



MINUTES

Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission

Monday, March 8, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT

Deidre DeJear
David Roederer

Chris Hagenow
Ian Russell

LSA CONTACTS: Organizational staffing provided by: Ed Cook, Senior Legal Counsel, 515.281.3994; Minutes prepared by: Joe Simpson, Legal Counsel, 515.725.2251

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I. Procedural Business

Call to Order and Adjournment. The meeting of the Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission was called to order at 2:00 p.m., Monday, March 8, 2021, as a videoconference meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the March 1, 2021, meeting of the commission were approved.

Next Meeting. The commission agreed to schedule the next meeting for Monday, March 22, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. as a videoconference meeting.

II. Discussion of Election of Fifth Member of Commission

The commissioners discussed their impressions from conversations with persons whose names were submitted for nomination for the fifth member and chairperson at the previous meeting. The commission voted on the nominations of Terese Grant and Carmine Boal but both candidates failed to receive three votes in favor of their nomination as required by Iowa Code. The commissioners discussed qualities they are each looking for in a potential nominee.

III. Legislative Services Agency Updates

Mr. Cook updated the commission on the status of the lawsuit filed by the Ohio Attorney General against the United States Census Bureau in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio on February 25, 2021. The State of Ohio alleges that the Census Bureau unilaterally amended the statutory deadline to provide census data to states and the resulting delay will harm the state's ability to conduct congressional and legislative redistricting as constitutionally required in the state. The state requested that the court enjoin the Census Bureau from implementing the decision to delay the release of data and failing to fulfill its duty or enjoin the Census Bureau from delaying the release of data beyond the earliest possible date that the court determines is equitable and that will allow the state to use the data during the redistricting process. The state further requested the court to issue a writ of mandamus requiring the Census Bureau to timely share redistricting data by March 31, 2021.

Mr. Cook informed the commission of the passage of House Resolution 1 in the United States House of Representatives. The resolution requires all states to establish independent redistricting commissions to draw congressional districts. The resolution provides an exemption for Iowa from this redistricting requirement "so long as congressional redistricting in [Iowa] is carried out in accordance with a plan developed by the Iowa Legislative Services Agency with the assistance of a Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission" as provided by current Iowa law. Mr. Cook also stated that the Legislative Services Agency is not aware of any new information regarding possible action relating to the September deadlines for legislative redistricting in the Iowa Constitution.

IV. Additional Discussion

Commissioners asked additional questions about the role of the commission and the fifth member and chairperson, including whether there is a point at which the fifth member is needed. Mr. Cook reiterated that the statutory deadline for adding the fifth member has already passed but the next event that the commission will have to engage in is planning for and conducting public hearings, which is dependent on the release of data. Mr. Cook emphasized that planning for the public hearings will need to occur prior to the release of data, as the commission will need to work quickly and efficiently once a proposed redistricting plan is released. Mr. Cook noted, in response to questions from the commission,

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that conversations amongst less than a majority of the members of the commission can occur without violating open meeting laws.