



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

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## KALAMAZOO COUNTY APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

*August 25, 2021 at 5:00 PM*

*Apportionment Commission Virtual Meeting*

*Zoom Virtual Meeting ID:*

865 6099 2928 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86560992928>

*Board of Commissioners Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor,  
201 W Kalamazoo Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007*

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### ITEM 1 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Kalamazoo County Apportionment Commissions was called to order by Chair Whitener at 5:02 pm on August 25, 2021.

### ITEM 2 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Whitener led the Pledge of Allegiance

### ITEM 3 ROLL CALL

**Commissioners:** Jeff Getting, Prosecuting Attorney; Meredith Place, Clerk/Register of Deeds; Thomas Whitener, Treasurer; Mariah Phelps, Chair of Kalamazoo County Democratic Party; Scott McGraw, Chair of Kalamazoo County Republican Party.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Others Present:** Beth Byrd, Chief Deputy Clerk/Register of Deeds

### ITEM 4 PUBLIC COMMENT

**Public comment was given by** County Commissioner John Gisler and County Commissioner Jen Strebs

### ITEM 5 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Secretary Place moved that approval of tonight's agenda as presented and it was duly seconded by Commissioner Phelps.

The motion carried unanimously.

### ITEM 6 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice-Chairperson Getting moved that the minutes be adopted as distributed and it was duly seconded by Secretary Place.

The motion carried unanimously.

**ITEM 7 DISCUSSION OF APPORTIONMENT TIMELINE**

Chair Whitener stated that the Census Bureau released legacy data on August 12, 2021; however, Secretary of State has reiterated they continue to be guided by what they believe the Census Bureau’s full release date of September 30, 2021.

Discussion ensued.

There was consensus among the Commissioners that it would be best to proceed as though the 60-day deadline to submit a plan started on August 12, 2021 and would expire on October 12, 2021.

**ITEM 8 DISCUSSION OF REDISTRICTING SOFTWARE OPTIONS**

- a. Michigan Bureau of Elections - Information on Redistricting Tools
- b. Other – Esri, etc.

Chair Whitener recognized Secretary Place who reviewed the tools available to the Commission for redistricting.

Discussion ensued.

**ITEM 9 DISCUSS BUDGET FOR COMMISSION**

Chair Whitener stated that he spoke at the Board of Commissioners special meeting on August 24, 2021 regarding the budget request submitted and a more detailed budget breakdown was requested.

Discussion ensued.

**ITEM 10 DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL DETERMINATION OF NUMBER OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS**

Chair Whitener stated that the population in the county makes it so we can have as many as 21 seats and as few as 5.

Discussion ensued.

A majority of Commissioners individually said 9 seats would be a reasonable number of seats on the Board which would be consistent with other counties across the state.

**ITEM 11 ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

Commissioner Phelps pointed out the Commission currently has no legal representation or law expert present to assist our body.

Discussion ensued.

There was a general consensus that the Commission should have legal representation and urged the Board of Commissioners to appropriate funds, pass a budget for the Apportionment Commission to explore legal assistance, representation.

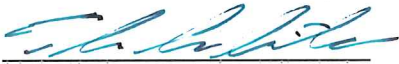
## **ITEM 12 ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Phelps moved to adjourn and it was duly seconded by Commissioner McGraw.

Chair Whitener called a voice vote and the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:22 pm by Chair Whitener.

**APPROVED 9.1.2021**



Thomas Whitener, Chair, 2021 Kalamazoo County Apportionment Commission



Meredith Place, Secretary, 2021 Kalamazoo County Apportionment Commission