

Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

Virtual Meeting and via Zoom Webinar due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, pursuant to 2020 PA 254 (MCL 15.263 and 15.263a), and in compliance with Section 6(10) of Article 4 of Michigan's 1963 Constitution

Full agenda, presentations, transcripts, and video recordings are available at www.michigan.gov/micrc

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

9:00 AM – 12:45 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT: Douglas James Clark (attending remotely from Muskegon, MI)
Juanita Curry (attending remotely from Muskegon, MI)
Anthony Eid (attending remotely from Muskegon, MI)
(joined at 9:06 AM)
Brittni Kellom (attending remotely from Detroit, MI)
(left meeting at 12:17 PM)
Rhonda Lange (attending remotely from Reed City, MI)
Steve Terry Lett (attending remotely from Muskegon, MI)
Cynthia Orton (attending remotely from Muskegon, MI)
MC Rothhorn (attending remotely from Muskegon, MI)
Rebecca Szetela (attending remotely from Wayne County, MI)
Janice Vallette (attending remotely from Muskegon, MI)
Erin Wagner (attending remotely from Charlotte, MI)
Richard Weiss (attending remotely from Muskegon, MI)
Dustin Joseph Witjes (attending remotely from Muskegon, MI)

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
Electronic Data Services ("EDS"), including Kim Brace, Dr. Lisa Handley, Kent Stigall, and John Morgan

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Commissioner Kellom, Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 9:00 AM.

ROLL CALL

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

Commissioner Eid arrived at 9:06 AM

Commissioner Kellom left at 12:17 PM

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no minutes to approve.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERTAINING TO AGENDA TOPICS

Commissioner Kellom, Chair, put the motion "to begin the public comment" which was adopted. Three individuals provided public comment: James Gallant, Susan Smith, and Mark Payne.

A full inventory of live and written public comment is available at www.michigan.gov/micrc

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Redistricting Process Committee. Commissioner Witjes provided an overview of the Redistricting Process Committee's (Committee) activities in its two meetings. Commissioner Eid proposed the first recommendation that all maps start from

scratch while using previous maps for reference. The Commission held a discussion on the recommendation. Commissioner Clark discussed the second recommendation on taking a region-based approach to mapping, which was also followed by a commission-wide discussion. The Commission considered beginning the drawing process in Southeast Michigan. Kim Brace, John Morgan, and Kent Stigall with Electronic Data Services (EDS) weighed in on where to begin. The discussion included numbering the districts to be similar to the current maps. After discussing the topic of nesting, Commissioner Clark stressed the importance of documentation and making decisions publicly available. The Commission assessed what additional Continuing Education they required, with the assistance of Bruce Adelson from Federal Compliance Consulting LLC and Dr. Lisa Handley from EDS. Commissioner Clark explained the MICRC Redistricting Process flowchart.

MOTION: Submit More Than One Set of Maps, One Set of Maps from Scratch and a Second Set that takes into Account Former Lines, Gerrymandered Districts, Public Comment, and Communities of Interest. **Motion by Commissioner Lange. Supported by Commissioner Wagner. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by roll call. MOTION FAILED 3-10.**

Voting Yes: Commissioners Lange, Wagner, Weiss

Voting No: Commissioners Kellom, Lett, Orton, Rothhorn, Szetela, Vallette, Witjes, Clark, Curry, Eid

MOTION: Adopt Recommendation of the Committee to Propose Maps Drawn from Scratch While Using Existing Data for Comparison Purposes. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Szetela. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by roll call. MOTION APPROVED 9-3.**

Voting Yes: Commissioners Orton, Rothhorn, Szetela, Vallette, Witjes, Clark, Curry, Eid, Kellom

Voting No: Commissioners Lange, Wagner, Weiss

Abstain: Commissioner Lett due to lack of sufficient information about the issue to be decided.

MOTION: Commission Shall Divide the State of Michigan into Regions For the Purpose of Facilitating the Drawing of District Lines and Utilize those Regions to Assist in Drawing District Lines. **Motion by Commissioner Szetela. Supported by Commissioner Clark. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by roll call. MOTION APPROVED 12-1.**

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

Voting No: Commissioner Lange

MOTION: Adopt Recommendation of the Committee to Start the Mapping Process with the 38 State Senate Districts. **Motion by Commissioner Szetela. Supported by Commissioner Clark. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by roll call. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 13-0.**

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

Voting No: n/a

RECESS

Commissioner Kellom, Chair, called for a ten-minute recess until 10:30 AM.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Kellom, Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission back to order at 10:31AM.

PRESENT:

Douglas James Clark (attending remotely from Muskegon, MI)
Juanita Curry (attending remotely from Muskegon, MI)
Anthony Eid (attending remotely from Muskegon, MI)
Brittni Kellom (attending remotely from Wayne County, MI)
Rhonda Lange (attending remotely from Reed City, MI)
Steve Terry Lett (attending remotely from Muskegon, MI)
Cynthia Orton (attending remotely from Muskegon, MI)
MC Rothhorn (attending remotely from Muskegon, MI)
Rebecca Szetela (attending remotely from Wayne County, MI)
Janice Vallette (attending remotely from Muskegon, MI)
Erin Wagner (attending remotely from Charlotte, MI)
Richard Weiss (attending remotely from Muskegon, MI)
Dustin Joseph Witjes (attending remotely from Muskegon, MI)

ABSENT:

N/A

MOTION: Commission Shall Start in Southeast Michigan when Drawing Maps. **Motion by Commissioner Szetela. Supported by Commissioner**

Witjes. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by roll call. MOTION FAILED 4-9.

Voting Yes: Commissioners Szetela, Weiss, Witjes, Kellom

Voting No: Commissioners Orton, Rothhorn, Vallette, Wagner, Clark, Curry, Eid, Lange, Lett

MOTION: Postpone Discussion on What Geographic Region to Utilize to Start Drawing Maps. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Szetela. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by roll call. MOTION APPROVED 11-2.**

Voting Yes: Commissioners Rothhorn, Szetela, Vallette, Weiss, Witjes, Clark, Curry, Eid, Kellom, Lange, Orton

Voting No: Commissioners Wagner, Lett

MOTION: Adopt Recommendation of the Committee on the Method for Documentation of the Redistricting Process and Instruct MICRC and MDOS Staff to Document the Rationale for Major Changes Both as Part of and Separate from the Meeting Minutes and Store the Rationale Documentation of Major Changes in a Separate Heading on the MICRC Website. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Orton. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by roll call. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 13-0.**

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

Voting No: n/a

MAIN MOTION, AS AMENDED: Executive Director to Schedule Two Hours for Continuing Education by Mr. Adelson on the Voting Rights Act and Constitutional Criteria and One Hour for Dr. Handley on Partisan Fairness. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Szetela. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by roll call. MOTION APPROVED 9-4.**

Voting Yes: Commissioners Weiss, Witjes, Clark, Curry, Kellom, Lett, Orton, Szetela, Vallette

Voting No: Commissioner Wagner, Eid, Lange, Rothhorn

MOTION: Motion to Amend Commissioner Clark's Motion for the Executive Director to Schedule Two Hours for Continuing Education by Mr. Adelson and to Add One Hour for Dr. Handley on Partisan Fairness. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Witjes.**

Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by roll call. MOTION APPROVED 11-2.

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

Voting No: Commissioner Lange, Rothhorn

MOTION: Reconsider the Amendment to the Motion on Continuing Education for Mr. Adelson and Dr. Handley. **Motion by Commissioner Wagner. Supported by Commissioner Lange. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by roll call. MOTION FAILED 6-7.**

Voting Yes: Commissioners Vallette, Wagner, Weiss, Curry, Eid, Lange

Voting No: Commissioner Witjes, Clark, Kellom, Lett, Orton, Rothhorn, Szetela

MOTION: Utilize the MICRC Redistricting Process Flowchart created by Commissioner Clark as a Starting Point for the Redistricting Process. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Rothhorn. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by roll call. MOTION APPROVED 10-2.**

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

Voting No: Commissioners Lange, Wagner

MOTION: Disband the Redistricting Process Committee. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Curry. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by roll call. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 13-0.**

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

Voting No: n/a

RECESS

Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, called for a ten-minute recess until 12:35 PM.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission back to order at 12:36 PM.

PRESENT: Douglas James Clark (attending remotely from Muskegon, MI)

Juanita Curry (attending remotely from Muskegon, MI)
Anthony Eid (attending remotely from Muskegon, MI)
Rhonda Lange (attending remotely from Reed City, MI)
Steve Terry Lett (attending remotely from Muskegon, MI)
Cynthia Orton (attending remotely from Muskegon, MI)
MC Rothhorn (attending remotely from Muskegon, MI)
Rebecca Szetela (attending remotely from Wayne County, MI)
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Richard Weiss (attending remotely from Muskegon, MI)
Dustin Joseph Witjes (attending remotely from Muskegon, MI)

ABSENT: Brittni Kellom

- b. Communities of Interest Process. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, put the motion “for Executive Director Hammersmith to report on the Communities of Interest Process” which was adopted. Executive Director Hammersmith reported there was little time to have an in-depth discussion on Communities of Interest. In addition, it would be more prudent to have the discussion while seeing the COIs on a map. Therefore, her recommendation is that the discussion should be deferred to a later time.

MOTION: Postpone Item 7b. **Motion by Commissioner Rothhorn. Supported by Commissioner Clark. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by roll call. MOTION APPROVED 10-2.**

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

Voting No: Commissioner Lange, Wagner

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Executive Director Hammersmith reported that a comprehensive work calendar, drafted by MICRC and MDOS staff in consultation with the vendors, will be provided at the next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, called for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Orton. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45PM.