

# Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

Virtual Meeting via Zoom Webinar due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic,  
pursuant to 2020 PA 254 (MCL 15.263)

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[RedistrictingMichigan.org](http://RedistrictingMichigan.org)

**Thursday, March 11, 2021**

**1:00 PM – 4:03 PM**

## MINUTES

### **PRESENT:**

Douglas James Clark  
Juanita Curry  
Anthony Eid (*arrived late at 1:15 PM*)  
Brittini Kellom (*left the meeting at 3:55*)  
Rhonda Lange  
Steven Terry Lett  
Cynthia Orton  
MC Rothhorn  
Rebecca Szetela  
Janice Vallette  
Erin Wagner (*arrived late at 2:46 PM*)  
Richard Weiss  
Dustin Joseph Witjes

### **ABSENT:**

N/A

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Suann Hammersmith, Executive Director  
Julianne V. Pastula, General Counsel  
Edward Woods III, Communications and Outreach Director  
Michigan Department of State (“MDOS”) staff

### **CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

Commissioner Lett, Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) to order at 1:00 PM.

## **ROLL CALL**

MDOS staff called roll. All commissioners except Commissioners Wagner and Eid were present and a quorum was met.

*Commissioner Eid arrived at 1:15 PM.*

*Commissioner Wagner arrived at 2:46 PM.*

*Commissioner Kellom, Vice Chair, left the meeting at 3:55 PM.*

## **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lett, Chair, called for a motion to approve the agenda. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Curry. Commissioner Lett, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

## **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioners discussed the draft minutes for MICRC meetings on March 4 and March 5.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lett, Chair, called for a motion to approve the March 4 minutes. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Orton. Commissioner Lett, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lett, Chair, called for a motion to approve the March 5 minutes. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Lett, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE**

Commissioner Lett, Chair, opened the floor to public comment. There was no live public comment provided. Written public comment received is part of the official record. A full inventory of live and written public comment is available at [RedistrictingMichigan.org](https://RedistrictingMichigan.org).

Commissioner Lett, Chair, noted the Commission received communication regarding why the Commissioners were hiring a map drawing service. He explained the intent and need.

Commissioner Lett, Chair, also discussed commissioner compensation as allowed by the state's Constitution. He stated that the rate of pay was approved on October 18, and no subsequent pay raises had been approved since.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Executive Director Hammersmith reported that today's meeting will include discussion on two resolutions including the locations of public hearings and the adoption of the MICRC budget. Commissioners were reminded that the proposals for the Voting Rights Act (VRA) legal counsel are due March 17. The executive director also hosted a brief ice-breaker activity.

## **LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT**

General Counsel Pastula reported that her work is ongoing with MICRC policies and procedures as well as the petition to the Michigan Supreme Court for an extension of the redistricting process due to the delay of census data. She anticipates providing the Commission with potential dates for an extension prior to either the MICRC meeting on March 18 or March 25. Additionally, prior to the March 18 meeting, she will provide Commissioners with draft language for an addendum to Election Data Services Contract regarding the addition of the Racially Polarized Voting (RPV) analyst. General Counsel Pastula also acknowledged next week's Sunshine Week initiative and highlighted that the MICRC has adopted policies in line with the pro-disclosure intent of sunshine laws and also operates pursuant to the transparency and disclosure requirements in the Michigan's Constitution.

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH REPORT**

Communications and Outreach Director Woods reported Commissioners and staff have been scheduled to present on the MICRC at nearly 80 local government virtual meetings and an additional 20 requests from other entities are pending. Director Woods is following up with local government on how they can be part of the education and informational sessions for the town hall forums. He also reminded Commissioners to select their official portraits.

## **MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE (MDOS) UPDATES**

MDOS staff informed the Commission that the procurement of a public comment tool is underway. An update will be provided at the next MICRC meeting.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Proposed Public Hearing Locations – Resolution 2021.02.12.

Communications and Outreach Director Woods presented a revised list of public hearing locations incorporating feedback from Commissioners and the public to host more hearings in rural areas and in southeast Michigan and at least one hearing in every congressional district. Town hall meetings will be will also be held. Commissioner Lett, Chair, led the discussion.

**MOTION:** Approve Resolution 2021.02.12. **Motion by Commissioner Kellom, Vice Chair. Supported by Commissioner Szetela.**

**Commissioner Lett, Chair, called for a roll call vote.**

**Voting Yes:** Commissioners Orton, Curry, Kellom, Rothhorn, Eid, Lett, Szetela, Vallette, Weiss

**Voting No:** Commissioners Clark, Lange, Witjes

**Abstain:** n/a

**Absent:** Commissioner Wagner

**BY A ROLL CALL VOTE OF 9-3, THE COMMISSION APPROVED RESOLUTION 2021.02.12.**

**BREAK**

Commissioner Lett, Chair, called for a brief break from 2:35 PM to 2:45 PM.

2. Addendum to Election Data Services Contract – Racially Polarized Voting (RPV) Analyst. General Counsel Pastula notified the Commission that the addendum to the contract will be available for consideration at the next meeting of the MICRC.

3. Key Provisions of the Constitutional Amendment. General Counsel Pastula suggested tabling this discussion until a future meeting, given time constraints.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Communications and Outreach Planning. Communications and Outreach Director Woods shared the communications plan through June and provided an update on outreach efforts to date. He also shared the role of statewide

and local volunteer organizations, the role of the PR consultant, criteria for site selection for public hearings and town halls and audio/visual needs for meetings all with the intent to get maximum public participation.

Communications and Outreach Director Woods also presented the Commission with two logo options for consideration. Commissioner Lett, Chair, led the discussion.

The Commission selected Option 1 by consensus but requested new color options be presented.

2. Budget – Resolution 2021.02.13. Executive Director Hammersmith presented an updated budget. Commissioner Lett, Chair, led the discussion.

**MOTION:** Approve Resolution 2021.02.13. **Motion by Commissioner Rothhorn. Supported by Commissioner Witjes.**

**SUBSIDIARY MOTION:** Table Resolution 2021.02.13. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Lett, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION FAILED 4-9.**

**MAIN MOTION:** Approve Resolution 2021.02.13.

**Commissioner Lett, Chair, called for a roll call vote.**

**Voting Yes:** Commissioners Clark, Orton, Wagner, Curry, Kellom, Rothhorn, Witjes, Eid, Lett, Szetela, Vallette, Weiss

**Voting No:** n/a

**Abstain:** Commissioner Lange due to lack of sufficient information about the issue to be decided

**Absent:** n/a

**BY A ROLL CALL VOTE OF 12-0, THE COMMISSION APPROVED RESOLUTION 2021.02.13.**

3. Meetings – Virtual Meetings after March 31 Per Open Meetings Act. General Counsel Pastula advised the Commission that the State is still operating under the ability for public bodies to meet virtually through March 31. Pending legislation has been introduced to provide an extension through June 30. As such, Executive Director Hammersmith proposed moving the

April 1 meeting to March 30, and if in-person meetings are required starting in April, cancelling the April 8 meeting to allow more time for MICRC and MDOS staff to make in-person meeting arrangements.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lett, Chair, called for a motion to move the April 1 meeting to March 30 to begin at 9:30 AM. **Motion by Commissioner Orton. Supported by Commissioner Lange. Commissioner Lett, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

4. Future Meeting Agenda Items. Commissioners discussed the need for additional meetings and possibly longer meetings.

March 18

- Vote for MICRC Chair and Vice Chair for the next six-month term.
- Continuing education on Communities of Interest with a map drawing assignment to be utilized in future continuing education.

March 30

- VRA Committee recommendations

April 15

- VRA Legal Counsel bidder presentations

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** (none)

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Commissioner Lett, Chair, called for a motion to adjourn.

**MOTION:** Adjourn the meeting. **Motion by Commissioner Wagner. Supported by Commissioner Weiss. Commissioner Lett, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 PM.