



“Lessons Learned” Statement to MICRC

The League of Women Voters of Michigan submits the following “Lessons Learned” statement to the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission based on the League’s observation of the MICRC meetings since September 2020.

1. Commissioner job requirements should be clearly stated in the recruitment process and materials. Underestimation re the amount of time required to perform their task led to:
 - a. excessive absences by at least one Commissioner
 - b. perceived need to significantly increase Commissioner salaries, leaving less funds for other needed budget items such as Communication and Outreach
2. MICRC should adopt a set of expectations re Commissioners’ attendance at meetings.
3. Amount of money budgeted for Communication and Outreach should be increased to allow for:
 - a. hiring additional staff. Expecting the Communication and Outreach Director to do everything was unrealistic.
 - b. educating the public on the constitutional criteria
4. MICRC should define Communities of Interest beyond what is in the Constitution. Failure to do so led to public’s insistence that local units of government were COIs, thus subverting the ranking of COIs (# three) versus “considering local government boundaries” (# six).
5. MICRC should have made better use of their time during the summer before they received the Census data. If they had practiced drawing maps, taking into account the various criteria that had to be met, they would have realized they needed to schedule many more map drawing meetings than they did.
6. MICRC should have adopted a more realistic time line for drawing district maps. The Commission had extra time after they received data from the Census Bureau that they could have used to draw the maps. Failure to do so led to marathon meetings in October and Commissioner fatigue. Four Commissioners finally recognized they needed to spend more time on the maps before voting on them, but it was too late to do so without extending their deadline beyond December 30.

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