

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

Tuesday, December 28, 2021

10:06 AM – 5:38 PM

at

**The Cadillac Room
1115 S. Washington Avenue
Lansing, Michigan**

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Douglas James Clark
Juanita Curry (attending remotely from Detroit, MI)
Anthony Eid (*joined the meeting at 10:21 AM*)
Brittni Kellom (attending remotely from Detroit, MI)
Rhonda Lange (attending remotely from Reed City, MI)
Steven Terry Lett
Cynthia Orton
MC Rothhorn
Rebecca Szetela
Janice Vallette
Erin Wagner (attending remotely from Charlotte, MI)
Richard Weiss
Dustin Joseph Witjes

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

Bruce Adelson, Voting Rights Act Attorney, Federal
Compliance Consulting via Zoom
Election Data Services (“EDS”) staff

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Commissioner Szetela, Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) to order at 10:06 AM.

ROLL CALL

MDOS staff called roll. A quorum was met.

Commissioner Eid joined the meeting at 10:21 AM.

Commissioner Curry left the meeting at 12:40. PM and returned at 2:01 PM.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA


MAIN MOTION: Commissioner Szetela, Chair, called for a motion to approve the agenda, as amended. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Lett. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION APPROVED.**

Voting No: Commissioner Witjes

MOTION: Amend the Agenda to Add “Discussion on Potential Changes to the Maps” Under Unfinished Business as Item 5.a. **Motion by Commissioner Lange. Supported by Commissioner Wagner. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION APPROVED.**

Voting No: Commissioners Witjes, Lett, Szetela

PUBLIC COMMENT PERTAINING TO AGENDA TOPICS

Commissioner Szetela, Chair, put the motion “to begin the public comment pertaining to agenda topics portion of the agenda” which was adopted. Nine individuals provided in-person public comment: Robert Joerg, Linda Appling, Sarah Howard, Kristal Boyd, Kyle Jones, Max Lewis, Dale Copedge, Chris Andrews, and Ebrie Benton. 51 individuals provided remote public comment: James Gallant, Loida Tapia, Rich Thrush, Percy Johnson, Richard Williamson, Micah Perkins, nomi joyrich, Kermit Williams, Rima Meroueh, Shams Al-Badry, Judy Maiga, Sarah Woolsey, Sherri Masson, William Asher, Scott Urbanowski, Rosa Holliday, Denzel McCampbell, Rachel Goodstein, Anthony S , Francesca

Stephenson, Danielle F, Jennifer Austin, Marie Johansen, Cindy Weir, Mark Payne Jr, Nicole Bedi, Claudia Warren, Michael Fields, Kathleen Curell, Velma Overman, L Cracha Handy, Matthew Hall, Rebecca Grayson, Cassie Foley, Susan Steigerwalt, Linda Barth, Joe Weir, Kevin O'Brien, marie joppich, Jasna Appell, Mary Murphy, Ryan Olds, Joel Ombry, Doug Floto, BookerAngana Shah, and Jill Haver-Crissman.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Discussion on Changing the Maps. The Commission held a discussion on whether to return to mapping or not. The Commission asked Mr. Adelson questions regarding Dr. Handley's Final Report and the Voting Rights Act.

RECESS

At 12:27 PM, Commissioner Szetela, Chair, put the motion "to recess for 10 minutes until 12:37 PM" which was adopted.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Szetela, Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission back to order at 12:41 PM.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Juanita Curry

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

- b. Commission Final Vote Process. Executive Director Hammersmith outlined the Commission Final Vote Process. General Counsel Pastula and MDOS Staff presented information on the ranked choice voting process. The Commission addressed multiple key questions on the ranked choice voting process.

MOTION: Adopt Option 3 for Ranked Choice Voting. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Lett. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION APPROVED.**

Voting No: Commissioners Szetela and Lange

RECESS

At 1:20 PM, Commissioner Szetela, Chair, put the motion “to recess for 30 minutes until 1:50 PM” which was adopted.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Szetela, Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission back to order at 2:01 PM.

PRESENT:

Douglas James Clark
Juanita Curry (attending remotely from Detroit, MI)
Anthony Eid
Brittni Kellom (attending remotely from Detroit, MI)
(joined the meeting in-person at 2:36 PM)
Rhonda Lange (attending remotely from Reed City, MI)
Steven Terry Lett
Cynthia Orton
MC Rothhorn
Rebecca Szetela
Janice Vallette
Erin Wagner (attending remotely from Charlotte, MI)
Richard Weiss
Dustin Joseph Witjes

ABSENT:

N/A

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Review of Proposed Maps. The Commission reviewed its proposed Congressional plans. Mr. Adelson provided VRA analysis on the individual maps. The Commission discussed the proposed Congressional plans.

MOTION: Request Commissioners Identify Their Top Two Favorite Proposed Congressional Plans. **Motion by Commissioner Eid. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION APPROVED.**
Voting No: Commissioners Lange and Wagner

MOTION: Do Not Make any Changes to any District Type Map. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Vallette. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by roll call. MOTION APPROVED 9-4.**

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

Voting No: Commissioners Wagner, Kellom, Lange, Szetela

- b. Conduct Final Vote Process. The Commission voted to adopt a proposed Congressional plan.

MOTION: Adopt a Plan for Congressional District Type by Roll Call Vote. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Witjes.**

Commissioner Clark (R): Chestnut

Commissioner Curry (D): Birch v2

Commissioner Eid (I): Chestnut

Commissioner Kellom (D): Chestnut

Commissioner Lange (R): Lange

Commissioner Lett (I): Chestnut

Commissioner Orton (R): Chestnut

Commissioner Rothhorn (D): Birch v2

Commissioner Szetela (I): Birch v2

Commissioner Vallette (I): Chestnut

Commissioner Wagner (R): Lange

Commissioner Weiss (I): Chestnut

Commissioner Witjes (D): Chestnut

By a vote of 3 for Birch Plan, 8 for Chestnut Plan, and 2 for Lange Plan the Chestnut Plan for U.S. Congressional district type was adopted by majority vote.

RECESS

At 3:15 PM, Commissioner Szetela, Chair, put the motion “to recess for 15 minutes until 3:30 PM” which was adopted.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Szetela, Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission back to order at 3:30 PM.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

N/A

NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

- a. Review of Proposed Maps. The Commission reviewed its proposed State Senate plans. Mr. Adelson provided VRA analysis on the individual maps. The Commission discussed the proposed State Senate plans.

RECESS

At 4:27 PM, Commissioner Szetela, Chair, put the motion “to recess for 10 minutes until 4:37 PM” which was adopted.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Szetela, Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission back to order at 4:38 PM.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

N/A

NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

- b. Conduct Final Vote Process. The Commission voted to adopt a proposed State Senate plan.

MOTION: Adopt a Proposed State Senate Plan by Roll Call Vote.
Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Lett.

Commissioner Clark (R): Linden
Commissioner Curry (D): Kellom
Commissioner Eid (I): Linden
Commissioner Kellom (D): Kellom
Commissioner Lange (R): Lange

Commissioner Lett (I): Linden
Commissioner Orton (R): Linden
Commissioner Rothhorn (D): Linden
Commissioner Szetela (I): Linden
Commissioner Vallette (I): Linden
Commissioner Wagner (R): Lange
Commissioner Weiss (I): Linden
Commissioner Witjes (D): Linden

By a vote of 9 for Linden Plan, 2 for Kellom Plan, and 2 for Lange Plan the Linden Plan for State Senate district type was adopted by majority vote.

MOTION: Ratify the Votes to Adopt as Taken Procedurally. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

- a. Review of Proposed Maps. The Commission reviewed its proposed State House plans. Mr. Adelson provided VRA analysis on the individual maps. The Commission discussed the proposed State House plans.

MOTION: Request Commissioners Identify Their Top Two Favorite Proposed State House Plans. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Lett. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION APPROVED.**
Voting No: Commissioner Lange

- b. Conduct Final Vote Process. The Commission voted to adopt a proposed State Senate plan.

MOTION: Adopt a Proposed State House Plan by Roll Call Vote. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Lett. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Commissioner Clark (R): Hickory
Commissioner Curry (D): Hickory
Commissioner Eid (I): Hickory

Commissioner Kellom (D): Hickory
Commissioner Lange (R): Magnolia
Commissioner Lett (I): Hickory
Commissioner Orton (R): Hickory
Commissioner Rothhorn (D): Hickory
Commissioner Szetela (I): Hickory
Commissioner Vallette (I): Hickory
Commissioner Wagner (R): Pine v5
Commissioner Weiss (I): Hickory
Commissioner Witjes (D): Hickory

By a vote of 11 for Hickory Plan, 1 for Magnolia Plan, and 1 for Pine Plan the Hickory Plan for State House district type was adopted by majority vote.

c. Dates for 2022 Meetings.

MOTION: Approve Dates and Locations for 2022 Meetings. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Lett. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION APPROVED.**

Voting No: Commissioner Lange

d. Extend Robert Half Contract for Paralegal through 3/31/2022 at No Added Cost; Resolution 2021.12.06.

MOTION: Extend Robert Half Contract for Paralegal Services. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Rothhorn. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

e. Remote Attendance After December 31, 2021.

MOTION: Direct General Counsel to Prepare the Amended Remote Attendance Language. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Curry. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Szetela, Chair, called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 16th. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Rothorn. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

STAFF REPORTS

- a. Executive Director. Executive Director Hammersmith provided a report.
- b. General Counsel. General Counsel Pastula provided a report.
- c. Communications and Outreach Director. Communications and Outreach Director Woods III provided a report.

MDOS UPDATES

MDOS Staff provided a report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioners Eid and Vallette made announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Adjourn the Meeting. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Weiss. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:38 PM.