

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

Monday, June 28, 2021

9:00 AM – 12:24 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT: Douglas James Clark (attending remotely from Rochester Hills, MI)
Anthony Eid (attending remotely from Detroit, MI)
Rhonda Lange (attending remotely from Reed City, MI)
Dustin Joseph Witjes (attending remotely from Howell, 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") staff, including Kim Brace and Dr. Lisa Handley
Bruce Adelson, Federal Compliance Consulting LLC

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Commissioner Witjes, Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) Redistricting Process Committee (Committee) to order at 9:00 AM.

ROLL CALL

MDOS staff called roll. All Commissioners, who served on the Committee, were present and a quorum was met.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Witjes, Chair, put the motion "to begin the public comment" which was adopted. One individual provided public comment: James Gallant.

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

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Questions/Fact Finding with EDS, VRA Legal Counsel, & RPV Analyst.
Kim Brace, with Electronic Data Services (EDS), began with a presentation on racial data for redistricting. Commissioner Eid started the questioning period about documentation and Bruce Adelson, with Federal Compliance Consulting LLC, weighed in on how to document. Dr. Lisa Handley joined the discussion, saying she would compile large reports on racial bloc data throughout the drawing process. The Committee evaluated how many edits would be required for the public record. Next, Commissioner Eid asked what other Continuing Education the consultants would recommend for the Commission. Mr. Adelson wished to go over implicit bias training, legal requirements of redistricting, and a mock redistricting session. The legal requirements include an overview of the federal constitution, the state constitution, and the criteria for redistricting. Dr. Handley asked to do a presentation on partisan fairness which led the Committee to have greater conversation on competitiveness in districts. Commissioner Eid inquired about a general timeline of which the Commission should be cognizant. The consultants tied the timeline to the release of census data which led to an exchange of the Committee members about the implications of the eventual census data. The Committee returned to the subject of documentation and Commissioner Clark stressed the importance of documenting the decisions

regarding why maps are being changed. In response to a question on historically red-lined districts, the consultants offered various sources of data to acquire that information. Lastly, Commissioner Witjes raised a discussion on how long it would take to draw the districts.

MOTION: Recommend to the Commission that Mr. Adelson be Granted Two Hours to Provide Continuing Education. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Eid. Commissioner Witjes, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION APPROVED.**

Voting Yes: Commissioners Clark, Eid, Witjes

Voting No: Commissioner Lange

MOTION: Recommend to the Commission that MICRC and MDOS Staff Document Major Changes Separate from the Meeting Minutes and Store them in a Repository for Future Use. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Witjes, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

- b. Committee Discussion. Commissioner Clark suggested modifying the regional approach to mapping by utilizing and editing JURGS. Commissioner Witjes highlighted the problem with one commissioner working on a region because of different outlooks. The discourse then moved onto fulfilling communities of interest. Commissioner Lange proposed the Commission produce two maps, one that is drawn from scratch and the other based on the current lines but corrected for gerrymandering. Commissioner Clark presented his MICRC Redistricting Process flowchart. Mr. Brace and Dr. Handley recommended the flowchart include an overall assessment of the state before drawing and on the new maps. In conclusion, the committee addressed the topic of consensus when voting on the maps.

RECESS

MOTION: Recess for ten minutes until 11:06 AM. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Witjes, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Witjes, Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission's (MICRC) Redistricting Process Committee back to order at 11:06 AM.

PRESENT: Douglas James Clark (attending remotely from Rochester Hills, MI)
Anthony Eid (attending remotely from Detroit, MI)
Rhonda Lange (attending remotely from Reed City, MI)
Dustin Joseph Witjes (attending remotely from Howell, MI)

MOTION: Recommend to the Commission that it Produce Two Sets of Maps, One Produced from Scratch and One Using District Lines on the Current Map Adjusted for Communities of Interest and Obvious Gerrymandered Places. **Motion by Commissioner Lange. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Witjes, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION FAILED.**

Voting Yes: Commissioners Lange, Witjes

Voting No: Commissioners Clark, Eid

MOTION: Recommend to the Commission that it Utilize the MICRC Redistricting Process Flowchart Draft, as amended, as a Starting Point for the Redistricting Process. **Motion by Commissioner Eid. Supported by Commissioner Clark. Commissioner Witjes, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 PM.