

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

MICHIGAN REPUBLICAN PARTY,
LAURA COX, TERRI LYNN LAND,
SAVINA ALEXANDRA ZOE MUCCI,
DORIAN THOMPSON, and HANK
VAUPEL,

Case No.:

Hon.

Plaintiffs,

v.

**COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY
AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

JOCELYN BENSON, in her official capacity
as Secretary of State,

Defendant.

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Plaintiffs Michigan Republican Party, Laura Cox, Terri Lynn Land, Savina Alexandra Zoe Mucci, Dorian Thompson, and Hank Vaupel, by and through their counsel, Dykema Gossett PLLC and Clark Hill PLC, for their Complaint against Defendant Jocelyn Benson, in her official capacity as Secretary of State, allege as follows:

Representative democracy in any populous unit of governance is unimaginable without the ability of citizens to band together in promoting among the electorate candidates who espouse their political views. The formation of national political parties was almost concurrent with the formation of the Republic itself. Consistent with this tradition, the Court has recognized that the First Amendment protects the freedom to join together in furtherance of common political beliefs, which necessarily presupposes the freedom to identify the people who constitute the association, and to limit the association to those people only. That is to say, a corollary of the right to associate is the right not to associate. Freedom of association would prove an empty guarantee if associations could not limit control over their decisions to those who share the interests and persuasions that underlie the association's being.¹

INTRODUCTION

1. This civil rights action is brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 to vindicate rights secured by the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution.

2. At the November 6, 2018 general election, Michigan voters approved a ballot proposal to amend the Michigan Constitution to establish an independent citizens redistricting commission to oversee redistricting of state legislative and congressional districts.

3. Although marketed to the public and voters as an “independent” commission to redress alleged partisan gerrymandering, the ballot proposal in fact established a partisan public body with commissioner eligibility and selection specifically tied to political affiliation, while also

¹ *Cal. Democratic Party v. Jones*, 530 U.S. 567, 574-75 (2000) (internal citations and quotation marks omitted).

disqualifying countless individuals (and their relatives and associates) for current and past political activity and expression.

4. The ballot proposal creates a system whereby members to a partisan public office are selected without any involvement of state political parties that historically have played a key role in selecting their respective standard bearers.

5. The ballot proposal permits applicants for commissioner to self-designate their party affiliation without any involvement or consent of the applicable political party and without any specific consideration of the applicants' past or current political activity, expression, or involvement.

6. The proposal usurps the role of political parties in selecting their nominees for partisan public office, and in the case of the Michigan Republican Party, places that responsibility instead in the hands of a highly partisan elected official of the opposite political party.

7. At the same time, the proposal penalizes applicants who affiliate with one of the two major political parties by allocating a minority of seats on the commission to each of those pools of applicants.

8. The ballot proposal constitutes an unconstitutional burden on associational rights, infringes on freedoms of speech, and violates guarantees of equal protection of the laws.

9. Plaintiffs are not necessarily opposed to the general concept of a redistricting commission, but they vehemently oppose any commission that is structured in a manner that violates their civil rights, as here.

10. Other states have created redistricting commissions without the same constitutional infirmities and violations that exist as a result of the Michigan ballot proposal.

11. In Idaho, members of the redistricting commission are appointed by the four state legislative leaders and by the state chairmen of the two largest political parties in the state. Idaho Const., art. 3, § 2.

12. In Arizona, state legislative leaders appoint four commissioners to an independent redistricting commission, and those four commissioners then select a fifth member of the commission. Additionally, each member must be a registered Arizona voter “who has been continuously registered with the same political party or registered as unaffiliated with a political party for three or more years immediately preceding appointment.” Ariz. Const., art 4, pt. 2, § 1.

13. And in California, which utilizes a random draw process to select some of the redistricting commission members (like in Michigan), the state constitution provides: “Each commissioner shall be a voter who has been continuously registered in California with the same political party or unaffiliated with a political party and who has not changed political party affiliation for five or more years immediately preceding the date of his or her appointment. Each commission members shall have voted in two of the last three statewide general elections immediately preceding his or her application.” Cal. Const. art 21, § 2.

14. No other state with an independent redistricting commission adopts a system like Michigan, where members to partisan public office are selected without any official party registration or the involvement of state political parties or their elected standard bearers and where applicants who affiliate with a major political party are intentionally disfavored.

15. Plaintiffs bring this action to remedy the constitutional violations arising from the adoption and implementation of the ballot proposal approved in November 2018.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

16. This civil rights action arises under the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and under federal law, 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

17. This Court is vested with original jurisdiction of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343.

18. Venue in this Court is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because all or a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred within the district and because Defendant has an office located in Ingham County, which is in the United States District Court, Western District for the State of Michigan.

19. Plaintiffs' claims for declaratory and injunctive relief are authorized by 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202, by Rules 57 and 65 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and by the general legal and equitable powers of this Court.

IDENTIFICATION OF PARTIES

20. Plaintiff Michigan Republican Party ("MRP") is a "major political party" as that term is defined in Section 16 of the Michigan Election Law. Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.16. MRP maintains headquarters at 520 Seymour Street, Lansing, Michigan 48912. MRP is formed for the general purpose of promoting Republican values and for assisting candidates who share those values with election or appointment to partisan federal, state, and local office. MRP brings this action on behalf of itself and its members.

21. Plaintiff Laura Cox is a resident of Wayne County, Michigan, and is registered and eligible to vote in the State. Cox currently serves as chair of MRP, a position she has held since 2019. Within the past six years, Cox was a declared candidate for the offices of State Representative and State Senator, each a partisan state office. Cox served as Wayne County Commissioner, a partisan local office, from 2005 through 2014, and as a State Representative, a partisan state office, from 2015 through 2018. Cox wishes to serve on the commission but is ineligible under the VNP Proposal because of her past and current political activity.

22. Plaintiff Terri Lynn Land is a resident of Kent County, Michigan, and is registered and eligible to vote in the State. Land currently serves as chair of the 3rd Congressional District of MRP, a position she has held since February 2019; as a member of the MRP State Committee, the governing body of MRP; and as precinct delegate, a partisan local office. Within the past six years, Land was a declared candidate for the office of United States Senator, a partisan federal office, and for the office of precinct delegate, a partisan local office. Within the past six years, Land also served as the National Committeewoman for MRP, a position she held from approximately May 2012 to January 2014. Land wishes to serve on the commission but is ineligible under the VNP Proposal because of her past and current political activity.

23. Plaintiff Savina Alexandra Zoe Mucci is a resident of Van Buren County, Michigan, and is registered and eligible to vote in the State. Mucci is the daughter of Tonya Schuitmaker, a former elected official who served in the office of State Senate, a partisan state office, from 2011 through 2018, and a declared candidate in 2018 for the office of Attorney General, a partisan state office. Mucci wishes to serve on the commission but is ineligible because of her relationship to her mother, Tonya Schuitmaker. But for Mucci's relationship to her mother, she would be an eligible applicant for the commission.

24. Plaintiff Dorian Thompson is a resident of Wayne County, Michigan, and is registered and eligible to vote in the State. Within the past six years, Thompson was a declared candidate for the office of precinct delegate, a partisan local office, a position he was elected to and now holds. Thompson wishes to serve on the commission but is ineligible under the VNP Proposal because of his past and current political activity.

25. Hank Vaupel is a resident of Livingston County, Michigan, and is registered and eligible to vote in the State. Within the past six years, Vaupel was a declared candidate for the

office of State Representative, a partisan state office, a position he was first elected to in the November 2014 general election and still holds. Vaupel currently serves as a member of the Livingston County Republican Party Executive Committee, a position he has held since approximately 2015. Vaupel wishes to serve on the commission but is ineligible under the VNP Proposal because of his past and current political activity.

26. Each of the individual Plaintiffs identified in the preceding paragraphs affiliates with MRP.

27. Defendant Jocelyn Benson (“Secretary Benson”) is the Secretary of State of Michigan and is named in her official capacity. Secretary Benson is the public official primarily responsible for implementing and administering the state constitutional law that is the subject of this action.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

A. Adoption of the VNP Proposal

28. Beginning in 2017, Voters Not Politicians (“VNP”), a ballot-question committee, launched a petition drive to propose amendments to the Michigan Constitution that would establish a commission to oversee redistricting of state legislative and congressional districts (the “VNP Proposal”).²

29. In December 2017, VNP submitted an adequate number of signatures to place the proposal on the November 2018 general election ballot.

30. Prior to the Board of State Canvassers’ (the “Board”) certification of the petition for the ballot, several plaintiffs filed a complaint in the Michigan Court of Appeals seeking a writ of mandamus directing the Secretary of State and the Board to reject the proposal, arguing the

² A copy of the full VNP Proposal is attached as Exhibit A.

VNP Proposal could be enacted only through a constitutional convention under Mich. Const. 1963, art. 12, § 3 because it constituted a general revision of the Constitution.

31. VNP and others were permitted to intervene as defendants and sought a writ of mandamus requiring the proposal to be placed on the ballot.

32. The Michigan Court of Appeals ordered the Secretary and the Board to place the proposal on the November 2018 general election ballot. *Citizens Protecting Michigan's Constitution v Secretary of State*, 324 Mich. App. 561, 922 N.W.2d 404 (2018).

33. The Michigan Supreme Court affirmed the Court of Appeals, *Citizens Protecting Michigan's Constitution v Secretary of State*, 503 Mich. 42, 921 N.W.2d 247 (2018), and the proposal was placed on the November 2018 general election ballot.

34. On November 6, 2018, Michigan voters approved the VNP Proposal, thereby amending the Michigan Constitution.

35. The state court proceedings involved a challenge to the *procedure* for considering the VNP Proposal to create the redistricting commission, i.e., whether the proposal was eligible for placement on the November 2018 general election ballot only by the convention process of Mich. Const. 1963, art. 12, § 3 or, alternatively, whether it was eligible for placement on the ballot by the initiative process of Mich. Const. 1963, art. 12, § 2.

36. The prior proceedings in state court did *not* directly involve a constitutional challenge to the substance of the VNP Proposal—that is the subject of this present action.

B. Content of the VNP Proposal

37. The VNP Proposal, as approved, amended 11 different sections of the Michigan Constitution, including changes to sections regarding the respective powers of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of state government.

38. Most significantly, the proposal amended Mich. Const. 1963, art. 4, § 6 to establish a new 13-member independent citizens redistricting commission to oversee redistricting of state legislative and congressional districts.

39. In general, amended article 4, section 6 establishes the eligibility criteria and the manner of selection for commissioners, provides for the operation and funding of the commission, and outlines the process for the commission's redistricting process.

40. Mich. Const. 1963, art. 4, § 6, subsection (1) establishes the eligibility criteria for commissioners as follows:

(1) An independent citizens redistricting commission for state legislative and congressional districts (hereinafter, the "commission") is hereby established as a permanent commission in the legislative branch. The commission shall consist of 13 commissioners. The commission shall adopt a redistricting plan for each of the following types of districts: state senate districts, state house of representative districts, and congressional districts. Each commissioner shall:

- (a) Be registered and eligible to vote in the State of Michigan;
- (b) Not currently be or in the past 6 years have been any of the following:
 - (i) A declared candidate for partisan federal, state, or local office;
 - (ii) An elected official to partisan federal, state, or local office;
 - (iii) An officer or member of the governing body of a national, state, or local political party;
 - (iv) A paid consultant or employee of a federal, state, or local elected official or political candidate, of a federal, state, or local political candidate's campaign, or of a political action committee;
 - (v) An employee of the legislature;
 - (vi) Any person who is registered as a lobbyist agent with the Michigan bureau of elections, or any employee of such person; or
 - (vii) An unclassified state employee who is exempt from classification in state civil service pursuant to article XI, section 5, except for employees of courts of record, employees of the state institutions of higher education, and persons in the armed forces of the state;

(c) Not be a parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, or spouse of any individual disqualified under part (1)(b) of this section; or

(d) Not be otherwise disqualified for appointed or elected office by this constitution.

(e) For five years after the date of appointment, a commissioner is ineligible to hold a partisan elective office at the state, county, city, village, or township level in Michigan.

41. Mich. Const. 1963, art. 4, § 6, part (1)(b) describes disqualifying criteria that exclude from the commission any individual who is, or in the past six years has been, any of the following: a declared candidate for partisan federal, state, or local office; an elected official to partisan federal, state, or local office; an officer or member of the governing body of a national, state, or local political party; or a paid consultant or employee of a federal, state, or local elected official or political candidate, of a federal, state, or local political candidate's campaign, or of a political action committee. These disqualifying criteria largely focus on the political association and expression of the individual and operate as a complete bar to service on the commission.

42. Mich. Const. 1963, art. 4, § 6, part (1)(c) imputes those same disqualifying criteria to family members of an individual disqualified under part (1)(b), including any parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, and spouse of the disqualified individual—regardless whether those individuals have the same political associations, different associations, or none whatsoever, and regardless whether those individuals have engaged in any of the same expressive activities described in part (1)(b).

43. Mich. Const. 1963, art. 4, § 6, subsection (2) establishes a process for selecting commissioners as follows:

(2) Commissioners shall be selected through the following process:

(a) The secretary of state shall do all of the following:

(i) Make applications for commissioner available to the general public not later than January 1 of the year of the federal decennial census. The secretary of state shall circulate the applications in a manner that invites wide public participation from different regions of the state. The secretary of state shall also mail applications for commissioner to ten thousand Michigan registered voters, selected at random, by January 1 of the year of the federal decennial census.

(ii) Require applicants to provide a completed application.

(iii) Require applicants to attest under oath that they meet the qualifications set forth in this section; and either that they affiliate with one of the two political parties with the largest representation in the legislature (hereinafter, “major parties”), and if so, identify the party with which they affiliate, or that they do not affiliate with either of the major parties.

(b) Subject to part (2)(c) of this section, the secretary of state shall mail additional applications for commissioner to Michigan registered voters selected at random until 30 qualifying applicants that affiliate with one of the two major parties have submitted applications, 30 qualifying applicants that identify that they affiliate with the other of the two major parties have submitted applications, and 40 qualifying applicants that identify that they do not affiliate with either of the two major parties have submitted applications, each in response to the mailings.

(c) The secretary of state shall accept applications for commissioner until June 1 of the year of the federal decennial census.

(d) By July 1 of the year of the federal decennial census, from all of the applications submitted, the secretary of state shall:

(i) Eliminate incomplete applications and applications of applicants who do not meet the qualifications in parts (1)(a) through (1)(d) of this section based solely on the information contained in the applications;

(ii) Randomly select 60 applicants from each pool of affiliating applicants and 80 applicants from the pool of non-affiliating applicants. 50% of each pool shall be populated from the qualifying applicants to such pool who returned an application mailed pursuant to part 2(a) or 2(b) of this section, provided, that if fewer than 30 qualifying applicants affiliated with a major party or fewer than 40 qualifying non-affiliating applicants have applied to serve on the commission in response to the random mailing, the balance of the pool shall be populated from the balance of qualifying applicants to that pool. The random selection process used by the secretary of state to fill the selection pools shall use accepted statistical weighting methods to ensure that the pools, as closely as possible, mirror the geographic and demographic makeup of the state; and

(iii) Submit the randomly-selected applications to the majority leader and the minority leader of the senate, and the speaker of the house of representatives and the minority leader of the house of representatives.

(e) By August 1 of the year of the federal decennial census, the majority leader of the senate, the minority leader of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the minority leader of the house of representatives may each strike five applicants from any pool or pools, up to a maximum of 20 total strikes by the four legislative leaders.

(f) By September 1 of the year of the federal decennial census, the secretary of state shall randomly draw the names of four commissioners from each of the two pools of remaining applicants affiliating with a major party, and five commissioners from the pool of remaining non-affiliating applicants.

44. Mich. Const. 1963, art. 4, § 6, part (2)(a) requires applicants to attest under oath either that they affiliate with one of the two major political parties and, if so, to identify the party with which they affiliate, or that they do not affiliate with either of the major parties.

45. The VNP Proposal does not define “affiliation” for purposes of the oath requirement.

46. The self-designated party affiliation is made without any involvement whatsoever of either of the major parties and without any specific consideration of the applicants’ past or current political activity, expression, or involvement.

47. Mich. Const. 1963, art. 4, § 6, part (2)(e) allows each of the four state legislative leaders to strike up to five applicants from any pool or pools of applicants, regardless of the political affiliation of the legislative leader or that of the applicants. In other words, it is very possible—even likely—that a Democratic legislative leader could strike from consideration a commissioner applicant who affiliates with the Republican party, or vice-versa.

48. Mich. Const. 1963, art. 4, § 6, part (2)(f) reserves four commissioner positions to each of the pools of candidates who affiliate with one of the two major political parties, while reserving five commissioner positions to the pool of candidates who do not affiliate with either major party.

49. Mich. Const. 1963, art. 4, § 6, subsection (11) governs the conduct of the commission and its members, staff, attorneys, and consultants by restricting their speech as follows:

(11) The commission, its members, staff, attorneys, and consultants shall not discuss redistricting matters with members of the public outside of an open meeting of the commission, except that a commissioner may communicate about redistricting matters with members of the public to gain information relevant to the performance of his or her duties if such communication occurs (a) in writing or (b) at a previously publicly noticed forum or town hall open to the general public.

50. The VNP Proposal provides that it is self-executing and expressly limits the ability of the Michigan legislature to enact state laws to implement its provisions and address ambiguity and uncertainty in the language of the proposal.

C. Implementation of the VNP Proposal

51. Under the VNP Proposal, the Secretary of State is primarily responsible for the administration and implementation of the new constitutional provisions concerning the selection of commissioners and creation of a commission.

52. Secretary Benson is beginning to implement the VNP Proposal.

53. Secretary Benson has posted informational materials and resources regarding the independent citizens redistricting commission on the official Department of State website and on RedistrictingMichigan.org, including a “citizen’s guide” and “timeline,” as well as a form for interested individuals to complete in order to receive a commissioner application when it becomes available. See generally https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633_91141---,00.html (last accessed August 14, 2019).

54. Referencing the constitutional amendment, the citizen’s guide on the Department of State website states that the following individuals cannot serve on the commission: partisan elected officials, candidates, registered lobbyists and their employees and close relatives.

55. The citizens guide also provides, “The commission must include four people who self-identify with the Democratic Party, four people who self-identify with the Republican Party and five people who self-identify as unaffiliated with either of those political parties.”

56. Secretary Benson has also posted for public comment a draft application and eligibility guidelines. See generally https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633_91141---,00.html (last accessed August 14, 2019).

57. The draft eligibility guidelines restate the disqualifying criteria and interpret those criteria to extend, for example, to individuals who have declared candidacy for or been elected to the position of precinct delegate.

58. The draft application asks individuals to “describe why—or how—[they] affiliate with either the Democratic Party, Republican Party, or neither.” According to the draft, this information is requested to aid the four state legislative leaders in striking applicants from further consideration.

59. According to various reports, beginning this year Secretary Benson will begin taking additional formal steps to establish the first independent citizens redistricting commission, including the establishment of a project team and making available commissioner applications to the general public and to randomly selected Michigan voters.

60. As part of the Governor’s budget proposal, Secretary Benson requested that the Michigan Legislature appropriate approximately \$4.6 million in the next budget to implement the VNP Proposal. On information and belief, a portion of that amount was later requested as a supplemental appropriation in the current budget cycle.

61. Each of the individual Plaintiffs wish to apply to serve on the commission when applications are made available but are ineligible to hold such public office under the terms of the VNP Proposal.

62. The VNP Proposal is overbroad in its regulation and infringes on Plaintiffs' rights under the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and under federal law, 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

63. The VNP Proposal is unconstitutional on its face or, alternatively, as applied to Plaintiffs.

64. Plaintiffs will be harmed if Secretary Benson continues to implement the VNP Proposal.

**COUNT I
VIOLATION OF FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION**

65. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the above paragraphs of this Complaint.

66. The First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution guarantee the freedom to join together in furtherance of common political beliefs, commonly referred to as freedom of association.

67. The freedom of association extends to political parties, including MRP.

68. MRP's associational rights include the freedom to identify those individuals who do—and those who do not—constitute the association.

69. MRP has regularly and systematically exercised its freedom to identify the individuals who do (and those who do not) constitute the political association, including for example, the selection of nominees for public office through the primary election process and through local and state party conventions.

70. Prior to the November general election every four years, MRP's nominees for secretary of state, attorney general, and various other statewide offices are selected by party delegates at a state convention.

71. For other partisan public offices, MRP plays a substantial and meaningful role in the selection of a party nominee through promotion, endorsements, and campaigning for (or against) candidates, as well as through the traditional vetting process of primary elections.

72. The VNP Proposal severely burdens MRP's associational rights as follows:

a. The VNP Proposal permits applicants for commissioner to self-designate their affiliation with MRP without any involvement or consent of the political party and without any specific consideration of the applicants' past or current political activity, expression, or involvement.

b. Under the VNP Proposal, applicants who are selected to serve as a commissioner based on their individual and unendorsed affiliation with MRP become a public standard bearer of the political party for their term of office as a commissioner.

c. The VNP Proposal forecloses MRP from promoting and designating its standard bearer for the public office of commissioner—MRP may not play a meaningful role in the selection process by promoting, endorsing, or otherwise campaigning for (or against) any applicant even though the selected applicants who self-designate their affiliation with MRP will become a standard bearer of the party for their term of office.

d. The VNP Proposal usurps MRP's role in selecting its nominees for the public office of commissioner.

e. The VNP Proposal permits a member of the opposite major party to play a role in selecting MRP's public standard bearer because state legislative leaders, regardless of their

political affiliation, may strike individuals from pools of applicants who affiliate with either major party. In other words, MRP is not permitted to play a role in selecting its standard bearer, yet the proposal allows a Democratic legislative leader to narrow the pool of applicants who affiliate with MRP.

f. The VNP Proposal allows for abuse of the traditional political selection process through “party raiding” whereby members of the opposite political party may self-designate a political affiliation with MRP in an effort to alter the party’s selection process and weaken its representation on the commission by individuals who genuinely affiliate with MRP.

g. The VNP Proposal adulterates MRP’s process to select nominees for public office—one of the basic functions of a political party—by opening it up to persons whose only act of party affiliation may be checking a box on an application form.

h. The VNP Proposal forces MRP to have its nominees for the commission—and hence its political and policy positions—determined by those who, at best, may have little to no affiliation with the party and, at worst, are actually adherents of the opposing party.

i. The VNP Proposal permits Secretary Benson—an elected partisan official—to implement and administer its provisions regarding the party affiliation of applicants and, presumably, to make any determinations necessary to resolve disputes regarding party affiliation; in other words, a *highly partisan* official of the *opposite party* will be in a position to resolve disputes regarding the political association of applicants who claim an affiliation with MRP.

j. The VNP Proposal disqualifies from the commission countless leaders of MRP, effectively purging from eligibility the party’s most engaged affiliates who likely are also the most knowledgeable about redistricting and qualified to serve on the commission.

k. The VNP Proposal disqualifies from the commission those individuals who are most easily identified as bona fide affiliates of MRP (including declared candidates, elected officeholders, and party leaders, whether federal, state, or local), leaving MRP (and its affiliated legislative leaders) with almost no reliable means to determine an individual's true political affiliation. This is exacerbated by the fact that Michigan does not have an official system of party registration.

73. Plaintiffs' associational rights will be severely burdened if Secretary Benson continues to implement the VNP Proposal.

74. No compelling governmental interest justifies the severe burden imposed on Plaintiffs by the VNP Proposal.

75. The VNP Proposal is not narrowly tailored to achieve any purported compelling governmental interest.

76. The VNP Proposal unconstitutionally infringes on Plaintiffs' freedom of association, and Plaintiffs will be harmed if Secretary Benson continues to implement the VNP Proposal.

COUNT II
VIOLATION OF FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

77. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the above paragraphs of this Complaint.

78. The First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution guarantee the freedom to join together in furtherance of common political beliefs, commonly referred to as freedom of association, and also protect the expression of that association.

79. The freedom of association extends to political parties, including MRP and its members and leadership.

80. Mich. Const. 1963, art. 4, § 6(1)(b) disqualifies from service on the commission individuals who currently express—or in the past six years have expressed—their political affiliation in any of the following ways:

- a. Declaring candidacy for partisan federal, state, or local office.
- b. Serving in partisan federal, state, or local office.
- c. Serving as an officer or member of the governing body of a national, state, or local political party, including but not limited to MRP.
- d. Acting as a paid consultant or employee of a federal, state, or local elected official or political candidate, of a federal, state, or local political candidate's campaign, or of a political action committee, including but not limited to those affiliated with MRP.

81. Individuals, including the individual Plaintiffs, regularly express their political affiliation with MRP through one or more of the methods described in the preceding paragraph.

82. Plaintiffs face the untenable decision to either limit their political association and expression or be subject to automatic and absolute exclusion from service on the commission.

83. The VNP Proposal deters or discourages Plaintiffs from free exercise of their First Amendment rights.

84. The VNP Proposal severely burdens Plaintiffs' associational rights by excluding individuals from eligibility for public office based on their political expression.

85. No compelling governmental interest justifies the severe burden imposed on Plaintiffs by the VNP Proposal.

86. The VNP Proposal is not narrowly tailored to achieve any purported compelling governmental interest.

87. The VNP Proposal unconstitutionally infringes on Plaintiffs' freedom of association, and Plaintiffs will be harmed if Secretary Benson continues to implement the VNP Proposal.

COUNT III
VIOLATION OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH—VIEWPOINT DISCRIMINATION

88. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the above paragraphs of this Complaint.

89. The First Amendment to the United States Constitution prohibits government from discriminating against speech based on viewpoint.

90. The VNP Proposal requires applicants to attest under oath either that they affiliate with one of the two major political parties and, if so, to identify the party with which they affiliate, or that they do not affiliate with either of the major parties.

91. The VNP Proposal reserves only four positions to each of the pools of applicants who affiliate with one of the two major political parties, while reserving a greater number of positions (five) to the pool of candidates who claim that they do not affiliate with either major party.

92. The VNP Proposal explicitly accounts for the political affiliation of applicants in the selection process.

93. Applicants who affiliate with one of the two major parties, including MRP, are treated differently than applicants who do not affiliate with either major party.

94. Applicants who affiliate with one of the two major parties, including MRP, are disfavored because only four positions are reserved to each of the pools of affiliating applicants, while five positions are reserved to the pool of unaffiliating applicants.

95. MRP adopts particular viewpoints on a number of policy and other issues, views that are advanced through its members and standard bearers elected or appointed to public office.

96. The VNP Proposal discriminates against applicants based on viewpoint, specifically the viewpoints associated with their respective political affiliation.

97. The commission's composition under the VNP Proposal intentionally disfavors the viewpoints of MRP by allotting a minority of seats on the commission to applicants who affiliate with MRP.

98. No compelling governmental interest justifies the viewpoint discrimination.

99. The VNP Proposal is not narrowly tailored to achieve any purported compelling governmental interest.

100. The VNP Proposal unconstitutionally infringes on Plaintiffs' freedom of speech, and Plaintiffs will be harmed if Secretary Benson continues to implement the VNP Proposal.

**COUNT IV
VIOLATION OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH—RESTRICTED SPEECH**

101. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the above paragraphs of this Complaint.

102. Mich. Const. 1963, art. 4, § 6, subsection (11) imposes restrictions on the speech of the commission and its members, staff, attorneys, and consultants.

103. Plaintiffs wish to apply for the position of commissioner but are deterred in part because of the conditions of public employment described in the preceding paragraphs.

104. The VNP Proposal subjects commissioners (and staff, attorneys, and consultants for the commission) to unreasonable conditions of employment, including the relinquishment of constitutional rights.

105. Public officers and employees may not constitutionally be compelled to relinquish First Amendment rights they would otherwise enjoy as citizens to comment on matters of public interest.

106. Redistricting state legislative and congressional districts involves a matter of public concern. Indeed, the First Amendment was fashioned in part to assure the interchange of ideas for bringing about political and social changes—matters unquestionably related to political redistricting.

107. The VNP Proposal’s speech restriction is overbroad and covers subjects not necessarily involving confidential or privileged matters, or matters involving the individual’s scope of duties for the commission. For example, under the VNP Proposal, any staff member for the commission would be prohibited from commenting to his or her spouse outside of work on a redistricting issue involving a completely different state, a past redistricting issue, or any other redistricting matter wholly unrelated to that staff member’s duties for the commission.

108. No adequate justification exists for treating the commissioners, members, staff, attorneys, and consultants differently from any other member of the general public with respect to any and all redistricting matters.

109. No compelling governmental interest justifies the restriction on speech.

110. The VNP Proposal is not narrowly tailored to achieve any purported compelling governmental interest.

111. The VNP Proposal unconstitutionally infringes on Plaintiffs’ freedom of speech, and Plaintiffs will be harmed if Secretary Benson continues to implement the VNP Proposal.

COUNT V
VIOLATION OF EQUAL PROTECTION

112. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the above paragraphs of this Complaint.

113. The Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment guarantees to all persons equal protection of the laws.

114. Government may not draw distinctions between groups of individuals on differences that are irrelevant to a legitimate government purpose.

115. The VNP Proposal requires applicants to attest under oath either that they affiliate with one of the two major political parties and, if so, to identify the party with which they affiliate, or that they do not affiliate with either of the major parties.

116. The VNP Proposal reserves only four positions to each of the pools of applicants who affiliate with one of the two major political parties, while reserving a greater number of positions (five) to the pool of candidates who do not affiliate with either major party.

117. The VNP Proposal distinguishes between applicants who affiliate with one of the two major political parties and those who do not affiliate with either major party.

118. The classifications concern fundamental rights related to political speech and association.

119. Applicants who affiliate with one of the two major parties, including MRP, are treated differently than applicants who do not affiliate with either major party.

120. Applicants who affiliate with one of the two major parties, including MRP, are disfavored because only four positions are reserved to each of the pools of affiliating applicants, while five positions are reserved to the pool of unaffiliating applicants. In other words, a greater number of seats on the commission are made available to applicants who are unaffiliated with either major political party.

121. The commission's composition under the VNP Proposal intentionally disfavors MRP, as one of the two major political parties, by allotting a minority of seats to applicants who affiliate with MRP.

122. The VNP Proposal creates a system in which applicants are excluded because of who they are (i.e., affiliates of a major party) and not necessarily because of their past or current activity.

123. Applicants face the untenable decision to either forego their affiliation with MRP or compete for fewer seats on the commission.

124. It is plausible that a minor political party could be represented on the commission by a greater number of commissioners than either of the two major political parties.

125. No compelling governmental interest justifies the disparate, unequal treatment of applicants affiliated with one of the two major political parties, including MRP.

126. The VNP Proposal is not narrowly tailored to achieve any purported compelling governmental interest.

127. No governmental interest justifies the disparate, unequal treatment of applicants affiliated with one of the two major political parties.

128. The unequal treatment of applicants is not rationally related to any governmental interest.

129. The VNP Proposal denies Plaintiffs equal protection of the laws, and Plaintiffs will be harmed if Secretary Benson continues to implement the VNP Proposal.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court enter an Order (a) declaring the VNP Proposal unconstitutional under the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution; (b) issue preliminary and permanent injunctive relief enjoining Defendant from implementing, administering, or otherwise enforcing the VNP Proposal; (c) awarding Plaintiffs their costs and expenses of this action, including a reasonable attorneys' fee award, in accordance

with 42 U.S.C. § 1988 and other applicable law; and (d) granting Plaintiffs such other and further relief as the Court deems equitable and just.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 22, 2019

/s/ Gary P. Gordon

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INITIATIVE PETITION
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

A proposal to amend the Michigan Constitution to create an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. If adopted, this amendment would transfer the authority to draw Congressional and State Legislative district lines from the Legislature and Governor to the Independent Commission. The selection process will be administered by the Secretary of State. Thirteen commissioners will be randomly selected from a pool of registered voters, and consist of four members who self-identify with each of the two major political parties, and five non-affiliated, independent members. Current and former partisan elected officials, lobbyists, party officers and their employees are not eligible to serve. The proposal is to be voted on in the November 6, 2018 General Election.

FOR THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT AND PROVISIONS OF THE EXISTING CONSTITUTION THAT ARE ALTERED OR ABROGATED BY THE PROPOSAL IF ADOPTED, SEE THE REVERSE SIDE AND ATTACHED PAGES OF THIS PETITION.

We, the undersigned qualified and registered electors, residents in the county of _____, State of Michigan, respectively petition for amendment to constitution.

WARNING — A person who knowingly signs this petition more than once, signs a name other than his or her own, signs when not a qualified and registered elector, or sets opposite his or her signature on a petition, a date other than the actual date the signature was affixed, is violating the provisions of the Michigan election law.

INDICATE CITY OR TOWNSHIP IN WHICH REGISTERED TO VOTE	SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROUTE	ZIP CODE	DATE OF SIGNING		
					MO	DAY	YEAR
CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>	1.						
CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>	2.						
CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>	3.						
CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>	4.						
CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>	5.						
CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>	6.						
CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>	7.						
CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>	8.						
CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>	9.						
CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>	10.						

SAMPLE

RECEIVED/FILED
 MICHIGAN DEPT. OF STATE
 ELECTIONS/GREAT SEAL
 2017 AUG 14 AM 11:15

CERTIFICATE OF CIRCULATOR

The undersigned circulator of the above petition asserts that he or she is 18 years of age or older and a United States citizen; that each signature on the petition was signed in his or her presence; that he or she has neither caused nor permitted a person to sign the petition more than once and has no knowledge of a person signing the petition more than once; and that, to his or her best knowledge and belief, each signature is the genuine signature of the person purporting to sign the petition, the person signing the petition was at the time of signing a registered elector of the city or township indicated preceding the signature, and the elector was qualified to sign the petition.

If the circulator is not a resident of Michigan, the circulator shall make a cross or check mark in the box provided, otherwise each signature on this petition sheet is invalid and the signatures will not be counted by a filing official. By making a cross or check mark in the box provided, the undersigned circulator asserts that he or she is not a resident of Michigan and agrees to accept the jurisdiction of this state for the purpose of any legal proceeding or hearing that concerns a petition sheet executed by the circulator and agrees that legal process served on the Secretary of State or a designated agent of the Secretary of State has the same effect as if personally served on the circulator.

WARNING — A circulator knowingly making a false statement in the above certificate, a person not a circulator who signs as a circulator, or a person who signs a name other than his or her own as circulator is guilty of a misdemeanor.

000031

CIRCULATOR — Do not sign or date certificate until after circulating petition.

_____/_____/_____
 (Signature of Circulator) (Date)

 (Printed Name of Circulator)

 Complete Residence Address (Street and Number or Rural Route) [Do Not Enter a Post Office Box]

 (City or Township, State, Zip Code)

 (County of Registration, If Registered to Vote, of a Circulator who is not a Resident of Michigan)



INITIATIVE PETITION AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

The proposal, if adopted, would amend Article IV, Sections 1 through 6, Article V, Sections 1, 2, and 4, Article VI, Sections 1 and 4 as follows (new language capitalized, deleted language struck out with a line):

Article IV – Legislative Branch

§ 1 Legislative power.

Sec. 1. EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT LIMITED OR ABROGATED BY ARTICLE IV, SECTION 6 OR ARTICLE V, SECTION 2, ~~the~~ legislative power of the State of Michigan is vested in a senate and a house of representatives.

§ 2 Senators, number, term.

Sec. 2. The senate shall consist of 38 members to be elected from single member districts at the same election as the governor for four-year terms concurrent with the term of office of the governor.

~~Senatorial districts, apportionment factors:~~

~~In districting the state for the purpose of electing senators after the official publication of the total population count of each federal decennial census, each county shall be assigned apportionment factors equal to the sum of its percentage of the state's population as shown by the last regular federal decennial census computed to the nearest one-one hundredth of one percent multiplied by four and its percentage of the state's land area computed to the nearest one-one hundredth of one percent.~~

~~Apportionment rules:~~

~~In arranging the state into senatorial districts, the apportionment commission shall be governed by the following rules:~~

~~(1) Counties with 13 or more apportionment factors shall be entitled as a class to senators in the proportion that the total apportionment factors of such counties bear to the total apportionment factors of the state computed to the nearest whole number. After each such county has been allocated one senator, the remaining senators to which this class of counties is entitled shall be distributed among such counties by the method of equal proportions applied to the apportionment factors.~~

~~(2) Counties having less than 13 apportionment factors shall be entitled as a class to senators in the proportion that the total apportionment factors of such counties bear to the total apportionment factors of the state computed to the nearest whole number. Such counties shall thereafter be arranged into senatorial districts that are compact, convenient, and contiguous by land, as rectangular in shape as possible, and having as nearly as possible 13 apportionment factors, but in no event less than 10 or more than 16. Insofar as possible, existing senatorial districts at the time of reapportionment shall not be altered unless there is a failure to comply with the above standards.~~

~~(3) Counties entitled to two or more senators shall be divided into single member districts. The population of such districts shall be as nearly equal as possible but shall not be less than 75 percent nor more than 125 percent of a number determined by dividing the population of the county by the number of senators to which it is entitled. Each such district shall follow incorporated city or township boundary lines to the extent possible and shall be compact, contiguous, and as nearly uniform in shape as possible.~~

§ 3 Representatives, number, term; contiguity of districts.

Sec. 3. The house of representatives shall consist of 110 members elected for two-year terms from single member districts apportioned on a basis of population as provided in this article. The districts shall consist of compact and convenient territory contiguous by land:

~~Representative area, single and multiple county:~~

~~Each county which has a population of not less than seven-tenths of one percent of the population of the state shall constitute a separate representative area. Each county having less than seven-tenths of one percent of the population of the state shall be combined with another county or counties to form a representative area of not less than seven-tenths of one percent of the population of the state. Any county which is isolated under the initial allocation as provided in this section shall be joined with that contiguous representative area having the smallest percentage of the state's population. Each such representative area shall be entitled initially to one representative.~~

~~Apportionment of representatives to areas:~~

~~After the assignment of one representative to each of the representative areas, the remaining house seats shall be apportioned among the representative areas on the basis of population by the method of equal proportions.~~

~~Districting of single county area entitled to 2 or more representatives:~~

~~Any county comprising a representative area entitled to two or more representatives shall be divided into single member representative districts as follows:~~

~~(1) The population of such districts shall be as nearly equal as possible but shall not be less than 75 percent nor more than 125 percent of a number determined by dividing the population of the representative area by the number of representatives to which it is entitled.~~

~~(2) Such single member districts shall follow city and township boundaries where applicable and shall be composed of compact and contiguous territory as nearly square in shape as possible.~~

~~Districting of multiple county representative areas:~~

~~Any representative area consisting of more than one county, entitled to more than one representative, shall be divided into single member districts as equal as possible in population, adhering to county lines.~~

§ 4 Annexation or merger with a city.

Sec. 4. In counties having more than one representative or senatorial district, the territory in the same county annexed to or merged with a city between apportionments shall become a part of a contiguous representative or senatorial district in the city with which it is combined, if provided by ordinance of the city. The district or districts with which the territory shall be combined shall be determined by such ordinance certified to the secretary of state. No such change in the boundaries of a representative or senatorial district shall have the effect of removing a legislator from office during his term.

§ 5 Island areas, contiguity.

Sec. 5. Island areas are considered to be contiguous by land to the county of which they are a part.

§ 6 INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION FOR STATE LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS.

~~Commission on legislative apportionment:~~

Sec. 6.

(1) AN INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION FOR STATE LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS (HEREINAFTER, THE "COMMISSION") IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED AS A PERMANENT COMMISSION IN THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH.

THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIST OF 13 COMMISSIONERS. THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT A REDISTRICTING PLAN FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF DISTRICTS: STATE SENATE DISTRICTS, STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS, AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS. EACH COMMISSIONER SHALL:

- (A) BE REGISTERED AND ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN;
- (B) NOT CURRENTLY BE OR IN THE PAST 6 YEARS HAVE BEEN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:
 - (I) A DECLARED CANDIDATE FOR PARTISAN FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL OFFICE;
 - (II) AN ELECTED OFFICIAL TO PARTISAN FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL OFFICE;
 - (III) AN OFFICER OR MEMBER OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF A NATIONAL, STATE, OR LOCAL POLITICAL PARTY;
 - (IV) A PAID CONSULTANT OR EMPLOYEE OF A FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIAL OR POLITICAL CANDIDATE, OF A FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL POLITICAL CANDIDATE'S CAMPAIGN, OR OF A POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE;
 - (V) AN EMPLOYEE OF THE LEGISLATURE;
 - (VI) ANY PERSON WHO IS REGISTERED AS A LOBBYIST AGENT WITH THE MICHIGAN BUREAU OF ELECTIONS, OR ANY EMPLOYEE OF SUCH PERSON; OR
 - (VII) AN UNCLASSIFIED STATE EMPLOYEE WHO IS EXEMPT FROM CLASSIFICATION IN STATE CIVIL SERVICE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE XI, SECTION 5, EXCEPT FOR EMPLOYEES OF COURTS OF RECORD, EMPLOYEES OF THE STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AND PERSONS IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE STATE;
- (C) NOT BE A PARENT, STEPPARENT, CHILD, STEPCHILD, OR SPOUSE OF ANY INDIVIDUAL DISQUALIFIED UNDER PART (1)(B) OF THIS SECTION; OR
- (D) NOT BE OTHERWISE DISQUALIFIED FOR APPOINTED OR ELECTED OFFICE BY THIS CONSTITUTION.
- (E) FOR FIVE YEARS AFTER THE DATE OF APPOINTMENT, A COMMISSIONER IS INELIGIBLE TO HOLD A PARTISAN ELECTIVE OFFICE AT THE STATE, COUNTY, CITY, VILLAGE, OR TOWNSHIP LEVEL IN MICHIGAN.

(2) COMMISSIONERS SHALL BE SELECTED THROUGH THE FOLLOWING PROCESS:

- (A) THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL DO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:
 - (I) MAKE APPLICATIONS FOR COMMISSIONER AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 1 OF THE YEAR OF THE FEDERAL DECENNIAL CENSUS. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL CIRCULATE THE APPLICATIONS IN A MANNER THAT INVITES WIDE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FROM DIFFERENT REGIONS OF THE STATE. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL ALSO MAIL APPLICATIONS FOR COMMISSIONER TO TEN THOUSAND MICHIGAN REGISTERED VOTERS, SELECTED AT RANDOM, BY JANUARY 1 OF THE YEAR OF THE FEDERAL DECENNIAL CENSUS.
 - (II) REQUIRE APPLICANTS TO PROVIDE A COMPLETED APPLICATION.
 - (III) REQUIRE APPLICANTS TO ATTEST UNDER OATH THAT THEY MEET THE QUALIFICATIONS SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION; AND EITHER THAT THEY AFFILIATE WITH ONE OF THE TWO POLITICAL PARTIES WITH THE LARGEST REPRESENTATION IN THE LEGISLATURE (HEREINAFTER, "MAJOR PARTIES"), AND IF SO, IDENTIFY THE PARTY WITH WHICH THEY AFFILIATE, OR THAT THEY DO NOT AFFILIATE WITH EITHER OF THE MAJOR PARTIES.
- (B) SUBJECT TO PART (2)(C) OF THIS SECTION, THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL MAIL ADDITIONAL APPLICATIONS FOR COMMISSIONER TO MICHIGAN REGISTERED VOTERS SELECTED AT RANDOM UNTIL 30 QUALIFYING APPLICANTS THAT AFFILIATE WITH ONE OF THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES HAVE SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS, 30 QUALIFYING APPLICANTS THAT IDENTIFY THAT THEY AFFILIATE WITH THE OTHER OF THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES HAVE SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS, AND 40 QUALIFYING APPLICANTS THAT IDENTIFY THAT THEY DO NOT AFFILIATE WITH EITHER OF THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES HAVE SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS, EACH IN RESPONSE TO THE MAILINGS.
- (C) THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR COMMISSIONER UNTIL JUNE 1 OF THE YEAR OF THE FEDERAL DECENNIAL CENSUS.
- (D) BY JULY 1 OF THE YEAR OF THE FEDERAL DECENNIAL CENSUS, FROM ALL OF THE APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED, THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL:
 - (I) ELIMINATE INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS AND APPLICATIONS OF APPLICANTS WHO DO NOT MEET THE QUALIFICATIONS IN PARTS (1)(A) THROUGH (1)(D) OF THIS SECTION BASED SOLELY ON THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE APPLICATIONS;
 - (II) RANDOMLY SELECT 60 APPLICANTS FROM EACH POOL OF AFFILIATING APPLICANTS AND 80 APPLICANTS FROM THE POOL OF NON-AFFILIATING APPLICANTS. 50% OF EACH POOL SHALL BE POPULATED FROM THE QUALIFYING APPLICANTS TO SUCH POOL WHO RETURNED AN APPLICATION MAILED PURSUANT TO PART 2(A) OR 2(B) OF THIS SECTION, PROVIDED, THAT IF FEWER THAN 30 QUALIFYING APPLICANTS AFFILIATED WITH A MAJOR PARTY OR FEWER THAN 40 QUALIFYING NON-AFFILIATING APPLICANTS HAVE APPLIED TO SERVE ON THE COMMISSION IN RESPONSE TO THE RANDOM MAILING, THE BALANCE OF THE POOL SHALL BE POPULATED FROM THE BALANCE OF QUALIFYING APPLICANTS TO THAT POOL. THE RANDOM SELECTION PROCESS USED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO FILL THE SELECTION POOLS SHALL USE ACCEPTED STATISTICAL WEIGHTING METHODS TO ENSURE THAT THE POOLS, AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE, MIRROR THE GEOGRAPHIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC MAKEUP OF THE STATE; AND
 - (III) SUBMIT THE RANDOMLY-SELECTED APPLICATIONS TO THE MAJORITY LEADER AND THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE, AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
- (E) BY AUGUST 1 OF THE YEAR OF THE FEDERAL DECENNIAL CENSUS, THE MAJORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE, THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MAY EACH STRIKE FIVE APPLICANTS FROM ANY POOL OR POOLS, UP TO A MAXIMUM OF 20 TOTAL STRIKES BY THE FOUR LEGISLATIVE LEADERS.
- (F) BY SEPTEMBER 1 OF THE YEAR OF THE FEDERAL DECENNIAL CENSUS, THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL RANDOMLY DRAW THE NAMES OF FOUR COMMISSIONERS FROM EACH OF THE TWO POOLS OF REMAINING APPLICANTS AFFILIATING WITH A MAJOR PARTY, AND FIVE COMMISSIONERS FROM THE POOL OF REMAINING NON-AFFILIATING APPLICANTS.

(3) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED BELOW, COMMISSIONERS SHALL HOLD OFFICE FOR THE TERM SET FORTH IN PART (18) OF THIS

SECTION. IF A COMMISSIONER'S SEAT BECOMES VACANT FOR ANY REASON, THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL FILL THE VACANCY BY RANDOMLY DRAWING A NAME FROM THE REMAINING QUALIFYING APPLICANTS IN THE SELECTION POOL FROM WHICH THE ORIGINAL COMMISSIONER WAS SELECTED. A COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE SHALL BECOME VACANT UPON THE OCCURRENCE OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- (A) DEATH OR MENTAL INCAPACITY OF THE COMMISSIONER;
- (B) THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S RECEIPT OF THE COMMISSIONER'S WRITTEN RESIGNATION;
- (C) THE COMMISSIONER'S DISQUALIFICATION FOR ELECTION OR APPOINTMENT OR EMPLOYMENT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE XI, SECTION 8;
- (D) THE COMMISSIONER CEASES TO BE QUALIFIED TO SERVE AS A COMMISSIONER UNDER PART (1) OF THIS SECTION; OR
- (E) AFTER WRITTEN NOTICE AND AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE COMMISSIONER TO RESPOND, A VOTE OF 10 OF THE COMMISSIONERS FINDING SUBSTANTIAL NEGLIGENCE OF DUTY, GROSS MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE, OR INABILITY TO DISCHARGE THE DUTIES OF OFFICE.

(4) THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL BE SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION WITHOUT VOTE, AND IN THAT CAPACITY SHALL FURNISH, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION, ALL TECHNICAL SERVICES THAT THE COMMISSION DEEMS NECESSARY. THE COMMISSION SHALL ELECT ITS OWN CHAIRPERSON. THE COMMISSION HAS THE SOLE POWER TO MAKE ITS OWN RULES OF PROCEDURE. THE COMMISSION SHALL HAVE PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING AUTHORITY AND MAY HIRE STAFF AND CONSULTANTS FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDING LEGAL REPRESENTATION.

(5) BEGINNING NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1 OF THE YEAR PRECEDING THE FEDERAL DECENNIAL CENSUS, AND CONTINUING EACH YEAR IN WHICH THE COMMISSION OPERATES, THE LEGISLATURE SHALL APPROPRIATE FUNDS SUFFICIENT TO COMPENSATE THE COMMISSIONERS AND TO ENABLE THE COMMISSION TO CARRY OUT ITS FUNCTIONS, OPERATIONS 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. 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. THE COMMISSION SHALL FURNISH REPORTS OF EXPENDITURES, AT LEAST ANNUALLY, TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE AND SHALL BE SUBJECT TO ANNUAL AUDIT AS PROVIDED BY LAW. EACH COMMISSIONER SHALL RECEIVE COMPENSATION AT LEAST EQUAL TO 25 PERCENT OF THE GOVERNOR'S SALARY. THE STATE OF MICHIGAN SHALL INDEMNIFY COMMISSIONERS FOR COSTS INCURRED IF THE LEGISLATURE DOES NOT APPROPRIATE SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO COVER SUCH COSTS.

(6) THE COMMISSION SHALL HAVE LEGAL STANDING TO PROSECUTE AN ACTION REGARDING THE ADEQUACY OF RESOURCES PROVIDED FOR THE OPERATION OF THE COMMISSION, AND TO DEFEND ANY ACTION REGARDING AN ADOPTED PLAN. THE COMMISSION SHALL INFORM THE LEGISLATURE IF THE COMMISSION DETERMINES THAT FUNDS OR OTHER RESOURCES PROVIDED FOR OPERATION OF THE COMMISSION ARE NOT ADEQUATE. THE LEGISLATURE SHALL PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING TO ALLOW THE COMMISSION TO DEFEND ANY ACTION REGARDING AN ADOPTED PLAN.

(7) THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL ISSUE A CALL CONVENING THE COMMISSION BY OCTOBER 15 IN THE YEAR OF THE FEDERAL DECENNIAL CENSUS. NOT LATER THAN NOVEMBER 1 IN THE YEAR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE FEDERAL DECENNIAL CENSUS, THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT A REDISTRICTING PLAN UNDER THIS SECTION FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF DISTRICTS: STATE SENATE DISTRICTS, STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS, AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS.

(8) BEFORE COMMISSIONERS DRAFT ANY PLAN, THE COMMISSION SHALL HOLD AT LEAST TEN PUBLIC HEARINGS THROUGHOUT THE STATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF INFORMING THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE REDISTRICTING PROCESS AND THE PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSION AND SOLICITING INFORMATION FROM THE PUBLIC ABOUT POTENTIAL PLANS. THE COMMISSION SHALL RECEIVE FOR CONSIDERATION WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS OF PROPOSED REDISTRICTING PLANS AND ANY SUPPORTING MATERIALS, INCLUDING UNDERLYING DATA, FROM ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC. THESE WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS ARE PUBLIC RECORDS.

(9) AFTER DEVELOPING AT LEAST ONE PROPOSED REDISTRICTING PLAN FOR EACH TYPE OF DISTRICT, THE COMMISSION SHALL PUBLISH THE PROPOSED REDISTRICTING PLANS AND ANY DATA AND SUPPORTING MATERIALS USED TO DEVELOP THE PLANS. EACH COMMISSIONER MAY ONLY PROPOSE ONE REDISTRICTING PLAN FOR EACH TYPE OF DISTRICT. THE COMMISSION SHALL HOLD AT LEAST FIVE PUBLIC HEARINGS THROUGHOUT THE STATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF SOLICITING COMMENT FROM THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE PROPOSED PLANS. EACH OF THE PROPOSED PLANS SHALL INCLUDE SUCH CENSUS DATA AS IS NECESSARY TO ACCURATELY DESCRIBE THE PLAN AND VERIFY THE POPULATION OF EACH DISTRICT, AND A MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION THAT INCLUDE THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS, SUCH AS COUNTIES, CITIES, AND TOWNSHIPS; MAN-MADE FEATURES, SUCH AS STREETS, ROADS, HIGHWAYS, AND RAILROADS; AND NATURAL FEATURES, SUCH AS WATERWAYS, WHICH FORM THE BOUNDARIES OF THE DISTRICTS.

(10) EACH COMMISSIONER SHALL PERFORM HIS OR HER DUTIES IN A MANNER THAT IS IMPARTIAL AND REINFORCES PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE INTEGRITY OF THE REDISTRICTING PROCESS. THE COMMISSION SHALL CONDUCT ALL OF ITS BUSINESS AT OPEN MEETINGS. NINE COMMISSIONERS, INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE COMMISSIONER FROM EACH SELECTION POOL SHALL CONSTITUTE A QUORUM, AND ALL MEETINGS SHALL REQUIRE A QUORUM. THE COMMISSION SHALL PROVIDE ADVANCE PUBLIC NOTICE OF ITS MEETINGS AND HEARINGS. THE COMMISSION SHALL CONDUCT ITS HEARINGS IN A MANNER THAT INVITES WIDE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION THROUGHOUT THE STATE. THE COMMISSION SHALL USE TECHNOLOGY TO PROVIDE CONTEMPORANEOUS PUBLIC OBSERVATION AND MEANINGFUL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE REDISTRICTING PROCESS DURING ALL MEETINGS AND HEARINGS.

(11) THE COMMISSION, ITS MEMBERS, STAFF, ATTORNEYS, AND CONSULTANTS SHALL NOT DISCUSS REDISTRICTING MATTERS WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OUTSIDE OF AN OPEN MEETING OF THE COMMISSION, EXCEPT THAT A COMMISSIONER MAY COMMUNICATE ABOUT REDISTRICTING MATTERS WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO GAIN INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS OR HER DUTIES IF SUCH COMMUNICATION OCCURS (A) IN WRITING OR (B) AT A PREVIOUSLY PUBLICLY NOTICED FORUM OR TOWN HALL OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

THE COMMISSION, ITS MEMBERS, STAFF, ATTORNEYS, EXPERTS, AND CONSULTANTS MAY NOT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY SOLICIT OR ACCEPT ANY GIFT OR LOAN OF MONEY, GOODS, SERVICES, OR OTHER THING OF VALUE GREATER THAN \$20 FOR THE BENEFIT OF ANY PERSON OR ORGANIZATION, WHICH MAY INFLUENCE THE MANNER IN WHICH THE COMMISSIONER, STAFF, ATTORNEY, EXPERT, OR CONSULTANT PERFORMS HIS OR HER DUTIES.

(12) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PART (14) OF THIS SECTION, A FINAL DECISION OF THE COMMISSION REQUIRES THE CONCURRENCE OF A MAJORITY OF THE COMMISSIONERS. A DECISION ON THE DISMISSAL OR RETENTION OF PAID STAFF OR CONSULTANTS REQUIRES THE VOTE OF AT LEAST ONE COMMISSIONER AFFILIATING WITH EACH OF THE MAJOR PARTIES AND ONE NON-AFFILIATING COMMISSIONER. ALL DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE RECORDED, AND THE RECORD OF ITS DECISIONS SHALL BE READILY AVAILABLE TO ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC WITHOUT CHARGE.

(13) THE COMMISSION SHALL ABIDE BY THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA IN PROPOSING AND ADOPTING EACH PLAN, IN ORDER OF PRIORITY:

- (A) DISTRICTS SHALL BE OF EQUAL POPULATION AS MANDATED BY THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION, AND SHALL COMPLY WITH THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT AND OTHER FEDERAL LAWS.
- (B) DISTRICTS SHALL BE GEOGRAPHICALLY CONTIGUOUS. ISLAND AREAS ARE CONSIDERED TO BE CONTIGUOUS BY LAND TO THE COUNTY OF WHICH THEY ARE A PART.
- (C) DISTRICTS SHALL REFLECT THE STATE'S DIVERSE POPULATION AND COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST. COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST MAY INCLUDE, BUT SHALL NOT BE LIMITED TO, POPULATIONS THAT SHARE CULTURAL OR HISTORICAL CHARACTERISTICS OR ECONOMIC INTERESTS. COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST DO NOT INCLUDE RELATIONSHIPS WITH POLITICAL PARTIES, INCUMBENTS, OR POLITICAL CANDIDATES.
- (D) DISTRICTS SHALL NOT PROVIDE A DISPROPORTIONATE ADVANTAGE TO ANY POLITICAL PARTY. A DISPROPORTIONATE ADVANTAGE TO A POLITICAL PARTY SHALL BE DETERMINED USING ACCEPTED MEASURES OF PARTISAN FAIRNESS.
- (E) DISTRICTS SHALL NOT FAVOR OR DISFAVOR AN INCUMBENT ELECTED OFFICIAL OR A CANDIDATE.
- (F) DISTRICTS SHALL REFLECT CONSIDERATION OF COUNTY, CITY, AND TOWNSHIP BOUNDARIES.
- (G) DISTRICTS SHALL BE REASONABLY COMPACT.

(14) THE COMMISSION SHALL FOLLOW THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE IN ADOPTING A PLAN:

- (A) BEFORE VOTING TO ADOPT A PLAN, THE COMMISSION SHALL ENSURE THAT THE PLAN IS TESTED, USING APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY, FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE CRITERIA DESCRIBED ABOVE.
- (B) BEFORE VOTING TO ADOPT A PLAN, THE COMMISSION SHALL PROVIDE PUBLIC NOTICE OF EACH PLAN THAT WILL BE VOTED ON AND PROVIDE AT LEAST 45 DAYS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED PLAN OR PLANS. EACH PLAN THAT WILL BE VOTED ON SHALL INCLUDE SUCH CENSUS DATA AS IS NECESSARY TO ACCURATELY DESCRIBE THE PLAN AND VERIFY THE POPULATION OF EACH DISTRICT, AND SHALL INCLUDE THE MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION REQUIRED IN PART (9) OF THIS SECTION.
- (C) A FINAL DECISION OF THE COMMISSION TO ADOPT A REDISTRICTING PLAN REQUIRES A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE COMMISSION, INCLUDING AT LEAST TWO COMMISSIONERS WHO AFFILIATE WITH EACH MAJOR PARTY, AND AT LEAST TWO COMMISSIONERS WHO DO NOT AFFILIATE WITH EITHER MAJOR PARTY. IF NO PLAN SATISFIES THIS REQUIREMENT FOR A TYPE OF DISTRICT, THE COMMISSION SHALL USE THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE TO ADOPT A PLAN FOR THAT TYPE OF DISTRICT:
 - (I) EACH COMMISSIONER MAY SUBMIT ONE PROPOSED PLAN FOR EACH TYPE OF DISTRICT TO THE FULL COMMISSION FOR CONSIDERATION.
 - (II) EACH COMMISSIONER SHALL RANK THE PLANS SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PREFERENCE. EACH PLAN SHALL BE ASSIGNED A POINT VALUE INVERSE TO ITS RANKING AMONG THE NUMBER OF CHOICES, GIVING THE LOWEST RANKED PLAN ONE POINT AND THE HIGHEST RANKED PLAN A POINT VALUE EQUAL TO THE NUMBER OF PLANS SUBMITTED.
 - (III) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT THE PLAN RECEIVING THE HIGHEST TOTAL POINTS, THAT IS ALSO RANKED AMONG THE TOP HALF OF PLANS BY AT LEAST TWO COMMISSIONERS NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE PARTY OF THE COMMISSIONER SUBMITTING THE PLAN, OR IN THE CASE OF A PLAN SUBMITTED BY NON-AFFILIATED COMMISSIONERS IS RANKED AMONG THE TOP HALF OF PLANS BY AT LEAST TWO COMMISSIONERS AFFILIATED WITH A MAJOR PARTY. IF PLANS ARE TIED FOR THE HIGHEST POINT TOTAL, THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL RANDOMLY SELECT THE FINAL PLAN FROM THOSE PLANS. IF NO PLAN MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL RANDOMLY SELECT THE FINAL PLAN FROM AMONG ALL SUBMITTED PLANS PURSUANT TO PART (14)(C)(I).

(15) WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER ADOPTING A PLAN, THE COMMISSION SHALL PUBLISH THE PLAN AND THE MATERIAL REPORTS, REFERENCE MATERIALS, AND DATA USED IN DRAWING IT, INCLUDING ANY PROGRAMMING INFORMATION USED TO PRODUCE AND TEST THE PLAN. THE PUBLISHED MATERIALS SHALL BE SUCH THAT AN INDEPENDENT PERSON IS ABLE TO REPLICATE THE CONCLUSION WITHOUT ANY MODIFICATION OF ANY OF THE PUBLISHED MATERIALS.

(16) FOR EACH ADOPTED PLAN, THE COMMISSION SHALL ISSUE A REPORT THAT EXPLAINS THE BASIS ON WHICH THE COMMISSION MADE ITS DECISIONS IN ACHIEVING COMPLIANCE WITH PLAN REQUIREMENTS AND SHALL INCLUDE THE MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION REQUIRED IN PART (9) OF THIS SECTION. A COMMISSIONER WHO VOTES AGAINST A REDISTRICTING PLAN MAY SUBMIT A DISSENTING REPORT WHICH SHALL BE ISSUED WITH THE COMMISSION'S REPORT.

(17) AN ADOPTED REDISTRICTING PLAN SHALL BECOME LAW 60 DAYS AFTER ITS PUBLICATION. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL KEEP A PUBLIC RECORD OF ALL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMISSION AND SHALL PUBLISH AND DISTRIBUTE EACH PLAN AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION.

(18) 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.

(19) THE SUPREME COURT, IN THE EXERCISE OF ORIGINAL JURISDICTION, SHALL DIRECT THE SECRETARY OF STATE OR THE COMMISSION TO PERFORM THEIR RESPECTIVE DUTIES. MAY REVIEW A CHALLENGE TO ANY PLAN ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION, AND SHALL REMAND A PLAN TO THE COMMISSION FOR FURTHER ACTION IF THE PLAN FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS CONSTITUTION, THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OR SUPERSEDING FEDERAL LAW. IN NO EVENT SHALL ANY BODY, EXCEPT THE INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTING PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, PROMULGATE AND ADOPT A REDISTRICTING PLAN OR PLANS FOR THIS STATE.

(20) THIS SECTION IS SELF-EXECUTING. IF A FINAL COURT DECISION HOLDS ANY PART OR PARTS OF THIS SECTION TO BE IN CONFLICT WITH THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION OR FEDERAL LAW, THE SECTION SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT THAT THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND FEDERAL LAW PERMIT. ANY PROVISION HELD INVALID IS SEVERABLE FROM THE REMAINING PORTIONS OF THIS SECTION.

(21) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, NO EMPLOYER SHALL DISCHARGE, THREATEN TO DISCHARGE, INTIMIDATE, COERCE, OR RETALIATE AGAINST ANY EMPLOYEE BECAUSE OF THE EMPLOYEE'S MEMBERSHIP ON THE COMMISSION OR ATTENDANCE OR SCHEDULED ATTENDANCE AT ANY MEETING OF THE COMMISSION.

(22) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS CONSTITUTION, OR ANY PRIOR JUDICIAL DECISION, AS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ADDING THIS PROVISION, WHICH AMENDS ARTICLE IV, SECTIONS 1 THROUGH 6, ARTICLE V, SECTIONS 1, 2 AND 4, AND ARTICLE VI, SECTIONS 1 AND 4, INCLUDING THIS PROVISION, FOR PURPOSES OF INTERPRETING THIS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT THE PEOPLE DECLARE THAT THE POWERS GRANTED TO THE COMMISSION ARE LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS NOT SUBJECT TO THE CONTROL OR APPROVAL OF THE LEGISLATURE, AND ARE EXCLUSIVELY RESERVED TO THE COMMISSION. THE COMMISSION, AND ALL OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES, OPERATIONS,

FUNCTIONS, CONTRACTORS, CONSULTANTS AND EMPLOYEES ARE NOT SUBJECT TO CHANGE, TRANSFER, REORGANIZATION, OR REASSIGNMENT, AND SHALL NOT BE ALTERED OR ABROGATED IN ANY MANNER WHATSOEVER, BY THE LEGISLATURE. NO OTHER BODY SHALL BE ESTABLISHED BY LAW TO PERFORM FUNCTIONS THAT ARE THE SAME OR SIMILAR TO THOSE GRANTED TO THE COMMISSION IN THIS SECTION.

~~A commission on legislative apportionment is hereby established consisting of eight electors, four of whom shall be selected by the state organizations of each of the two political parties whose candidates for governor received the highest vote at the last general election at which a governor was elected preceding each apportionment. If a candidate for governor of a third political party has received at such election more than 25 percent of such gubernatorial vote, the commission shall consist of 12 members, four of whom shall be selected by the state organization of the third political party. One resident of each of the following four regions shall be selected by each political party organization: (1) the upper peninsula; (2) the northern part of the lower peninsula, north of a line drawn along the northern boundaries of the counties of Bay, Midland, Isabella, Mecosta, Newaygo and Oceana; (3) southwestern Michigan, those counties south of region (2) and west of a line drawn along the western boundaries of the counties of Bay, Saginaw, Shiawassee, Ingham, Jackson and Hillsdale; (4) southeastern Michigan, the remaining counties of the state.~~

Eligibility to membership:

~~No officers or employees of the federal, state or local governments, excepting notaries public and members of the armed forces reserve, shall be eligible for membership on the commission. Members of the commission shall not be eligible for election to the legislature until two years after the apportionment in which they participated becomes effective.~~

Appointment, term, vacancies:

~~The commission shall be appointed immediately after the adoption of this constitution and whenever apportionment or districting of the legislature is required by the provisions of this constitution. Members of the commission shall hold office until each apportionment or districting plan becomes effective. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as for original appointment.~~

Officers, rules of procedure, compensation, appropriation:

~~The secretary of state shall be secretary of the commission without vote, and in that capacity shall furnish, under the direction of the commission, all necessary technical services. The commission shall elect its own chairman, shall make its own rules of procedure, and shall receive compensation provided by law. The legislature shall appropriate funds to enable the commission to carry out its activities.~~

Call to convene; apportionment; public hearings:

~~Within 30 days after the adoption of this constitution, and after the official total population count of each federal decennial census of the state and its political subdivisions is available, the secretary of state shall issue a call convening the commission not less than 30 nor more than 45 days thereafter. The commission shall complete its work within 180 days after all necessary census information is available. The commission shall proceed to district and apportion the senate and house of representatives according to the provisions of this constitution. All final decisions shall require the concurrence of a majority of the members of the commission. The commission shall hold public hearings as may be provided by law.~~

Apportionment plan; publication; record of proceedings:

~~Each final apportionment and districting plan shall be published as provided by law within 30 days from the date of its adoption and shall become law 60 days after publication. The secretary of state shall keep a public record of all the proceedings of the commission and shall be responsible for the publication and distribution of each plan.~~

Disagreement of commission; submission of plans to supreme court:

~~If a majority of the commission cannot agree on a plan, each member of the commission, individually or jointly with other members, may submit a proposed plan to the supreme court. The supreme court shall determine which plan complies most accurately with the constitutional requirements and shall direct that it be adopted by the commission and published as provided in this section.~~

Jurisdiction of supreme court on elector's application:

~~Upon the application of any elector filed not later than 90 days after final publication of the plan, the supreme court, in the exercise of original jurisdiction, shall direct the secretary of state or the commission to perform their duties, may review any final plan adopted by the commission, and shall remand such plan to the commission for further action if it fails to comply with the requirements of this constitution.~~

Article V – Executive Branch

§ 1 Executive power.

Sec. 1. EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT LIMITED OR ABROGATED BY ARTICLE V, SECTION 2, OR ARTICLE IV, SECTION 6, the executive power is vested in the governor.

§ 2 Principal departments.

Sec. 2. All executive and administrative offices, agencies and instrumentalities of the executive branch of state government and their respective functions, powers and duties, except for the office of governor and lieutenant governor, and the governing bodies of institutions of higher education provided for in this constitution, shall be allocated by law among and within not more than 20 principal departments. They shall be grouped as far as practicable according to major purposes.

Organization of executive branch; assignment of functions; submission to legislature.

Subsequent to the initial allocation, the governor may make changes in the organization of the executive branch or in the assignment of functions among its units which he considers necessary for efficient administration. Where these changes require the force of law, they shall be set forth in executive orders and submitted to the legislature. Thereafter the legislature shall have 60 calendar days of a regular session, or a full regular session if of shorter duration, to disapprove each executive order. Unless disapproved in both houses by a resolution concurred in by a majority of the members elected to and serving in each house, each order shall become effective at a date thereafter to be designated by the governor.

EXEMPTION FOR INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION FOR STATE LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS.

NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS CONSTITUTION OR ANY PRIOR JUDICIAL DECISION, AS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ADDING THIS PROVISION, WHICH AMENDS ARTICLE IV, SECTIONS 1 THROUGH 6, ARTICLE V, SECTIONS 1, 2 AND 4, AND ARTICLE VI, SECTIONS 1 AND 4, INCLUDING THIS PROVISION, FOR PURPOSES OF INTERPRETING THIS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT THE PEOPLE DECLARE THAT THE POWERS GRANTED TO INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION FOR STATE AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS (HEREINAFTER, "COMMISSION") ARE LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS NOT SUBJECT TO THE CONTROL OR APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR, AND ARE EXCLUSIVELY RESERVED TO THE COMMISSION. THE COMMISSION, AND ALL OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES, OPERATIONS, FUNCTIONS, CONTRACTORS, CONSULTANTS AND EMPLOYEES ARE NOT SUBJECT TO CHANGE, TRANSFER, REORGANIZATION, OR REASSIGNMENT, AND SHALL NOT BE ALTERED OR ABROGATED IN ANY MANNER WHATSOEVER, BY THE GOVERNOR. NO OTHER BODY SHALL BE ESTABLISHED BY LAW TO PERFORM FUNCTIONS THAT ARE THE SAME OR SIMILAR TO THOSE GRANTED TO THE COMMISSION IN ARTICLE IV, SECTION 6.

§ 4 Commissions or agencies for less than 2 years.

Sec. 4. EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT LIMITED OR ABROGATED BY ARTICLE V, SECTION 2 OR ARTICLE IV, SECTION 6, temporary

commissions or agencies for special purposes with a life of no more than two years may be established by law and need not be allocated within a principal department.

Article VI – Judicial Branch

§ 1 Judicial power in court of justice; divisions.

Sec. 1. EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT LIMITED OR ABROGATED BY ARTICLE IV, SECTION 6, OR ARTICLE V, SECTION 2, the judicial power of the state is vested exclusively in one court of justice which shall be divided into one supreme court, one court of appeals, one trial court of general jurisdiction known as the circuit court, one probate court, and courts of limited jurisdiction that the legislature may establish by a two-thirds vote of the members elected to and serving in each house.

§ 4 General superintending control over courts; writs; appellate jurisdiction.

Sec. 4. EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT LIMITED OR ABROGATED BY ARTICLE IV, SECTION 6, OR ARTICLE V, SECTION 2, the supreme court shall have general superintending control over all courts; power to issue, hear and determine prerogative and remedial writs; and appellate jurisdiction as provided by rules of the supreme court. The supreme court shall not have the power to remove a judge.

Provisions of existing Constitution altered or abrogated by the proposal if adopted.

Article IV – Legislative Branch

§1 Legislative power.

Sec. 1. The legislative power of the State of Michigan is vested in a senate and a house of representatives.

§ 2 Senators, number, term.

Sec. 2. The senate shall consist of 38 members to be elected from single member districts at the same election as the governor for four-year terms concurrent with the term of office of the governor.

Senatorial districts, apportionment factors.

In districting the state for the purpose of electing senators after the official publication of the total population count of each federal decennial census, each county shall be assigned apportionment factors equal to the sum of its percentage of the state's population as shown by the last regular federal decennial census computed to the nearest one-one hundredth of one percent multiplied by four and its percentage of the state's land area computed to the nearest one-one hundredth of one percent.

Apportionment rules.

In arranging the state into senatorial districts, the apportionment commission shall be governed by the following rules:

(1) Counties with 13 or more apportionment factors shall be entitled as a class to senators in the proportion that the total apportionment factors of such counties bear to the total apportionment factors of the state computed to the nearest whole number. After each such county has been allocated one senator, the remaining senators to which this class of counties is entitled shall be distributed among such counties by the method of equal proportions applied to the apportionment factors.

(2) Counties having less than 13 apportionment factors shall be entitled as a class to senators in the proportion that the total apportionment factors of such counties bear to the total apportionment factors of the state computed to the nearest whole number. Such counties shall thereafter be arranged into senatorial districts that are compact, convenient, and contiguous by land, as rectangular in shape as possible, and having as nearly as possible 13 apportionment factors but in no event less than 10 or more than 16. Insofar as possible, existing senatorial districts at the time of reapportionment shall not be altered, unless there is a failure to comply with the above standards.

(3) Counties entitled to two or more senators shall be divided into single member districts. The population of such districts shall be as nearly equal as possible but shall not be less than 75 percent nor more than 125 percent of a number determined by dividing the population of the county by the number of senators to which it is entitled. Each such district shall follow incorporated city or township boundary lines to the extent possible and shall be compact, contiguous, and as nearly uniform in shape as possible.

§ 3 Representatives, number, term; contiguity of districts.

Sec. 3. The house of representatives shall consist of 110 members elected for two-year terms from single member districts apportioned on a basis of population as provided in this article. The districts shall consist of compact and convenient territory contiguous by land.

Representative areas, single and multiple county.

Each county which has a population of not less than seven-tenths of one percent of the population of the state shall constitute a separate representative area. Each county having less than seven-tenths of one percent of the population of the state shall be combined with another county or counties to form a representative area of not less than seven-tenths of one percent of the population of the state. Any county which is isolated under the initial allocation as provided in this section shall be joined with that contiguous representative area having the smallest percentage of the state's population. Each such representative area shall be entitled initially to one representative.

Apportionment of representatives to areas.

After the assignment of one representative to each of the representative areas, the remaining house seats shall be apportioned among the representative areas on the basis of population by the method of equal proportions.

Districting of single county area entitled to 2 or more representatives.

Any county comprising a representative area entitled to two or more representatives shall be divided into single member representative districts as follows:

(1) The population of such districts shall be as nearly equal as possible but shall not be less than 75 percent nor more than 125 percent of a number determined by dividing the population of the representative area by the number of representatives to which it is entitled.

(2) Such single member districts shall follow city and township boundaries where applicable and shall be composed of compact and contiguous territory as nearly square in shape as possible.

Districting of multiple county representative areas.

Any representative area consisting of more than one county, entitled to more than one representative, shall be divided into single member districts as equal as possible in population, adhering to county lines.

§ 4 Annexation or merger with a city.

Sec. 4. In counties having more than one representative or senatorial district, the territory in the same county annexed to or merged with a city between apportionments shall become a part of a contiguous representative or senatorial district in the city with which it is combined, if provided by ordinance of the city. The district or districts with which the territory shall be combined shall be determined by such ordinance certified to the secretary of state. No such change in the boundaries of a representative or senatorial district shall have the effect of removing a legislator from office during his term.

§ 5 Island areas, contiguity.

Sec. 5. Island areas are considered to be contiguous by land to the county of which they are a part.

§ 6 Commission on legislative apportionment.

Sec. 6. A commission on legislative apportionment is hereby established consisting of eight electors, four of whom shall be selected by the state organizations of each of the two political parties whose candidates for governor received the highest vote at the last general election at which a governor was elected preceding each apportionment. If a candidate for governor of a third political party has received at such election more than 25 percent of such gubernatorial vote, the commission shall consist of 12 members, four of whom shall be selected by the state organization of the third political party. One resident of each of the following four regions shall be selected by each political party organization: (1) the upper peninsula; (2) the northern part of the lower peninsula, north of a line drawn along the northern boundaries of the counties of Bay, Midland, Isabella, Mecosta, Newaygo and Oceana; (3) southwestern Michigan, those counties south of region (2) and west of a line drawn along the western boundaries of the counties of Bay, Saginaw, Shiawassee, Ingham, Jackson and Hillsdale; (4) southeastern Michigan, the remaining counties of the state.

Eligibility to membership.

No officers or employees of the federal, state or local governments, excepting notaries public and members of the armed forces reserve, shall be eligible for membership on the commission. Members of the commission shall not be eligible for election to the legislature until two years after the apportionment in which they participated becomes effective.

Appointment, term, vacancies.

The commission shall be appointed immediately after the adoption of this constitution and whenever apportionment or districting of the legislature is required by the provisions of this constitution. Members of the commission shall hold office until each apportionment or districting plan becomes effective. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as for original appointment.

Officers, rules of procedure, compensation, appropriation.

The secretary of state shall be secretary of the commission without vote, and in that capacity shall furnish, under the direction of the commission, all necessary technical services. The commission shall elect its own chairman, shall make its own rules of procedure, and shall receive compensation provided by law. The legislature shall appropriate funds to enable the commission to carry out its activities.

Call to convene; apportionment; public hearings.

Within 30 days after the adoption of this constitution, and after the official total population count of each federal decennial census of the state and its political subdivisions is available, the secretary of state shall issue a call convening the commission not less than 30 nor more than 45 days thereafter. The commission shall complete its work within 180 days after all necessary census information is available. The commission shall proceed to district and apportion the senate and house of representatives according to the provisions of this constitution. All final decisions shall require the concurrence of a majority of the members of the commission. The commission shall hold public hearings as may be provided by law.

Apportionment plan, publication; record of proceedings.

Each final apportionment and districting plan shall be published as provided by law within 30 days from the date of its adoption and shall become law 60 days after publication. The secretary of state shall keep a public record of all the proceedings of the commission and shall be responsible for the publication and distribution of each plan.

Disagreement of commission; submission of plans to supreme court.

If a majority of the commission cannot agree on a plan, each member of the commission, individually or jointly with other members, may submit a proposed plan to the supreme court. The supreme court shall determine which plan complies most accurately with the constitutional requirements and shall direct that it be adopted by the commission and published as provided in this section.

Jurisdiction of supreme court on elector's application.

Upon the application of any elector filed not later than 60 days after final publication of the plan, the supreme court, in the exercise of original jurisdiction, shall direct the secretary of state or the commission to perform their duties, may review any final plan adopted by the commission, and shall remand such plan to the commission for further action if it fails to comply with the requirements of this constitution.

Article V – Executive Branch**§1 Executive power.**

Sec. 1. The executive power is vested in the governor.

§ 2 Principal departments.

Sec. 2. All executive and administrative offices, agencies and instrumentalities of the executive branch of state government and their respective functions, powers and duties, except for the office of governor and lieutenant governor, and the governing bodies of institutions of higher education provided for in this constitution, shall be allocated by law among and within not more than 20 principal departments. They shall be grouped as far as practicable according to major purposes.

Organization of executive branch; assignment of functions; submission to legislature.

Subsequent to the initial allocation, the governor may make changes in the organization of the executive branch or in the assignment of functions among its units which he considers necessary for efficient administration. Where these changes require the force of law, they shall be set forth in executive orders and submitted to the legislature. Thereafter the legislature shall have 60 calendar days of a regular session, or a full regular session if of shorter duration, to disapprove each executive order. Unless disapproved in both houses by a resolution concurred in by a majority of the members elected to and serving in each house, each order shall become effective at a date thereafter to be designated by the governor.

§ 4 Commissions or agencies for less than 2 years.

Sec. 4. Temporary commissions or agencies for special purposes with a life of no more than two years may be established by law and need not be allocated within a principal department.

Article VI – Judicial Branch**§ 1 Judicial power in court of justice; divisions.**

Sec. 1. The judicial power of the state is vested exclusively in one court of justice which shall be divided into one supreme court, one court of appeals, one trial court of general jurisdiction known as the circuit court, one probate court, and courts of limited jurisdiction that the legislature may establish by a two-thirds vote of the members elected to and serving in each house.

§ 4 General superintending control over courts; writs; appellate jurisdiction.

Sec. 4. The supreme court shall have general superintending control over all courts; power to issue, hear and determine prerogative and remedial writs; and appellate jurisdiction as provided by rules of the supreme court. The supreme court shall not have the power to remove a judge.

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

Michigan Republican Party, Laura Cox, Terri Lynn Land,
Savina Alexandra Zoe Mucci, Dorian Thompson, and
Hank Vaupel,

Case No.
Hon.

v.

Jocelyn Benson, in her official capacity as
Secretary of State,

TO: Jocelyn Benson
Secretary of State
ADDRESS: Richard H. Austin Bldg.
430 W. Allegan, 4th Floor
Lansing, MI 48918

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve upon plaintiff, an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it). If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You must also file your answer or motion with the Court.

The Court has offices in the following locations:

- 399 Federal Building, 110 Michigan St., NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
- P.O. Box 698, 314 Federal Building, Marquette, MI 49855
- 107 Federal Building, 410 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007
- 113 Federal Building, 315 W. Allegan, Lansing, MI 48933

PLAINTIFF OR PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY NAME AND ADDRESS

Gary P. Gordon (P26290)
Dykema Gossett PLLC
201 Townsend St., Ste. 900
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 374-9133
ggordon@dykema.com

CLERK OF COURT

By: Deputy Clerk Date

PROOF OF SERVICE

This summons for Jocelyn Benson was received by me on _____
(name of individual and title, if any) (date)

I personally served the summons on the individual at _____
on _____
(date) (place where served)

I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with _____, a person
(name)
of suitable age and discretion who resides there, on _____, and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address.
(date)

I served the summons on _____, who is designated by law to accept service
(name of individual)
of process on behalf of _____ on _____
(name of organization) (date)

I returned the summons unexecuted because _____

Other (specify) _____

My fees are \$ _____ for travel and \$ _____ for services, for a total of \$ _____

I declare under the penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: _____

Server's signature

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc.:

Server's printed name and title

Server's address