



MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE

October 12, 2022

Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission
Attn.: Edward Woods III, Executive Director
P. O. Box 30318
Lansing, MI 48918
Via email to: Woodse3@michigan.gov

Mr. Woods:

We acknowledge receipt of your letter of October 4, 2022.

You note that the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission submitted a budget request (for \$3,169,825) by letter dated August 18, 2022, that the Commission did not receive an appropriation for Fiscal Year 2023, and that it is the Commission's "preference to resolve this issue by Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2022."

By way of historical perspective, every time the Governor's Executive Budget Recommendation has included a request to fund the Commission, the Legislature—in pursuance of its constitutional functions—appropriated funds, as follows:

- 2019 PA 154, appropriating \$2,000,000 for Proposal 2 implementation (fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2020)
- 2019 PA 56, appropriating \$3,362,800 (fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2020)
- 2020 PA 166, appropriating \$3,149,400 (fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2021)
- 2021 PA 87, appropriating \$3,108,900 (fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2022).

However, the Governor's February 2022 proposed general government budget for Fiscal Year 2023 did not include an appropriation request for the Commission. After the standard legislative process, including committee hearings, negotiations, and amendments, the Legislature adopted a general government operations budget for Fiscal Year 2023, which the Governor signed on July 20, 2022. (2022 PA 166.)

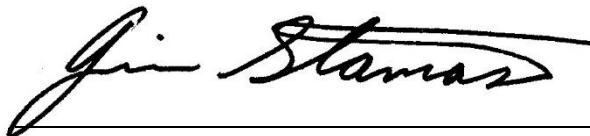
By letter dated March 24, 2022 addressed to the Appropriations Committee Chairs, the Commission advised that there was a shortfall in Fiscal Year 2022 in the amount of \$1,156,964.30, and it respectfully requested "consideration of this additional amount." In response to that request, the Legislature addressed this shortfall and appropriated to the Commission the sum of \$2,200,000. (2022 PA 166.)

We received a letter from you on August 18, 2022, thanking us for “collaborating with Governor Gretchen Whitmer and the State Budget Office and approving the Commission’s FY 22 Budget Supplemental request.” That letter also states that in “collaboration with Governor Whitmer and the State Budget Office, the MICRC requests your approval for the MICRC FY 23 Budget Supplemental...” Notably, your first request to the Legislature for Fiscal Year 2023 funding was received seven weeks after the Legislature adopted the Fiscal Year 2023 budget and more than four weeks after the Governor signed that budget into law. (2022 PA 166.)

The Legislature received from the Governor a supplemental appropriations request on September 7, 2022. Despite the referenced collaboration, the Governor’s supplemental request did not include a request for funding of the Commission. The Legislature appropriated supplemental funds on September 28, 2022. (2022 PA 194.)

Finally, we understand that the Commission has not spent \$1.7 million of the funds that the Legislature previously appropriated to the Commission for Fiscal Year 2022. As for additional funding, the Senate and House Appropriation Committees are committed to considering and addressing the Commission’s request in the ordinary course, consistent with the Legislature’s constitutional obligations. Since your letter did not identify any exigent funding circumstances, we assume there are none.

Sincerely,



Sen. Jim Stamas
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee



Rep. Mary Whiteford
Chair
House Appropriations Committee