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MICRC

06/10/21 1:00 pm Meeting

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>> CHAIR KELLOM: Good afternoon.

As Chair of the Commission, I call this meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 1:01 p.m.

This meeting is being live streamed at YouTube.

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 Arabic translation services will be provided for effective participation in this meeting. e-mail us at Redistricting@Michigan.Gov for additional viewing options or details on accessing language translation services for this meeting.

People with disabilities or needing other specific accommodations should also contact Redistricting at Michigan.gov.

This meeting is being recorded and will be available at 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 along with the written public comment submissions.

There is also a public comment portal that may be accessed by visiting Michigan.gov/MICRC. This portal can be utilized to post maps and comments which can be viewed by the public. And the Commission.

Members of the media who may have questions before, during or after the meeting should direct those questions to Edward Woods III, our Communications and Outreach Director for the Commission at WoodsE3@Michigan.gov.

For the purpose of the public watching and the public record, I will turn the floor over to department state Staff Sarah Reinhardt who will give roll call Of Commissioners present this afternoon.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: 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 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.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

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.

>> 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 for roll call and three and adoption of the agenda as a reminder to the public watching you can view agenda at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC if there are no changes, I will now entertain a motion to approve the meeting agenda.

>> So moved.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Motion made by MC Rothhorn and second made by Commissioner Lett. Is there any discussion or debate on the motion? Hearing none it's moved and second that we approve the agenda all in favor raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: All opposed raise your hand and say nay. The ayes prevail motion is adopted. Moving to review and approval of minutes, we will now review and hopefully approve the minutes from the June 3, 2021, regular meeting in Dearborn and I

would entertain a motion to approve the motions from June 3, 2021, which are posted on www.Michigan.gov/MICRC.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: So moved.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Motion made by Commissioner Lett.

>> Second.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Second made by MC Rothhorn General Counsel, this is -- these are -- the motion is to approve the minutes from June 3, 2021. Regular meeting for Dearborn, yep. Any discussion or debate on the motion? All those in favor raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: All those opposed raise your hand and say nay. The ayes prevail. Motion is adopted. We have approved the minutes from the regular meeting in Dearborn, June 3rd, 2021. We will now review and approve the minutes from the June 3, 2021, public hearing in Dearborn I would entertain a motion to approve those minutes. Again, those minutes from the public hearing in Dearborn are posted on www.Michigan.gov/MICRC is there a motion for the public hearing in Dearborn June 3, 2021, minutes.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So moved.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I heard a motion from Commissioner Orton is there a second?
>> Second.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Second from Commissioner Weiss. All those in favor or any discussion or debate on the motion? All those in favor raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: All those opposed the ayes prevail and we approved the minutes from the public hearing Dearborn June 3, 2021

I don't think we have any more review and approval of minutes. So we are moving on to item five public comment pertaining to agenda topics. And we don't have any public comment for today. So we don't have any in person or remote public comments for today. So we will move to item six unfinished business. And item 6A is Executive Director Suann Hammersmith if there is no objection, we will have our Executive Director come to us and discuss first next steps with line drawing and the VRA legal counsel. Hearing no objection, Suann Hammersmith our Executive Director you have the floor.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Hello everyone great to see you today and last week it was kind of buried in the memo about changing the meeting time so I just wanted to raise it to the level of that it should receive because there's a lot going on right now with the new consultants being engaged.

We Julianne and I met one time with each of the consultants to get a sense of where they felt they needed to go in order to serve the Commission. So the list that is

provided for you is their list of all of the things they need to proceed with in order to get up and running to support the Commission.

I think you can all read, so the key with EDS right now is getting this center for shared solutions the CSS data to begin to build the database for the Commission. So without that there is very little that they can do. They need this data. Unfortunately the person that we were working with or persons we were working with one left his job and the other went on vacation so we have been a little slow to get that handled for Kim. But we are working on it. We also need to connect Kim Brace with DTMB and MDOS in order to get that software loaded on the Commissioners' computers so that will be another thing that needs to be done relatively quickly. We also want to connect Kim Brace with EDS Election Data Services with Dr. Hanley the racially polarized voting and Bruce Adelson and the voting rights legal counsel to ensure they are all on the same page and understand what each other is doing and working on. Another high need for EDS is to connect with Moon from EGG to begin to understand how all the data in the public comment tool can be accessed and integrated by our mapper. Also I will be gathering Commissioner questions so as you have questions for Kim Brace with EDS, please forward those to me. We will compile a comprehensive list of all the Commissioner questions. You can get those to me within the next week to ten days we will get them all to Kim Brace so then he can begin to answer those. Unfortunately my state phone is ringing from Kentucky. I don't know who that is. Sorry. Also there is continuing education that we want to -- that they want to bring to you, so Kim will start today with the data cube and those will be four 60 minute sessions when it's time for you to answer questions during that orientation. Other key areas will be incorporating communities of interest. And also talking about decision making processes. So that's what are the next steps with Election Data Services in order to get Kim Brace up and running and being able to do a good job for this Commission. With Federal Compliance the list is a little bit shorter. Staff has provided relevant documents to both of these consultants. Again, he will need to be connected with our mapper and with our PP analyst. There should be some orientation to him and his work also which he will share. He will be coming to meet with the Commission next Tuesday. There is a list for continuing education. There are nine items on that list. Eight and nine probably aren't that important. And I'm going to jump right in to travel expense reimbursement. If anyone is having trouble with that there are tutorials on the Kelly services site and I would encourage you to watch those tutorials so you can get up to speed and of course if you have any issues, please feel free to contact me and I will be willing to help you. So those are the next steps, the future agenda items that we initially have in our first meeting with each of these consultants and I would entertain any questions you might have or comments about the work in order to make it move forward in a smooth manner.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioners feel free to raise your hand if you have any questions or thoughts for Suann.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I will say thank you Sue this is helpful to have this break down and also helpful to understand what we are waiting for. I guess I'm wondering if there is if you and the staff can help the Commissioners right I guess I'm feeling like we are in our listening tour and I think we are focused on our listening tour and what I'm hearing maybe with this list is that we should stay focused on our listening tour and just be patient until and so the next phase will just come and we will just as Commissioners right our role is to listen right now and we will wait to hear from staff to help know how we can work with EDS and the next phase of mapping. Is that accurate?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Yes, it's accurate in the meantime while listening on your listening tour we will be working to handle these items and get them covered so by the time we get to July 2 when the Commission is ready to move into the mapping phase.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Sue, thank you Commissioner Rothorn if there are no further questions for Sue for unfinished business item A1 and there are no objections, we will have her move to discuss travel expense reimbursement.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Again just make sure those are getting submitted ideally on a weekly basis in one report so if you have questions, please feel free to reach out. Some Commissioners I don't think are submitting their expense reports so if you do want mileage reimbursement for travel or any other expenses, please get those in preferably on a weekly basis so again we can track our budget and know exactly where we are going.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Any questions or thoughts or comments for Sue on that point? Before she moves on to.

>> I have one.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Witjes.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: If I forget to send it last week can I put it on one or one each week.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: You can combine them please don't send me three or four or reports one is fine.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Even ones for the last week.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you Commissioner Witjes, Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I recall reading at some point that if you don't submit your expense reports in a certain period of time it becomes taxable income for you. So

that's I go back to what Sue said, I would encourage people to get those in right away if that is the case.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: That is the case. I think it's about 60 or 90 days if you are that far behind then they make it taxable to you so you don't want that to happen.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: For budget tracking if we are not planning to submit receipts just tell that e-mail you that? Is that true?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: That would be helpful. That would be helpful because I'm trying to wrap up the May budget so I can give a report to you next week on the budget. So it's really helpful to know where we are.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Hearing no other thoughts or discussion and if there is no objection, we will have Sue continue with her report and unfinished business and discuss the updated calendar.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: So this is provided to you as a result of the changes to your meeting and public hearing times last week. Also some of the locations have been added for meetings that will happen after the public hearings are over. So there are additions in July, August and September on this list. So please get them on your calendars as adjusted. And thank you for helping to make the Commission be hopefully I get a lot more work done the way the meetings have been changed and we can keep things moving forward.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Sue. Any thoughts on the updated calendar? Yes, Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Sue, where there is no location listed, we should we assume, we will be meeting in person and that location will be determined whenever we, yeah, that will be determined later or can we also assume we might be meeting virtually?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: I believe we can meet virtually through June. So we are meeting in person right now. If there is not a city by a date that city has not yet been determined.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you for that clarification. Hearing no other thoughts or really seeing no other hands raised, at this time we will move to item B under unfinished business and we will hear from Commissioner Clark if there are no objections about the process for working with EDS and Federal Compliance. Hearing none Commissioner Clark you have the floor.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Thank you chairman Kellom. This subject is near and dear to my heart to get a process put together not only on how we're going to work with EDS but how we will work with Bruce and Lisa as well as we move forward. I put a lot of thought into this. And I've come up with three options on how I think we should

move forward and after I finish speaking, I will put forward a motion for one of those options. First option was to have an individual sit down an individual being one of the Commissioners, sit down and work with EDS and Bruce and Lisa and develop the process where we are going to work with them so we all understand you know how we are going to do certain things, how we are going to adjust maps, what those processes are, how we are going to document things. And I have a few examples as we move forward. I had a conversation with our attorney Julianne and that does not seem like a feasible option because of some legal concerns. So we had a further discussion and have come up with a second option and that is to form a subcommittee to work with EDS and Bruce and Lisa again to develop what those processes are going to be. And we need their input. I mean it's just it's obvious that we need their input. They have gone through this before. They will have a lot of good suggestions. And I think it's efficient for us to form a subcommittee to do this. So I think that's the best approach as we move forward. Third option would be to have the full Commission work with EDS and Bruce and Lisa to develop the processes. And I don't feel that is very efficient using all 13 Commissioners, using the subcommittee approach I felt is much more efficient. I also feel that that's been our standard operating procedure and we should move forward with doing the same here. The other option I had, and I got this from reading some of the documents that have come across us is that a staff interface with the Commission plus EDS and Bruce and Lisa to put these processes in place. I didn't think that was a very efficient way to do things. I think what we do is if we took that type of approach is that we would get ourselves in a situation where things would not get communicated properly and not purposely by people but it just passing it from one to an intermediate and then working with the vendors and then passing that information back. I didn't think that was the best solution and I personally am totally against that. Let me give you some examples of what I'm talking about on the processes. And it gets these are not all inclusive. It gets further into this. I think we need to understand in our process how we get off a blank piece of paper. Do we do the Congressional maps first? Do we do the state legislatures map first? Or do we just do the State Senate maps first and what is the reasoning for that and how do we get off a blank piece of paper. One of the things we are hearing from all the public hearings that we've had is people want us to start from scratch. So it's not like throwing the existing maps on the table and doing things. They want those wiped out and move forward with a blank piece of paper. So how do we do that? You know, how do we even draw the first District? That needs to be part of the process. How do we interface with EDS? How do we interface with I'm assuming Kim is going to be doing the mapping or one of his subordinates. How do we interface with them and how do we say we want this line moved from here to here? And associated with that also is things we should consider is how do we vote on moving a line? And in my opinion because this is our final deliverables it should be the same criteria that we used to vote on the final maps. Now,

because that just drives us to that final solution. Now, the important thing is you know, how do we suggest moving lines and how do we vote on them and so forth? So that needs to be driven into the process. I also feel that part of the process should be how are we going to document our decisions and what documentation are we going to use and what is the document repository? We need to understand that. I remember Bruce giving us some advice when we interviewed him at one of the most important things is document your decisions. So we need to understand how we're going to do that. You know, and what mechanisms we're going to use. And then another example it would be that we need to document the entire process of working together with our consultants. And that needs to be something that we do before we even start and doing any of the mapping. So I really want to hear some of Bruce's and Lisa's and EDS's comments on that and I think the best approach, and I will put a motion forward that we create a subcommittee of the three people. You know, one republican, one democrat, one nonpartisan individual. And they go forward and begin and put together options on processes. So they come back to the Commission with a minimum of two options fully documented on how we're going to work together. And I'd like to put that forward as a motion. And then get some of the comments from the other Commissioners relative to that.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I'll second that.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Motion made by Commissioner Clark seconded by Commissioner Witjes. Is there any discussion which I imagine there will be? On what Commissioner Clark presented? Also thank you Commissioner Clark for that thoughtful presentation about, you know, where we are going and what that process could possibly look like. So any discussion on the motion? I see Commissioner Lange's hand raised and then Commissioner Wagner will be second.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I agree with it. I think the Commission has a whole we are in charge of doing these maps and I think we should be more hands on with the process. So I am definitely all for having a subcommittee.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you Commissioner Lange. Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I want to say basically the same thing that is how we have been doing things from the get-go and might as well continue it with a subcommittee with all three political parties.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: And thank you Commissioner Wagner. I'm going to get Sue then I'm going to move to in the room discussion.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: I would like a little clarification, please. So does that mean you're going to create one committee to meet with all the consultants? Or are you going to create a subcommittee for each of the consultants? And just remember these have to be open meetings too. So those will have to be conducted as open meetings. Just like our Commission meetings. So we will have to schedule meetings to do that so.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you Sue I'm going to hand the floor back to Commissioner Clark so he can clarify.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I will address it a very good question no the intent was to get all the people in the room at the same time. I think it's a lot more efficient that way. And that way all parties involved can hear you know the points of view of everyone as we put this stuff together. So that was the intent and I probably didn't clarify that well enough in the first place. So, yeah, that as part of that motion, yes, I mean the intent is to get all parties together and really like it's got to be Open Meetings Act, which is unfortunate because it slows things down at times. But it's the rules that we are playing by from the Constitution so we have to do that. Does that answer your question, Sue?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Yes, thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: You're welcome.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: And Commissioner Witjes and then Commissioner Rothhorn and Commissioner Lett.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I'm also in support of this and I want to also amend the motion to I'll give my rationale in a second because Doug put a lot of work into this and do want to go forward with the motion of having a subcommittee, but I want to make Doug Chair at this point right away.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Do I have a second for that amended motion?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I'll second that.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Second has been made by Commissioner Orton, sorry about that. All in favor to have pardon me, I'm sorry discussion on having on the motion of having Commissioner Clark as the Chair of the subcommittee should we vote and approve to have a subcommittee?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Excuse me.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes, Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I think we are getting ahead of ourselves. I think Dustin's motion is probably a little bit out of order until we set up the subcommittee then we open it up for nominations then it would be in order for a nomination.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay I can agree with that. Do you still have something to say on the point of discussion before Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I would like to hear from our General Counsel as to any issues that she sees with setting up a subcommittee and how they are to meet et cetera.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you Madam Chair to respond to Commissioner Lett's questions and I believe Commissioner Clark highlighted any subcommittee or committee of the Commission would be subject to the Open Meetings Act and require, again, the in-person meeting as well as the virtual which is required by the Constitution. Another issue to consider I think and Commissioner Clark and I have spoken about this

is that the interest in the full Commission in weighing in and discussing those options with the consultants. So whether the Commission thinks there is a benefit to having the time spent in the smaller group and then potentially equal or more time spent in the larger group when the full Commission has the opportunity to discuss those and also react to suggestions from your experts. Because again one of the best parts about hiring such qualified experts is the Commission has done is getting that feedback on how they worked in the past, what the best practices are, what they recommend. Of course understanding the Commission is ultimately in charge of this process and in charge of how the process unfolds and the work is done. Particularly Mr. Adelson who has experience working with the Arizona Commission in similar settings with open meeting with a multi-member body et cetera so I hope that was responsive Commissioner Lett to the question you raised. Again the Commission has the authority to form a committees, I would just encourage the decision again to be made on what would be the most efficient time of efficient time for not only the Commission but also for the experts as well. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you General Counsel for that clarification.

Commissioner Rothhorn did you still have any thoughts? Okay please share.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: So the spirit of this is clearly I agree with it. I think I want to make sure that we are seen as the Commission as setting the groundwork for this. And I'm also agree that we want to be efficient and I think what Doug has said is like is that we want to have all the people in the room and right and response to Sue's question and what I'm seeing about is how it may in the name of efficiency we may not be as efficient if we actually create a smaller body that has to have open meetings and then we have to repeat the same thing so to speak in the larger body. Right, this is our deliverable as Doug has stated. Like this is the most important thing we have this authority and for all of us, I'm thinking of public perception here at this point to delegate to one smaller committee in the name of efficiency to wrestle with these questions I think it may be actually redundant to come back to the large group the large body and so what I'm again thinking is that if we are going to have everybody in the room and if we have like multiple people with multiple and the diversity on our Commission is exactly why we are tasked with this, right, so have everybody in the room feels like a better use and maybe more efficient use of our time than having a small group of people, right, with all the consultants in the room but not all the Commissioners in the room. It may be less efficient actually. Those are my thoughts and again the other piece is public perception.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay, thank you Commissioner Rothhorn. I have Vice Chair Szetela and then Rhonda I see your hand and Erin I see your hand as well.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, I'm a little confused as to what the subcommittee is going to be doing because there were kind of two different concepts discussed one was kind of the broader, we need to set up processes in terms of how to interact with these

vendors. And then the second was sort of this concept of actually having the vendors at the subcommittee. Working through the process. All of them together. Which I think might be difficult to manage. I just want to make sure that I'm understanding what we're voting on are we voting on a subcommittee that is going to sit down and as a group of three or four decide okay here is the recommended procedures that we're going to set up in terms of how we are going to interact with vendors or are we voting on that subcommittee sitting down with the individual vendors as a group and coming up, with a plan collaboratively with the vendors and then submitting it to the full Commission? I'm not entirely clear on what we are talking about.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I have the same question so thank you Vice Chair Szetela.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Can I.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Clark you can cut in then I will go to Rhonda and Erin.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: The intent I had was to get all the folks that in the room and as far as in the subcommittee and the vendors and come up with a couple options to bring back to the Commission. However, I mean as we have done before and subcommittees and I believe it was the subcommittee where we hired Bruce, we only brought one option forward. And so we as a subcommittee and plus vendors may end up bringing only one option forward. And the full Commission would vote to operate that way or not operate that way. I think it's important to do this Rebecca because I don't want to walk in to our first mapping meeting without this sort of thing and have a 13 of us look at each other and say what do we do? You know, how do we get started? We need to think that out ahead of time and get those processes put in place. And so that's the whole intent on this. And then have something that is consistent and repeatable that we can follow as we go through the mapping process. You know we don't want to move a line with voting one way for the state legislature and doing it different for the Congressional. I mean we want to stay standard and have repeatable processes. In my opinion. So I hope that answers your question.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes, General Counsel sorry I was thinking and also Rhonda and Erin had a question. We want to.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: I wanted to restate the motion that is on the table for clarity. The motion that is on the table is to form a committee with one republican, one democrat and one independent affiliate of each selection pool to put together options regarding the process working with consultants. Minimum of two options was the language that Commissioner Clark used so I just excuse the interruption that is the motion that is currently on the table.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I would like to amend that and eliminate the minimum of two options because as we get into this, we don't know what we are going to see and we may just develop what we think is the best approach and bring that forward for

comment and adjustment. But I would also like to amend it to have a deliverable date by mid-July, to have this done by mid-July.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay can you restate the motion Commissioner Clark as you would like to have it?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I would like to eliminate the part about minimum of two options.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Then I would also like to add the deliverable from the subcommittee back to the Commission be done by mid-July, those two items. Okay I'm sorry. I'd like to eliminate the minimum of two options because we may end up only having one. Depending on how the committee moves forward. And that would be one that would be brought back to the full Commission to vote, to see if that's what our standard operating procedure would be. Then I also would like to add to the amendment that we have the deliverable brought back to the Commission from the subcommittee by mid-July.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: So Madam Chair at this point I believe Doug Commissioner Clark just advanced two additional motions to amend. And again I don't and we still have Dustin so I really feel this is an example of maybe the fullness of the discussion happening first to avoid this situation because unfortunately we really should not have more than two. And it's my understanding that Commissioner Witjes has some comments on his motion but as it stands right now Commissioner Clark has proffered two additional motions to amend that would be appropriate to see if there is support. And I believe that Commissioner Lange and Commissioner Orton were in the cue as well.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay, is there support for the two motions presented by Commissioner Clark? Pardon me? I didn't know which one we were doing. My apologies. So Commissioner Witjes, do you want to strike.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I will withdraw my motion that I put forward.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair I'm sorry I said strike meaning the first motion to amend was to strike the minimum of two options so I apologize, I was not clear. So I believe the question you raised was is there a second for the motion to strike the minimum of two recommendations.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Is there support to strike the minimum of two recommendations?

>> Support.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: By Commissioner Lett.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Support for adding the language that the deliverable is due in mid-July.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Support.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: And that is also support, it's okay, it's okay, and then that support is also provided by Commissioner Lett. Thank you for being patient I needed clarification on all of the motions that we have going on. Okay, so right now Commissioners we are preparing to vote for the motion to add the deadline, so to have the subcommittee but to have the deadline be June for General Counsel go ahead.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair, if you wants to pull the vote now or if I believe there was still discussion that Commissioners wanted to have. I just would recommend not making any more motions to amend at this point.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: That is what I was going to kindly say. Okay so Commissioner Lange go ahead and then I will hear from Commissioner Wagner. I was trying to clear some other voting business first because I want to hear from the two of you so Commissioner Lange and then Commissioner Wagner.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay in respect to what Julianne said full Commission versus a subcommittee I'm still on for the subcommittee. We have done it in the past. All of the full Commission can watch the subcommittee meeting since it's an open meeting so they will have the same information but knowing how we work as a Commission because we always have lots of questions when we are altogether, I think it would be more prudent to do a subcommittee in the essence of time. And I also have a question. It was said one person from each political affiliation. I know we've had other subcommittees like the litigation one that has four. So is that set in stone?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: General Counsel I think is going to provide you with a response, Rhonda.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Commissioner Lange, that was the form of the motion and certainly the Commission has the discretion as well in that regard. But that was the form of the motion that was originally made.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I was just going to say basically what Rhonda said with the propensity that this Commission has to debate things eagerly and lose track of where we are, I think it would be prudent to have a subcommittee.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you Commissioner Wagner. Any other discussion? Any other discussion? So we're going to move here backwards on our motions. The first is the added deadline so to have a subcommittee. And to have a deadline be what was the deadline General Counsel?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair the first motion to amend that the Commission would be voting on is to add the words to the main motion by a deadline, the deliverable, you have -- that the excuse me so that the first motion to amend the main motion would be to add the.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Other part.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: To add the deadline, the deliverable will be due in mid-July.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Okay.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: So that is the only motion before the body is whether to add the language to the main motion, the deliverable will be due in mid-July or deliverables will be due excuse me in the mid July.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Is there a second for that motion? Oh, no, I'm sorry all those in favor to have the that being added raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: All those opposed? Raise your hand and say nay. The ayes prevail the motion carries to have that language added for the deadline. Okay the second motion is to strike the two options, the language of the two options as Commissioner Clark explained there might be just one option as we had previously, so to strike the language from the original motion to have two options. Is there all in favor of striking that language for the two options please raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: All opposed? Raise your hand and say nay. The ayes have it. The language of the two options will be striked or struck excuse me. And now the original motion, sorry, I didn't see this. And now I'll go to Commissioner Witjes's motion or the amendment excuse me to make Commissioner Clark the Chair. To add the language of adding or to having Commissioner Clark be the Chair, all those in favor.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Point of order.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I believe he retracted that motion.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: By my records he did not retract the motion to have Commissioner Clark be Chair. I think he...

>> He did say it.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: You said it for the record.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: For the record I said it once before and I will say it again I withdraw my motion.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: I apologize I did not hear you state that out loud.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: I did not hear mill say that out loud either.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Okay.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Okay, so we will skip that. I think it goes back to the main motion if I'm tracking and using our notes correctly provided by General Counsel. That we are now prepared to vote for the formation of a subcommittee put together by one republican, one democrat, one independent. I know that Rhonda mentioned that there could be a fourth person. But I think we are just going with the go ahead.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: So the motion the main motion on the table as amended Madam Chair is to form a committee consisting of one republican, one democratic and one independent affiliating member.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Okay.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: To put together process for working with the consultants by a deadline, the deliverables will be due in mid-July. That is the amended motion.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay all those in favor for the motion as stated raise your hand and signify with aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: All those opposed raise your hand and signify with nay. The ayes have it, motion carries. Okay looking at the agenda, we are a little bit.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I would ask that we open the floor for nominations for the subcommittee at this time.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you Commissioner Lett. Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'll second what Steve said.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay, one moment, please

I was looking at the time any nominations for the subcommittee working with consultants? Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Actually I want to volunteer.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay, I'll take that. Any other nominations? Anyone else want to volunteer to be on the committee? Commissioner Witjes are you volunteering yourself or are you nominating somebody else?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Since it has to do with software, I would like to be on it. And the democratic side and then I also would nominate Doug as well.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: If he is willing, I would like to nominate Anthony for independent.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I accept.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: So we have Anthony, Commissioner Eid, Commissioner Lange and Commissioner Witjes. Is there anyone else that is interested?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes, I would like to nominate Richard.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you Commissioner Lett. Commissioner Weiss are you going to accept that nomination?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes, I will.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Weiss accepts so we have Commissioner Weiss, we have Commissioner Witjes we have Commissioner Eid, Commissioner Lange, anyone else?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Orton. I'm sorry, yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Apologies Commissioner's I believe your microphone was off when you spoke.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Sorry about that yes, I will accept the nomination.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you for your formal acceptance Commissioner Weiss and thank you Michigan Department of State for bringing that to my or our attention excuse me.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Commissioner Clark can we identify who is republican, democrat and independent out of these people to make sure we get one from each?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you yes may Madam Chair so currently we have Commissioner Lange is as a republican affiliate. We have Commissioner Witjes as a democratic affiliate. We have Commissioner Weiss as an independent affiliate. And we have Commissioner Eid as an independent affiliate. So Madam Chair the nominations have been put forward and the acceptances have been made. However, I would recommend or I would advise we need a second for the motion and since we have multiple candidates for independent that those votes should happen separately.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: We need to second it is that what you're saying? I will second that. And I also want to nominate Doug since it was his idea.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you Commissioner Orton second by Commissioner Orton as well as a nomination for Commissioner Clark if you will accept to be a part of the subcommittee.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: I will accept but I would prefer that Rhonda take it from the republican point of view.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Clark do you accept or not then?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I will not accept.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I will have Rhonda represent the republicans.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: We are allowed to say no here. But your input is always valued. Commissioner Wagner did you have a hand raised?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I did but I just thought that Commissioner Witjes had already nominated Commissioner Clark.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay, thank you Commissioner Wagner. So we have the subcommittee seconded by Commissioner Orton. And now we need to call for the vote for the subcommittee and then have an individual vote for the folks that are is that what you were saying General Counsel?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair the most efficient way to do this would be to have a vote for the independent candidate between Richard and then Anthony and then depending on the outcome of that vote because you only have Commissioner Clark you declined the nomination is my understanding.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Since Commissioner Clark denied the nomination that would leave you Commissioner Lange as the republican nominee and Commissioner

Witjes as the democratic so the vote between Commissioner Eid and Commissioner Weiss for the independent so it would only require two votes Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay let's do that now then.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I move that we vote for Richard and for Anthony and that it be a roll call vote, please R.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Second.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Motion made by Commissioner Lett and seconded by Commissioner Witjes. All those in favor of a roll call vote between Commissioner Weiss and Commissioner Eid raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: All those opposed? The ayes have it we will have a roll call vote between Commissioner Weiss and Commissioner Eid. I'll turn to Department of State staff Sarah Reinhardt for the roll call vote.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Hello Commissioners please indicate your vote by stating Commissioner Weiss or Commissioner Eid. I will start with Anthony.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I'm sorry do you mean voting on me or need to vote between one of us first?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: The motion on the table is to vote for the independent affiliate that would serve or that would be nominated to serve on the sub -- the committee to work with the consultants and the two candidates are Commissioner Eid and Commissioner Weiss.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I see in that case I will go with Commissioner Eid.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Eid.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Commissioner Eid.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Richard.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Commissioner Eid.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Richard.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner wise.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Commissioner Eid.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Commissioner Eid.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Myself.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Commissioner Eid.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Doug Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Commissioner Weiss.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: By a vote of 7-5 Commissioner Eid is appointed to the subcommittee.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: As a nominee.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Forgive me nominated to the subcommittee.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: So the motion I'm sorry not the motion the vote carries and Commissioner Eid will be nominated to participate in the subcommittee. So as it stands right now those nominated to for participate in the subcommittee are Commissioner Lange, Commissioner Eid, Commissioner Witjes, and do we have one more? Or I always want to add a fourth.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair the motion on the table is to vote on the composition of the committee to work with the consultants being again as you stated Commissioner Lange is the republican affiliate, Commissioner Witjes as the democratic affiliate and Commissioner Eid as the independent, that's the motion on the table.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Right I was trying to name the three for the motion but then I thought it was a fourth. So all those in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: All those opposed raise your hand and say nay. The ayes have it. The motion carries, the subcommittee will be Lange, Commissioner Eid and Commissioner Witjes for line drawing and next steps. Commissioner Clark go ahead.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I would like to put a motion forward to have Rhonda as the Chair of the committee.

>> Second.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Rhonda let's hear from Commissioner Lange because her face tells me Commissioner Lange unmute yourself and please share. That was perfect.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: You know, Doug, I appreciate that but you know me I don't like the limelight per se. So I'm going to decline being Chair but thank you very much for that.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay, is there anyone else that.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I'll do it and make a motion forward to make me the Chair of the subcommittee.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Motion for Witjes and is there a second being mindful of time. Second made by Vice Chair Szetela. Any discussion on the motion? All those in favor of having Commissioner Witjes be the Chair of the subcommittee raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Those opposed say nay Commissioner Witjes will be the Chair of the committee and the vote carries and the es have it.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Point of clarification real quick the committee it was stated that the subcommittee was for line drawing and next steps. For my understanding it's to establish a process of working with the consultants.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: You are correct it's for the process. I was reading the line item on the agenda. All right moving to item 7 orientation with Kim Brace Election Data Services. Kim will be coming to talk to us about the data cube and this is only part one of the discussion, so sorry for being behind schedule. Kim Brace you have the floor.

>> Kim Brace: Okay, thank you very much, members of the Commission. It's good to talk to you finally. I've just been sitting here watching you for the last four months, but it's good to be able to talk a little bit more with you. What I wanted to do today, and if someone could make me a cohost, because I have some PowerPoint things to present and share with everybody.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: This is Sarah with the Michigan Department of State you should be able to share your PowerPoint without being promoted.

>> Kim Brace: Okay sounds good. Okay can everyone see the PowerPoint here?
>> Yes.

>> Kim Brace: Good, let me go from the beginning. Okay and that is still showing? Good. Okay.

>> Yep.

>> Kim Brace: Thank you. As you know I'm Kim Brace. I'm head of the election data services. And we are here to present and talk about some of the data elements that people need to be thinking about. First off who is Kim Brace? I wanted to give some history. I've been intrigued over the last multiple months of all the questions that Sue has posed to everybody. So I thought it was only fair that you hear a little bit about me and what it is and when we have other people speaking from our team, I will ask them to give a little bit of background on that side. I have -- I was born in Denver, Colorado back in the 50s, got my early love of hockey being there since my grandmother was den mother of the Denver University hockey team. My father was in broadcasting, television. In Denver. But when I got old enough that I could play hockey my dad got transferred to Beirut Lebanon. And the only ice that was there was what was in your drink. So I never played hockey. I just love it. And any time I'm going to be up in Michigan, I'll see what the red wings are playing. But certainly from Anthony's standpoint because of my love of Arab food I certainly would love recommendations for a great Lebanese restaurant in Michigan when I get up there. I spent junior and senior of high school back in San Diego, California where my dad managed the TV station back there. Being a kid of the 60s I was glad to move away from parents. And I went to college across the country in Washington D.C. at American University. But I ended up working at a very early age by doing all sorts of different

jobs. Including I ran the switch board at my father's station over the weekends at that point. When I got to college at American University, I got a job with NBC news at the Washington Bureau that was down the street from the University. And I was the copy boy over the weekends at that. And at the same time I got an internship at the republican Congressional campaign committee. Tabulating election results by Congressional districts. And I started understanding data and the importance of that. That led to a full time job with NBC's elections unit up in New York City for the 1972 Presidential campaign. And I was basically advance man for Chancellor and Brinkley as their lead out in the country. In 1973-75 I worked for Congressional quarterly covered Watergate I was then employed by plus publications and I was the associate editor of election administration reports. And that's where I really got into heavily election administration issues with state and local county clerks around the country. In 1977, after being laid off or let go from my previous three jobs, I decided I better work for myself. So I started Election Data Services in 1977. We had a contract with some labor unions to analyze data. And because of the interest in election administration, we had contracts with the Federal elections Commission. The office of election administration. That led us in 1979 into the redistricting side of things. And I began billing databases for different states including the State of Michigan in the 1980 round of redistricting. Our redistricting work that went for now four decades ended up leading to Court cases and testifying. And then led to helping local Governments deal with the impact of redistricting on their communities including revisions to precinct boundaries And Street files for voter registration systems. And changes to voting equipment on the election administration side. It became a circular pattern each decade. Slight deviation happened in 2000 when the press discovered EDS was the only one that knew what kind of different voting equipment was used in every single county in the country. And suddenly I became an outdoor expert witness in the Florida recount case in 2000. But redistricting work has always been the staple we have come back to so over the past four decades we have helped nearly half the states in the nation on their redistricting work besides getting gray hair and becoming a sage that people can go to for advice and help, no matter the party or philosophy or branch of Government we kind of prided ourselves on that side. On a personal level I live in Manassas Virginia I have three grown sons and their families are in South Carolina and Georgia. I lost my wife unfortunately of 25 years last October. From a worn out heart, not from COVID. But I have been heavily involved in my local community. Where I serve as chairman of the historical Commission for the county. I'm on the board of the Manassas battlefield trust and the bull civil right table. Since 2008 I have been a poll worker with each election and served as in 2013 served as the acting general registrar for the county as I sought out a full time registrar.

I also have a love of scuba diving because my partner and I found a German submarine in 1975 off of North Carolina so I'm heavily interested in that. And I would love to do some more diving at that point in time.

That's kind of my background. On that side. So I wanted to let you know that of my full history.

We have been involved with lots of different things as it relates to redistricting. Let me stop for a second before I get into the education stuff that we want to get to. Anybody have any questions on what the heck this crazy guy is that is appearing before you?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I don't see any go ahead, Kim.

>> Kim Brace: So let's talk about redistricting. And also what EDS does. I forgot I had these slides. We do maps, I'll bring up a whole bunch of maps for everybody when I come up there. That look at that. As I said we have been involved with more than half the country on the redistricting side with lots of different issues as it relates to redistricting.

This is what we did in terms of voting equipment. We kept track of every single county in the country. And it's been a work of love to keep that database going on that side.

So but if it concerns elections and it deals with data we are probably involved as I always said.

So what I want to talk about today is first off, the steppingstones of the election process. I want to talk about the data cube for redistricting and the first component of that. And then different ways of reviewing the census and racial data at some point in time.

But first off what I want to do is I want to help educate you in a lot of different elements that will be important for you job. This may seem boring at the beginning or geez I know this or maybe not but I wanted to educate everybody on the same page so that you're all familiar with the various components that you will be dealing with and working with as we move forward. But it's important to look at it from a data perspective and a data element.

When one looks at redistricting, first off, we look at total population. That's an important criteria because we have to draw districts that are equal in population. But when you understand and look towards understanding the elections process, not everybody in total population can vote. You have to be of voting age. So voting age becomes an important criteria. And just 18 and over in most states and local Governments.

But not everybody of voting age can vote because in most places of the country they have to be a citizen. There are some differences in local Governments in some places. Like just north of me in Tacoma park Maryland. but usually you have to be in this country a citizen of voting age to be able to vote.

Not everybody that is a citizen of voting age, however, votes. Because you have to be registered. So registration is an important component in the process. But not everybody that's registered can vote because they have to turn out. And turn out is very important in the process and how redistricting is impacted.

They don't all vote for everything. Not everybody votes for president. When president is up on the ballot, and for other statewide offices, they don't always vote for the highest office. For Congressional or state legislative, but what you see, this is a steppingstone of data. And what is important from this standpoint is that indeed the demographic mix of the electorate at each of these steppingstones is different. Hispanics are more impacted by the question on citizenship obviously. But there are differences as it relates to the demographic mix of the electorate at each of these stages. That's part of what racial bloc voting helps us understand and understand what that kind of mix is. What you start doing in analyzing this and seeing it also changes with each step of the process.

So each of these steps have a different racial mix as it relates to redistricting.

It also changes by different geography. Wayne County, Detroit, up in Lansing, wherever, it's different there. Each of these steppingstones are different there. And so it's important to be able to understand that difference and that helps us understanding what the potential impact of redistricting has in the local geography.

And, secondly or thirdly, it changes over time. There are shifts that go on with each election. And so from a standpoint of understanding this but more importantly studying it and utilizing the information you got to have a full scale database that gets you all of these elements in terms of redistricting. And so that is part of what we will be putting together on that side so we will know and have a feel for each area of the state as it relates to all of these steppingstones as it relates to the demographic mix and as it relates over time in that regard.

Now, what we end up doing is and when we are looking at redistricting is we've basically looked at this as a data cube. And so what it looks at is looking at the source of the data, that's along the bottom there. And the sources of data for redistricting certainly are the census data and that information. But then also the political information and the political data. That way we can understand the political impact of the districts even if we are not drawing them in favor of one party or another. We need to understand what that impact is.

It's also looking at the type of data that we're looking at. So are we looking at tabular data, the numbers that it relates to? The tabular data deals with both census and with political information. But also spatially, what is the spatial mix of both the census and the political side of things. This is the data cube and what we are going to do over these next four meetings that I have with you is go through each of these data cubes. Each of these pieces of the data cube.

Today I want to deal with 2020 and what's the geography coming from the Census Bureau. And what are the elements that we're going to be having in looking at and seeing on our maps and I want to show you how that comes together. And looking at both the Tiger files as well as other boundaries to show us information.

So what is Tiger? This is going to be a quiz test for everybody by the time we get finished. What is Tiger? Well, it is Topologically integrated geographic encoding and reference system. Tiger down the side. This is what the Census Bureau utilizes to show geography. And I want to spend some time with you to understand the geography that we're all going to be dealing with. And in most instances, it's coming from the Census Bureau.

In fact, the Census Bureau has already released the Tiger file for the entire country. They did that in February. So we have the capability of looking at and we have and I'm going to show you some of the examples of Tiger as it relates to the State of Michigan.

It's important to understand some of the hierarchal structures of the geography. The Census Bureau utilizes this extensively. And as we get into this you will start seeing why.

But basically this hierarchical structure the Census Bureau talks about the spine of geography. That is down the middle from nations to regions to divisions to states, to counties, to census tracts, the block groups and the blocks. That is the spine of geography. Everything else is what the Census Bureau calls off spine. So townships, and civil divisions. Voting districts. They are off spine. And they are made up of not block groups or tracts but they come straight from the census block standpoint so it's important to understand how these things operate and how connections there are. So when we draw Congressional districts or state legislative districts, we are drawing that down at the block level. We are down at that level in order to get the geography to then sum up now in many instances we are taking a whole Township and so it's all the blocks in that Township but basically from a redistricting standpoint we are going down and grabbing everything from the block level in that territory and we will show you as we go forward how that operates in terms of the software on that side but that is after we get some of these basics now.

So for Michigan you have 83 counties in the state. You had 83 in 2010. You will see down at the bottom and you still have 83 in 2020. Last time we had changes in the nation for counties was the state of Colorado back in I think it was 1990, they added a county. But basically county and county Government has been with us for a long, long time. And the Census Bureau reflects that in the Tiger files.

The Tiger files have capabilities of seeing what are the counties and I will show you how they do that. But we can use that information to draw maps like this. So we can see where the counties are located.

But we can also look at lower levels of geography. If you notice that the spine there looking at townships or county subdivisions in the State of Michigan you got 1240

townships, haven't had any changes since 2010. But we see that there are now 280 cities in Michigan, which is an increase of five since the 2010 census on that side. So there is changes on that, in that regard.

But townships are for the State of Michigan very, very important as all of you know. That's what you have been hearing from the public all these times too. So townships are key and those are pieces of geography that we know about and we have information on and we can draw with in order to make up the districts with townships in that regard.

We also have cities. Somebody have a question? I will take questions as we go through this.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: It's not one of the Commissioners Kim, it's someone else who is on the call just a reminder to people who are listening please be on mute if you are not speaking, I apologize for that.

>> Kim Brace: No problem, no problem so from the standpoint of the Census Bureau has this thing called places. That is their generic terminology for cities. If you talk to census people, they are all talking about places and everybody says, what are you talking about? What do you mean? Places? We tend to think of them as cities but they are also villages and the Census Bureau even sets up census designated places. And we have some in Michigan. And they have grown since 2010 on that side. We had five less villages in 2020 than we did in 2010. I can't tell you right now who the five were. But that's the difference that took place there.

And you can see how the relationships of some of these are. The cities in blue, villages in red but they are probably much smaller. And these census designated places is another way of looking at things. Sometimes they are not incorporated in that regard. But they are recognized as census designated places.

All of these may be things that people as we have our public hearings people may be talking about. And so we will be able to track those and luckily from the Census Bureau's Tiger files we will know where they are in that regard.

The Census Bureau set up back in 1970 they set up a thing called census tracts. Census tracks average about 4,000 in population nationwide. But will show you where it varies somewhat greatly in Michigan. But generally it's about 4,000. They were set up by demographers back in the 1970s and the goal was to have geography that would stay consistent over time. So that the demographers could begin understanding what is happening in this part of the state or that part of the state. This part of the county or whatever the case may be. And so they tended to try to reflect geographies that demographers felt were important then and the Bureau has tried to carry those forward.

Now I will show you how they do that in terms of data elements in a couple minutes. But they are basically they can change. Usually they get subdivided by the demographers in subsequent census. But there is a way of tracing it back to the original ones from 1970.

So we've had in 2020 we've had 204 more census tracts created this time than we did in 2010.

There is also a thing called voting tabulation districts. You will hear the term VTDs. That's not some disease or anything like that. Sorry about that but VTDs are voting tabulation districts. We know them as precincts. That's what most of people in most states think of. But the Census Bureau generically calls them voting tabulation districts. They are defined by the state under the what's called the public law 94171, the Census Bureau at the behest of national conference of state legislatures following the 1970 census, that was the first time we really had to deal with redistricting because of one person, one vote. When we had that Revolution from the Supreme Court, we had to know where people are. So the Census Bureau put together all these normal geographies and sent it to the states and most of the politicians doing redistricting said what the heck are census tracts? I don't recognize census tracts. I don't know these things called block groups that doesn't make any sense for me as a political animal. I know precincts. And so in 1974 Congress passed a law which became 94171 to allow the states to define precincts. That various processes have changed somewhat over the decades. But it's basically letting the states define the precincts. It has gotten a little bit looser in what states have done and I'll show you some examples of where now we are able to more closely follow what would be real precincts as opposed to in the olden days, we had to follow what's called visible features.

The Bureau loosened that up this last decade. Which meant that we and us in particular have been able to better draw what are the precincts that are in use in the jurisdictions.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Kim this is Commissioner Clark I have a question. What is the significance of a VTD if we know that we're going to change all the districts like we are going from 14 to 13 or are we even going to shuffle around the State Senate districts so why is that even important to know when we know that is going to get changed?

>> Kim Brace: That is a good question and that is something if you go to talk to town, city and county clerks they will ask that exact question. Why do I need to change my precincts? What are you doing to me in terms of drawing your districts? You're splitting my precincts. That comes into play, but having the precincts there for the purposes of mainly showing some of the demographic and political makeups of the direction to look at things like competitiveness in terms of the districts that are being created. All of that comes into play with election returns. Yes, indeed you're correct and in some states sometimes they draw the precincts first and then draw the districts being made up of whole precincts. In most states however, they draw the districts first, sometimes following precincts but not always. And then the counties and the towns define the precincts afterwards when they start dealing with what did the state legislature or what did the Commission do to me in splitting me up and how can I have geographies that

people can vote at. And so that's the redefining of precincts. But generally that happens after the districts are drawn in most jurisdictions. I say most, there is a big controversy going on in the state of Massachusetts right now of who goes first on that side. But Commissioner Clark you are correct that it is something that's there and it may not be important. But it will be important for the county and the city clerks as they look at the precincts that they run their elections under. We will talk more about that because we spend an awful lot of time about that.

The key on the Census Bureau's voting tabulation districts is that in many instances they are rough approximations of the precincts that are used by the town clerks and the city clerks and the county clerks. And they have gotten better over time. But they still in some states may be rough approximations. So that people can kind of get a feel but not an exactness feel of the data as it relates to census.

So we end up looking at what is the exact precincts. And look at those more closely. And I'll show you some examples of that.

When we look down below the census tract, there is a thing called block groups. Block groups average about a thousand in population around the country. Why are bloc groups important? Well, bloc groups are where you get the sample data out of the census. And where you get the things like what's called the American community survey. The ACS numbers. Where you start looking at beyond the racial mix you start looking at ethnicity, ancestry, bloc groups are where you get income data. You will start getting other kinds of demographic characteristics that may not be available down at the bloc level but are available at the bloc group level.

We've had an increase in some 181 of bloc groups in the State of Michigan. And I'll show you more about some of that. But bloc groups are an important characteristic for the Census Bureau. And it is something that we are looking at closely because it may be impacted by this whole thing that you will hear more of, of disclosure and avoidance privacy issues that the Bureau is dealing with. So bloc groups are one important characteristic. And potentially an even stronger one.

Below the blocs or below the census bloc groups there are blocs. And as you can see it's pretty much the entire state is covered by census blocs. That was not the case in 1970. Because census blocs were not in rural areas. But following the 1980 or 1990 the state has and the country the Census Bureau now blocs the entire nation. So you can get data down at the bloc level on that side.

Now there was a significant change in blocs for 2020. When they went and created blocs in 2010 and algorithm created those, looking at just visible features. And all of a sudden there was a census bloc in the median strip along a freeway. Or all sorts of different areas that were kind of a potential of a boundary and the computer automatically created those census blocks but when people started using that and looking at that in the 1910 round of redistricting, I mean sorry 2020 round of

redistricting, people started saying this is too many. And so the Bureau in the past decade has made an effort to cut down the number of blocks. And indeed Michigan cut down 75,000 blocks in the state. Basically it was though in stuff that was not really important on that side.

What's the average population of a census block? Well, 37% of census blocks in Michigan, sorry about that, hold on just a second. I'm on a conference call.

37% of census blocks in Michigan had no people in them. This is 2010. We don't have 2020 data yet, of course. We will retabulate this when we get this August 16th. But basically an awful lot of census blocks in the state have nobody in them. Census blocks are geography. It's not governed by population. It's governed by geography on that side.

Some of them are very small. The average size of the populated blocks in Michigan was only 48 people in 2010. So you can see some of the differences that takes place.

There's not many of them that are over 500 but there are 898 and I'll show you some examples of the whoppers on that side.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: This is Commissioner Clark and I have another question. Do census blocks do they span counties? So let's say half of a census block is in one county and half is in the other?

>> Kim Brace: No census blocks are built in the county and not crossing counties. I will show you some of that also here. But good question. But.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: One of the things we are hearing in the public hearings is to keep the counties and the townships together.

>> Kim Brace: Right. In that instance you would keep census blocks within their own county.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Kim this is Commissioner Szetela I did want to give you a heads up I know we cut into your time U be we have a hard stop at 3:00 today so we will ask you to stop at 2:45 and I know you probably won't get through everything but if you can save what you have for next week or when you back before us, I would appreciate you stopping at 2:45 I'm sorry we over talked your time.

>> Kim Brace: No problem, no problem so from the standpoint of just the census blocks, here is the hierarchy of what the Census Bureau looks at as a census block in urban areas here on the left hand side. So counties are made up of census tracts and sent Tuesday tracts are made up of block groups and block groups are made up of blocks. A block is defined by the physical features. So if one were to start at a point on a census block boundary and turn right in each instance so you go along Eerie Street when you hit an intersection with oak is the next one you turn right and then you start turning right or whatever direction there might be of any visible and physical feature. So that by the time you come back down Main Street to get to that beginning point now you have created a census block. Now this is a census block made up of easy to recognize streets. But they are not always recognized by physical streets. It

may be a stream. It may be a river. It may be a city boundary for example. Maybe a boundary for a census block. So there is lots of different ways of defining a census block but that is basically the component pieces that we deal with.

In rural areas we are dealing more with the townships but we are also dealing with cities and places and how that comes into play. But urban or rural we all now go down to the census block from that side.

The Census Bureau also has within the Tiger file the districts. The current State House and State Senate and Congressional districts. So we can get that geography defined in the Tiger files in that regard. They have other things. They have tribal lands for example. Here is one of the largest reservations Isabella in Michigan. So we can define and we can see where that is and be able to help and utilizing that as some criteria that you might have heard you wanted to have but we can be able to define that properly.

The key on some of these data is based upon the geographic codes. And that's what is important in this and shows you a state code of two digits, a county code that adds three digits to it so it's 48201, 201 being the county of Harris in this instance. A Township or a CCD in this instance. Adds another five characters. The cities start at the county and just go straight to the city. There's no interveningness in that sense. So cities have a 7 digit character.

It's not something that is added to the ten. But back to the normal way of looking at geography when we get down to the census tracts census tracts are six digits and what happens is that that 2231 there was the original census tract that was drawn in 1970. If they divided then they have a two digit extension to that census tract. So in this instance this census tract the extension is 00. It hasn't been divided yet but there are instances in Michigan where there is an O1 and a O2 or whatever the case may be.

Within the census tract you have block groups. That adds one digit. The block group is the first character of a block number. So a block number is four characters. The first of which is the block group. So that's where you have the 100 series is block group one but it's made up of 101, 102, 103 that sort of thing. We will be utilizing those as a way of helping to define the geography that we're going to be drawing with on that side. But there's the key on where things are.

You end up putting them altogether. And things overlay. So you've got the census tracts in black the block groups in red and census blocks are down there in little, tiny pieces on that side but they all fit together in most instances.

Now if we look at it in one other way and we can look down and Zoom in to for example Wayne County and we can see the county's subdivisions or the townships within Wayne county. We can look into that subdivision and we can see the voting districts that are within that subdivision. And that Township. Within the voting districts we can see the census tracts that makeup that voting District. At least the parts of the

census tract, census tracts will go over and cross over voting districts. So it's not always inherent within a voting District.

And then within tracts we have the block groups and, in that regard, they formed the part of it and within the block groups become the individual census blocks. So we will have all of that kind of information and data as we are drawing on that side.

There is some unusualness in Michigan. But we have capabilities of seeing where different entities are. So the University of Michigan has multiple different pieces to it. In its geography and Michigan state is basically one whole big set of geography. Connected altogether. So think of that when people say keep my University together or whatever the case may be. We should be able to see that but we may have problems depending upon which University and how spread out they are.

The key on the census geography and Tiger is ultimately down at The Street level because those streets carry the name of the street and the address range of the street. That lets us then do what's called geocoding. Here is an instance where we had voters and we could peg them into the house where they are because we had a good capability of seeing E911 information and we could see where there were voters or for example, in this area that house number ten didn't have any registered voters in it. In that instance. This is the kinds of things that now the modern technology can help understand where things are connected or not connected. But certainly the benefit that we are seeing over the past multiple decades is that things now start matching up. In old times there was rough approximations of where the street was. It wasn't until the last decade where we had aerial photography that was much better that we could start seeing how it overlays with this. And so now as we start drawing, we have the capability of seeing where the aerial imagery comes into play. But we also have problems potentially coming in to play. Here are some instances in Michigan in looking at what the Tiger file has for Sylvan lake city as it relates to then what the state has in the state file in red. It's a little bit different in Tiger's instance. And what does that do in terms of the people that live right between these two areas for example? We had to do a bunch of cleanup and what about the person that live in this house here? Are they in the city or are they outside of the city? That is the kinds of things that you can now use GIS for to take a look and that's what registered voters will be looking at or registrars and county clerks will be looking at.

But we also see the potential of discrepancies for example the Congressional District boundary that's in Tiger is not it's slightly different in this census block as it relates to what the state file says it is. So that's something that we will be investigating in that regard.

I've gone four minutes past. I apologize so let me stop here. I do have some other ones but this is probably a good point in time to stop and let you guys get on with the remainder part of your meeting. And we will carry it forward from here on next week.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much Mr. Brace we are so happy to have had you and that was such good information. I know that I can speak for us all and we look forward to hearing some more from you. At this time so we will see you again I don't know if it will be next week or we will see you soon to hear more. What were you going to say I'm sorry?

>> Kim Brace: I thought it was next week so.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: See you next week thank you again and have a great rest of your day.

>> Kim Brace: Thank you there.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Moving on to new business agenda item 8A, if there are no objections we will hear from our communications and Outreach Director Edward woods, III who will provide a communications and outreach report. Hearing no objections Mr. Edward woods, III you have the floor.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you. Thank you, Chairperson Kellom. Greatly appreciate it. Just want to confirm the dates back in April the MICRC voted to go to the universities and to have the confirmed dates and locations and just wanted to share that with you. The dates of September 2 and 9 were iffy. September 2 will be at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. We were unable to negotiate with the other school and with time is of the essence we will be at University of Michigan in Ann Arbor on September 2. September 9 we will be at Ferris State University. September 9, Ferris State university. September -- University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Ferris State in Big Rapids and September 16th Grand Valley State University in Allendale Michigan. September 23rd we will be at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant and September 30th we will be at Oakland University in Rochester Hills. And then I want to confirm last week's Commission voted about going to Southwest Michigan and Grand Traverse for its weekly meetings of July 15th, we will be at Lake Michigan College in Benton Township. Benton Charter Township in Michigan and then on August 26th at the Grand Traverse Hotel. Tentatively those meetings are all scheduled from 1:00-4:00 but would appreciate the Commission having the flexibility to see if we could do it from 4:00-7:00 to increase the turnout of people in the local area, for the universities in particular their interest in having Commissioners come to classes or meet with campus groups and have more of an engagement with each and every one of you. So just wanted to see how you felt about the flexibility in terms of working with that but we are working with two direct groups and I really want to thank and I want to get the names correct, Samiya with campus election engagement process project I'm sorry and Ellen Weirman who are both working very hard to make this happen on behalf of the Commission as well as college and University students. So Madam Chairperson just asking for the Commission flexibility as relates to the start time of the meeting whether it's 1:00-4:00 or 4:00-7:00 on those dates.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Thank you. Yeah, I would like to put a motion forward to give Edward the flexibility to make those changes.

>> Second.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Motion made by Commissioner Clark the second I believe was made by Commissioner Witjes. To change the meeting or to have the flexibility to have the time from to be 1:00-4:00 or 4:00-7:00 Commissioner Lange did you have?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: My computer actually froze so I didn't hear any of that so I'm going to abstain from voting so we don't have to repeat it because I know we are short on time.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay.

Well Edward go ahead and repeat it quickly.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Commissioner Lange September 2 at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor's campus. September 9 Ferris State University. Big Rapids. September 16th, Grand Valley State University Allendale. September 23rd central Michigan University. And Mount Pleasant and September 30th Oakland University in Rochester Hills.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Lange does that clarify?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: So what is the motion for? I'm sorry.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Motion is no, no, no the motion is to allow Edward woods III to give him the flexibility to just not stick to just the 1-4 time frame to also be able to depending on the facility let the time be 4:00-7:00. Does that need clarification?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: No thank you, thank you, sorry.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay, and General Counsel, can you provide the motion on the floor before we vote for clarification for everyone?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: My understanding of the motion was that instead of 1:00-4:00 Mr. Woods was requesting it to be 4-7 to set the meeting times.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: I wanted the flexibility.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Flexibility to choose is what I understood.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Because each campus may be different in terms of their community outreach and the presentations that they're requesting so we need a hard time.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: No what I would recommend is again for the Commission to adopt the meeting times and I know the dates are...have already been accepted but really for the matter of notice and being able to generate those notices and the public's notice if again the flexibility is fine but just understanding that it will come back with the set days and times. As it has done in the past. So my understanding of the motion on the table then is the flexibility to set the dates that Mr. Woods and I won't list them again, they were read into the record though twice at this point so for the dates both in September on and then also September 15th and August 26th to grant the

communications director the flexibility in negotiating the meeting time either 1:00-4:00 or 4:00-7:00 is that accurate?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: That is accurate the dates are set, are confirmed. We are only talking about the times on those dates.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: All those in favor of the motion as stated please raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

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

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Nay.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: The ayes have it the motion carries. We are allowing Edward woods III our communication and Outreach Director the flexibility on the dates provided to either have the time be 1:00-4:00 or 4:00-7:00.

Moving on to future agenda items. Edward woods III go ahead.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: I want to say campus select and campus engagement project are the two organizations that are working with the students at each of these universities and then also let you know to the Commission that we are coming back next week with a report of our public hearings in terms of our eight public hearings our 50% mark, what we think went well, what we feel are some gaps and how we can improve so just kind of share that with you. As welcoming next week and if you have some ideas for things that should be considered to please e-mail them to me so we can make sure we have a great report. Thank you very much Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you communication and Outreach Director Edward woods III for your report. We will now move to future agenda items. And I believe if there are no further or no objections that will be brought by our Executive Director, Sue Hammersmith.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Good afternoon again. I believe most of the continuing education for the future was already covered, but next Tuesday we will have Bruce Adelson with us from Federal Compliance and he will present on race and redistricting. Kim Brace will be presenting on four consecutive Thursdays so we will see him next week and the two following weeks. Assuming we give him enough time to finish his four segments of the data cube. I would ask if any Commissioners have other agenda items they would like to have added to next week's agenda or future agendas, please speak now.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioners is there anything that needs to be added for future agenda items? Okay hearing none we will move to item 9 on our agenda for today, this afternoon wrapping up. Are there any announcements? No announcements. Okay, as the items on the agenda are complete and the Commission has no further business for this afternoon a motion to adjourn is in order.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So moved.

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>> CHAIR KELLUM: I'm going to say Commissioner Orton with the motion and a second by Commissioner Lett, all in favor raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: All opposed raise your hand and say nay. The ayes have it. Motion carries. And the meeting is adjourned at 3:00. .

[Meeting concludes]