



Oct. 13, 2022

The Honorable James Stamas, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

The Honorable Mary Whiteford, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-0846

Dear Senator Stamas and Representative Whiteford:

On behalf of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC), please accept our appreciation for providing a timely response to our Oct 4, 2022 letter.

Considering the historical perspective, we would like you to reconsider the Constitutional language requiring the Legislature to appropriate funds. Please note the wording below.

“The legislature shall appropriate funds sufficient to compensate the commissioners and enable the commission to carry out its functions, operation and activities, which activities include retaining independent, nonpartisan subject-matter experts and legal counsel, conducting hearings, publishing notices and maintaining a record of the commission’s proceedings, and any other activity necessary for the commission to conduct its business, at an amount equal to not less than 25 percent of the general fund/general purpose budget for the secretary of state for that fiscal year.”

As responsible stewards of taxpayer funds and in compliance with the Constitution, the Commission will return all funds not expended in the fiscal year. In our case, this means FY 2022. Here’s the language.

“Within six months after the conclusion of each fiscal year, the Commission shall return to the state treasury all moneys unexpended for that fiscal year.”

Although we have unexpended funds, we are unable to spend them unless the Legislature reappropriates them as a part of the FY 2023 budget “at an amount equal to not less than 25 percent of the general fund/general purpose budget for the secretary of state for that fiscal year.” As you may know, the Commission returned \$20.90 in unexpended funds for FY 2021.

We would identify this as an exigent funding circumstance because we do not have an appropriation for the budget for FY 2023. In addition, as noted in our Oct. 4, 2022 letter, we still have two pending cases (Agee, Jr. et al. v. Benson et al. and Banerian et al. v. Benson et al.) in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan. Consequently, the work of the Commission is not complete. Please note this constitutional language.



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“The terms of the commissioners shall expire once the commission has completed its obligations for a census cycle but not before any judicial review of the redistricting plan is complete.”

As an independent and nonpartisan legislative body established by Michigan citizens, we request that, no later than Thursday, October 20, 2022, the Legislature take immediate action by either: 1) approving the MICRC FY 2023 budget, or 2) authorizing the MICRC to use the unexpended funds FY 2022 funds toward the FY 2023 budget.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please get in touch with me at Woodse3@michigan.gov or 517-331-6309.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward Woods III'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Edward Woods III
Executive Director