

# Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

Virtual Meeting via Zoom Webinar. Full agenda, presentations, and video recordings are available at [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC).

**Thursday, January 11, 2024**

**10:00 a.m. – 2:46 p.m.**

## MINUTES

**PRESENT:** Elaine Andrade (*remotely from Imlay City, Michigan*)  
Donna Callaghan (*remotely from Mexico*)  
Juanita Curry (*remotely from Detroit, Michigan*)  
Anthony Eid (*remotely from Detroit, Michigan*)  
Brittni Kellom (*remotely from Wayne County, Michigan*)  
Rhonda Lange (*remotely from Osceola Twp, Michigan*)  
Steven Terry Lett (*remotely from Lee County, Florida*)  
Marcus Muldoon (*remotely from Lincoln Park, Michigan*)  
Cynthia Orton (*remotely from Battle Creek, Michigan*)  
Rebecca Szetela (*remotely from Wayne County, Michigan*)  
Janice Vallette (*remotely from Highland Twp, Michigan*)  
Erin Wagner (*remotely from Eaton Twp, Michigan*)  
Richard Weiss (*remotely from Saginaw Twp, Saginaw, Michigan*)

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Edward Woods III, MICRC Executive Director  
Michigan Department of State (“MDOS”) staff  
Fink Bressack  
Kent Stigall, Election Data Services  
Kim Brace, Election Data Services  
Xuan Liu, SE Michigan Council of Government  
Kate McKnight, Baker Hostetler

**ABSENT:** None

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

**Commissioner Orton, Chair**, called the special meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC), to order at 10:02 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

MDOS staff called roll. A quorum was met with thirteen Commissioners present.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Moved by **Commissioner Curry** to approve the meeting agenda. Supported by **Commissioner Lett**.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Szetela moved that the agenda be amended to remove the discussion on the process for notice to vacate draft proceedings - agenda item 6G due to mapping. **Commissioner Orton, Chair** held a vote by roll call.

**MOTION FAILED, 5-7-1**

| <u><b>Commissioner</b></u> | <u><b>Vote</b></u>                    |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Elaine Andrade</b>      | No                                    |
| <b>Donna Callaghan</b>     | No                                    |
| <b>Juanita Curry</b>       | No                                    |
| <b>Anthony Eid</b>         | Abstain (due to conflict of interest) |
| <b>Brittni Kellom</b>      | No                                    |
| <b>Rhonda Lange</b>        | Yes                                   |
| <b>Steve Lett</b>          | Yes                                   |
| <b>Marcus Muldoon</b>      | No                                    |
| <b>Cynthia Orton</b>       | No                                    |
| <b>Rebecca Szetela</b>     | Yes                                   |
| <b>Janice Vallette</b>     | Yes                                   |
| <b>Erin Wagner</b>         | Yes                                   |
| <b>Richard Weiss</b>       | No                                    |

**MOTION:** Moved by **Commissioner Eid**. Supported by **Commissioner Valette** to amend and move the agenda item of the Southeast Michigan Council of Government (SEMCOG) presentation to after Public Comment on today’s agenda and adopt the agenda. **Commissioner Orton, Chair** held a vote by roll call.  
**MOTION APPROVED, 10-3.**

| <u><b>Commissioner</b></u> | <u><b>Vote</b></u> |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Elaine Andrade</b>      | Yes                |
| <b>Donna Callaghan</b>     | Yes                |
| <b>Juanita Curry</b>       | Yes                |
| <b>Anthony Eid</b>         | Yes                |
| <b>Brittni Kellom</b>      | Yes                |
| <b>Rhonda Lange</b>        | No                 |
| <b>Steve Lett</b>          | Yes                |
| <b>Marcus Muldoon</b>      | Yes                |
| <b>Cynthia Orton</b>       | Yes                |
| <b>Rebecca Szetela</b>     | No                 |
| <b>Janice Vallette</b>     | Yes                |
| <b>Erin Wagner</b>         | No                 |
| <b>Richard Weiss</b>       | Yes                |

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERTAINING TO AGENDA TOPICS**

Commissioner Orton, Chair, put forward a motion “To begin public comment pertaining to agenda topics portion of the agenda” which was adopted. Seven individuals provided remote public comment: James Gallant, Micheal Davis, Sarah Howard, Natalie Bien-Aime, Chris Andrews, Anthony Scannell, Steve Liedel.

A complete inventory of live and written public comment is available at:  
[www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC).

**NEW BUSINESS**

**MOTION: Commissioner Lett moved that the Commission go into Closed Session with the legal team pursuant to Section 6.2.5 of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure for discussion of pending litigation regarding the Agee case. Supported by Commissioner Eid. Commissioner Orton, Chair, held a vote by roll call. MOTION APPROVED, 10-3.**

| <u>Commissioner</u> | <u>Vote</u> |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Elaine Andrade      | Yes         |
| Donna Callaghan     | Yes         |
| Juanita Curry       | Yes         |
| Anthony Eid         | Yes         |
| Brittini Kellom     | Yes         |
| Rhonda Lange        | No          |
| Steve Lett          | Yes         |
| Marcus Muldoon      | Yes         |
| Cynthia Orton       | Yes         |
| Rebecca Szetela     | No          |
| Janice Vallette     | Yes         |
| Erin Wagner         | No          |
| Richard Weiss       | Yes         |

**Commissioner Orton, Chair,** called the meeting back to order at 12:42 p.m. with a roll call for Commissioner attendance. All commissioners were present.

The Commission took a break from 12:45 p.m. to 12:55 p.m. The regular meeting resumed at 12:56 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

b. Mapping Software Overview. Commissioner Orton, Chair, requested that Kent Stigall and Kim Brace from Election Data Services facilitate the mapping process.

**MOTION: Commissioner Lett** moved that the Commission establish a mapping process with no consideration of race and that race be turned off the software during the map drawing process, and that proposed maps after drawn be processed through VRA analysis of the proposed maps. **Supported by Commissioner Weiss. Commissioner Orton, Chair,** held a vote by show of hand and yes/no response. **MOTION APPROVED.**

c. **Potential Dates of Mapping.** Executive Director Woods facilitated a discussion regarding potential mapping dates.

**MOTION: Commissioner Lange** moved to adopt mapping dates and venues as shared by Executive Director Edward Woods, III. **Seconded by: Commissioner Orton. Commissioner Orton, Chair,** held vote by show of hands and verbal yes/no response. **MOTION APPROVED.**

d. Regular Meeting Dates.

**MOTION: Commissioner Orton** moved to adopt Regular Meeting dates (monthly) for the Commission set forth by Executive Director Edward Woods, III on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month virtually at 10:00am except for February 8, 2024. **Seconded by Commission Weiss. Commissioner Orton, Chair,** held vote by show of hands and verbal yes/no response. **MOTION APPROVED.**

e. **Notice to Vacate—Commissioner Anthony Eid.** Commissioner Orton, Chair requested Legal Counsel Nate Fink to facilitate this item.

**MOTION: Commissioner Lange moved** to schedule a meeting to discuss the notice to vacate at the February 8, 2024, meeting. **Seconded by Commissioner Lett. Commissioner Orton, Chair,** held a vote by show of hand and yes/no response. **MOTION APPROVED.**

f. **Notice to vacate Commissioner Rebecca Szetela.** Commissioner Orton, Chair, requested Legal Counsel Nate Fink to facilitate this item.

**MOTION: Commissioner Lange** moved to discard the notice to vacate against Commissioner Rebecca Szetela. Seconded by Commissioner Vallette. **Commissioner Orton, Chair**, held a roll call vote. **6-4-3. MOTION APPROVED.**

| <u>Commissioner</u> | <u>Vote</u>                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Elaine Andrade      | Yes                                  |
| Donna Callaghan     | Yes                                  |
| Juanita Curry       | Yes                                  |
| Anthony Eid         | No                                   |
| Brittni Kellom      | Abstain (due to lack of information) |
| Rhonda Lange        | Yes                                  |
| Steve Lett          | No                                   |
| Marcus Muldoon      | Abstain (due to lack of information) |
| Cynthia Orton       | Yes                                  |
| Rebecca Szetela     | Abstain (conflict of interest)       |
| Janice Vallette     | No                                   |
| Erin Wagner         | Yes                                  |
| Richard Weiss       | No                                   |

**g. Notice to vacate draft proceedings document.** Commissioner Orton, Chair, asked Executive Director Edward Woods III to facilitate this conversation. Executive Director Woods asked to table this to another meeting after consulting with Legal Counsel.

**MOTION: Commissioner Lett** moved to postpone the “Notice to vacate draft proceedings document” discussion until the next meeting. Seconded by **Commissioner Lange. Commissioner Orton, Chair**, held a verbal yes/no vote. **MOTION APPROVED**

**h. Commissioner salary review.** In tabling this item from the last meeting, Executive Director Woods proposed Commissioner Curry’s request to restore the Commission back to regular full time pay for three weeks, starting Monday, Jan. 15. This represents pay at \$1072/week.

**MOTION: Commissioner Curry moved** to restore Commissioners’ salaries back to full time pay moving forward. Seconded by Commissioner Vallette.

**Commissioner Lett asked to** call the question to end discussion.  
**Commissioner Orton, Chair,** held a verbal yes/no vote. **MOTION APPROVED.**

**Commissioner Orton, Chair,** held a roll call vote on the motion to restore Commissioner’s salary back to full time pay moving forward. **7-5-1. MOTION FAILS.**

| <u>Commissioner</u> | <u>Vote</u> |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Elaine Andrade      | Abstain     |
| Donna Callaghan     | Yes         |
| Juanita Curry       | Yes         |
| Anthony Eid         | Yes         |
| Brittini Kellom     | Yes         |
| Rhonda Lange        | No          |
| Steve Lett          | No          |
| Marcus Muldoon      | No          |
| Cynthia Orton       | No          |
| Rebecca Szetela     | No          |
| Janice Vallette     | Yes         |
| Erin Wagner         | No          |
| Richard Weiss       | No          |

**i. Executive Director Contract Modification.** Commissioner Orton facilitated this discussion.

**MOTION: Commissioner Orton, Chair** moved to reinstate Executive Director Woods salary back to full time (40 hours) retroactive to November 27, 2023. This represented no pay increase. Seconded by **Commissioner Lett**.

**MOTION: Commissioner Lett** moved to call the question, stop discussion, and vote. Seconded by Commissioner Orton. Commissioner Orton, Chair held a verbal vote of yes/no. **MOTION APPROVED.**

**Commissioner Orton, Chair**, held a roll call vote on the motion to reinstated ED Salary back to full time. **11-2 MOTION APPROVED.**

| <u>Commissioner</u>    | <u>Vote</u> |
|------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Elaine Andrade</b>  | Yes         |
| <b>Donna Callaghan</b> | Yes         |
| <b>Juanita Curry</b>   | Yes         |
| <b>Anthony Eid</b>     | Yes         |
| <b>Brittini Kellom</b> | Yes         |
| <b>Rhonda Lange</b>    | No          |
| <b>Steve Lett</b>      | Yes         |
| <b>Marcus Muldoon</b>  | Yes         |
| <b>Cynthia Orton</b>   | Yes         |
| <b>Rebecca Szetela</b> | Yes         |
| <b>Janice Vallette</b> | Yes         |
| <b>Erin Wagner</b>     | No          |
| <b>Richard Weiss</b>   | Yes         |

**MOTION: Commissioner Eid** moved to table New Business Items j. FY 23 September Financial Report, k. FY 23 Annual Financial Report, and l. FY 24



October Financial Report. **Seconded by Commissioner Szetela. Commissioner Orton, Chair,** held verbal vote yes/no. **MOTION APPROVED.**

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Executive Director Edward Woods, III presented his report.

**MOTION: Commissioner Eid moved to add an event planner/administrative assistant and audio/visual contractor to assist with public meetings. Seconded by Commissioner Lett. Commissioner Orton, Chair, held a verbal yes/no vote. MOTION APPROVED.**

**MOTION: Commissioner Lett moved to request additional funding from the Michigan Legislature due to in-person meetings and increased legal costs for pending litigation Seconded by Commissioner Weiss. Commissioner Orton, Chair, held a verbal vote yes/no. MOTION APPROVED.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: Moved by Commissioner Lett, to adjourn, Seconded by Commissioner Eid. Commission Orton, Chair, held a verbal vote. MOTION APPROVED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.