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## MICRC

12/15/22 1000 Council Meeting

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>> CHAIR WITJES: Good morning. As Chair of the Commission, I call the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 10:00 a.m. Eastern.

This Zoom webinar is being live streamed on YouTube at Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission YouTube channel.

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.

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

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

This meeting also is being transcribed and those closed captioned transcriptions will be made available and posted on Michigan.gov/MICRC website 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 both the Commission and the public.

Members of the media who may have questions before, during or after the meeting should direct those questions to Edward Woods III, our Executive Director and at [WoodsE3@Michigan.gov](mailto:WoodsE3@Michigan.gov) or 517-331-6309.

For the public watching and the public record I will turn to the department state staff take note of the commissioners present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Good morning, Commissioners. Please say present when I call your name. If you are attending remotely and, you should be because we all are, let us know where you are attending from stating the City, Township or County you are attending from. I will call on Commissioners in alphabetical order starting with Doug Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present. I'm attending today's meeting from Huntington Beach, California.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Present; attending remotely from

Detroit, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

Brittini Kellom?

I saw that Brittini is on but may be having technical difficulties so I will return to her at the end.

Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Present; attending remotely from Osceola County, Michigan

Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present from Lee County, Florida

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present; attending from Battle Creek, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Present, attending remotely from East Lansing, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Present. Attending remotely from Wayne County, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present. Attending remotely from Highland Township, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Present; attending remotely from Charlotte, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present. Attending remotely from Saginaw Township, Saginaw, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present; attending remotely from Tuscola, Illinois.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I will return to Brittini Kellom. Brittini, if you are talking, I think you are still muted.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I'm, present, sorry, attending remotely from Wayne County, good morning.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Good morning. Thank you. 12 Commissioners are present and there is a quorum

>> CHAIR WITJES: Excellent. Thank you, Ms. Reinhardt. Moving on to the adoption of the agenda.

As a reminder to the public watching, You can view the agenda at Michigan.gov/MICRC.

I would now entertain a motion to approve the meeting agenda.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: So moved.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Motion made by Commissioner Lett. Is there a second?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Second.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Second by Commissioner Szetela. Is there any discussion or debate on the motion? Hearing none, it's moved and seconded that the meeting agenda be adopted all in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

Aye.

All opposed raise your hand and say nay. All right. Looks like the meeting agenda is adopted.

Without objection we will begin the public comment portion of our meeting. Hearing no objection, we will now proceed with the public comment.

Individuals who have signed up and indicated that they would like to provide live remote public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so. I will call on your name and the staff will unmute you. If you are on a computer, you will be prompted by the zoom app to unmute your mic and speak. If you are on the phone, a voice will say that the host would like you to speak and prompt you to press star six to unmute.

I will call on you by your name or the last four digits of the phone number. Also note if you experience technical or audio issues or we do not hear from you for 3-5 seconds, we will move on to the next person in line and then return to you after they are done speaking.

If your audio still does not work, you can e-mail at [redistricting@michigan.gov](mailto:redistricting@michigan.gov) and we will help you troubleshoot so you can participate during the next public comment period at a later hearing or meeting.

You will have two minutes to address the Commission. Please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer.

First in line to provide public comment today is Mr. James Galant. Please allow a moment for our staff to unmute you.

>> Hello, this is James Galant, Marquette, these are my opinions. Mr. Chair, Mr. Witjes, here pretty rich of you to be suing the State of Michigan to get some money, okay? Because they are busy trying to run the Government, remember? They are jammed up here at the end. You got plenty of time to get this money all year and keep the Government open. Well, I'm just wondering how that took place? Who decided that in between the meetings. From last meeting to this meeting all the sudden you are suing them. Who decided what the language was of that and everything? I think the biggest problem is, and I submitted to the oversight committee, that you didn't submit a performance audit that was voted on by the Commission. Remember when I believe it was Commissioner Orton that said, hey, why are we doing this? We did it all in public, right? Yeah, you did. But it was clearly stated that they were going to document rules of procedure and whether you were following them or not and it did not talk about that at all, that you've allowed it. And your lawyers are letting it and not saying nothing about it.

But I'm the one that told them that. I said, guess what? Don't give them no money until you get that performance audit. And, you know, it's just wrong. And what you are supposed to do here and making it up on the fly.

And, you know, you also, Mr. Chair, I asked you to revisit and finish the unfinished business of the saying the allegiance, pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America from the public for which is stands at the meetings. That was on the agenda. You voted to have that on the agenda and it was never voted on because you democrats, Page 366, Line 8, Robert's Rules of Order, there shall be no debate before there is a motion proper. You started a debate. I keep screaming at people and being violent towards them. And all the sudden you never did vote. You never did make a motion and vote. That has to be, you know, properly disposed of business. It was on the agenda and it was never voted on. People are doing this all the time. This is like a new world order thing, right? Or the person centered world order, right? This is what you do in the Netherlands, right? And, Mr. Chair, I believe that this is just a fundamental breach of your oath of office to not follow the rules. And you get that performance audit. Ask the auditor general to finish his job, and to do that for you so you can submit it and get your money. And get a loan. Just get a loan and then just charge them for interest, a little bit.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

That concludes our public comment. However, I would like to mention that all e-mailed and mailed public comments are provided to the Commission before each meeting. Commissioners also regularly review the public comment portal on our [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC) website. We appreciate everyone who offers public comment in whatever way you choose and invite you to keep sharing your thoughts especially if you would like to share ways the MICRC process or procedures have been good or could be more effective.

Next on our agenda is unfinished business item number 5A fiscal year 23 budget update. Without objection I will ask our MICRC Executive Director Edward Woods to present this item. Hearing none please proceed, Mr. Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you, Commissioner Witjes. Just give me a quick second to put my screen up. We have to notice the holiday cheer of Commissioner Rothhorn with his hat he said he was going to do it and he actually did it. And so I want to thank him for spreading the holiday cheer with us. Are you able to see my screen, if you can just nod your head? That would be helpful to me. Are you able to see it? Beautiful. Let me go ahead.

Just want people to know about the budget process. We've requested approval for fiscal year 23 budget on May 13th. So we have been working on this since May 13th. Our lawyers Fink Bressack filed a complaint for not providing funds for fiscal year 23. It's emphasized in the lawsuit which speaks for itself with regards to respect for voter

intent the Constitution and democracy. So just want to share what's going on with regards to that.

And I would like I want to thank very much Commissioner Lett as our legal liaison who has been extremely helpful throughout this entire process. As you know on October 27th, you authorized the Executive Director, which is myself, to pursue any and all things to resolve this. We did meet with the Senate appropriations team. We did meet with the House appropriations team. We did send a courtesy letter informing them what we were doing. But unfortunately, we were unable to get a budget approved. And so I do want you to know that we did this as a last resort because the Commission is independent. It's nonpartisan. And it's just something that we really would like to share with regards to that. So I just want to make sure that the Commission and those that are listening and watching understand the steps. Commissioner Lett is here as well as our two distinguished attorneys from Fink Bressack, David and name Fink and I will turn it over to them. I do see Ms. Reinhardt has her hand up, Commissioner Witjes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Just wanted to note for the record that Commissioner Eid joined at 10:12 a.m. Commissioner Eid, can you let us know where you are attending remotely from?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Good morning, everybody. Today I'm remotely attending from Detroit, Michigan. Could you guys hear me?

>> CHAIR WITJES: Go, Mr. Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: If there is anything our two attorneys are here once again Commissioner Lett and thank them for what they do and continue to do on our behalf and just want to turn it over to them if they have anything additional to say or something I may have missed.

>> MR. FINK: I'm happy to provide a brief update. Not a lot has happened since we filed suit. We filed suit. We have already received acknowledgment of service from both the House and Senate. Those have already been filed with the Court so this will -- should move along very quickly. I want to express my appreciation to Mr. Woods and the Commissioners who joined us for meetings with the Senate appropriations Chair, the House appropriations Chair, and others in Lansing with the hope we could avoid this litigation. Unfortunately the state legislature did not do what the Constitution mandated it to do. And we had no other choice. So we filed this lawsuit. And frankly I'm very curious what defenses they will raise to it.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Thank you, Mr. Fink. Anyone have any comments, questions for either Mr. Woods or Mr. Or Mr. Fink regarding this particular piece? Okay.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Commissioner Witjes, if I may. Our attorneys have some other commitments. Is it possible we could have Commissioner Lett as well as our attorneys provide a legal update at this time?

>> CHAIR WITJES: Yes. That would be fine with me, if that is okay with everybody else, so, yes.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: When does it have to be voted on?

>> CHAIR WITJES: I suppose if we want to go that route and move to look favorably on a motion to move to agenda item number nine out of order for the legal liaison.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: So moved.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Seconded by Commissioner Roth all in favor please raise your hand and say aye. Aye. All opposed same sign, say nay. All right. Mr. Lett you have the floor.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: The -- I think the attorneys probably have more to say today than I do. We've already covered that the lawsuit regarding funding has been filed. Obviously, they said it's been acknowledged, return of service has been filed. The -- I also note that there is a scheduling conference on a motion on the AG. Let the attorneys speak to that. But other than that, we are just setting and responding to whatever the courts indicate needs to be done. So we are in a waiting period on all of the suits. I'll turn it over to Nate and David.

>> Nate Fink: I don't have much to add. We don't have much to build on from what I spoke about last month during the meeting. The Banerian case, we are in the same place we were last month. We don't know whether the Plaintiffs intend to move forward with their remaining one person, one vote claim. But it still remains pending before the Western District of Michigan. And in the AG matter as Commissioner Lett made reference to, we just received an order the procedural order scheduling any oral argument or scheduling oral original on dispositive motions to dismiss the case. That oral argument is set for July 12 at 1:30 at Kalamazoo at the courthouse there which will presumably be before a three-Judge panel. The dispositive motion, motion to dismiss would be due to be filed I believe the motions are due in May and the briefing schedule concludes within six weeks or so thereafter. So I think the reply briefs, the final briefing would be done by June and the Court will hear argument on July 12. And discovery is continuing. Depositions have not been scheduled yet. But that should be happening relatively soon. Beyond that I don't have anything else to update.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Mr. Fink senior anything from you?

>> David Fink: I'm delighted from the report from Mr. Fink junior.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Any questions from any Commissioners to either Commissioner Lett or any of the Fink's for what they just provided us again?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Dustin, I add a comment. As you can see by the dates that were just referenced, this lawsuit is proceeding speedily. And I do not say that facetiously. The attorneys Fink will probably I think and Rebecca back me up that this is actually quite quick.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yes, it is.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: On these. So if you're sitting there thinking geez, why does it take so long that ain't a long time so just an observation for everybody.



>> CHAIR WITJES: Thank you. I certainly agree. Okay, well, thanks for joining us today. And I hope you two have an excellent rest of your day and week.

>> David Fink: We appreciate you putting us on early so we could move to something else we need to address. Thank you.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Not a problem. Take care.

>> David Fink: Thank you.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Returning to our regularly scheduled programming, next on our agenda is unfinished item, unfinished item 5B, dormancy and reactivation plan. Without objection I will ask Commissioner Lett and Commissioner Clark to present this item. Hearing no objection, please proceed, Commissioners Lett and Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: We have been going back and forth with Doug and with Rebecca as well as Edward, kind of tweaking what I had prepared initially. And by tweaking and cleaning up some language issues, adding in some citations regarding the Constitution. Nothing of any substantive changes. So it is in what you have received is what at least we consider to be the final form. Understanding that we have been advised by Mike Brady that it needs to be submitted for the Secretary of State and their legal team to look at, which we knew that before we started down this path. So assuming that I guess I think that the probably the best way to do it since it's now in its final form is look at it and schedule it for approval at our next meeting. Doug, anything to add?

>> VICE CHAIR CLARK: No, I think that we should sort of prove it to move forward to Mike to do what he has to do with the legal aspects in state. And then bring it back in. And we can vote to approve it as a Commission.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Are we just reviewing this on our own or do we want to put it on the screen and quickly go over it?

>> VICE CHAIR CLARK: I believe we went over it previously. It's just minor changes to it.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Okay.

>> VICE CHAIR CLARK: Pretty lengthy, it's 2.5 pages.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Hi everyone. The only comments I have about this are under 3.3.2 for the reactivation phase. Specifically it's relying upon the Department of State and/or Secretary of State to assist in our reactivation. And I'm just wondering is there a way for us to reactivate without their assistance? Given what's going on right now, I am not supremely confident that we will have a Secretary of State or Department of State that might be willing to reconvene depending on, you know, what happens in the future. So I'm just wondering if there is a way to do that or a way to guarantee that they will, in fact, reconvene us if we have to be reconvened at a later date?

>> VICE CHAIR CLARK: Let me answer a little bit of that Anthony. Sarah and Steve and I met with the technical people at the state. And from a technical perspective, we

are going to follow the normal process that the state has. And they assured us there is no issue with that. I think secondly, I think your question really revolved around getting initiated and getting more to be done rather than having it the way it gets done. Is that not true?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes. I just worry there may be a scenario where we are supposed to be reconvened but for whatever reason we won't be. You know, I mean it could potentially happen.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Commissioner Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yes, I was just going to say I mean the way the plan is written it's not making the reactivation of the Commission contingent upon approval from the Secretary of State. It very specifically says that the trigger is the filing of litigation, not some action by the Secretary of State, the secretary of state is tasked with notifying the Commissions that the Commission has been reactivated. Frankly if the Secretary of State chose to do that, we have our contact information and many of us keep in touch frequently any way so I highly doubt that would ever be an issue.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I at least tried to write it to be self-executing I think that is what it does.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yep.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Now, to say we get down the road and it comes into play, will we have issues? How do I know. We for sure if it's more than four years won't have the same Secretary of State. So I think we have done what we set out to do. We will see how it works. Hopefully it will never come into play.

>> CHAIR WITJES: This is something we are wanting to take up Commissioner Szetela go ahead.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yes, I was just going to say a make a motion that we advance, let me get the name right, the dormancy and reactivation plan forward for consideration by Steve, I believe you said by Mike Brady's department to review and in Constitution with the Secretary of State.

>> VICE CHAIR CLARK: I second that Dustin.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Okay, we have a motion on the floor to move the dormancy and activation plan to the Secretary of State for approval. Motion made by Commissioner Szetela, seconded by Commissioner Clark. Is there any discussion or debate on said motion? All right, hearing none let's go ahead and take a vote on it all in favor of the motion please raise your hand and say aye. Aye. All opposed raise your hand and say nay.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Nay.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Okay, one nay.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Chair, I apologize for the interruption. I wanted to note Commissioner Wagner was experiencing audio issues when you were taking the vote so you may want to call on her to confirm her vote.



>> CHAIR WITJES: Commissioner Wagner can I have your vote please? I think I still see you muted.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Thanks Sarah. I said I voted aye.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Okay, motion has passed.

Anything further in regards to this agenda item for the dormancy plan?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I see Mike Brady is on. I guess I would like to have him indicate where we should send this or if he has already got it do we need to send or do anything further as far as his end goes?

>> CHAIR WITJES: Mr. Brady?

>> MIKE BRADY: Good morning.

This is Mike Brady, Michigan Department of State. Nice to see you all. Commissioner Lett, I believe I have the latest version that Director Woods had sent out in advance of this meeting. I don't recall there being any changes or edits offered during the meeting. So to simply say received on that point. And I will have our team review it and consult with the Attorney General's Office.

>> CHAIR WITJES: All right, thank you, Mr. Brady.

Okay, moving on to our next agenda item under unfinished business is item 5C, the 2023 meeting calendar. Without objection, I will ask Executive Director Woods to present this item.

Hearing no objection, please proceed, Mr. Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you, Commissioner Witjes. At the last Commissioner meeting the Commission instead of looking at a meeting every other month they wanted to consider a monthly calendar and so the dates that were selected was the third Thursday of every month. Starting at 10:00 a.m. And all of the meetings will be virtual. And here are the dates. Once again, the third Thursday of every month January 19, February 16, March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 26 and December 21 for the Commission's consideration.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Any questions, comments or concern by any Commissioner with regard to the 2023 Commission calendar for our meetings? Commissioner Clark?

>> VICE CHAIR CLARK: Yes. I would like to put forward a motion we approve the dates we meet in 2023.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Seconded.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Sorry, my brain just exploded a little bit. Let's see we have a motion made by Commission Clark to approve our meeting calendar for 2023. Seconded and third at the same time by Commissioner Szetela and Commissioner Lett. Any debate or discussion on the motion? Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: When was that March date?

>> CHAIR WITJES: Let's see.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I believe it was the 17th.

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>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: 16th, March 16th.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Got it. Okay thank you. Any further discussion on the motion? Seeing none, motion has been made and seconded. All in favor to adopt please raise your hand and say aye.

Aye.

All opposed raise your hand and say nay. Hearing none, the motion is adopted.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Mr. Chair.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Yes, ma'am.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: My volume must have cut out because I only heard a nay so just to be on record my vote is nay.

>> CHAIR WITJES: I'm sorry. I couldn't hear you. So Commissioner Lange did vote in the nay.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Thank you.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Not a problem

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Can Commissioner Wagner also confirm her vote please.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I voted aye.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Thank you very much. All right, next on our agenda is unfinished business item number 5D. Sigma requests without objection I will ask MICRC Executive Director Woods to present this item. Hearing none please proceed Mr. Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you, Commissioner Witjes. At our last meeting we talked about the Sigma request with regards to the financials and I was able to get some additional information with regards to those requests. And the two that we are getting from the executive Branch which is the Michigan department of technology management and budget they need our information to compare the comprehensive financial reports for the State of Michigan and they do that for all three branches of Government. The executive, judicial and the legislative Branch. And they have a sign off process. And the other one is the Michigan department of treasury. With regards to collections, taxes and also stop checks that we look for and obviously the state budget office. And so what I am requesting that the Commission do is to approve the motion that authorizes the MICRC Executive Director to sign Sigma request for employees including student interns of the Michigan department of technology, management and budget, Michigan department of treasury and the state budget office retroactively to December 1st. The state is in the process of closing out the fiscal year 22. And so this is something that needed to be done so we would not hold up the process. If there are any questions, I can take them at this time.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Any questions from anybody? Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Cynthia has got a question.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I just.

>> CHAIR WITJES: I see her. There she is.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I move we comply with this request.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: I second.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Thanks for not having me read this twice. Okay, so we have a motion made by Commissioner Orton and seconded by Commissioner Szetela to authorize the MICRC Executive Director to sign the Sigma request for employees including student interns of the Michigan Department of Technology Management and Budget, Michigan Department of Treasury and the State Budget Office retroactively to December 1st, 2022. Any discussion or debate on the motion?

Hearing none, all in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

Aye.

All opposed same sign and say nay. Okay, motion is adopted.

Okay, next we are going to move on to new business. And it is item 6A, EDS election data service analysis of our maps. Without objection I will ask mapping consultant Kim Brace to present this item. Hearing no objection please proceed Mr. Brace.

>> KIM BRACE: All right, I need to be able to share screen.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Okay.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: You should be able to do that Mr. Brace. If you don't have the ability let me know.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay, can you see it?

>> CHAIR WITJES: I can.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay, all right, let me do -- can you still see it, okay?

>> CHAIR WITJES: Yes, sir.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay good. All right, it's good to be here again. And making another presentation to you. On a new subject two years after the fact. So we've been taking a look at the 2022 elections. And I want to give you some of the things that we have found and looked at, some of the caveats that are there. But some of the things that are useful. If you recall when we first did presentations to you, we had this graphic in a similar vein over the past years looking at the number of registered voters, the number of people that turned out and then the votes for various offices as it went down the ballot. And so what we've done the same thing in this instance. We may not have gotten all of the offices but we got the most important ones from that side.

So what we have is we've got registration of eight million. We have a turnout number from the Secretary of State of 4.5 million people. Of which only 2.66 were voting for Governor. So we have this drop off in a similar vein we have seen in other instances. We've ended up taking a look at the other offices. One of the things we noted was on the Congressional race, in the data that was there from the Secretary of State. Oops, sorry about that. From the Secretary of State it does not include data for the 14th Congressional District as it relates to vote for Congress. I'm not sure exactly why. But it

does not have that in the data stream. So as a result that is low for Congress. And so we have that. Anthony, you have something to contribute?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes, very nice to have you here again Mr. Brace.

>> KIM BRACE: Thank you sir.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: And I look at the presentation as I always do from you.

There is no more 14th Congressional District.

>> KIM BRACE: That is true. That would make sense. We had that in our table for the 2018 so we could do comparisons. I'm sorry about that. You're correct. So okay so what we have is we have the votes cast for State Senate and for State House. Now, you will notice that compared to Governor, Governor is less than what the votes were for State Senate. And for State House. So in both of those instances the legislature got more votes than the Governor in that regard.

We have been tracking some of the initiatives that were on the ballot. Most particular the initiative number two allowing drop boxes. And initiative number three, allowing reproduction rights. Both of those we've ended up putting on our election result poster. So you will be happy to know we are pushing Michigan data on that side. But it is useful that the drop boxes initiative got many more votes than the allowing reproduction or the abortion issue. So I found that kind of interesting.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Commissioner Szetela, did you have a question? Pardon me, Kim Brace.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: I did actually. So I just want to make sure I'm understanding correctly so the turnout was 4.5 million and that 2.6 for Governor represents ballots where they voted for Governor and then the 2.615 is ballots where people voted for Congressional. So what we are seeing here is the difference between the 4.5 and the other results, is that you may have people who maybe did not complete their entire ballot or voted for particular things am I understanding that correctly?

>> KIM BRACE: Yes, that is true.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Okay, thank you.

>> KIM BRACE: That is a rather high drop off rate compared to what we have seen elsewhere around the country. But we certainly can investigate that more to see what's going on.

So in terms of -- that is an overview of where we stand. When we look at registration numbers by county, and we look at what is the change in registration from 2018 to 2022 we are looking at compatibility in contests. So we are looking at 2018 going to 2022. And so the percent change is the chart on the left, that is the number of registered voters. And you can see on the western side of the state, you have some larger increases in registration. I would think that may have something to do with some of the data that you guys had and some of the changes that you guys made. If you look at this as it relates to the districts that you created there on the west side of the state.

In terms of number of persons that cast ballots on the right hand side, what we ended up seeing is that most of it was increase except for two counties that actually had a decrease in number of votes cast in 2022. Both Wayne and Ingham. On that side. They are both on the decrease side. Which I found kind of interesting also. As well as up in the UP. So that is that one. .

If we look at turnout and turn out rates, this is looking at turnout as a percent of registered voters, which is the common way that most election officials look at turn out. So it's a percent of registered that has turned out. And so you can see that in the middle part of the state is where you get the highest concentrations. And certainly up by Traverse City is the highest one over, 70% back in 2018. In 2022 using the same scaling you again have up there by Traverse City but you have down here a little bit lower than you had in 2018 some of the contests that are in here, in the middle of the state, going across from Holland all the way across. .

So it's a little bit different pattern than what we had four years ago. But it does show us some of the things that we are seeing. .

And if we look at a change in the turnout rate, this is the one phenomenon that we very kind of intrigued by. We've actually seen, this is, again, looking at the turnout as a percent of registered voters. And we are looking at where there is a percentage increase and decrease. And what we are seeing is that there are differences with the number of registered voters as the denominator. And since we had many more registered voters in 2022 than we had in 2018, it meant that the actual percent turnout of registered voters went down. We were kind of intrigued by that in a lot of different instances. You can see where that took place around the state. .

Again particularly in Wayne County. And one county up in the UP. .

When you look at the gubernatorial results the 2022 results is on the left-hand side. This is, again, following the familiar pattern that we do when you look at democrats are blue and republicans are red. You see that there are high percentages for republicans particularly in the thumb area and the upper or the upper part of the Lower Peninsula. We see democrats carrying the cities where they are located. But it's the rural areas that are still on the republican side. That, again, is something that we see around the country. When we just sent our 2022 election result poster to the printer yesterday. And we are seeing this pattern again. Rural areas still voting republican and rather strongly while urban areas are voting democratic. And rather strongly. .

So that is an interesting thing. And then you end up looking at the change in Whitmer's vote share. And you can see between 2018 and 2022 what is the change in her vote share around the state. So it increased in the blue areas and it decreased in the red areas on that side. .

Then we can take a look at the individual districts and look at the election results of them. So here is your Congressional districts. Left hand side is what was done by the legislature from ten years ago and the right hand side is the results from year 2022 one

given your districts that you created. And you can see rather significant change. You still see a lot of heavy republican areas that were there in 2020. You still see that little bit less so up in the UP and the upper part of the Lower Peninsula. But clearly the impact of where some of the drawings were that you had created, the third District switching and clearly around the Wayne County area and then up all the way up to almost to the thumb area and Bay City. .

So this is the results of the Congressional races. If we look at the State Senate races, these are the results of the State Senate races. And, again, on the left-hand side is 2018 as they were drawn in the old way of drawing them by the legislature. And the right-hand side is how you ended up drawing them from the Commission's standpoint. .

And then we have the State House districts and how did those turn out. There's a whole bunch of differences here. But if you look at clearly from the State House standpoint, you still have some very heavily republican State House districts. All of these in solid red or solid brown, almost more than 60%. You can see all of that throughout different parts of the state. .

You did have an impact in where your concentration was in focusing. And so you can see that both Wayne and Ingham and all the way over to the west coast. .

And you can see the impact like in 38 compared to the 80s and the 66 over there on that side. .

So it's an interesting circumstance. But it clearly, I think, shows the impact of your line drawing on that side. .

And then as it relates to the two propositions that were on the ballot, this is where they were gaining strength and opposition. Again, if you recall the maps from previously, the opposition to the ballot boxes were all coming in republican areas. If you think back to the votes for the candidates. And abortion right one was all in republican areas. .

So you start seeing some of the coalitions and some of the correlations that are there between when you look at the election results. .

And, with that, I am set. And happy to answer questions.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Any question, Commissioner Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yes, Kim, I just want to thank you so much for providing this for us. It's very helpful and useful to actually see sort of the election results at a more granular level than what we get on the news and so on. Is -- this is available and out on our website, Edward, is that right, so we will have it?

>> KIM BRACE: I will feed it up to Edward, yes, so you will have it.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Thank you very much. I wanted to say thank you for preparing this for us because it's very helpful.

>> KIM BRACE: Yep.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Commissioner Eid?



>> COMMISSIONER EID: Agreed. This is very helpful and it's very nice to see this in the more granular detail that Commissioner Szetela mentioned. Before posting it on our website could we just double check the number, the overall numbers? I think there might be something weird going on with due to the Delta comparison between 2018 and 2020 for the overall numbers for the Governor piece.

>> KIM BRACE: Okay, certainly. Yes. We will double check that, yes.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes, Kim, do you have some type of statistics on the individual races? And by that, I mean who won and who lost and who was an incumbent and who wasn't?

>> KIM BRACE: Yes. We did pull those off the Secretary of State's site and we were able to then, that is where we got the mapping by District of those election results. So we do have that data set, thinking ahead to Court case potentials and all of that kind of stuff. So we were cognizant of getting as much as we can when we were doing these and moving forward with those.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Thank you.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Any other comments, questions, concerns from anyone to Mr. Brace? Okay I also just want to say thank you. That was very well put together and quite informative. I appreciate it.

>> KIM BRACE: Good no problem. Thank you, guys, once again and good to see you all.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Great to see you. Okay moving on, new business 6B. September financials. I just got a message from Mr. Woods because we don't have to do that. .

Okay, there's no minutes to approve. So we are going to move on to item 8 which is the Executive Director report. Hearing no objection, please proceed Mr. Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you, Commissioner Witjes. I'm going to show the September financial report. I'm going to put it on the screen so everyone can see it. And let me see if I can make it larger. At our meeting we provided a preliminary financial report because the end of the fiscal year for 2022 is September 30th. And so we are in the process of close out. So this is the updated number from the number you received. So it's about \$80,000 more. This includes salaries for the Commissioners and staff. Want to note, want to note there are five pay periods. I repeat five pay periods. In the month of September, just so everyone has that clearly. Travel costs, meetings, technology, advertising, consultants for that particular month and office support for the total expenses spent on September 314,040.69. These are total expenses for September. We are working on closing out our books and we should be done hopefully by the end of this week, beginning of next week, working with our financial team that is working with us on that. So just wanted to share that update with you.

At the last meeting it was a preliminary financial report so it was just presented. For this meeting, this is the final for September. And we would just like to have a motion that it be accepted. Motion for it to be accepted.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: So moved.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Seconded, okay got it. All right so motion on the table for approving our September financials as presented by Mr. Woods has been made by Commissioner Lett and seconded by Mr. Weiss. Is there any discussion or debate on the motion? Seeing none let's go ahead and vote. All in favor to approve please raise your hand and say aye. Aye. All opposed raise your hand and say nay. Did you get all the votes Commissioner Reinhardt, Ms. Reinhardt?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I apologize, what was the question.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Did you get all the votes? Did the votes come through for Commissioner Wagner and Commissioner Lange.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yes, so Commissioner Lange had to step away actually and Commissioner Wagner, can you confirm what your vote was?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Aye.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Perfect, thank you. Okay, anything else Mr. Woods?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Yes, let me go ahead and share my screen. Hold on. Okay, are you able to see it? Perfect thank you very much. November website once again I want to thank Nelson from Nelson Lawins from the Michigan Department of State who provides us this information and updates our website and makes sure our meeting materials and everything is there. I don't think we can thank him enough for how quickly and timely he does it as well as alerting us if he is unable or out of town. Really wanted to give a shout out to him. He provides us with the monthly updates for November we had 73,424 Page views. 74% was for our final and District maps, and 17% were the District maps by county. District maps by county. So just wanted to share that with you with regards to that. We are meeting with the financial team we are asking our vendors to provide us with the outstanding bills. Although as we all know the Commission has not spent one penny, one penny for fiscal 23 because we don't have money but we are asking for the bills. I want you to know we are collecting bills from our legal team. Meetings team. Anything and everything associated with the Commission although we have not paid anything we are collecting our bills so we know exactly what we owe. We've also asked our local counsel to distinguish their bills from you know the regular bills versus the bills associated with the legislative budget issue that we are facing. So just want to make sure that you know that we are requesting those bills. So that we have them. And I'm putting them into our system as accounts payable and you will see that at our next Commission meeting. .

I think there is a question, Commissioner Witjes or Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, which was going to ask if we can get a summary of the outstanding bills at the next meeting.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: You will have it.

>> VICE CHAIR CLARK: Okay.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Okay, please continue.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: We are updating the website. Want to thank Sarah Reinhardt as well as Nelson again for that with regards to feedback we are getting from attorneys. Making sure everything is there and open and transparent, those are ongoing. With regards to that but just want you to know that is going as I get information from them, we are trying to make sure that everything is there so we are in full and complete compliance with regards to that. Just want to mention to you that we are working with the fiscal year 22 close out. Once again and we should have that done hopefully by the beginning, no later than the beginning of next week. I want to thank in addition to insight three the legislative services Bureau that continues to work with us with regards to that. As well preliminary numbers we are returning just so everyone knows is close to 1.48 million. 1 point 48 million just so everyone has context in terms of what is being returned to the state's treasury, what is being returned to the state's treasury is approximately 1.48 million. .

As relates to presentations that have been taking place, I do know that Commissioner Eid and Commissioner Szetela have been doing some presentations. And I will allow them to share. I do know that I did one with regards to our diversity and inclusion as relates to our marketing efforts and how the Commission went about getting its 30,000 public comments and the different communication channels and how this was more public comments than the first time. And the first go around in California even though we are 25% the size of the state. So that is once again a kudos to the Commission and the diversity and inclusion in terms of our different communication channels and reaching out to different populations. And character demographics throughout the State of Michigan. So just wanted to share that with you as well. .

Commissioner Eid would you like to share were you were as well as Commissioner Szetela? Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Sure, yes, it's good to share the wealth of knowledge all of us gained during this process. So in the past month I spoke at a conference out in Harrisburg Pennsylvania with a group there PA. Over Zoom I had presentations with the Austin, Texas Redistricting Commission as well as common cause Ohio for their mapping initiatives.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: So Edward, as you know I spoke recently with the San Francisco elections Commission. They actually have a process in place and keep in mind San Francisco is a City but with significant population. So they have Redistricting Commission that they have had in place for a while that is mostly composed of political appointees and had a rather disastrous round this last time around with drawing the maps. And so Nancy Wang from Voters Not Politicians and I went and met with them to just sort of talk about the structure of our Redistricting

Commission and how we are selected. And they were looking at it sort of from the perspective of best practices as to how to restructure the selection process for their Redistricting Commission.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Great. And then last and finally not least, Commissioner Witjes, I did talk to Ms. Wang of Voters Not Politicians are going to engage and I will repeat will engage in a lessons learned. As you know they were the drafters of the Constitution. It was not the Commission that drafted the proposal 2018-02. It was Voters Not Politicians. And as you know the Michiganders voted that by more than 61%. And so I do want to let the Commission know that they are doing, I repeat they are doing a lessons learned with regards to process and obviously the biggest thing that they did and contributed was developing the proposal, which obviously includes the constitutional language that the Commission abides by today. .

So I want you to know that report is coming out. I'm excited with regards to that. And look forward to what they have gleaned as a result of the lessons learned. But once again the Commission did not do proposal 2018-02. It was Voters Not Politicians that got the amendment passed by more than 61%. It outlines the seven ranked redistricting criteria that the Commission followed through public engagement to provide fair maps. So just wanted you to know that was coming out and kudos to them on this effort. Thank you so much.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Thank you. Commissioner Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yeah, Edward do you know when they are planning on releasing that? I know it has been in the works for a while.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: I have no idea. You know, hopefully sooner than later. I just really want to have that distinction as you know we are trying to clean up a lot of miss information. It comes out in the media which is unfortunate. We have gotten corrections to articles and just want to thank the media for their willingness to get it right. And to be fair and transparent. In terms of what the role and responsibilities of the Commission are. Versus the roles and responsibilities of everyone else. I know you probably have gotten plenty of questions about, you know, what are you working? Are you still doing this and that. And obviously the Commission has two pending lawsuits so the Commission is still working. The Commission is responsible for directing the legal strategy and approving legal strategy and authorizing lawsuits and things are still continuing and want to make sure people have a clear understanding of the distinction and Constitution with regards to the 3.1 million that comes directly from the Constitution. Because it represents 25% of the Michigan Department of State general fund, general purpose money which is in the Constitution. It's not a random number. And to also let people know that obviously the budget supplemental was a recommendation from the state budget office, not from the Commission. You know with regards to that. But just a lot of confusion. You know going on and just want people to have a clear understanding of the role of the Commission versus the role of every other entity. And although the

budget supplemental did not get approved it was an effort to get us going until we got to the next cycle. Once again once again, just making sure the public has a clear distinction between the different roles and responsibilities as relates to the Commission and everyone else. So if there is any questions, I can take that. But just really want to make sure that clarity is clear.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Thank you, Mr. Woods. Any questions, comments, concerns for Mr. Woods from anybody? All right, thanks again for your presentation.

Okay, we have already completed the legal liaison report earlier today. So we will move on to item number 10, which is the Michigan Department of State updates. Without objection I will ask either Mike Brady or Sarah Reinhardt from the Michigan Department of State if they have any updates for us today? Hearing no objection please proceed either Mr. Brady or Ms. Reinhardt.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I have no updates. I see Mike also unmuted so Mike I'll defer to you if you have any further updates.

>> Mike Brady: I do not. Thank you.

>> CHAIR WITJES: All right, thank you very much. Okay, correspondence if any was made available or was sent in and passed in advance of our meeting today along with any written public comments to the Commissioners. Are there any agenda items that Commissioners would like to have added to future agendas and future meetings? Okay seeing none, moving on. Are there any announcements? Okay seeing no announcements, as the items of the agenda are completed and the Commission has.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Anthony is waving his hand.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Anthony is trying to say something.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Sorry, I had you in the corner and something was blocking the whole left side of my screen so I apologize, Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Oh, that is quite all right. Chair Witjes, thank you for the opportunity to talk. This is the last time we are going to be meeting in 2022 and the holidays are coming up, so I just wanted to wish all of you a merry Christmas and happy holidays. I hope all of you enjoy the time with your families.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Thank you very much for those warm regards sent our way. Anything else? Any other announcements from any other Commissioners before I move on to adjournment? All right so now as the end of the agenda are completed and the Commission has no further business a motion to adjourn is in order. May I have a motion to adjourn, please.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I move to adjourn to merry Christmas and happy new year.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: And I second that and happy Hanukkah or Kwanzaa or happy nothing if you celebrate nothing.

>> CHAIR WITJES: Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Lett and seconded by that would be Commissioner Szetela I believe. Okay any discussion or debate on the

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motion? Seeing none all in favor please raise your hand and say aye. Aye. Happy holidays. Opposed raise your hand and say nay. Okay the ayes have the motion and the meeting is adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thanks, everyone. See you next year.

>> Happy holidays everyone.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Happy holidays.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Merry Christmas.