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NEWS RELEASE

Clare County, Michigan
November 8, 2021

The Clare County Apportionment Commission ratified a plan for apportionment of county commission districts for the next decade on Friday, November 5, 2021. The plan was filed with the Clare County Clerk's Office on Monday, November 8, 2021, and will be forwarded to the Secretary of State for filing that same date.

By Michigan statute, the apportionment of commissioner districts must be completed within 60 days of the publication of the 2020 decennial census figures, by a five member commission. Michigan law provides that the Apportionment Commission shall consist of the county clerk, the county treasurer, the prosecuting attorney, and the county chairpersons of each of the two political parties receiving the greatest number of votes cast for the office of the Secretary of State in the last preceding general election.

On August 12, 2021, the official 2020 census figures were released; however the Secretary of State advised counties that more specific data would be released on September 16, 2021, and that would be considered the official release date for purposes of meeting statutory deadlines for reapportionment. Several counties sought advice of county civil counsel regarding the official release date and completion deadline. County civil counsel issued an opinion that August 12, 2021, was the official release date and the deadline for the apportionment commission to have their final plan submitted was October 11, 2021. The Attorney General issued a memorandum on September 10, 2021, advising that September 16, 2021, was to be considered the official release date; but, the memorandum was to be considered as unofficial advice and not a formal opinion of the Attorney General.

Because of the uncertainty and differing legal opinions on the official release date, the Clare County Apportionment Commission sought an extension from the Michigan Court of Appeals. The Apportionment Commission received an extension of the deadline to file a plan to November 15, 2021, from the Michigan Court of Appeals. The order granting that extension was received after we held our October 8, 2021, meeting to approve a plan.

At our October 8, 2021, meeting we had to approve a plan because the initial deadline, if August 12, 2021, was determined to be the official release date, was that following Monday, October 11, 2021. At that meeting we determined that we would submit the plan twice – so we met each potential deadline – unless we received the extension from the Court of Appeals.

Once the extension was received, we scheduled the November 5, 2021, meeting to vote on the final plan so it could be submitted by the November 15, 2021, deadline from the Court of Appeals.

The final plan was adopted by the commission by a vote of 4 – 1; Stephanie Terpening cast the dissenting vote.

The persons serving on the Clare County Apportionment Commission were:

Michelle J. Ambrozaitis, Chairperson
Clare County Prosecuting Attorney

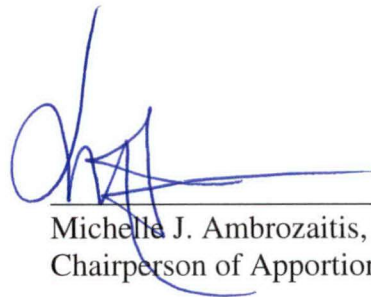
Lori Martin
Clare County Clerk

Jenny Beemer – Fritzinger
Clare County Treasurer

David Coker
Clare County Republican Party

Stephanie Terpening
Clare County Democrat Party

A copy of the packet to be filed with the Secretary of State is attached to this press release and can be found on the Clare County website: www.clareco.net



Michelle J. Ambrozaitis, Clare County Prosecutor
Chairperson of Apportionment Commission