



Oct. 4, 2022

The Honorable James Stamas, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

The Honorable Mary Whiteford, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-0846

Dear Senator Stamas and Representative Whiteford:

On behalf of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, we need your immediate action to appropriate our funds for FY 2023. On Aug. 18, we submitted our budget request for \$3,169,825.00 and noted that we still have two pending cases (Agee, Jr. et al. v. Benson et al. and Banerian et al. v. Benson et al.) in the U.S. District Court for the Western Michigan District of Michigan. Unfortunately, however, we never received a budget appropriation for FY 2023.

We request that you comply with the State of Michigan Constitution. The attached highlighted Excerpt of the State of Michigan Constitution clearly states the following.

- “Beginning no later than December 1 of the year preceding the federal decennial census, and continuing each year in which the commission operates, the legislature shall appropriate funds sufficient to compensate the commissioners and to enable the commission to carry out its functions, operations and activities, which activities include retaining independent, nonpartisan subject-matter experts and legal counsel, conducting hearings, publishing notices and maintaining a record of the commission’s proceedings, and any other activity necessary for the commission to conduct its business, at an amount equal to no less than 25 percent of the general fund/general purpose budget for the secretary of state for the fiscal year.”
- “The State of Michigan shall indemnify commissioners for costs incurred if the legislature does not appropriate sufficient funds to cover such costs. The commission shall have legal standing to prosecute an action regarding the adequacy of resources provided for the operation of the commission, and to defend any action regarding an adopted plan. The commission shall inform the legislature if the commission determines that funds or other resources provided for operation of the commission are not adequate. The legislature shall provide adequate funding to allow the commission to defend any action regarding an adopted plan.”
- “The terms of the commissioner shall expire once the commission has completed its obligations for a census cycle but not before any judicial review of the redistricting plan is complete.”

The current lack of funding prevents us from performing our Constitutional obligations.



Page 2
MICRC FY 23 Second Budget Request Letter
Oct. 4, 2022

As you may know, the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission received a clean audit with no findings from the Office of the Auditor General. Here's a link to the report, [Microsoft Word - PRINT FINAL Report 900-0160-22.docx \(michigan.gov\)](#).

As an independent and nonpartisan body established by Michigan citizens, it is our preference to resolve this issue by Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2022. Please let us know how to proceed.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please get in touch with me at Woodse3@michigan.gov or 517-331-6309.

Sincerely,

Edward Woods III
Executive Director

CC: The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer, Governor of Michigan
The Honorable Jason Wentworth, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Mike Shirkey, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Donna Lasinski, Democratic Leader of the House
The Honorable Jim Ananich, Senate Majority Leader
Mr. Christopher M. Harkins, State Budget Director

Attachments: Budget Request Sent Aug. 18, 2022
State Constitution (Excerpt) Constitution of Michigan of 1963