for City of Detroit is 35 years old.

That means half of the Detroit population is older than 35 and the other half is younger than 35.

And on the chart to the right and you can see this bar for Detroit is highlighted with the dark orange or red colors depending on the monitor and shows 35 years old.

Each bar represent one of the 233 communities in the region.

So you can see Detroit is quite young measured by median age.

There are only a handful of communities that have lower median age than Detroit.

And the majority of the communities in the region are older than Detroit in terms of median age.

And then going back to the map, you can see different colors.

The lighter the color the younger the median age and the darker the color the older the median age.

The colors correspond to the colors of the chart on the right.

So we can see that Detroit is younger than probably three communities adjacent to it. For example, Hamtramck, it shows median age for Hamtramck is 27 years old which is much younger than Detroit.

Dearborn at 32 also younger.

This little community is Royal Oak Township.

This is not a city.

This is a Township.

Median age is 31 years old.

So except for, you know, those three communities are certainly younger than Detroit.

And then you see the older communities, much darker color, for example, Highland Park is 46 years old.

Which is 11 years older than Detroit.

And you can see the right side, that black bar is where Highland Park is.

And it's really on the older side in terms of distribution.

Grosse Pointe are older, Grosse Pointe Farms 47 years old.

Grosse Pointe 46 years old.

And so on and so forth.

And of course you see similar communities adjacent to City of Detroit.

In this case River Rouge is 36.

One-year-older than Detroit.

Ecorse 36.

Lincoln Park 35.

Same as Detroit.

And Melvindale 36.

And also, you know, the southern tier of the Oakland County and Macomb Counties.

And they have similar median age to Detroit.

And then the darker colors have older median age.

So this is a quick highlight about you know, how we can use the tool to actually explore the similarities and differences among these communities.

And I certainly don't have the time to go over all 40 variables.

But we can pick a few others.

Say education attainment, right, so that is measured by percent of adult population with a Bachelor degree or higher.

So I click on that.

Now everything changed to reflect that variable.

You can see there are similarities with the previous chart.

But there are differences now.

Hamtramck and Highland Park are similar to Detroit.

There is still some communities that have lower education attainment than Detroit and then you also have really much higher education attainment communities like Grosse Pointe Farms is now 77.5% of the residents, adult residents have Bachelor degree or higher and Detroit has 16.2% population, adult population with Bachelor degrees.

And some of these colors change for other adjacent communities as well.

In the population Section you have poverty, percent of poverty.

You see similar relationships between, say, the city and communities on the east, Grosse Pointe and so on and so forth is very different than -- oh, there are four risk categories, with Asian% Black population, Black percent Hispanic population, what is not the race, ethnicity and percent white population.

I'd like to show Hispanic population here because I want to show you another way to use the tool.

So now the map shows percent population with Hispanic origin.

City of Detroit you can see actually is on the high end of the distribution in terms of concentration of Hispanic population.

But the Down River communities, River Rouge, Lincoln Park, Melvindale, Highland Park and Ecorse have actually higher concentration of Hispanic population than Detroit.

If you map this by municipalities, cities of origin and Township.

I want to point out that we have multiple geographies for this tool.

So, you know, right now we are showing communities.

I know that's what you are interested in.

But we can also show the same information by counties.

So these are the seven counties.

We can show that by the county area and we can show the information by census tracks.

So if I show this by census tracks, let me Zoom in to the Detroit area.

We see the distribution actually changes.

Let me switch back to community for a second here.

Communities, so, again, at the community level you see some of these Down River communities actually have higher concentration of Hispanic population.

But if I switch to census tracks, look at this area.

So these census tracks within the city actually have much higher concentration of Hispanic population.

Some of them are as high as 60%.

70%.

And, you know, 50%.

So I'm sure you know the Hispanic population within the city is really concentrated in the southwest side of the Detroit.

I just want to point out that since Detroit is so big, we can show all of those 40 variables by census track within the larger communities.

But for now.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I think we have a question.

>> Oh, go ahead.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Question, Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Hi, I do have a quick question.

First off how do you pronounce your last name?

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>> Liu.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Hello Mr. Liu.

This demographic information coming from the 2020 census, correct?

>> No, it's from the 2021 American community survey.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Does that include any ethnic minorities that are not included in the census?

>> I don't believe so.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Do you know if it includes folks of Middle Eastern descent?

>> That is not a since a category currently for any of the measures.

There is discussion about creating a new group. I think I should have a name for it, but it's not currently implemented.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Thank you.

>> Yep, thanks for the question.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN:

>> Hello, my hand was up first.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I didn't see your hand who said that Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Commissioner Wagner.

To the Chair to Dr. Liu my question is the information this tool provides us significantly different from Autobound edge?

And what is the purpose of this presentation?

Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Edward.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thanks, I can answer that.

We have new Commissioners, Commissioner Wagner.

And from the Court proceedings that we heard last week, we just wanted to provide an overview of some of the demographic information in Southeast Michigan for Commissioners to consider when it comes to mapping.

So this is just an overview of the neighbors, the adjacent neighbors to Detroit so you can see the similarities and the differences as relates to communities of interest when it comes to mapping.

And Dr. Liu came at our, my request to come and sure this information with the Commission for its consideration.

He is not with Autobound.

They are independent.

They are a regional group, planning group that has this information that speaks specifically to the Southeast Michigan.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I just want to know if the two coalesce at some point and can we merge the two programs together if the information is so significantly different from those little dots that we all used.

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So that was my question.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Okay let me get and look into that for you and I will get back to you.

Will that work?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Absolutely.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: I would just like to ask a question.

How are we supposed to think about this as to what margin of error?

Sometimes that's pretty trivial on the grass and sometimes it's pretty significant so how do we account for that or think about that?

>> Maybe I can address that question.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes, please.

>> So we show margin of error for each variable for each community.

For example right here you see the percent of Hispanic population for the City of Detroit. The value is 7.8%.

The margin of error is 0.3% plus or minus.

So, you know, that's the confidence interval.

So if you add or subtract 0.3% from that 7.8%, is the confident range for that variable, right?

So for a large City like Detroit, the margin of error is relatively small as we can see.

Because the sample size is larger, and the margin of error is bigger for small communities.

Let's see, I'm clicking on a really small one which is the Royal Oak Township.

It says the value Hispanic population percentage is 1.1 and the margin of error is the same 1.1%.

So the remainder of the percent Hispanic population for that Township is somewhere between 0 to 2.2%.

So it's not as accurate or precise as Detroit.

But it still gives you a ballpark number for that variable.

Does that help to answer that question?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: A little bit.

Some of the graphs have very little margins of error and some of them it's quite substantial.

So.

>> Sure.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: I don't know that that plays into how we use that data.

It's just something to be aware of, I think.

>> Yeah, to be aware of it.

There is nothing that is absolutely precise, right?

You just have to take that into account.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Are there any other questions?

Commissioner Callaghan, your hand is still up.

I assume you don't want to talk again.

Do you have other parts to show us?

>> Just show a couple more variables in different categories, right?

So we have other variables for households including total households, household size, households with senior, House olds with children, households which are dependent households.

Look at the household size, it shows some different pattern here.

Like on Detroit.

So we saw, you know, the difference between Detroit and some other communities between them and the Grosse Pointe for example, right?

But for that variable, you can actually see similarities between City of Detroit and those communities.

So City of Detroit, household size is 2.53 meaning we are like two and a half person per household.

Same number for other communities, 2 point and Grosse Pointe 2.48.

And Grosse Pointe Farms is 2.48.

So what I'm going to say is really comparing communities is very complex issue.

There's no one magic number you can use.

Looking at different variables from different perspectives gave us more comprehensive view about the similarities and differences among these communities.

Just to complete the variable list.

You know, we added Internet accessibility during the pandemic because access to broadband is so critical now for everybody for work, for education.

We have housing variables as well.

We can see race, tenure and different type of housing.

And number of economic indicators.

If I can just show one of them.

Detroit has a lot of jobs and job density is also high.

Detroit, job density is 3.78.

Jobs per acre.

There are other employment centers, and some adjacent communities actually have higher job densities.

It's 6.85.

So really I'm not intending to show more of the variables at this time.

I do want to point out one more thing is that, you know, this tool is really just one of the tools we have to look at these communities.

We always try to have our data available for each community.

There are members, just want to point out one other widely used tool.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, before you leave this one, I see that Commissioner Curry has a question.

Just in case it's about this tool.

>> Sorry, I can't see people on my screen.

I'm sorry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: It's really a comment.

Dr. Liu, I can't see how this would be up to date even with now.

Because in the past year my whole neighborhood has changed.

We have an in fluctuation of Mexicans and everything.

So I'm sure it's not only in my neighborhood but in the whole total Detroit.

So Detroit would be all considering your documents here.

The new population has changed.

I mean the population has changed so drastically in the past year since we've been mapping that we need to do a whole new study on Detroit.

>> Yeah, that is a good question, and good comments.

The data is again so-called American community survey data.

This is a survey conducted continuously by the Census Bureau.

So they publish two data sets each year.

In September or October they publish their one-year data collection.

So, for example, September 2023 they published the data they collected in 2022 for larger communities and in December and November sometimes they populate another data set with the previous five years survey data so you get larger sample size so you can reach in the bowl smaller margin of error for smaller communities.

So we are using the five-year data set from ACS for this application because we want to have information for every community.

For smaller communities you only get data when you have five-year information.

You can't get that for one year information.

So what we are seeing here is the 2021 release of the five-meter ACS data so that is data collected in the five year.

The latest release, they just released last month is the 2022 information.

We are in the process of updating this app with that information.

So it's not real time.

But it's the most updated information out there possible.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: And I just think that it's still going to be way off when you consider what has happened in the past year and a half here in Detroit.

I mean it's everywhere.

Detroit has changed its looks.

And this data would not come up to date to me.

But that's just my saying.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you.

It looks like we have another hand up.

Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: To the Chair to Dr. Liu it looks like fantastic information and wish we had it originally so we could coalesce the two programs together.

To Chair and doctor Woods is Dr. Liu being compensated for his time here please.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: No he is here as a volume tar and service to the Commission on behalf of southeast Government.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Thank you for that, Dr. Liu.

>> CHAIR ORTON: You can go on to the other things you are showing us.

>> Maybe 30 more seconds, I want to show you we have other tools that could be helpful to understand these communities.

For example at the top of the Page there is a link to community profile.

So community profile is probably the most widely used application we have at SEMCOG so if you click on that link, it brings you to the community profiles because we select City of Detroit.

It automatically opens the community profiles for the City of Detroit.

And you get more information about people, you know, more detailed numbers and graphics about economy and jobs in Detroit, housing staff in Detroit to inspiration in Detroit and environmental land use data for Detroit.

And, again, we have that information for every community in Southeast Michigan.

For example, let's say if we want to see Harper Woods you can select Harper Woods.

Now everything changed to that community, City of Harper Woods.

Now you can go back to the community explorer from here very easily too.

Click on that button, review community explorer map.

That brings you back to the community explorer.

So that really concludes my presentation for today.

And I will be happy to answer any additional questions or hear your comments.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you very much.

That will be helpful to us.

Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I do have a question, but I think Commissioner Wagner has had her hand up, I'm not sure if it still is or not.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Oh, I don't see it.

No.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: No, for once you guys got it right.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay, so thank you so much, Dr. Liu, for that presentation. I do think it's helpful especially for our new members to this Commission.

This is kind of the type of data that we had to sort through using our mapping software in order to create districts.

And as you can see there is quite a lot of data to go through.

I do have a quick question.

Is it possible with this software using the ACS data, which, you know, we have to use the census data but ACS data given it's more recent might be a little better.

So I'm just wondering if there is a way to localize the data in a way that reflects the districts that we drew.

Can we input different geographical areas into this software in order to get a result for districts?

Or is it how it's displayed here regionally through cities, counties, townships, stuff like that.

>> I'm not sure I'm the right person to address all of that.

Just add my two cents to that.

Most of the data we see from ACS actually are not available in this annual census.

This census has the basic demographic information about population household and housing unit and all the socioeconomic indicators are not in the decennial census.

They were in the so-called long form of the decennial census before but now they really separated the so-called short form and the long form.

And the long form basically including all of the socioeconomic information are only available through ACS.

And the smallest geography for ACS data is census block groups.

Which is a, you know, a collection five, six, ten of the blocks.

Guessing you use block data for population, voting age population and things like that.

So the geography information for this is somewhat larger than what you have from the decennial census, but it could be helpful.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay let's say I wanted to geographically localize that data.

Like let's say I wanted to get the socioeconomic differences of a District that we drew.

Could we upload or overlay districts on to this software in order to get it?

Or is it just how it is?

>> You can overlay that although there might be some mismatches because your District my understanding is based on a sense of blocks.

And now this is based on block groups.

So there could be boundaries cutting through the block groups, so you get an exact match between ACS data and your District data.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Got you.

Thank you.

>> Sure.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Mr. Fink, do you have your hand up?

>> David Fink: Yes, just a quick comment.

And thank you for this very interesting information and always impressed with the hard work that SEMCOG does to create and make available to the public so much data. I want to be certain the Commissioners understand that notwithstanding the public availability of this information and the fact that it's being presented right now and explained to us right now, there are some aspects of this data that should not be accessed or used in any way in your analysis.

As some of you may have noted there is specific race data in this.

I'm not giving you guidance right now on what you will be able to do or what you should be doing in the map drawing process.

We will be doing that later but what I want to say is please, please, please do not start accessing this SEMCOG data to evaluate or use this for any kind of map drawing or map analysis that could possibly include or consider the race data which is available here.

>> Thank you, David.

And I'm definitely not an expert on redistricting.

So your comment I think is very valuable.

Thanks.

>> Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: And thank you and thank you for that presentation.

>> Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Director Woods, does that complete that?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Yes that completes the presentation.

Thank you again, Dr. Liu and your team for bringing the overall demographics of the area.

As provided in the American community survey.

Greatly appreciate you and your time and thank you once again.

>> Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Now we will move back to unfinished business.

So number 5A is the Agee case update without objection I will ask legal liaison Commissioner Steve Lett to facilitate this item.

Hearing no objection please proceed, Mr. Lett.

But let me just say Mr. Fink your hand is still up.

I don't think you mean to have it up.

>> I do not and I'm rather old and I do things like that.

>> CHAIR ORTON:

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I think Nate will give us an update on the AG case.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay.

>> Nate Fink: Thank you, Commissioner Lett.

And I can provide an update on the status.

I think you all have been receiving our e-mails that we have been sending the orders that are coming through.

Since our last meeting immediately after the Commission authorized and instructed the legal team to file an appeal of the Court's decision, the legal team went ahead and prepared and filed a notice of appeal in District Court.

And filed an emergency well a motion to stay in the District Court.

Which is shortly thereafter denied and has just filed two days ago an emergency motion to the United States Supreme Court requesting a stay of the District Court's decision and primarily focused on the injunction and requesting the Supreme Court enter an order staying the injunction.

In a parallel track on Friday of last week we -- there was a hearing held by the Court on what is called the remedial phase.

And the Court has entered an order instructing, ordering the Commission to produce a map for the State House districts that were struck down by the Court by February 2nd. And the Court indicated that it would issue a separate order as it relates to the State Senate District.

The Court indicated in that order that it was denying the request of the Plaintiffs in the Agee case to compel and order the Secretary of State to hold elections, special elections in the Senate districts that were struck down.

So the Court denied that request and indicated there will not be special elections held in 2024 on the State Senate districts that were at issue in the case.

That's where we are at procedurally.

I'm not sure I know Kate McKnight is on the call.

And I believe there was going to be I'm looking for her.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I see her name.

>> Nate Fink: But there are legal decisions that need to be discussed and litigation related matters that need to be addressed.

And it's the recommendation of the legal team that the Commission go into a closed session to discuss those issues.

I'm not sure if this is and I could look over to Edward here if this is the time in the meeting we were hoping to do that.

I think it was.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes, I would move that we go into closed session for the reasons stated by attorney Fink to allow Baker to address some of the fine points in the order.

>> Nate Fink: If I could just be clear the purpose of the closed session is exclusively to discuss the pending litigation, the Agee matter.

And that would be the exclusive purpose of the closed session.

>> CHAIR ORTON: So we have a motion to go into closed session to discuss strategy on the Agee pending litigation.

Do we have a second?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Second.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Seconded by Commissioner Eid.

And let's do a roll call vote.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Good morning, Commissioners.

The roll call vote.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I'm sorry I apologize; I forget is there any discussion or debate on the motion?

I forgot.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: No problem.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Commissioner Wagner's hand is up.

Commissioner Wagner if you can change that color to yellow.

It's like a brown.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Unfortunately I can't do that at the moment.

I'm honestly too sick with my stomach.

It sounds like you all knew you were going in closed session and why wasn't that on the notice, hello we might be going into closed session today?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Anyone of you can field it.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Curry?

>> Nate Fink: I can speak to it if you like.

I mean, we have this very active, pending litigation.

We think time is of the essence that the Commission discuss the issues related to the pending litigation so Commissioner Wagner, it's clearly our recommendation that we go into this closed session so that the Commission has the opportunity to discuss this pending litigation with its litigation counsel.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Understood but it would have been nice with prior notification.

Thank you very much, Mr. Fink.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Any other discussion?

Okay vote, please.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: The motion is to move to closed session to allow counsel to discuss pending litigation regarding the Agee.

A yes vote means that you approve going into closed session and a no vote means that you do not approve going into closed session.

I'm going to start with Juanita Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

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>> YVONNE YOUNG: Brittini Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Steven Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Marcus Muldoon?

>> MARCUS MULDOON: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Cynthia Orton?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Rebecca Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: So I'm going to vote no but I just also want to comment.

Someone's microphone it sounds like we are getting a lot of background noise and it's sometimes hard to hear so if everybody could kind of keep themselves on mute when you are not actively talking would be appreciated because someone is sitting somewhere where there is a lot of background noise.

Thank you.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Elaine Andrade?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Donna Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: With ten yes votes and three no, the motion carries and it's approved, thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, so normally at this point I think we switch over to a different Zoom link; is that correct, Ms. Reinhardt?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Correct.

Executive Director Woods will circulate a link to join the closed session.

So you will log off of this Zoom meeting and you will join that one.

You can look in your e-mails for that link which will be circulated shortly.

This Zoom will remain open.

So when the closed session closes, you will all return to this Zoom meeting.

And if there are any questions, I'm happy to take them and assist.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you.

Okay so we can all reconvene on the other.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So we log out of this, log into the new one, right?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Right.

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>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Correct.

(Closed session begins at 11:34 a.m.)

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Hi Commissioner Curry this is the main session.

I'm not sure if Edward has circulated the link yet to the closed session.

So you may log out and wait about five minutes or so for a new e-mail to appear with a new link.

(Closed session in progress).

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Curry, it looks like Executive Director Woods just e-mailed the new link. So you will click end on this session and you will find that new link in your e-mail.

It should be at the top of your e-mail, and you will join the closed session zoom.

You're muted.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I'm still hooked up to what, the last Section?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yes. This is still the main session.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I thought I clicked out of it.

Okay, view webinar.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Have we been connected yet?

>> CHAIR ORTON: We are on.

We are just waiting for...

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: It says live at the top so I'm assuming we are live.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Correct we are live and waiting for additional Commissioners to join before beginning.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: You all realize we have not had a break.

Maybe that's what they are taking.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: I just went and grabbed some lunch.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Are you going to share?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: I'll throw you a yogurt, Juanita.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I think all the Commissioners are here.

Are we ready to begin?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Ready when you are Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Without, let's see I call this meeting of the MICRC redistrict Commission back to order at 12:42 p.m.

Will the secretary please call roll?

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Certainly Madam Chair.

Good afternoon, Commissioners.

I'll begin calling roll.

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It will not be necessary to state your City, Township or county.

If that information has changed it will be necessary to share that information as I call roll.

All you will need to do is respond present if you are in the same City, Township and state that you were in when we started the meeting.

On the initial meeting.

With that, I will begin with Anthony Eid?

- >> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Brittini Kellom?
- >> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Present.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Rhonda Lange?
- >> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Present.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Steven Lett?
- >> COMMISSIONER LETT:
- >> CHAIR ORTON: You're muted.
- >> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Thank you.

Marcus Muldoon?

- >> MARCUS MULDOON: Present.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Cynthia Orton?
- >> CHAIR ORTON: Present.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Rebecca Szetela?
- >> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Present.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Janice Vallette?
- >> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Erin Wagner?
- >> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Present.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Richard Weiss?
- >> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Elaine Andrade?
- >> ELAINE ANDRADE: Present.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Donna Callaghan?
- >> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Present.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Juanita Curry?
- >> COMMISSIONER CURRY:
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Madam Chair you have a quorum.
- >> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: You're welcome.
- >> CHAIR ORTON: Next on our agenda is Commissioner Eid?
- >> COMMISSIONER EID: So sorry, Chair Orton.

I'd like to take this time to motion for a ten-minute recess.

We have been going for about three hours now.

>> CHAIR ORTON: A break.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: A recess, ten minutes if anyone else wants one.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I believe if we take a recess we have to call roll again when we come back.

Takes more time.

So I'm going to say we are going to take a ten-minute break.

See you in ten minutes at 12:55.

(Recess until 2:55 p.m.)

>> CHAIR ORTON: As far as I can tell we have everyone.

So we will be back from break.

And next on our agenda is new business mapping software overview without objection I will ask Kim Brace.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Apologies Madam Chair we do have to call the meeting back to order and conduct a roll call after the recess.

>> CHAIR ORTON: But it was just a break do we have to for a break?

I was told we do not.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Then I defer to the Chair.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, so I will ask Kim Brace and Kent Stigall to facilitate this item.

Hearing no objection, please proceed, Mr. Brace and Mr. Stigall.

>> KIM BRACE: Let me get myself up here so everybody can see me and hear me. Is that coming through okay?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> KIM BRACE: Great, all right.

Nice to be with you again.

As I mentioned to some of you I've been watching you behind the scenes for a number of your meetings.

So but it's good to be back before you to talk about the mapping software.

I want to give you some updates on where we stand on that.

What is usable and doable.

And tell you a little bit about the team that we still have together for you.

Of course it's myself and Kent Stigall, John Morgan is going to be coming back on board.

He has been out and not into right now what we're doing.

So he called me last night and said he is around.

So we will have him here too.

And then a member of my team, Ryan Taylor who does all of our database work and that sort of thing, he is also up to snuff on Autobound and can be support for any of you in terms of Autobound's workings.

We have Fred of course.

We have talked with Fred who was with us yesterday.

And so we can still be heavily involved in the supporting what you need as well as showing you some of the stuff.

And Ryan is going to come up to Detroit or when you have public meetings also as is Kent and myself.

So from our standpoint, let me first start off with a little bit in terms of the software.

We are still using Autobound like what you're familiar with.

Those members of the Commission that have been with us all this time.

For the three members, the new members, we are going to hold some additional sessions for you.

I think Edward has outlined those in the meeting stuff for I think Friday and Saturday.

What Kent will show you more in depth in terms of the software.

But I will do a little bit of that to begin with.

We have the issue that has come up of course, which is part of your agenda today, was additional data from the standpoint of census as well as political.

And from the standpoint of census data, we still have the 2020 census data.

We have that because that is geographically down at the census block level.

That is the only timetable that is available at the bloc level.

Your presentation this morning from SEMCOG you have to recognize that that's at a higher geographic level.

That is the entire City of Detroit.

That is the entire City of whichever or Township.

And so it's not available data wise with the newer ACS at a smaller level.

In order to get that in theory to be able to be at the bloc level, you basically have to distribute the information from that higher level on an equal basis to every bloc.

So if we were looking at, say, left-handed Lithuanians sorry for left-handed Lithuanians out there.

That is my example.

If we look at that in the ACS data and 65% were left-handed Lithuanians every single bloc within that larger City would end up being 65 percent Lithuanian.

Even though you know they are on this side of the city versus that side or whatever, that's the problem with higher level geography and trying to get that data in so that it can be utilized.

Now, we can overlay things.

And we can try to show some stuff.

You can look at some of the SEMCOG stuff at the same time we are drawing.

But we are going to be using Autobound at the bloc level with that information.

Now we have been making some changes to that.

As we've read the Court hearings too.

And we've talked to your attorneys.

And as of right now we have been tentatively told to just look at total population and so that is how we have set up the spreadsheet now that only has along the spreadsheet, the active-matrix spreadsheet, if y'all remember.

It just has total population.

So as you draw you will see how many people you're putting into the district and over and under populated it is from the ideal.

And the ideal is still the ideal used in 2020 census.

So that doesn't change but you will see the deviation.

But that's the only thing we would see for population.

We are waiting word from the attorneys on whether or not we would put total voting age population.

That could be a possibility.

But we are taking out all of the racial data because clearly in looking at what the courts have said, we probably need to not have that racial data there.

But we are going to have the political data there.

And so those tabs that you remember with the political data will be there with the old political data.

And one of the things that we are doing now with the state and the Secretary of State is adding in the 2022 election results.

We have statewide election results for November.

And so they will be there for the entire state.

The primary the state thinks they are going to have Wayne County and the surrounding touching counties.

And so for the primary data, we would have that in there too.

We are waiting for some of that data.

We got some late last night.

We got some this morning and so Ryan is working how to mingle that through.

We've also got updated precinct boundaries.

So we will have the updated precinct boundaries.

And they can be an overlay and they can be assignment level.

So if indeed you want to draw districts using whole precincts, that would be probably from an election administration standpoint a good thing.

Because then the county clerks, town clerks don't have to make changes to precincts.

So we will provide that and have that as an over law as you draw, just keep that in mind that that's one way to help out on that side.

And the other thing we would have in terms of the political fairness calculations if you remember when we were drawing before, all of those will be updated with the 2022 election results in addition.

And that will be part of the calculations that would be there, and we can run political fairness scores as you are drawing.

What I will do and what Kent will also end up doing, and I'm going to share my screen and I assume do I have share capability?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yes, you should have.

>> KIM BRACE: Yep, all right.

Okay, I think you should be able to see my screen.

>> CHAIR ORTON: We can see it.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay, great, if you remember, Autobound has the map in the main part.

And the spreadsheet down below.

And that spreadsheet is tied to the geography, and you can see immediately the impact of your line drawing.

Now, from the Court standpoint you are looking at districts one, seven, eight, ten, 11, 12, 13 and 14.

So it is all in this area of Detroit.

We noted that they did not mention District nine.

That may mean that you need to think in terms of just coming up, around District nine or maybe District nine would be usable or changeable.

We can.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Kent wants to say something.

>> KIM BRACE: Yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 13 is not included and not by the Court.

>> KIM BRACE: I'm sorry you are right, 13 is not included.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: So 9 and 13 are not included.

>> KIM BRACE: Thank you, Kent, on that side.

I can hardly read my handwriting it's so small.

So that does pose some interesting circumstances in terms of drawing.

You're basically dealing with a C kind of draw capability.

If you don't touch any of the other districts.

Now, we will end up freezing those other districts during some of the line drawing so that you're not accidentally grabbing something from the other District.

Those districts, for anybody that played with the software before, of course, can be unfrozen.

But for right now, for main plan drawing, we would certainly advise freezing these districts around the edges so that you're basically touching just the districts in here without touching nine and 13 of course.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Wagner has her hand up.

>> KIM BRACE: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Thank you is there a way to highlight the districts in Autobound still so that we can see those highlighted districts?

>> KIM BRACE: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Thank you.

>> KIM BRACE: I had up there before -- well, I do have the districts labeled separately. So I've done -- in label management I have brought in the Hickory plan as an overlay.

So that that is there also.

Of course you can't really see that because the lines are covered over by what is drawn on top of them.

But they would be there.

And one of the things that we can do is we can unassign these districts 1, 10, 11, 12, 14, 7 and 8.

If we unassign those and make those clear so that you could see just the outline of what it was before, then that's another technique that we can do to make it easier for you to know where you could end up, you know, pulling in territory or shifting territory.

That's all doable with the software.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Curry has something.

>> KIM BRACE: Yes.

>> CHAIR ORTON: You are muted, Juanita.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I'm just curious to figure out how we have learned from the past that when you start drawing lines and whatever that it affects everything around you.

And so if you freeze certain areas, how can we fix it?

>> KIM BRACE: That is one of the interesting things and tasks you have in front of you.

That's why I said that it can be unfrozen.

And it could be frozen.

But I think that is your decisions as Commissioners in how you want to do it.

We as technicians can work with you and show you what is usable, possible and doable but it's ultimately your guys' decision on whether you want to keep it frozen or not keep it frozen.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I just don't see any way we can do it if it's frozen.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: My comment was on the same lines as Commissioner Curry's when we are looking at communities of interest, the first time around, there were communities that did get split.

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So if we are coming at it from a communities of interest perspective and doing these, locking other districts would probably be detrimental to us, just an opinion.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you.

Commissioner Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yeah, I concur with Commissioner Curry and Commissioner Lange I don't think we should lock the districts.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Kim, opinion aside on if we should or shouldn't do it, we can decide that later.

Is it -- since all of these districts are in some way connected to each other, meaning they are contiguous to each other, is it possible to redo this map by shifting population along the districts while having the other districts locked?

I'm asking if it's strictly possible, not if we can do it or not.

>> KIM BRACE: Right, yep.

Kent and I have talked about that.

And, Kent, you have raised your hand.

Why don't you get in here?

You're still frozen, Kent.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay, I'm going to display the districts that have to be edited.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I think that's what Commissioner Wagner was hoping for.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: And we're going to look at it and I think what y'all are talking ability now is what a -- I can share, want me to share the screen now?

>> KIM BRACE: Go ahead, I have unshared so it's yours.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay.

Can everybody see my screen?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay.

>> KIM BRACE: There we go yep.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: If you look at nine and 13 the unfilled area of Wayne, Macomb and Oakland Counties are the districts that the courts say need to be modified. You can see it's a U-shaped area, 9 and 13 kind of block it off and there is a finger of four sticking out there.

Now, as to whether or not you guys want to make significant changes or give yourself guide rails, for example, I might say let's just modify of course the ones the Court gave you, and the immediately connecting districts, which would be, this is just an example, I'm not telling anybody what to do.

But two, three, four, six, 56, 57, 58.

Of course nine and 13 and 62.

Basically have a scope on.

And I think how far you want to take it and what you want to do is really, you know, somebody needs to weigh in on what they think the courts might say.
IE lawyers.

Not I mean from my point of view, we can do it all.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Kent, could you now highlight those areas that you just discussed?

And can we see those?

Or do you have that?

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, I can.

The area that has no color, the white area where my cursor is.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I get that but then is that only what the Court is talking about right now?

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Right, the white area was where one, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Now could you highlight those areas, what you just did with that, with the connecting areas that you said will be affected possibly so we can see the scope of the area we are looking at?

Thank you.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay, so it would be, well, they are already filled.

Here is District two, three, four, and then five, six.

I just named off the districts that are touching it which the St. Clair Shores and Roseville are the northeast corners.

This is Warren Madison Heights, Royal Oak, Oak Park, this is downtown Detroit.

This is River Rouge area, Melvindale.

Dearborn.

And when we go to edit it, we can highlight it or select a color of the districts.

Whatever works.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I think you're saying you can do whatever it is we want to do.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes as far as that goes.

>> KIM BRACE: Right.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: It's what you collectively, what or how y'all want to look at it to start with.

Like I might throw out there, for example, you know, I might one way of looking at it is 13 and 9 so that the whole area is all compact and contiguous rather than a narrow U-shaped.

You know, that is just one example.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you, Commissioner Eid, you have another question?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I don't think my question was answered.

I'm not saying we are going to do this but technically speaking, you know, the unassigned area in white on this map is it possible to make seven districts out of that area?

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes because it has been done once.

>> KIM BRACE: Yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I mean it's there, that's what I'm saying.

To redraw these districts, because it's a U-shape, you know, for example, no matter what you do it's going to be shaped like this.

You know, if you're not going to edit nine then you got to come around through this narrow area.

So you can change the districts.

But you're still looking at, you know.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Population.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Limited.

>> KIM BRACE: Right.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: And you can definitely.

>> KIM BRACE: Keep in mind it is the same concept of any kind of Districting when you move in one direction you will take away from the opposite direction.

So as Kent was saying District one could go up into ten but then that means that the other District is going to come down and fill in the territory that you need to give up in District one, for example.

So it's a shifting back and forth between them from that side.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: So this area, the unassigned area contains 640,338 people.

And which is exactly seven districts.

So you can do it.

It's just that you're limited.

You know, you still have that.

And this District Roseville cannot be connected over the, you know, over here.

East Point can't go through 13.

If you're going to lock districts.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I think we are getting into the technical part of doing this as opposed to, okay, I'm sorry.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Will you put your hand down Kent?

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'm trying to find my hand.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Do you have more, Kim?

>> KIM BRACE: That is the main thing.

Let's see.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Juanita Curry has a question.

>> KIM BRACE: The only other thing I would mention is your discussion this morning in terms of the ACS.

I've already talked with the attorneys on that.

They have asked me the question of whether or not it's doable to get some of that in. Technically it might be.

It's going to delay getting the political data in.

And delay when you can draw but it's going to have a real big caveat to it as I was saying before of the same distribution over the entire area, the left-handed Lithuania circumstances they would be everywhere as opposed to where you might know that they are.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes, my thought is you changed everything that you see it could be in less than five minutes.

If that was the situation, how come we couldn't do that at the beginning?

If it was that simple?

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Is this question pointed at me?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes, it's pointed at whoever just finished speaking to us.

>> KIM BRACE: Kim and Kent.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: It was to both of you.

>> KIM BRACE: I mean, it's doable from the standpoint particularly if you're just having total population.

Now, what impact it may have, that's part of the decision point that you all are going to need to make on that side.

You know, we don't have the racial data in here but we could bring it back after you have drawn.

Just to see what impact it might have.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I think you need the racial data in there now before we do all that.

Because what you've done is something that took only a minute or so.

And I don't think it's that simple.

>> KIM BRACE: Right.

You know, I would defer to the lawyers on that side.

And get their input.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: We can, you know, put everything, all the data back in it exactly like it was.

This is just after the Court case how does the Commission want to look at the data?

That's entirely up to you guys and counsel.

>> CHAIR ORTON: And we will have to discuss that, Juanita.

I think that will be another discussion about how we want to move forward.

But Commissioner Eid, you have something else?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

I had a question about the update that Kim was talking about.

Is that going to be automatic, or do we have to do anything to get that update?

>> KIM BRACE: We are going to update the database.

Now, right now we were planning that the system would be on our respective computers.

We have not talked with Anthony or Edward in terms of whether or not it goes on your all respective computers.

We need to get it first up and functioning and working okay on ours before we broach the idea of can it be ported over and how could that be done with Secretary of State staff people and all of that kind of stuff.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Well, I have a question.

We are starting to map on Tuesday.

>> KIM BRACE: Yes.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Is it going to be ready?

>> KIM BRACE: That is what we are pushing for, yes, indeed.

That's why we were on the phone with Secretary of State staff people last night, this morning, getting all of that data down here.

So that's what we are planning to have by Tuesday.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Anything else?

>> KIM BRACE: I don't think I have anything else.

I'm happy to answer any other questions that anybody might have.

But I think that's the key parts of our presentation for right now.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay well I don't see any other questions so thank you very much for sharing that with us.

And we will see you on Tuesday.

>> KIM BRACE: Yeah, just cut down the snow a little bit, would you, please?

>> CHAIR ORTON: So next on the agenda, oh, Steve you have something?

You are muted.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I think this would be an appropriate point to make a motion regarding what the mapping is going to contain as pertains to race.

And so the motion I would do is as follows: I move to establish a map drawing process which begins by all Commissioners proceeding with no consideration of race and with race turned off wherever possible on any map drawing software. And after maps are prepared, there will be a VRA analysis of the proposed maps. If I could get a second, I will speak to it.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Second.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, we have a motion and a second by Commissioner Weiss.

Discussion on the motion?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Sure.

The Court has ordered that no race be considered when we draw the new maps.

Pretty straightforward.

It was said at the end of the Court hearing by Judge Kethledge and it's in their order.

So makes it pretty simple.

We can't use that in drawing the new districts and thus the reason for this motion.

>> CHAIR ORTON: So it's not really a question but just a clarification.

So they have ordered us, and I heard Judge Kethledge say don't use race. So they want us to redraw these districts and not use race.

But we still need to comply with the V RA.

So we will have our VRA consultant look at the maps.

The individual and the collaborative maps.

I'm assuming.

After they are complete to see if they comply with the V RA and if they don't we will have to make changes so that they comply.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: That would be my assumption, yes.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, does anybody have any questions or comments?

Okay then I think we should take a vote.

So the motion as stated by Commissioner Lett, I can't repeat all that, but and seconded by Commissioner Weiss.

So we will take the vote.

All in favor raise your hand, so all in favor of turning off race and all the things that Steve said, raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Any opposed raise your hand and say nay? Okay, hearing no nays the ayes prevail and the motion is adopted.

So we will begin with race turned off.

Thank you.

So now we move on to new business.

New business number 6D is the 2024 regular meeting dates.

Without objection I will ask Director Woods to facilitate this item.

Hearing no objection, please proceed, Mr. Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Sure, facilitate Madam Chair can I start with 6C potential dates for mapping?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Sure.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yeah, sorry, I skipped that one.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Is everyone able to see the screen?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

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>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Wonderful.

We want to start mapping if we can remotely on Tuesday, Monday is a Federal holiday. Dr. Martin Luther King Junior holiday.

This would be remote meetings for the week of the 15th, remote meetings.

Tuesday, January 16th from 9:00 to 1:00 then we would have a break from 2:00 to 6:00.

We would do the same thing on Wednesday and the same thing on Thursday.

Meeting with the mappers with regards to collaborative mapping process, starting with District one and going northeast.

And whatever rules the Commission would like to have.

Once again each of the meetings on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday would be from 9:00 to 1:00 and 2:00 to 6:00.

Also during that week we have a request to the City of Detroit planning department, neighborhood department I'm sorry that will give a presentation on neighborhoods.

I repeat on neighborhoods.

I will provide this presentation after the meeting to the public as well as the Commissioners.

But we've also been working on getting some stuff scheduled actually during our meeting so that we can be in Detroit the following week.

Let me go to the next one.

I want to thank the Secretary of State because we also have been working with them to make sure that we can have coverage.

So thanks so much to Mike Brady, Sarah Reinhardt Yvonne Young and their team.

Hold on and I will put this over here.

Week of January 22 we want to be in person, and we will be in Detroit for that whole entire week.

Once again in Detroit the whole entire week doing our meeting.

We do have space available at Huntington place which was formerly known as the TCF center and commonly known as Cobo.

We will start at 10:00 on that Monday and go to 3:00 and then come back for an evening session from 6:00 to 8:30.

That's where we will discuss independent maps, collaborative mapping and also hear from the public.

The same thing on Tuesday, we will start at 9:00, go to 3:00.

And then 6:00 to 8:30 once again there is space available at Huntington place formerly TCF center and commonly known as Cobo Hall.

Thanks again to Yvonne Young we have the Cadillac place available 10 to 5:30 and the reasons you see 10 versus 9, we need AV time to set up at these respective places and we also wanted to cut our costs in terms of being fiscally responsible.

And so by going to Huntington place for two days it would take down the equipment they will need time to set up at Cadillac place and that would be 10 to 5:30 on Wednesday and also Thursday from 9:00 to 5:30.

If necessary, we would have a meeting on Friday.

We have the room at the Cadillac place booked the whole entire time.

Then the rest of the week as you know the maps are due by the Court order on February 2nd.

We will make sure it applies.

Deliberations on which maps to move forward and to vote if there is more discussion on collaborative maps or independent maps, that could happen during this time as well.

But it would be 9:00 to 1:00 and 2:00 to 6:00 and all of these meetings here are remote. If there is any questions, I can take them at this time.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Juanita?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes, the meetings at the old Cobo hall, which is Huntington place, I'm afraid I won't be able to attend those two.

I can't walk that far with five disks messed up in my back.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: We would work on Commissioner Curry in terms of having a cart available for you.

That's something that we can do and work with at Cobo.

>> CHAIR ORTON: And remote attendance is always an option too, right?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: That is correct.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay, because, you know, we said that when we went to Court.

And I had to get some help walking down the street.

I can't do all that walking in Cobo.

But that's just my opinion.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So how many of these can I just get a number of how many of these are in person versus virtual?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: We have three that will be remote next week, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.

We have five that would be in person the week of the 22nd.

And then we have four that would be remote the week of the 29th of January.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Any other questions?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLUM: I have a question but I stated this in our last meeting, it was in the chat but just to say in a more open forum on Tuesdays I won't -- there is nothing that I can do, I won't be available until after 1:50 so from like 9:00 in the morning until 1:50.

But I will do my best to attend like immediately remote on a remote basis or get to the Detroit area as soon as I can.

Because I will be in Olivet on Tuesdays.

So just stating so we are clear.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, we will take you when we can get you, Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I do think, you know, looking back to when we were collaboratively mapping, I do think we worked better as a group when we were there in person.

It facilitates collaboration.

It facilitates, you know, just empathy for other people being there face-to-face.

And it helps there not to be, you know, talk of like secret meetings behind closed doors and stuff like that.

So I would encourage Commissioners that can be there in person be there in person.

Now, if you have a health issue, obviously, we can deal with that.

But those who can attend I think we work better as a group when we are all there in person.

So I would encourage that to the best of everyone's abilities given their circumstances.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Anything else?

So I think we need a motion to adopt these dates so that Edward can move forward on making it happen.

So I would entertain a motion.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I move we accept the dates as presented.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, motion made by Commissioner Lange and I'll second it.

So is there any more discussion or debate on that motion?

Okay all in favor of adopting these dates and potential places that Edward has stated, raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Any opposed raise your hand and say nay.

Okay, the ayes prevail and the motion is adopted.

So now we will go to new business 6D.

The 2024 regular meeting dates.

Without objection I will ask Commissioner or Director Woods to present this as well.

Hearing no objection, please proceed, Mr. Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you so much, Madam Chair.

I'm sharing my screen.

Hold only just for a minute.

As you know the Commission did not have any meeting calendar approved.

That is why we are if a special meeting for 2024.

We have monthly dates for right now with regards to meetings.

So our next regularly scheduled meeting would be February 8th.

And that's the second Thursday and then the rest of them are third Thursdays of every month virtually at 10:00 a.m.

Once again the only date that is not the third Thursday is the February 8th date.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Any questions on that?

Commissioner Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: I think communicated to you previously Edward I will be unavailable February 8th.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Okay.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Anything else?

Then I would entertain a motion to adopt these dates.

And I will make a moment to adopt these dates.

Do I have a second?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Second.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Seconded by Commissioner Weiss.

All in favor of adopting these dates as our regular meetings for 2024.

Oh, is there any discussion or debate?

Juanita?

Okay, sorry, okay, so all in favor raise your hand and say aye.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I believe Madam I believe Donna had her hand up before we did all this.

I don't know if she wanted to come back on and say whatever she wanted to address.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: No, I already made my statement.

I'm fine, thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: All right, thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: So one more time.

All in favor raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Any opposed raise your hand and say nay.

Okay, the ayes prevail.

So we have adopted those dates.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I apologize for the interruption Commissioner Lange can you clarify your vote it looks like you raised your hand for nay or may have been stretching and I'm not sure.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: It was an aye.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Okay, thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay next on our agenda is new business 6E, notice to vacate Commissioner Anthony Eid without objection I will ask our MICRC legal counsel Nate Fink to facilitate this item.

Hearing no objection please proceed Mr. Fink.

>> Nate Fink: Thank you, Madam Chairwoman, and good afternoon everybody. So the Commission received a request for removal of Commissioner Eid.

The request was received from Commissioner Szetela and Commissioner Lange on December 15th.

Pursuant to the Commission's rules of procedure, the special meeting or a meeting to discuss that request and that notice is required to be held within 60 days of the Secretary of State's receipt of that notice.

And so it's my recommendation that the Commission take up that notice at the February 8th meeting that the Commission just approved.

So it will be held during regular meeting.

I think that makes sense just from an efficiency perspective.

And pursuant to the rules of procedure, the Commission is required to schedule the meeting and send notice of that meeting within between 14 and 30 days from when the Secretary of State received the notice.

And we are within that timeframe on January 11, today.

So I'm not -- I don't think it's appropriate to get into any sort of substantive discussion about the notice at this time.

It's simply a procedural matter.

And a scheduling matter really at this point.

So.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay so we need a motion to schedule it, is that what you're saying?

>> Nate Fink: That is correct and would be in order.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Lange, do you have something first?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: No I was just going to motion that we schedule it for February 8th.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay motion is made.

Is there a second?

Okay seconded by I heard Commissioner Lett.

Okay, so all in favor of scheduling that meeting on February 8th, raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Any opposed of scheduling it on February 8th raise your hand and say nay.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Nay just simply because I'm not in favor of anybody being vacated.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Noted.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I'm going to abstain from this again due to conflict of interest given that it pertains to me.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Understood.

Thank you.

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So the ayes prevail and so that meeting or that, yeah, notice to vacate will -- we will have that meeting on February 8th.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Commissioner Orton.

I see Commissioner Wagner's hand up.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I can never see that one.

Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Sorry I've been tanning.

Crap, I know y'all talk so much, it totally flies out of my head.

I had a question, but I do not recall what it is.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: It will come back.

So next on the agenda new business 6F notice to vacate Commissioner Rebecca Szetela without objection I will ask MICRC legal counsel Nate Fink to facilitate this item. Hearing no objection please proceed, Mr. Fink.

>> Nate Fink: Thank you, Madam Chairwoman, and good afternoon to everyone on December 20, '2023, then Commissioner Dustin Witjes submitted a notice under Section 3.4E requesting that the Commission remove Commissioner Szetela as a member of the Commission.

He submitted that before resigning from the Commission.

We have reviewed his notice.

And it's our recommendation that the Commission not take up that notice and not review it.

We don't believe that it was effectively presented.

Not getting into any of the substance that was in the notice.

We are not opining on anything that was substantively presented.

But from a procedural perspective, we recommend that the Commission not take up the notice.

As we indicated in the memorandum that was provided, we believe that one requirement or not believe one explicit requirement in the rules of procedure is that a notice be signed and dated.

And it was not both signed and dated and so it's procedurally defective.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay Commissioner Lange, you have something?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes I was going to move we discard the papers against Commissioner Szetela for not being properly submitted.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay I wonder if we even need to take any action if we don't move to do it, then it's nothing from my understanding.

Correct me if I'm wrong.

Was I wrong?

>> Nate Fink: Director Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: We do need to take action.

>> CHAIR ORTON: So we have a motion.

>> Nate Fink: I concur with Director Woods that the Commission should take action.

>> CHAIR ORTON: We have a motion; do we have a second?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Second.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay motion and seconded that we I can't remember what you said Commissioner Lange.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Discard I guess.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Notice to vacate for Commissioner Szetela.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Got it, thank you.

Okay is there any discussion or debate?

Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: If Mr. Fink could just describe why the notice that Commissioner Witjes submitted was deficient that would be good for me.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I think he did.

He said it was not dated and signed but.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I must have missed that part.

>> Nate Fink: Commissioner Eid, thank you for the question and Madam Chair if I may respond.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes, please.

>> Nate Fink: Commissioner Eid I did note that and presented our analysis in a memorandum that was provided.

But the conclusion there is that our recommendation is that it would be prudent given that defect or we perceive to be a defect that the Commission not take up that notice. Again not opining on the substance of the allegations and the claims in the notice itself. It's simply a procedural matter.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, anything else?

Okay then we will take a vote.

All in favor of discarding the notice to vacate against Commissioner Rebecca Szetela raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Can we have a roll call vote on that?

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Absolutely.

Give me one second here.

I'm sorry.

We have a roll call vote on the notice to remove the notice to vacate Commissioner Rebecca Szetela.

A yes vote means that you are in favor of the motion.

And a no vote means that you are not in favor of the motion.

I will start with Brittini Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I would like to abstain from this vote.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Kellom, rules of procedure qualify that to abstain you must provide a reason for abstention and the two reasons provided in your rules of procedure are a lack of information or a conflict of interest.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: So I still do -- I respect the explanation by Nate Fink. But I'm still a little bit unclear as well as though I don't think we should be in the practice of vacating Commissioners; I do think Commissioner behavior during meetings and outside of meetings and in writing should be addressed.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Can you clarify which of those two reasons for abstention?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Both, both and.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: No I apologize which of the two reasons outlined in the rules of procedure which would be lack of information or conflict of interest?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Lack of information.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON:

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Stephen Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Marcus Muldoon?

>> MARCUS MULDOON: Abstain, lack of information.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Cynthia Orton?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Rebecca Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: I have to abstain due to conflict of interest.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Elaine Andrade?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Donna Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Juanita Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: No.

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>> YVONNE YOUNG: By a vote of six yes to four no's and three abstentions the yes approve the motion is approved, I'm sorry.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you.

So next on the agenda is new business 6G which we've already talked about but it's the notice to vacate draft proceedings document.

Without objection, I will ask Executive Director Woods to facilitate this item.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Yes Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Hearing no objection please proceed.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Madded damage Chair in conversing with legal counsel we would like to table this for another date.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay so the item is tabled.

So next is 6H, Commission -- Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I think we have to move that, so I move that it be tabled to another date.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Do you have a date in mind?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Not at this time, Commissioner Eid.

But we will make sure we provide ample notice.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay so there is a motion is there a second in.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Second.

>> CHAIR ORTON: All in favor of tabling this motion to a later date raise your hand and say aye.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I'm sorry.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Discussion, sorry.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: No, I actually didn't make the motion.

I just said that there needs to be a motion to do that.

I don't want to make that motion but if somebody else would, that would be good.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I'll make the motion.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Motion made.

Second?

Okay I heard Commissioner Lange.

Seconded it.

All in favor raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Any opposed raise your hand and say nay.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I'm not opposed but I'm going to abstain from this vote again due to conflict of interest.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you.

Noted.

Okay so that is tabled, and we will move on to new business 6H Commissioner salary review.

Without objection I will ask Director Woods to facilitate this item.

Hearing no objection please proceed.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Commissioner Orton, it's 1:53. I know we are scheduled to 2:00. I just want to know if we can extent to 2:30.

When I'm looking at our sign interpreters and closed caption to see if that will work.

So Ms. Annette Blough and I know that is not Bethany James or Ms. Toi, are you able to assist?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I can confirm they are available.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you very much available.

There was a proposal for review and tabled to this meeting and I should say brought an idea and so the recommendation being brought to the Commission at this time is starting the week of January 15th, the Commission engages in mapping for three full weeks.

During the mapping phase the Commission received 35% of the Governor salary verse the constitutional amendment of 25% of the Governor's salary.

Move that the Commission approve to increase Commissioner salaries from approximately 746.63 a week to 1072.21 per week for three weeks starting January 15th and ending on Sunday, the February 4th.

Commissioner Curry, if you want to speak to this we can do that.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I think that we should put our salaries back to the original 700 and leave it that way until we finish the Commission.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I have a suggestion do you want to make a motion and a second then we can have the discussion so we can try to.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes, if that's what it takes, yes.

>> CHAIR ORTON: So what is your motion, Juanita?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I make a motion that we change our salaries to the.

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: My phone is here.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Andrade, you are not muted.

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Sorry.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Go ahead.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I motion that we up our salaries to what we had before.

Which is 1072 and leave it to the remaining of the Commission.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay is there a second for that?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I will second it.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay there is a second by Commissioner Vallette.

Discussion or debate on the motion?

Commissioner Lange?

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>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I think everybody knows what I'm going to say.
I'm against it.

Especially under the circumstances of why we are back to redrawing. I've also been reading a lot of public comment and they're not happy about the idea either.

So I would be opposed to it.

Thanks.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Well, I very rarely agree with Commissioner Lange, but I have to agree with her in this case.

We have been drawing our salary for some time.

And really not having a lot to do with that.

So as I view it it's kind of a we have been prepaid for what we're going to have to do now.

And it simply is we need just to step up, do the maps.

We don't need to poke the bear at this time.

We are going to have to go back to the legislature for additional funds based upon the special masters which aren't going to be cheap either.

So I would be opposed to it at this time.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I certainly understand the concern that it's bad optics and it's bad optics.

If we vote for this, people are going to be, you know, people aren't going to like it.

Just because it's bad optics doesn't mean we shouldn't do what's right.

This is a hard job.

We are put under a lot of stress.

And you know, different Commission members do a different amount of work and that is okay.

But I believe we all as Commissioners deserve a livable wage.

I don't know, we don't get a lot of perks for this job.

We don't get health insurance.

We don't get a 401(k).

We don't get a pension.

And I think all of these need to be taken into consideration.

Now, as I've said before we are a diverse group of Commissioners that come from different sets of circumstances.

I'd like to remind the group that from the almost 10,000 folks that applied to be on this Commission, only about, well, we have 13% African/American, 5% Asian, two% other which is what I believe I have put down.

1% two or more races and .03% American Indian or Alaskan native.

Couple that with the age discrepancies on who applied for this Commission.

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Only 12% of Commissioners about a thousand of them applied at ages 18 to 34.
So when I think about this Commission, I think about how to normalize these numbers.
How to make it so that we can have a diverse set of voices.
Both in age, ethnicity and life experiences.
And part of that is making this job have a livable wage.
I understand it's bad optics.
I don't think it's going to pass but I will always advocate for what I believe is right.
And I think we should pass this so that Commissioners can have a livable wage because that's what I think we deserve.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, Commissioner Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: With the comments I think they are all very interesting and as all the other times that we discussed, raised I'm against it.

So my recommendation is that you vote no.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: No comment?

I actually went back and looked at our record for last year and went through and pulled every single YouTube video so I could get the actual amount of time we spent in meetings during the entirety of 2023 and the total amount was 16 hours and 47 minutes for the entire year of 2023.

Which worked out to approximately 11 meetings.

And based on that at the 39,825 per year we are currently earning, we were paid approximately 2342.65 per hour for all of the work that we did last year.

And we also received 3620.45 per meeting.

I think that is above and beyond a livable wage for anybody.

And, you know, we all made sacrifices to be on this Commission.

We all knew what the salary was going to be before we sent in our applications. We got a bunch of money last year for doing little work and we will have to spend two or three workweeks working this year and that is unfortunate by it is what it is so I'm 100% opposed to increasing salaries.

I think it is grossly unjust and I'm sure the public is probably screaming that it's being characterized at 39,000 a year not a livable wage for a part-time job.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Well first of all, I appreciate the comments everyone has said and the historical background for it.

But just to move forward from my position, I didn't get any money last year.

I didn't do any work last year, but I didn't get any money last year.

I don't know if we should set our salary based on what somebody earned a year ago instead of the work being asked us to do today.

We are not asking for a pay raise for a year.

It's for three weeks and the slide that Edward put up there showed us working 9:00 to 8:30 at night.

I mean I don't think it's unreasonable to get paid for that.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Commissioner Callaghan basically said what I was going to say.

I was being thoughtful of our new Commissioners.

I am in favor.

I think I will speak for myself I will not call the work at any stage that the Commission has done a little bit of work.

Hardly any work.

Part of the work is us listening to each other bearing the comments and there is emotional stress for some of us.

So whether we signed up for it, or not, the salary that we are being paid for now is because we weren't doing the same amount of work.

We are about to redraw these maps and we are about to do so all day long in doing so with good effort so our salary should be restored to reflect the work that we are going to do for the three weeks.

And in light of the new Commissioners, if the vote was to go towards the salary being put in place for the foreseeable future I would also agree with that.

I think if we were going to be worried about optics we should be worried about our behavior in the meetings and optics and public opinion.

I don't think money is where we fall apart.

I think also the reflections and some of the comments about money are reflective of our cultural and ethnic backgrounds and so I'm always going to be in favor of equitable wages for people of color.

And all socioeconomic status, sorry.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you.

Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes, I realize that a lot of the Commissioners that are hired are either in a higher status, some are lawyers.

Some have their own businesses.

Some are married and have companionship with where they work or whatever.

But I'm talking as a single woman with a House to run and the things that we have to do, and the cost of living have risen ridiculously.

I mean you could buy a loaf of bread for 4 and last you a couple days.

So what is the problem?

If you want good work, I stuck to this Commission, I've injured myself on this Commission job.

I work in pain.

And I expect to continue working.

But I think that what we are doing, whether you call it whatever you want to call it, we don't do anything, we have to be available for whatever time you all call.

If you didn't call enough last year that's not our problem.

We showed up.

We show up every time the meetings start.

Some of you don't need the money.

I need a raise.

And, you know, I'm going to leave it like that.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay I thought I saw another hand.

Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'm just going to say I'm not going into what Commissioners need or don't need.

I'm not even going to attempt to understand anybody's circumstances because we are not like that.

I'm looking at it from a perspective that we work for the public.

It's the public that's paying our salary.

So in a way it's kind of the public is our bosses.

And if they're not happy.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Well if they are not happy then you know, if they are not happy they can get other Commissioners.

We will be doing this all day.

But you don't see other people on any jobs changing their rate two and three times a year.

That's ridiculous.

You all keep changing the rate of pay.

You either leave it at one thing and just leave it alone but you have changed it three times since I've been working, and it doesn't make sense.

What the public wants, the public wants us to do the mapping.

If we do the mapping right, that's what they're concerned with.

And I'm concerned that when you look at this, you look at everything, you know, we should get what, well, if you all don't want to vote on it that is on you all.

If you think you are doing it for nothing to keep up all this mess y'all got going on, that's on you all.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay I see your hand Commissioner Eid.

But Sarah Reinhardt has her hand up.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you I just wanted to remind Commissioners per your rules of procedure please refrain from speaking over one another.

And that the Chair decides who has the floor.

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So please refrain from out bursts and speaking until the Chair provides a Commissioner the floor to speak, thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thanks for the reminder.

Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Just an idea, you know, is there any way to make this optional or like an opt in type of thing?

I don't know if that is a good idea or a bad idea but it's just something that crossed my mind.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I have no idea.

Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: You can always give it back, Anthony.

But I call the question and what is before it.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay so the question has been called.

So the motion on the floor is to raise Commissioners' salary to 35% of the Governor's salary from now on until we end it, not for the three weeks but the presentation was about but going forward.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Roll call.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: To call the question that's actually something that would need to be a motion that would require a second.

And two thirds vote in order to end discussion.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, sorry.

All right, we have a question called.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Seconded.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Seconded.

So all in favor of calling the question raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Can you be more clear with this?

>> CHAIR ORTON: We are stopping the discussion and now then we will vote on the motion.

No more discussion.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Okay.

>> CHAIR ORTON: So raise your hand and say aye if you are in favor of ending discussion.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR ORTON: And any opposed raise your hand and say aye.

Okay seeing none the ayes prevail.

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And so now the motion is to raise Commissioners' salary to 35% of the Governor's salary from now going forward.

That was moved by Commissioner Curry, and it was seconded, I assume we want a roll call vote so can we have that?

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Certainly.

Your Chair has restated the vote, an aye vote means that you are for the motion and a no vote means that you oppose the motion.

I will start with Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: I'm sorry Steve can you say that one more time it didn't come through.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Thank you, sir.

Marcus Muldoon?

>> MARCUS MULDOON: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Cynthia Orton?

>> CHAIR ORTON: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Rebecca Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Elaine Andrade?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Abstain, lack of information.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Donna Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Juanita Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes, of course.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Brittini Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Excuse me with a no vote 7 no votes to five yes vote and one abstention the motion does not carry.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, thank you.

So let's see, next on our agenda new business I.

Executive Director contract modification.

Without objection I will facilitate this item.

Hearing no objection, Director Woods could you put up a slide?

Okay so last meeting we voted to return Executive Director to full-time status effective January 1st.

But in speaking with him, in preparation for the Agee case starting in October, up until now, he has frequently worked more than his 30 hours that we allow him for his cap. And so we wanted to recommend that we increase -- we retroactively increase him back to full time further than January 1st, back to the week of December 1st which starts November 27th so are there any questions?

I suppose we should do a motion and then discuss, okay?

So I will move that we reinstate Director Woods' salary to full time.

It's not a raise.

It's not a pay increase.

It's just putting him back to full time.

Retroactively to November 7th or November 27th, 2023.

Do I have a second on that?

Then we can discuss.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Second.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay seconded by Commissioner Lett I heard.

Okay, so discussion or debate?

I see Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay, I guess I have a couple questions.

My first question is did you say that this was, well I'm reading in front of me it is in preparation for the Agee case.

The Agee case was tried October 1st.

So I'm a little confused why we are going retrospective back to December 1st.

And then the second kind of issue I have is the last meeting when I went back and reviewed it your emergency meeting you already voted to put it to January 1st and quite honestly I feel like every other month we are taking up the Executive Director's contract. And I don't mean that in a disrespectful way.

It just seems like this is beginning to become a reoccurring thing.

So I think we need to do something so it's not a reoccurring thing.

And those are just my thoughts on it.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay so I will address that then we can go to the other hands.

Yes, so he did start working more hours than he was allowed earlier than November 27th.

But in speaking with him, first of all let me say last meeting when we said retroactive to January 1st, I had not spoken with him.

I don't think anyone had spoken with him about it but after that, after speaking with him it seemed that this would be a good compromise.

He didn't want to go retroactive all the way back to the beginning of the quarter.

So this was just kind of a compromise.

But, yes, if we want to pay him for all of his hours we would be going back further than this.

Does that answer the question?

So I think someone had their hand up before Commissioner Weiss.

But I don't see the hand up now so.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I did but I put it down.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay Commissioner Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Well, I like Ms. Commissioner Lange's idea.

So I thought, why don't we just put Edward back to his full-time salary and leave it that way until this is settled up.

If we happen to win the appeal, then maybe we could go back down.

But I think maybe we should just leave his salary where it is, full time because I know he does a lot of work behind the scenes.

That most of us probably don't know that he does.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I agree.

I think that it's a whole lot that Edward is doing that we don't know about.

And he's doing a great job.

And the only problem I have is the way you all and the way we all rather I will put it like that keep changing everybody's salary.

You know, what job do you all know?

I did not take this job because I was, you know, just wanted to just be doing something.

I took the job because I needed the money.

I wanted the money.

You know, I felt like I could do a great job.

And be at the, you know, what we are talking about is Edward.

I think he deserves his raise.

I don't think we need to keep switching everything.

I've never seen a job that switched people's pay two and three times a year.

How come you all just don't keep everything like it is.

He should always have good pay because he is doing the job of two people.

And I go along with his pay.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yeah, just to address Commissioner Weiss, there's no Sunset on this Richard.

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So this action will put him to full-time basis until such time in the future as we might want to revisit it.

So there's no there's no modification in the future.

Having said that, I call the question.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Don't call the question, then we have to vote on that.

Okay, we have the question has been called is there a second?

I will second it.

So all in favor of -- oh.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Before you second it, Madam Chair, I just think we need to address.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: There is no debate.

I called the question.

>> CHAIR ORTON: No debate on call the question.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Oh, my God my hand was up first.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I'm sorry I did not see your hand.

Okay we are going to vote on calling the question.

All in favor raise your hand and say aye.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: What are we saying aye to?

>> CHAIR ORTON: We want to stop discussion and vote.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> CHAIR ORTON: So I'll start again.

All in favor raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR ORTON: All opposed raise your hand and say nay.

>> Nay.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay so I count four nays.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Can the nays raise their hand one more time and keep them raised for a moment?

Janice, were you a nay?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Are you helping, Sarah, or am I?

Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I took my hand down.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Not hearing -- Sarah, I'm going to say I see five nays.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Sorry I was muted.

I had background noise.

Yes, that's correct.

Five nays.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay so the yeses prevail.

And we will vote.

So the motion is to restore Executive Director's salary full-time status, go ahead.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I'm so sorry Madam Chair.

So a two thirds vote is required to end discussion which would have required nine yes votes.

And I believe there were only eight so the motion would have failed actually.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay it failed.

All right so I assume Commissioner Wagner has something to say.

I don't see you now.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I actually did.

I would like to see it amended and let's get him an assistant instead of going retroactive.

I mean, I understand he's had a lot to do.

And I get going back to October.

But I would also like to see him with an assistant.

Because he will be overwhelmed.

Not that I don't have faith in you, Edward, but I think we need to address that.

>> CHAIR ORTON: There is a motion to amend.

Is there a second?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Point of clarification, what exactly is the motion again as you're presenting it?

>> CHAIR ORTON: The motion is to restore Director Woods to full time status at his original salary, back to retroactive to November 27th as opposed to just retroactive to January 1st.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'm sorry I'm talking about the motion that Commissioner Wagner just made.

>> CHAIR ORTON: You're muted.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: You are putting me on the spot, Rhonda and dog gone it, it flew out, oh, getting him an assistant so I would like to see that taken up. If we are going to give him a salary.

Because who knows I would like to see him get an assistant as well.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'm sorry, I'm still confused about what the original motion was because when I heard Commissioner Wagner talking it sounded like not going retroactive on the salary but having him full time with an assistant going forward. So I just want to make sure that I'm clear on what the amended motion was.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I believe that was my motion last week.

>> CHAIR ORTON: That's what I understand is that she's saying, yes, not go retroactive to full time.

But give him an assistant.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Thank you.

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>> CHAIR ORTON: I will just say in speaking with Commissioner or I mean Director Woods, he will need an assistant just during this three weeks while we are probably just during this three weeks while we are really busy mapping and setting up places and hotels and stuff but that doesn't really address the idea of paying him for full time work retroactively to November 27th.

But we don't have a second yet on that amendment.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'll second it.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay so we have an amended motion.

More discussion?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Point of order.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes, please help.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: This isn't going to help but I'm going to say it anyway.

The amendment changes the entire original motion which deals only with Edward's salary and retroactivity.

It does not deal with an assistant. I'm all for an assistant.

But you got to do it in a proper way, which would be to come back with another motion once Edward's is passed so that is my point of order.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you that does make a lot of sense so I'm going to ask Commissioner Wagner if she will take back.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I know I'm going to say I'm going to be voted down, but I won't take it back.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, then I don't know how that works.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: On a point of order you determine whether or not the point of order is correct.

You make a ruling on it.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay I'm going to rule that point of order is correct.

They are two separate things and so we will address them separately.

So, Commissioner Eid, do you have discussion on this matter?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I'm going to say the same thing. You know, I agree that we should get an assistant.

We should probably hire a whole bunch more people like perhaps a parliamentarian and perhaps a few more roles, but I do think it's separate.

Now that everyone has had their say now I'd like to call the question.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Can you just instead of that can you just make a motion, or I guess the motion.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: You already have one.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay fine.

The question has been called.

Is it seconded?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Second.

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>> CHAIR ORTON: Seconded.

All in favor of.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Ending discussion.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Any opposed to ending discussion raise your hand and say nay.

Okay, the ayes prevail.

We have ended discussion.

And now we are back to the main motion, which is to return Executive Director to full time status effective November 27th, 2023.

I assume -- and I don't know if the call of the question was for the amendment or this as well.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I understood the call of the question is on the main motion you already made a ruling on the amendment, so we are on the main.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay so a vote on the main motion.

>> Roll call.

>> CHAIR ORTON: We should do a roll call vote.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Good afternoon Commissioners.

The motion is to reinstate Executive Director salary back to full time status hours and pay retroactive effective November 23rd.

>> CHAIR ORTON: 27.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: 27, why did I write 27, 2023.

A yes vote means you are in favor of the motion and a no vote means you are not in favor of the motion.

I will begin with Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Well thank you Yvonne I appreciate you beginning with me, I vote yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Thank you, sir.

Marcus Muldoon?

>> MARCUS MULDOON: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Cynthia Orton?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Rebecca Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Elaine Andrade?
>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Yes.
>> YVONNE YOUNG: Donna Callaghan?
>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Yes.
>> YVONNE YOUNG: Juanita Curry?
>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes.
>> YVONNE YOUNG: Anthony Eid?
>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.
>> YVONNE YOUNG: Brittini Kellom?
>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yes.
>> YVONNE YOUNG: Rhonda Lange?
>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: No.
>> YVONNE YOUNG: With a vote of 11 yes to two no the vote carries, it's approved, motion approved.
>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Madam Chair a point of personal privilege.
>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.
>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I would note we are at the order of the day at 2:30 and it's 2:27 proper procedure would be to move the items that we haven't got to to the next meeting.
>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Madam Chair.
>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.
>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: We have to 2:45 and if Commission Lett is amenable I do need to give my report as a result of some of the Court action to that is Commission is aware.
But the interpreter said they could stay until 2:45.
So if we can postpone the final reports are public.
They are there.
The minutes are public.
They are there.
But if I am able to do just a partial report that would be very helpful because the Commissioners, the Commission needs to be aware of some of our costs as we go into mapping as well as the Court order in terms of the requirements.
>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Lett, are you okay with that?
>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I am just pointing out where we are at.
That is an explanation, or we can keep going.
I will be here until midnight.
>> CHAIR ORTON: I see two hands.
Commissioner Szetela?
>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yeah, so I just wanted to make a motion to get Edward an assistant because we are going to start mapping next week.

I would not want to wait until next week to vote on that so if everybody is okay I can get a second for that and can we vote on that quickly.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: That is part of my presentation if you guys let me do it.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Okay that is fine.

I will hold on the motion then.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you so much.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you, Commissioner Eid, quickly.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Quickly I'd like to motion to table items new business JKL which are the financial reports and the two approval of the minutes.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay we have a motion to table remaining things except for what.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Executive director.

>> CHAIR ORTON: What Mr. Woods needs to tell us do we have a second.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Second.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Seconded all in favor of tabling those raise your hands and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Any opposed raise your hand and say nay?

Ayes prevail and those are tabled.

We will then move to Director Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Commissioner Szetela's hand is up I'm not sure.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Szetela you still have something.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: No I just didn't take it down yet, sorry.

>> CHAIR ORTON:

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Are you able to see my screen everyone?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Temporary assistants, I reached out to Kristin Taylor she worked with us before with some of our events to check her availability to assist.

And also in looking at the Court order we also have after we provide a vote on the map or maps the Court orders requiring us to have a public hearing on whatever we vote for by February 2nd.

And so in addition to what we have talked about there will be another meeting, and that meeting is required to be in Detroit.

And so Kristin has the skill set with regards to helping out administratively, event planning and she worked with us before.

She has interacted with most of you.

And she is available so that is one person that I'm looking at, I think would be favorable that could work.

Audio visual as you know we are required during the session with regards to live streaming our meetings and assistance, Chase Creative is available during that time.

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Based upon your voting the meeting calendar their proposal will change because we are in the we will be at Huntington place Monday and Tuesday instead of going back and forth and Wednesday, Thursday, Friday we will be at Cadillac place so we will need to engage them.

In talking with Kim Brace in terms of the mapping port on the updates I just want you to be aware that's going to be a \$50,000 charge to get that up and going.

With regards to that.

I want to thank the Department of State, working with Sarah Reinhardt and her team that the graphic artists and registration as you know at the public hearings when we have our meetings people have to register, provide comments.

MDOS is willing to take that on.

And then if we have fliers they are willing to assist us with fliers as well.

So we are looking at that piece.

Then one of the things that came up in the lessons learned is public comment analysis and did not know whether or not the Commission would be interested and with regards to that to looking at the public comment data and analyzing it so that you can have it to make a decision as it relates to mapping.

So at the last meeting you guys asked me to come back with the staffing plan.

And so this is the plan that I want to throw out to the Commission, the public comment analysis is just something more of a discussion.

Because if you do not want it and you just want to look at what's available, that's fine.

But if we do want someone to come in and take a look at the analysis that the Commission is getting, that is something that we would need to move on post case.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, I have a question.

Can you describe the public comment analysis a little bit?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: I will speak to like districts in terms of what the public is saying.

So instead of trying to have to remember how many people said this about District one and so and so map or what did they say about another map.

That way instead of trying to remember what the 30,000 public comments we shared before it can be summarized and categorized as relates to the maps that are drawn.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Why don't we just open up the portal that already exists on the website that people have used already for this whole time?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: It will be open up.

I'm just throwing it out there for discussion, Commissioner Eid.

But, yes, that is part to open up the portal is 50,000 I just want to be open and transparent because you know these are costs that we will have to incur.

But also at the same time if you remember we had the public comment portal.

We had the public mapping.

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We had the public comment portal. We had the mapping portal.

We had e-mails.

We have snail mail.

That's the volume that came into the Commission.

And so what is the best way for the Commission to look at this information?

And so one of our lessons learned that came about was talking about possibly having someone doing this type of analysis.

So this is optional.

This is not something I am saying I need but something I am referencing based upon the Commission's lessons learned report.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Just this doesn't pertain to that, but Edward, if you could e-mail me later, if we can figure out if we can open up that comment portal for the public again because I notice it had been shut down.

Sorry.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Talking about the public comment portal.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Yes, sir.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Ms. Reinhardt can speak to that and not take away her thunder.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you Commissioners as you may recall the public comment portal was created for the Commission by MGGG through the Secretary of State office's work with that -- with MGGG.

So it was the Department of State that procured that public comment portal.

The public comment, the maps emissions system that Executive Director Woods is speaking to is like the EDS mapping software portal.

Is that accurate?

So if you think back there were actually two ways that members of the public could submit maps.

One using software similar to what you all are using but an online version of that and one through the MGGG public comment portal which was the one with all the little colorful squares that contained comments.

So we are in the process of talking with MGGG about -- oh, I'm sorry, was there a question?

>> CHAIR ORTON: No, I don't know where that came from.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Okay, our office is in conversations with Moon Duchin and MGGG about the possibility of having that reopened.

We don't have a firm conclusion to that at this point.

But we are hopeful that we will be able to come up with a solution to receive public comment for the Commission, whether it's through reopening of the public comment portal or through another means.

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So more information to follow on that in the near future.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you.

Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Just wanted to give my two cents on it.

When it comes to the two different public comment portals, I actually preferred EDS'. I found MGGG's hard to go back when you're looking for something to find actually what you're looking for and with EDS you were able to actually, you know, click on a little pin and it would bring it up.

So just from a standpoint of using it as a Commissioner, I kind of found that EDS' public comment part was a lot easier just speaking for me.

>> CHAIR ORTON: All right anything else?

Edward, you are muted if you are speaking to us.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: I'm telling you guys I'm on mute but obviously you can't hear me.

Basically what I'm hearing from the consensus is to use the portal and based on that and not doing the public comment analysis.

That is fine.

We got to move.

So during the course of this meeting calls are coming in because we want to make sure we have everything in place.

Now we can go for the hotels and everything else.

So I will remove that aspect.

And if there is any other questions, I can take them at this time, otherwise I need to go to the next slide before we get to 2:45.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay Commissioner Eid I see your hand but I'm going to ask Commissioner Andrade first.

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Yes, I just wanted to speak to the analysis because as I had mentioned before to Executive Director Woods, I tried to open the excel spreadsheet on my computer and it just churned and churned and churned and I didn't get it.

For the new Commissioners we are going to have to go back through 30,000 comments, it would be able to consolidate those comments in a way that we can readily access them.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I will say 30,000 comments for the entire state.

So not all of them apply to the areas we are working on.

And there should be some way for us to be able to help consolidate those for you.

Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I'm sorry I just lost my train of thought for a moment.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I yield I'm good.

>> CHAIR ORTON: We have five minutes before we have a hard stop I believe.

So Commissioner Callaghan quickly.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: A follow-up what you said based on what Commissioner Andrade said as well, you said there should be some way to consolidate and analyze that for us are you volunteering to do that?

Who is going to do that?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Well, we have or we had the public comments kind of by area. And so we were all given sheets, you know, a binder full of those by area. I'm sure we can get that for you.

I could personally give you mine or, you know, we can get copies and get that to you. I'm sure we have comments we need to pay attention to.

We have four minutes left. Do you have something?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: What motion do you need or recommending?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: I mean I think if everyone is okay with opening it back up I think we need to come back and talk about the public comment analysis. I don't think there is consensus totally there.

But as long as everyone is comfortable with the administrative assistance, temporary assistance, the audio-visual contract we are working on, the mapping portal and obviously I'm going to be working with Huntington place, but it could be another location. You know, that is the preferred spot but until the contract is signed it's not there. But we want to also get that done so we can get this information out to the public.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So moved.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay we have a motion.

Do we have a second?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Seconded.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Seconded by Commissioner Weiss I see all in favor of providing those things available to Director Woods raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Any opposed raise your hand and say nay.

Okay the ayes prevail and the motion passes.

Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT:

>> CHAIR ORTON: You are muted.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Hot off the press, the motion to stay has been docketed with the Supreme Court.

The application was submitted to Justice Cavanaugh for those who care.

And he has requested a response from Plaintiffs by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 17th, 2004.

So moving forward you will get that in the mail.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for the update.

So seeing that we are.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: One last thing I just.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Go ahead.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Due to the pending litigation the MICRC will need to request additional funding from the legislature.

The recent Court order Western District of Michigan southern division requires the Commission to cover the cost and expenses of the reviewing special master and the mapping special master and their respective teams subject to Court's approval. In addition the Commissioner's budget did not consider in person meetings and increased costs for pending litigation and I would like to make a motion that we ask for appropriation that is equal to our fiscal 24 budget and that total amount would be just so everyone is clear 3,331,200.

The reason for that motion is within two months we have spent over a million dollars, which is a third of our budget already.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I'll make that motion.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Second.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay we have a motion, motioned and seconded.

Do we have, okay, all in favor of that motion raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay any opposed raise your hand and say nay.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Nay.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay the ayes prevail and that motion passes.

And we now must adjourn.

So.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: I got a note they can stay but can we check to see if MDOS has anything and able to thank our partnership. Mike Brady is here, Megan Sharr. Obviously Sarah Reinhardt, as well as Yvonne Young. So if there are any MDOS updates?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Are there any MDOS updates?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I do not have any updates.

Hold on just a second.

Yes, no updates, thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Mr. Fink, I see your hand.

>> David Fink: I wanted to make sure that the Commission did not refer anything of significance from the state application being submitted to justice Cavanaugh.

He is responsible for this circuit.

So he would get any stay application in this circuit and would be assigned to him.

So we don't need to read anything of significance into that, that's all.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for the clarification.

So Edward, I assume you said we have more time but okay.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: I'm done.

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Thank you again for your support, greatly appreciate it.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I move we adjourn.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Can I make a quick announcement, super quick, is that okay Chair?

Super quick.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: You stuck up my motion.

>> CHAIR ORTON: He said if you second the motion.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I will second it after quick announcement it's okay if we have a little bit of fun here every once this a while I've bone waiting my whole life for the Lyons to get a home playoff win and this week is the week.

Go Lyons, coach Campbell you are the man.

Let's get this win and go to Dallas and beat Edward's team and makeup for that no call a few weeks ago.

And Commissioner Lett I second your motion.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I will say go blue and covers the Michigan and the Lyons mostly the Lyons and a little bit of Michigan.

>> CHAIR ORTON: We have a motion to adjourn all in favor raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Any opposed raise your hand and say nay.

We are adjourned at 2:46 p.m. Thank you.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you, everyone.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for your help.

(Proceedings conclude at 2:46 p.m.)