

# 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)

**Tuesday, March 30, 2021**

**9:30 AM – 12:14 PM**

## MINUTES

**PRESENT:** Douglas James Clark  
Juanita Curry  
Anthony Eid  
Brittni Kellom  
Rhonda Lange (*left meeting at 11:00 AM; returned 11:55 AM*)  
Steven Terry Lett  
Cynthia Orton  
MC Rothhorn  
Rebecca Szetela  
Janice Vallette  
Erin Wagner  
Richard Weiss  
Dustin Joseph Witjes (*joined meeting at 10:08 AM*)

**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 Kellom, Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) to order at 9:30 AM.

## **ROLL CALL**

MDOS staff called roll. All commissioners except Commissioner Witjes were present and a quorum was met.

*Commissioner Witjes joined the meeting at 10:08 AM.*

*Commissioner Lange left the meeting at 11:00 AM and returned at 11:55 AM.*

## **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

## **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioners discussed the draft minutes.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Kellom, Chair, called for a motion to approve the minutes, as presented. **Motion by Commissioner Wagner. Supported by Commissioner Curry. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Commissioner Kellom, Chair, opened the floor to public comment. There was live public comment by Tom Walker. A full inventory of live and written public comment is available at [RedistrictingMichigan.org](https://RedistrictingMichigan.org).

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Executive Director Hammersmith expressed gratitude to the Voting Rights Act (VRA) Legal Counsel RFP Bids committee, which will present their recommendation during today's meeting. She also reported that today's meeting will include ongoing map training. The executive director also hosted a brief icebreaker activity.

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

MDOS staff reported they have moved forward with procuring a public comment tool from MGGG Redistricting Lab and provided the Commission with an overview of its

functionality. A demonstration will be provided to the Commission at a later date.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Public Hearings – Resolution 2021.03.02. Communications and Outreach Director Woods presented the sample daily itinerary and agenda for public hearings, the designation of commissioners as hosts and a revised public hearing schedule.

**MOTION:** Approve the revised public hearing schedule - Resolution 2021.03.02. **Motion by Commissioner Rothhorn. Supported by Commissioner Eid. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

2. Communications and Outreach Update. Communications and Outreach Director Woods notified the Commission that the market research report will be available next week. Additionally, the League of Women Voters is hosting 27 town halls and has requested that an MICRC commissioner provide a brief update. Commissioners will be notified of these opportunities.
3. Extension of Virtual Meetings through April 30 – Resolution 2021.03.04. General Counsel Pastula reported that the state Legislature has not yet voted to extend virtual meetings beyond March 31, however the Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized the continuation of the Declaration of the State of Emergency in its jurisdiction through April 30, 2021. As the MICRC has held, and absent the ongoing pandemic would have continued to hold its in-person meetings in the City of Lansing, County of Ingham, this Resolution calls upon the MICRC to continue its virtual meetings under the Open Meetings Act until the Ingham County Declaration of Emergency expires.

**MOTION:** Approve Resolution 2021.03.04 to enable the Commission to meet virtually through April 30, 2021 under the Ingham County Declaration of the State of Emergency. **Motion by Commissioner Rothhorn. Supported by Commissioner Orton.**

**Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands.  
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

**BREAK**

Commissioner Kellom, Chair, called for a brief break from 10:15 AM to 10:30 AM.

4. Continuing Education – Mapping Practice/Ohio Maps. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, introduced the session.

Moderator:

- Matt Grossman, Ph.D., Director, Michigan State University (MSU) Institute of Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR)

Panelists:

- Moon Duchin, Associate Professor of Mathematics, Tufts University
- Ashton Shortridge, Professor of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Sciences, MSU
- John Chamberlin, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Public Policy and Political Science, University of Michigan
- Thomas Ivacko, Executive Director, University of Michigan Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP)
- Jon Eguia, Ph.D., Professor of Economics, MSU
- Corwin Smidt, Associate Professor and Interim Chair in the Department of Political Science, MSU

**BREAK**

Commissioner Kellom, Chair, called for a brief break from 12:01 PM to 12:06 PM.

5. Report of VRA Legal Counsel Committee – Resolution 2021.03.03. Commissioner Szetela, Committee Chair, presented the committee’s recommendation to interview Bruce Adelson of Federal Compliance Consulting, LLC for the MICRC VRA Legal Counsel.

**MOTION:** Approve Resolution 2021.03.03 to bring forward Bruce Adelson of Federal Compliance Consulting, LLC to interview before the full Commission. **Motion by Commissioner Orton. Supported by Commissioner Rothhorn. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

6. Upcoming Meeting Agenda Topics.  
Federal Compliance Consulting, LLC interview

Market research report  
Updated budget  
Updated timeline if Michigan Supreme Court approves proposed dates  
First quarter staff report  
Marketing contracts  
More policies and procedures  
Pledge of Allegiance discussion

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 PM.