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MICRC

06/29/21 1:00 pm Meeting

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>> CHAIR KELLOM: As Chair of the Commission, I call this meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 1:03 p.m.

This webinar is being live streamed at YouTube. At

For anyone in the public watching who would prefer to watch via a different platform than they are currently using, please visit our social media at Redistricting MI to find the link for viewing on YouTube.

Our live stream today includes closed captioning. Closed captioning, ASL interpretation, and Spanish and Bengali and Arabic translation services will be provided for effective participation in this meeting. E-mail us at [Redistricting@Michigan.Gov](mailto:Redistricting@Michigan.Gov) for additional viewing options or details on accessing language translation services for this meeting.

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This meeting is being recorded and will be available at [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC) for viewing at a later date.

This meeting is also being transcribed, and those transcriptions will be made available and posted at [Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://Michigan.gov/MICRC) along with the written public comment submissions.

There is also a public comment portal that may be accessed by visiting [Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://Michigan.gov/MICRC). This portal can be utilized to post maps and comments which can be viewed by both the Commission and the public.

Members of the media who may have additional questions before, during or after the meeting should direct those questions to Edward Woods III, our Communications and Outreach Director for the Commission.

His e-mail address is [WoodsE3@Michigan.gov](mailto:WoodsE3@Michigan.gov).

For the purpose of the public watching and the public record, I will now turn the Department state Staff to take note of the Commissioners present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you, Madam Chair, and Good afternoon, Commissioners.

Please say present when I call your name. If you are attending the meeting remotely, please announce during roll call that you are attending the meeting remotely. And unless your absence is due to military duty, announce please your physical location by stating the county, city, township or village and the state from which you are attending the meeting remotely.

I'll start with Doug Clark.

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>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.  
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.  
>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Present.  
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?  
>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.  
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?  
>> CHAIR KELLOM: Present.  
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?  
>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Present, attending remotely from Reed City, Michigan.  
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?  
>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.  
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT : Cynthia Orton?  
>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present.  
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?  
>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Present.  
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?  
>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Present. Attending remotely from Wayne County, Michigan.  
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette.  
>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.  
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?  
>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Present; attending remotely from Charlotte, Michigan.  
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?  
>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.  
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?  
>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present.  
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: 12 Commissioners are present and there is a quorum.  
>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you MDOS staff for roll call.  
Moving along in our agenda we have the adoption of the agenda.  
As a reminder to the public watching, you can view the agenda at [Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://Michigan.gov/MICRC)  
I will now entertain a motion to approve the meeting agenda.  
>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: So moved.  
>> CHAIR KELLOM: Motion made by I believe Commissioner Witjes.  
>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Second.  
>> CHAIR KELLOM: Second made by Commissioner Steve Lett. Is there any discussion or debate on the actual motion? Hearing none, it is moved and seconded that the agenda be approved.  
All in favor raise your hand and say aye.

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>> Aye.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: All opposed raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes prevail.

Motion is adopted and the agenda is adopted.

Moving to review and approval of minutes, if there is no objection, there are no minutes to approve at this time.

And next on our agenda is the public comment pertaining to agenda topics. Without objection, we will now begin the public comment pertaining to agenda topics only portion of our meeting.

Hearing no objection, we will now proceed with public comment pertaining to agenda topics only.

Individuals who have signed up and indicated they would like to provide in-person public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so.

You will step to the nearest microphone when I call your number and you will have two minutes to address the Commission.

Please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer.

First in line to provide public comment is, one.

>> Hello. My name is one.

Okay, it's actually James Gallant, Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition. And my community of interest is people and believers in the fundamental principles of parliamentary law in America, which is the Roberts Rules of Order. And these are my personal opinions.

And it still kind of makes sense of all this decision making processes you are trying to make up on the fly and consensus building, you know, stuff. And so but I went to your what you petitioned to the Supreme Court. And your petition says that you were granted authority to provide for your own rules. And the Secretary of State is a nonvoting member. So where is Secretary Benson? Where is Secretary Benson today? And perform the duties impartial. And reinforces public confidence and integrity, that is important to follow the rules then. But I notice you did not speak about the Secretary of State's duty to elect the Chair at the first meeting, which she did not do. Commissioner Lett, at the second meeting, elected himself to be the Chair six months, even though the Secretary of State was required in the thing. And now it says you then claimed a decision from the Court would protect the Commission's the ability to draw fair maps and plans pursuant to the orderly and transparent process chosen by the people of the State of Michigan.

Not by you.

So what will that be? That would be Robert's Rules of Order.

The petition to the Court or the constitutional amendment, the petition is the motion.

The second is or, I mean, the, okay, the motion is the ballot proposal.

That's the ballot, that is the motion.

The second is the petitions. You got to sign the petitions and it's a second to get it onto the election. And then the third you get to talk about it a couple of months and you get to vote on it. Motion, second, vote, in that order. Robert's Rules of Order was created under the proceedings of Congress of the United States. This is the way we do in America. And you are trying to circumvent that in the future saying all the things you are doing are the opposite. So if you read Robert's Rules of Order it will tell you what not to do. And it's like you accumulated the little tidbits and approve those, how to abuse and your authority, thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you.

>> I signed up for a second.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Now that all who have signed up for the first time in person, and we had no remote public comment this afternoon, now that everyone has spoken for their first turn, we will have the public comment portion for those who have signed up to take a second turn.

You will have the same allotted two minutes.

Please do not go past the two minutes or you will hear the timer.

You are allowed to, of course, finish your last thought or finish up your sentence.

At this time we will have number one, our second speaker or second timed speaker, approach the microphone.

>> Okay, for a second time, I'm number one.

And I'm James Gallant, Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition. And so we were at there just a moment ago. And in your petition to the Supreme Court it says that a decision from the Court would protect the Commission's ability to draw fair and lawful maps. And I say quote pursuant to the orderly and transparent process chosen by the people of the State of Michigan.

And yet you folks are like it says you can provide for your own rules.

Robert's Rules of Order said, which I'm sure all of you know, with the ones that said you had a working knowledge, you can amend them and make them pursuant for you as a group, whatever your needs are for your group, all different kind of groups, churches, conventions, political affiliations, everything. But everybody has a little bit different. So you can amend them.

You can't just start over. You don't have autonomy, like free autonomy like a sovereign nation like you will makeup new rules like you are trying to do.

I'm here to tell you that these videos are going to be the evidence in Court.

That is what you are watching you do it and your conversations. And please post the transcripts because in your community, it was, you know, how you're going to document everything, the guy said, well, you have transcripts and you have word search, you know, capabilities on the transcript, which you don't have that now.

You did at the beginning.

And Secretary of State Benson said we get two public comments, one at the beginning and one at the end, that's because due process says I get to give you or get to bring issues to you, that you get to discuss it, then I get a rebuttal. That is why Secretary of State at the first meeting said there will be two public comments, one at the beginning and one at the end. Now I get no rebuttal. And you have been denying me all this. And I'm in the process of a civil rights complaint against the Suicide Prevention Commission. They are doing the exact same thing. You folks got this play book going, like a play book and you have this stuff written down but it's not in the book. And I ask you to please tell the community did you ever buy a copy of the book? Do you have a copy of the book available to anybody? These are the problems we will have to get the Court to decide. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much to everyone that provided in-person public comment.

Again, please do utilize our public comment tool to share with the Commission any of your thoughts. And keeping in mind that when you do choose to speak during our meetings that we try to stick to those comments that are pertaining to the agenda.

Moving on to item six on our agenda unfinished business. And at this time the Commission has no unfinished business for today, so we will move to agenda item seven, new business. Under new business we have Item A, General Counsel update by our General Counsel, Julianne Pastula.

And if there is no objection, I will have Julianne come to us and talk to us about a revised litigation counsel request.

Hearing no objection, General Counsel, you may proceed.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. And thank you for the opportunity.

Before the Commission today we have a proposed resolution 2021.06.04 regarding reissuance and reposting of our requests for proposals for our litigation counsel.

As the Commission is aware we received no bids for our first posting.

This is similar to our experience with our Voting Rights Act legal counsel RFP.

So similar to the first time this has occurred we have proposed amendments to the RFP.

Those amendments would reduce the number of cases reported in each category from 10 to 5 this will still provide ample information about the complexity of the litigation undertaken by the vendors as well as the frequency they are in Court.

Clarifying that the election law experience need not be in Michigan, that that is preferred but not required.

The conflicts for the past five years instead of no time limit which was the previous RFP reducing the lobbying activity and political donation disclosure timeframes to 11 years, they were 21.

And then we removed the duplicate questions from the vendor's work sheet.

That were duplicative of the key deliverables.

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There is also some wording changed in the flexibility for work hours and this is not set in stone at 9-6 and also flexibility and availability as to meetings.

They need not be available for every Commission meeting.

They need to be available when they are requested to be present.

So those were the modifications made.

The proposed amendments made that are before the Commission.

And for your consideration and I'm happy to answer any questions that the Commission may have.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, General Counsel. Commissioners do you have any questions regarding the resolution?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I move the adoption of Resolution 2021.06.04.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Motion made by Commissioner Lett.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Second.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Second made by Commissioner Witjes. Is there any discussion or debate on the motion?

Hearing none, it's moved and seconded that we move to approve Resolution 2021.6.4. All in favor raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: All opposed raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes have it.

The resolution passes.

Moving on to, oh, I'm so sorry, Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Ms. Chair, I just want to make sure that we get Erin's. I know she is on by phone, so I want to make sure that her vote, because I didn't hear her say, and since we can't see a hand.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you.

You all are allowed, so I don't see Erin on the screen I'm looking at, so feel free, it won't be interrupting to kind of chime in and tell me.

Erin, can we get your verbal vote?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Aye.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Commissioner Wagner.

So the motion is adopted and the resolution passes.

And moving on to new business, Item B, we have EDS continuing education with Kim Brace and Kim, we see you.

You look eager and ready to share as always.

And we are listening, so, Kim Brace, you have the floor.

>> KIM BRACE: Thank you, Madam Chairman.

I appreciate being here once again and talking with all of you.

It seems like it's a daily business that I'm having with Michigan on that side.

I'm here to talk about some -- a couple of different components and let me do a share screen.

And show the screen.

Can everybody see my PowerPoint that I have up here?

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Yes, we can see it, yep.

>> KIM BRACE: Great expand it.

I'm going to talk today about racial data and political data.

As part of our continuing education.

And today's clock will talk about those, some updates in terms of some racial data we have gotten ahold of as well as the discussion about the political data in the data cube that we have been talking about for a number of months.

What is race? Well, the Census Bureau has kind of a lengthy description of what is race.

This is only part of it.

But basically, it's asking people to identify what they feel their definition of race is.

It's kind of allowing people wide latitude of possibilities.

The OMB has categorized five minimum categories, that is white, Black or African/American, American Indian or Alaskan native, the Asian population, Hawaiian and other Pacific islanders, those are the racial categories and so that was a designation put down by the Federal Government and it continues in use today and the census data will reflect that.

So if you recall from last Thursday's over all Commission meeting it talked about the racial composition of population, but I mistakenly only showed you the maps of the amount of change that has taken place within the State of Michigan.

And I didn't show you what is the base concentration.

So I wanted to show some of this information for you to have an understanding of this.

What we do in looking at this, we've compiled a what we call majority, minority or majority race category.

This is again coming from the ACS data.

The 2019, five-year data.

And we are able to categorize where there is a majority of a race according to either seven 5% and above, 50 to seven 5 or if it's a plurality then we show across hatch pattern.

So what we can see some of the concentrations clearly the African/American, the non-Hispanic Black population in red is in Detroit area obviously.

We see the Hispanic population, which is in purple, down south of Detroit itself.

But we see elsewhere around the state there are several smaller pockets for African/American, but really no other majority other than white.

And so from an overall standpoint, clearly most of the State of Michigan is white in population.

This, again, is showing the census tract and the Township level data. Previously I had shown you County level data so we are able to get down a little bit further and closer to see exactly where some concentrations are.

But we can also take a look at the individual races themselves. And so this is a map showing just where the concentrations are of the white community in the state. And what percent it is according to the census tract or the Township. So we can start seeing some concentrations and seeing where whites are not a majority in concentration.

And begin seeing some of the cities that they are particularly not a majority in. But we can also take a look at the other individual races, so here is the African/American or Black population. And where their concentrations are according to all the data down at the smaller geographic levels.

This is important as we start looking at Voting Rights Act circumstances and where there are concentrations, things that Lisa Handley will be looking at from a racial bloc voting standpoint.

But this kind of gives us the first clue of where some of these concentrations are. Clearly, we will get more up to date information when the PL941 seven 1 data comes out on August 16 and when that comes out, we will be replacing these maps with that updated data.

When we look at the Hispanic populations where are they concentrated? Again south of Detroit area, the heaviest concentrations.

But there are other concentrations around the state.

And particularly in the western side of the state.

There are a number of Townships where Hispanics are a significant population 25-50% in some of these Townships out there.

So these are considerations conceivably from the racial bloc voting side, too.

We can see where the Asian population is.

Again, a racial categorization from the Census Bureau, again, the main concentrations are just outside of Detroit.

We have some in Ingham County also.

But clearly, they're scattered in different parts of the state on that side.

3.3% statewide of the population of the Asian population according to the ACS.

We also can look at the Native American population.

The Indian population.

We can see that with the ACS data, that is a significant portion of the UP on that side. And so we can see where that's a circumstance.

And it may be while it's small populations up in UP clearly, we may need to take in to account the various portions of the UP and where the Native Americans are when we

look at say things like the State House districts that are small enough that that might be something we need to take a look at.

So but there is questions also in terms of what's called the ancestry.

This is different than race.

This is a different way of looking at information.

The Census Bureau has the race question but they also ask what is your ancestry.

And they look at that differently than race.

What we can do is we can look at the ancestry questions and the answers and find, for example, where is the Arab population in Michigan.

Indeed, down at the census tract level in the Metro Detroit area we can see where the Arab population is concentrated.

Again, these are not covered by the Voting Rights Act.

So it's not something from a racial bloc voting standpoint that is important particularly for Lisa.

But it is important for community of interest.

And so we can start looking at other kinds of data besides the straight population data to get some ideas of some other communities of interest.

Clearly the Arab population is what we have been hearing.

Of course and you have been hearing, but we wanted to see where they are mainly located and concentrated.

We can also look at the Dutch population.

Clearly out in the Holland area, in the western side of the state the main concentration of the Dutch ancestry.

We can see where that might be and indeed if there is a concern of the community of interest of where the Dutch population ancestry is from, we can map that sort of thing.

We can see the German ancestry with 5.3% of the population statewide in 2019.

There are various pockets of concentrations.

The highest level census tract is 42% of the census tract's population is of German ancestry.

And we can see where those are located.

Clearly the potential of communities of interest circumstances there too.

We have the Irish population.

I understand there's a great Irish bar out here on the...on Beaver island which is where the biggest concentration is so whenever we are up in the UP maybe we should take a look at that one.

But there are various Irish concentrations elsewhere in the state.

But only 2.2% of the population.

There is polish concentrations elsewhere.

2.7% of the overall state population, but there are concentrations up in the northern part of the state for the polish community in that regard.

So we have this from the standpoint of racial information and now I want to get into political data.

Before I do is there questions on the racial side of things?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Thank you Madam Chair.

Hi, Kim, I feel like we are becoming good friends here this is the third day in a row we are speaking to each other.

>> KIM BRACE: Absolutely.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: You are not sick of me yet but probably will be by the end of this.

>> KIM BRACE: And I still want that Lebanese restaurant now.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I was looking at your charts just now and a question that I have is how do we reconcile the ancestor populations that are more spread out in lower population in any particular area versus the ones that are more concentrated? It seemed like, for example, that the concentrations on your heat map were quite high for African/Americans in Metro Detroit, for Arabs in northern Wayne County and Dearborn, whereas conversely in the Hispanic population was more spread out, the Dutch population was more spread out, so just wondering how do you reconcile that?

>> KIM BRACE: There is a couple of different things you need to realize from the standpoint of the Voting Rights Act.

Clearly, the Voting Rights Act is covering a certain number of racial groups as defined by the Census Bureau and defined by the OMB.

And so that gives us the predominance of looking at the Hispanic community, the African/American community, the Asian community. Those are the main racial categories that are protected by the Voting Rights Act.

So those kind of get treated differently.

You have to be more concerned with those and clearly your General Counsel, Julianne, would advise that on that side too as well as what Bruce will say.

When you look at the other ancestry questions, that's more as I've said as a community of interest kind of an argument.

And whether or not they are concentrated enough to represent a community of interest, that's ultimately your determination and so we've tried to give you some clues, but clearly when you start getting lower concentrations, then it really gets into a question of whether or not they can have enough to elect candidates of their choice like they say in the Voting Rights Act or it's too small to elect candidate of choice but we may need to take it in to account as you draw in a given area.

That's why it's important to be cognizant of both kind of categories, but clearly one is more paramount than the other.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Thank you.

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>> CHAIR KELLUM: Any other questions? I don't want to miss anyone that might be connecting by phone, no? Okay, go ahead, Kim.

>> KIM BRACE: All right, let me bounce back to my screen here in terms of this. Okay you can see political data once again? Somebody shake their head, yes.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Yes.

>> KIM BRACE: Sorry about that, okay.

Okay, so political data.

Why is that important? Well, it's really to let us have a political understanding of the District.

That's not to say that we are drawing them with political intent.

What we are looking at is political fairness.

That's one of the criteria that you have as a Commission to take a look at.

And the only way of looking at political fairness is to have data to investigate that sort of circumstance.

The other reason for having political data is it is the critical element in racial bloc voting analysis.

All the information and the discussions, Lisa and Bruce have with you in terms of analyzing voting behavior is all dependent upon the political data.

And that's why that becomes a very important part of the data cube.

The data cube and if you remember we have talked yesterday or last week in the last several meetings about the whole left hand side of the data cube.

The information that we get from the Census Bureau itself.

What we're going to talk about today is the right side of that data cube.

The political side of the data cube.

And that like the census data is divided between tabular information and spatial information.

So what do I mean by that? Tabular information that is election results.

That is voting statistics.

That is the number of people that are registered.

That is the number of people that turned out.

That's the number of votes for various candidates for president down to U.S. Senator or Congressional District or state Senator or State House member.

All of those are election returns and voting statistics.

That's part of the key and the heart of any of those kind of analysis that we talk about, the two main ones.

We can also take a look at geocoding voter registration files.

We use that and I'll show you some examples of that later on, of how we use that to help disaggregate the data down to the census geography so geocoded voter files is an important component and not look looking at mailing to people or anything like that, it's

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not being used from a campaign standpoint but it's important to let us know where within the precinct there are voters.

And I'll show you why that is important in a little bit.

From the spatial side what we are interested in is the precinct maps.

The boundaries of the precincts.

We need to know where within the County is precinct four? Because that then let's us connect in with the census data.

So it's important that we have precinct boundaries, also.

The nice thing about Michigan is that for this decade you have collected those.

Your state Government, your Department of State has compiled and collected those and we've gotten those, we are working with the Secretary of State's office to pull all that information together to be able to utilize that.

You are different than some other states that we have worked in where trying to find the precinct map from the 2012 election becomes real difficult.

Usually you call the county clerk's office and they say, well, we might have one copy of that map, but I think it's at the bottom of the bird cage on that side.

So sometimes it's a lost commodity in that regard.

But it's important to have those boundaries for the current year and for past election years.

Because we are interested in going back in time to each of those election years and having that data available.

Going back to at least what we are looking at for this decade is going back to 2012.

But it may be in terms of racial bloc voting analysis that you may have to go back earlier.

You might have to go back to 2010 or earlier in the decade of the 2010s on that side. Or 2000 decades.

So it just varies according to what kind of candidates we have and how far back we want to compile the data and have access to the data in that regard.

This represents the data cube that we have been talking about.

And having all of that data together in one place because it is what we then use for the redistricting side of things .

And it's reflected in the steppingstones that I talked to you about before.

Those steppingstones become important because what we need to do is we need to look at the political data for every County and Township in your state.

For every precinct in every jurisdiction.

And for each election.

What we need to be collecting and looking at is the number of registered voters, by party if that is relevant in the state, the number of people who turned out at election.

The number of votes cast for each candidate in the relevant elections what we are interested in.

These include all state-wide contests.

It includes any directed contests that you're going to be drawing.

We are going to be drawing Congressional, State Senate, State House so we need those election results for those contests.

We could use and if in the state there may be referendums that may give us clues of the feelings of voters on a referendum side of things as opposed to a candidate side of things.

Sometimes that is relevant.

Any relevant local contest may be useful.

Particularly where there is a minority candidate.

And so we have in this whole set is a number of different factors that come in to play and a number of different desires of political data.

Because we want to look at this steppingstones.

The steppingstones that I showed you before, those are the important parts of redistricting and so we need to and all the way from registration on down, that is all the election results.

That's the data that is there, that we need to be able to analyze for what is the demographic electorate mix within these groups.

So election data considerations.

Are we going to look at primaries or just general elections? We are looking to see about primary data.

Sometimes that's harder to get a hold of.

How far back in time.

Clearly there was a monumental shift in the political makeup of the country with the 2010 tea party election.

That gets us back into a different decade's precinct configurations and that's a little bit harder now to add into but that is certainly something that could be but we haven't gone back that far.

We of course as I said we need precinct maps.

And how good is that data because what you will find in looking at precinct maps are that precinct numbers get used again and again.

But you got to know where the geography is.

And that geography dictates what kind of electorate is in those precincts.

So if precinct four, which used to be in an African/American community suddenly got moved and precinct four is now out in the suburbs, you can't look to just the number to say, hey, there's a shift of the African/American voting behavior.

No.

That's not the case.

It's the case that they simply move precinct four to a different part of the County.

So that is one factor that also comes into play so that you've got the same voters that you're looking at and analyzing.

There is another issue that could be the case in some states is absentee votes. Are absentee votes allocated out to the precincts? Or are they collected in one central absentee precinct within the County or the Township? We've seen both of those. Certainly if there is a central count then you can't tell what kind of people may be voting absentee because you can't tie it to the geography side of things. So it becomes a critical component to look at where the absentee votes are. And of course the absentee votes have continued to increase over time as more people are taking advantage of that. That makes it a little bit more difficult to tie that into the precincts depending upon what state law is for absentee votes.

And in the past decade there have been movements to go to vote centers and have information by vote centers. They are like mega precincts. But they may or may not be able to be -- have their results delineated by precinct. That can be a problem in terms of coupling together the database side of the cube and the political side. We haven't seen that so far in Michigan. But we are just now getting into that data. But this is one of the considerations that we always try to make sure we understand and consider when we are dealing with election data.

The key here is don't assume that returns are in one place. Luckily, we can find them in Michigan in one place. So that is an advantage. They are key punched here in the state. So that's a great opportunity and help, but that's not the case in a lot of different states in this country. And you got to keep in mind that assume could spell out different things when you look at the letters there. So be cognizant of that and don't assume things.

The data cube considerations from the geography side. We of course as we've said talked about the Tiger files and all of that. The political data. This is where we need at least three years of data. We are going back to 2012 on that side to get five years' worth of data. We can't always have data to know where it's coming from. So we have to be cognizant of that. We need to be cognizant of the whole decade and what's happened in terms of the political makeup of the state.

The racial bloc voting analysis as I said is important for the courts.  
It's also important to have other political data and political boundaries.  
We have the existing Congressional state legislative districts.  
And we are also cognizant of the City boundaries and how they may have changed over the decade.

And they could have an impact on the precinct boundaries.  
So you've got to take those into account and we can get from different versions of Tiger, they are the City boundary changes that may have occurred over the decade.

So what do we do with all these election results? Why do we have them? And what are we going to do with them all? That is called the disaggregation process.  
That is the way of breaking up the precinct-level data down to the census block.  
Because in the computer system and the mapping system, everything is covered and carried at the census block level.

Because as we draw districts, we may need to go down to the census block level and that's where we have the basic data all the way for the census data but also for the political data even though the political data is at the precinct level.

So we have to take that precinct level information and disaggregate it do you know to the block and that is the process I'm going to describe for you.

In other words we are looking at what percent of the precinct's vote could come from each census block.

And trying to see where that is.

Now, the factor that you have to take into account is that within the precinct you have no idea of whether or not the east side of the precinct is more republican or the west side of the precinct is more democratic, for example.

You don't know.

We just have a large entity called a precinct and this is the election results.

So the election results within the precinct are spread out the way that the precinct voted over all into the census block.

So that's the only way that you really know what's going on.

But it's making that big assumption that the data is spread out within the precinct the way the precinct has voted.

There are several different disaggregation methods that could be used and played with.

Very simply spatial, the GIS is famous for this.

It's commonly used in GIS.

It's looking at what's the area.

So here is a bunch of census blocks that I have used as an example.

This is the way the old Tiger files looked.

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And we can see where some streets are, some funny looking census blocks, don't know what they are, but we can use GIS to look at what's a square acreage or the square number of feet in each census block.

And we could use that as a way of disaggregating the precinct data, just doing it by area.

But that is not a great way of looking at things.

You could look at buildings on a census block and maybe you may look at old maps that have dots where there were buildings and use that.

You can see the way some of the census blocks overlaid on top of these.

The problem that you have is that some of those maps are kind of not in the greatest of shape and don't necessarily match up with the census geography more modern maps start to look at having data for that.

So for example in the Esry's site you will see where buildings are located.

And those are one of the under laid information that will have when we draw, if we Zoom down in, we could see how many buildings there are in each census block in that regard.

And we could count them up for example, in helping to disaggregate the election results.

We can look at the total population when we get it from the PL file and use that to disaggregate so in this series of pieces of census or a precinct, we can see for total population this is the way the census data delineates the number of people in that census block.

Or in the different census block.

So that may I be way of disaggregating the election information.

But total population has kids in it.

It's not people that are voting.

So we may want to look at voting age population as a better mechanism of disaggregation and when you look at the differences there you can start seeing some shifts of where some of the concentrations are of voting age compared to total population.

But this decade and starting in 2010, we started being able to start seeing aerial photographs.

And we could start looking at where there were buildings.

Now, this is an old map.

This is some of the old, old stuff that we used to utilize for aerial photography.

And not very great.

They were pretty grainy to try to figure out what was down there.

But modern day vintages of variable photography and things like what we can see in Google is a lot better.

And we can start seeing where there are the buildings on that regard.

This is, this census block that we were looking at before and the modern aerial photography starts giving us a clue of how to divide, say, if that is all one precinct, how to divide that.

Well when we have aerial photography, we can see that block that was down here is basically now a parking lot.

It's no longer got any people in it.

This area over here actually this is the old county courthouse.

And this is the fire department.

And this is the building that I used to work in.

That's the elections office, the clerk's office for the election Bureau.

Nobody lives there at least not when I was there.

We may -- maybe we are there many late nights on election night but nobody lives there.

What it is in this block is this apartment building up here.

And that's where all the people in that overall geography, that's where they live.

So aerial photographs now gives us a better look at where things are located and where people might be and more importantly where voters might be.

And that is how we can start making use of more modern technology and data to help us delineate and disaggregate the data.

So we can use geocoding of voter lists to be able to put those voters into a census block and be able to tally that and look at how many registered voters there are in each census block.

Here is a map of what we have done in other states where we have looked at that and counted up the number of registered voters at each house because we have been able to have a good capability of geocoding all the registered voters.

So we know how many voters there are in each of these census blocks on that side.

Through the geocoding of the registration file.

We will be using this technique with Michigan data.

We have asked to get a copy of the voter registration database from the Secretary of State's office.

So that becomes a critical part in terms of looking at and having data and information to disaggregate with.

In order to properly disaggregate the results one needs to know the precinct configurations for each year.

So that's why those boundaries of the precincts are so important.

And don't assume they will stay the same during the decade.

So the final goal is really to take election data, assigning it to census blocks so that election information gets tallied with the census data when you build the districts that you're drawing.

That's the way that we equate those two so basically the computer and the GIS are basically a big and fast adding machine.

That's what computers are good at doing.

We can use GIS to help that out in the drawing process.

But it needs the data underneath it to be able to tally.

And so that's why we put together all of this data and database in all of these different ways of dealing with it to get the information the most useful, possible in the redistricting side.

So, with that, I'm happy to answer questions from anybody.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Clark, is shaking his own head but he does have a question.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes, thank you, Kim.

The data is overwhelming.

The amount of data.

>> KIM BRACE: Yes, yes, that is right.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: So what I'm assuming from your last slide that this all gets processed particularly the historical data and all that, and it gets down to the census block level and then what we should be concerned about only, not that you have all those historical data, but we should be concerned that we get a good picture of the census block.

So.

>> KIM BRACE: Yes, that's correct.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: To utilize that and move this census block there or this census block there as we do the redistricting.

We as individuals, Commissioners shouldn't be concerned that you got 2010 data or what that is or 2012 data or election data. And I think Lisa will be, I think you will be and I think Bruce will be as they do their analysis and provide us recommendations. But we should be focused on the census block level and how that will roll itself into Townships and so forth; am I correct?

>> KIM BRACE: Yes, that is correct.

You will see what I have shown to some of you what the screen looks like. And we will have more time with Fred Hejazi with you in the next couple weeks to look at how that software works.

Remember that the map is up on the top and then there is the spreadsheet on the bottom.

That spreadsheet is the key, that's the results of that adding machine tape of taking the data and summing it up.

And various tabs will have the census information on it.

We will also have tabs with some of the political information.

That may you are correct it may be more important from Lisa's standpoint but it will be there for you as you draw if you want to see what impact that might have on the political data side too.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I think as we go through the training of the software itself, it would be very helpful for us if some of those things were pointed out relative to the data, not just how you move the lines and create districts but how that data relates to that.

>> KIM BRACE: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: And if that was incorporated in the training, I think that would be extremely helpful.

>> KIM BRACE: Right and I agree wholeheartedly.

Fred will show you a whole bunch of what all the bells and whistles are in the various tabs and the things in the menu to maybe show one thing or another.

But basically, yes, we will be focusing heavily on you understanding what that map looks like and how it can be utilized and that spreadsheet.

That is the key, those two component pieces.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Perfect.

I yield back, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Any other questions? Vice Chair do we have any questions via Zoom? Commissioner Eid has a question.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Thank you Madam Chair.

So about the historical data in question, I'm wondering is every year weighed the same as far as the data analysis goes? Or are more recent elections weighed a little more? And the reason I ask, just to give some context, is because I think it's important that we think about not only demographic changes that would affect all of the different steppingstones that you spoke of, but also law changes here in Michigan.

For example, in 2018, not only did the people of our state pass the provision to create this Commission, but there were also quite a few voting changes, you know, in the law. For example, no excuse absentee voting and same day voter registration, both of which are now in effect.

And while we have only had one major election since then so the jury is still out on what exactly that did, I think that is an important thing to think about when looking at those steppingstones.

So are those more recent elections weighed more or are they just, you know, is 2010 weighed the same as 2018?

>> KIM BRACE: Good question.

Part of it is how you want to work with the data.

What we have done and will be able to show you is each tab in that spreadsheet has the information for that election year.

It has the various offices that were on the ballot, it has the various candidates that were on the ballot.

So you will have a 2020 tab.

You will have a 2018 tab.

2016, 2014, 2012 tab.

Those will all be tabs that will be available to you.

We can and we have in other states, we've done some merger into a common DNR kind of categorization that takes the various data and then would be maybe weighed, whichever way is desired.

So that's when that comes into play.

But the basic information is there on the individual year by year tabs and so you can end up assessing, well, yeah, I'm more concerned about 2018 and 2020 than I am about 2016 or whatever.

We can basically deal with it both ways and so that you can end up seeing it either which way you want to.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: And, Kim, I think we have a question also from Commissioner Rothhorn.

>> KIM BRACE: Yes, sir.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Thanks Madam Chair it's mostly a shout out I think to the State of Michigan because I think what you said is Michigan has collected a lot of this information.

And is that the Michigan enhanced redistricting data access program? Is that what you're referring to?

>> KIM BRACE: That is one, yes, that is how the Secretary of State's office has been good in collecting all that information.

As I said in other states that I've worked at, I'm looking for that bird cage and the precinct map, you know.

That sort of thing.

You guys are much more advanced and that's why it's a lot easier to pull all this information together.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: And you've got how much data is that 20 years' worth of data, is that 30 years? We were given the information and I'm sorry I don't know it but I feel it's important to recognize it.

>> KIM BRACE: We have asked for this last decade.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Okay.

>> KIM BRACE: Clearly the Secretary of State I think does have stuff before then we could investigate that.

We have been mainly concentrated in this ten year period though.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Thank you.

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>> CHAIR KELLOM: Kim, it doesn't look like you have any further questions from any of the Commissioners.

>> KIM BRACE: Great thank you very much.  
I turn it back to you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you Kim and thank you Commissioners for again being so present and asking great questions for our continuing education. We look forward as always, Kim, in having you back and continuing to learn more. That will help us with this process.

So we will move now to item 7C which is resolution 2021.6.5. And it relates to our MICRC organizational chart. Hearing no objection, I'll have our Executive Director Sue Hammersmith proceed with this part of the agenda.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Thank you, Commissioner Kellom. Prepared for the Commission is an organizational chart for the MICRC so it clearly shows the citizens Redistricting Commission, the MICRC at the top of the chart. With links for mapping to both of the consultants, Kim Brace and Bruce Adelson who are working with this. Obviously, I report to you and serve at the Commission's pleasure. I'm here to serve and facilitate the business of this Commission. Typically all staff would report to the Executive Director. But in this case, both our General Counsel and our communications and Outreach Director have very close ties with the Commission, so I also drew lines that connect you directly because much of the work that they are doing also happens at your request. And then for reference the Commission has approved the contract that states that General Counsel Pastula is the person who manages the contract with Bruce Adelson. She should be your communication link. And that I manage the contract with the mappers, with EDS. And I would be the communication link to Kim Brace because if we have 13 Commissioners all going to our contractors, there is no way that we can manage a contract and determine the amount of hours that they have spent on our contract and manage the expenses also. So that is basically it. Also Sarah Martinez our new executive assistant does work for the three staff of the Commission. So that's our basic organizational chart and I would entertain any questions you might have.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, I'd like to make a couple suggestions. First, from our vendor point of view.

I realize Lisa works for Kim, but I think Lisa because of her role, her specific role in this deserves to be on this chart in an individual box.

I would almost say equivalent to Kim and Bruce because of the significance of her work. So that's one comment.

And let me I'll give you all my comments so you can respond to them.

The lines going from Edward to Julianne, up to the Commission, I think should be dotted lines because they report to you.

And so rather than having them as appearing on the chart as reporting to two different people, yourself and the Commission, I think it should be dotted lines up to the top.

And then the other item I had, and I think we may have discussed this a number of meetings ago when we first saw this, is that I think each of the Commissioners should be named just so everybody else is named.

You know, we got Kim's name bruises name your name Julianne's and so forth, I think each of the Commissioners should be named as well so those are my comments relative to that.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I'll jump in.

I only -- I don't have any comments really about the organizational chart I have comment because I think Commissioner Clark you just shared those.

I imagine and I mean, Sue, you can correct me if I'm wrong, but it appears that some of this was done with ease in mind in terms of how an organizational chart can appear.

So I'm actually fine with how it looks because I can't imagine how much more difficult or just esthetically it will look to have 13 Commissioners and dotted lines that to me that feels like a lot and I'm trying to be sympathetic to the work that has already been done in creating this draft.

But I see Commissioner Lange's hand is raised.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'm going to voice what you were just saying, Brittni.

I mean, the first thing that popped in my head is the word chess, and I think we all know what it stands for. And I think that is simple and that simply puts the organization, and I'm good with it.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I see Commissioner Rothhorn's hand.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: That was great, thank you.

And I appreciate the work in this and it looks to me like this is mostly about mapping.

What I'm thinking about is our let's say the number of vendors we have that are also in that Edward, Edward Woods, is managing with communications and outreach so I appreciate that you've got the organizational chart let's say for mapping.

And if I would agree and echo keeping it simple is maybe the most practical so I don't want to suggest that this is a missing something.

Because we may want to focus on the mapping piece for the organizational chart and I think because we are mapping, right, it's helpful to have a map this out and all the relationships so if we are going to sort of understand how outreach and I think there is a

lot of management that is happening there too that is related to vendor services similar to what is already recent presented on this so again I think you will help me understand what is the best way to keep it simple because maybe this is the mapping organizational chart which is what we are preparing for.

So I'll just offer that.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: It's my understanding that this is just a general chart and maybe the use of the word mapping is to clarify the relationship.

Does that make sense? Sue is fiercely nodding her head so I think this explains how we function like, okay.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: And I would acknowledge that there are other consultants but those basically work with Edward in the communications and outreach area.

So he is really responsible for managing those.

And that's not necessarily part of the direct mapping process.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioners, any questions? Further questions? Oh, Commissioner Clark, I'm sorry.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, and I think one of the key points from this chart, Sue, and I don't necessarily disagree with it is that the communications to Kim and Bruce are funneled through the staff.

Through yourself.

Rather than having the 13 of us do that.

So the line from Bruce to Kim to the MICRC are really dealing with the mapping process only and any questions we have outside of that would be funneled through you to the consultants.

And I think that is the key thing I get out of it.

The purpose of this.

And I don't disagree with that.

I just wanted to point that out.

I yield back.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Commissioner Clark.

I would entertain a motion to adopt resolution 2021.6.5 regarding the MICRC organizational chart.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: So moved.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Motion made by Commissioner Rothorn do I have a second?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Second.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Second made by Commissioner Witjes.

Is there any discussion or debate on the motion? Hearing none, all those in favor raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: All those opposed raise your hand and say nay.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Nay.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Can we get Erin to chime in too?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I just want to go on record I think it's superfluous and didn't need it but you have got my vote.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you Commissioner Wagner.

Thank you Commissioner Wagner the ayes prevail the motion is adopted.

And we will keep the MICRC organizational chart as is.

Moving further into our agenda, item eight future agenda items.

Hearing if there are no objections, we will have our Executive Director proceed with information regarding future meetings and agenda items.

Hearing no objection, Sue, you have the floor.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Thank you, Commissioner Kellom.

I just want to remind the Commissioners that tomorrow our meeting will be virtual from 9:00-1:00.

The sole purpose of that meeting is to talk about the redistricting process.

This is a culmination of the hard work of the committee that had long meetings on Friday and Monday chaired by Commissioner Witjes and the other participants were Commissioners Clark, Lange, and Eid.

So I thank them for all their work that the documentation will be coming out shortly to you.

We are also going to talk about a future calendar tomorrow and how many hours may be required of the Commission and the upcoming months.

So that's the agenda items at hand, more to follow.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much Executive Director Hammersmith.

Any discussion or questions? All right, hearing none we will move to announcements. Are there any announcements regarding the good or for the good of the order excuse me? No announcements.

Okay, without objection, we will have Sue do you have any announcements? Nothing, okay, just making sure.

Okay moving on to adjournment the Commissioners have no further business and there are no further items on the agenda to complete so I would entertain a motion for adjournment.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: So moved.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Motion made by Commissioner Witjes and second made by Commissioner Lett.

Any discussion or debate on the motion? Hearing none, all those in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: All those opposed Erin, I heard you all those opposed please raise your hand and say nay.

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The ayes have it.

And the motion carries, the meeting is adjourned at 2:17 p.m.