

MICRC VRA Counsel Interview Questions

Dated: April 4, 2021

1. Aside from timing due to the delayed census data, what do you believe will be the most significant issues facing the Commission? What challenges do you foresee for individuals serving in the role of VRA Counsel during this redistricting cycle?
2. Please describe your plan and the work product you will provide.
3. Please talk about a time when you had to communicate complicated legal items – whether VRA-related or otherwise – to the public or a non-expert decision maker. How did you approach those conversations or presentations?
4. How do you plan to communicate with the Commission, commission staff, and the public?
5. Please explain your proposed budget, and the estimated range of hours that you believe will be necessary to do the work.
6. Please identify how our General Counsel and your firm can work together to reduce costs.
7. How would you allocate your time among necessary tasks, including attendance at MICRC meetings and, if necessary, responding to media inquiries?
8. Given your past experience what do you think the relevant population for a Section 2 analysis is in Michigan?
9. Given your experience in redistricting, what are common mistakes made by other boards or commissions, and how can we avoid those pitfalls?
10. It is critical that the public have a high level of trust and confidence in your firm's ability to provide objective, independent, nonpartisan advice to the MICRC. How can you provide that assurance?
11. The Michigan Constitution requires that, for proposed as well as adopting plans, the MICRC issue a report explaining the basis on which it made its decisions in achieving compliance with plan requirements. From your perspective as VRA Counsel, what should be included in those reports and how would that information be used to defend the plan(s) from challenges?
12. Depending on its timing, how could the U.S. Supreme Court decision in the *Brnovich* case impact our redistricting work this cycle?