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MICRC

11/08/21 10:00 am Meeting

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>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: As Vice Chair of the Commission I call this meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 10:04 a.m. This Zoom webinar is being live streamed on YouTube on the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission YouTube channel. For anyone in the public watching who would prefer to watch via a different platform than they are currently using, please visit our social media at Redistricting MI. Our live stream today includes closed captioning.

[Audio buffering]

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Testing one, two.

Testing, one, two.

Check.

Testing one, two.

Testing one, two.

Check.

I see a thumbs up from our commissioners.

And you can hear me too? Okay.

Very good.

Should I begin where I left off?

I'll start over.

Very good.

So good morning, Michigan.

As Vice Chair of the Commission I call this meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 10:06 a.m.

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

For anyone in the public watching who would prefer to watch via a different platform than they are currently using, please visit our social media at Redistricting MI.

Our live stream today includes closed captioning.

Closed captioning, ASL interpretation in Spanish, Arabic, and Bengali translation services will be provided for effective participation in this meeting.

Email us at redistricting@Michigan.gov for additional viewing options or details on accessing language translation services for this meeting.

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People with disabilities needing other specific accommodations should also contact redistricting@Michigan.gov.

This meeting is being recorded and will be available at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC for viewing at a later date.

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

There is also a public comment portal that may be accessed by visiting Michigan.gov/MICRC.

This portal can be utilized to post maps and comments which can be viewed by both the Commission and the public.

Members of the media who may have questions before, during, or after the meeting should discuss those questions with Edward Woods III, Communications and Outreach Director for the Commission at WoodE3@Michigan.gov or (517)331-6309.

For the purposes of the public watching and the public record, I will turn to the Department of State staff to take note of the Commissioners present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Good morning.

>> Good morning.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Please say present when I call your name.

If you're attending today's meeting remotely, please announce during roll that you are attending remotely as well as where you are physically attending from. I'll call on Commissioners in alphabetical order starting with Doug Clark.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

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

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittni Kellom.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Present and attending remotely from Wayne County, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: M.C. Rothhorn.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner.
Erin, I think you're muted.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Present and attending remotely from Charlotte, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you.
Richard Weiss.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present and attending remotely from Howell, Michigan

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Nine Commissioners are present and there is a quorum.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you. Ms. Reinhardt.

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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 WITJES: So moved.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Second.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Motioned by Commissioner Witjes
Second by Commissioner Lett.

Is there any discussion or debate on the motion? Hearing none – it is moved and seconded -- let the motion be adopted.

All in favor say "Aye."

>> Aye [in unison].

All opposed raise your hand and say "Nay."

The ayes have it and the motion is adopted.

Without objection, we will now begin the Public Comment Pertaining to Agenda Topics portion of our meeting.

Hearing no objection, we will now proceed with Public Comment Pertaining to Agenda Topics.

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

Please step to the nearest microphone when I call your name.

You will have one minute to address the Commission.

Please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer.

First in line to provide public comment is number one, Linda.

>> MS. LINDA: Can you hear me?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTH: We can

>> MS. LINDA: Okay.

Thank you.

My name is Linda Appling and I am from Lansing, Michigan and that part of Lansing that the in Eaton County.

I voted for Proposal 2 because I want fair elections where the party with the most votes wins the most seats.

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Please create fair seats in the Lansing Region by unpacking democrats and creating five area Lansing area region House seats.

I recommend Map 06677.

Please return Eaton County voters and Delta Township and the City of Lansing to Eaton County District.

I will remind you if you don't do this, what you will have -- thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number two, Mikael, perhaps?

>> MR. MICHAEL DAVIS: Thank you for the fancy pronunciation. Michael Davis, again.

Good morning, Commissioners, and thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today.

I'm Michael Davis with Promote the Vote and I want to use my final 60 seconds to urge you to consider our maps or even parts of our maps for our maps --for your maps before this afternoon's deadline.

Specifically, as you look your State House offerings, you have no fair options for Michiganders and that's not what we voted for in 2018.

I strongly believe the PTB Coalition maps are fair and equitable and provide the best chance to end gerrymandering as we address prison gerrymandering, racial gerrymandering, political gerrymandering amongst other things.

And to ensure that We the People are represented in Lansing and in DC.

You have the data which shows our maps to be fairer than others that you are considering.

You have our detailed District narratives and you have heard from others across the state and you have certainly heard plenty from me about our maps.

So I ask that you please give them fair consideration.

If you act on these suggestions, it represents the best chance for fair representation for all Michiganders.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number three, Drew?

>> MR. DREW BECKMAN: Hello, Commissioners. My name is Drew Beckman and I am a student here at Michigan State University, and I'm asking you to please publish additional partisan fairness data for each of the maps you have proposed thus.

I am asking for you to publish partisan fairness data --reports from three different elections in addition to the aggregate data you have already published.

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This is essential for the public to accurately assess the fairness of each of your proposed maps.

Just because a map produced a proportional result when used the aggregate data, a 1% shift in the vote could drastically change the seat distribution.

This would be unfair.

Please publish this data and take it into consideration when it comes time to make a final vote.

Please make this motion today to give the public the most time to see this information.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Okay.

That concludes our in-person public comment for the day until we have another one walk in.

We'll move onto Remote Public Comment.

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

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

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

If you are on the phone, a voice will say "The host would like you to speak" and prompt you to press star 6 to unmute.

I will call on you by your name.

Also please note that if you experience technical or audio issues 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 email Redistricting@Michigan.gov and we will help you troubleshoot so you can participate during the next public comment period at a later hearing or meeting.

You will have one minute to address the Commission.

Please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer.

First in line to provide public comment is Mr. James Gallant.

>> MR. JAMES GALANT: Hello.

This is James Gallant, Marquette.

These are my opinions.

And, uh, we do have to also, uh, consider rules gerrymandering and that's exactly what has happened here.

The Chair has determined that there's agreements between the Members that you can't really agree on the parameters of those agreements.

And that these proceedings are absurd, and I concur on both.

Now the biggest egregious, uh, breach here was when the Chair just was able to, uh, to kill the proposal of the republican Member, the democratic Members -- killed that proposal by not allowing a motion, by not entertaining a motion first.

The Chair and the, uh, facilitator did this.

Tag team.

It's just like bullying.

Did not allow a motion and then bullied everybody into not making a motion.

So they defeated that proposal without actually voting.

They just -- they just -- they bullied anybody into not voting.

Not voting.

There you go.

We need to give up to events and explaining to the Supreme Court about this.

[Timer sounds]

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Number two is Judy Mega.

>> MS. JUDY MAIGA: HI, Good morning.
Um, I hope that you all have had time to read the NBC article by Jane Timm, T-i-m-m, about the training sessions held by republicans still working very hard to make sure that fair maps don't happen.
Again, all we want is fair maps.
The operatives explained that the importance -- the importance of lobbying the Commission for specific requests.
Quote, "If they keep Kent County whole in the congressional map, if they keep Grand Rapids as whole as much as possible, like wholly enclosed in the State Senate District and limited to two breaks in the House, there's very little they can do with the rest of the map across the state that does not --
It would be a domino effect; right?", Anderson said in an October 19th training session.
If they keep those things whole, there's not much they can do to screw around with the rest of the state.
This was on video and this was circulated.
This was what people were encouraged to say to you.
In light of the above, please examine changes you made on comments that clearly tried to move criteria number seven about keeping counties whole to criteria number three.
Please explain today about how future comments are going to be -- are going to factor into this.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Number three, Anthony Skinnel.

>> MR. ANTHONY SKINNEL: HI, Commission.
Good morning.
This is Anthony Skinnel, Wayne County.
This is another congressional map.
I just drew it up just for the heck of it.
It wasn't entirely my idea, but if you give me more than a minute, I can tell you about its origins.
But for the sake of the time, what I can tell you is that it scores a hundred times better than any of the Commission's Birch 2 and Chestnut.
Whereas, Birch 2 and Chestnut have a 2.8 efficiency republican, this has a 1.7 efficiency gap dem.
Whereas, Birch and Chestnut have a 4 and 4.3 partisan bias republican, this has a 1.8 partisan bias dem.
And whereas Birch 2 and chestnut have a 1.2 mean median republican, this has .7 mean median democrat.
And so it improves upon all measures and I mean, I can explain more to you.
But one thing it doesn't do, it doesn't split Oakland County six ways like Chestnut 2 does.
I'm not saying it's the best.
I'm saying, you know, I don't think this Commission has done due diligence, especially on Congressional Maps.
And so I hope you don't have another early half-day adjournment with all this consideration.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Number four, Susan Smith.

>> MS. SUSAN SMITH: Good morning, Commissioners.
I'm Susan Smith, Vice President, League of Women Voters of Michigan.
League of Women voters has two concerns.
Number one, the possibility of the Commission going into closed session today.
Transparency has been a strong point for the Commission.
Even if no decisions are made in closed session, the public is entitled to hear the Commission's discussion regarding the status of redistricting plans submitted by individual Commissioners.
At this point in the mapping process, it is especially important for the Commission to continue to be transparent in its discussion as well as decision making.
Number two, please consider the House map submitted by Promote the Vote.

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It has much better partisan fairness scores than any other House maps.
Thank you for this opportunity to address the Commission.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for your comments.
Number five, Amer Zahr.

>> MR. AMER ZAHR: Hey, good morning, Commissioners.
This is – my name is Amer Zahr and I'm joining you from Dearborn.
This is now my fourth time addressing you.
As you all know, Michigan is home to the nation's most concentrated Arab American population.
Dearborn is our community's unofficial capital.
It's essential that our central community in Dearborn be kept together.
I'd like to thank you for achieving this goal in your State Senate and Congressional maps but, unfortunately, you failed in the State House maps.
Our main center of our community, East Dearborn, is split among two districts: District 3 and District 4.
The second of East Dearborn that is located in District 3 is the heart of our community.
I'm talking, east of Greenfield, north of Ford Road, west of Wyoming, south of Tireman.
It is the heartbeat of the Arab American community.
Luckily, you can fix this easily.
You can take the part of Section 3 that's in east Dearborn, put it in District 4.
And then take some parts of Franklin Park, put them into District 3.
It would make that District more African American and it would keep our community together, helping two communities at once.
I'm begging you to put one of these maps forward that reflect that so that we discuss it over the next 45 days so that we have something to lobby you on.
Please keep our community together.
Don't fragment us and dilute our vote.
Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Sara Abbott, number six.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Number six and seven are not present so we'll move on to number eight.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you.
Jennifer Austin.

>> MS. JENNIFER AUSTIN: Hello.

Jennifer Austin, City of Midland.

I just wanted to let all of you know how much I appreciate the hard work you all have done to give Michigan fair maps.

Your efforts and your results are gargantuan in light of the massively gerrymandered maps we previously had.

What you have created is historic and a vast improvement.

You all know that I wanted a Midland based City House District.

I've said that many times.

I understand and respect your reason for not doing this even though it would increase the partisan fairness of the overall maps.

But more important than my personal ask for my community is improving the partisan fairness of the overall maps in other ways.

I ask that you take one map of each type and adjust it to improve the unacceptable partisan lean in favor of Republicans.

5% for Republicans is not acceptable.

Please give the voters of Michigan a completely fair option that we are able to comment on.

That's all we're asking for is an option that we can comment on.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you.

Number nine, Adam Stacey.

>> MR. ADAM STACEY: Thank you very much.

I just want to remind the Commission that your actions are going to be decided not just in 2022, but 2024, 2026, and beyond.

That striving to reach a precise partisan balance for 2022 can cause you to have very unwieldy parties and balances in the future.

I have seen in my years watching politics State House Districts that are lean Republican go lean Democrat in four short years.

So what I'm asking the Commission is please remember to keep the Communities of Interest as the foundation for your organization.

If you don't do that, if you go down and try to find a, you know, a perfect partisan balance for '22, you may find yourself a very unwieldy Districts in the future that really have no common sense of identity, such as what you did in the Lansing area when you took hours of deliberation, debate, and compromise and just substituted a new map that was only supported by a select few and overwrote those decisions.

So please remember to keep Communities of Interest the foundation.

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And remember, your maps are going to be judged not just now but in four to six to eight years to come.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Number 11, Claudia Warren.

>> MS. CLAUDIA WARREN: Hi.
Good morning.
I'm here today because I'm concerned about the partisan fairness scores.
I urge you to take another look at the maps and improve the partisan fairness scores as close to zero as you can get them.
I went door to door with voters, not politicians because I was so upset about what the legislature was doing to public education for the last twenty years.
And we would appeal to our representative and he would listen but nothing changed because with gerrymandering, we had a -- he had a guaranteed win.
And I would hate to see that continue going forward and that is why I am so concerned about partisan fairness.
But having said that, it's so exciting that we're actually to this point where we have all these maps.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Number 12, Cathleen Curell.

>> MS. CATHLEEN CURELL: Good morning.
I'm Cathleen and I'm calling from Midland.
You know, in Michigan Democratic voters outnumber remember voters by a margin of 53 to 47 and the current maps give the that huge Republican control over to the electorate due to gerrymandering.
Remember that Republicans and Legislature sued to try to get this proposal off and they were unsuccessful to block it.
So remember that.
Please ignore the accusations of favoritism toward the Democrats as you work toward maps that will better give us better fair representation.
I would be happy to see the current partisan lean in favor of Republicans reduced from 4-6% as it is now down to 2 or 3%.
Please keep working on this and continue to rise above the fray and use the Constitutional guidelines you've been given.
[Timer sounds]

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Number 13, Mark Payne.

>> MR. MARK PAYNE: All right. Good morning, Commissioners.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Good morning.

>> MR. MARK PAYNE: Thank you for all your hard work.

My name is Mark Payne and I would like to request that you keep up transparency in your discussions and your meetings by posting the maps on the portal and mydistricting, as soon as possible, with the data as well.

With the House maps they're still not – uh, they're still not good enough.

You can do better.

And there are also no fair house maps as it stands, currently.

You can still do something about this by submitting an individual map.

You can look at the portal for ideas and concepts.

06250 ETC-AFL-CIO fair maps.

And I want also want to add that your VRA lawyer said you can go up to 55% in consideration of communities so I ask you that you take that into consideration.

And, again, thank you for all your hard work.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you.

Number 14, Shardae Chambers.

>> MS. SHARDAE CHAMBERS: Good morning.

Can you guys hear me?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes, we can.

>> MS. SHARDAE CHAMBERS: Okay.

Perfect.

My name is Shardae Chambers.

I'm calling from Kalamazoo County and I am calling to give my thoughts on the maps.

I will say after looking at your maps the Apple map is as close – is as close as what we were hoping for, especially to bring us into Calhoun County with Battle Creek.

We share similar ideas

I will say that you guys do have more work to do when it comes to the rest of the maps because you guys continue to push us towards the lakeshore.

Kalamazoo County does not share the same values as those on the lakeshore.

We do better being on the side closest to Calhoun County and that's where we should stay.

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And I'm also very disappointed to see that you guys continue to work on the east side of the state and not put as much thought into the west side of the state maps.

Again, please do not continue to push Kalamazoo County toward to lakeshore as we do not share the same ideas.

Again, I thank you for your work and I appreciate all that you do but I wish that you would spend more time on the west side to give us more consideration as to what we've been asking for.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
That concludes our Remote Public Comment.

I do not believe we have any in-person at this point.

So will – we have had a practice of taking a break.

Do we want to take a break, Commissioners, or we want to keep going?

>> We need to take a break and review a Baker memo.
So I would suggestion 20, 25 minutes so that will give us a break and a time to review the memo.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Very good.
It is currently without objection.
It is currently 10:29 and we will recess until 10:30.
Hearing no objections –

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: It is 10:30.

>> We're going to do a minute?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I apologize.
We will recess until 11:00 o'clock.
No, thank you.
I appreciate that.
I need it.
Okay.
Without objection, we will recess until 11:00 a.m.
Hearing no objection, we are in recess until 11:00 o'clock.
Thank you very much.

[Board in recess]

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: As Vice Chair of the Commission, I call this meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission back to order at 11:00 a.m.

Will the Secretary, please call the roll?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioners, please say present when I call your name.

If you're attending today's meeting remotely, please announce during roll that you are attending remotely as well as where you are attending from.

I will call on Commissioners in alphabetical order starting with Doug Clark.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Here --

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid --

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Here. I'm sorry. I'm a little slow, but I'm here.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Not a problem.

Commissioner Curry, can you tell us where you are attending remotely from?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Attending remotely from Detroit. Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Uh-huh.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony E

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittni Kellom.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Present and attending remotely from Wayne County, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: M.C. Rothhorn.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Present and attending remotely from Charlotte, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present and attending remotely from Howell, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Nine Commissioners are present and there is a quorum.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you, Ms. Reinhardt.
Okay.

We are moving on to Unfinished Business, item 5a Process for Consideration Individual Commission Map.

Without objection, I will ask our General Counsel Julianne Pastula to cover this item.

Hearing no objection, please proceed, General Counsel Pastula.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you very much. Mr. Chair.
Is the microphone working?
I know we had some – thank you, and good morning to the Commission.
The MICRC is in receipt of guidance from their litigation counsel on the reading of Subsections 9 and 14 together, given the adopted motions.
And as a policy decision, it is appropriate for the Commission to proceed under the motions as adopted.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Very good.
What I'm hearing is no changes.
Any other responses? Commissioners? Mr. Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yeah.
Thank you, Commissioner Rothorn.
Given that circumstance, I think we could move forward with the rest of the business as no action is required under Section 5a or b so that would bring us up to any New Business.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: All right.
Thank you.
And so no – oop.
Commissioner Witjes.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I, I agree with Commissioner Lett.
I just wanted to let everyone out of the Commission know I have elected not to submit personal maps, uh, via the deadline because I'm a whole believer of what we've accomplished with collaborative maps moving forward so I just wanted everybody to know that.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: That's helpful.
Thank you, Commissioner Witjes.
General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
I believe as far as agenda item 5b, there was action to be taken relative to the mapping process document.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you, General Counsel, yes.

I do believe we should move on to Unfinished Business Item 5b Draft Edits to the Mapping Process and Procedures.

And without objection, I will ask Executive Director Hammersmith to cover this item. Hearing no objection, please proceed Ms. Hammersmith.

>> MS. SUE HAMMERSMITH: Thank you very much. These were provided last week so I'm sure you've had time to review them. I don't know if anybody has any questions. Basically, what we did was take the Process and Procedures and change them to the way that this Commission had proceeded. So we just made them compliant with what you had done and your process which worked very well. Again, it's a learning process for everybody and we're all learning together. So if, if there are no questions, there is a resolution provided.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: There is and so this also -- we don't need to take into consideration -- I think this takes into consideration the policy that we did -- that we had changed? Okay, I see it. So we're okay with it as is? Very good.

>> MS. SUE HAMMERSMITH: Uh-huh.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I move we adopted policy and procedures presented.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you Commissioner Lett.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Second.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you, Commissioner Witjes. So we have a motion made by Commissioner Lett and seconded by Commissioner Witjes to adopt Resolution 2021.11.03. All in favor please raise your hand and say "Aye."

>> Aye [in unison].

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: All opposed please raise your hand and say "Nay." The ayes prevail and the motion is adopted. We are moving on to New Business and we do not have -- I do believe we have a Minutes to approve. Is that accurate?

>> There was one –

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: There's one -- I believe I have the proposed Flint Public Hearing Minutes?

>> Yes.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay.
So, um -- and I do believe these are -- were sent to us.
This is approval for October 26th Public Hearing in Flint at the Dort Center.
These minutes have been provided to the Commission.
Are there any edits for these minutes?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I move to approve.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you.
There is -- I believe there is one small edit before we do that, Commissioner Lett, on Page 2 of 5.
The very bottom comment.
It says, "Public comment," and it says, "Commissioner Szetela" and, comma, "Vice Ch"
And I think it should just read "Chair."
And it is a very small edit.
There is a motion.
Are there any other edits?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I move we approve them as corrected.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Second.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you, Commission let and Commissioner Witjes.
I have a motion and second.
All in favor of adopting these minutes from October 26 from the Flint Public Hearing,
please raise your hand and say "Aye."

>> Aye [in unison].

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: All opposed raise your hand and say "Nay."
Okay.

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Very good.

Without objection, I will ask if any staff members would like to provide a report, starting Executive Director Hammersmith.

>> MS. SUE HAMMERSMITH: Again, I just want to say thanks for all your work in the last few weeks.

You've done a yeoman's amount of work in a very compressed timeframe under intense pressure.

So thank you.

Thank you for being here, for your dedication to the process and dedication to the citizens of Michigan.

It's really appreciated.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you, Commissioner Hammersmith -- thank you, Director Hammersmith.

Do we have any -- and I believe we will be meeting again on November 18th next.

Is -- will you help us understand what we will do?

Is that going to come in the Future Public -- or, excuse me, Future Agenda Items?

>> MS. SUE HAMMERSMITH: I'm happy to do it now or then.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Let's do it in the Future Agenda Items.
Thank you.

>> MS SUE HAMMERSMITH: Okay.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay --

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Mr. Chair?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes, please.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Excuse the interruption, please.

I did want to call to your attention that we had the motion on the table to adopt Resolution 2021.11.03- moved by Commissioner Lett and seconded by Commissioner Witjes and I did not capture the vote on that resolution.

Was it taken?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: It was.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULE: It was unanimous?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: It was unanimous.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you so much.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay.

We are moving on to the next report.

Without objection, I will ask Sarah Reinhardt from the Michigan Department of State if she has a report.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: No report.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you, Sarah Reinhardt.

Do we have a report from our General Counsel or Communications and Outreach Director at this time?

None from our Communications and Outreach Director.

None from General Counsel.

We will move on to Correspondence.

Correspondence received in advance of our meeting today was provided along with written Public Comments to the Commissioners in our reading materials.

Commissioner – excuse me.

So Future Agenda Items, Number 11.

Director Hammersmith?

>> MS. SUE HAMMERSMITH: Sure.

Where do we go from here, right? So as soon as the maps are published and we will be waiting on the legal descriptions to be published this week -- Sarah Reinhardt is working with the Center for Shared solutions to make is that happens in a timely manner.

And then those maps will be noticed.

There will be a notice put out that they are available for the 45-day public comment period.

Your General Counsel has drafted that notice.

We have four meetings planned between now and the end of the year.

They're listed on your agenda.

Please note on the December 30th, this meeting was assuming that the maps would be published on Sunday of this week.

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So for example, if we have everything ready and it could be published Friday, this Commission could meet two days earlier --up to two days earlier.

The 30th is a State holiday so we can't be in any State buildings that day.

Edward has a desire to be in Lansing and it makes sense to be in Michigan's capital city for this historic meeting, so that's the goal.

But possibly that meeting will be changed to the 28th or 29th, depending on when the maps are published and availability of facilities for us.

We will know when the maps will be published by the end of this week so then we can let you know as Commissioners.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay.

Thank you for those schedules.

Are there agenda topics?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I've got a question.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Please, Commissioner Lett.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yeah, I mean, um -- the meetings we're having every couple of weeks, the ones that are out of town for me which are all of them, are there -- is Edward going to make arrangements for housing for me?

>> Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Are there any other questions? Ms. Orton.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I'm thinking as one of the Future Agenda Items Budget, we should put that on --

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes?

>> It has been requested that we put that on our November 18th meeting so we'll do a budget update at the time, yes.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Wonderful.

Thank you.

I see Commissioner Witjes has his hand up too.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: This is a just question in regards to what can happen today, I suppose.

The way I'm reading it, 12:00 o'clock is the deadline and 12:01 is too late and so anything coming in after that will not be published.

If that is the case, once the deadline happens, Secretary of State, please email me which Commissioners submitted maps and their shared files so I can report them.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I'm seeing a nodding head, Mr. Witjes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yes, Commissioner Witjes, we can do that.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Thank you very much.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: It's not a shaking head.

It's a nodding head, as in the affirmation.

And I'll just ask that each Commissioner be – help us all understand it.

Thank you.

And I don't believe we have to stay in session until then because there's no written vote required.

It's automatic?

Okay.

Very good.

Just wanted to confirm that.

As far as Future Agenda Items, I'm wondering if we should also -- I know the staff, this phase, right? I'm thinking about our staffing as well as Commissioners and I think there are a lot of questions about – you know, so if we can put it in the agenda and I think it's related to budget.

Very much related to budget, like how we pay ourselves, how we help pay you guys, right?

All those questions that are up there.

So if we can make those discussion items as well as just – yeah, just help us to understand it.

It would be -- I will offer it would be helpful to understand –

Like, we're a legislative body.

How do other legislative bodies deal with this sort of uncertainty?

Like, are there ways that we -- are there other departments that can help us learn how to predict when there's so much unpredictability?

Please -- yeah.

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So if you can give us guidance November 18th, anything that can help us to understand how we -- what sort of crystal balls we have or don't have, that would be great.

Thank you.

Any other Future Agenda Items or questions while we're on this Future Agenda Items topic?

I see Kent Stigall has a hand.

Is that true?

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Hi, Commissioners.

I'm just going to --

Chairman, I just need to know what plans are going to be coming through by noon today.

I know of one.

If Suanne can let me know as soon as possible, I appreciate it.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you Mr. Stigall.

That reminds me we got comments not just on maps but the partisan fairness measures we were using or used during our public deliberation -- if those haven't been posted, yet we'll put those on the portal as soon as possible and thank you whoever makes that happen on our team and all the people who probably help it.

Mr. Stigall, we will get your request done as soon as we know how to comply and how many maps are submitted.

Mr. Crane, was that a hand? Okay.

Mr. Witjes.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I move to adjourn.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: All right.

Well, there we have it.

We have a motion and a second to adjourn.

We have completed all of our business.

Is there any discussion on the motion? No discussion? All in favor of adjourning, please raise your hand and say "Aye."

>> Aye. [in unison]

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: All opposed please raise your hand and say "Nay."

The ayes have it and we are adjourned at 11:14.

Thank you, Commissioners.

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Thank you all the participants of the State of Michigan and we'll see you on November 18th.