

Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

Hybrid Meeting held in-person 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

Thursday, July 8, 2021

10:31 AM – 4:52 PM

at

**G. Mennen Williams Building
525 W. Ottawa St., Lansing, MI 48933**

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Douglas James Clark

Anthony Eid

Rhonda Lange (attending remotely from Reed City, MI)
(left meeting at 12:15 PM)

Steven Terry Lett

Cynthia Orton

MC Rothhorn

Rebecca Szetela (attending remotely from Wayne
County, MI) *(left meeting at 3:12 PM)*

Janice Vallette

Erin Wagner (attending remotely from Charlotte, MI) *(left
meeting at 12:15 PM)*

Richard Weiss

Dustin Joseph Witjes

ABSENT:

Juanita Curry

Brittini Kellom

OTHERS PRESENT: Suann Hammersmith, Executive Director

Julianne V. Pastula, General Counsel
Edward Woods III, Communications and Outreach Director
Michigan Department of State (“MDOS”) staff
Kim Brace and Fred Hejazi, Election Data Services
Bruce Adelson, Federal Compliance Consulting LLC
Moon Duchin, Metric Geometry and Gerrymandering
Group

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) to order at 10:31 AM.

ROLL CALL

MDOS staff called roll. All Commissioners were present except Commissioners Curry and Kellom. A quorum was met.

Commissioner Lange left at 12:15 PM

Commissioner Wagner left at 12:15 PM

Commissioner Szetela left at 3:12 PM

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon separate motions, Commissioners discussed the public hearing minutes from June 24th. The Commission also discussed the June 24th and 25th meeting minutes. The Commission offered no edits.

MOTION: Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 24th. **Motion by Commissioner Rothhorn. Supported by Commissioner Lett. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

MOTION: Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, called for a motion to approve the public hearing minutes from June 24th. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Orton. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

MOTION: Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, called for a motion to approve the Redistricting Process Committee meeting minutes from June 25th. **Motion by Commissioner Eid. Supported by Commissioner Lett. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

PUBLIC COMMENT PERTAINING TO AGENDA TOPICS

Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, put the motion "to begin the public comment pertaining to agenda topics portion of the agenda" 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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Demonstration on the Differences between the CityGate Software for Desktops and the Web-based Software. Kim Brace with Electronic Data Services (EDS) introduced Fred Hejazi. Mr. Hejazi and Mr. Brace did a walk-through for the Commission on how to use the AutoBound Edge and My Districting software for drawing maps. Mr. Hejazi and Mr. Brace took questions from the Commission during and after the presentation.

RECESS

Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, put the motion "to recess until 1:15 PM" which was adopted.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission back to order at 1:30 PM. Pursuant to Section 7.4.1(F) of the Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Szetela announced she would have to leave the meeting at 3:00 PM and designated Commissioner Eid as Acting-Chair.

PRESENT: Douglas James Clark
Anthony Eid
Steven Terry Lett
Cynthia Orton
MC Rothhorn
Rebecca Szetela (attending remotely from Wayne County, MI)
Janice Vallette
Richard Weiss
Dustin Joseph Witjes

ABSENT: Juanita Curry
Brittini Kellom
Rhonda Lange
Erin Wagner

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

b. Communities of Interest (COI). Moon Duchin with Metric Geometry and Gerrymandering Group (MGGG) provided an update on the public comment portal. Director Duchin outlined the trends in the public comment and presented COI coverage maps. Director Duchin took questions from the Commission. Director Hammersmith's presentation on COI described their importance and definition. General Counsel Pastula explained the limitations of defining COI. The Commission held a discussion on how to assure the public that the districts represent the state's diverse, cultural, historical, and economic characteristics. Kim Brace presented a "Philosophical Discussion on Redistricting" and took questions from the Commission on the presentation. Director Hammersmith finished her presentation with questions for the Commission to consider.

RECESS

Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, put the motion “to recess until 3:10 PM” which was adopted.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission back to order at 3:10 PM.

PRESENT: Douglas James Clark
Anthony Eid
Steven Terry Lett
Cynthia Orton
MC Rothhorn
Rebecca Szetela (attending remotely from Wayne County, MI) (*left meeting at 3:12 PM*)
Janice Vallette
Richard Weiss
Dustin Joseph Witjes

ABSENT: Juanita Curry
Brittini Kellom
Rhonda Lange
Erin Wagner

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

c. Implicit Bias. VRA Counsel Bruce Adelson with Federal Compliance Consulting LLC provided training on Implicit Bias. Mr. Adelson utilized a series of case-studies on bias to comprise his presentation. Mr. Adelson took questions from the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

Due to a loss of quorum, at the conclusion of the implicit bias training the meeting was adjourned at 4:52 PM.