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Composition and Funding of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

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Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

In November 2018, Michigan voters approved a constitutional amendment (Proposal 2 of 2018) to create a commission authorized to draw new State and congressional districts. Known as the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, the 13-member body is required to adopt a redistricting plan by November 1, 2021.

Commission Membership and Timeline

In order to form the Commission, the Secretary of State (SOS) selects members from among qualified registered voter applicants. Four members must be affiliates of the Democratic Party, four members must be affiliates of the Republican Party, and five must have no partisan affiliation. Affiliations are self-identified.

Not all registered voters are eligible to be commissioners. An individual who has been a declared candidate for, or who has held, a partisan Federal, state, or local office within the last six years is ineligible. The Michigan Constitution prohibits an individual who works or has worked for an elected official or candidate or who works or has worked as an employee of the State Legislature from serving on the Commission. A Commission member also may not have served as a member of a political party's governing board, been an unclassified State employee exempt from Civil Service (with some exceptions), or worked as a registered lobbyist, within the previous six years. A parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, or spouse of these individuals also is ineligible to serve.

The SOS is required to weight the applicant pool statistically to reasonably reflect Michigan's geographic and demographic makeup. The list of 200 eligible applicants for the first Commission was submitted to the Legislature in the summer of 2020. Subsequently, the majority and minority leaders of both houses struck a total of twenty names from this list.

The SOS then randomly selected the 13 Commission members from the remaining pool on August 17, 2020. The Commission convened for the first time over a two-day period on September 17 and 18, 2020. The meeting was available for public viewing via a livestream. Over the course of the next year, the Commission will meet, take public comment, and develop at least one redistricting plan each for the Michigan House of Representatives, the Michigan Senate, and the United States Congress. Plans must be adopted by November 1, 2021, and must be made public within 30 days of their adoption. The new maps will be used beginning in November 2022 until a new Commission is convened in 2030.

The districts adopted by the Commission must be of equal population based on 2020 US Census figures. They must be geographically contiguous and reasonably compact. County and municipal boundaries must be given due consideration. The proposed districts may not favor or disfavor any particular candidate, incumbent, or party, and they must "reflect the state's diverse population and communities of interest".

Commission Funding

The constitutional amendment to create the Commission requires the Legislature to appropriate to the Commission an amount equal to at least 25% of the General Fund/General Purpose (GF/GP) budget for the Michigan Department of State. This appropriation is required in each fiscal year that the Commission operates. To date, the Commission has been appropriated funding totaling \$6,512,200, which is equivalent to 25% of the fiscal year (FY) 2019-20 and FY 2020-21 GF/GP budgets for the Department of State, totaling \$3,362,800 and \$3,149,400, respectively.

Funding for the Commission may be used for costs associated with carrying out its duties, which include procurement, contracting, consultants, legal fees, or any costs associated with holding meetings and public hearings. The funding must be sufficient for the Commission to carry out its duties; if funding is not sufficient, additional funding will be required.

Commissioners also are entitled to receive compensation equal to 25% of the Governor's annual salary, which is currently set at \$159,300. Thus, compensation for all 13 commissioners will total \$517,700, or \$39,825 for each commissioner. Commissioner salaries will be paid from the above-mentioned \$3.4 million appropriation.

In December 2018, supplemental funding totaling \$2.0 million was appropriated to implement Proposal 2. Expenditures related to implementation of the proposal to date total \$866,200 and have included costs for making the applications for commissioners available to the public and mailing applications to randomly selected Michigan registered voters to be entered into the pool of candidates from which the Commission was selected. The table below details the breakdown of anticipated expenditures.

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission FY 2019-20 Appropriations and Expenditures per Public Act 154 of 2019	
PA 154 Appropriation.....	\$2,000,000
Department of State	
<u>Expenditures to Date:</u>	
Mailings	(\$146,500)
Staffing costs, travel, and temp. employees	(416,700)
Printing	(91,900)
IT	(109,000)
Purchased Services	(90,900)
Misc. (office supplies, broadband, insurances)	<u>(11,200)</u>
Subtotal	<u>(\$866,200)</u>
<u>Remaining FY 20 Expenditures:</u>	
Salary and Wages	(\$500,000)
IT software and hardware purchases	(260,000)
Travel/Meeting Costs	(162,000)
Statistician	(52,000)
Education Outreach	(50,000)
Temporary Services	(40,000)
Other Miscellaneous Costs	<u>(40,900)</u>
Subtotal	<u>(\$1,104,900)</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES.....	(\$1,971,100)
UNSPENT FUNDS	\$28,900

Source: The Department of State