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REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

11

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2011

12

1:00 P.M.

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412 KNOTT BUILDING

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TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

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Transcribed by:

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

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Court Reporter

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1 T A P E D P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: The Administrative  
3 Assistant, please call the roll.

4 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Representative  
5 Precourt.

6 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Here.

7 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Adkins.

8 REPRESENTATIVE ADKINS: Here.

9 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Albritton.

10 REPRESENTATIVE ALBRITTON: Here.

11 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Baxley.

12 REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: Here.

13 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Bernard.

14 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Here.

15 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Boyd.

16 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Here.

17 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Brodeur.

18 REPRESENTATIVE BRODEUR: Here.

19 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Caldwell.

20 REPRESENTATIVE CALDWELL: Here.

21 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Campbell.

22 REPRESENTATIVE CAMPBELL: Here.

23 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Clarke-Reed.

24 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Here.

25 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Corcoran.

1 Cruz.

2 REPRESENTATIVE CRUZ: Here.

3 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Drake.

4 REPRESENTATIVE DRAKE: Here.

5 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Frishe.

6 REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: Here.

7 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Fullwood.

8 REPRESENTATIVE FULLWOOD: Here.

9 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Holder.

10 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Here.

11 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Hooper.

12 REPRESENTATIVE HOOPER: Here.

13 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Hukill.

14 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Here.

15 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Jones.

16 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: Here.

17 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Julien.

18 REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Present.

19 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Legg.

20 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Here.

21 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Nehr.

22 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Here.

23 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Passidomo.

24 REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: Here.

25 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Reed.

1 REPRESENTATIVE REED: Here.

2 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Rogers.

3 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Here.

4 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Schenck.

5 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Here.

6 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Stargel.

7 REPRESENTATIVE STARGEL: Here.

8 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Taylor.

9 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Here.

10 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Trujillo.

11 REPRESENTATIVE TRUJILLO: Here.

12 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Williams, A.

13 REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS: Present.

14 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Young.

15 REPRESENTATIVE YOUNG: Here.

16 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Mr. Chairman.

17 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: The Senate, if we

18 could get the roll call for the Senate as well.

19 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator Gaetz.

20 SENATOR GAETZ: Here.

21 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator

22 Margolis.

23 SENATOR MARGOLIS: Here.

24 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator

25 Braynon.

1 SENATOR BRAYNON: Here.

2 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator Flores.

3 SENATOR FLORES: Here.

4 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator Hays.

5 SENATOR HAYS: Here.

6 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator Joyner.

7 SENATOR JOYNER: Here.

8 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator Lynn.

9 SENATOR LYNN: Here.

10 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator  
11 Montford.

12 SENATOR MONTFORD: Here.

13 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator Negron.

14 SENATOR NEGRON: Here.

15 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator Sobel.

16 SENATOR SOBEL: Here.

17 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator  
18 Thrasher?

19 SENATOR THRASHER: Here.

20 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
21 much. We are also pleased to be joined today  
22 by names of non committee Legislators attending  
23 the hearing. Would you please read those as  
24 well?

25 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Representative

1           Abruzzo?

2                   REPRESENTATIVE ABRUZZO:   Here.

3                   ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:   Klar?

4                   REPRESENTATIVE KLAR:   Here.

5                   ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:   Mr. Chairman.

6                   CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD:   Thank you very  
7           much.   First of all, I want to thank everyone  
8           for coming out today.   We are very grateful to  
9           both the House and Senate staff for setting up  
10          this great facility.

11                   We are grateful to have such a terrific  
12          turn out, and we are also here to share what I  
13          believe and come to share the comments and  
14          recommendations to help shape both the  
15          Congressional and the Senate and House  
16          Districts for the next decade.

17                   My name is Will Weatherford, and I along  
18          with my Senate colleague, Senator Don Gaetz,  
19          will be chairing today's hearing which is also  
20          being webcast statewide by the Florida Channel  
21          over the Internet.

22                   Ladies and gentlemen, our sole purpose  
23          here is to hear from the public about how you  
24          believe the legal standards governing  
25          redistricting should be applied in your

1 community so that you are represented in both  
2 Washington and in Tallahassee fairly, equitably  
3 and sensibly.

4 Our procedures today are simple but they  
5 are very important. It is important that you  
6 sign in so that we can create an accurate  
7 public record of all attendees and speakers.

8 Also you may opt to join our e-mail lists  
9 so that we can keep you informed about how the  
10 redistricting process is working over the next  
11 few months. If you have not signed in, please  
12 raise your hand and a staff member will give  
13 you an attendance card.

14 If you wish to speak today and you haven't  
15 yet filled out an attendance card, please raise  
16 your right hand and we will get you a card so  
17 you can be called on and we will make sure not  
18 to miss your testimony. It is the same  
19 attendance card, whether you want to speak or  
20 if I want to just sit and listen.

21 Before we begin the Chair will recognize  
22 Co-Chairman, Senator Don Gaetz to explain how  
23 today's hearings fit into the redistricting  
24 process. Chairman Gaetz.

25 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,

1       Mr. Speaker, and I notice there are a couple of  
2       folks there who need to have either appearance  
3       cards or speaker cards, and will a member of  
4       the professional staff please get to those  
5       folks as soon as possible.

6               Mr. Speaker, and those of us who are  
7       gathered here today, every ten years the  
8       Legislature is required by the Constitution to  
9       redistrict the state based on increases,  
10      decreases, or movements of population within  
11      the state.

12             Because Florida has grown more than other  
13      states in the last ten years we will move up  
14      from 25 to 27 members of the U.S. House of  
15      Representatives, and because some parts of our  
16      state have increased or decreased  
17      disproportionately, many Senate and House  
18      Districts will change, either by adding or  
19      losing population.

20             When redistricting is complete  
21      Congressional Districts must be equal in size  
22      and each Congressional District plus contain  
23      696,345 people. The 40 Senate Districts must  
24      also be nearly equal at 470,033 people, and our  
25      120 House Districts must also be nearly equal



1 at 156,678 persons.

2 There is a map at the front of the room  
3 that you can see over there. You are welcome  
4 when we take our breaks come up and have a look  
5 at it that shows this area of the state, north  
6 Florida, particularly northwest Florida.

7 The map shows the current boundaries of  
8 existing districts and the number of persons of  
9 which each district is short or the number of  
10 excess population to be adjusted in order to  
11 achieve equal representation.

12 But Mr. Speaker, equality of  
13 representation is not the only requirement that  
14 redistricting plans have to meet. The laws and  
15 important court cases governing redistricting  
16 are explained in detail on the House and Senate  
17 websites.

18 Those websites are listed on the  
19 Redistricting 2012 brochure that was available  
20 when you came in. If you didn't get one of  
21 those brochures you can get them on your way  
22 out.

23 The Redistricting 2012 brochure summarizes  
24 Federal and State laws and outlines topics we  
25 hope you will discuss at today's hearing and

1       the other 25 hearings across Florida. If you  
2       didn't get a brochure our staff will be happy  
3       to get you one.

4           Those same websites have available to the  
5       public all of the demographic information from  
6       the U.S. Bureau of the Census that will be used  
7       in drawing districts and the redistricting  
8       software the Legislators will be using.

9           These websites will allow any member of  
10       the public to see all of the district maps  
11       proposed by Legislators and for citizens,  
12       themselves, to propose their own district maps  
13       for their own communities, or for the whole  
14       state using all of the tools available to the  
15       Legislature.

16           Before, during, and after this hearing,  
17       Senate and House professional staff are  
18       available to show you the simple steps to  
19       getting on-line and making your submission for  
20       your suggestions now or in the weeks to come.

21           Every recommendation from any member of  
22       the public or any group will be made publicly  
23       available to everyone else. In fact, some  
24       public submissions are already available on the  
25       web.

1           The submission of proposed maps that make  
2           sense for your community is the single most  
3           effective form of public participation in this  
4           process.

5           The redistricting schedule under which we  
6           are operating is imposed by our State  
7           Constitution. This is critical. The  
8           Constitution does not permit our Legislature to  
9           act on legislative maps before the second year  
10          after the census.

11          In other words, the Constitution doesn't  
12          permit us to act on legislative or  
13          congressional maps before 2012. We have  
14          accelerated this process as much as possible by  
15          moving up the 2012 legislative session from  
16          March to January, and beginning our statewide  
17          hearings today, five months in advance of the  
18          2012 session.

19          It has been suggested that the Legislature  
20          should draw maps first and then ask the public  
21          to comment on the Legislature's maps. We  
22          believe that puts the answer ahead of the  
23          question.

24          There should be no preconceptions created  
25          by politicians, but rather public testimony

1           should be free and unrestricted.

2           Our intent is to use the recommendations  
3           made of the 26 public hearings and through the  
4           Internet cites where we are gathering input as  
5           the basis for developing one or more options  
6           for district maps.

7           We will share those options in open public  
8           meetings before any vote is taken, even in  
9           Committee.

10          Throughout the process we will solicit  
11          additional public comment so that proposed maps  
12          can mature with the public involved all before  
13          the Legislature approves any maps.

14          Whatever the Legislature votes on is then  
15          submitted for judicial review to insure that  
16          the plans meet every legal requirement.

17          Because our mission today is to hear from  
18          you, all of the remaining time between now and  
19          8:00 p.m. tonight will be used to insure that  
20          every member of the public who is here and  
21          wishes to speak will have time to present  
22          testimony and be listened to respectfully  
23          without interruption or argument.

24          If, after every citizen has his or her  
25          say, there is time remaining before our

1        scheduled adjournment, then any member of the  
2        Committee may make any statement or offer any  
3        observation, and, of course, any member of the  
4        Legislature may today or at any time propose a  
5        map or a plan and we will make it available to  
6        the public immediately on our websites.

7                Mr. Speaker, I hope this description of  
8        our schedule and process helps set the stage  
9        for successful hearings across Florida.

10               CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
11        much, Mr. Chairman. By Senate and House rules  
12        we will adjourn promptly at this first meeting  
13        at 4:00 p.m. There are already dozens of  
14        individuals signed up to speak.

15               If there is anyone else who wishes to  
16        speak that has not gotten their public  
17        appearance card, please make sure and get one  
18        by raising your right hand again.

19               To insure that each person is heard we  
20        will divide the time equally and ask that each  
21        testifier to limit his or her remarks to three  
22        to five minutes.

23               That being said, as we get more cards in  
24        if time becomes crunched we may come to a hard  
25        clock of three minutes.

1           Our first speaker is Ms. Diane Wilson,  
2           Ms. Diane Wilson is with Wakulla County  
3           Democratic Women's Club, and after Diane we  
4           have Ms. Carolyn Land and Ms. Marty Monroe.

5           What we would like, Ms. Marty Monroe, what  
6           we would like, Mr. Marty Monroe. What we would  
7           like to do is we will announce the first  
8           speaker and then the two subsequent speakers to  
9           follow to make sure that you can be prepared to  
10          bring your comments forward.

11          So we would ask as we announce your name,  
12          that you get in the cue and be prepared to  
13          speak.

14          Ms. Wilson, the floor is yours and you are  
15          recognized for three to five minutes. Thank  
16          you, Ms. Wilson declines to speak at this time.

17          Next up we have Ms. Carolyn Land followed  
18          by Mr. Marty Monroe. Ms. Land.

19          MS. LAND: Thank you for asking --

20          CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: I would like, just  
21          for the record purposes we would love it if you  
22          could come and speak at the podium. Thank you  
23          very much.

24          MS. LAND: Thank you.

25          CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: There is a button

1 to turn the microphone on there. Thank you,  
2 Ms. Land.

3 MS. LAND: Try that. One more time.  
4 Thank you for asking for public input on a very  
5 important decision, and I am from Lafayette  
6 County. When you compare population,  
7 registered voters to most of the counties, we  
8 are one of the smallest counties in the state,  
9 and to me it is extremely important as we draw  
10 the districts that our entire county be within  
11 one district.

12 Also, as much as possible, that we be  
13 grouped with people who share the same  
14 industries and issues that we share as a small  
15 rural county. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
17 much, Ms. Land, we appreciate your comments.  
18 Next up we have Marty Monroe, followed by  
19 Mr. Herb Shelton.

20 Ms. Monroe, you are recognized?

21 MS. MONROE: Thank you. Thank you very  
22 much. Good afternoon. Marty Monroe. I have  
23 lived in Tallahassee since the 1980s, and it  
24 almost makes me home grown. I am proud to be a  
25 recovering Civics teacher, and I care a great

1 deal about a healthy democracy.

2 And I am here today because I think this  
3 is a very sick process. My parents are in  
4 their 80s. They, too, live here in  
5 Tallahassee. They live in the Westminster  
6 Oaks.

7 Now, there are more trees between my house  
8 and Westminster Oaks than there are people, and  
9 my parents don't have a Senator Bill Montford,  
10 thank you very much, I am proud to have you,  
11 and they were very upset.

12 They moved from a garden apartment to the  
13 main building, and you know what that created,  
14 a change of address. Now, a change of address  
15 seems very simple to people, but when you are  
16 in your 80s, it gets very complicated.

17 Most people do not have driver's license,  
18 thankfully, in retirement communities, and my  
19 parents, they don't pay bills, Westminster does  
20 all of that.

21 So they had to go find paid staff to write  
22 them a letter to say my parents live there, and  
23 fortunately, my parents travel a lot and they  
24 had a passport. I am telling you folks this is  
25 suppressing votes, creating problems in the



1 democracy.

2 That is very difficult for people in their  
3 80s. You all think it is just a, well, you  
4 just go down there and get a change of address,  
5 but for real people that is real problems.

6 Monday morning, I am in chemotherapy, I  
7 just came out of it this morning. Cancer  
8 doesn't discriminate, and I sit in chemotherapy  
9 with homeless people, the working core. I sit  
10 in there with all types of people. In fact, it  
11 breaks my hard to see the classroom teacher in  
12 there grading papers and writing lesson plans  
13 during a six-hour chemo treatment.

14 Our lives are very complicated navigating  
15 the medical model. And we talk a lot. I  
16 always talk politics, I am a recovering Civics  
17 teacher. So we talk and we share our concerns,  
18 and, yes, we are sick, but we are basically  
19 heart sick, heart sick about the declining  
20 democracy in the state.

21 Yes, I read the leadership letter to  
22 instruct you not to speak and I don't think you  
23 need to. I was laid up on the couch in chemo  
24 and watched the day in the Legislature every  
25 day, and I think you have spoken real loud.

1           I think your actions speak louder than  
2           yours words. You had no money for the working  
3           core, no money for state employees, and no  
4           money for public education, and now I learn you  
5           got \$30 million set aside to fight the will of  
6           the voter. That is \$30 million to fight me and  
7           my 80-year-old parents. \$30 million to leave  
8           no lawyer behind is what I think.

9           The leadership in Florida talks about  
10          saving the state money, money, money, and  
11          running it like a business.

12          CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Ms. Monroe,  
13          Ms. Monroe, if I could for just one second, I  
14          am sorry to interrupt you. We are trying to  
15          focus the comments today on redistricting and  
16          on the future of Florida's maps, and we  
17          certainly want to hear your thoughts in regards  
18          to the budget and in regards to the different  
19          issues that we face as a state, but we would  
20          really ask you to focus your comments today on  
21          the redistricting, on the redistricting  
22          process.

23          MS. MONROE: This is part of the  
24          redistricting process as far as I am concerned,  
25          Representative Weatherford. Okay.

1           CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Just please keep it  
2 tailored to the redistricting process, thank  
3 you.

4           MS. MONROE: I will try if you will let  
5 me. I want to know what business in Florida  
6 sends their employees on a road show to ask  
7 other people to do their jobs. I want to be  
8 perfectly clear, it is the job of the  
9 Legislature to draw the Congressional  
10 legislative maps, and I understand that many  
11 other states out there have completed their  
12 redistricting process.

13           Their citizens were able to comment on  
14 actually proposed maps, and by the way, that  
15 has been the practice in Florida for the past  
16 years.

17           There were prepared maps here at these  
18 meetings that we could speak on. That has been  
19 the practice in the past.

20           Fair District Amendment was won by a super  
21 majority of voters to clarify how we want the  
22 maps drawn. That is a lot of input, folks.  
23 That is -- that is how we amended the  
24 Constitution, because we wanted to give you  
25 direction on how to draw those maps, and I am

1       just going to gently suggest what our Governor  
2       always likes to say, let's get to work and quit  
3       wasting time in drawing those maps.

4               By the way, I want to comment on your  
5       timeline. It really looks like an incumbent  
6       protection plan here, because you are delaying  
7       and prolonging the process to the last possible  
8       date. This creates chaos for candidates and  
9       very little time for the education of  
10      campaigns.

11             It is very highly unlikely that  
12      Floridians, the voters, will know their new  
13      districts before qualifying, and, of course,  
14      the process could take much longer if you don't  
15      draw maps that comply with the law.

16             So I am wondering today, Senators, House  
17      Reps, aren't you just tired of being Flori-da,  
18      the stupid state that holds up National  
19      elections just because we can?

20             I want you to stop the delays. I want you  
21      to stop stalling and I want you to get to work  
22      as the Governor likes to say, let's get to  
23      work. I have been ready. I think you should,  
24      too.

25             CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very

1           much, Ms. Monroe. Next up we have Herb  
2           Shelton, followed by Barbara Day, Herb is  
3           representing himself.

4           Mr. Shelton, thank you for being here.  
5           You are recognized, sir.

6           MS. SHELTON: Thank you for this time, but  
7           actually there is a fellow here that is much  
8           more knowledgeable about this than I am and I  
9           would love to cede my time to him, and his name  
10          is Matthew Isbell, if that is permissible.

11          CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: What we could do,  
12          sir, is if he will fill out a card we will  
13          certainly make sure and find time for him, but  
14          we are reading the cards off in the order that  
15          they were turned in.

16          And so if he would fill out a card we will  
17          make sure and give him an opportunity to speak.

18          MR. SHELTON: Okay, sorry.

19          CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Would you still  
20          like to speak, sir?

21          MR. SHELTON: Sure, I can speak a thing or  
22          two. You know, it takes courage to do this.  
23          You folks are learned, lawyers and whatever,  
24          but, you know, I am just a citizen of Leon  
25          County here, and you know, I want to first of

1 all thank you for this forum, you know, to  
2 discuss fair districting.

3 I just want to add my voice to the sister  
4 that just spoke about getting the job soon,  
5 please. Sixty-three percent of Florida voters  
6 wanted to see this thing finished and fairly.

7 As you know, I am Herb Shelton. I have  
8 friends across the state from Pensacola to  
9 Lauderdale. They vote, we have watched a tax  
10 on early voting, I have watched State employee  
11 pension funds being attacked. There is an  
12 ultrasound mandate, there is a Supreme Court  
13 attack, the Supreme Court of Florida is being  
14 attacked.

15 I have watched distinguished clergy and  
16 vote God for guidance on your behalf and yet  
17 seen policies that are to me reveal a deep  
18 sickness, and the burden of my soul for you  
19 today can be best described, summed up in the  
20 words of Isaiah, 520, "Woe unto them that call  
21 evil good and good evil. That pit darkness for  
22 light and light for darkness, that pit bitter  
23 for sweet and sweet for bitter. Woe unto them  
24 that are wise in their own eyes and prudent in  
25 their own sight, but God's invitation to you is

1       this, come into me and be healed, for why will  
2       you die." And there is a quote from a man  
3       named Uriah Smith back in 1884.

4             I don't know if I should say this, but  
5       anyway, he spoke and wrote, "Fraud, dishonesty,  
6       usurpation lying, cheating and stealing will  
7       largely determine the count and the party which  
8       can do most of this work will probably win."  
9       Thank you for your time.

10            CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
11       much, Mr. Shelton. Next up we have Ms. Barbara  
12       Day from the AARP, followed by Henry Kelly.

13            Ms. Day, thank you very much for being  
14       here today. You are recognized.

15            MS. DAY: Good afternoon, Chairman Gaetz  
16       and Chairman Weatherford and the Committee  
17       members.

18            My name is Barbara Day. I live in Panama  
19       City, Bay County. I appear today as a  
20       volunteer for -- as a volunteer for AARP.

21            I urge the Legislature to make  
22       redistricting process to be all you can be. As  
23       you exercise your constitutional duty to draw  
24       voting districts for ten years beginning with  
25       the 2012 elections, AARP urges you to insure

1 transparency of the legislative redistricting  
2 process every stay of the way.

3 Keep transparency in place with  
4 redistricting discussions among members and by  
5 members, should be noticed and open to the  
6 public, too.

7 Also keep transparency in place, meaning  
8 the public has opportunity to comment and to  
9 have those comments meaningfully considered by  
10 the Legislature during our legislative --  
11 legislative redistricting proceedings and on  
12 redistricting proposals, that is before  
13 Legislators make decisions.

14 Insure timeliness of the redistricting  
15 process and insure public input. The  
16 Legislature has an obligation to meet the  
17 constitutional dictates as already expressed by  
18 the Florida voters. The Legislator owes  
19 Florida's residents and voters professionalism  
20 and timely completion of the redistricting  
21 process.

22 The Legislature knows the procedural steps  
23 that redistricting plans will need to complete  
24 in order for there to be a timely qualification  
25 of the 2012 candidates under the new district



1           and for the vigorous campaigns before voters  
2           cast their ballots.

3           That means the Legislature should complete  
4           its portion of the process sooner rather than  
5           later.

6           Remember to take steps to insulate the  
7           redistricting process from the appearance of a  
8           conflict of interest. For example,  
9           subcommittees of Legislators could research and  
10          develop alternative redistricting proposals for  
11          areas of the state remote from the sub  
12          committee members.

13          Geographic residence, perhaps, just as an  
14          example, perhaps four areas of the state and  
15          then refine and reconcile for two halves of the  
16          state, then refine and reconcile by the full  
17          chambers into one state plan.

18          When it is time for your performance, the  
19          Florida voters will not count as undue expense  
20          and delay in that performance. It is up to the  
21          Legislator.

22          What will it be? Will it be  
23          redistricting, presentment or voter resentment?  
24          I am confident the Legislature and its staff  
25          have professional competence and technical

1 assistance to research and propose new voting  
2 districts in accord with all the constitutional  
3 and Federal requirements.

4 Wishing you good luck and make your best  
5 effort. Thank you so much for your time.

6 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
7 much, Ms. Day. We appreciate your comments.  
8 Next up we have Ms. Debbie Walsh from the  
9 Center for American Women in Politics.  
10 Followed up by Mr. Daryl Nall.

11 Ms. Walsh, thank you very much for being  
12 here.

13 MS. WALSH: Thank you very much for having  
14 me. I want to thank the members of the  
15 Commission and good afternoon. I am Debbie  
16 Walsh, Director of the Center for American  
17 Women and Politics, a unit of the Eagleton  
18 Institute of Politics at Rutgers, the State  
19 University of New Jersey and I probably used up  
20 half my time, right?

21 For 40 years, CAWP or the Center, has been  
22 monitoring and analyzing women's status and  
23 prospects in American politics, tracking the  
24 numbers of women office-holders and conducting  
25 research about their impact.

1           I am here today because in recent years we  
2       have noticed a deeply disturbing trend. The  
3       stagnation and even decline in the number of  
4       elected women, and we want to make sure that  
5       trend is not exacerbated by the redistricting  
6       process, yet the early evidence suggests that  
7       unless careful attention is paid, women may  
8       lose even more ground.

9           As part of our 2012 project a non partisan  
10      campaign to increase the number of women in  
11      Congress and State Legislatures across the  
12      country, we are monitoring the redistricting  
13      process nationwide.

14          We have analyzed the new map in New  
15      Jersey, the first state to complete its  
16      legislative redistricting and the results are  
17      alarming.

18          In a state where 28 percent of the current  
19      Legislature is female, women make up at least  
20      57 percent of the Legislators who will retire  
21      as a result of redistricting.

22          In other words, women incumbents were  
23      disproportional forced out by redrawn district  
24      lines. We all know that women are more than  
25      half the nation's population, and on that basis

1       alone, the paucity of elected women is a  
2       problem.

3               Today women hold 16.6 percent of the seats  
4       in Congress, six Governorships out of 50,  
5       24 percent of seats in State Legislatures, and  
6       Mayor's offices in eight of the 100 largest  
7       cities in the nation.

8               Here in Florida women hold one quarter of  
9       State Legislative seats making it rank 20th in  
10      the nation and just over a quarter of the  
11      Congressional seats.

12              So although Florida has done better than  
13      many states, it still fails to represent women  
14      in anywhere near their proportions in the  
15      population, but we are not just playing a  
16      numbers game.

17              Research carried out by scholars and CAWP  
18      and elsewhere demonstrates clearly that gender  
19      balance changes the way government works,  
20      altering the policy agenda, procedures, content  
21      and outcomes on issues as varied as job loss,  
22      national security and health.

23              Adding women makes a difference, and this  
24      is not a partisan divide, both Democratic and  
25      Republican women bring distinctive experiences,

1       prospectives and priorities to public office.

2               That is not only good for women, it is  
3       good for Florida. Studies cutting across the  
4       public and private sectors underscore the value  
5       of gender balance. A recent article on  
6       Forbes.com cited a Harvard conference that used  
7       extensive scholarly research to make the  
8       business case for gender equality.

9               The author reported, there is irrefutable  
10       verifiable evidence that women in greater than  
11       token proportions improve decision-making,  
12       improve shareholder value and lower risk  
13       taking. While the business of government does  
14       not have shareholders, it certainly does have  
15       stakeholders.

16              Citizens for whom better decision-making  
17       and improved value are critically important.  
18       Under the circumstances we can ill-afford to  
19       diminish women's representation in government.

20              That is why I wanted to bring to your  
21       attention this issue. We understand that women  
22       are not legally protected in the redistricting  
23       rules, but I would ask you to adhere to a  
24       higher standard than merely following the basic  
25       requirements which should be seen as a floor,

1 not a ceiling.

2 As you assess the various options before  
3 you, don't simply do the least harm, instead,  
4 aim to do the most good. I encourage you to  
5 insure that women incumbents present only  
6 through hard won progress are treated fairly in  
7 the redistricting process. Thank you very  
8 much.

9 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
10 much, Ms. Walsh, and thank you for making the  
11 trip all of the way down from New Jersey. We  
12 appreciate you being here.

13 Actually, I skipped Mr. Kelley, Mr. Henry  
14 Kelly. You are recognized, sir, and then we  
15 will follow that up by Daryl Nall. Sorry about  
16 that, Mr. Kelley. You are recognized, sir.

17 MR. KELLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and  
18 I would like to on behalf of the Ft. Walton  
19 Beach Tea Party thank the Joint Committee for  
20 having an open and transparent process, and I  
21 would like to thank Representative Weatherford  
22 and the Senator from my district, Don Gaetz,  
23 for their leadership on this.

24 Tea parties around the state will be  
25 participating in all of the meetings and we

1 will be submitting plans, and I for one, it was  
2 very disappointed to see criticism of the  
3 committee process already.

4 With the growth of our population I am  
5 glad to start with a blank slate and that the  
6 public will have the opportunity to input  
7 plans.

8 I have personally created already a  
9 Congressional District and a Senate House plan.  
10 I have to be honest, Representative  
11 Weatherford, 120 is a lot of districts in the  
12 House, but I have found the software easy to  
13 use.

14 It took me about 15 minutes with the help  
15 of the videos to become proficient and several  
16 hours to draw the plans.

17 I will have some comments specific to the  
18 panhandle tomorrow night at the meeting in Ft.  
19 Walton Beach, but I wanted to say that it is my  
20 view, having actually worked on the software,  
21 that any group in the state of Florida,  
22 particularly those with a complete staff, have  
23 no excuse for not spending a few hours, which  
24 is all it requires, to at least put together a  
25 plan.

1           And we prefer that the redistricting be  
2           resolved here in the Legislature where the  
3           people have a voice rather than going to the  
4           courts where they appear to be the worse  
5           gerrymanders of all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6           CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
7           much, Mr. Kelley. We appreciate your comments,  
8           sir. Next up we have Mr. Nall, Mr. Daryl Nall,  
9           Ms. Nall, I am sorry, I apologize. Followed up  
10          by Peter Butzin.

11          MS. NALL: Okay, I didn't prepare any  
12          remarks, but I got signatures for the Petition  
13          that got the issues on the ballot and I was  
14          really happy that the people of Florida want to  
15          have fair redistricting and that is why I am  
16          here.

17          I really want the process to be fair and  
18          not -- I am a Democrat, but even if the  
19          Democrats were in power it should be fair to  
20          everybody and not slanted anymore than you have  
21          to to comply with the Federal laws, because the  
22          State Constitution doesn't allow it be slanted.  
23          Thank you very much.

24          CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very much  
25          for your comments. We have Peter Butzin up



1 next, followed by Chris Moore. Peter Butzin  
2 with Common Cause. Thank you for being here,  
3 Mr. Butzin.

4 MR. BUTZIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
5 Good afternoon, everyone, my name is Peter  
6 Butzin.

7 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: I am sorry.

8 MR. BUTZIN: I am on the national  
9 governing board of Common Cause. I reside here  
10 in Tallahassee and I have been involved in  
11 reapportionments process that goes way back to  
12 1982, and I wanted to talk a little bit about  
13 my experience in 1982, when the Republicans had  
14 about 30 percent of the Legislature under its  
15 control and worked very closely with Common  
16 Cause to try to insure the fair drawing of the  
17 legislative districts.

18 And I worked with people like Pete Dunbar  
19 and Curt Kiser, John Guthrie, Jack Latvala was  
20 one of our organizers. We worked closely  
21 together around the state to encourage people  
22 to be involved in this process, and I remember  
23 asking Pete Dunbar, I said, well, why are the  
24 Republicans working so closely with Common  
25 Cause on this issue.

1           And he said, look, we have been -- we have  
2           been unfairly treated by reapportionment for as  
3           long as the reapportionment process has existed  
4           in Florida.

5           All we want is a fair process, because we  
6           know that if it is a fair process, we will be  
7           able to better represent our constituents, and  
8           that is really all Common Cause is asking for  
9           in this process, is that you be fair in the  
10          drawing of legislative district lines.

11          That you not draw lines for incumbent  
12          protection, that you not draw lines to protect  
13          political parties or even communities of  
14          interest, but instead that you follow the  
15          standards, the 63 percent of Florida voters  
16          added to the Florida Constitution in the form  
17          of Sections 20 and 21, and if you uphold your  
18          oath to uphold the Constitution, you will abide  
19          by those anti gerrymandering standards to  
20          insure a fair reapportionment process for  
21          everyone.

22          I would also hope that you have a second  
23          round of public hearings and encourage the  
24          public to comment on your plans.

25          Now, I realize that you can't pass the

1 plans until the 2012 Legislative session, but  
2 that does not mean that you can't go ahead and  
3 in committee pass plans prior to January 1st of  
4 2012, have another round of public hearings  
5 where we are encouraged to react to those plans  
6 and to have our public input.

7 Also, I would say produce those plans  
8 early in the session so that we can accelerate  
9 the process of court review, so the candidates  
10 and voters will know the district boundaries  
11 well before the elective process, and  
12 ultimately I encourage you to remember that  
13 Legislative Districts, Congressional Districts,  
14 belong to the people, not to individual  
15 Legislators or to political parties.

16 So I encourage you to uphold your oath of  
17 office, support the Florida Constitution,  
18 including Sections 20 and 21, the 63 percent of  
19 Floridians added to the Constitution in  
20 November of 2010. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you much,  
22 Mr. Butzin. I appreciate you being here today,  
23 sir.

24 Next up we have Mr. Chris Moore, who is  
25 the Leon County Supervisor of Elections, works

1 with the Leon County Supervisor of Elections,  
2 and also we have former Senator Al Lawson is up  
3 after that.

4 Thank you very much for being here,  
5 Mr. Moore.

6 MR. MOORE: Thank you. My name is Chris  
7 Moore. I am the demographics and GIS manager  
8 for the Leon County Elections Office here in  
9 Tallahassee, and I am here to talk about the  
10 technical and financial ramifications of  
11 redistricting, not so much the demographics and  
12 the mandates that you have in front of you. I  
13 think those are well documented.

14 I have a unique perspective of looking at  
15 districts, in that I have to look at them  
16 collectively. I have to look at the Senate,  
17 the House, the Congressional Districts as well  
18 as Local Districts and one thing that I haven't  
19 seen talked about that I would like to submit  
20 for consideration is looking at these districts  
21 collectively, because when you look at the  
22 districts collectively there is places in Leon  
23 County that the House District and the Senate  
24 District may be very close by, and if there is  
25 opportunities to get those lines in sync then,

1       you know, that is a financial savings to the  
2       taxpayers.

3               We have to have ballots for every precinct  
4       specific style, everywhere there is a hard  
5       district line there is a precinct line. So the  
6       more you can get that in line with each other,  
7       we have an opportunity for financial savings at  
8       the county level.

9               The other thing I would like to say about  
10      the savings, it is the course of a decade. It  
11      is not just for one year, it is for ten years,  
12      and it affects equipment, it affects supplies,  
13      it affects training. It ripples its way all of  
14      the way through our system for a very long  
15      time.

16              And as far as the statistics for the  
17      districts, I think last time around you were  
18      able to get down to like a zero deviation or a  
19      one person deviation in the numbers, and I  
20      would implore you not to hide behind the  
21      numbers being so close, because what happens  
22      oftentimes when you are trying to get to those  
23      numbers you start to ignore other criteria that  
24      is out in front of you, and if you just need to  
25      get the numbers right, you start grabbing

1 pieces out of neighborhoods here and there and  
2 that is where some of the fracturing that you  
3 see of neighborhoods occurs, because you are  
4 trying to get to a deviation that, to me is not  
5 the most important criteria, nor should it be.

6 So those -- those are my suggestions for  
7 -- from the Leon County Supervisor of  
8 Election's Office and I thank you for your  
9 time.

10 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very much  
11 for those good suggestions, Mr. Moore.

12 Next up we have an old friend and former  
13 Senator and House Speaker, Senator Al Lawson.  
14 Senator, you are recognized.

15 Thank you for being here, sir.

16 SENATOR LAWSON: Thank you very much,  
17 Mr. Chairman Weatherford and Chairman Gaetz.  
18 To members I would like to say good afternoon.

19 It is a real privilege for me to appear  
20 before this committee today, especially having  
21 gone through reapportionment twice in the last  
22 28 years, and it is very encouraging to see  
23 many of you that I know on this committee,  
24 because I have had the opportunity to work with  
25 you.

1           And one of the things I would like to say  
2       before I get started is that I know that there  
3       is going to be numerous hearings. I don't want  
4       any of the public to really think that just  
5       because we have a hearing here, that there are  
6       not other hearings, because there will be many  
7       committee meetings for the opportunity for you  
8       to have input.

9           And I know the last two times I have been  
10      through reapportionment, it hasn't been any  
11      difference. I had an opportunity to go through  
12      reapportionment with the Democratic majority,  
13      had opportunity to go through reapportionment  
14      with the Republican majority, and there haven't  
15      been any changes in those regards.

16           I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for  
17      your time to listen to the citizens of Leon  
18      County today. I know firsthand tasks what you  
19      all are faced with, and I know that you all are  
20      going to make the right decision.

21           I had the privilege to serve during the  
22      time where we had great strides in the  
23      representation of racial and language  
24      minorities in the State Legislature and  
25      Congressional Districts.

1           My hope is that the work that we started  
2           with will continue. The way I read the  
3           amendment, the new standards of intent gives  
4           priority over -- give priority over to the  
5           preservation -- does not give priority over to  
6           the preservation of minority access districts.

7           Though the organization claims that this  
8           does not exist, but from the way I interpret  
9           the law, it does not give claims to those  
10          access seats.

11          Let me give you a good example. Prior to  
12          1982, there was no African-Americans or  
13          Hispanics in Congress, none in the Senate, and  
14          only five in the Legislature, but because we  
15          took minority access districts into  
16          consideration, after 1982, we had two  
17          African-Americans that was elected to the  
18          Senate and we had three African-American that  
19          was elected to Congress.

20          So that become very critical, and I want  
21          to make sure that as we address these issues,  
22          that we preserve and do not have retrogression.

23          Although paragraph three says that the  
24          standard is not listed in order of priority, it  
25          is clear that several minority access seats are



1 at risk, and I have said that these minority  
2 access seats have been at risk for the last  
3 three years, and especially the last year when  
4 I served on reapportionment.

5 It is very important that you recognize  
6 that and you identify that. My point today as  
7 a citizen, I will just state is to use this  
8 public hearing to tell you one simple message,  
9 preserve minority districts in Leon County and  
10 throughout the state of Florida.

11 When I got elected in 1982, they hadn't  
12 been an African-American elected since  
13 Reconstruction, but because the Legislature in  
14 its wisdom during reapportionment saw to make a  
15 minority access seat, this was the first time  
16 that an African-American had been elected since  
17 Reconstruction.

18 We have come too far to see some  
19 considered vague standards that does not come  
20 to the right interpretation. We have worked  
21 too hard and too long to allow this to really  
22 happen.

23 As a citizen of this state I am begging  
24 you not to stop the progress that has been made  
25 for racial equality in this state. To not stop

1 the good work that we have accomplished  
2 together, Republicans and Democrats over the  
3 last 30 years.

4 Please apply what these new standards may  
5 say, I want it very clear, that the citizens of  
6 this state, especially the minority citizens,  
7 African-American and Hispanic, would like to  
8 have preserved minority access seats.

9 I think it is very important for this  
10 state because we are a very diverse state, and  
11 we should have the representation of our  
12 citizens.

13 Thank you very much and it is an honor for  
14 me to appear before you today.

15 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
16 much, Mr. Lawson. We appreciate your services  
17 to the state and for you sharing the historical  
18 perspective with us. Thank you very much. It  
19 is good to see you, sir.

20 Next up we have Ms. Deirdre Macnab.  
21 Deirdre, I apologize, I didn't tell you ahead  
22 of time, but you are recognized to be our next  
23 speaker, and following Ms. Macnab, I apologize  
24 if I don't say this right, but Juva  
25 Harrington from the NAACP.

1           First up we have Ms. Deirdre Macnab with  
2           the League of Women Voters. Thank you very  
3           much for being here today.

4           MS. MACNAB: Thank you very much. Chair  
5           Gaetz and Chair Weatherford, thank you for  
6           having us here today, and esteemed members of  
7           this Committee.

8           I am Deirdre Macnab, and I am the State  
9           President of the League of Women Voters of  
10          Florida.

11          There is an old Chinese saying, "The  
12          journey of 1,000 miles begins with one step."  
13          The League of Women Voters has a lot of  
14          experience in the area of 1,000-mile journeys,  
15          and one of them began almost 200 years ago when  
16          we fought for the right for women to vote, and  
17          Susan B. Anthony was one of my favorite heros,  
18          criss-crossed America, not by automobile, but  
19          by foot, by stage coach and she had to sit on  
20          the stage usually with a Sheriff with his guns  
21          drawn so that she could speak. Luckily we are  
22          not in that situation today, nor do we have to  
23          travel in this same mode.

24          However, I am here to talk today about a  
25          different 1,000-mile journey. This one started

1 a long time ago, also for the League of Women  
2 Voters of Florida, almost 70 years ago when we  
3 began, and that was back in 1939, when we did  
4 our first study of government, which had two  
5 findings.

6 One, an outdated Constitution, and two, a  
7 malapportioned Legislature. Since those days  
8 we have worked on the subject of redistricting  
9 and the need for fair standards and we have  
10 continued that fight to today.

11 With a vote in November, we have come very  
12 close to the end of that journey. The League  
13 of Women Voters has fought for this effort when  
14 the Democrats were in charge in Tallahassee,  
15 and we have fought for that effort with the  
16 Republicans today in charge of Tallahassee.  
17 This is a non partisan issue. It is also not  
18 an anti incumbent issue.

19 The League of Women Voters opposed term  
20 limits when it was proposed as an amendment.  
21 We believe simply in fairness and fair rules.  
22 After four Petition drives over these last many  
23 years and with our members across the state of  
24 Florida asking other Floridians to sign their  
25 Petition, some might say, accosting, I have two

1 friends who are in their 80s who would stop  
2 people in their nursing home elevator to sign  
3 the petitions.

4 We were, along with our partner groups,  
5 able to succeed in collecting 1,600,000  
6 petitions and in persuading 63 percent of  
7 Florida's voters in a conservative election  
8 year to support and ask the Legislature to  
9 follow these simple and straightforward rules.

10 Today, on behalf of our thousands of  
11 members across the state of Florida who have  
12 collected signatures, who have spoken to  
13 groups, who have written to newspapers and  
14 explained the importance of these changes to  
15 their neighbors, we ask you to do the  
16 following.

17 Number one, stop using taxpayer dollars to  
18 fight the amendments. Imagine your family's  
19 horror if you came home and told them that you  
20 were paying attorneys to both fight and defend  
21 the same case. That is what you are doing for  
22 your constituents.

23 We the voters are paying to both prosecute  
24 and to defend that which 63 percent of  
25 Floridians have instructed you to follow.

1 Please drop these lawsuits and follow the will  
2 of the voters.

3 Number two, move the timeline up. We  
4 agree completely with your attorney who  
5 encouraged you to start drawing the maps  
6 immediately, and that to do otherwise is likely  
7 to result in chaos and confusion in the 2012  
8 election.

9 The current timeline makes it very likely  
10 that there will be little or no time for  
11 candidates to know what districts they are in  
12 before the filing deadline to be able to  
13 organize and prepare their campaigns, and  
14 importantly, to communicate and inform voters  
15 before they make their choices.

16 Florida deserves elections where the  
17 people have time to understand their choices.  
18 This timeline benefits only incumbents and is  
19 likely to diminish competitive election and  
20 certainly the time that our voters need to  
21 inform themselves about their choices.

22 The current plan is to vote on final maps  
23 at the end of session next year. Why not draw  
24 them earlier, debate and discuss them in  
25 committee meetings in the fall, and vote on

1           them in the first week of session in early  
2           January of 2012.

3           This would add two months for court and  
4           Justice Department reviews, and will create a  
5           real chance for voters and prospective  
6           candidates to know the districts before  
7           qualifying.

8           CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD:   Ms. Macnab.

9           MS. MACNAB:   Yes.

10          CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD:   We are over five  
11          minutes.  I certainly want to allow you to  
12          finish, but if you could, just try to wrap it  
13          up as much as you can for us so we can get to  
14          all of the other speakers.

15          MS. MACNAB:   Thank you.  It would be my  
16          pressure.

17          CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD:   Yes, ma'am, thank  
18          you.

19          MS. MACNAB:   Finally, we ask you to lift  
20          the gag order placed on the Legislators during  
21          these redistricting hearings.  The people of  
22          Florida deserve a chance to hear what is on  
23          your mind.  Let's make these hearings  
24          substantive and productive.

25          We urge you to get your staff to work now

1 drawing the district maps so that we can have a  
2 substantive conversation and discussion as you  
3 follow the rules that the people of Florida  
4 voted on in November by 63 percent. Let's get  
5 to work. Thank you very much.

6 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
7 much, Ms. Macnab, thank you for being here and  
8 for participating. We appreciate it. Next up  
9 we have Juvais Harrington and after  
10 Mr. Harrington we have a Bishop Holifield will  
11 be next.

12 Mr. Harrington is with the NAACP. Thank  
13 you very much for being here, sir, you are  
14 recognized.

15 MR. HARRINGTON: Thank you, and that is  
16 Juvais, but when in doubt phonetics always  
17 works, oftentimes people put letters in there  
18 that aren't there, so thank you very much.

19 The comments from the NAACP here in Leon  
20 County, the Tallahassee branch and as we will  
21 be speaking throughout the state, first of all,  
22 I want to echo what AARP said that this forum  
23 remains and this process remains transparent,  
24 that everyone knows what is going on, when it  
25 is going on, and when it happens.



1           Also, that the -- we keep in mind that  
2           63 percent of the voters voted on this. So  
3           that the intent of the voters come forth and we  
4           have and we process and we do what the voters  
5           said.

6           It is almost like, you know, when you are  
7           growing up someone takes, they don't get picked  
8           to play on a team, it is like, I am going to  
9           take my ball and go home.

10          Well, the Legislature, you cannot take  
11          your ball and go home. The people have spoken  
12          and they say this is what we want. Also, we  
13          want to look at the anti gerrymandering  
14          portions that we want to make sure that  
15          everyone is included, that everyone is fairly  
16          represented and that everyone has a right.

17          NAACP is non partisan, so we speak not on  
18          behalf of Democrats nor Republicans, we are  
19          policy centric, so we speak to the issues, not  
20          to the parties.

21          We want to make sure that fairness -- that  
22          we know that and we realize that fairness  
23          should be, it is not party centric, but it  
24          should be to both parties, Republican,  
25          Democrat, Independent, what-have-you, and that

1       we move forward in the spirit of fairness which  
2       means that some of you may lose your seats, but  
3       if you are being fair, if you are serving the  
4       public, does it matter if you lose your seats  
5       or not?

6               Nearly 30 years ago one of the statesman  
7       from Florida told me that the first job of an  
8       elected official is to get reelected. That is  
9       your very first job.

10              Well, let flip that script. Let the first  
11      job be to serve your constituents, let that be  
12      the first job, to serve the people of Florida,  
13      to make sure that they get what they voted for.

14              And finally I would like to say that,  
15      again, stop using the taxpayers money to fight.  
16      It doesn't make sense. It doesn't make sense.  
17      For those of you who say that you have, you  
18      weren't chosen and you want to take your ball  
19      and go home with it, well, don't go home, just  
20      come back, you get to play next time, but this  
21      time the people have spoken.

22              CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
23      Mr. Harrington. We appreciate those comments,  
24      sir.

25              Bishop Holifield is next, followed up by

1 Mimi Jones. Mr. Holifield is with Leon County  
2 Democratic Black Caucus. Thank you very much  
3 for being here, sir.

4 MR. HOLIFIELD: Thank you for the  
5 opportunity. My name is Bishop Holifield. I  
6 am appearing before you as the President of the  
7 Leon County Democratic Black Caucus.

8 I would like for my fellow members to  
9 stand, please, and be recognized. The Florida  
10 Legislature -- thank you.

11 The Florida Legislature has the duty of  
12 creating legislative and congressional  
13 districts that, A, at the very least, preserve  
14 current levels of black membership in the  
15 Florida Legislature and the United States House  
16 of Representatives.

17 B, the Legislature also has the duty to  
18 end and correct the current situation in the  
19 State of Florida that sees the votes of those  
20 living in densely populated urban areas diluted  
21 in a fashion that confirms, that confers an  
22 unfair and disproportionate number of districts  
23 on more sparsely populated suburban and rural  
24 areas.

25 The Legislature should utilize available

1        scientifically measurable numbers to achieve  
2        these laudable goals. The articulated outcomes  
3        should be made required deliverables on the  
4        part of anyone the Legislature contracts with  
5        to draw its redistricting maps.

6            Finally, the Florida Legislature should  
7        conduct meaningful public hearings after its  
8        redistricting maps are drawn. That would allow  
9        for a substantive rather than an illusory  
10       public comment. Thank you.

11           CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
12        much, Mr. Holifield. We appreciate that, sir.  
13        Next up we have Ms. Mimi Jones, followed up by,  
14        it is Rachel Sutz Pienta, I believe that is  
15        right, but Ms. Rachel Sutz, but first we have  
16        Ms. Jones. Thank you, Ms. Jones, for being  
17        here, you are recognized.

18           MS. JONES: Hello, thank you. Thank you  
19        to the Committee Chairs and to the Committee.  
20        I speak to you as a private citizen who has  
21        been involved in the political process for, I  
22        think it started in middle school, okay.

23           I have done everything from serve, even  
24        though I speak for myself, as President of the  
25        League of Women Voters in Florida, all of the

1 way down to carrying trash and being a  
2 petitioner. I have done it and I have enjoyed  
3 it, and I still have faith in the process.

4 I would like to give you just a little bit  
5 of my history. In 1982, I was working at the  
6 State level. I was involved in the Petition --  
7 excuse me, in the reapportionment process.  
8 That was the first year that Florida had come  
9 into the computer age with redistricting.

10 We then as now suggested fair and  
11 equitable standards that we take from our  
12 studies of government. We joined other groups  
13 around the state, including Peter Butzin, we  
14 worked together long and hard, and we came to  
15 no avail.

16 And I have to tell you that I was pretty  
17 upset with the Democrats, and I don't want to  
18 be upset with the Republicans.

19 It is all a matter of who is in charge,  
20 but I will tell you what, I think the people  
21 are in charge. Sixty-three percent of those  
22 who voted, that is a good solid majority, and  
23 they have told you they want it fair and they  
24 want it square, and I hope that we can thank  
25 you for it when we are through with the

1 process. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
3 much, Ms. Jones. Next up we have Ms. Rachel, I  
4 apologize if I am not saying this correctly,  
5 Pienta, Ms. Rachel Sutz Pienta with the Wakulla  
6 Democratic Executive Committee.

7 Ms. Pienta, thank you very much for being  
8 here. She will be followed by Joe Conte. You  
9 are recognized, thank you.

10 MS. PIENTA: Thank you, Representative  
11 Weatherford. I am really here as a citizen of  
12 Wakulla County today, full disclosure, yes, I  
13 am a Democrat.

14 One of my -- one of my State Legislators I  
15 see here today, Senator Montford, but I don't  
16 see Representative Bermbry and Representative  
17 Coley, and that is a shame.

18 As a citizen of Wakulla sometimes I feel a  
19 little bit like a red-headed stepchild, because  
20 Representative Coley and Representative  
21 Bermbry's districts meet in Wakulla. And on  
22 the eastern side we are a part of a district  
23 that goes all the way along the coast in  
24 Wakulla, down to Cedar Key, and then up to the  
25 Georgia border and it sort of curves and winds,

1 sort of does this half circle thing around  
2 Alachua County.

3 And so that is the east side, and then on  
4 the west side my Representative goes all of the  
5 way in the southern part of Leon County, like I  
6 really wonder if the people in Woodville and  
7 Southwood know that Representative Coley is  
8 actually their Representative and not Senator  
9 Rehwinkel, I am sorry, Representative  
10 Rehwinkel-Vasilinda, and then that district on  
11 the west side goes all the way over into the  
12 panhandle over towards Destin.

13 So my Representatives are really nice  
14 people and they do their best, but it is a lot  
15 of ground to cover, and we don't see them very  
16 often in Wakulla. And I am a fairly engaged  
17 citizen, so both Representatives, Republican  
18 and Democrat to their credit, both take my  
19 calls.

20 So I get to talk to them, but I know that  
21 the constituents, the average person in Wakulla  
22 does not see them very often, and Senator  
23 Montford, bless his heart, does his best, but  
24 he also has a pretty large district that covers  
25 a lot of ground.

1           So down in Wakulla we sit there on the  
2           coast, a bedroom community for Leon County,  
3           that doesn't really have full representation,  
4           and I have to give some kudos actually to my  
5           Leon County Representative delegation, because  
6           Alan Williams and Michelle Vasilinda actually  
7           speak for Wakulla quite often, because they  
8           know that so many citizens in Wakulla drive  
9           north on Woodville Highway and Crawfordville  
10          Highway every day to work in Leon County.

11          So they are working here and they are kind  
12          of subject to things that happen here in the  
13          state government. It is sort of like not being  
14          fully represented though.

15          So again, as one of the red-headed  
16          step-children living down in Wakulla county I  
17          would like to see some changes. I would like  
18          to see my Representatives once in a while, and  
19          again, it is not their fault. Those are  
20          ridiculous districts, they cover way too much  
21          ground.

22          So I would like to see something changed  
23          with redistricting so that I can be fully  
24          represented down in Wakulla county. Thank you  
25          very much for your time today.



1           CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
2 much, Ms. Pienta, we appreciate those comments.  
3 Next up we have Jo Conte, and followed by --  
4 following Jo will be Joseph Schweitzer.

5           MS. CONTE: Just a couple of comments, I  
6 am Jo Conte, I am from Tallahassee. I ask you  
7 to follow the will of the people on this, show  
8 us some maps and then we can talk seriously. I  
9 waive the remainder of my time.

10          CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
11 much. Next up we have Mr. Joseph Schweitzer.  
12 Mr. Schweitzer, thank you very much for being  
13 here.

14          Following Mr. Schweitzer will be Walt  
15 Dartland, and Joseph Schweitzer, it looks like  
16 a student at Florida State University.

17          MR. SCHWEITZER: Yes, sir.

18          CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very much  
19 for being here, sir.

20          MR. SCHWEITZER: Thank you. I am just  
21 here to really wave against a lot of the ways  
22 this process has taken place. I speak on  
23 behalf of many of the students of Florida State  
24 University, and as the founder of The Student  
25 Caucus of Florida to say that from, again, the

1       Legislature's opposition, through suits against  
2       the Fair Districts Amendments, the lack of  
3       really any visible map for a long time to come  
4       to see what we are basing our future lines and  
5       future districts off of.

6             A complicated process is already overly  
7       complicated for constituents of everybody in  
8       the room. In my age group redistricting is  
9       going to have a similar effect as the Voter  
10      Registration Bill did in this past legislative  
11      session, and again and again we find that it  
12      becomes more difficult to mobilize a  
13      constituency, a constituency that takes much  
14      longer to mobilize than many others do.

15            We have a shorter time frame and we don't  
16      know what we are working with. So as  
17      complicated as the districts are and as  
18      vehemently as I might disagree with the way  
19      that they might be drawn as well as, I am sure,  
20      the majority of the people in this room, the  
21      timeline that is being presented in this effort  
22      is going to cause a lot of struggle for many  
23      who wish to organize on both sides of the  
24      aisle. So thank you.

25            CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very

1       much, Mr. Schweitzer. We appreciate your  
2       comments, sir. Next up we have a Walt  
3       Dartland.

4             Walt, thank you very much for being here,  
5       sir, following Mr. Dartland we are going to  
6       have Paul Harvill. You are recognized, sir.

7             MR. DARTLAND: Thank you so much, sir,  
8       Walt Dartland. Just as a matter of disclosure,  
9       I served on the Board of Common Cause, National  
10      Board for about eight years, with such really  
11      great people that I would hope you all had a  
12      chance to meet like Archibald Cox, and with  
13      John Gardner, a Republican who actually founded  
14      Common Cause.

15            It was a great experience. I learned a  
16      lot. I also served as Deputy Attorney General  
17      for Bob Butterworth. So I am somewhat familiar  
18      with the process that we all go through and  
19      appreciate the opportunity to participate.

20            However, I want to first say this. I want  
21      to -- I don't want it cover the same stuff that  
22      everybody else covered, and I just want to --  
23      in the Public Service Commission hearings we  
24      use the, I adopt, I adopt the other testimony,  
25      and I certainly adopt the testimony of the

1       League of Women Cities -- League of Women  
2       Voters, I am sorry, and of Common Cause and  
3       Peter Butzin, I think they are right on, and  
4       there are a number of other people I think are  
5       right on.

6               So I will just focus on a few things to  
7       sort of bring, that I want to cover that wasn't  
8       covered so far.

9               One is that common, I chaired Florida  
10       Common Cause for about eight years. At that  
11       time we initiated our own petition, if you  
12       remember, and we moved right along until, and  
13       we had an independent commission, sort of  
14       modeled after California, and at that point  
15       what happened is the Supreme Court ruled that  
16       there is no such thing as an independent  
17       commission, and therefore, it was an  
18       unconstitutional -- they were not going to  
19       allow us to vote on that deal.

20              Now, that may have been correct.  
21       California still has it, and I will say this,  
22       that I follow the California situation closely  
23       because Arnold Schwarzenegger offered to come  
24       here and testify on behalf of our initial  
25       Common Cause Petition. They did pass it.

1           You have an independent commission and I  
2       read the L. A. Times, I have two children and  
3       grandchildren in California, so I follow what  
4       is going on, and what they have found is that  
5       what they have done is that the Independent  
6       Commission meeting, they are going to -- the L.  
7       A. Times has opined that even if they do the  
8       very best job of doing it, there is not going  
9       to be that much change in this stuff, itself,  
10      even though there are a lot of Democrats  
11      control Legislature there.

12           Now, I got to tell you, whoever has this  
13      lady as a Civics teacher, I think that is the  
14      greatest thing ever. We need more civic  
15      education and I want to put my -- my word in  
16      here that civic education is really critical.

17           I want to also comment on the second  
18      effort that we are doing now, and try to set it  
19      a little differently. You know, Bobby Kennedy  
20      one time said that our population is the most  
21      entertained and less informed, least informed  
22      population in the world, and that is probably  
23      true.

24           And one of the reasons I want to emphasize  
25      here on this thing is that having taught at the

1 Law School in Miami and having taught at a  
2 number of others, Florida International  
3 University, the teaching process of the public  
4 is going to be difficult for you.

5 Here we have informed people, people  
6 really engaged. How about the general public?  
7 That is why I would have preferred that you had  
8 a map put up, and a Tea Party person said, hey,  
9 this is simple, anybody can do it, get on the  
10 web.

11 Like -- why couldn't the Legislature have  
12 come up with a map that we could then look at  
13 and see how it affects Wakulla County and  
14 Lafayette County and then have them testify and  
15 see what is going on.

16 The scary thing is that we may not get a  
17 second chance if this thing prolongs itself and  
18 we may not get a chance to comment on what is  
19 eventually done.

20 The procedures as you all know who have  
21 been in government, and I think Senator  
22 Montford has, most of you had, know that what  
23 we did in the Attorney General's Office or the  
24 Department of Motor Vehicles or if you are  
25 preparing an ordinance, you first prepare the

1 ordinance and you put it out for public  
2 comment, I mean, that is the way it works.

3 You have the comments, they come in, you  
4 take a look at the comments, you decide what is  
5 reasonable, not reasonable, you adjust it and  
6 then you vote on what you think is now the  
7 appropriate, you know, legislation that should  
8 go forward.

9 That is not going to happen here without a  
10 second round of hearings. It is not going to  
11 happen with a map that can be distributed to  
12 all of the dealers and wheelers and dealers and  
13 shakers in all of these communities are going  
14 to look at that district and have a chance to  
15 do an input on it.

16 You know, when I -- when I look at what we  
17 are trying to accomplish here, I don't doubt  
18 and I have made this clear, we are going to end  
19 up in the courts. We always have. We always  
20 will, and the sooner we get the process  
21 resolved and the Legislature has a map and the  
22 public is informed, I think at that time the  
23 courts are going to deal with it and it will be  
24 an extensive process this time, because it  
25 involves Federal law, and you are talking about

1       the Department of Justice and it involves our  
2       Constitutional Amendment, which is, by the way,  
3       just so you will know, this isn't just a couple  
4       of people sat down to come up with these  
5       standards.

6               This was a very deliberate process in  
7       which we have two former Chief Justices  
8       participate, we had learned counsel, we had  
9       academics come in and we worried and worked on  
10      these standards for months and months and  
11      months to try to come up with something that  
12      would help guide this Legislature.

13             So we hope you will follow through on  
14      this, you will do your best. Just remember  
15      this, it won't be long, you will all be gone.  
16      All of your friends will be gone and what you  
17      accomplish here will probably last. So it is  
18      your heritage to make this happen. Thank you  
19      so much.

20             CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
21      much, Mr. Dartland, we appreciate that, sir.  
22      Next up we have Mr. Paul Harvill and following  
23      Mr. Harvill we have Joseph Sierra.  
24      Mr. Harvill, you are recognized, sir.

25             MR. HARVILL: Thank you, Senator Margolis,



1 a long time ago. I was born and bred here in  
2 Florida, Tampa and Tallahassee. I was involved  
3 intimately with the '81 and '82 redistricting  
4 battles, with H. Lee Moffit and Dempsey Barron  
5 as the respective Chairs.

6 In fact, Dempsey about punched me out, he  
7 got so mad with me over the reapportionment  
8 battles.

9 Now, for the real brief important  
10 comments. Today and for essentially all of our  
11 states and our nation's history we have had a  
12 cancer on the body politic.

13 Amendments V and VI are radiation and  
14 chemotherapy. The cancer will hopefully go  
15 into remission, yet cancer is always lurking in  
16 the body politic.

17 Another cancer is legalized extortion,  
18 legalized bribery in this legislative process.  
19 Remember that you are sworn to both uphold and  
20 obey the Florida and United States  
21 Constitutions.

22 As the old ad campaign said, come to  
23 Florida, the rules are different here. The  
24 rules here now are Amendments V, VI and all of  
25 the other constitutional law, statutory law and

1 case law.

2 One suggestion from '81/'82, was Lee  
3 Moffit came up with a very interesting idea,  
4 and that would be to nest three House Districts  
5 within one Senate District.

6 I think that was brilliant and I hope this  
7 Legislature will adopt that concept, too. Last  
8 thing, any questions? Any comments?

9 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
10 much, Mr. Harvill, we appreciate those  
11 comments, sir. Next up we have Mr. Joseph  
12 Sierra, followed by Linda Edson and after  
13 Ms. Edson goes we will probably have a five  
14 minute recess for members to use the restroom  
15 and stretch for a moment, but it will only be  
16 for five minutes and we will get going again.

17 But before that, Mr. Joseph Sierra, you  
18 are recognized, sir, unless you are not here.  
19 You are not recognized. Okay, he is not here  
20 so we are going to move forward to Ms. Linda  
21 Edson.

22 Ms. Edson has asked not to speak at this  
23 time, okay, so what we will do is we will take  
24 a five minute recess, members, and we will be  
25 back here in five minutes. Please do not go

1 far. Thank you very much.

2 (Brief recess taken.)

3 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: If we could get  
4 everyone to grab their seats, we are going to  
5 get started again. Please grab your seats.

6 (Brief pause.)

7 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: If we could get  
8 everyone to grab their seats, please, we are  
9 going to start, please grab your seats.

10 (Brief pause.)

11 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Members, please  
12 grab your seats. We want to get started.  
13 Representative Rehwinkel Vasilinda, if you  
14 could please grab your seat. Representative  
15 Williams, if you could please grab your seat,  
16 Senator Smith, if we could get you to grab your  
17 seat, sir.

18 If you could please grab your seats, thank  
19 you, please. Representative Baxley, if you  
20 could grab your seat, please, sir.

21 Okay, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for  
22 allowing us to take that break real quickly.  
23 There was a Joseph Sierra who we missed earlier  
24 and if Mr. Sierra is here I would like to give  
25 you an opportunity to speak.

1           You were not here when we called your name  
2       before. If you are here, please raise your  
3       hand, we will have you come first, Mr. Sierra,  
4       I do not believe you are here.

5           Okay, moving on, we are going to go to  
6       Mr. Doug Croley, Mr. Croley is with the Gadsden  
7       County, he is a Gadsden County Commissioner.

8           Mr. Croley, thank you very much for being  
9       here, sir. You are recognized for your  
10      comments.

11          MR. CROLEY: Thank you. I do appreciate  
12      the opportunity to appear here and many of you  
13      I do know and I thank you for your service.

14          And let me start by -- I have some  
15      handouts here for the Chair, and if I may,  
16      Mr. Chair, present this to you, I would  
17      appreciate it.

18          CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you, sir.

19          MR. CROLEY: Mr. Chair, as a County  
20      Commissioner for a large segment of northeast  
21      Gadsden County, I appear before this Honorable  
22      Committee to request your most sincere and  
23      serious consideration of the Havana area within  
24      the Florida House of Representatives District  
25      serving northern Leon County, that this be

1 included.

2 This request for realignment is based upon  
3 the serious need to better join together in a  
4 traditional manner communities of common  
5 interest and to do so in compliance with State  
6 and Federal law.

7 To this were the end, please allow me to  
8 reference the following key points in support  
9 of this redistricting request.

10 One, because of its geographical location,  
11 northeast Gadsden County is closely aligned  
12 with northern Leon County, as evidenced by a  
13 shared county line on the eastern side and with  
14 all east, west connector roads tying together  
15 both counties.

16 Two, most of the business interest,  
17 employment, higher education, retail consumer  
18 shopping, social, medical, transportation,  
19 recreational and cultural needs and  
20 requirements of northeast Gadsden County are  
21 closely tied to northern Leon County.

22 And third, northeast Gadsden County has  
23 transitioned into a suburb of northern Leon  
24 County with most families having a close  
25 day-to-day presence within the Tallahassee area

1 north of west Tennessee Street, and north of  
2 east Mahan Drive.

3 The attached Florida Department of  
4 Transportation county map has been highlighted  
5 in yellow to indicate northeast Gadsden County  
6 in a manner that lends both simplicity and  
7 reasonableness to this specific redistricting  
8 request, and a description of the boundaries  
9 are set forth in the attachment two.

10 Now, having discussed this matter with  
11 numerous citizens, I am confident that this  
12 proposal will be well received if implemented.  
13 I have also touched upon this subject with each  
14 of our present State Representatives, both  
15 Representative Williams and Representative  
16 Vasilinda, who are now serving Gadsden County  
17 as well as Representative Coley, on the west  
18 side, and I believe that each of them fully  
19 appreciate the rationale that underlies this  
20 proposal.

21 Now, I want to thank this committee for  
22 its time and its attentiveness, and should any  
23 member now have any questions I would be happy  
24 to respond, otherwise I will be available to  
25 your staff to provide any information needed.

1           And I thank you very much for the  
2           opportunity, Mr. Chairs, Chairs, to present  
3           this information to you. And I would like, if  
4           I may, provide a copy to Representative  
5           Vasilinda. I missed her earlier.

6           CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Yes, please do so,  
7           and thank you for being here today and for your  
8           comments and for your public service to Gadsden  
9           County and our state.

10          MR. CROLEY: Yes, thank you.

11          CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you. We also  
12          have next up Ms. Betsy Barfield with the  
13          Jefferson County Commission. Commissioner  
14          Barfield, thank you very much for being here  
15          and followed after Ms. Barfield will be Susan  
16          Watson.

17          COMMISSIONER BARFIELD: I did not bring  
18          enough copies for everybody.

19          CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: We will get copies  
20          made, Ms. Barfield, thank you very much. You  
21          are recognized to speak.

22          COMMISSIONER BARFIELD: Thank you very  
23          much. I am honored to come before you today  
24          and speak out for common sense and the  
25          constitutional principle of one person and one

1           vote. I am Betsy Barfield, Commissioner for  
2           District IV in Jefferson County.

3           Jefferson County is your neighbor to  
4           Tallahassee, Leon County to the east. I come  
5           before you to speak about two topics on  
6           redistricting.

7           First, the unbalanced aspect of including  
8           prisoners in the drawing of the district lines.  
9           And second, the gerrymandering of Congressional  
10          Districts II and IV.

11          I have given you some statistics for the  
12          Jefferson County voting districts, and I am  
13          sorry I don't have more for everybody else.

14          I am asking that you do not include in the  
15          prison populations the drawing of the  
16          districts. The reason for redistricting is to  
17          make sure that everyone is properly  
18          represented, and normally the voter numbers  
19          somewhat track with the district population,  
20          except when the prison population is included  
21          in the counts.

22          Here are some facts. Prisoners are  
23          convicted felons and they cannot vote. They  
24          should not have district representation.

25          Prisoners are temporarily housed in Jefferson



1 County and are not residents of the surrounding  
2 community and they should not be placed on an  
3 equal footing of law abiding citizens.

4 Including the prison population in the  
5 drawing of the districts drastically affects  
6 small counties like Jefferson which I am going  
7 to use as my example today.

8 Our population base is 14,000 people plus.  
9 Jefferson County is split in to five single  
10 member districts.

11 Each commission district should represent  
12 approximately 2,100 voters, a very manageable  
13 size. If all is even on the dais in Jefferson  
14 County, then each Commissioner should represent  
15 20 percent of the population and the voters,  
16 not so in District III, because the prison  
17 population is included in the drawing of that  
18 district.

19 That Commissioner represents only  
20 14 percent of the voters. Therefore, he is a  
21 super voter on the Commission. There are two  
22 Commissioners that represent 51 percent of the  
23 voting population in Jefferson County.

24 So when super Commissioner votes, his vote  
25 is weighted and the voters in that district

1       have more political clout than the other voters  
2       in the county.

3               People, this is wrong. The practice of  
4       including prisons in local districting plans  
5       lead to serious distortion of political power  
6       in county and state governments. How fair is  
7       this to the people to whom we all represent and  
8       answer to?

9               I ask you, please, do not include the  
10       prison populations while drawing the lines for  
11       the district in the state of Florida.

12              Next, I am not quite finished. Next,  
13       Congressional District II and IV. It is  
14       182 miles from Tallahassee to Jacksonville  
15       Beach.

16              In this corridor there is a swath cut out  
17       of the middle of north Florida that is  
18       gerrymandered for Congressional District IV.  
19       If you take a look at the district map for this  
20       example you might wonder what do rural  
21       communities in this swath have in common with  
22       Jacksonville? None. I ask that you take a  
23       hard look at correcting the representation of  
24       these congressional districts.

25              I respectfully submit these comments to

1           you. Thank you. I am Betsy Barfield,  
2           Commissioner, District IV.

3           CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Commissioner, thank  
4           you very much for your comments and for your  
5           public service. We appreciate you being here.  
6           Next up we have Ms. Susan Watson followed by  
7           Bradley Maxwell.

8           Ms. Watson, you are recognized. Thank you  
9           very much for being here.

10          MS. WATSON: Thank you very much.  
11          Chairman Gaetz, Chair Weatherford and Committee  
12          members, my name is Susan Watson. I am the  
13          Regional Director of the American Civil  
14          Liberties Union.

15          This process and these hearings are very  
16          troubling. The Legislature has invited the  
17          public to comment, but you don't give us  
18          anything to comment on. Where are the maps?  
19          This isn't a conversation.

20          You are not saying anything and you are  
21          not giving us anything to talk about. I would  
22          love to meet and talk to some of the people  
23          running to represent me, but you have to draw  
24          the districts to let me know who they are.

25          Make a map now. Present it to the public

1           now and start a meaningful conversation.  
2           Otherwise, you are just wasting everybody's  
3           time. We don't want fake hearings and  
4           meaningless talk. We want fair, non partisan  
5           districts.

6           The people of Florida overwhelmingly voted  
7           to add Amendments V and VI to our Constitution.  
8           Don't make a mockery of our vote and don't make  
9           a mockery of democracy. Thank you.

10           CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
11           Ms. Watson. Next up we have Mr. Bradley  
12           Maxwell. Followed by Mr. Maxwell we will have  
13           Nathalie Shortal or Shortal. Mr. Maxwell, you  
14           are recognized, sir.

15           MR. MAXWELL: Thank you, Representative  
16           Weatherford. My name is Bradley Maxwell. I am  
17           a local business owner here in Tallahassee and  
18           I want to thank all of you all for taking your  
19           time to be here and to hear from the citizens,  
20           and the main thing I wanted to say is I  
21           appreciate the process.

22           I appreciate the opportunity for us to --  
23           to have some input on these districts. I have  
24           been to the website and I feel bad for you  
25           guys, because in a lot of ways you are in a no

1 win situation.

2 If you would -- if you would come in with  
3 maps drawn then we would be hearing from all of  
4 the naysayers that, you know, you met in a back  
5 room, smoke filled room and drew the maps  
6 yourself and now you are just wanting us to  
7 rubber stamp them.

8 So I appreciate the process, I appreciate  
9 the website and the opportunity for us to have  
10 input and thank you all for being here.

11 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
12 much, Mr. Maxwell. We appreciate that, sir.  
13 Next up we have Ms. Nathalie Shortal, I hope I  
14 am saying that right, Ms. Nathalie. She is not  
15 speaking? Okay, well, thank you.

16 Thank you very much for being here. We  
17 have Matthew Isbell. Did I say that right,  
18 Isbell? Okay, thank you very much for being  
19 here, Mr. Isbell, and after that we have got  
20 Mr. Bob Fulford. Matthew is a student at FSU.

21 Thank you for being here, sir, you are  
22 recognized.

23 MR. FULFORD: I have got to give you  
24 credit, you are one of the few people that ever  
25 get my last name right.

1           I do want to thank you for holding these  
2           hearings. But the first thing I do want to  
3           comment is I do feel like we should have a map  
4           by now.

5           I understand that the Constitution does  
6           say that a map cannot be voted on before 2012,  
7           but I do feel like there is no real reason that  
8           we can't see a proposed map, an idea.

9           Bigger states like California and Texas  
10          already have maps coming out and I do suggest  
11          this one thing.

12          I understand that the Constitution says  
13          that we can't vote, you guys can't vote on a  
14          map, then I highly recommend that we put you  
15          guys who can do this as the Legislature, put it  
16          on the ballot to become for the next ten years  
17          from now redistricting, a map can be voted on a  
18          year beforehand, because there is really no  
19          reason to wait until the year of the elections  
20          to have the vote.

21          The census came out a while ago. We have  
22          the data, and maps can be done now. I don't  
23          understand that delay, but beside the point,  
24          basically I just want to advocate -- excuse me,  
25          I just want to advocate that fair districts be

1           upheld as we passed it.

2           As many people have said, 63 percent of  
3           us, of us voters supported fair districts which  
4           say that parties, politicians, where they live  
5           should have no effect on how the boundaries are  
6           drawn.

7           Observe county and city boundaries and  
8           just draw the lines as equal to population as  
9           possible. Forty-eight out of the 67 counties  
10          voted for fair districts.

11          Several of these counties, like Hendry,  
12          Desoto, Sumter Counties, which always vote  
13          Republican, voted for it, it is not a  
14          Democratic, Republican issue. It is a non  
15          partisan issue.

16          Over 28 counties voted over 60 percent for  
17          it. I am from Broward, Palm Beach, we voted  
18          over 70 percent because our area is already,  
19          our districts look like spiderwebs and so we  
20          especially were looking to see some more fair  
21          districts that are drawn compactly and  
22          succinctly.

23          I live in a small town of Cooper City  
24          which is actually divided into two  
25          Congressional Districts for no reason at all.

1       It has got like 40,000 people in it and my dad  
2       moved across the street and we were in a new  
3       district suddenly, and especially here for Leon  
4       County and Tallahassee area, right now, as we  
5       all know, District IV which goes all of the way  
6       down to Jacksonville eats in, not just into  
7       Leon County, but into Tallahassee, itself, and  
8       I mean, beside the fact that rural Leon County  
9       has nothing in common with Jacksonville,  
10      Tallahassee especially doesn't.

11           I have actually, when I was in a different  
12      apartment complex a few years ago was in  
13      District IV and then I am back in District II.  
14      I mean, if I move to a different apartment  
15      complex because I am a student I shouldn't be  
16      changing districts like that. This isn't a big  
17      enough town to warrant it.

18           The same thing goes for our State Senate  
19      districts. Right now I am in Senator  
20      Montford's district. I voted for you in the  
21      general election, but I used to actually also  
22      be in the Third District back when I was in --  
23      when I was in the IV as well, when I was living  
24      a little further away outside in the county.  
25      There is just no reason for that.



1           Leon County should be especially compact.  
2       District IV also eats into part of Monticello  
3       in Jefferson County and I know people have  
4       talked about preserving compact minority  
5       districts.

6           Monticello which is a majority black city  
7       is divided between the second and fourth  
8       district. I can't figure out why. So there is  
9       clearly some problems with the lines now, and I  
10      am just hoping that as we move forward that we  
11      adhere to fair districts which was passed  
12      overwhelmingly, it was passed fairly and by all  
13      means, please start looking at these maps now.

14          Have a vote at the very beginning of  
15      January, because we don't want to be dragged  
16      into a long court battle. We don't want to be  
17      waiting and seeing for candidates to see what  
18      district they are going to be in.

19          It should be done now, the people have  
20      spoken, and you know what, even if this creates  
21      more competitive elections, it is good for  
22      everybody here.

23          If you get put into a safe seat, you can  
24      place and you can never run statewide. If any  
25      of you guys end up in a more competitive

1 district because of fair districts, hey, you  
2 become a better candidate, you can run for  
3 statewide office one day, you can become  
4 Governor, you know, Senator, whatever.

5 So there is plenty of benefits for you  
6 guys and I just hope you will take that into  
7 consideration. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
9 much, Mr. Isbell, we appreciate that. Mr. Bob  
10 Fulford is up next, followed by Christian  
11 Camara.

12 Mr. Fulford, you are recognized, thanks  
13 from being here.

14 MR. FULFORD: I am Bob Fulford, I live  
15 here in Tallahassee, always have. I am a  
16 private citizen. I saw in the paper I guess  
17 yesterday my friend Alan Williams, had written  
18 a letter and Senator Gaetz had written  
19 something, you can be my friend, too, I just  
20 don't know you, even though you represent me, I  
21 don't know you.

22 Anyway, the substance of those two things  
23 in the paper was that this meeting was going to  
24 be here, everybody ought to come and it was  
25 going to be open and transparent. And has been

1 alluded earlier, I had a notion that open and  
2 transparent, I was going to ask Senator  
3 Thrasher something, because he is an old pal of  
4 mine, and he would be able to answer me.

5 But, I opened up my e-mail last night and  
6 I belong to a whole bunch of rebel rouser  
7 groups like League of Women Voters and Common  
8 Cause and it wasn't them, but somebody said  
9 that your leadership, that is to say the  
10 President and the Speaker, had put a gag order  
11 on you, and so what I want to know, is that  
12 true.

13 Is there -- are you not going to be able  
14 to talk to us? You can't even answer that,  
15 okay, I got it, okay, I got it.

16 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Why don't you  
17 finish your statement and we will answer that  
18 question for you, how about that.

19 MR. FULFORD: Okay, one other thing. I  
20 used to work in this building. I used to come  
21 here every day up on the third floor. I was  
22 here when they put the top two floors on. That  
23 was interesting.

24 Today is the first time I have been here  
25 in over ten years, and the reason I was here

1       ten years ago was for this same thing and we  
2       did the same thing and we did it the same way.

3             And if you cross a mule and a jackass, a  
4       horse and a jackass, you get a mule, and we  
5       crossed mules -- I mean, horses and jackasses,  
6       I will get it right here in a minute, but if  
7       you want to see the mule, see what came out of  
8       the last session like this.

9             Look at these ridiculous districts. No  
10       matter what the content is, just to look at  
11       them, they are not right. If it is not square  
12       or a circle or maybe an oblong or an oval, but  
13       these things look like the original gerrymander  
14       which was some sort of a dragon.

15            I hope, I hope we can do better. I rather  
16       doubt we can, but we will see. Thank you.

17            CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
18       much, Mr. Fulford and thank you for asking a  
19       very direct question. I am going to give you a  
20       very direct answer.

21            The answer is that there is no gag order,  
22       and this is a listening tour and our thought is  
23       that we are going to spend the next three  
24       months hearing from the citizens of Florida  
25       just like you talking about what districts look

1           like today and how we can make them better.

2                   And that is why we are here and that is  
3           why we are giving the public an opportunity to  
4           participate.

5                   There certainly is no gag order, but we  
6           are here to listen first and if there is time  
7           afterwards, then to speak. I think that  
8           everyone could agree that politicians spend  
9           lots of time talking and very little time  
10          listening and we are going to change that in  
11          this process and we are going to listen more  
12          than we talk.

13                  So thank you very much for your comments,  
14          sir, and we are going to move on to  
15          Mr. Christian Camara, and after Christian we  
16          are going to go to Ms. Sandra Mortham.

17                  Christian, you are recognized, sir.

18                  MR. CAMARA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, my  
19          name is Christian Camara. I am a resident of  
20          Tallahassee, Florida. And first of all, I want  
21          to thank and commend all of you for the  
22          opportunity that you have given the public to  
23          give input on this very important issue.

24                  I personally think the timeline that you  
25          all adopted as prescribed by the Constitution

1 is the right one because it gives opportunity  
2 for the public to give input before and during  
3 the redistricting process in an open manner,  
4 you know, like these special hearings that we  
5 are having now around the state and through the  
6 legislative session.

7 From what I understand, the meetings that  
8 you all are going to be conducting during the  
9 legislative session will also be open for  
10 public testimony. So I do want to commend you  
11 for the ample opportunity you all are giving to  
12 hear us before you go ahead and deliberate and  
13 proceed with the process.

14 I do want to stress, however, the  
15 importance in my opinion of ethnic  
16 representation. I was born and raised in  
17 Miami, Florida. I have been a resident of  
18 Tallahassee now for six years, and in -- in  
19 Miami I can honestly say that we have in our  
20 State and Federal delegation, it is a microcosm  
21 of our diverse community, and I think that  
22 although Tallahassee is not as complex in the  
23 diversity that we see down in south Florida, it  
24 is, nevertheless, a diverse community and I  
25 would like to see that ethnic representation be

1 taken into account.

2 So I will be brief with my comments, so I  
3 want to thank you all for listening to us.  
4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
6 much, Mr. Camara. We appreciate your comments,  
7 sir. Next up we have Ms. Sandra Mortham. She  
8 is here to watch the process.

9 All right, thank you very much,  
10 Ms. Mortham. After Ms. Mortham we have  
11 Mr. Derron Bennett. Mr. Bennett. Sorry I  
12 didn't give you more lead time there, sir, but  
13 we will give you time to come up, and after  
14 Mr. Bennett we are going to have Darnell  
15 Lumpkin will be next.

16 Mr. Bennett, thank you very much for being  
17 here, sir. You are recognized to address the  
18 Committee.

19 MR. BENNETT: Okay. My question is mainly  
20 based on the technical aspects of the software  
21 being used. I have seen many errors in it  
22 already. With the correctional maps they are  
23 meant to be -- there is a goal of a zero, a  
24 zero deviation over each map, but the actual,  
25 the number that you all have as the mean for

1 each district is wrong.

2 It is one off. So when you get down to,  
3 if you draw the maps like they are currently  
4 drawn from the northwest corner of the state  
5 down to the southeast corner, you will get down  
6 to your last district, you will have 21 extra  
7 individuals.

8 Well, if you correct the mean you will be  
9 left with six extra individuals. So there is a  
10 problem in the actual numbers in the software.

11 Also questions are, if other states are  
12 using the My Districting Software, they  
13 provided a, then called an AMI file, which is  
14 so that you can put it on the Amazon web server  
15 which is actually listed on the server  
16 software.

17 The question is, will the State of Florida  
18 actually provide that, because by providing  
19 that it will actually save the state money,  
20 because the servers, the server will not need  
21 to be used at the same level as if they provide  
22 it so private industries can actually build  
23 their districts by themselves. What else?

24 There is also errors in the software where  
25 if you attempt to lock a district that splits a



1       block or a voting district, and then you build  
2       something else elsewhere, where you cut into a  
3       higher level, say you locked, you attempt to  
4       lock a block but you build something with a  
5       voting district later or destroy the previous  
6       block lock and build the voting district over  
7       it.

8               And I had also had a question. Will the  
9       State provide a deviant, it is called, it is a  
10      type of linux, which My District Builder  
11      suggests it is called linux which the State  
12      should be providing an image file of the, My  
13      District Builder with the appropriate data and  
14      datasets so that the private industry could  
15      just download a file which would probably be  
16      about a gigabyte and no longer have to use  
17      their server. That is all.

18             CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: That is all? Well,  
19      Mr. Bennett, I will tell you, your tech  
20      suaveness is much above my pay grade and  
21      probably most of the people on this Committee,  
22      but you raise very interesting points, and in  
23      fact, if you could stick around for a few  
24      minutes we have got some staff that is here, we  
25      have Mr. Alex Kelley who is one of our, is my

1       Staff Director and can probably answer some of  
2       those questions.

3               And members of the Committee, what we will  
4       probably do, is once we answer his questions,  
5       if he feels like they are, if they suffice, we  
6       may at least explain to everybody what the  
7       answers are to those, because I frankly don't  
8       have that, and, but I do think you bring up  
9       good points.

10              We certainly want to have comments on our  
11       software. We appreciate you very much for  
12       being here, sir, so thank you for your  
13       comments. Yes?

14              Next up we have Mr. Darnell Lumpkin.  
15       Okay, thank you very much for being here,  
16       Mr. Lumpkin. He is going to pass that up.  
17       Next we have Mr. David Mock, I believe,  
18       M-o-c-k.

19              Mr. Mock? Okay, we will keep moving  
20       forward. Next after Mr. Mock we had Ms. Teri  
21       Cariota, C-a-r-i-o-t-a. Ms. Teri, great, thank  
22       you very much for being here. After Ms. Teri  
23       we will have Adam Anthony Biblo, I believe is  
24       how you say it, but Ms. Cariota, I hope I am  
25       saying that right, you are recognized.

1 MS. CARIOTA: It is close. Good  
2 afternoon, yes, it is Teri Cariota. Some of  
3 you may recognize me, having seen me walking  
4 around the halls during session.

5 For those of you who don't know me, I wear  
6 several volunteer hats in Leon County. I am a  
7 resident of Leon County, originally from Miami,  
8 I am a retired law enforcement officer, but I  
9 moved back here five years ago, and in fact,  
10 retired on March 4th, 2006, and on March 5th of  
11 2006, I was here working in Tallahassee, not  
12 because I enjoy the politics but I enjoy the  
13 public service.

14 In an interest of open disclosure as my  
15 predecessor from Wakulla County did, I, too,  
16 just so you are aware, I am a Democrat, and I  
17 am in fact the Chair of the Leon County  
18 Democratic Party.

19 However, I am not here on behalf of any  
20 organization. I am here as an individual  
21 citizen, as a resident and registered voter of  
22 Leon County, and I am speaking from the heart  
23 when I tell you that I consider myself a poster  
24 child for unfair districts.

25 I live in Piney Z here in Tallahassee and

1       Senator Garcia can tell you, I see him in the  
2       back of the room, if any of you have ever -- if  
3       you don't know where Piney Z is, if you have  
4       ever been to his house for any events, that is,  
5       that is Piney Z and his -- and I don't mean to  
6       embarrass you, Senator, but here is why I  
7       mention that.

8               When I moved here I didn't realize I was  
9       moving into that one tiny sliver of Tallahassee  
10      and Leon County that is not represented by  
11      people, not from Tallahassee, not from Leon  
12      County, not from anywhere even close to  
13      Tallahassee or Leon County.

14             And no disrespect intended to Senator  
15      Dean, in fact, I appreciate the fact that you  
16      actually do show up for delegation hearings  
17      here in Tallahassee.

18             I know it is a long drive for you all the  
19      way from Citrus County. My Senator lives in  
20      Citrus County. Regardless of whether you are a  
21      Democrat or Republican or you know, whatever,  
22      that is just wrong.

23             When you look at the current maps, I know  
24      we don't have the projected maps, but when you  
25      look at the current maps, you will see, I call

1       it not that sore thumb that sticks out, but  
2       that sore pinkie that sticks out.

3             And I do have respect for you, sir,  
4       because, like I said, I, too, am a retired law  
5       enforcement officer. And then my Congressman  
6       lives all the way over in Jacksonville, and  
7       that would be Linda Crenshaw.

8             I think the last time I ever saw  
9       Congressman Crenshaw in Tallahassee or Leon  
10      County is when he was in the Legislature  
11      himself here many years ago, I believe.

12            It would be nice to see my elected  
13      officials, the people who I can vote for a  
14      little more frequently. Senator Montford can  
15      even tell you, I, while I was not a volunteer  
16      on his campaign, I was a volunteer for his  
17      opponent for a man I couldn't even vote for.

18            I can't even vote for Senator Montford if  
19      I wanted to, in the general election and I  
20      apologize for that, but again, my Senator lives  
21      all the way down in Citrus County, and while I  
22      have visited your county, I just think that is  
23      a little too far away for my representation.

24            I wholeheartedly believe in a two party  
25      system and as strange as this sounds, I think

1       you all need to keep the politics out of  
2       redistricting, keep the public service in  
3       redistricting.

4             You all elected to serve all of the  
5       public, not just the people who happen to be  
6       the same registered party as yourselves. It is  
7       not fair. Please do the right thing. Thank  
8       you.

9             CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
10       Ms. Cariota, and if you would, please let us  
11       know next time the Senator is having a party,  
12       because we never get invited. So if you could  
13       let us give us a heads up.

14            Next up we have got Mr. Adam Anthony  
15       Biblo, I believe is how you say it, and after  
16       Mr. Biblo we have got Charles Parrish.  
17       Mr. Biblo, thank you very much for being here,  
18       sir, and you have the floor.

19            MR. BIBLO: Thank you, Chairman Gaetz, and  
20       it is Biblo for the record, but very close,  
21       very close.

22            I am going to make a few quick points,  
23       many of them, what has already been said, so I  
24       don't want to belabor them.

25            My main point is when you go through the

1 process and you slice up smaller jurisdictions,  
2 and I mean smaller than Miami or St. Petersburg  
3 or Jacksonville, that is populous and you slice  
4 Tallahassee or Leon County into multiple  
5 districts and we extend to, for example, Citrus  
6 County as pointed out, our representation is  
7 not what we -- we would expect.

8 And again, this is not in any way a  
9 reflective of our current Senator who is very  
10 good and I get e-mail from, and it is not  
11 saying that, but in general, urban area should  
12 be served by, should be an urban district,  
13 should be a compact district, shouldn't be  
14 divided.

15 When it is divided, whatever the intent  
16 is, it gives the appearance that it is divided  
17 for the wrong purpose. That is to dilute,  
18 diminish the effect of the voters of the  
19 political power of that urban area.

20 The same with a rural area. Why frustrate  
21 the intent of the rural area by combining it  
22 with slices or trenches of urban areas. So,  
23 again, without trying to get into why the  
24 districts have been set up that way, it gives  
25 the impression that it is not serving the

1 public purpose.

2 So I ask you that as you go about  
3 redistricting to make sure that the public  
4 purpose is served.

5 When we study demographics one of the  
6 things we look at, there is various measures,  
7 indexes of similarity and dissimilarity, and  
8 when you get two-thirds representation,  
9 two-thirds one party an one-third the other,  
10 but the population is closely split 50/50  
11 throughout the state, it -- something doesn't  
12 seem right.

13 I am going to leave you with that point  
14 and ask you to fix it since it is in your  
15 hands.

16 Lastly, I am going to point out, I agree  
17 with Ms. Macnab, Mr. Harrington, and many other  
18 speakers, the State voted the last election and  
19 there was a consensus, if not overwhelming  
20 majority, that passed two new Constitutional  
21 Amendments and I would ask you to follow that  
22 respectfully.

23 I would ask you to, excuse me, to respect  
24 that mandate, and I want to thank you for your  
25 time and I want to wish you all of the best in



1           this effort. All right.

2           CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
3 much, sir, we appreciate your kind words. Next  
4 up we have Mr. Charles Parrish. Mr. Parrish,  
5 thank you so much for being here.

6           Mr. Parrish is with the Jefferson County  
7 branch of the NAACP. After Mr. Parrish we will  
8 have Ms. Linda Williams. Mr. Parrish, you are  
9 recognized, sir.

10          MR. PARRISH: Thank you both, gentlemen,  
11 from the House and the Senate. My primary  
12 purpose here before this hearing is to  
13 emphasize the fact that the smaller counties in  
14 this state really don't have any representation  
15 when you really boil it down to the way the  
16 districts are drawn.

17          For example, Jefferson County, we don't  
18 really have any representation, and I say it in  
19 this manner because if a person, the  
20 Representative for one section of our county  
21 really doesn't need the few votes that the  
22 county has in order to get elected.

23          Therefore, we don't have any  
24 representation because that person really is  
25 not concerned about us. He doesn't need us to

1           get elected.

2                   It seemed to me when we teach in our  
3           public schools, our civic classes, we teach one  
4           thing about Florida government and we do the  
5           opposite.

6                   It seemed to me that representation should  
7           be based upon population, true enough, but the  
8           way our Legislature is designed, we are two  
9           Legislature, the population is not really  
10          represented in the House of Representatives,  
11          especially in the small counties of Florida,  
12          whereby a county is cut into three sections.  
13          We don't really have representation.

14                   You just got us as a figure on the book,  
15          but we really don't have representation, and I  
16          wish you would consider that when you start  
17          redistricting the state.

18                   As it was made my Commissioner from  
19          Jefferson County made a comment about not  
20          including the prison population in District  
21          III.

22                   In Jefferson County we have five  
23          Commissioners who are elected by districts. If  
24          you take the population, the prisoner  
25          population out of District III, where would you

1 put it?

2 If that is the case, where are you going  
3 to put all of the prisoners in the state of  
4 Florida? Where are you going to put them?

5 So I am saying to you that you need to  
6 look at the makeup of the whole state and give  
7 the smaller counties better representation.

8 Now, when you legislate you mandate that  
9 the 67 counties do this and thus and that, but  
10 those small counties don't have representation  
11 to really fight for the welfare of that county,  
12 because if we are split up the way we are in  
13 Jefferson County, we don't have any  
14 representation. So I think that you will  
15 consider that in your redistricting. Thank  
16 you.

17 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
18 much, Mr. Parrish, for your comments, sir. We  
19 next up have Ms. Linda Williams with the League  
20 of Women Voters, followed by Mr. Don Curtis.

21 MS. WILLIAMS: I am just representing by  
22 poor old family.

23 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Okay.

24 MS. WILLIAMS: In a snaky district of  
25 Leon. So it is a pleasure to be here and I am

1       sorry I am not dressed better. Over 50 years  
2       ago in high school civics, a nice old lady  
3       named Ms. Blair brought up gerrymandering, and  
4       I haven't thought about it for a long time,  
5       until, say, the last ten years.

6               So we, you know, we are happy for the City  
7       of Mayport and Jacksonville when they get  
8       Federal funds to do something, but it doesn't  
9       do a hang for us in Leon County or our morale.

10              I mean, I don't know whether we are so  
11       important they need us in Duval or we are such  
12       bad people they don't want us in Leon, but  
13       please, be fair, and before I die, let me vote  
14       in Leon County, because I live here.

15              I pay taxes here, as do my neighbors at  
16       Piney Z and our friend from Wakulla County,  
17       give us some local representation, and I am  
18       glad to meet my Senator.

19              CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
20       much. Thank you very much, Ms. Williams. Very  
21       peppy and to the point. Next up we have  
22       Mr. Don Curtis, Mr. Curtis, old friend, thank  
23       you for being here, sir, and after Mr. Curtis  
24       we have got a Ms. Kathleen Wallmeyer, you will  
25       be next. So Mr. Curtis, the floor is yours,

1 sir.

2 MR. CURTIS: Well, thank you, and thank  
3 you to all of you that are taking your time to  
4 spend this summer. I am taking a little time  
5 as well. We have been on the wild fires non  
6 stop for weeks now, and as soon as I make my  
7 comments I will have to leave. We have got a  
8 13,000-acre wild fire knocking at our door step  
9 above Lake City.

10 Having said that, again, I am Don Curtis  
11 from Lake Bird, Florida, which is in Taylor  
12 County, about 50 miles from here.

13 In this rural part of Florida we are a  
14 conservative group of people, but you can't  
15 always tell it from the election choices that  
16 we have had, and historically redistricting has  
17 been used to accomplish many objectives,  
18 including routing past problems and bringing  
19 balance to the choices the government have when  
20 selecting representation, and we applaud that.

21 However, I am going to make a few comments  
22 focused on House District X, Congressional  
23 District II and Senate District III. When I  
24 was preparing these remarks I was reminded of  
25 my grandmother making biscuits.

1           She would roll out the dough, she would  
2           take a jar and cookie cut the biscuits, and  
3           then she would take the scraps and put them  
4           altogether and make the dog biscuit. That was  
5           the throw away. You didn't serve that at the  
6           table.

7           And when you look at some of our  
8           districts, for instance, in 2002, House  
9           District X was gerrymandered in such a way that  
10          the last time I collected it, it was 70 percent  
11          one party, 20 percent another party and  
12          10 percent of the miscellaneous.

13          In fact, that party that has had  
14          70 percent has elected or reelected itself  
15          without interruption since Reconstruction. So  
16          for over 100 years.

17          The word disenfranchise comes to mind if  
18          you are a conservative. That is wrong and we  
19          just want hopefully this time to right a wrong  
20          so that when you redraw House Districts in this  
21          part of Florida we hope there can be balance so  
22          that we want be the throw away House District  
23          again.

24          And in 2002, though, a good start was made  
25          to draw Congressional District Number II with a

1 bit more balance, and it took eight years, but  
2 this past November, we were able to elect a  
3 conservative of a different party to Congress  
4 and that was the first time since  
5 Reconstruction as well.

6 Change comes slow in the rural areas of  
7 the Big Bend of Florida. Over 100 years  
8 though, that is a little too slow.

9 Now, also in 2002, Senate District III was  
10 redrawn with a bit more balance. So we had a  
11 choice and we could elect a conservative and  
12 Senator Dean is my district, and I am okay with  
13 you being from Citrus County. That is not a  
14 problem.

15 And just to close, I just, you guys are  
16 going to analyze umpteen scenarios, and we just  
17 ask for balance in this rural part of Florida  
18 just to not be the throw away, to give us  
19 something that gives us meaning full  
20 representation that changes what we have had  
21 for 100 years. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
23 much, Mr. Curtis. We have got Ms. Kathleen  
24 Wallmeyer up. Did she have to leave? Okay, I  
25 am sorry. Okay, well, thank you very much for

1           being here earlier.

2           We have got Mr. Joe Cain. Joe Cain is  
3           with the Democratic Executive Committee, and I  
4           think Mr. Cain, you have a presentation that we  
5           are going to pull up on the screen, is that  
6           right? Okay. Come on up.

7           Following Mr. Cain we are going to have  
8           Ms. Laura Forster. Mr. Cain, you are  
9           recognized, and I believe it is four or five  
10          slides I think that you got with it.

11          MR. CAIN: Well, I just wanted to -- I am  
12          kind of a newcomer to politics here, though I  
13          helped the Obama with communication and my  
14          background is science, not politics, and I have  
15          only become involved with the Democratic  
16          Executive Committee for the past year.

17          But there have been a lot of really good  
18          points made and it seems to me that one thing  
19          that should come out of this particular session  
20          is following the idea that you all should go  
21          ahead and make up something to shoot at. I  
22          mean, a saw-man to go for.

23          Now, for example, go back a couple of  
24          slides if you could do that, and -- we can't  
25          get them bigger, okay, well, no problem.



1           I think that the -- what everybody has  
2       been saying here and most of you really know,  
3       but haven't -- it is really clear that there is  
4       no -- not very much compactness and I am  
5       thinking just to the technical, in a technical  
6       way, draw a circle, that is pretty compact, but  
7       for example, like Congressional District III,  
8       oh, come on, now, how in the world, why in the  
9       world would you draw something like that? Go  
10      back another -- the previous one.

11           Now, this is the one that was complained  
12      about earlier, Congressional District IV, which  
13      has a little finger right into Tallahassee, and  
14      that there is no real reason for that either.

15           And go back one more, yes. Well, yes,  
16      that one, that is fine. I think that -- well,  
17      somehow it didn't get all of it, but that is  
18      all right, okay, well, okay, this is District  
19      II and that is sort of an absurdity, too, in  
20      terms of the topography of it, because why in  
21      the world -- look off to the left there,  
22      Pensacola and you are splitting a county for no  
23      reason at all as far as I can tell.

24           I mean, if you just slice that  
25      mathematically down the left edge and added a

1 couple of counties on the right, it would be a  
2 lot more compact.

3 Then the last slide is the -- the same  
4 thing happens in your State Senate Districts as  
5 well as the Congressional Districts. I mean,  
6 they don't really make much sense. So what I  
7 am suggesting is, go ahead and give it a shot,  
8 don't wait until all of the rest of the  
9 sessions and the input are here.

10 I think it is real clear from all of us  
11 and you will get the same kind of input from  
12 the other people, the rest of the people in the  
13 state, that go give it a shot, make, put up the  
14 strawman and let us -- let us have at it then.  
15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
17 much, sir. Thank you very much for that and  
18 also for your presentation. We have Ms. Laura  
19 Forster. Ms. Forster? Thank you very much.  
20 After Ms. Forster we have Ms. Cynthia  
21 Henderson.

22 Ms. Forster, you are recognized and thank  
23 you very much for being here today. Forster, I  
24 am so sorry.

25 MS. FORSTER: Forster.

1           CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: I know. It is hit  
2 and miss with we up here, I got to tell you.

3           MS. FORSTER: Okay, my name is Laura  
4 Forster for the record.

5           Thank you, gentlemen, for being here, and  
6 ladies. I came here today originally to say  
7 thank you for having this meeting. It was very  
8 well advertised. I knew about it.

9           I also was getting e-mails today saying  
10 that it wasn't an open session here and you  
11 couldn't speak and all of that kind of stuff.  
12 So I don't know who is sending that out, but  
13 that is not true, because from what I have seen  
14 here you are listening well and I have a couple  
15 of questions, a couple of other things I wanted  
16 to say that I have seen here.

17           I have seen a lot of special interest  
18 groups here, and I am not a Tea Party person,  
19 per se, I am a registered Republican and I was  
20 that up until the 2000 election, I was an  
21 Independent and I felt that I needed to take  
22 this country, what I saw was happening was  
23 going way to the left.

24           And I don't think our forefathers intended  
25 that to ever happen and I really feel it is due

1 to special interest groups and redistricting is  
2 a very important part of the way we vote in  
3 this country.

4 And I do see the funny lines and so forth  
5 in all of the different places, but that is  
6 based on population, and I really feel that you  
7 guys have been hired by the public, you are our  
8 Representatives, just like when I was a  
9 teacher, I was expected to teach the children.

10 I didn't like, the reason I quit teaching  
11 is I did not like the special interest groups  
12 that were telling me, the professional, how to  
13 teach children.

14 I have hired you. The other people in  
15 this room have hired you. If we don't like  
16 what you are doing, we will fire you. That is  
17 how it works.

18 I expect you to have integrity, if you  
19 don't have integrity then I will fire you.  
20 Now, the courts are also there to watch you as  
21 well, and if you don't have integrity, the  
22 courts will step in because someone will sue,  
23 that is why we have the right, I don't like  
24 lawyers, I am a doctor's wife, I don't like any  
25 of you who are lawyers.

1           I feel like I am -- but, you know, I am  
2           having to learn that if I want the things to  
3           happen in my country I have got to get  
4           involved. So I am learning, so here today was  
5           a very good learning. I thank you for that. I  
6           thank you.

7           I am learning from the people who have  
8           gotten up and spoken. I have learned a lot of  
9           things from you as well, but I just want to let  
10          you know, these special interest groups, the  
11          Florida League of Women Voters, the NAACP, I am  
12          calling you out, the ACLU, you do not represent  
13          me. You do not represent me, and we need to  
14          get off this color business. I don't see your  
15          color here.

16          I don't see your ethnicity. You are  
17          Americans. We need to start acting like  
18          Americans and stop this ethnicity thing. I was  
19          raised in Miami since 1969, that is not my  
20          country anymore. It is chaos down there  
21          because there is no leadership.

22          We joke about it up here, the -- down  
23          there in Miami. We left Miami because it was  
24          chaos during the Illion crisis. That is not  
25          America, that is not how we run our --

1           CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Ms. Forster, I  
2 would ask you to keep the comments related to  
3 redistricting.

4           MS. FORESTER: Yes, but the redistricting  
5 area down there is going to have the same  
6 problems, they are an olden district. They  
7 don't represent the rural districts. I don't  
8 know how you guys do that.

9           I can't make -- I have no way of knowing,  
10 nobody here knows how to do this. They have  
11 been hired to do this. That is my point. You  
12 guys have been hired to do this, be informed,  
13 listen to the people, the people really want it  
14 to be fair.

15           They do, 63 percent wanted it to be fair,  
16 but we can't do it without integrity, and the  
17 last thing I want to say, I am sorry I got off  
18 on a tangent there.

19           Please think about God, think about God,  
20 because this is a big task before you and you  
21 cannot do it without his help. You really  
22 can't.

23           Our forefathers under the Fourth of July  
24 presentation at my church, and I have read a  
25 lot about George Washington, that is the man

1       you need to read about. He did not make it  
2       through that war.

3               He did not make it through coming up the  
4       rules of redistricting and things like that  
5       without God's help, and that is all I have to  
6       say. Thank you.

7               CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
8       Ms. Forster, very much.

9               SENATOR GARCIA: Mr. Chairman?

10              CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: I am sorry, yes,  
11       Senator Garcia, you are recognized.

12              SENATOR GARCIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman  
13       and I do appreciate your comments and I am glad  
14       you are getting incorporated into a political  
15       process, but I can't go without making a  
16       comment in reference to those that you said  
17       about Miami-Dade County.

18              I live in Miami-Dade County, and I  
19       represent Miami-Dade County and I am proud to  
20       represent the diversity that exist in that  
21       community.

22              Unfortunately, we spoke, we spoke -- let  
23       me speak for a minute. Unfortunately, you may  
24       have left, but I stayed there to fight and make  
25       sure that we do the things right.

1           We have had our issues in Dade County,  
2           absolutely we have, like every part of this  
3           state has had their issues, but to stand up  
4           here and criticize that Miami-Dade County is a  
5           different country, no.

6           Miami-Dade County is part of the United  
7           States of America. Miami-Dade County is a lot  
8           of --

9           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
10          Senator.

11          SENATOR GARCIA: -- citizens that work  
12          there, fight there and make sure that we do the  
13          right thing. So I don't appreciate, I am  
14          sorry, Mr. Chairman. I am sorry, Mr. Chairman,  
15          I don't appreciate when those comments are made  
16          about a community of hard working people who  
17          came to this country to make sure that they  
18          leave a better place for their families.

19          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Ma'am, you  
20          are not recognized to speak. We have moved on.  
21          No, he is not, he is not, he addressed the  
22          body, and thank you very much, Senator, we  
23          appreciate your comments.

24          SENATOR GARCIA: Thank you very much.

25          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you



1       very much. We are going to continue to move  
2       forward in the process. We only have about 30  
3       minutes left. We are going to hear from  
4       Ms. Cynthia Henderson, Ms. Henderson, you are  
5       recognized to address the committee --

6               A VOICE: She had to leave.

7               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: -- okay, she  
8       had to leave, okay, so we will move forward.  
9       Next up we have Mr. Daryl Barowicz.  
10      Mr. Barowicz. Thank you very much for being  
11      here, sir. After Mr. Barowicz we are going to  
12      have Dorothy Inman-Johnson, but Mr. Barowicz,  
13      thank you, sir, you are recognized, and you  
14      have the floor.

15              MR. BAROWICZ: I don't know how to follow  
16      that. My name is Daryl Barowicz, and I am a  
17      resident of Tallahassee. I have been a  
18      resident of the state of Florida for 40 years,  
19      28 down in Pinellas County and the rest of it  
20      up here in Tallahassee, and I am a retired  
21      proud public servant in the state of Florida  
22      for 38 years.

23              Just a few points. Some of them were  
24      reiterated but I think they need to be  
25      repeated. When your process of redistricting I

1       urge all of these hearings and based on fair  
2       distribution of population, that these  
3       districts are contiguous with each other, that  
4       these districts do not focus on particular  
5       parties.

6               They do not focus on particular party  
7       Representatives or Senators, and above all,  
8       after all of your public hearings and after all  
9       of the money that is spent on the public  
10      hearings, that you come back to the citizens of  
11      the state of Florida with the outcome of these  
12      hearings and show us the maps and show us how  
13      they were based on, the comments that were  
14      derived from these public hearings.

15             These meetings should take place after the  
16      maps are drawn and brought back to the  
17      citizenry so that they understand how they were  
18      based and what they were based on. Thank you  
19      for being here.

20             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
21      very much. Next up we have Ms. Dorothy  
22      Inman-Johnson, followed by Ms. Inman-Johnson we  
23      have Curtis Baynes. You are recognized, thank  
24      you for being here.

25             MS. INMAN-JOHNSON: Good afternoon. First

1       of all I thought I would be speaking on  
2       redistricting before a non-political,  
3       non-partisan commission that was appointed in  
4       accordance with the referendum items that we as  
5       citizens voted for.

6               The purpose or intent of that referendum  
7       and what the take away was for Florida citizens  
8       was that we would have a body that did not have  
9       a dog in the hunt on the outcome of this  
10      redistricting process.

11             I don't see how that can happen when  
12      seated elected officials are overseeing the  
13      drawing of these districts.

14             So making that point first, these points  
15      cannot be emphasized often enough. There  
16      should be no gerrymandering in this process.  
17      People have spoken about that over and over  
18      again since I have been sitting here.

19             There is no good reason why you have to  
20      run a district line down an Interstate highway  
21      to pick up some more people in order to elect  
22      anybody to the Legislature.

23             Second, all of the districts should be  
24      compact and contiguous so that the people that  
25      those Representatives are being elected for

1 know their constituents, know the areas they  
2 are representing, and can put themselves there  
3 often enough so that their citizens have real  
4 input into the process.

5 Third, do not divide urban communities.  
6 Do not chop up and divide counties.  
7 Representatives should represent people who  
8 have interests and needs in common. There is  
9 no one size fits all in the state of Florida.

10 I hope that at some point in this process  
11 I will see that non-political, non-partisan  
12 commission we thought we voted for, but if not,  
13 I hope at least the body will abide by the  
14 principles that ensure fair elections,  
15 representative government, and a government  
16 that the people can feel really represents  
17 their interests. Thank you.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
19 very much, Ms. Inman-Johnson. Next up we have  
20 Mr. Curtis Baynes, followed by Alejandro  
21 Posada.

22 Mr. Baynes, you are recognized, sir.

23 MR. BAYNES: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman  
24 or Mr. Chairman and everybody. My name is  
25 Curtis Baynes, 1323 East Tennessee Street in

1 Tallahassee. I am here representing no one  
2 other than a group of one. As anyone in  
3 Tallahassee can tell you, I represent no one.

4 I, although I don't have represent -- I am  
5 representing anyone, I do echo some of the same  
6 comments that you have heard here this evening  
7 and the only visuals I have got for you are  
8 these.

9 My State Representative's office is  
10 75 miles west of my house. My Congressman's  
11 office is 158 miles east of my house. I think  
12 that while they may be nice people, they are  
13 not representative of me and I would certainly  
14 like to see compact districts. Well, more  
15 compact districts anyway.

16 Based upon book closings at last election,  
17 now, they may be a little bit different now, I  
18 would like to see no district in Florida with  
19 more than 37 percent Republican, no more than  
20 43 percent Democrat, and at least 20 percent  
21 Non-Affiliated voters such as myself. That is  
22 what the state registration roles show. I  
23 think that would be helpful in producing more  
24 fair districts, thank you.

25 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you

1           very much, Mr. Baynes. Next up we have  
2           Alejandro Posada, followed by Phillip Howard.

3           Mr. Posada, thank you very much for being  
4           here, sir. You are a college student at FSU?

5           MR. POSADA: Yes, sir.

6           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Good to see  
7           you.

8           MR. POSADA: First off I would just like  
9           to thank the Committee for allowing me the  
10          chance to speak.

11          I think one of the primary goals of this  
12          whole process has to be transparency and I  
13          think ya'll have done a great job here today.

14          You mentioned earlier how a lot of times  
15          we hear politicians talk, but rarely do we see  
16          them listening to us, so I really appreciate  
17          that.

18          I think something that needs to be of  
19          primary concern is that we don't rush anything  
20          here because I know there have been a few  
21          people that have come up and said we need to  
22          get this taken care of now, immediately, we  
23          need maps now, what-have-you.

24          But I think it is important that in the  
25          interest of transparency that everyone's views

1 be allowed to be heard, and it seems like today  
2 we have had a good bit of that going on, but I  
3 think that needs to continue until, you know, I  
4 feel that everyone has gotten a chance to voice  
5 their opinion.

6 So essentially I would just like to urge  
7 you not to rush this, to think it through, to  
8 listen to all of your constituents and to keep  
9 that in mind. Thank you.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
11 very much, Mr. Posada, we appreciate your  
12 comments. We have one last comment card from  
13 Mr. Phillips Howard. Mr. Howard, you are  
14 recognized, sir. It looks like you are also a  
15 student at FSU. Thanks for being here.

16 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, thank you  
17 Mr. Chairman. I will just keep brief, because  
18 I know --

19 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: If you could  
20 speak into the microphone a little bit, too.

21 MR. HOWARD: Yes, I would just like to  
22 also thank you for having such an open  
23 procedure between the maps you put online. I  
24 have had a lot of fun playing with them and  
25 these meetings, it was very well advertised. I

1 was able to hear about it with no problem.

2 One thing that I would just like for the  
3 Committee to consider is to make sure more than  
4 anything that districts are fair and balanced  
5 as opposed to being nearly compact.

6 In this day and age I can take this little  
7 device right here and contact my Congressman or  
8 any other Representative regardless of where he  
9 is. So if districts do have to be divided a  
10 bit or certain areas, it is okay as long as it  
11 is in the general interest of the people and  
12 once again, just thank you for holding these  
13 meetings and have a wonderful day.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
15 very much. We appreciate those comments.

16 Members, that is the end of the list of  
17 the comments of those who told us they wished  
18 to speak. Is there anyone in the audience who  
19 wishes to speak who has not had the  
20 opportunity? Now would be a good time to raise  
21 your hand and we would get to you. Anyone who  
22 has not had the opportunity to speak?

23 Okay, with that we have actually an e-mail  
24 someone who sent us during the meeting, and we  
25 are going to try to do this at all of our



1 meetings to give you the opportunity for some  
2 public input. So many could not be here from  
3 Franklin county.

4 A gentleman by the name of Ned Pooser and  
5 Ned is from Sopchoppy, and he said, "First, I  
6 would like to thank the Senate President, Mike  
7 Haridopolos and this Committee for allowing  
8 public access to the redistricting project.

9 Second, I am from Franklin County, and as  
10 a small rural county our issues differ from our  
11 larger urban neighbors. We would like to be  
12 included in the district of other rural  
13 counties so that our voices are not smothered  
14 by larger urban counties. I hope you will  
15 consider this in your redistricting plans.  
16 Thank you." Ned Pooser, who could not be here,  
17 but asked that that would be on the record.

18 Okay, we had someone who had spoken  
19 already but we do have a minute. He asked if  
20 he could have one minute, and Mr. Harvill, we  
21 will give you one minute, sir, but please make  
22 it quick, yes, sir, thank you.

23 MR. HARVILL: Greetings, again, I just  
24 want to say as Former Speaker Moffit's  
25 brilliant idea to reiterate it. Three House

1       Districts within one Senate District, that  
2       would be beautiful. Thank you.

3               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
4       very much. Okay, members, that is the end of  
5       the public testimony and kind of step one in  
6       our process.

7               Before we close out I would like to ask  
8       the members, is there any, any public comment,  
9       any comment from members of the committee or  
10      anything specific that anyone would like to  
11      address or any questions from any members the  
12      of the committee, now would be the time to do  
13      that? Real quickly, yes, we have  
14      Representative Cruz for a question.

15              REPRESENTATIVE CRUZ: Thank you, Chair  
16      Weatherford, thank you very much. I just have  
17      a quick question. I notice that we have  
18      essentially an interpreter here for the deaf  
19      and I appreciate that very much.

20              My question is relative to mostly I would  
21      suspect the south Florida population, when  
22      these hearings go down in the south Florida  
23      area, perhaps in the Haitian communities or in  
24      the heavy Hispanic communities, will there also  
25      be interpreters for that?

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I believe  
2           that that is in the plan, Representative Cruz,  
3           and we will do everything we can to make sure  
4           and accommodate all of the ethnic and language  
5           groups that are out there that would need to  
6           have some interpretation necessary.

7           So the answer to that is yes, but we will  
8           work to try to make sure that that happens at  
9           all of the locations.

10          REPRESENTATIVE CRUZ: Thank you very much.

11          REPRESENTATIVE REED: Thank you,  
12          Mr. Chair. I had someone to call and wanted to  
13          know if they cannot e-mail or do anything with  
14          computers, they want to send a handwritten  
15          entry to the Committee. Who do they send it to  
16          and is that a possibility?

17          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Just to  
18          reiterate. Your question is, if someone wants  
19          to send a handwritten note or a letter that is  
20          typed but they don't have the ability to  
21          e-mail, where would they send it?

22          They would -- I will tell you what we will  
23          do. We will get you an address, because I  
24          don't have that in front of me, but we will get  
25          you an actual mailing address and we will get

1 an address for the Committee.

2 I think if you go on to our website, the  
3 Redistricting Committee actually has an address  
4 that you can mail to. That would be the  
5 address, but we will make a public statement  
6 about that tonight at the 6:00 hearing.

7 Next we have Representative Rehwinkle  
8 Vasilinda for a question. Never mind, am I  
9 missing anybody?

10 Okay, I think Senator Gaetz, you had a  
11 comment. Mr. Co-Chairman, you are recognized.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
13 Mr. Chairman and thank you for the fair and  
14 thoughtful way in which you conducted today's  
15 hearing. No matter what anyone's point of view  
16 might be, I don't think anybody can leave here  
17 today saying that they did not have the  
18 opportunity to be heard and that is a credit to  
19 you, Mr. Chairman, and I know it is the way we  
20 will conduct our hearings in the upper 25  
21 hearing locations across Florida.

22 I can tell you that I have filled a legal  
23 pad with three pages of notes, very good  
24 constructive suggestions and comments from  
25 individuals who -- who brought concerns from

1       their local community and their neighborhood  
2       about problems that need to be rectified in this  
3       redistricting process.

4               I wanted to just reiterate something that  
5       we indicated in the opening, because there may  
6       be folks who weren't here for the opening, and  
7       therefore, did not hear what our procedure is  
8       going to be.

9               There was some people who asked the  
10       question, well, why don't we produce maps first  
11       because the public won't have an opportunity to  
12       know about or comment on any maps that might be  
13       drawn in, later in the process.

14              First of all, as the Chairman indicated,  
15       the Speaker indicated, we believe that it is  
16       probably better to listen first before we  
17       commit ourselves to starting to draw maps so  
18       that we will have the benefit of the kind of  
19       advice and guidance that we have received today  
20       from a number of people who have made some very  
21       constructive suggestions about their own  
22       neighborhoods.

23              Secondly, let me just reiterate, if I may,  
24       Mr. Speaker, what we said at the beginning, and  
25       there may be some folks who wanted to know why

1 we didn't have the answer here before we had  
2 the question and they may not have been here  
3 for the beginning of the hearing.

4 Let me repeat what we said and this is our  
5 procedure. Our intent is to use the  
6 recommendations made at 26 public hearings and  
7 through our Internet sites, and I may say, we  
8 are already getting suggestions, including  
9 proposed maps on our Internet sites and they  
10 are there for you to look at.

11 Our intent is to use the recommendations  
12 made at hearings and through our Internet sites  
13 as the basis for developing one or more options  
14 for district maps. This is important.

15 We will then share those options in open  
16 public meetings, take comments from the public  
17 before any votes are taken even in Committee,  
18 so you will see maps before the first vote is  
19 taken even in Committee.

20 And then as we said at the beginning,  
21 throughout the process we will solicit  
22 additional public comment so that proposed maps  
23 can be matured with the public involved at  
24 every step all before the Legislature approves  
25 any maps.

1           So if there were people who may have had  
2       prepared remarks about why we didn't do maps  
3       first or maybe you weren't here at the  
4       beginning, perhaps this will help clarify what  
5       our process is.

6           And then, Mr. Speaker, there was some  
7       questions about the timeline and again, let me  
8       reiterate what we laid out at the beginning  
9       that perhaps not everyone had an opportunity to  
10      hear.

11          That is, first, according to the Florida  
12      Constitution we cannot meet in legislative  
13      assembly to vote on maps until January. What  
14      we did is to move up the legislative session by  
15      two months so that we could begin voting  
16      earlier than we ordinarily would.

17          Some individuals asked and it was a very  
18      good question, well, why does some other states  
19      have their maps already done? Well, the state  
20      of Illinois did theirs in a back room, came out  
21      and said here are the maps, and that was that,  
22      but the way the Bureau of the Census, and we  
23      don't choose to operate that way.

24          The way the Bureau of the Census works,  
25      not all of the census information comes to all

1 of the states at once. They come in tranches.  
2 They come in groupings, and Florida was in the  
3 last grouping to get our census information, so  
4 that is why we are a little bit later in the  
5 process than some other states.

6 However, our President, President  
7 Haridopolos, and our Speaker, Speaker Cannon,  
8 told Representative Weatherford and me that we  
9 needed to begin immediately after the  
10 legislative session and we have begun literally  
11 the month after the legislative session to have  
12 public hearings to gather input so that we can  
13 meet a timeline that we laid out for you.

14 Our timeline is listed on the House and  
15 Senate websites so you can see how the timeline  
16 works, and you can see the various stops that  
17 we are obliged to make by law before we can  
18 vote on any maps and before any maps are  
19 finalized.

20 Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would mention that  
21 any Legislator, any member of this Committee or  
22 any Legislator who is not a member of this  
23 Committee or any special interest group or any  
24 citizen can produce maps at any time and those  
25 maps will be immediately placed on our website



1           so that the public can see them.

2           So there is no requirement that people be  
3           silent about their views. Any member of this  
4           Committee, any Legislator can produce any map,  
5           any time and we will make it available to the  
6           public.

7           And the groups that are very interested  
8           this year, and of course, they are interested  
9           each time there is a census in how  
10          redistricting is carried out. Those groups as  
11          well have the opportunity to produce a map.

12          They did ten years ago, but sadly,  
13          apparently not so far this time, but as soon as  
14          they do produce a map, those maps will be made  
15          available on the website, the Senate and House,  
16          as soon as those maps are provided to the  
17          Senate and the House.

18          I would just reiterate that there will be  
19          an opportunity for the public to review any  
20          plan before that plan is voted on. The House  
21          has already adopted rules. We will recommend  
22          to the Chair to the Senate, that the Senate  
23          adopt similar rules so the public has an  
24          opportunity to see every amendment, every plan,  
25          every iteration and have the opportunity to

1 comment to before it is voted on.

2 So again, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank  
3 you for your work today. I want to echo what  
4 you said when you were interviewed about  
5 Amendments 5 and 6, and that is that they are a  
6 part of our Constitution, and I, like you, like  
7 all of the members here, swore an oath to  
8 preserve, protect and defend the Constitution  
9 of the United States and of the State of  
10 Florida, and those provisions are in our  
11 Constitution. They will be faithfully abided  
12 by.

13 But I would also point out that there are  
14 other requirements of redistricting, such as  
15 the Federal Voting Rights Act and various  
16 Federal case law that we must also take into  
17 account. Those aren't secret. They are on the  
18 Senate and House websites in their entirety.  
19 You can read them and see where there may be  
20 some opportunities to comment or provide your  
21 input on how your neighborhood, your community  
22 can be best represented by applying the  
23 standards that are in the Federal Voting Rights  
24 Act and in our State Constitution.

25 I look forward to the continuation of our

1       hearing tonight beginning at 6:00. If there  
2       are those who would like to come back, we would  
3       welcome you, and we will be in Pensacola and in  
4       Ft. Walton Beach tomorrow, in Panama City the  
5       next day, and then moving through the entire  
6       state to give all of the people of Florida a  
7       chance to be heard on the Internet, as well as  
8       face to face with their Legislators.

9               So thank you, Chairman Weatherford, for  
10       your presiding at this hearing and for the good  
11       work that you have done.

12              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
13       very much, Mr. Chairman. We are looking  
14       forward to working with you. If I could just  
15       quickly say, for the members of the public who  
16       have had an opportunity to speak or would like  
17       to add more, please feel free to e-mail us.

18              You can also mail us, we actually do have  
19       a pamphlet representative that has the address  
20       on it, if you could pick that up on your way  
21       out.

22              We look forward to working with you, and  
23       of all of the legal records from today's  
24       meeting, video, podcast, transcripts will be  
25       available in the coming days on the House and

1 Senate websites.

2 We will be here at 6:00 this evening and  
3 going until 8:00. Members, please be on time,  
4 and with that, Senator Gaetz moves we rise.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Have a seat,  
7 everyone. We appreciate everybody coming back  
8 for the part two of our hearing, Joint  
9 Redistricting Hearing today.

10 My name is Will Weatherford, and I am one  
11 of the Co-Chairs of this Committee, along with  
12 Senator Don Gaetz, who is the other Co-Chair.

13 We took three hours of public testimony  
14 earlier today. I thought it was very  
15 productive and I want to thank again the  
16 members of the public who are here today who  
17 were here earlier this afternoon and have also  
18 come back.

19 We are very grateful for the public  
20 participation that you have given us and we are  
21 going to continue in that mode.

22 And so, members, what we are going to do  
23 is so far we have probably got eight or ten  
24 cards here. We expect to get a few more, but  
25 we are going to go through them one at a time

1           and give people the opportunity to speak before  
2           this Committee, and then we will move forward  
3           and move on and hit the road and go to  
4           Pensacola.

5           So with that in mind we are going to start  
6           with our first person here, and that is  
7           Mr. David Best, if Mr. Best is here. Mr. Best  
8           represents the Coffee Party, and Mr. Best,  
9           thank you for being here, sir.

10          You are recognized to address the  
11          Committee. Please give Mr. Best your  
12          attention, please.

13          MR. BEST: Thank you.

14          CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Touch the -- there  
15          is a button there, sir.

16          MR. BEST: Hello, hello. Better, better.

17          CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Yes, you are on.

18          MR. BEST: Okay. My name is David Best, I  
19          am here as a citizen first and a voter. I have  
20          voted in every election that I can remember in  
21          the last 30 years. I know I have missed one or  
22          two, but the ones I remember, in almost all of  
23          them.

24          I am also here as a member of the Coffee  
25          Party, USA. I work with the Coffee Party of

1 Florida, the local Coffee Party group. The  
2 Coffee Party strives to maintain independence  
3 from all political parties and labels.

4 We are grassroots volunteers who want to  
5 restore stability to the political process that  
6 we believe has suffered from extreme  
7 polarization by both parties, and we too often  
8 see parties, as a matter of fact, every day in  
9 the paper I see it.

10 I think parties are working too often in  
11 their own interest for the next election rather  
12 than the common good of the people. To that  
13 end I also want to say I believe in the  
14 Constitution of the United States and the  
15 Constitution of the State of Florida.

16 My goal here is to insure that the voice  
17 of the people, not the power of the dollar and  
18 special interests are the most considered and  
19 will decide the policies and directions of our  
20 state.

21 To that end I wish to compliment the  
22 Florida Legislature on the openness that it has  
23 shown so far in this process, particularly for  
24 the things you have put on-line and made  
25 available to me, just the common person, and I

1 want to encourage you to continue with that  
2 openness and transparency when the rubber hits  
3 the road down the road. Okay.

4 Unfortunately the absence of maps. I  
5 don't know what you heard this afternoon, but  
6 it just seems like we could have had some maps  
7 with some ideas of where you are going. Have  
8 got to believe that you have studied this and  
9 probably everyone of you, particularly with  
10 incumbency, knows what you are planning to do  
11 in this redistricting process.

12 So I would request that rather than wait  
13 until the end and receive a lot of public  
14 hearing input, that you go ahead and get some  
15 maps out there and give us some ideas of where  
16 you are going so that at least the people later  
17 in the hearing process will have more ideas  
18 what is going to happen beyond what we have got  
19 now.

20 I believe that the voters have already  
21 given you -- whatever we say, the will of the  
22 voters was made clear in the last election, V  
23 and VI Amendments passed, 63 percent of the  
24 vote, that is pretty telling right there.

25 To me when I read them they are fairly

1 clear. So I believe the intent of those  
2 amendments is clear, but I also believe that  
3 the intent of many political incumbents,  
4 particularly those in high ranking positions,  
5 has been made clear as well by actions more so  
6 than by words. Time is fleeting.

7 I think this timeline is going to be a  
8 very difficult one to maintain. I have been on  
9 projects where I looked at and I thought this  
10 project is going -- there is no room at all for  
11 any error.

12 It is going to be hard enough to stay on  
13 this timeline as it is. So I encourage you to  
14 really get real and certainly you have all  
15 worked on these project plans and you have got  
16 to know this. I can't tell you this. You know  
17 more than I do.

18 So lastly I guess as a Coffee Party  
19 activist I pledge to support leaders who work  
20 towards positive solutions and to hold  
21 accountable those who obstruct them. I am here  
22 to ask that you be leaders that I can support,  
23 and I thank you very much for the opportunity  
24 to comment.

25 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very



1 much, Mr. Best. We appreciate your comments  
2 here today. One thing I did not point out  
3 earlier and you certainly fell within this time  
4 frame, Mr. Best, but for those who did not get  
5 a chance to speak earlier, we are going to try  
6 to keep the comments between three and five  
7 minutes.

8 That kind of seems to be the wheelhouse  
9 that has worked so far. We are going to  
10 continue to work during in that direction and  
11 also I will announce the name of the person who  
12 is going to be speaking and then try to put you  
13 on deck so if you are next, you will hear your  
14 name as well and just be prepared it come up  
15 and speak when that person ahead of you is  
16 done. So again, Mr. Best, thank you very much  
17 for being here.

18 The next speaker that we have is, I  
19 believe, Jayce Michael Hill, if I am saying  
20 that right. It could be Joyce, but I frankly  
21 can't tell. I apologize.

22 You are good, okay, all right, he is  
23 waiving and I don't know, usually with Bills we  
24 say waive in support or so we will just say he  
25 waives. We have Matthew Isbell.

1           Matthew spoke to us earlier, certainly you  
2           are welcome to come back and speak. No  
3           problem, we are happy to have you. Thanks for  
4           being here. After Matthew we will have Dan  
5           McDaniel.

6           MR. ISBELL: Thank you again for letting  
7           me speak. I know I spoke to you guys earlier  
8           today. I kept this short earlier because I  
9           wanted to let other people speak, but I decided  
10          to sign up again just to address some.

11          One other key thing and it was brought up  
12          at the end of the meetings and that was the  
13          issue of minority districts and minority  
14          representation in not only in the Legislature  
15          but Congress.

16          Specifically the Congress right now of our  
17          25 seats we are going to go to 27 I know. We  
18          have three majority African-American districts  
19          and several majority Hispanic districts.

20          The comment and there has been questions,  
21          okay, well, fair districts has passed, what  
22          about things like the Third District which  
23          stretches from Jacksonville down to Orlando.

24          You also have the Hastings District which  
25          stretches over about three or four counties in

1 south Florida, and, you know, there has been  
2 some arguments made by some Legislators, some  
3 activists, on both sides of the aisle saying  
4 that, you know, if something like the Third  
5 District is eliminated that will hurt minority  
6 representation.

7 And I just want to offer a different point  
8 of view on that, that, you know, especially in  
9 terms of the Voting Rights Act which was passed  
10 back in '65, to insure minority representation  
11 not only being allowed to vote, but also be,  
12 drawing majority African-American districts,  
13 but the key thing about that is that was  
14 designed to insure that, especially in the  
15 south where they have been in the process for  
16 100 years, Legislators did not draw lines to  
17 carve up a compact African-American community  
18 that already existed.

19 Where there was a compact area and people  
20 would draw three or four districts between it.  
21 The VRA does not require those drawings, you  
22 know, a district that stretches from  
23 Jacksonville all the way to Orlando, basically  
24 packing every African-American imaginable in.

25 In fact, there are districts similar to

1       that in North Carolina and Georgia have been  
2       struck down in past Supreme Court cases as  
3       basically racial gerrymandering where you are  
4       packing every Democrat, every African-American  
5       in, and I just don't feel, you know, this is  
6       not stated for anybody specifically, but I just  
7       want to say for the record, I don't feel that  
8       is needed.

9               We have plenty of white, majority white  
10       districts, majority white states that have  
11       elected African-Americans, Hispanics, anybody.  
12       We are not, we are no longer in the, pardon my  
13       words, the Jim Crow, south, where you needed,  
14       you need a majority minority district to elect  
15       a minority.

16              It is just not the case and I just want to  
17       make that point clear, that is what I feel  
18       that, you know, if there is, if you can create  
19       a majority minority district that is compact  
20       like we have now for the Rico Wilsons down in  
21       south Florida where I am from, where I have  
22       lived in at different points in my life, that  
23       is a compact district, but something, a  
24       district that stretches from Jacksonville to  
25       Orlando, it is just not needed. Thank you.

1           CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
2 much, Mr. Isbell, we appreciate your comments  
3 again. Next we have Mr. Dan McDaniel,  
4 following Mr. McDaniel we have Dustin Ponder.

5           Mr. McDaniel, thank you very much for  
6 being here, sir, you are recognized.

7           MR. MCDANIEL: Yes, thank you,  
8 Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee. I  
9 appreciate you taking the comments from the  
10 public. I don't envy the job that you have. I  
11 know that in past committees, if I can just  
12 preface by saying this, the members that I have  
13 known of this Committee while the charges have  
14 always seemed to be that they are going to do  
15 something in their favor, it seems that they  
16 always came away and found that it was more of  
17 a punitive appointment rather than one that  
18 managed to allow them to cash in on any kinds  
19 of favor.

20           What I wanted to do in the 30 years of  
21 business and government that I have had is just  
22 share for a moment a perspective on the, both  
23 the analysis and process management sides of  
24 the redistricting, or really anything that you  
25 wanted to tackle, business or government-wise,

1       at least looking back at some of the more  
2       difficult projects I have, and I don't want to  
3       compare them with the enormity of your task.

4               But in analysis we are always, my  
5       background, just to let you know, is an  
6       economist and IT manager, and what we are doing  
7       in an analysis is always taking these complex  
8       problems and trying to break them down into  
9       something manageable, and clearly, at the IT  
10      management level or any kind of higher upper  
11      management level, you can't understand every  
12      detail, even though we try and we want to.

13             On the process management side we are  
14      trying to come up with some simple rules that  
15      we can follow as we are dealing with the  
16      analysis, and what I just wanted to present is  
17      what I think would be a fair way to perhaps  
18      deal with the constraints, not just of the past  
19      and of the political, but also of the  
20      amendments that are in place.

21             And in three simple steps what I might  
22      propose is to first look at the state of  
23      Florida and rather than start drawing from  
24      Escambia or start drawing from Key West or  
25      somewhere in between, instead recognize that

1       you as members of different districts currently  
2       have so many different composite makeups within  
3       your district.

4               And it might be best if we tried to keep  
5       these districts not just contiguous and not  
6       just community oriented, but also to favor the  
7       interest within that particular area, whatever  
8       they might be, agricultural, urban, whatever,  
9       and my proposal simply would be to start with  
10      the urban cities in the state of Florida.

11             And by the populations I looked at, if you  
12      took the House Districts, for example, I think  
13      you would have nine cities in the state of  
14      Florida that had populations over the size of  
15      one House District.

16             Jacksonville would fit five House  
17      Districts, a couple of cities would fit two and  
18      the rest one, a couple of cities, I don't know,  
19      if my numbers were exactly right, number ten  
20      and eleven were about the size of a district,  
21      maybe not quite.

22             But if the principles of the redistricting  
23      were applied then within each of these cities,  
24      then a lot of the political problems and  
25      accusations that might arise at a statewide

1 level would at least go away within the locale.  
2 You are creating urban.

3 And then the second step would be to look  
4 at SMSA's, something of that sort, we have got  
5 a lot of them around the state and fill the  
6 rest in that way. They would leak over into  
7 some of the urban cores, but cover more of the  
8 suburban areas and you would have suburban  
9 styled districts, and then when you are done,  
10 some may argue and some always will that you  
11 have a gerrymandered looking district.

12 I would argue that rather than being  
13 gerrymandered, they would probably look more  
14 like swiss cheese, maybe donuts here and there,  
15 but they would be the more rural and exurbia  
16 type districts, and I think they would  
17 represent a more common interest in that  
18 respect, but if you looked at those cities and  
19 those SMA's, then the rest of the state, if it  
20 filled out and looked like a gerrymander, I  
21 think that under the provisions as the way I  
22 have read Amendments V and VI, I think it could  
23 all be justified and that is just presenting  
24 things from an analytical and process  
25 management standpoint.



1 I want to thank you all for your time.

2 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
3 much, Mr. McDaniel. We appreciate those  
4 comments. Next up we have Mr. Dustin Ponder,  
5 who is here. After Mr. Ponder we will have Jay  
6 Liles.

7 MR. PONDER: Thank you, sir. I was here  
8 earlier, you know, and I have heard a lot of  
9 talk today about democracy and listening to the  
10 will of the public before we put out maps on  
11 redistricting.

12 And I just have to say, I mean, who are we  
13 talking about democracy for, you know? I mean,  
14 you look at the last redistricting maps and the  
15 result was 50 percent of our Senators and  
16 Representatives are millionaires. When I think  
17 in the general population, it is about five  
18 percent, and I don't think people are naive  
19 here.

20 I don't expect to convince you all to draw  
21 up maps with my arguments and to implement fair  
22 districts. I mean, I think we all know how  
23 politics works.

24 The politicians have the interest of  
25 working families, people of color and the poor

1 in mind first, instead of as one woman per  
2 earlier, the people that hire them, we would  
3 already have maps.

4 We wouldn't be having a lawsuit where the  
5 people are both defending and paying for the  
6 prosecution to overturn the Fair Districts  
7 Amendment.

8 So all I got to say is you all are saying  
9 you are listening to the public. You are  
10 saying you support democracy, not just for the  
11 top two percent, but for everybody.

12 Well, my father always used to say,  
13 actions speak louder than words, no matter how  
14 eloquently put. So, I mean, I am hoping that  
15 the rest of the public will join me and just  
16 say, let's get to it, you know, we know what  
17 the game is.

18 The people know what the game is. I mean,  
19 we have been through it all already. Let's see  
20 the maps, let's move forward.

21 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
22 Mr. Ponder. Next up we have Jay Liles, after  
23 Mr. Liles, we have Jack Davis.

24 Mr. Liles, thank you very much for being  
25 here, sir.

1           MR. LILES: Thank you, Chairman  
2           Weatherford, thank you, Chairman Gaetz, and the  
3           members of the Committee.

4           I am Jay Liles. I reside at 1962 Vineland  
5           Drive here in Tallahassee. Prior to living in  
6           Tallahassee I was raised in Plant City,  
7           Florida. I went to school in Gainesville,  
8           Florida. I lived in St. Pete for ten years.

9           My father was a member of this august  
10          body, along with Ron Saunders's father back in  
11          the 1960's.

12          I only say all of that because I want you  
13          to know I feel your pain. I understand what  
14          you are up against and I appreciate what you  
15          have agreed to do, and I hope you will take the  
16          input of the citizens of this state and come up  
17          with the best plans you can as you go forward.

18          Some of you may know me as an advocate for  
19          environmental issues here in the Legislature.  
20          I want you to know that today I don't speak for  
21          those groups. I speak as a citizen of the  
22          state of Florida.

23          Let me further preface my comments with a  
24          few facts if you don't mind and I will be very  
25          brief about this.

1           I live in the Ninth House District. I am  
2           a resident of the Third State Senate District  
3           and I am in the Second Congressional District.  
4           To visit with my State Senator, Senator Dean,  
5           in his home office I would need to travel  
6           211 miles, a six-hour trip back and forth.

7           To visit with my Congressman in his home  
8           district, that is another 4.5 hour drive,  
9           110 miles in Panama City. Some of my  
10          neighbors, very near neighbors in eastern  
11          Hillsborough County are represented by  
12          Congresswoman Corrien Brown who lives in  
13          Jacksonville. In a district that some people  
14          say is that the most gerrymandered district in  
15          the nation.

16          According to the 2010 Census, Senate  
17          District III and Congressional Districts II and  
18          III need to be reduced in size to be  
19          proportional correct.

20          The Fair Amendment District -- the Fair  
21          Amendments Amendment, Fair Districts Amendment,  
22          pardon me, approved by 63 percent of the voters  
23          tells us that the committee should strictly  
24          adhere to, quote, compact and contiguous  
25          districts in order to end gerrymandering by

1 political parties.

2 In keeping with the amendment I sincerely  
3 hope that this Committee and the Legislature  
4 will approve a reduced, geographically reduced  
5 size, District II, Congressional District II  
6 and Senate District III and bring my neighbors  
7 in Leon County into the Second Congressional  
8 District.

9 In the 2010 election cycle there were  
10 4,631,068 registered Democrats. There were  
11 4,039,000 registered Republicans and 2,186,000  
12 Independents, yet in the State legislature, as  
13 you all know, it is 81 to 39 Republicans versus  
14 Democrat.

15 In the State Senate it is 28 to 12  
16 Republicans versus Democrats. Our  
17 Congressional Delegation and most of the major  
18 offices, with the exception of one U.S. Senate  
19 office are held by Republicans, and I know many  
20 of you, some of you anyway on this Committee  
21 think that is just because your campaign  
22 strategies were better, but honestly, let's get  
23 real.

24 There is something wrong in that. As some  
25 of my friends have said, the politicians in

1 Florida are picking the voters rather than  
2 voters picking their candidates.

3 In a civics lesson would fully tell us  
4 that a representative form of government  
5 insures the will of the majority is and it  
6 prevails, while strenuously protecting the  
7 rights of the minority.

8 When people feel their voice is not heard  
9 by their elected representatives they begin to  
10 lose confidence in the institution as a  
11 government, and then they lose interest in the  
12 rights of others, and at its lowest point they  
13 lose interest in civil law.

14 That is something none of us can afford to  
15 have happen no matter what our party. So as  
16 you conduct your work I would ask you to  
17 suspend your loyalty to party and as I know you  
18 are, be loyal Floridians in your thinking and  
19 in your efforts.

20 Consider that the decisions you are making  
21 here are going to be for ten years, long after  
22 many of you are out of this institution, out of  
23 this process.

24 Please ask yourselves, how can your  
25 successors govern effectively that the policies

1           they craft are the product of an echo chamber.

2           I have worked with many of you on a lot of  
3           issues. I know that one to one environment we  
4           tend to agree more often than not, or at least  
5           find accommodation. It is the group thing that  
6           concerns me and I hope we are able to get past  
7           that and I thank you for the time.

8           CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
9           much, Mr. Liles.

10          Next up, members, we have got Jack Davis.  
11          Do you want to say ditto? Okay. We can do  
12          that. Ditto for Mr. Jack Davis. Thank you  
13          very much, sir, for being here. We appreciate  
14          you participating in this process.

15          We next have Alex Belk, I believe that is  
16          a K. Alex, did I say that one wrong, buddy?

17          MR. BELLOA: Yes.

18          CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: I apologize. 680  
19          West Virginia Street. All right.

20          A VOICE: Repeat that.

21          CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: That is right,  
22          after Alex we have got Mr. Carlos Ray, you are  
23          going to be next. You are recognized, sir, and  
24          sorry for not pronouncing your name right.

25          MR. BELLOA: I have chicken scratch for

1 writing, that is okay.

2 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Your handwriting is  
3 still better than mine, I can assure you.

4 MR. BELLOA: I want to thank everybody  
5 first of all, for giving me the opportunity to  
6 speak here today and the rest of the citizens  
7 in the room.

8 It is, I want to state that openness is  
9 extremely important and that is the key in all  
10 of this.

11 I know it is going to be a hard fought  
12 battle. There is a lot of disagreement on both  
13 sides how things should be run and written, but  
14 ultimately if we remain open and this continues  
15 to be an open process I think what is going to  
16 come out of this, you know, what is good, it is  
17 going to be contentious, but hopefully it will  
18 be good for everybody.

19 And in addition to this I think that we  
20 need to stick to the spirit of the law. We  
21 need to have compact districts that are  
22 reflective of the people that are living there.  
23 I am in Senator Montford's district, and I am  
24 in Senator Alan Williams -- I am sorry,  
25 Representative Alan Williams' district.



1           If I cross the street, literally 40 feet  
2           from my door I am in someone else's district.  
3           I think that it is Marti Coley's district. So  
4           I mean, we are talking literally 40 feet and it  
5           is not like there is a totally different  
6           community between us, it is the same community,  
7           the same people.

8           A lot of the folks that live on one side  
9           are predominantly African-American, the other  
10          one are students. And so if we have anything  
11          that affects us in this district that has to do  
12          with transportation, which is Tennessee Street  
13          is a major corridor in Tallahassee, there is a  
14          lot of transportation issues with the city, who  
15          do we go talk to?

16          If we are African-American you talk to  
17          Alan Williams and if you are a student you go  
18          talk to Marti Coley, and that to me pits these  
19          two groups against each other.

20          There is not one Representative in that  
21          district that knows exactly what happens on  
22          both sides of the street that pay attention to  
23          that, and I think that is wrong for the people  
24          that live in that community.

25          I agree with everything that Mr. McDaniel

1 spoke about earlier, that we need to start with  
2 the bigger urban cores and work our ways out  
3 there, because the situations that effect  
4 somebody in the city are not going to be the  
5 same that effect somebody out in a rural  
6 county, like Union.

7 African-American issue, Hispanic issues  
8 are very important to me, and, but they are not  
9 the same in Duval County that they are in  
10 Orange County. They are not the same that they  
11 are in Union, they are not the same that they  
12 are in Ocala, that is not a county, in Marion  
13 County. So we need to keep our communities  
14 together.

15 We all need to work together and we need  
16 to encourage that by having districts that  
17 encourage us to go talk with one another and  
18 our Representatives that are going to know  
19 their districts well.

20 When you have somebody who has to travel  
21 400 miles from one point of the district to  
22 another, how are they really going to get to  
23 know anybody other than what is within the  
24 20 miles that they live in.

25 So let's use a little bit of a common

1       sense approach. I know sometimes common sense  
2       is not very common, but I think that we have  
3       come a very long way, as one gentleman  
4       mentioned, the Jim Crow south, we have grown a  
5       lot from that period in time, and if we have  
6       faith in our constituencies and our folks,  
7       people are going to do what is best for them  
8       and their communities and they are going to  
9       come together.

10               We have just got to have a little bit more  
11       faith in ourselves to do so. Once again, just  
12       thanks again and please keep in mind that the  
13       most important in all of this is keeping  
14       communities together.

15               We need to have people who are going to be  
16       advocating for their communities, not for 65  
17       different communities of who they have met  
18       maybe five or six people along the way. Thank  
19       you very much, and that is all I have.

20               CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
21       much, sir. We appreciate that very much. Next  
22       up we have Mr. Carlos Rey, followed by Beatriz  
23       Macia. Mr. Rey, thank you for being here, sir,  
24       you are recognized.

25               MR. REY: Thank you, Chairman Weatherford,

1       thank you, Chairman Gaetz. Again, thank you  
2       for this opportunity and making this an open  
3       and transparent process.

4             The only reason I am coming up here is to  
5       present to you a study that took place in  
6       Columbia Law School where they have a program  
7       where students are given the opportunity to  
8       learn the redistricting laws and given the  
9       tools to redistrict certain states.

10            At the end of that program those students  
11       are required to take a state and actually  
12       redistrict the state based on the projected  
13       census reports, and here I have before me the  
14       report, itself, which takes into account  
15       compactness and the VRA laws as well, and it  
16       addresses only congressional districts, but I  
17       think it gives you an idea of what are some  
18       considerations you can you look at when you are  
19       making your decisions, and I don't know if I  
20       can present this to the Board.

21            CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: We are actually  
22       very familiar with that. We actually have it  
23       on-line. On our website at Florida  
24       redistricting.org. The Senate has it up and to  
25       be, to be even more direct, we think that is

1       actually a perfect example of the steps that we  
2       have taken to be open and transparent to where  
3       we are soliciting that type of participation,  
4       and that, the young man, the student who  
5       produced that map of the Congressional  
6       Districts of Florida spent a lot of time on  
7       that and I believe gave it to us three or four  
8       weeks ago.

9               MR. REY:   Very good.

10              CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD:   We have it, and if  
11      you want to give members a copy you can, but I  
12      believe, members, you can hand it maybe down  
13      here, but it is on-line.   We have it up and  
14      on-line and there are actually other maps as  
15      well, but again, I think that speaks to the  
16      process we have created and what technology now  
17      allows us to do, to allow people to take  
18      advantage of the software we have.

19              So I am glad that you are here to talk  
20      about it.   I didn't want to interrupt you, but  
21      wanted you to know we have it.

22              MR. REY:   I wanted to make sure you were  
23      aware of that, and also I think that people can  
24      look at this report and see the, that the  
25      issues that have been brought up in this,

1 before this Board has been addressed and other  
2 people are looking at it and it shows that  
3 individuals can have an impact as far as what  
4 considerations are taken when making these  
5 decisions, and you have given us the tools, the  
6 redistricting tool, itself, and it is one of  
7 those things that we should take advantage of  
8 as well.

9 And I want to thank you again for this  
10 opportunity and I am kind of embarrassed that  
11 this is on there, but thanks again for this  
12 opportunity.

13 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: That is quite all  
14 right, Mr. Rey. We appreciate you being here  
15 and we echo your comments. We think that there  
16 will be many opportunities in the future for  
17 people to participate and do exactly what this  
18 young man from Columbia University has done.

19 So thank you. Next we have Beatriz Macia,  
20 I hope I am saying that correctly, and after  
21 that we have Brian Lupiani.

22 Ms. Macia, thank you for being here today,  
23 and we would love to hear from you. You are  
24 recognized.

25 MS. MACIA: Thank you, Representatives. I

1           guess I need to let you know something. It is  
2           Macia, but I will say Macia, and being Cuban,  
3           Macia is a whole other family. The accent on  
4           the I, not the A.

5                   CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: I am sinking in my  
6           chair as you are talking, so thank you.

7                   MS. MACIA: How would you know that. Good  
8           evening, Senators and Representatives. As I  
9           said, I am Beatriz Macia, I am a Board member  
10          of the Tallahassee Tea Party and I am a  
11          Hispanic voter.

12                   I know that Florida is a long narrow and  
13          diverse state. It is difficult. I recognize  
14          the fact that whether you all held these  
15          listening meetings or not you were going to be  
16          criticized, and I appreciate the fact that you  
17          chose to listen to us anyway.

18                   I understand that you are going to be  
19          looking at a lot of factors and I hope that one  
20          of the things that you will look at is the  
21          concept just like that when our Congress was  
22          originated it had two Houses to balance the  
23          needs of the large states with the small  
24          states.

25                   We have large counties, urban and diverse

1       and we have small rural counties that have less  
2       resources and are just important that they are  
3       heard and represented.

4               I know that there are interests in the  
5       different regions that need to be acknowledged,  
6       you know, we have tourism, we have fishing, we  
7       have agricultural, we have new technologies  
8       that are coming.

9               Our Governor is working hard to bring, you  
10      know, interesting businesses to Florida, as  
11      well as many of our regional development  
12      councils.

13              I have worked in a lot of different parts  
14      of government. I have worked in Departments of  
15      State, in the Legislature, I have worked in the  
16      Governor's Office, and I am a small business  
17      owner, so I have, you know, a pretty  
18      appreciative understanding and working  
19      knowledge of the processes that you work in and  
20      how those policies and all of those things are  
21      actually implemented, and then the affects on  
22      the diverse folks that are impacted.

23              So I look forward to the day that we don't  
24      have to talk about minorities and that we  
25      didn't have to talk about selfish interests.



1           I really look forward to the day that we  
2       are talking about building a better Florida. I  
3       just want you to know that I choose to put my  
4       faith in your good intentions. I have watched  
5       you all. I was here during the session. I  
6       have watched you all talk to each other.

7           I have watched you work through problems,  
8       and very difficult issues. I have an  
9       appreciation for what you do, and also know  
10      that I will also still be involved and I will  
11      be a part of the process, so thank you very  
12      much.

13           CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
14      much. We appreciate you being here. Next up  
15      we have Mr. Brian Lupiani, followed by  
16      Mr. Eutn, and I would try to read your first  
17      name, but I can't make it out. So Mr. Eutn,  
18      but first we have Brian.

19           Thank you for being here, sir, you are  
20      recognized.

21           MR. LUPIANI: Thank you, gentlemen and  
22      ladies. I wasn't necessarily going to say  
23      anything. I just wanted to be sure that I had  
24      a chance to if something came up, but having  
25      only gotten into the room just a couple minutes

1           ago, I am not sure what has come before.

2           But first I appreciate ya'll having these  
3           hearings. I wish there were drafts that we had  
4           a chance to respond to. Maybe there will be a  
5           second round that you all can come around the  
6           state with a proposal and get some comments on  
7           it.

8           I would just like to say that it is  
9           paramount to me that you all go by the  
10          amendments that the citizens just recently put  
11          into the Constitution. I don't like that it is  
12          being challenged and delayed by some. It was  
13          overwhelmingly approved by voters and I have  
14          been in favor of those standards, not that it  
15          matters to you what I have done, but I have  
16          been a Democrat since I could vote and I was  
17          originally for these standards back in 1978,  
18          when the Democrats ran everything.

19          I think it is good for everyone. It needs  
20          to be fair and we really need to just go by as  
21          much as possible just based on raw population,  
22          demographics, racial demographics to the extent  
23          that we need to to comply with the Voting  
24          Rights Act, but there should be no -- and I  
25          realize it is, this isn't going to count for

1       much with many of you, but there should be no  
2       consideration given to partisan registration or  
3       to incumbents current location.

4               Some of the things we see on the current  
5       map, it is -- it is almost incredible to have  
6       to point out anything like this, finger for a  
7       Congressional District, whatever it is, from  
8       Jacksonville that comes cutting across, snakes  
9       into all of the way over into Leon County.

10              There is a State House District X and I  
11       don't mean this, I am not picking on anybody in  
12       particular here, but it is insane to me that  
13       somebody in Apalachicola is in the same State  
14       House District as people I know in Ocala.

15              It is, you know, you have to do better. I  
16       plan on -- I haven't had a chance yet to look  
17       at the software you all have made available. I  
18       appreciate that that is out there and I, you  
19       know, I hope a number of groups will use it,  
20       but as I said, just keep partisan political  
21       party affiliation completely off the table.

22              Go strictly by population and follow  
23       existing political and geographic boundaries as  
24       much as possible. Thank you.

25              CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very

1       much, sir, and it is not too much to ask that  
2       we keep partisan politics out of this process.  
3       We believe that is exactly what this body will  
4       do. It is what the Constitution asked us to do  
5       and it is a very good suggestion and we will  
6       certainly take it to heart and make sure that  
7       we do so.

8               Next up we have Mr. Eutn. In fact this is  
9       the last card that we have and if you are here  
10      and you would like to speak and we have not  
11      called your name, please raise your hand and we  
12      will find someone who will give you a card to  
13      fill out.

14             We want to make sure that everyone here  
15      has the opportunity to speak and while we are  
16      looking for that, Mr. Eutn, you are recognized  
17      to speak. Thank you for being here, sir.

18             MR. EUTN: Thank you. I would only like  
19      to say is this, that the people of Florida are  
20      watching what your body does today. And we do  
21      not want to see a situation where this body  
22      decides to take political affiliation into  
23      consideration when it comes to setting up these  
24      districts.

25             The people of the state have voted on this

1 matter. The people of this state have made  
2 decisions how they want to have their districts  
3 drawn, and I think this body should adhere to  
4 that.

5 And it concerns me that this body has done  
6 things that usurp, usurp the rights of the  
7 people. And so I would hope and I would hope  
8 that everyone here takes it very serious to do  
9 the right thing and do the thing that the  
10 people of Florida, this fine state of Florida  
11 have asked you to do. Thank you very much.

12 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you, sir, and  
13 that is the last, I think that is the last of  
14 our public testimony.

15 We do have someone, okay, great, while we  
16 are waiting for that, as mentioned earlier, as  
17 people e-mail us or give us information they  
18 would like to make on the record but could not  
19 be here, we want to oblique them.

20 Mimi Jones, who sent us an e-mail saying  
21 she could not be here, wanted us to know that  
22 she wanted us to follow the Constitution and we  
23 plan on following that.

24 And then we also were reached via Facebook  
25 from a lady by the name of Diane

1       Blackford-Wilson who just wanted to restate  
2       that Wakulla County is an extension of Leon for  
3       all practical purposes and should have the same  
4       Representatives as Leon County, and we  
5       appreciate them contacting us and knowing that  
6       not everybody can be at a meeting, but that  
7       their comments can be on the record.

8               So last up we have Ralph Wilson.  
9       Mr. Wilson, we would love to have you come  
10      forward. Thank you for being here, and you are  
11      recognized to address the Committee.

12             MR. WILSON: Thank you very much. Thanks  
13      for holding this hearing. I really appreciate  
14      it, and I think a lot of us are here for a  
15      pretty simple reason.

16             I feel like the voters have spoken and  
17      feel like it is just another of many affronts  
18      to the voter's will and the people's will in  
19      the state for this to be challenged in the way  
20      it is.

21             So I think, yes, I think that that is  
22      really all there is to say, so I thank you for  
23      your time.

24             CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
25      much, Mr. Wilson. We appreciate your comments.

1 Any other comments from the public, last call?

2 Okay.

3 Any comments and/or questions from members  
4 of the Committee?

5 REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS: Mr. Speaker.

6 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Yes, Representative  
7 Williams, you are recognized.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS: Thank you,  
9 Chair. I just want to say for the record that  
10 I was glad to see so many individuals from this  
11 area, parts of which I am proud to represent,  
12 along with Senator Montford.

13 Had an opportunity to come out and share  
14 their thoughts and concerns about this process  
15 that we take very serious, and thank you for  
16 the opportunity given to this area for them to  
17 be heard. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
19 Representative and thank you for hosting us  
20 here in Tallahassee. We are very grateful for  
21 that. Senator Gaetz, I think you had a comment  
22 that you --

23 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Just quickly,  
24 Mr. Speaker, I wanted to thank you for  
25 presiding over the hearings today. Some of

1       those who were here tonight were not able to be  
2       here earlier today.

3               We certainly are not going to repeat all  
4       of the comments that we made about the process  
5       and the schedule, but I think given that some  
6       of the comments that were made tonight, it is  
7       only fair that we indicate the process and  
8       schedule in a couple of ways.

9               So let me, let me refer to introductory  
10       comments that were made at the very beginning  
11       of the session today so that those who may not  
12       have been able to hear those comments would  
13       have the benefit of knowing which way we are  
14       headed.

15              The redistricting schedule under which we  
16       are operating is imposed not by our own wishes,  
17       but by the State Constitution. The  
18       Constitution does not permit the Legislature to  
19       act on legislative maps before the second year  
20       after the census.

21              In other words, until 2012, but we did  
22       accelerate the process as much as possible by  
23       moving up the 2012 session, from March to  
24       January, and by beginning our statewide  
25       hearings five months in advance of the 2012



1 session.

2 It has been suggested by some that the  
3 Legislature should draw maps first and then put  
4 them out and ask the public to comment.

5 We believe that that puts the answer ahead  
6 of the question. There should be in our view  
7 no preconceptions created by politicians, but  
8 rather public testimony and public input should  
9 be free and unrestrained.

10 Our intent is to use the recommendations  
11 made at all 26 of the public hearings we will  
12 be holding and to use the input we are  
13 receiving over the Internet, and I might  
14 mention, Mr. Chairman, that we have been  
15 heavily followed on-line this afternoon and  
16 this evening, very heavy on-line traffic with  
17 individuals saying they want to participate  
18 on-line, they want to submit plans, they want  
19 to offer comments and we welcome that.

20 And our intent is to use all of that input  
21 we are gathering as the basis for developing  
22 one or more options for district maps, and then  
23 we will share those options in open public  
24 meetings before any votes are taken, even in  
25 Committee.

1           Let me state that again. First we are  
2 asking for public input via the Internet,  
3 getting heavy Internet traffic and via our 26  
4 public hearings, and then once we have that  
5 information and as we develop one or more  
6 options for district maps, we will share those  
7 options in open public meetings before any  
8 votes are taken even in Committee.

9           Throughout the process we will solicit  
10 additional public comment so that all proposed  
11 maps can mature with the public involved, all  
12 before the Legislature approves final maps.

13           And finally, Mr. Speaker, just for the  
14 record and for those who may not have been able  
15 to be here this afternoon, whatever the  
16 Legislature then votes on, it is submitted for  
17 judicial review at the State and Federal level  
18 to insure that final plans meet every legal  
19 requirement.

20           So on behalf of our Senate colleagues,  
21 Senate members of the Committee, Mr. Speaker,  
22 thank you for doing a great job today, and we  
23 look forward to seeing you tomorrow morning in  
24 Pensacola as we continue our statewide tour.

25           CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very

1       much, Mr. Chairman, for those comments, and  
2       members, if I could have everyone's attention  
3       for one minute before we break.

4               I think everyone knows that we have  
5       several days ahead of us. We are now moving  
6       tonight to head over to Pensacola where we will  
7       meet with citizens in Pensacola tomorrow  
8       evening.

9               We will be in our good Senator's backyard  
10      in Ft. Walton Beach, and then finally finishing  
11      Wednesday in Panama City, but I want to thank  
12      the staff for putting this together. This was  
13      very well orchestrated, it was perfectly placed  
14      where people could see what the maps look like,  
15      you could get information, everything was  
16      waiting for folks and I just really thank the  
17      staff for making this a seamless process.

18              I also want to thank the members who are  
19      here, not just the members on the Committee,  
20      but we have dozens of members who traveled from  
21      all over the state of Florida who don't even  
22      sit on this Committee that wanted to be a part  
23      of this process to see how it works and it  
24      engage the public and I thank them for that as  
25      well.

1           Lastly, and most importantly, we want to  
2           thank the public who is here tonight and who  
3           were here earlier this afternoon.

4           We are going to make this process the most  
5           open, the most transparent, the most engaging  
6           process, not only that Florida has ever had,  
7           but anyone in the country has ever had, and  
8           that is our goal and we will fulfill it and we  
9           thank you for being here today and with that,  
10          Senator Gaetz moves we rise.

11                 (Whereupon, the proceedings were  
12          concluded.)

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## 1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )

3 COUNTY OF LEON )

4 I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript  
5 is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned,  
6 and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting  
7 under my direction;

8 That the foregoing pages 2 through 173  
9 represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of  
10 the tape- recording;

11 And I further certify that I am not of kin or  
12 counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the  
13 regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor  
14 am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

15 Dated this 7th day of August, 2011.

16

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19

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

20

Notary Public

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State of Florida at Large

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Commission Expires:

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November 13, 2014

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REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

11

TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2011

12

7:00 P.M.

13

FORT WALTON BEACH HIGH SCHOOL

14

FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA

15

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Transcribed by:

22

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

23

Court Reporter

24

25

1 T A P E D P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Good evening, everyone,  
3 we are delighted that we have such a good large  
4 and obviously interested crowd here tonight.

5 The Joint Senate House Redistricting  
6 hearing is called to order, and we want to  
7 thank Principal Charlene Cuveon of Ft. Walton  
8 Beach High School, Dr. Alexis Tibbets, the  
9 Superintendent of Schools here.

10 In case you didn't know, this is Ft.  
11 Walton Beach High School, the home of the  
12 Vikings, one of the historically highest  
13 performing schools in the United States, not  
14 just once, but for year after year after year,  
15 so you are in a great school.

16 And we thank the administration of Ft.  
17 Walton Beach High School and Superintendent  
18 Tibbets for allowing us to use this facility  
19 this evening for what is our third public  
20 hearing in a series of 26.

21 We started yesterday in Tallahassee. We  
22 had a hearing earlier today in Pensacola. This  
23 is our third hearing, and tomorrow we will be  
24 in Panama City, and then on to the rest of the  
25 state.

1           Thank you all for being here, especially  
2           members of the public who have come to share  
3           their comments and recommendations to help  
4           shape Congressional Senate and House Districts  
5           for the next decade.

6           My name is Don Gaetz. I serve as Chairman  
7           of the Senate Reapportionment Committee.  
8           Typically the Speaker Designate of the Florida  
9           House, Will Weatherford, would be with us  
10          tonight. He has been with us in the preceding  
11          hearings and he will be with us going forward,  
12          but he had a family commitment come up and so I  
13          can guarantee you that he will be watching the  
14          pod cast of this hearing and he will be fully  
15          informed by professional staff and given copies  
16          of all of the testimony that is being given  
17          tonight.

18          Tonight's hearing is being webcast  
19          statewide by the Florida Channel and over the  
20          Internet, and I can report to you that we have  
21          extraordinarily heavy Internet traffic for this  
22          issue, and for our Joint Committee hearings,  
23          and we are delighted to report that to you.

24          Before we go further I would like to ask  
25          each member of the Committee if they would just



1 identify themselves as to whether they are a  
2 Representative or a Senator and indicate where  
3 in the state you live, where you represent, so  
4 that the folks here in northwest Florida and  
5 Okaloosa County can have an opportunity to see  
6 how diverse the House and Senate Committees  
7 are.

8 And if we may start with our Former Senate  
9 President, and still Senator, Senator Gwen  
10 Margolis.

11 Senator, would you, and I apologize that  
12 we don't have microphones, so we are  
13 politicians, so we will talk loud.

14 SENATOR MARGOLIS: My name is Gwen  
15 Margolis, and I represent the eastern part of  
16 Broward and Miami-Dade.

17 SENATOR HAYS: I am Alan Hays from  
18 Umatilla. I am a Senator from District 20,  
19 which represents a portion of five counties.

20 SENATOR DEAN: My name is Charlie Dean,  
21 and I am Senator for District III. I have the  
22 largest Senatorial district east of the  
23 Mississippi River. It goes from Palmetto,  
24 Citrus to the Hernando County line, to Baker,  
25 and Duval County lines, all a part of 13

1 counties.

2 REPRESENTATIVE GAETZ: I am Representative  
3 Matt Gaetz, and I live two miles down the road.

4 REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: I am Kathleen  
5 Passidomo, representing Collier County,  
6 representing parts of Collier County,  
7 representing Naples, Marco Island.

8 REPRESENTATIVE GOODSON: My name is Tom  
9 Goodson, District 29.

10 REPRESENTATIVE CRUZ: My name is Janet  
11 Cruz, and I represent District 58.

12 A VOICE: (Inaudible).

13 REPRESENTATIVE CALDWELL: Matt Caldwell,  
14 District 73, that would be Ft. Myers.

15 REPRESENTATIVE STARGEL: I am  
16 Representative Kelli Stargel, north of Polk  
17 County, Lakeland.

18 REPRESENTATIVE HOOPER: I am Ed Hooper,  
19 Representative from Clearwater and Pinellas  
20 County, the most district populated county.

21 A VOICE: (Inaudible)

22 REPRESENTATIVE BURGIN: Hello, my name is  
23 Rachel Burgin, and I represent District 56.

24 SENATOR THRASHER: Thank you, I am Senator  
25 John Thrasher. I live in St. Augustine. I

1 represent District 8, which is parts of Nassau  
2 County that starts at Fernandina Beach, parts  
3 of Duval County, parts of St. Johns County,  
4 which is where St. Augustine is located, part  
5 of Flagler County and I end up in Volusia  
6 County at the International Speedway.

7 REPRESENTATIVE FORD: Clay Ford,  
8 Representative for District 3, ninety-five  
9 percent of Pensacola, five percent Gulf Breeze,  
10 I talk just like ya'll do. People down south  
11 have trouble understanding me.

12 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: I am  
13 Representative Steve Precourt from down south  
14 at House District 41, a little area that  
15 includes University Studios and Walt Disney  
16 World.

17 REPRESENTATIVE ADKINS: Hi, I am Janet  
18 Adkins, Florida District 12.

19 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: I am  
20 Representative Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed, Broward  
21 County, House District 92. I serve seven  
22 cities, Deerfield Beach, Pompano Beach, Oakland  
23 Park, Rose Manor, Tamarac (inaudible).

24 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Hazel Rogers,  
25 Representative of District 94, parts of Broward

1 County.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Mack Bernard,  
3 Representative for West Palm Beach.

4 SENATOR MONTFORD: Senator Bill Montford,  
5 District 6, (inaudible).

6 A VOICE: My name is (inaudible). I  
7 represent the most conservative county in the  
8 state, Broward County.

9 A VOICE: (Inaudible)

10 A VOICE: (Inaudible).

11 A VOICE: (Inaudible).

12 A VOICE: (Inaudible)

13 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you all very much.  
14 I am sorry, fire away, we got the second row.

15 REPRESENTATIVE DRAKE: Brad Drake,  
16 Representative for House District 5, and I am  
17 also very privileged to represent Okaloosa  
18 County, as well as Holmes, Washington. My  
19 district runs all the way to the Georgia line,  
20 up in Marianna.

21 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Senator Evers.

22 SENATOR EVERS: I am Senator Evers and I  
23 cover everything north of Senator Don Gaetz,  
24 Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton,  
25 Washington, Holmes and north Bay.

1           REPRESENTATIVE ABRUZZO: I am Joseph  
2           Abruzzo from District 85, which is Palm Beach  
3           County (inaudible).

4           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Anyone else? If not,  
5           thank you very much, Senators and  
6           Representatives for introducing yourself to the  
7           folks here in Okaloosa County where I am very  
8           proud to live and proud to represent.

9           Our sole purpose tonight is to hear from  
10          the public about how you believe the legal  
11          standards governing redistricting should be  
12          applied in your community, in this community so  
13          that you are represented in Washington and  
14          Tallahassee fairly, equitably and sensibly.

15          And I know there may be folks who are  
16          already prepared to admonish us that Amendments  
17          V and VI need to be followed.

18          Let me tell you on behalf of Speaker  
19          Weatherford and myself and every member of this  
20          Committee, we all took an oath to preserve,  
21          protect and defend the Constitution of the  
22          United States and of the State of Florida.

23          Those two provisions are in our  
24          Constitution. They will be faithfully adhered  
25          to and they will be followed, and any

1       redistricting plan that this Legislature  
2       presents to the Supreme Court of Florida will,  
3       in our judgment, and to the best of our  
4       ability, follow every constitutional and legal  
5       requirement.

6             Our procedures tonight are simple, but  
7       they are important. It is important, as I said  
8       before, that you sign in so we can create an  
9       accurate public record of all attendees and  
10      speakers, and also you may opt to join our  
11      e-mail lists or our mail lists so that we can  
12      keep you informed about how the redistricting  
13      process is working.

14            If you haven't signed in, please do so,  
15      please raise your hand at any point tonight if  
16      you wish to speak and a staff member will come  
17      to you and pick up your card, either your  
18      appearance card or your attendance card.

19            Before we begin I would like to recognize  
20      Representative Steve Precourt who will give us  
21      a few introductory comments on behalf of the  
22      House of Representatives.

23            Representative Precourt will explain how  
24      today's hearing fits into the redistricting  
25      process. You are recognized, Representative.

1           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, Chair  
2           Gaetz, and as the Chairman said, I am Steve  
3           Precourt, House District 41 from central  
4           Florida, filling in for Chair Weatherford.

5           I am Vice-Chair of the House Redistricting  
6           Committee and just wanted to give you a little  
7           outline of where we are going in today's  
8           meeting and of the overall process.

9           Every ten years the Legislature is  
10          required by our Constitution to redistrict the  
11          state based on increases, decreases and  
12          movements around the state of the population.

13          Now, because Florida has grown more than  
14          the other states over the last ten years, we  
15          will be growing from 25 Congressional Seats to  
16          27 members of the U.S. House of  
17          Representatives. That is one of the major  
18          things that we will have to do in this process.

19          Now, because some of our -- parts of our  
20          state have either increased or decreased  
21          disproportionately in population, many of our  
22          Senate and House Districts are going to have to  
23          change.

24          We are not going to get any new House or  
25          Senate Seats, but we are going to have to move

1 the boundaries around because they have either  
2 added too much or too little population.

3 Now, when the redistricting process is  
4 completed the Congressional Districts must be  
5 equal in size of population and each contain  
6 696,345 people.

7 The 40 Senate Districts must also be  
8 nearly equal at 470,033 people, and our 120  
9 House Districts must also be nearly equal at  
10 156,678 people.

11 Now, there is some maps over on the side  
12 of the room that there to ya'll's left as you  
13 are facing us showing this area of the state,  
14 and the current boundaries, the current  
15 boundaries of the districts, and the number of  
16 people which must be added or subtracted from  
17 those districts to achieve that equal  
18 representation.

19 Now, the equality of representation isn't  
20 the only legal requirement that our  
21 redistricting plans must meet. The laws and  
22 important court cases governing redistricting  
23 are explained in detail on the House and Senate  
24 websites.

25 Now, those websites are listed on the



1       Redistricting 2012 brochure that was available  
2       when you came in, and if you don't have one,  
3       staff has them available for you as well.

4             Please make sure and pick one up before  
5       you leave. Our Redistricting 2012 brochure  
6       summarizes the Federal and State laws and  
7       outlines the topics that we hope that you will  
8       discuss here at today's meeting as well.

9             If you didn't go a brochure, as I said,  
10       they are available from staff, but also on the  
11       tables outside of the meeting hall, and if you  
12       want one right now our staff would be happy to  
13       get a copy for you. If you need it just wave  
14       to them.

15            Those websites that we have, we have made  
16       available to the public all of the demographic  
17       information from the U.S. Bureau of Census that  
18       will be used in drawing the districts and used  
19       in the redistricting software that we as  
20       Legislators will be using.

21            Now, these websites will allow any member  
22       of the public to see all of the district maps  
23       that are being proposed by the Legislators and  
24       for the citizens, ya'll, to propose your own  
25       district maps for your own communities or for

1 the whole state if you would like, using those  
2 same tools that are available to us as  
3 Legislators and to our staff.

4 Now, before, during and after this hearing  
5 tonight the Senate and House professional staff  
6 are available to actually show you the simple  
7 steps to getting on-line and making your  
8 submission either now if you care to or in the  
9 weeks to come.

10 We want to assure you that every  
11 recommendation from any member of the public or  
12 any group will be made publicly available.

13 In fact, we already have some public  
14 submissions available on the web for review.  
15 The submission of proposed maps, the drawings  
16 that you might come up with is one of the most  
17 effective, if not the single most effective  
18 form of public participation in the  
19 redistricting process. That is why we  
20 encourage you strongly to avail yourself of  
21 these resources that we put out there for you.

22 The redistricting schedule under which we  
23 are operating is imposed by our State  
24 Constitution. The Constitution does not permit  
25 the Legislature to act on legislative maps

1 before the second year after the census, in  
2 other words, before 2012.

3 Now, we have accelerated this process as  
4 much as we possibly can by moving up the 2012  
5 legislative session from, where typically it is  
6 in March and April, to January and February of  
7 next year, by beginning our statewide hearings.

8 We have also accelerated the process by  
9 beginning our statewide hearings five months in  
10 advance of that 2012 advanced session.

11 Now, it has been suggested that the  
12 Legislature should draw maps first and then ask  
13 the public to comment. We believe that puts  
14 the answer ahead of the question.

15 There should be no preconceived notions,  
16 no preconceptions created by politicians or  
17 anyone else, but rather your public testimony  
18 should be free and unrestricted and untainted  
19 and give us something to work with.

20 Now, our intent is to use the  
21 recommendations made by you tonight and at our  
22 other 25 public hearings, as well as  
23 information that we get through the Internet  
24 and social networking and stuff that is hard  
25 copy that is mailed to us and any other way

1       that we get it, as the basis for developing one  
2       or more options for these district maps as we  
3       go forward.

4             And once we developed those options we  
5       will discuss them in open public meetings  
6       before any votes are taken, even in committee  
7       votes.

8             Now, throughout the process we will  
9       solicit additional public input, not just these  
10      initial meetings so that the proposed maps can  
11      mature and develop with the public involved  
12      deeply in the process.

13            All of this is going to be done before the  
14      Legislature votes on or finally approves any of  
15      those maps.

16            Whatever the Legislature votes on during  
17      session next year is then going to be submitted  
18      for judicial review to insure that the final  
19      plans meet every legal requirement, not only in  
20      our State Constitution, but the Federal laws as  
21      well.

22            Now, because our mission today is to hear  
23      from you, 100 percent of the time tonight  
24      between now and I believe 9:00 o'clock as we  
25      are scheduled will be used to ensure that every

1 member of the public who is here and wishes to  
2 speak will have time to present the testimony  
3 they would like heard and will be listened to  
4 respectfully without interruption or argument.

5 And if after every citizen has had his or  
6 her say there is still some time remaining  
7 before our scheduled adjournment, any member of  
8 the Committee may make any statements or offer  
9 any observation, and we are also going to read  
10 some feedback that we have recently gotten via  
11 social media.

12 Of course, any member of the Legislature  
13 may today or at any time propose maps or plans  
14 or we will make all of that available to the  
15 public as it is prepared and developed.

16 Mr. Chairman, I hope this description of  
17 our schedule and the process helps to stage  
18 tonight for a successful hearing and I will  
19 turn the microphone back to you.

20 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much.  
21 Let's get into it with those who have signed up  
22 to speak. We have at the moment 24 individuals  
23 who wish to speak.

24 What that means is that we will have time  
25 for everybody. If everybody can keep their

1        comments to say three to five minutes, and we  
2        are not going to be really restrictive on time,  
3        but if we get more people who show up later in  
4        the hearing and they would like to speak, then  
5        I hope you will forgive me if I try to hold  
6        people to a time limit, because I am an  
7        advocate for the last person on this list just  
8        like I am an advocate for the first person to  
9        be able to speak and let everyone on the  
10       Committee know what their views are.

11           President Margolis has admonished me to  
12       make sure that you know that the maps that are  
13       there on my right and on that side of the room  
14       are available for you to look at so that you  
15       will see what the current districts are.

16           So there are maps and we can use those  
17       maps as a take off point to either criticize or  
18       find fault or find value or virtue in any of  
19       the districts that exist now.

20           If Chairman Weatherford were here he would  
21       remind us all that none of us, nobody in the  
22       Legislature, has a district. The districts are  
23       developed based on the population data and  
24       based on the redistricting software that is  
25       used in conformance with the law.

1           So this is not about trying to find a way  
2           to protect somebody's district. It is to find  
3           a way to listen to your views as to how the  
4           laws ought to be carried forward here in  
5           northwest Florida.

6           With that said, what we will do is I will  
7           call two testifiers at once so that the second  
8           person can be on deck and ready, and our first  
9           testifier are Mary Blackwell representing the  
10          League of Women Voters of Okaloosa County.

11          Ms. Blackwell, it is good to see you  
12          again.

13          MS. BLACKWELL: It is good to see you,  
14          too, Don. First, I would like to thank the  
15          Committee members for being here and for  
16          providing this opportunity to comment on  
17          redistricting, and I commend you for  
18          encouraging citizen participation in the  
19          process and I thank everybody who has come.

20          This is really important and I am glad you  
21          are a part of it. I only have three points to  
22          make.

23          First, the Legislature's timeline for  
24          drawing the districts is too slow. The last of  
25          the scheduled public hearings is September 1st.

1 Your timeline shows four months, as you  
2 mentioned, for interim committee meetings, from  
3 September through December.

4 Your own Committee staffs who work on the  
5 redistricting and reapportionment issues year  
6 around and some of whom, like John Guthrie, for  
7 example, have been there for decades, should be  
8 able to present you with several options right  
9 now.

10 But as you said, you wanted to start with  
11 a clean slate, that is fine, but after the end  
12 of the hearings on the first of September, and  
13 you absorb the public input, you mentioned  
14 yesterday, Don, at the hearing that this is the  
15 Internet age.

16 So I would like to see some options for  
17 maps out there for comment and by the end of  
18 September, so the public can have a chance to  
19 influence the actual maps and not just talk in  
20 generalities about what we would like to see.

21 And actually, I don't think there is any  
22 secret about what we want to see, since the  
23 Fair District Amendments received about  
24 63 percent approval rating from voters in  
25 November.



1           So please get all of those things done  
2           where you are looking at the maps and making  
3           those up, that is the time, that four months of  
4           interim Committee meetings so you can be ready  
5           to vote in January.

6           Please don't be wringing your hands next  
7           spring and saying there is not enough time.  
8           There is plenty of time, so let's not waste it,  
9           it is not fair to candidates, it is not fair to  
10          constituents.

11          The second point, the Legislature  
12          shouldn't be spending taxpayer money to oppose  
13          implementation of the Fair District Standards.  
14          As you all know, Representatives Brown and  
15          Diaz-Balart have sued to have Florida's new  
16          redistricting standards declared  
17          unconstitutional even though they were approved  
18          by the state Supreme Court before they were put  
19          on the ballot.

20          The Florida House has joined this lawsuit  
21          and the Secretary of State, Kurt Browning, is  
22          the Defendant in the case. So this means  
23          Florida taxpayers are now paying both to  
24          prosecute and defend the same lawsuit. It is  
25          just not right.

1           Senator Gaetz, you already said that you  
2           and your colleagues were going to be upholding  
3           the Constitution. I am counting on you, so  
4           please stop spending our money trying to  
5           undermine the provisions that were placed there  
6           by 63 percent of the voters last November.

7           The final point, you mentioned you didn't  
8           want to start out with any maps, and you are  
9           having these 26 hearings, that is really  
10          fabulous, but no maps are provided for citizen  
11          comment.

12          Your Committee staffs, you already have  
13          staffs working full time year round on these  
14          issues, and I am sure they already have some  
15          working drafts. I thank you again for taking  
16          the time for citizen input and for the citizens  
17          for making it, but it is hard to make  
18          substantive constructive comments in a vacuum.

19          We have the technology as you mentioned,  
20          to make the maps quickly with the available  
21          census data. So I charge you to develop the  
22          maps as soon as possible after the public  
23          hearings conclude and you absorb all of that  
24          citizen input so they can be out there for the  
25          citizens to see well before you vote on them in

1 January.

2 And we do need to be ready to vote on them  
3 in January, because only then will the public  
4 have an opportunity for meaningful comment on  
5 the real maps that are under consideration.  
6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
8 Mary. We appreciate you being here. Henry  
9 Kelley is our next speaker, and following  
10 Mr. Kelley, Patricia Rowe. Henry Kelley and  
11 then Patricia Rowe.

12 Mr. Kelley, thank you for being here  
13 tonight for taking your time, and you are  
14 recognized.

15 MR. KELLEY: Thank you, Senator. On  
16 behalf of the Committee I saw you yesterday in  
17 Tallahassee and had the chance to address it  
18 and said I would be back in Ft. Walton with a  
19 few comments.

20 On behalf of the Ft. Walton Beach Tea  
21 Party I am still disappointed to see criticisms  
22 leveled at the Committee.

23 I appreciate that we are starting with a  
24 blank slate. I mentioned yesterday that I have  
25 gone in and used the software. I have drawn

1 Congressional Districts and I have drawn Senate  
2 Districts.

3 The 120 House Districts, it is a little  
4 daunting, but there is no reason that we cannot  
5 -- that any group that has a staff can --  
6 everyone can participate in this after about 15  
7 minutes of using the software. So a few  
8 particulars.

9 Mary Blackwell just mentioned the Fair  
10 Districts was approved by 63 percent, and  
11 Senator, you referred to the Constitution which  
12 I just happen as a Tea Party guy to bring one  
13 with me, and as I have been drawing up the maps  
14 I call attention to the Tenth Amendment of the  
15 Constitution which reserves the power of this  
16 to the states.

17 And it is my belief that there is going to  
18 be a major conflict between the Fair Districts  
19 Amendment and some of the Federal rulings that  
20 have resulted in gerrymandering districts, and  
21 I encourage you to listen to the will of the  
22 voters because this has now been codified in  
23 our Constitution.

24 And I would ask that you take the will of  
25 the Florida voters into consideration above

1       that of what a Federal Court Judge says in  
2       keeping with the Tenth Amendment to the  
3       Constitution, and nowhere in the United States  
4       Constitution does it give the Federal  
5       government the right to draw our districts.

6               Now, a few particulars for the northwest  
7       Florida area.   As I said, I have drawn the  
8       maps several times, and particularly as we look  
9       at the Senate and House Districts, and as we  
10      look at the maps, one of the things that the  
11      Fair District Amendments does say that the  
12      media has made a lot of comments on is the use  
13      of geographic boundaries.

14             But Amendments V and VI also say existing  
15      political boundaries, and I would ask you to  
16      consider that due to the unique nature of our  
17      geography that our interests have more in  
18      common horizontally across northwest Florida  
19      than we do vertically.

20             In other words, Pensacola beach, Ft.  
21      Walton Beach and Panama City Beach, they all  
22      have something in common, and despite what our  
23      friend from Daytona Beach says, you know, we  
24      are kind of proud of this stretch of beaches,  
25      and if you are not familiar with northwest

1 Florida along I-10 is mostly agricultural and  
2 rural interests.

3 And I believe in looking at the  
4 populations that our region should be drawn  
5 horizontally, both within the Florida House  
6 Districts and within the Florida Senate  
7 Districts.

8 And on that note I wish to thank the  
9 Committee for their time and the hard work. We  
10 intend to participate on behalf of Tea Parties  
11 around the state at as many of the hearings as  
12 possible.

13 We will be submitting plans on-line and  
14 like I said, I am thankful we are starting with  
15 a blank slate and I appreciate your time.  
16 Thank you, Senator.

17 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
18 Mr. Kelley. Next is Patricia Rowe and after  
19 Ms. Rowe, Jan Dale.

20 MR. ROWE: I am Patricia Rowe, and I pass.  
21 The people have pretty much said more than I  
22 could possibly.

23 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: As we say in the Senate,  
24 those who pass give eloquent testimony. Thank  
25 you. Jane Dale, no, no, no. Let's not let

1           this become a habit. Anybody who wants to  
2           speak.

3           MS. DALE: I am just going to do it right  
4           here.

5           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Jane, we can't have you  
6           do it there because we want to carry you on  
7           statewide television. No pressure. No  
8           pressure, and after Ms. Dale is Edward  
9           Armbruster, please.

10          MS. DALE: It is too bad you know me so  
11          well, sir.

12          First I want to thank everybody for being  
13          here tonight, and please, you all, it is very,  
14          very important that we, the grassroots as we  
15          always say, we really need to come with an open  
16          mind and learn and listen to what everybody has  
17          to say tonight and the other meetings, and that  
18          is very very important and I hope we all use  
19          both of our ears. Thank you all very much.

20          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Jane. Next,  
21          Edward Armbruster and following Ed's comments,  
22          we have, I believe it is Al, K-a-u-s-e-s.

23          MR. KAUSES: Al Kauses.

24          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Al Kauses, of course. I  
25          am sorry, Al, my handwriting is even worse than

1           yours. Ed, please go ahead.

2           MR. ARMBRUSTER: Thank you, Senator, I am  
3           going to give back my time because your staff  
4           out here answered my questions, and I thank  
5           you.

6           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir,  
7           we appreciate your being here. Al, you are up,  
8           followed by Howard Hill. Thank you very much  
9           for being here tonight, Al, we appreciate your  
10          presence and you are recognized.

11          MR. KAUSES: Well, thank you, and I thank  
12          you all, ladies and gentlemen, for coming up  
13          here and giving us a chance to yap before you.

14          I am here with the Florida Panhandle  
15          Patriots as well as the Republican Party, and  
16          as well as me, 23-year citizen of Okaloosa  
17          County.

18          And we have one minor little thing here in  
19          Okaloosa County that I would like to see taken  
20          care of if at all possible.

21          We have got a little tail that runs in  
22          Fred Drake's district out of Defuniak down here  
23          in Okaloosa County, and being on just west of  
24          Hurlburt here and I am on the shore side there,  
25          I get caught up in this three or four-mile



1 segment down there.

2 And Brad gives me great service, and I  
3 thank you, sir, and Matt, who's district kind  
4 of runs up to that point and he has to jump  
5 over my house to get to the rest of his  
6 district, west of there, gives me great service  
7 also. Thank you.

8 And we -- I would like to see that taken  
9 care of. I think that would be very easy for  
10 the Redistricting Committee and everybody else  
11 to look into that and take care of it.

12 I totally agree with the beaches are the  
13 beaches and the north end are the north end,  
14 and I think those representing both up north  
15 and down south have that in common and they can  
16 take care of it a lot better.

17 I haven't had a chance to check out the  
18 rest of the state, but I am going to do so,  
19 your Redistricting cite is outstanding. It is  
20 a little more construction coming up on it, but  
21 I am going to delve into the south end down  
22 there as well.

23 I think we will look at Daytona Beach as a  
24 matter of fact. Again, I want to thank you  
25 all, Magnolia Grill is outstanding, and enjoy

1           yourselves while you are up here and thank you,  
2           Senator.

3           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, Al,  
4           we appreciate your testimony. Next we will be  
5           privileged to hear from Howard Hill.

6           MR. HILL: As a retired politician, I  
7           pass.

8           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Howard passes, and next  
9           we hear from Judy Burn-Riley, and following  
10          Judy Burn-Riley, we will hear from Don Riley.

11          MS. BURN-RILEY: No relation.

12          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: No relation, at least as  
13          far as we know. Mr. Riley is from Miramar  
14          Beach, and Judy, of course, is from Niceville.

15          MS. BURN-RILEY: I am from Niceville, born  
16          and raised in Okaloosa. First of all I just  
17          want to say thank you for coming here.

18          Personally, I haven't seen so many elected  
19          Democrats in Okaloosa County in, oh, too long,  
20          and therein lies the issue, I suppose.

21          I want to thank you also for not skipping  
22          Ft. Walton. I realize your Chair has a certain  
23          bit weight and usually they go from Pensacola  
24          to Panama City, and we have to travel if we  
25          want anybody to hear what we have to say. So I

1           really appreciate what -- that you are here.

2           I have the same thing to say in terms of  
3           the maps as has been said before. It is very  
4           hard -- I went on the website. I found it a  
5           little cumbersome quite frankly, and every  
6           place it said it is under construction, it is  
7           going to get better, trust us.

8           And so I will go back to it to try to see  
9           what kind of input I can put to -- and put in  
10          the numbers and see if we can get rid of the  
11          rat tails and the packing and the stacking and  
12          the things that have been done in the past.

13          I would caution you that the \$30 million  
14          as I understand is what the redistricting costs  
15          us, has been allotted in a budget that has  
16          taken money from teachers and from a lot of  
17          different areas that are very dear to our  
18          heart.

19          If that is an incorrect figure, I  
20          apologize, but there is a lot of money involved  
21          in the hearings that you are going around 26  
22          places in the state, and I would hope that, I  
23          don't know if, now that you have come to Ft.  
24          Walton, I don't care where you go, but if you  
25          -- if you can cut those down.

1           I am concerned about the timing, excuse  
2           me, but I am a little skeptical. When someone  
3           says they are dragging their feet because they  
4           don't want to get finished until it is so close  
5           to the deadline that they won't have lines in  
6           place.

7           So only an incumbent will have a real  
8           advantage or will have a certain advantage and  
9           that people who want to run won't know what the  
10          districts are, they won't know where the lines  
11          are, and a lot of time is being taken up by 26  
12          public hearings.

13          And while I applaud the openness, I would  
14          urge you to be ready on January when you do go,  
15          be ready with your committees. Don't -- don't  
16          -- don't make them right, make them wrong and  
17          that is what I would like to say, thank you.

18          CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
19          much, Judy. Appreciate your testimony, and  
20          next we will hear from Don Riley and following  
21          Mr. Riley will Susan Harris be on deck and  
22          ready, please.

23          Thank you, Mr. Riley, for being here, and  
24          you are recognized.

25          MR. RILEY: Thank you, sir. Thank you,

1       Senator Gaetz and the other members of the  
2       Committee, both for your public service as well  
3       as for allowing me to offer my thoughts here  
4       tonight regarding Florida's redistricting  
5       process.

6               My name is Don Riley, and I live in  
7       Miramar Beach. I am President of the Grand  
8       Dunes Condominium Association.

9               I have one simple request for the  
10       Committee. Please keep the legislative  
11       districts in northwest Florida as close as you  
12       can to where they are today.

13              Our Constitution requires that no district  
14       lines be drawn to favor or disfavor any  
15       political party or an incumbent, and to me the  
16       solution seems rather simple. Move the  
17       district lines as little as possible and little  
18       credence can be given to any charges that lines  
19       were moved for anyone's benefit.

20              Further, the current legislative district  
21       lines have worked well. In the Florida Senate,  
22       the similar towns along the Gulf of Mexico and  
23       south of the Eglin Reservation, such as Miramar  
24       Beach, Niceville, Shalimar, Navarre, Pensacola  
25       Beach have one Senator whom we like,

1           incidentally, Don Gaetz.

2           The similar towns in the northern  
3           panhandle, Milton, Defuniak Springs, Pace and  
4           Crestview are represented by Senator Evers.

5           Currently the boundary between Senator  
6           Gaetz and Senator Evers' districts runs  
7           parallel to the Gulf of Mexico as others have  
8           noted before me, creating a coastal district  
9           and a northern district.

10          And I think it is far preferable to having  
11          the boundary between their two districts  
12          running vertically, perpendicularly to the  
13          gulf, creating eastern and western districts  
14          instead.

15          Radically changing the district lines  
16          would be devastating to our coastal community  
17          interests and would weakened our representation  
18          in the Legislature, and it would similarly  
19          disserve the interests of our neighbors living  
20          in the northern part of this part of the  
21          Florida panhandle.

22          I would urge you, please, keep the  
23          district lines as they are now. Thank you.

24          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
25          Mr. Riley. We appreciate your testimony.

1       Next, Suzanne Harris, please, Ms. Harris, and  
2       following Ms. Harris, Ed Winkelseth. Suzanne,  
3       thank you for being here tonight and we  
4       appreciate your testimony before the Committee.  
5       You are recognized.

6               MS. HARRIS: Thank you. I want to thank  
7       all of ya'll for coming. I think it is a  
8       wonderful open process and that makes me feel  
9       so good about our government that people care  
10      to hear what we have to say.

11             My name is Suzanne Harris, and I am a  
12      Walton County resident, and I represent  
13      Edgewater Beach Condominium Association Resort.

14             As a local business woman I see how  
15      economically diverse the panhandle of Florida  
16      is. I live in a condominium on the Gulf Coast.

17             When I walk outside of my condominium and  
18      I stand on the beach and I look up and down the  
19      beach as far as I can see in any direction, I  
20      see like property of mine, condominiums, rental  
21      resorts, houses, but they are all basically the  
22      same.

23             If I were north of the bay I would see a  
24      totally different geographical dimension. I  
25      would see farm land instead of sand and I would

1       see cattle and chickens and I would see a lot  
2       of different things that are due to farming and  
3       not that relate to the sand and the beach and  
4       the tourist industry that we have here.

5               Currently the legislative districts are  
6       mostly drawn in a way that recognizes the  
7       uniqueness of our coastal areas. For example,  
8       Senator Gaetz is my Senator. He is always  
9       there for the coastal community. It doesn't  
10      matter when we ask him to come, day or night,  
11      he is always available. Most of us have his  
12      cell phone number plugged into our cell phone  
13      and I can tell you, he will tell you, I have  
14      called him many a night saying, help, we need  
15      something done for us.

16             He understands our district. His district  
17      line is along the coast from Pensacola, Ft.  
18      Walton, Destin, South Walton and into Panama  
19      City. He understands us. I can't say that to  
20      you enough.

21             Likewise, Senator Evers represents the  
22      northern portion of Walton County, along with  
23      the northern portions of our panhandle  
24      counties.

25             This should not change. Please, I am



1        begging you, do not replace the current  
2        district lines with a strict adherence to  
3        county boundaries, instead, link together the  
4        cities, the towns and the communities along the  
5        coast wherever possible for Legislative and  
6        Congressional Districts.

7                This will also allow you to link together  
8        communities in the northern panhandle that  
9        share the same economic interests.

10               The Florida Constitution requires the  
11        Legislature to respect geographical boundaries  
12        when drawing districts. In the Florida  
13        panhandle the most significant boundary is  
14        created by the vast land owned by the United  
15        States Department of Defense north of Freeport,  
16        Niceville and Navarre.

17               If the Legislature will draw the districts  
18        either north or south of the military land, the  
19        district community south along the coast and  
20        north along the Alabama border will be best  
21        represented.

22               I thank all of you. I used to live in Ft.  
23        Myers, Florida, I still have a condo in Sanibel  
24        Island, so I am very familiar with your  
25        district.

1           I just came back from Palm Beach, not West  
2           Palm, but Palm Beach, and I think all of ya'll  
3           that live along there understand that everybody  
4           doesn't have the same interest, and the beach  
5           communities are only interested in bringing  
6           tourism here and prospering for businesses and  
7           the northern part of our district is interested  
8           in totally different areas, and it would be  
9           such a shame to combine them.

10           Now, I am going to leave you with one last  
11           thing. I live in Walton County on the beach.  
12           All of my County Commissioners live over an  
13           hour away from Walton County that represent  
14           Walton County.

15           It is very hard when you go to a County  
16           Commissioner meeting in Walton County and you  
17           have people from Paxton and Mosey Head and  
18           Freeport on the Commission. They don't really  
19           have the true understanding, and I can tell you  
20           this firsthand because I am also on the Tourist  
21           Development Council of Walton County.

22           I can tell you firsthand, it is very  
23           difficult for them to understand the problems  
24           that we in the beach front communities have.  
25           Thank you.

1           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
2           Suzanne. Mr. Winkelseth, please, and following  
3           Ed, Brenda Hall, Brenda Hall would be on deck,  
4           please. Mr. Winkelseth, thank you for being  
5           here.

6           MR. WINKELSETH: I am Ed Winkelseth, I  
7           live over in Shalimar. I appreciate seeing all  
8           of you folks. I am a 31-year -- 31 and-a-half  
9           years in the military taught me to have fun.  
10          So I am going to throw a hand grenade just like  
11          I did at the staff meetings, and say I disagree  
12          with all of the folks.

13          I believe in vertical alignment of the  
14          counties. All I -- I live in the south end and  
15          all I hear about is the beaches and we got to  
16          refurbish the beaches, and we got to do this  
17          for the tourists.

18          I believe if our Representatives are  
19          representing north to south in the county, they  
20          will learn the south part. They will know the  
21          north part, and they will be fighting for their  
22          whole counties.

23          I have got things drawn up just with  
24          numbers. I won't hit a whole lot, but the big  
25          thing is, Escambia County has got two

1           Representatives.

2           It would be slightly less than the ideal  
3           district population. Hopefully the Committee  
4           is smart enough to realize ideal is something  
5           to go with.

6           Somebody like Matt, he picked, he would be  
7           24,000 people over, but he is young and he can  
8           handle that kind of thing. Brad Drake, he  
9           wouldn't have to run out to see Al. I wouldn't  
10          want to go see Al anyhow, but I have laid it  
11          out, I have laid out the numbers. I have laid  
12          out the differences.

13          The biggest thing is, we are counties, our  
14          Representatives should be fighting for the  
15          whole county, not for the beach people, not for  
16          the tourism.

17          We have got people that live here year  
18          round, and I did the same thing with the  
19          Senators' list and I changed the one for  
20          Congressman Miller, took one county away so  
21          maybe he will be available to conduct Town Hall  
22          meetings in our various counties.

23          Like I say, I just believe we got to get  
24          over this north end of the county and south  
25          end. I went to high school in that quote,

1 unquote, conservative district down there in  
2 Broward County, south Broward. I learned  
3 enough to get out of Florida because them  
4 people are flaming Liberal.

5 No offense to you flaming Liberals on the  
6 panel, and I went in the military for 31  
7 and-a-half years and then eight and-a-half  
8 years civil service. I screamed at the TV and  
9 I did everything.

10 When I finally retired I ran into guys  
11 like Henry. We still disagree a lot. Al, the  
12 other folks, folks in the Republican Party, and  
13 I decided to get involved.

14 Five years ago you wouldn't have seen me  
15 at one of these meetings. I would have been  
16 sitting home drinking a beer and cussing you  
17 people out for not doing what I think should be  
18 done. So as a result I have laid it out.

19 You can look at it, Henry will probably  
20 crucify me when I leave here but that is  
21 another story.

22 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Ed, thank you very much.

23 MR. WINKELSETH: I have got it on a USB,  
24 too.

25 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Okay. Thank you, thank

1           you, and we will make this information  
2           available to all members of the public.

3           Brenda Hall is next. Can we have a little  
4           order there in south Florida? Thank you.

5           Brenda Hall is next and following  
6           Ms. Hall, Mayor Sam Seevers from the City of  
7           Destin.

8           Brenda, you are recognized. Thank you for  
9           being here tonight.

10          MS. HALL: Brenda Hall. I have lived in  
11          this area for 45 years, and I would like to  
12          reiterate just a little bit about the maps not  
13          being available and the public hearings before  
14          the maps.

15          I think the public has already voted and  
16          provided you with the guidelines for  
17          redistricting. We paid for the software and  
18          these engineers that are going to run it to  
19          build new districts.

20          Until you provide the maps for comment,  
21          this hearing process is a waste of precious  
22          time and money. However, I would like to use  
23          some of you time and my money.

24          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Yes, for a sham it is  
25          pretty well attended.

1           MS. HALL: Well, it is a shame, because on  
2           June 8th, I would like to remind you that you  
3           came and met with the Democrat Women's Club and  
4           that you agreed that we would have hearings  
5           like this after the maps were made.

6           So I just wanted to remind you that you  
7           made that commitment, and -- but what I would  
8           like to tell you all is what hasn't been said  
9           is that what we voted for, what the public  
10          voted for, what the citizens wanted was a fair  
11          process.

12          I think that came out in fair districting,  
13          and what we feel is always seems to be the most  
14          important thing to you folks in the Legislature  
15          is what the party wants, not what the citizens  
16          want.

17          It is what the party wants, and I am here  
18          to say that if -- and Mr. Gaetz said that when  
19          his Senate Committee took this up we would not  
20          be using party modifiers in deciding who was  
21          going to go in which little box on the page.

22          And I would like some sort of a commitment  
23          from the House of Representatives that they  
24          would do the same thing.

25          If we don't have -- if we take away and

1       make ourselves color blind to red or blue, I  
2       think that everybody in the state would agree  
3       that they are getting a fair process.

4               We are just working with numbers. I  
5       realize that we have to work with other  
6       modifiers. We have to work with  
7       African-American and Hispanic modifiers, but  
8       there is nowhere in our Constitution that says  
9       we have to work with Republicans, Democrats,  
10      Independent modifiers.

11             So if we just got rid of those modifiers I  
12      feel like we would get fair districts. We  
13      would get rid of all of those little tail ends,  
14      those little rat ends, those little squirrels  
15      over on the side, and I think that both our  
16      Legislators and the citizens would be happier,  
17      and I know the Supervisor of Elections would be  
18      a lot happier.

19             So that is my comment and I would like to  
20      thank you.

21             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
22      Ms. Hall. We appreciate your testimony. Next  
23      we will hear from Mayor Sam Seevers from the  
24      City of Destin and following the Mayor, William  
25      White, please.



1           Madam Mayor, thank you for being here and  
2           you are recognized.

3           MAYOR SEEVERS: Thank you so much for  
4           allowing me this opportunity to speak. First  
5           of all I would like to thank each and every one  
6           of you guys for all of the time that you are  
7           spending up here and hopefully you will be able  
8           to go fishing in the morning, red snapper are  
9           biting right now like crazy. So if you get  
10          that opportunity, do that and we have got  
11          fabulous restaurants all over this area, so  
12          please take advantage of it. We could  
13          certainly use the income, especially after the  
14          oil spill last year.

15          Senator Gaetz, again, thank you so much  
16          for your leadership on this Committee. We  
17          greatly appreciate it. On behalf of the Destin  
18          City Council, we respectfully request that in  
19          our city, our small city of 12,305 people, that  
20          we have one House District, one Congressional  
21          District and one Senate District.

22          Even though we are a very, very small  
23          city, an example of one of the issues that we  
24          have is Congressman Southerland has about 19  
25          homes in our city in his district, and

1           Congressman Miller has all of the rest.

2           It may not -- it may seem like a really  
3           good thing, having all of that representation,  
4           but what happens is when individual citizens go  
5           to vote, they get very confused. And in our  
6           last election we had people standing in City  
7           Hall wanting to know why they couldn't vote  
8           when their neighbors across the street voted,  
9           you know, for certain individuals and it just  
10          makes it difficult.

11          And if you look on the maps it is really  
12          interesting how they have these little tiny  
13          juggernauts drawn on it. So we are just asking  
14          it to clean it up, no one is asking for a  
15          particular person, a particular party,  
16          anything, just that the City of Destin is under  
17          one House District, under one Senate District  
18          and under one Congressional District.

19          So I appreciate your time this evening and  
20          you guys have a good night.

21          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Madam Mayor,  
22          we appreciate your testimony. William White is  
23          next and following Mr. White's testimony, we  
24          will hear from Mary Nielsan.

25          Mr. White, thank you for being here, and

1           you are recognized.

2           MR. WHITE: My pleasure. Just as a favor  
3           to me, would all of the Democrats on the panel  
4           please raise your left hands? Okay. That  
5           wasn't exactly an aphrodisiac, but as a Liberal  
6           who has lived in Okaloosa County for 35 years I  
7           can assure you it is a difficult row to hoe.

8           What I would like to say, it is probably  
9           early on in the game if we were to really  
10          change the system out of this castle like  
11          grotesqueries that get to be districts  
12          sometimes and we have got a lot, a lot more  
13          shovels full after tonight.

14          Perhaps seeing as no one can comment, I  
15          would just like to ask the question  
16          rhetorically, perhaps if we were sinical we  
17          would say what we are doing here tonight is  
18          rearranging the seats on the Titanic.

19          Particularly in a nation where democracy  
20          has been shredded to the point where, for  
21          example, it takes \$80 million to run for a  
22          Senate Seat.

23          We are missing something, and I hope that  
24          when it all comes out in the wash, mixes into  
25          your equation, because the popular

1 misconception is that, you know, we do have the  
2 best government money can buy. Let's prove  
3 they are wrong. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
5 Mr. White. We appreciate your testimony. Mary  
6 Nielsan is next and following Ms. Nielsan, Jim  
7 Bagby, also with the City of Destin.

8 Ms. Nielsan, you are recognized. Thank  
9 you for being here.

10 MS. NIELSAN: Thank you, thank you. Thank  
11 you all for coming. This is a wonderful  
12 opportunity. My name is Mary Nielsan, and I am  
13 a resident of Walton County, in a community  
14 along the beaches of south Walton.

15 We would like, many of us in this area  
16 would like to have our beaches along the Gulf  
17 of Mexico more contiguous with our  
18 representation, and although that differs for  
19 many people who spoke earlier, I believe that  
20 there is opportunity to align things more  
21 horizontally as compared to vertically.

22 I don't see that. Another gentleman spoke  
23 about it being incongruous and we should all  
24 run north, south, but there is opportunity to  
25 be had by those communities that differ so

1           greatly amongst themselves from the north to  
2           the south.

3           So sometimes you can look at something  
4           that seems wrong or seems to be divisive, and  
5           instead, you can take that and make a wonderful  
6           opportunity out of it. So I would like our  
7           leaders to be along the beaches where they have  
8           common interest, common problems, and they are  
9           working with all of these communities towards a  
10          similar goal instead of being fractionated.

11          So that was my theory and I think we  
12          should look horizontally a little bit. Thank  
13          you.

14          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
15          Ms. Nielsan. We appreciate your testimony, and  
16          Jim Bagby, a member of the City Council, City  
17          of Destin, thank you for your service to our  
18          community, and you are recognized.

19          COUNCILMAN BAGBY: Well, thank you,  
20          Senator Gaetz, and I want to thank you. One  
21          thing you didn't mention is you were  
22          Dr. Tibbett's predecessor, and one of the  
23          reasons we have great schools in this county is  
24          in large part due to your efforts and your work  
25          and I just wanted to thank you for everything

1       you have done for this county and for this  
2       school in particular where two of my daughters  
3       graduated.

4               I would like to thank all of you for  
5       coming from all across the state to take time  
6       out of your busy summer schedule. Some of you  
7       may be off or whatever, and to come and just  
8       spend a little time with us to learn our  
9       interests, I appreciate it.

10              My name is Jim Bagby. I do sit on the  
11       Destin City Council, our Mayor, our beautiful  
12       Mayor, just spoke. I am also -- that is my non  
13       paying job.

14              My paying job is I am the Town Manager of  
15       Rosemary Beach, a little community down in  
16       Walton County, as another bench front community  
17       and so I go about 30 miles every day along the  
18       beach, along the beautiful beaches of northwest  
19       Florida.

20              And your job is difficult. I know it is,  
21       because you have a lot of things you have to  
22       deal with. You have to balance populations,  
23       you have to look at geographic boundaries, you  
24       have to make sure everything is contiguous.

25              You have to protect the rights of

1 minorities, you have to look at communities of  
2 common interest and existing political  
3 boundaries and make sure these districts are  
4 compact, and a million other things, and I  
5 understand that.

6           You know, Representative Ford would  
7 understand where Mayor Seever and I are coming  
8 from as a former member of the Florida League  
9 of Cities, because Destin is, we have got 12 or  
10 13,000 people, and I live in Steve  
11 Southerland's Congressional District, and I am  
12 happy to live in Steve Southerland's  
13 Congressional District and I live in Marti  
14 Coley's House District.

15           And I am glad to live in Marti Coley's  
16 House District, even though she lives about two  
17 hours east of me, okay, but if I go about a  
18 mile to the west of me I would be in Matt  
19 Gaetz's, excuse me, Legislative District, and I  
20 would be in Jeff Miller's Congressional  
21 District.

22           And a town that small shouldn't be split  
23 that many ways, that many times. And so I  
24 would ask you to really look at putting all of  
25 Destin in one district.

1           The other thing I would ask you to do is  
2       put a lot of weight on these communities of  
3       common interest. I think there have been some  
4       people that alluded to it, you know, if you  
5       represent a beach community in south Florida,  
6       just think if you went due east or due west for  
7       40 miles into that, into the heartland of  
8       Florida as opposed to right there in Pinellas  
9       County or around the Tampa Bay or whatever.

10           Entirely different issue, entirely  
11       different issues being dealt with by those  
12       Representatives.

13           We have three main communities of interest  
14       in northwest Florida. We have our agriculture  
15       on the north, we have our military slash  
16       industrial, but mainly military in the center  
17       and we do have our tourism, and while I respect  
18       the gentleman's view that, well, you know, just  
19       keep it in Okaloosa County or keep it in Santa  
20       Rosa County, that makes your job harder, okay,  
21       because that makes you a mile wide and a  
22       quarter of an inch thin, when you are trying to  
23       represent interests, our interests in  
24       Tallahassee and you have to be an expert in  
25       military affairs, you have to be an expert in



1       tourism, you have to be an expert in  
2       agriculture.

3               You have to be an expert in 40 other  
4       different topics, that, that is not fair to you  
5       and that is not fair to us, fair to us, the  
6       people that we -- you are representing.

7               So I would ask that you not spread  
8       yourself too thin, that you keep Senator Evers  
9       in the north who does a great job representing  
10       agricultural interests and the interest of our  
11       farmers, and you keep Senator Gaetz in the  
12       south representing the beach communities, the  
13       military and they both do a great job with the  
14       military, but we are communities of common  
15       interest and I just ask that you put at least  
16       as much weight, if not more on that, than you  
17       do on some artificial geographic boundary that  
18       was created 150 years ago. Thank you very  
19       much.

20              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
21       Councilman. Next we will hear from Charlotte  
22       Flynt, and after Ms. Flynt speaks we will hear  
23       from Christy Walker, please.

24              Ms. Flynt, I am sorry, I didn't give  
25       Ms. Flynt as much warning as I would have

1       liked, but we are delighted to have you here,  
2       and we welcome your testimony. You are  
3       recognized.

4               MS. FLYNT: My name is Charlotte Flynt. I  
5       am in Precinct 29, Walton County, and a lot of  
6       things have been said tonight and I concur with  
7       the vast majority of them, but I do hope that  
8       you will also keep your hearts that in the  
9       south part of the counties not only do we have  
10      tourism, we have permanent residents, too, who  
11      fund these counties. Thank you.

12             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
13      Ms. Flynt. Christy Walker, Ms. Walker?

14             MS. WALKER: I will pass, thank you.

15             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
16      Ms. Walker, thanks for being here tonight.

17             Next, Morgan Doolittle and following  
18      Morgan Doolittle, and I think it is Ann, is it  
19      Ann Hering, yes, it is. Morgan Doolittle.

20             Thank you very much for being here,  
21      Mr. Doolittle, and we appreciate your testimony  
22      and you are recognized.

23             MR. DOOLITTLE: Well, I actually live in  
24      Panama City, Florida, but I work over here in  
25      Okaloosa County, and I probably wouldn't have

1       come up and said anything, but I wanted to go  
2       on record saying thank you very much for doing  
3       this.

4               But also I wanted to support that the  
5       Council member's testimony there from Destin.  
6       I have heard a lot of different ideas about the  
7       vertical separation and all of the ways to  
8       break the districts down, but I would also like  
9       to, I guess ask that when we do go through this  
10      redistricting process, that we -- we cut off  
11      those little tidbits, and, you know, you know,  
12      like how neighborhoods have sort of been broken  
13      up.

14             And I think that is, when you look at some  
15      of these maps, you wonder how were these drawn  
16      and maybe ya'll weren't there. I think when  
17      you look at them yourselves, and you go, well,  
18      some of this needs to be fixed obviously, and I  
19      would just like to go on record as requesting  
20      that and supporting his testimony right there.  
21      That was excellent.

22             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Doolittle.  
23      We appreciate it. And for the record, none of  
24      us were here. That is a great thing about term  
25      limits, we can blame our predecessors and our

1 successors. Ann Hering, Ms. Hering? We will  
2 come back to Ann Hering if she had to step out  
3 for a moment.

4 Next, Brenda Rees, Ms. Rees. It is great  
5 to see you again and thank you very much for  
6 being here tonight. You are recognized to  
7 speak before the Committee, and following  
8 Ms. Rees by the way, is Vickie Ritchson.  
9 Ms. Ritchson, if you could be on deck.

10 MS. REESE: Thank you, Senator Gaetz and  
11 Committee members and Representatives. I am a  
12 Walton County native. I was born in Defuniak  
13 Springs but I live on the beach off of 30A in  
14 South Walton, so I know the area well.

15 I also would like to let you know that  
16 haven't been here before that Walton County is  
17 the eighth county created in Florida, nearly  
18 200 years old.

19 But thank you for holding these 26 or so  
20 redistricting meetings across the state. They  
21 are very helpful and will help Floridians and  
22 you as we craft our fair districts.

23 I would like to ask you to consider  
24 perhaps adding two or five super regional  
25 meetings at the end so that those of us that

1       are here early might benefit from all of the 26  
2       Committee groups that testify so that we might  
3       update our comments somewhat.

4               You have provided maps and I thank you.  
5       By taking these current maps into consideration  
6       with the census numbers and extensive  
7       redistricting guidelines, an individual can  
8       quickly see where some changes need to be made.

9               Congressional District I is 2,000 short,  
10       and Congressional District II is 45,000 over.  
11       That is 696,000 ideal district. Obviously,  
12       changes need to be made.

13              You have also offered generous tools for  
14       individuals to construct their own maps. I  
15       hope to do so soon. Thank you.

16              A quick look at the State House and Senate  
17       maps you have provided, along with the numbers  
18       indicate change. The 10 percent deviation  
19       should be utilized here. Thomas Hanna was a  
20       Speaker of the House, by the way, from Pointe  
21       Washington, some of you might know that.

22              Congressional District I should take back  
23       Blue Water Bay and consolidate as much as  
24       Okaloosa County as possible. Congressional  
25       District II may need to continue to look to its

1 historical roots. South Walton even has a long  
2 history of being with the county next to it,  
3 Bay County for a long time.

4 So keeping South Walton with Congressional  
5 District II would meet not only the new state  
6 requirements of compactness, but also Federal  
7 redistricting guidelines of ensuring one  
8 person, one vote. Following the Voting Rights  
9 Act of 1964, as amended in 1965, being compact  
10 and contiguous to name some of the guidelines  
11 used for many years in case law by the United  
12 States Department of Justice.

13 Two new areas that are very blue, this is  
14 a map that I printed off your website so it is  
15 very helpful to go on to that Florida  
16 Redistricting.org and people can go to that and  
17 print material and see all of the very helpful  
18 U-Tube explanations of how to draw their maps.

19 But if you look on this map, it is very  
20 obvious, there is a very blue area that is  
21 extremely over populated that the new  
22 Congressional Districts, perhaps one of them  
23 may need to come from that area. Maybe the  
24 Orlando and the Tampa areas particularly look  
25 like that is where you might need to be working

1 on those Congressional Districts.

2 It is practicable to make substantive  
3 comments now. It will be good to wait and see  
4 what some of the citizens come up with in areas  
5 we aren't familiar with, especially the House  
6 and Senate Districts where we can have a  
7 10 percent deviation.

8 In the Congressional Districts it might be  
9 a little bit hard because there is only that  
10 one vote that separates them. So once you get  
11 to Pensacola you can't go any further west, and  
12 so, but again, with the State and House Seats  
13 having a 10 percent deviation, that will help  
14 us later on to do that.

15 So I look forward to meeting you with  
16 again and participating and continuing dialogue  
17 to produce a fair redistricting plan for  
18 Florida. Thank you very much.

19 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
20 Ms. Rees, and Ms. Rees makes a good point when  
21 she asks about being able to update your  
22 comments based on information that might be  
23 presented on the web, or presented by  
24 Legislators in Committee.

25 You will have the opportunity to do that

1       either by e-mail and the e-mail lists e-mail  
2       addresses for the Senate and House Committees  
3       are listed on the brochure that you got when  
4       you came in, or the Snail Mail addresses are  
5       listed as well.

6               And as a previous speaker from the  
7       Democratic Committee indicated, there will be  
8       additional opportunities for public input after  
9       these hearings are concluded and after maps are  
10      presented.

11             Thank you very much, Ms. Rees.  
12      Ms. Ritchson, it is good to see you again.

13             MS. RITCHSON: It is good to see you  
14      again, Senator Gaetz.

15             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And thank you very much  
16      for being here. You are recognized.

17             MS. RITCHSON: Thank you. I am Vickie  
18      Ritchson and I am a concerned citizen. That is  
19      how I am here today. I live in the city of  
20      Niceville.

21             I happen to be running for the City  
22      Council in the election in July, but I am just  
23      here as a citizen right now.

24             I just read the article in the newspaper  
25      that Senator Gaetz had put in and felt like I



1       needed to be here and be involved, and I want  
2       to thank you for this opportunity and I want to  
3       say, you know, I hadn't come here with any  
4       preconceived notions, but it is wonderful to  
5       listen to the people's perspectives to gather  
6       my knowledge to be able to go later to the  
7       website and give an informed opinion.

8               And I was listening to the vertical and  
9       horizontal and I can see both points, and I was  
10      thinking that it might be difficult if some  
11      line took Eglin and split it down the middle,  
12      that you might have two Representatives working  
13      together, but at the same time you might end up  
14      with two people butting heads.

15             And so in that respect I could see that  
16      boundary lines being continuous in a certain  
17      like category would make it much easier for  
18      representation, making -- I draw maps for my  
19      job.

20             I work for a contractor on Base, and part  
21      of what I do is draw footprints for the  
22      missions out on the property that they do, and  
23      in that I do a lot of map drawing. So I am  
24      looking forward to going out to your software  
25      and playing with it, and I do know it is much

1 easier for me to draw to boundaries that are  
2 locateable, a river, a road, an air space,  
3 county line.

4 And that makes sense to me, and most  
5 cities are not split by county lines. So  
6 following, following boundaries makes sense to  
7 not split groups of people with like interests.

8 I had a misconception maybe like other  
9 people that the last time we had a  
10 redistricting, that it was a power play for  
11 political power play to grab new areas with new  
12 people and for there to be a juggling of  
13 Republican and Democratic powers, and I feel  
14 like your process here is going to be a more  
15 transparent process that will prevent people  
16 from feeling that they are being over powered  
17 by some political game.

18 The logical lines, the military presence,  
19 the beaches and tourist industry are all  
20 pertinent things to consider, and I will be  
21 taking the rest of the comments that come today  
22 and what you present for us in software and  
23 maps, and I will be involved in that and make  
24 some comments at a later time that where I have  
25 an informed decision.

1           But I do appreciate the process you have  
2           here, opening it up to just normal people as  
3           well as power -- people in power for the cities  
4           and the Representatives, but I was just very  
5           impressed that there were so many of you who  
6           came out tonight for us.

7           CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
8           Ms. Ritchson, appreciate it very much. Next we  
9           will hear from Aaron Thrush, Aaron Thrush, and  
10          following Aaron Thrush, from Jeanne Ashley,  
11          please. Mr. Thrush, are you here?

12          MR. THRUSH: I pass.

13          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir,  
14          for being here tonight. Jeanne Ashley,  
15          Ms. Ashley, and following Ms. Ashley, Ben  
16          White, Mr. White. If you will be on deck.

17          Ms. Ashley, thank you for being here, you  
18          are recognized.

19          MS. ASHLEY: Thank you, I appreciate it.  
20          I have lived all over the country, mostly in  
21          cities, so I have not really been part of the  
22          gerrymandering until now, and I found out  
23          accidentally the night before we were to vote  
24          for our delegates, I had been, immediately when  
25          I moved here, registered to vote, joined a

1 political party, got to know the people, was  
2 anxious to vote for the delegates.

3 The night before I was to go to Crestview  
4 I thought I found out that I was in that little  
5 split of land right off of 98 that is in a  
6 totally different district.

7 And then I was expected to go to  
8 Tallahassee to vote for people I have never met  
9 and had no clue, you know, who they were and  
10 certainly was going to be out voted.

11 I felt disenfranchised. I felt taken,  
12 really. I understand that the beach issues are  
13 much different from the northern part, and I  
14 would like to keep that maintained, but to have  
15 an area so spread out that you go from Destin  
16 to Tallahassee, that gives us no representation  
17 whatsoever.

18 We are totally outvoted. So if you can  
19 possibly do something with, I don't know,  
20 Walton, Okaloosa, maybe even closer to  
21 Pensacola, at least it is not 150 miles away,  
22 you know, I would very much like to have a  
23 personal relationship with my representation  
24 rather than somebody who is way off in the wild  
25 somewhere. Thank you very much. Appreciate

1           it.

2           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Ashley.  
3           We appreciate you being here tonight. Next may  
4           we please hear from Ben White? Ben White?

5           Mr. White, thank you for coming all the  
6           way down from Crestview. We appreciate you  
7           being here, and you are recognized.

8           MR. WHITE: Thank you, Representatives,  
9           and Senators as well, that make up our  
10          government for the State of Florida.

11          One of the things from representing the  
12          North Okaloosa Republican Club in Crestview,  
13          one of the things that the north looks at if  
14          you sat in the middle of 85, on the left is  
15          Brad Drake, I mean, on the right is Brad Drake  
16          and on the left is Doug Broxson, and then we  
17          have Senator Evers.

18          One of the three common, one of the common  
19          denominator between those three Representatives  
20          is they all live in our district. They know  
21          what we are dealing with. They understand it.

22          If I go to the south I do have Matt Gaetz,  
23          Mr. Gaetz, and Don Gaetz, that represent the  
24          south.

25          They live down there. They understand the

1 rules and problems that those individuals have.  
2 So being in Crestview, it doesn't matter  
3 whether you turn right or turn left, those two  
4 individuals understand the north end of the  
5 county.

6 They live it, they understand it, most of  
7 them is also born and raised in that area, or  
8 grown up from there. I moved in from Crestview  
9 from Panama City Beach after serving 23 years  
10 in the military and I made it my home, but I  
11 can talk to all three of those individuals and  
12 they all understand what we are going through.

13 Now, if you do go vertical, not to say  
14 Mr. Gaetz isn't a smart man, but his whole idea  
15 is that the tourist industry down there and he  
16 can flip it down there, but at the same token I  
17 want to say this, every one of you represent  
18 every one of us.

19 At the end of the day it is your vote that  
20 represents the State of Florida, whether you  
21 are a Liberal, whether you are a Democrat,  
22 whether you are a Republican or Conservative,  
23 whatever it be, we are looking for you to lead  
24 the State of Florida, so thank you, sir.

25 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,

1       Mr. White, we appreciate you. Our next two  
2       testifiers are Mike Brown and Kim Christopher.  
3       Mike Brown and then if Kim Christopher would be  
4       on deck, please.

5               Mr. Brown? Mike Brown? If not, Kim  
6       Christopher, are you ready? May we take you  
7       next? And following Kim Christopher we will  
8       hear from Diana Van Oeveren.

9               MS. CHRISTOPHER: Good evening. Thank you  
10      all for being here. I really appreciate seeing  
11      all of these great faces. I know what you do  
12      for us is a tough job, it is a good job and  
13      often not rewarding.

14              What you are doing here should be very  
15      rewarding for what you are doing for the state  
16      of Florida and the citizenry.

17              I have lived in Florida since 1986. I  
18      married a native. I came from Texas and I now  
19      call myself a Floridian after all these years,  
20      and Senator Montford, thank you, I have a  
21      doctor in my family because of you as  
22      Superintendent of Leon County Schools.

23              I have been through this process three  
24      times. this is the third time since 1986.  
25      This is probably the most clear and fluid

1 process since I have watched it happen, and I  
2 know that the media, the system is better, more  
3 transparent because we do have things like the  
4 Internet.

5 We do have more conversation, we do have  
6 hopefully all of the papers on board, but one  
7 thing that I noticed when they were doing the  
8 census, I own a piece of rental property. When  
9 they did the census they counted my renter.

10 My renter no longer lives in the State of  
11 Florida. That happens frequently when you are  
12 in areas that surround military bases. It is a  
13 very transient population that I don't think  
14 has been considered.

15 The renters that I have currently will not  
16 be here to vote in the next election, though  
17 they are registered to vote. They are required  
18 by their military mission for their time here.

19 That is causing issues that I can see. We  
20 have across the state of Florida, specifically  
21 the panhandle, a large number of people that  
22 are on a limited military mission. It could be  
23 as short as eight months, or as long as 18 to  
24 24 months.

25 Those are for the people being trained in



1       the special missions at Eglin, Tyndall, White,  
2       name them all.

3               I would ask, caution you to please  
4       consider that demographic when you are drawing  
5       these lines, because what we are having now is  
6       the influx coming from the new mission at Eglin  
7       of a large number of people.

8               Those persons were not counted in the  
9       census. So your numbers immediately are  
10      inaccurate. So with that I would thank you  
11      very much again for your time for being here,  
12      for your tremendous effort and I look forward  
13      to following your progress. Thank you.

14              CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
15      Ms. Christopher. Thank you very much. Very  
16      thoughtful testimony. Diana, are you ready?  
17      Very good, and following Diana, Dick Troop.  
18      Thank you for being here tonight and you are  
19      recognized.

20              MS. VAN OEVEREN: Diana Van Oeveren, I  
21      live in Destin, and I would like to reiterate  
22      what Mayor Seever and our Destin Councilman  
23      said about a small community that usually talks  
24      to each other should be able to talk to each  
25      other about who to vote for, and it didn't work

1           this time, either in the House race or the  
2           Congressional race.

3                 So, and as an example, I wanted to talk  
4           only about House District 7, Marti Coley's  
5           district. It would be 106 miles for a Destin  
6           constituent to drive to Marianna to contact  
7           Ms. Coley about anything.

8                 If you went 100 miles in the other  
9           direction or north, you would be in Alabama.  
10          So I think you ought to keep that in mind.

11                The media covers areas perhaps differently  
12          than county lines, differently than district  
13          lines, but I think that may be something that  
14          you should consider as much as you can. Is  
15          Ms. Coley covered in the Panama City or the  
16          Marianna paper? I don't know, because I don't  
17          even have access to those papers unless I can  
18          find them on-line. They are not sold in  
19          Destin.

20                Our local newspaper tries to cover about  
21          three counties, but that is only about half of  
22          Marti Coley's district. Her district includes  
23          nine counties. The main parts of two and lots  
24          of little pieces of seven others, I believe.

25                So I think that is something you should

1       consider. The compactness just is not there.  
2       Horizontal districts could be more compact,  
3       vertical districts could be more compact in a  
4       different way, but right now we have got these  
5       little tails and Destin got caught in two of  
6       the tails.

7             The suburbs of Marianna, for an example,  
8       don't even have Marti Coley as their  
9       representative. They are in another district.  
10      So give her all of Marianna and take us off and  
11      add us to somebody else.

12            The same thing happens in Tallahassee with  
13      Steve Southerland's district. Their  
14      Congressman on the east side of Tallahassee is  
15      not Steve Southerland. He is the Congressman  
16      only for a piece of Tallahassee. So I think  
17      you ought to keep that in mind and when you get  
18      to Tallahassee or near Marianna I am sure they  
19      will be addressing these issues in the same  
20      way. Thank you.

21            CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very  
22      much. We appreciate your testimony. Dick  
23      Troop is next and following Mr. Troop is Sabu  
24      Williams from the Okaloosa County NAACP.  
25      Mr. Troop.

1           MR. TROOP: The first thing I would like  
2           to thank everybody that came from the long  
3           distances to be with us tonight. I know you  
4           would rather be somewhere else.

5           Something that came up early in the  
6           meeting was a discussion of the imaging  
7           software, and as I look around, I am happy to  
8           see some young people in the group.

9           There is also some of us older folks, and  
10          so I started with software when new versions  
11          come out. You have imaging software, as I  
12          understand it, that is, you know, being built  
13          now and so I would like to know that every one  
14          of you, all of the Representatives, can turn on  
15          your computer, boot up the software, go through  
16          and run the software and show how the lines are  
17          manipulated north, south, east or west.

18          And it is fine to get help from your staff  
19          to learn it, you know, that is part of the  
20          game, but I would like to know if you come in  
21          by yourself in the morning at 7:00 o'clock, you  
22          got it up and you can see how the numbers move  
23          around. Thank you.

24          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
25          Mr. Troop. I will tell you, Mr. Troop, that

1       when this software was first developed we did  
2       get an orientation and we got individual  
3       tutoring. So if we don't know how to do it, it  
4       is our fault. Sabu Williams, Mr. Williams, and  
5       following Mr. Williams we will go back to those  
6       individuals who we called earlier who were not  
7       able to be present. Perhaps they were out of  
8       the room.

9               Mr. Williams, thank you for being here.  
10       You are recognized.

11              MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you for having me,  
12       Senator Gaetz and I thank all of you for being  
13       here. I just walked in the door and somewhat  
14       just got home from New York and thought I had  
15       to be here and I wanted to make sure that the  
16       NAACP's points were made clear to this  
17       Committee in terms of how we feel about  
18       redistricting.

19              Number one the state of Florida we believe  
20       should ensure transparency and fairness in  
21       compliance with the Voting Rights Act and with  
22       equal protection. You should ensure one  
23       person, one vote. You should redistrict in a  
24       way that avoids minority vote delusion and you  
25       should avoid drawing district lines so that the

1 minority population is over concentrated or  
2 packed into election districts.

3 You should also be careful to avoid  
4 cracking or fracturing, if you will, which is  
5 drawing district lines so that an area of  
6 concentrated, concentrated minority population  
7 which is large enough for separate  
8 representation in that it could constitute one  
9 or more majority, minority or majority black  
10 districts is divided and spread among several  
11 districts that are predominantly White.

12 You should be careful to avoid stacking,  
13 which is drawing district lines so that a large  
14 minority population concentration is included  
15 with a larger white population with a purpose  
16 or effect of depriving minority voters of a  
17 voting majority.

18 We also respectfully request that you  
19 avoid drawing plans that erode minority rights  
20 relative to the status quo. That is, that you  
21 avoid creating retrogressive redistricting  
22 plans.

23 A key traditional redistricting principles  
24 to respect for communities of interest. These  
25 are defined by three characteristics, the

1 extent to which non members identify members as  
2 a distinct community. The extent to which  
3 members identify themselves as a distinct  
4 community, and the extent to which members are  
5 similarly affected by governmental action.

6 African-American citizens form one of the  
7 strongest communities of interest in this  
8 state, and the redistricting plan should have  
9 as a priority the fashioning of districts that  
10 accord appropriate representation to  
11 communities of interest.

12 We are aware of the redistricting  
13 principles outlined in Sections 20 and 21 of  
14 the Florida Constitution and they must be  
15 adhered to. Specifically, it says, districts  
16 should not be drawn with the intent or result  
17 of denying or abridging the equal opportunity  
18 of racial or language minorities to participate  
19 in the political process, or to diminish their  
20 ability to elect representatives of their  
21 choice.

22 In addition, districts shall be compact  
23 and contiguous. Additionally, we want to  
24 ensure that the long established principles by  
25 the Constitution and the Voting Rights Act of

1       1965 are continued, such as, ensuring one  
2       person, one vote and avoiding minority vote  
3       delusion.

4               Finally, in producing the data for the  
5       maps we ask that you include precinct and  
6       district voting age population, VAP, if will,  
7       de-aggregated by race or national origin, and  
8       would ask that the data also include VAP of  
9       citizens who can vote, that is, the position,  
10      if you will, of not only the Okaloosa County  
11      NAACP, but the Florida State Conferencing  
12      NAACP, and thank you for this opportunity.

13              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, Mr.  
14      Williams. I appreciate your testimony. Now we  
15      will go back to two individuals who's name we  
16      called originally, but they weren't able to be  
17      present in the room or perhaps they stepped  
18      out. We want to hear from them if they are  
19      here.

20              Ann Hering, Ms. Hering?

21              Mike Brown, Mr. Brown? Okay. This  
22      concludes all of the individuals who signed up.  
23      Now let me ask this. Are there any -- are  
24      there any people here tonight who wish to speak  
25      and did not have the opportunity to sign up?



1           If so, if you will raise your hand we will  
2           get you a speaker card and we will call on you,  
3           because we want to make sure everyone has the  
4           opportunity to speak if you wish to speak.  
5           There is a lady back there.

6           Will a member of our staff please get a  
7           speaker card to her? Is -- someone over here  
8           as well, and a gentleman in the back, and a  
9           gentleman over on the couch.

10          All right. While we are waiting to  
11          collect those speaker cards and we will hear  
12          from those individuals, let me recognize  
13          Vice-Chair Precourt because we, while we have  
14          been in session tonight we have received some  
15          comments from people who have been following us  
16          on the Internet and wish to have their comments  
17          registered as well.

18          These may be people from our area who  
19          weren't able to come to the hearing tonight,  
20          but they want their comments read aloud,  
21          Mr. Vice-Chair.

22          VICE-CHAIR PRECOURT: Thank you Mr. Chair,  
23          and, yes, in fact, one of them is from this  
24          area via Twitter from the Destin Chamber of  
25          Commerce.

1           We have the following comment. The --  
2           they want to notify everyone that redistricting  
3           meetings are taking place. Let's hope that  
4           they put the entire city of Destin into one  
5           district, not split, and in a coastal district.

6           That is a great comment, and I want to add  
7           a little commentary to it, because that is a  
8           little bit open to interpretation.

9           This is a really good point to reiterate  
10          that the single most effective way to have an  
11          immediate impact on this as I believe the  
12          gentleman, Al, did tonight, is to submit an  
13          actual map.

14          You know, we have all heard over the  
15          course of time, a picture paints a thousand  
16          words, but it is also usually a lot clearer and  
17          less open to misinterpretation. So to the  
18          degree that you can submit maps I wanted to  
19          reiterate that point. These aren't comments,  
20          these are specific issues.

21          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Okay, we will hear from  
22          Tony, and is it Lengyel?

23          MR. LENGYEL: Lengyel.

24          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Lengyel, I am sorry for  
25          mispronouncing your name, Tony. Would you

1           please come forward? We are delighted you are  
2           here tonight and anxious to recognize you and  
3           hear your testimony.

4           And following his testimony, Jann Coulson,  
5           please, would be on deck.

6           MR. LENGYEL: Thank you, sir. Thank you,  
7           Senator, my name is Tony Lengyel and I am with  
8           the Florida Panhandle Patriots.

9           I appreciate you all being here as well  
10          and I see a lot of friends here and I really  
11          appreciate the representation by the people and  
12          you folks here this evening.

13          I would just, you know, I want to get to  
14          these maps and look at these things and I just  
15          want to say that I am, you know, a southern  
16          California beach boy kid and I gravitated to  
17          Florida and I love it here and I live down by  
18          the beach.

19          To keep things simple with this process,  
20          to look at things from a perspective that  
21          everything doesn't need to be changed.  
22          Possibly do some tweaking and look at the  
23          things like some of the other folks here said  
24          tonight, you know, where you have these tails  
25          and this and that needs to be -- things need to

1 be straightened up or cleaned up.

2 I don't know that, how many people in the  
3 room like all of the changes that have been  
4 going on here lately, but, you know, I do think  
5 that there needs to be some correction in the  
6 process. I think that if you take that into  
7 consideration. Let's not overhaul the entire  
8 system, but let's kind of do the tweaking and  
9 fix things as need be.

10 And by the way, I just wanted to stress  
11 that this is my opinion, it is not that of the  
12 Panhandle Patriots I am a member. If you ever  
13 get a chance you ought to come to one of our  
14 meetings.

15 But and also while you are doing this  
16 redistricting, you might take a look at putting  
17 all of the Tea Parties in one district. It  
18 wouldn't be a real tough thing to do, I mean,  
19 just keep it in mind.

20 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: We might get some support  
21 for that from some people that would surprise  
22 you.

23 MR. LENGYEL: Thank you so much, Senator.  
24 Thank you all for being here, and we do  
25 appreciate your time.

1           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Lengyel,  
2           we appreciate your comments. And now, Jann  
3           Coulson and followed by Steve Czonstka. Jann,  
4           thank you very much for being here tonight, and  
5           you are recognized.

6           MS. COULSON: Thank you. I came to  
7           listen, and now that I have listened, my  
8           greatest concern I don't hear being  
9           articulated, and that is that I am hoping that  
10          all of you will listen very carefully to the  
11          local officials, especially your County  
12          Supervisor of Election officials, because you  
13          can draw pretty maps and you can do a lot of  
14          things, but when you have a confused  
15          electorate, they either don't show up or they  
16          show up in the wrong place or they get  
17          confused.

18          And in the last Presidential election we  
19          turned 100 people away from our precinct  
20          because they were confused about where they  
21          voted. Because of early voting we were very,  
22          very fortunate that none of those who were  
23          turned away without an opportunity to vote, but  
24          as it got closer and closer to 7:00 o'clock I  
25          had real concern that we were going to

1 disenfranchise somebody because those maps are  
2 sad.

3 And unless there is a compelling reason to  
4 make them long and squiggly, please make the  
5 lines logical and reasonable, and I understand  
6 that each of you is, by charge, must represent  
7 all of the people in your area, and when I see  
8 a Senatorial District I know that they are  
9 going to be representing not just the beach,  
10 contrary to what people may attribute to you.

11 I know your view is broader than that,  
12 Senator Gaetz. I am far more concerned that it  
13 makes sense. I actually worked for another  
14 election authority earlier in my life and I am  
15 still trying to figure out what all of the  
16 districts are that I live in, and I am very  
17 frustrated by that.

18 Literally I have gotten an invitation to  
19 go to the Supervisor of Elections Office and  
20 look at maps in their office because it is so  
21 complex. So please listen to your Supervisor  
22 of Elections across the state. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, and  
24 Ms. Coulson, before you leave, let me just say  
25 because just you raised the issue that indeed

1 John Guthrie who is our professional staff  
2 director in the Senate, has met with the  
3 Supervisors of Elections statewide and they  
4 were all invited to attend these hearings as  
5 the hearings move into their communities.

6 So we are very interesting in their  
7 feedback. So thank you for making that point.

8 MS. COULSON: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, and next,  
10 Steve Czonstka, and following Mr. Czonstka,  
11 Gayle Jacobson.

12 Steve, thank you for being here, and you  
13 are recognized.

14 MR. CZONSTKA: Thank you for giving us the  
15 opportunity to speak. I think that the fact  
16 that Okaloosa County is represented by four  
17 members of the House, Florida House of  
18 Representatives, two Senators and two  
19 Congressmen is a positive thing, and so I would  
20 just as like to keep that representation. It  
21 gives us a voice on things that may come up in  
22 the future.

23 I am -- also work for the Supervisor of  
24 Elections and am a Precinct Clerk, and I want  
25 to echo what the lady before me just said. We

1        had a special election for House District 4,  
2        and I live out in Blue Water Bay, Precinct 46,  
3        which is split by House District 4 and House  
4        District 5.

5                Half of the people who wanted to vote for  
6        Representative Gaetz couldn't because they were  
7        in Brad Drake's district. Now I know you got  
8        to worry about the School Board, you got to  
9        worry about County Commission, you got to worry  
10       about House and Senate Districts, but I want to  
11       again emphasize that if there anyway possible  
12       to coordinate with the Supervisors of Elections  
13       when they are drawing their precincts, I think  
14       that would really minimize voter confusion when  
15       they come.

16               Now, a lot of it is the voter's fault.  
17       They should know who their Representative is,  
18       but we can't always educate the voter as much  
19       as we can, so thank you for your opportunities.

20               CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
21       Steve. I appreciate your testimony. Next,  
22       Gayle Jacobson and following Ms. Jacobson,  
23       Albert Perez. Gayle, it is great to see you as  
24       always, and you are recognized. Thank you for  
25       being here.



1           MS. JACOBSON: Thank you all for being  
2           here. We really appreciate you visiting our  
3           pretty little corner of the world, and we thank  
4           you for your service to this state. We realize  
5           sometimes it is a very unthankful job.

6           I don't have a lot of comments. I just  
7           have a couple. You know how hesitant I am to  
8           speak in public. One thing that has been  
9           mentioned tonight a couple of times is that  
10          some people wish that you had maps already  
11          drawn.

12          Now, we -- I happen to like this open  
13          forum, this transparency that you are coming  
14          with open minds to get our input.

15          We know that if you came with the maps  
16          already drawn there would be those who thought  
17          deals had been struck, and you know, in smoke  
18          filled back rooms. So you kind of are in a no  
19          win situation, but I personally appreciate this  
20          opportunity for everyone to have input.

21          I feel kind of like I did in elementary  
22          school. I live in the same house and I went to  
23          three different elementary schools because the  
24          boundary got moved several times, and that is  
25          what happened to me in the last redistricting.

1           I am one mile from the Walton County line  
2           and I am inside CD 2 by one mile. I have had  
3           great representation no matter who's district I  
4           was in.

5           I can honestly say that I have dealt with  
6           Congressmen of both parties, certainly you are,  
7           and I call on you a lot, so I have no complaint  
8           on a party issue, but we do have some real  
9           problems in these little key holes that were  
10          cut out last time.

11          You have heard this all before, so we hope  
12          that you will, and I know this isn't the only  
13          area of the state that has these problems. So  
14          I will reiterate what so many others have said.

15          Please keep that in mind, please try to  
16          make it a little more compact and easier for  
17          those at the polls, because it is problematic  
18          for the voters and those who work at the polls,  
19          and thank you again for your time.

20          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you so much,  
21          Ms. Jacobson. It is great to have you here.  
22          And now, Albert Perez, Albert Perez.

23          Thank you very much for your testimony  
24          tonight. We are anxious to hear from you, and  
25          you are recognized, sir.

1           MR. PEREZ: Thank you. I just wanted to  
2 say good evening to everyone here on the  
3 Committee for traveling so far, most of you,  
4 and to my fellow neighbors. I haven't had a  
5 chance to, but it is great to see all of you  
6 here.

7           I think I have a fairly unique  
8 perspective. I am not originally from Florida,  
9 but I have been here five years, but to this  
10 area, but I did graduate from Barry University  
11 in Miami Shores, Florida, very close to North  
12 Miami.

13           So I am happy to see people from south  
14 Florida up here, I am very proud of that, and I  
15 am a four-year veteran in the Air Force, I am a  
16 member of the Civil Air Patrol here in Eglin.  
17 I work at Hurlburt. I served active duty in  
18 Eglin, and I am a member of the Okaloosa Young  
19 Democrats here.

20           My plead is simple, keep it simple, try  
21 and respect county lines as much as possible.  
22 I live and work in Okaloosa County. I am very  
23 proud of that. I would not -- I know that a  
24 lot of people here, my neighbors, some of them  
25 work here in Okaloosa, they live in Walton,

1           some live in Santa Rosa.

2           That is great, that works for them and  
3           that is great, but for my perspective, I am  
4           very proud to live and work in Okaloosa County.  
5           I wouldn't have it any other way.

6           So when I invest in my county I want to  
7           invest in my county, whether it be property  
8           taxes or whether it be working there, even just  
9           going to lunch during my lunch break. I would  
10          rather keep it that way. So by respecting  
11          county lines, it also diversifies.

12          I know the status quo is one  
13          Representative for the coast, one  
14          Representative north for the north areas, the  
15          more agrarian areas, the more agricultural  
16          ones. I don't think monopolizing something  
17          like that is going to work.

18          I probably agree with the person, the  
19          gentleman who stood before me probably an hour  
20          ago and threw the grenade. He said, keep, keep  
21          it vertical. I am going to elaborate and I am  
22          going to go into detail. Just say keep it  
23          simple and try and respect county lines.

24          If we have -- during the BP Oil Spill that  
25          occurred fairly recently, we only had one

1 Representative who really cared, just one,  
2 because it affected their district and maybe  
3 the Senator who it affected his district.

4 We won't have gone far, but if we four or  
5 three Representatives or Senators who actually  
6 cared, I think we would have accomplished much  
7 more in the Florida Legislature.

8 Monopolizing has never got this country  
9 far, monopolizing representation has never  
10 gotten this country far. It is competition and  
11 through diversification that we excel. So,  
12 yes, we do need to challenge our  
13 Representatives. We need to challenge our  
14 Senators to diversify.

15 People, people who live in Okaloosa, they  
16 should know who their Senator is. They should  
17 know who their Representative is, there should  
18 not be this crooked line somewhere in the  
19 north, somewhere in the south. We have an  
20 extension somewhere over here and for the  
21 people that spoke on behalf of Destin, the  
22 mayor of Destin, exactly, I don't see any  
23 reason why Destin needs to be separated in  
24 representation.

25 They deserve to be sovereign. I am very

1 proud that Destin is my choice city. That is  
2 where I go clubbing, that is where I go  
3 dancing. I am very proud of the culture of Ft.  
4 Walton Beach.

5 If I wanted something a little more small  
6 town, a little more simple, I will go north. I  
7 will go to Crestview, I will go to Laurel Hill.  
8 I am proud of Okaloosa County. I am proud to  
9 know, and from a Civil Air Patrol perspective I  
10 get to see it from the sky.

11 I like to keep it that way. It is simple  
12 for them, it is simple for my neighbors, it is  
13 simple for you, and I definitely also agree  
14 with the Tea Party patriot who spoke a few  
15 minutes ago.

16 We, if they can get one district, that  
17 would be great, because one, you know, you can  
18 give them one Senator, one Representative, that  
19 is great. You could spread the Democrats out,  
20 you know, give them more representation, that  
21 would be great, I would go for that, too. So  
22 keep Okaloosa sovereign.

23 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Perez, and  
24 thank you, Mr. Perez, for your service as well  
25 in uniform and to our country.

1           This -- unless there is someone else who  
2           wishes to speak tonight, this concludes the  
3           public. Is there a hand up in the back? If  
4           not -- yes, there is, there is a hand up in the  
5           back, someone wishes to give the benediction.

6           Please, please come forward and we are  
7           delighted to have your testimony, and if you  
8           would simply articulate your name.

9           MS. GOSSOM: I can do that.

10          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And address for everyone,  
11          because I don't have your card yet, you are  
12          recognized.

13          MS. GOSSOM: I can do that, thank you,  
14          Senator Gaetz. My name is Joyce Gilley-Gossom.  
15          I serve on the Ft. Walton Beach City Council,  
16          although I am not representing the City Council  
17          this evening. I need to make that very clear.

18          I am maybe not as smart as Mr. Kelley and  
19          I may not be as smart as some of the other  
20          individuals who said that they have gone on to  
21          the website and have used the Map Builder  
22          software program.

23          I attempted to do that. I was on a panel  
24          earlier today and was asked to share my  
25          thoughts about the process, and in preparation

1       for that I did go on to the website,  
2       registered, received my certification, went  
3       back in and started trying to construct a map.

4             After several days and at least eight to  
5       ten hours, I was more frustrated than when I  
6       was writing my dissertation. It was easier for  
7       me to write my dissertation and do my  
8       statistical analyzes myself than it was to use  
9       that software program.

10            Now, I am not an IT person, and I am not  
11       technological savvy or advanced, however, I do  
12       know how to point and click, and I do know how  
13       to read all of the symbols.

14            I couldn't even find the information I  
15       needed in the 190-page help manual. So I would  
16       ask respectfully, just as Mr. Perez said  
17       earlier, please keep it simple.

18            When people face a daunting task that is  
19       overwhelming to them, a paralysis sets in, and  
20       they throw up their hands and say, I can't do  
21       this. I don't know how. I don't know what to  
22       do.

23            Fortunately I didn't do that. I went to  
24       another site, printed a map, took some colored  
25       markers and drew my lines on the map. I am



1 going to scan that and I am going to e-mail it  
2 to you.

3 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Okay.

4 MS. GOSSOM: So you will get my map, but  
5 my plea is for not just the constituents in Ft.  
6 Walton Beach that I represent and serve, but  
7 for everyone in the panhandle area. Please  
8 make it simple. Please simplify the process.

9 Yes, you had tutorial sessions and you had  
10 orientation. We don't, we don't have that. I  
11 even looked at the U-Tube videos trying to  
12 follow the process and I will give you one  
13 example.

14 There were 15 pages I had to go through  
15 telling me to open this, click that, go back in  
16 now and select this, name it this, name it  
17 that, before I ever got to the sentence that  
18 said, now it is time for you to draw your  
19 lines, 15 pages it took me to do that.

20 So my request, whether it is vertical or  
21 horizontal, I think that will come through the  
22 process, especially for this area, make it  
23 simple and keep it simple for people.

24 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you,  
25 Dr. Gilley-Gossom and I appreciate your

1           comments, but perhaps you weren't here earlier  
2           when we did make an offer. We have  
3           professional staff who are able, willing and  
4           can meet with you if you have 15 minutes.

5           MS. GOSSOM: I do.

6           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Afterwards they will be  
7           happy to sit down with you and, believe me, as  
8           un-tech savvy as I am, if I can draw district  
9           lines with a Doctorate and your high  
10          intelligence, I know we can help you, too.

11          Thank you very much. I appreciate it. Is  
12          there anyone else who would like to testify  
13          tonight? I am sorry, you have had your shot,  
14          sir, we don't do second rounds unless you want  
15          to come to Panama City tomorrow, and you are  
16          welcome to do that.

17          Anyone else who has not had a chance to  
18          speak who would like to speak? If not, let us  
19          conclude just by getting back to a couple of  
20          things that were raised, and before I do that,  
21          let me ask if there are any members, and we are  
22          going to defer to Chair Precourt as to the  
23          House members, are there any members of the  
24          Senate Committee who are here who would like to  
25          make any observations or ask any questions.

1           Senator Hays, you are recognized.

2           SENATOR HAYS:   Cay you all hear me back  
3           over here in the corner?   Thank you, Senator  
4           Gaetz, and I want to say a sincere thank you to  
5           each and everyone of you who come out tonight,  
6           particularly for those of you who spoke to the  
7           group, because many times public speaking is a  
8           very intimidating experience, and you had the  
9           necessary fortitude to put your fears behind  
10          you and come up and speak, and I thank you for  
11          that.

12          I am from central Florida.   I grew up in  
13          central Florida, but I truly, truly enjoy  
14          coming to the panhandle for two major reasons.  
15          First and foremost is the unashamed, unabashed  
16          proud military presence up here in the  
17          panhandle of Florida.

18          Thank each and everyone of you who served  
19          our country and for those of you who did not  
20          serve our country, you make this a wonderful  
21          place for those who do serve, and I thank you.

22          It was my privilege to serve in the United  
23          States Coast Guard for four years, some of the  
24          finest years of my life, but this is America,  
25          folks, and there is no finer country anywhere,

1       and I thank each and every one of you for  
2       coming out tonight when you could have been  
3       doing anything else, but you chose to exercise  
4       democracy and that is what it is all about, and  
5       I sincerely thank you.

6               We have heard several, several different  
7       points yesterday in Tallahassee, today in  
8       Pensacola and again here tonight. None of  
9       those points are invalid. Many of those points  
10      that we have heard are uninformed, but or  
11      misinformed, whichever you might choose to  
12      classify them as, but that is not important.

13             The important thing is, everybody needs to  
14      realize, we as a group up here are tasked with  
15      making the most fair division of this state  
16      into Legislative and Congressional Districts  
17      that we can.

18             And there is one, actually, there are two  
19      foundational elements. First and foremost is  
20      our Constitution, and the second is a spin off  
21      of the Constitution which is one vote for one  
22      person, which dictates the entire population of  
23      the state must be divided by 120, and that is  
24      the number of 156,000 plus, that goes into each  
25      House District.

1           The Constitution doesn't say anything at  
2           all about the city lines, the county lines, the  
3           precinct lines or anything at all like that.

4           Now, Amendment V directs us to make them  
5           as contiguous as we can, as compact as we can  
6           and that sort of thing, but the 156,000 in the  
7           House Districts and the 470,000 in the Senate  
8           Districts, those are the two numbers we have to  
9           deal with. Regardless of any other factor,  
10          those are the two factors, 470 and 156.

11          My Senate District has to divest itself of  
12          106,000 people. In the last ten years we have  
13          grown that much in the central Florida district  
14          that I am privileged to serve.

15          So instead of serving parts of five  
16          counties, I am going to have to consolidate my  
17          geographical district. Right now it is  
18          85 miles east and west and 55 miles north and  
19          south. So if I look at Amendment V and take  
20          just two counties.

21          I live in Lake County. I can take the  
22          adjacent county of Sumter County and if I take  
23          the entire geographical area, those two  
24          counties, I still have to go get 80,000 people  
25          from some other county. There is not an

1 adjacent county that has only 80,000 people in  
2 it, so I can't take just one whole county, and  
3 have three county districts.

4 That is just a small glimpse of the  
5 daunting task that we have. We absolutely have  
6 to draw district lines. There are going to be  
7 times when you live on one side of the street  
8 and your neighbor on the other side of the  
9 street is in a different district.

10 That is life, folks. As I told my three  
11 daughters, deal with it. I still love you,  
12 honey, but you got to deal with it.

13 It is not as simple -- Mr. Perez says keep  
14 it simple. Believe me, I have found in my 65  
15 years that is usually the best solution, and I  
16 try to keep it simple, but this is not a simple  
17 process. It is very, very complicated.

18 After we finish our task we then have to  
19 have the Governor accept it or reject it, but  
20 if he rejects it we have to go back to work  
21 again. If he accepts our work then it goes to  
22 the Florida Supreme Court. Then it goes to the  
23 United States Department of Justice.

24 There, you know, that old adage about too  
25 many cooks spoil the soup. It may very well

1       may be happening, so we need to keep it simple.  
2       I say all of this not to, not to try to make  
3       any excuses whatsoever.

4               Every one of us asked for the privilege of  
5       serving the people whom we represent and we are  
6       honored to be here. We are somewhat humbled by  
7       your presence, and thank you for the  
8       participation, but we just ask you for some  
9       understanding, that this is far, far more  
10      complicated than it really appears on the  
11      surface, and you must dig into it, and so thank  
12      you for being here, and when all else fails,  
13      pray for us, people, we sincerely need your  
14      prayers.

15             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you. Senator  
16      Thrasher.

17             SENATOR THRASHER: Thank you, Senator  
18      Gaetz. I will try to talk loud so I don't have  
19      to use the microphone. I have visited with  
20      Senator Gaetz many, many times over the last  
21      two and a half, three years that I have been in  
22      the Senate, and he talks constantly about the  
23      folks in this area, and having come here  
24      tonight and seeing the servility, the  
25      incredible ideas that you have presented to us

1       for consideration only goes to show that he is  
2       absolutely right about the folks that he  
3       represents.

4               And it is an honor and privilege, I know  
5       for me and I think for probably all of our  
6       colleagues who have sat here and listened to  
7       the incredible amount of good ideas in a civil  
8       manner in which you have presented them to us,  
9       and I appreciate that more than I can tell you,  
10      I really do.

11             It means a lot to all of us. It means --  
12      it makes this effort that we are going through  
13      to go around the state and listen to folks so  
14      much more enjoyable, but also beneficial for  
15      the end product that we will ultimately come up  
16      with.

17             Senator Hays is absolutely right. We have  
18      got to draw 40 Senate Seats. We got to draw  
19      120 House Seats, we got to draw 27  
20      Congressional Seats for 18 million people in  
21      the state of Florida.

22             There are how many here tonight, 250. How  
23      many will we reach in our 26 Senate and House  
24      tour, who knows, several thousand perhaps, but  
25      we have got to draw those lines for 18 million



1 people who reside in this great and wonderful  
2 state.

3 But you have given us tonight the hope, I  
4 think that we can get the job done, because you  
5 have done it in a civil way, you have given us  
6 ideas that make, that are material ideas that  
7 will go to help us when we get ready to start  
8 doing the process of drawing the maps to make  
9 it, to understand what you all have cared  
10 about, what you have said, what you have  
11 pleaded to us for and what your dreams and  
12 hopes are for this area.

13 Every single member, every single member  
14 of this group, I don't know that I am the  
15 oldest, maybe -- maybe there are a couple other  
16 that may be a little older, but I want to give  
17 you some example of the diversity of this  
18 Committee.

19 This young lady right here is an  
20 incredible Representative in the House of  
21 Representatives. She is 28 years old. The  
22 last time those maps were drawn she was 18. I  
23 will be 68 years old this year. So there is an  
24 incredible amount of diversity, there is an  
25 incredible amount of new ideas, she has got two

1 computers here.

2 I wouldn't know how in the world to begin,  
3 to begin to each begin what she has been doing.  
4 She drew my district while we were sitting  
5 here, and I drew my district earlier, and it  
6 was on this map right here. So let me tell you  
7 something.

8 We care about what you came here to talk  
9 to us about, and I thank Senator Gaetz for  
10 bringing us here. I thank each and everyone of  
11 you for coming here. I can assure you that  
12 this will continue to be a transparent process.

13 I have been around the Legislature in  
14 different capacities for a long time.  
15 Somebody, the lady who was the last speaker  
16 said she had drawn a map with crayons or  
17 colored pens or whatever, that is the way it  
18 used to be done in the Florida Legislature.

19 These kinds of hearings and these kinds of  
20 meetings were never done. The maps were drawn  
21 in the backs of rooms at the end of the session  
22 and presented to the Legislature for voting.

23 This is going to be entirely different.  
24 It will be in my opinion the most transparent  
25 process in this, in this type of activity that

1 the Florida Legislature has ever engaged in.

2 So God bless you for being here and thank  
3 you for your great community interest, and I  
4 promise you, we will do the best we can. Thank  
5 you.

6 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Chair Precourt, let me  
7 yield to you for any comments that you and  
8 members of the House of Representatives might  
9 wish to make, comments or questions.

10 CHAIR PRECOURT: Thanks, and I will hold  
11 my comments until after any of the other  
12 Representatives that want to speak. Anyone,  
13 Representative Gaetz?

14 REPRESENTATIVE GAETZ: Thank you,  
15 Representative Precourt, and I sit right in  
16 front of Representative Kair on the Florida  
17 House of Representatives. We used to go back  
18 and forth about how great our districts are.

19 So I hope that all of my colleagues in the  
20 House can see how proud I am of the folks that  
21 I continue to represent, and just on behalf of  
22 the Representative Ford and Senator Evers, I  
23 wanted to thank everyone who has come here from  
24 all parts of the state to the panhandle. It  
25 means so much to us.

1           It is unique for us to have so many  
2           leaders all across Florida comment and  
3           participate and to listen to our people and I  
4           would say this.

5           We have heard a lot about north Florida  
6           tonight and I hope that members of the  
7           Redistricting Committee have heard what many of  
8           us who represent this area know, and that is  
9           that we don't have an entirely different  
10          culture in northwest Florida, but there are  
11          distinctions and differences just like there  
12          are in your parts of the state.

13          So I have tremendous trust in my  
14          colleagues on both sides of the aisle for all  
15          of the state to take this input and put it to  
16          use for some good for the people. Thank you  
17          all very much.

18          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Zack Taylor.

19          A VOICE: Thank you for the introduction,  
20          ya'll, I wasn't able to finish and I started  
21          talking about Daytona Beach.

22          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I guess we don't need  
23          that police escort after all.

24          A VOICE: I don't know. I don't know.

25          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Representative Ford, you

1 are recognized.

2 REPRESENTATIVE FORD: I am going to use  
3 the mike. I am not going to talk that long,  
4 but Senator Thrasher and I were talking up here  
5 earlier. We met in my district in the last  
6 meeting this morning, and I just sincerely wish  
7 I could have brought everybody at my district  
8 meeting here so they could learn some  
9 servility. We, and that is a sincere  
10 statement.

11 There is a reporter here from Miami, I  
12 hope she is not going to print this in the  
13 paper. I see you, Mary Ellen, don't do that.  
14 I would like to be reelected if I can next  
15 time. I am in trouble. But I am sincere in  
16 that.

17 You have given us good ideas. I have  
18 served, personally served 16 years on the Local  
19 City Council and many people here, Mayor  
20 Anderson, Sam, of course, Mayor Sam and others  
21 I served with many years. So I can appreciate  
22 the problems that the cities face.

23 I can assure you that I will do everything  
24 I can to avoid those problems. Small cities,  
25 and I have two cities in my district, Gulf

1 Breeze and most of Pensacola. Pensacola is too  
2 big for us to say we are not going to be able  
3 to peel off some parts of that. It is  
4 impossible to do.

5 Small cities though, that is something  
6 that is doable and you have got a perfect right  
7 to ask that we take a look at that, a valid  
8 point and I appreciate the fact that it was  
9 brought up here.

10 I can assure you that I and I think I can  
11 speak for most everybody else, we are going to  
12 try to avoid those kind of problems. There is  
13 no, no use in doing that and it serves no  
14 purpose, and I thank so much for having us  
15 here. I appreciate the courtesy that you have  
16 shown us since we have been here. Thank you.

17 CHAIR PRECOURT: Thank you. I believe  
18 that is most of the Representatives that want  
19 to talk. I just want to, if I could, Chair  
20 Gaetz, address a few issues that were raised  
21 here tonight.

22 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Of course.

23 CHAIR PRECOURT: Thank you, and we have  
24 actually heard some of these things around the  
25 state and other places and in the media as

1 well, and I hope that we can clarify just a  
2 half dozen brief items.

3 One thing that keeps getting kicked around  
4 is that the Florida House has 20 million-dollar  
5 or 30 million-dollar legal fund for  
6 redistricting. That is just inaccurate.

7 We do have reserves, but they are for many  
8 contingencies and I think this is just a news  
9 report that was inaccurate from the start and  
10 unfortunately it has been repeated frequently.

11 We in the House side have chosen to  
12 include party data in the, that data that is  
13 available for redistricting. We do have to  
14 have this by Federal government dictate to test  
15 the map alternatives against the requirements  
16 of the Federal Voting Rights Act. So that data  
17 will have to be accessed one way or another so  
18 we are, our decision was to make it available  
19 to everyone.

20 Another thing that has been kicked around  
21 out there is that there is a gag order on  
22 members of the Committee. I believe clearly  
23 tonight we have established that there is no  
24 gag order.

25 Also, this issue, and we heard both sides

1 of it tonight and you all did a terrific job,  
2 several of you, of addressing this. The issue  
3 of whether or not there are maps here that we  
4 already have drawn and provided to you without  
5 letting the public speak first.

6 If we did it any other way there would be  
7 a huge criticisms of us. In fact, this process  
8 that we are using as tried and true process and  
9 for those of you who like the Federal  
10 government's dictates, it is very similar to  
11 the NEPA permitting process where we collected  
12 the data.

13 The data wasn't available until April or  
14 from the census, and presented you with the  
15 existing conditions and the data so that we  
16 could get feedback from you before we start  
17 drawing lines.

18 It always, the general public brings more  
19 information to the table than a bunch of  
20 analysts sitting behind their computers are  
21 going to have.

22 We are going to get public comment  
23 throughout the process. That is another thing  
24 that people think that this is their only  
25 opportunity to speak to this issue now. That



1       is absolutely untrue. This is the beginning of  
2       it. This is the data collection phase.

3               Once we have this we will prepare a number  
4       of alternatives that you will have the  
5       opportunity to look at again and that will be  
6       in the various forms that Chair Gaetz  
7       mentioned, as well as in the public hearing  
8       process that is the normal process of passing a  
9       bill in Tallahassee.

10              And then finally, to this, to this  
11       question that we are moving too slow, again, we  
12       have only had the information available to  
13       present to you for a number of weeks and we are  
14       trying, doing the best we can with a bunch of  
15       really good staff to get this process moving as  
16       quickly as possible. So, in fact, we can have  
17       a credible process that meets all of the  
18       requirements.

19              And then finally just from a personal  
20       standpoint, being from central Florida as well,  
21       this has been a great meeting.

22              Ya'll have been very, very constructive in  
23       engaging in this conversation that we hope to  
24       use to develop the best set of maps for the  
25       citizens of Florida that we can. Thank you,

1 Chair Gaetz.

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much. Are  
3 there any other comments from members of the  
4 Committee? If not, Representative Precourt  
5 moves we rise.

6 (Whereupon, the proceedings were  
7 concluded.)

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## 1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )

3 COUNTY OF LEON )

4 I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript  
5 is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned,  
6 and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting  
7 under my direction;

8 That the foregoing pages 2 through 109  
9 represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of  
10 the tape-recording;

11 And I further certify that I am not of kin or  
12 counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the  
13 regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor  
14 am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

15 Dated this 11th day of August, 2011.

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

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Notary Public

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State of Florida at Large

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November 13, 2014

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REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

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TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2011

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10:00 A.M.

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WSRE-TV AMOS STUDIO

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PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

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Transcribed by:

21

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

22

Court Reporter

23

24

25

1 T A P E D P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Good morning, ladies and  
3 gentlemen. The Joint Florida Senate, Florida  
4 House of Representatives Redistricting Hearing  
5 is called to order.

6 We want to thank WSRE Public Television,  
7 Pensacola Jr. College, Pensacola State College  
8 now, for allowing us to use this facility, and  
9 thank you all for being here, especially  
10 members of the public who have come to share  
11 your comments and your recommendations to help  
12 shape Congressional Senate and House Districts  
13 for the next decade.

14 My name is Don Gaetz. I am proud to be  
15 the Senator for northwest Florida, and along  
16 with my House colleague, the Speaker Designate  
17 of the Florida House of Representatives, Will  
18 Weatherford, who is to my left and that is  
19 interesting because often he is to my right,  
20 but today he is to my left.

21 We are chairing today's hearing and we are  
22 delighted to be here. This hearing is being  
23 webcast throughout the state by the Florida  
24 Channel over the Internet and we welcome the  
25 many, many people who are following us today on

1 the Internet or over the Florida Channel.

2 Our sole purpose today is to hear from the  
3 public about how you believe the legal  
4 standards governing redistricting should be  
5 applied in your community so that you are  
6 represented in Washington and in Tallahassee  
7 fairly, equitably and sensibly.

8 It is not debatable as to whether  
9 Amendments V and VI will be applied. They are  
10 in the Constitution and they will be applied.  
11 The question is how those legal standards  
12 should be applied to make sure that your  
13 community is fairly, equitably and sensibly  
14 represented.

15 Our procedures today are simple but  
16 important. It is important that if you want to  
17 speak, and we hope you do, that you will sign  
18 in so that we can create an accurate public  
19 record of all attendees and all speakers, and  
20 also you may opt to join our e-mail list.

21 We hope you will so that we can keep you  
22 informed about how the redistricting process is  
23 working over the next several months.

24 This is hearing two of a 26 public hearing  
25 tour that the House and Senate Committees are

1 taking together to hear from the people of  
2 Florida.

3 If you have not signed in and you wish to  
4 speak, please raise your hand now and a  
5 professional staff member will get you a  
6 speaker card because we want to hear from you.

7 Is there anybody here who wishes to speak  
8 who has not filled out a card or who has not  
9 signed in? Anybody? Great.

10 Well, if there are people who come in late  
11 we will make that offer again. Before we  
12 begin, the Chair would like to recognize the  
13 Speaker Designate, Will Weatherford, to explain  
14 how today's hearing fits into the redistricting  
15 process. Mr. Speaker.

16 SPEAKER WEATHERFORD: Thank you very much,  
17 Mr. Chairman. It certainly is an honor today  
18 to be in God's country, the panhandle. We are  
19 in step two of our process here.

20 We had a great day yesterday in  
21 Tallahassee of public comment and input and we  
22 certainly look forward to it today here in  
23 Pensacola.

24 Ladies and gentlemen, every ten years the  
25 Legislature is required by our Constitution to

1       redistrict the state based on increases,  
2       decreases and movements of population.

3               Because Florida has grown more than other  
4       states in the last ten years we will move up  
5       from 25 Congressional Seats to 27 Congressional  
6       Seats.

7               Because some parts of our state have  
8       increased or decreased disproportionately in  
9       population, many Senate and House Districts  
10      will change, either adding or losing  
11      population.

12              When redistricting is completed,  
13      Congressional Districts must be equal in size  
14      and contain 696,345 people. The 40 Senate  
15      Districts must also be nearly equal and will  
16      contain 470,033 people, and our 120 House  
17      Districts must also contain nearly equal  
18      amounts in population and will be at 156,678  
19      persons.

20              There is a map at the front of the room  
21      showing this area of the state. The current  
22      boundaries of all of the Districts and the  
23      number of the persons which must also be added  
24      or subtracted from current districts to achieve  
25      equal representation.



1           Equality of representation isn't the only  
2       legal requirement that redistricting plans must  
3       meet. The laws and important court cases  
4       governing redistricting are explained in detail  
5       on the House and Senate websites.

6           Those websites are listed on the  
7       Redistricting 2012 brochure that was available  
8       to you when you came in. Our Redistricting  
9       2012 brochure summarizes Federal and State laws  
10      and outlines the topics we hope you will  
11      discuss here at today's hearing.

12           If you did not get a brochure they are  
13      available on the tables outside the hall and  
14      our staff would be happy to get you a copy of  
15      that brochure if needed.

16           Those same websites have been available to  
17      the public and all of the demographic  
18      information from the U. S. Bureau of Census  
19      that will be used to draw districts and the  
20      redistricting software that Legislators will be  
21      using.

22           These websites will allow any member of  
23      the public, and hopefully you, to see all of  
24      the district maps that are proposed by  
25      Legislators and for the citizens, themselves,

1 to propose their own district maps for their  
2 own communities or for the whole state using  
3 all of the tools that are available to us as  
4 Legislators.

5 Before and during and after this hearing,  
6 Senate and House professional staff are  
7 available to show you and anyone who wants to  
8 see the simple steps in getting on-line and  
9 making your submission for maps in the coming  
10 weeks.

11 Every recommendation from any member of  
12 the public or any group will be made public.  
13 In fact, some public submissions of maps have  
14 already been available on the web, and one I  
15 will mention to everyone today is we had a  
16 college student who is from Florida who goes to  
17 Columbia University and weeks ago submitted a  
18 Congressional map for the entire state of  
19 Florida.

20 It was a very -- a lot of work that went  
21 in to that, but that is the type of  
22 participation that this body is looking for.

23 The submission of proposed maps that makes  
24 sense for your community is the single most  
25 effective form of public participation in the

1       redistricting process.

2               The redistricting schedule under which we  
3       are operating is imposed by our State  
4       Constitution. The Constitution does not permit  
5       the Legislature to act on legislative maps  
6       before the second year after the census is  
7       done. In other words, before 2012.

8               We accelerated this process as much as we  
9       possibly could by moving the 2012 Legislative  
10       Session from March to January, and beginning  
11       our statewide hearings five months in advance  
12       of the 2012 session.

13              It has been suggested that the Legislature  
14       should draw maps first and then ask the public  
15       for comment. We believe that puts the answer  
16       ahead of the question.

17              There should be no preconceptions created  
18       by politicians, but rather public testimony  
19       should be free and unrestricted. Our intent is  
20       to use the recommendations made at our 26  
21       hearings and through our Internet sites as the  
22       basis for developing one or more options for  
23       district maps.

24              We will discuss those options in open  
25       public meetings before any votes are taken even

1 in a Committee. Throughout the process we will  
2 solicit additional public comment so that  
3 proposed maps can mature and with public  
4 involvement all before the Legislature approves  
5 any final maps.

6 Whatever the Legislature votes on, it is  
7 submitted for judicial review to insure that  
8 the final plans meet every legal requirement.  
9 Because our mission today is to hear from you,  
10 100 percent of the time between now and then,  
11 and between now and 1:00 p.m. will be used to  
12 insure that every member of the public who is  
13 here and wishes to speak will have time to  
14 present testimony and be listened to  
15 respectfully without interruption or argument.

16 If, after every citizen has had his or her  
17 say, there is time remaining before our  
18 scheduled adjournment, any member of this  
19 Committee may make a statement or offer any  
20 observation.

21 Of course, any member of the Legislature  
22 may today or at any time propose a map that  
23 will be made available to the public.

24 Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for  
25 giving me these few moments. I hope this

1 description of our schedule and the process  
2 helps set the stage for a very successful  
3 hearing. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker,  
5 by Senate and House rules we will adjourn  
6 promptly today at 1:00 p.m. There are so far  
7 36 individuals signed up to speak.

8 We hope more people who may come in a  
9 little later will let professional staff know  
10 if they would like to speak, but to ensure that  
11 each person is heard, and I am an advocate for  
12 the last person who signed up, I want to make  
13 sure they get a chance to speak, just as I am  
14 an advocate for the first person.

15 So to ensure that each person is heard we  
16 will try to divide the time equitably and I  
17 would ask each testifier to try to limit her or  
18 his remarks to somewhere between three and five  
19 minutes.

20 Now, if later we pick up additional people  
21 who would like to testify, and therefore, we  
22 get pushed on a time crunch I may have to be a  
23 little bit more specific about the time frame,  
24 but if you would be cognizant that there are  
25 people who also came here and want to testify

1       who are waiting behind you, I am sure everybody  
2       will be civil and courteous and there will be  
3       time for everyone.

4               What we would like to do is call out two  
5       speakers at a time so that the first speaker  
6       who is the Honorable Lynn Laird from the  
7       Escambia Soil and Water Conservation District,  
8       if Commissioner Laird will come forward, and  
9       then behind Commissioner Laird is Stephen Rome,  
10      and we will let you know if you are on deck and  
11      next in line.

12             Commissioner, are you here? Thank you  
13      very much. Welcome to the Committee, and you  
14      are recognized, sir.

15             COMMISSIONER LAIRD: I am a supervisor.

16             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Supervisor. We, I don't  
17      know if we demoted you or promoted you there,  
18      but we welcome you to the Committee.

19             COMMISSIONER LAIRD: For the record, my  
20      name is Lynn Laird. I am Vice-Chairman of the  
21      Soil and Water Conservation District Board of  
22      Supervisors. Elected, this elected office is  
23      for Escambia County voters only. The candidate  
24      must be a resident of Escambia County.

25             Escambia County population is 297,619

1 residents according to the recent census.

2 Registered voters, Democrat, No Party,

3 Minority, et cetera, 110,000. Republicans,

4 84,000.

5 Escambia County, unfortunately, has been

6 divided into two Senatorial districts, both of

7 them held by Republicans. Three State

8 Representative Districts, all held by

9 Republicans. That means 212,791 individuals,

10 or 67 percent of Escambia County population is

11 disenfranchised, because in 2000 Escambia

12 County was divided up so that there would be

13 two Senatorial districts versus one, because

14 prior to 2000, Escambia County was a Senatorial

15 district.

16 Prior to that, State House Representative

17 District III was all of Pensacola, some of

18 Escambia County, but they had to cut that up

19 and now we got some of Santa Rosa. The

20 minority representation for Escambia County is

21 about 23 percent African-American.

22 Currently there are no minority

23 Representative in the State House, none,

24 period. Who are Escambia County State

25 Senators? I happen to live in south of

1       Escambia County, never met my State Senator,  
2       hardly know where he is from, but he is Senator  
3       Gaetz, our Chairman, hello. He lives in  
4       Niceville, Niceville, wherever that is.

5               His District Office is in Destin, that is  
6       over an hour away from Escambia County, I don't  
7       know if I could find it if I get there. Greg  
8       Evers, the other State Senator, he lives in  
9       Baker, up in the country somewhere in another  
10      county. His District Office is in Crestview.

11             How do the people from Escambia County who  
12      would like to drop in, say something, give him  
13      something, not too many people are going to  
14      drive to Crestview if they could find it, it is  
15      over an hour away.

16             We have a State Representative who basic  
17      some of the districts in northern Escambia  
18      County, Doug Broxson, I have no idea where he  
19      is from. I have no idea where his office is,  
20      and I don't know if anybody in Escambia --  
21      maybe some of the people up north do. I don't.

22             Then, of course, we have Representative  
23      Clay Ford, and most of us know, that is  
24      District III. Almost 90 percent of the  
25      geographical area and population lives in



1       Escambia County. Clay Ford lives in Gulf  
2       Breeze. Until a number of years ago it wasn't  
3       part of District III. Thirty percent of the  
4       population in Pensacola is African-American.

5             Clay Ford lives in Gulf Breeze, which only  
6       has one or two at the most African-Americans.  
7       Basically Gulf Breeze is 100 -- almost  
8       100 percent white, and Clay Ford lives over  
9       there, and I do not believe the Pensacola  
10      residents have any input at all, and only one  
11      Representative, and I think he is here, Clay  
12      Ingram, he lives in Escambia County, and he is  
13      elected by the people of Escambia County.  
14      Thank you for that person.

15            In other words, I will sum it up, 212,791  
16      people in Escambia County or 67 percent of  
17      Escambia County population is totally  
18      disenfranchised. That means they are not  
19      represented by the individuals who are sitting  
20      at the round table up there.

21            We are supposed to have representation in  
22      state government. I cannot feel that this  
23      would go very far when 67 percent feel they are  
24      disenfranchised. So all I can say is I hope  
25      whoever is going to draw the lines will take

1           that into fact that Escambia County, the  
2           largest county in the panhandle, should be a  
3           State District by itself and should have at  
4           least a minimum of not two, but maybe three  
5           State Representative Districts so that the  
6           221,000 people who are currently  
7           disenfranchised might have a chance to, one,  
8           run a candidate, and two, vote for the  
9           individual who actually does and will represent  
10          their ideology. Thank you.

11                 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
12          Mr. Laird. We appreciate your testimony, very,  
13          very kind of you to come today, and now our  
14          next presenter is Stephen Rome. Mr. Rome, and  
15          behind Mr. Rome is Diane Mack from the Women's  
16          Civic Forum.

17                 Mr. Rome, you are recognized. Thank you  
18          very much for being here today.

19                 MR. ROME: Good morning, my name is  
20          Stephen Rome. I reside in Pensacola, in  
21          Escambia County. I appear today as an AARP  
22          volunteer. I urge the Legislature to make the  
23          redistricting process all it can be.

24                 As you exercise your constitutional duty  
25          to draw voting districts applicable for the ten

1       years beginning with the 2012 election, AARP  
2       urges you to, first, insure transparency of the  
3       legislative redistricting process every step of  
4       the way.

5               Transparency means that redistricting  
6       discussions among members and by members should  
7       be noticed and open to the public.

8       Transparency means that the public has the  
9       opportunity to comment and to have those  
10      comments meaningfully considered by the  
11      Legislature during all legislative  
12      redistricting proceedings, and on  
13      redistricting, on redistricting proposals,  
14      interim and final.

15             This is before the Legislatures make any  
16      decisions. We must ensure the timeliness of  
17      the redistricting process and ensure public  
18      input.

19             The Legislature has an obligation to meet  
20      the constitutional dictates as already  
21      expressed by 63 percent of Florida voters. The  
22      Legislature owes Florida's residents and voters  
23      professionalism and timely completion of their  
24      redistricting process, hopefully before the  
25      filing for the 2012 elections.

1           The Legislature knows the procedural  
2       steps, legislative and non legislative, that  
3       redistricting plans will need to complete in  
4       order for there to be timely qualifications for  
5       the 2012 candidates under the new districts,  
6       and for vigorous campaigns before voters can  
7       cast their ballots.

8           That means the Legislature should  
9       consider, complete, should consider completing  
10      its portion of the process sooner rather than  
11      later.

12          Please take steps to ensure that the  
13      redistricting process -- to prevent the  
14      redistricting process from the appearance of  
15      conflict of interest.

16          For example, subcommittees of Legislatures  
17      could research, develop alternate district  
18      proposals for the area of the state remote from  
19      the member's geographic residencies.

20          Perhaps four areas of the state, and then  
21      redefine, reconcile for two halves of the state  
22      and then redefine and reconcile by the full  
23      Chamber into one state plan.

24          It is now legislative's command  
25      performance time. Your audience is Florida's

1 voters. We will not contenance undue expense  
2 and delay in that performance. It is up to the  
3 Legislature.

4 What will it be, redistricting  
5 presentation or voter resentment? I am  
6 confident that the Legislature and its staff  
7 have the professional competence and technical  
8 assistance to research and analyze and propose  
9 new voting districts in accord with the  
10 constitutional and Federal requirements.

11 Please make your best effort. Thank you  
12 for the time to address the panel.

13 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, Mr.  
14 Rome, we really appreciate your testimony  
15 today. Our next testifier is Diane Mack from  
16 the Women's Civic Forum, followed by Claudia  
17 Curry from the Democratic Executive Committee.

18 Ms. Mack, thank you for being here and you  
19 are recognized.

20 MS. MACK: Thank you, Senator Gaetz,  
21 Honorable Senators, members, staff members, let  
22 me first express my appreciation for this  
23 public hearing for the numbers of you who are  
24 here.

25 When I entered I had no idea that we would

1 be in such august company. My remarks will be  
2 brief.

3 The Women's Civic Forum is an informal  
4 organization who's mission is to help  
5 interested women learn about our community, to  
6 further their civic interests, and in the end  
7 also to further their political interests.

8 We want to see more women elected to  
9 office. However, that is not the purpose of  
10 redistricting. Those -- those goals have to be  
11 accomplished in a much different way.

12 My remarks are simply brief. I am  
13 concerned about the past horizontal divisions  
14 in forming our districts. For different  
15 reasons as our previous speaker said, I would  
16 certainly ask this body to consider forming  
17 districts with Escambia County, Santa Rosa  
18 County vertically and not across the north part  
19 of the counties and then the south part.

20 I realize communities of interest are  
21 something you take into consideration, but I  
22 believe that was in a Tier II criteria.

23 Finally, I realize the Constitution  
24 requires that the process neither favor nor  
25 disfavor incumbents, but we are human and I

1       would simply ask all of you to be statesmen,  
2       stateswomen, not politicians. Put aside your  
3       own interests and do what is best for the state  
4       of Florida, but in this case also for northwest  
5       Florida. Thank you.

6               CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, Ms.  
7       Mack. We appreciate you being here. Our next  
8       speaker is Claudia Curry from the Democratic  
9       Executive Committee, and followed by Paula  
10      Montgomery from the League of Women Voters.

11             Ms. Curry, you are recognized. Thank you  
12      for being here.

13             MS. CURRY: Good morning, my name is  
14      Claudia Brown-Curry and I represent the  
15      Escambia County Executive, Democratic Executive  
16      Committee, but I don't want to be redundant at  
17      this time. Everything has been well said, so I  
18      pass. Thank you.

19             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Well, thank you for being  
20      here. We really appreciate it. Next is Paula  
21      Montgomery from the League of Women Voters, and  
22      Ms. Montgomery, you will be followed by Richard  
23      Mills.

24             Ms. Montgomery, we are grateful that you  
25      took the time to come today, and you are

1 recognized.

2 MS. MONTGOMERY: Okay. Thank you, and  
3 thank you for your attention. I am one of the  
4 Co-Presidents this year of the League of Women  
5 Voters of the Pensacola Bay area. Excuse me.  
6 And I am speaking on behalf of the League in  
7 general. I would like to make the following  
8 three points.

9 The Legislature's timeline for drawing  
10 districts is really unfair to the Florida  
11 voters. The Legislature should not be spending  
12 taxpayer money to oppose fair districts as  
13 described in Amendments V and VI, and we would  
14 like to know where our maps for us to  
15 reasonably be expected to respond to.

16 First, according to the current plan, the  
17 Legislature will be discussing new districts in  
18 January and pass them in March of 2012. This  
19 does not leave enough time for possible  
20 litigation and the required pre-clearance of  
21 plans before the date in June, when candidates  
22 have to qualify to run for elections.

23 Therefore, potential candidates won't know  
24 if they can run and voters will not know for  
25 whom they can vote in time to prepare



1           adequately for the fall election.

2           Unfortunately it will result in chaos and  
3           gives the impression that the timeline was  
4           designed to benefit incumbents, which is  
5           prohibited by the Constitution and its  
6           amendments.

7           Secondly, the voters have already spoken  
8           in their overwhelming support for Amendments V  
9           and VI. This is the voter input to the  
10          Legislature. It is what you need to hear from  
11          us, that is that we really want redistricting.  
12          We need to stop wasting time and money by  
13          fighting these amendments and just, just do it.

14          Third, these hearings would be more useful  
15          and provide more meaningful voter input if  
16          there were maps to which we could respond. We  
17          pay our Legislators and their staff to do the  
18          work of the people.

19          Why are we being asked to provide you with  
20          maps? What will be done with these maps? You  
21          may get thousands of them. What will you do  
22          with them?

23          We ask that you provide maps that we can  
24          respond to. These hearings give the appearance  
25          that you are listening to the citizens of

1 Florida, but in reality, they deny us means of  
2 useful input. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
4 Ms. Montgomery. We appreciate you being here.  
5 Next we have Richard Mills, and following Mr.  
6 Mills is Deborah Nelson from the Santa Rosa  
7 Democratic Party.

8 Mr. Mills, thanks for being here, and you  
9 are recognized.

10 MR. MILLS: Thank you for the opportunity  
11 to speak. I am Richard Mills, resident of  
12 Escambia County.

13 First let me say I am not here to  
14 represent any ideological group. I am just a  
15 plain citizen, I certainly, most of all, do not  
16 envy you people in the job that you have ahead  
17 of you.

18 I know you are not going to make very many  
19 people happy. That is just the nature of the  
20 beast that you have to attack, and I just want  
21 you to know that many of us will be praying  
22 that you will do this job with the best of your  
23 ability and with great consideration to the  
24 rights of our citizens, and that you will act  
25 in accordance with the constitutional

1 requirements upon you. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, Mr.  
3 Mills. We appreciate those kind sentiments.

4 Deborah Nelson with the Santa Rosa  
5 Democratic Party and then following Ms. Nelson  
6 will be Jerry Couey with Santa Rosa Week TV.

7 Ms. Nelson, thanks a lot for being here,  
8 and you are recognized.

9 MS. NELSON: Thank you very much, I am  
10 Deborah Nelson, I am Chair of the Santa Rosa  
11 Democrats. I also co-host Santa Rosa Week TV  
12 on Media Com Channel 27.

13 I would just point out to you that  
14 currently the population of Democrats in the  
15 state versus the population of registered  
16 Republicans is not reflected in the makeup of  
17 Florida's House of Representatives and Florida  
18 Senate, and I would just suggest that perhaps,  
19 perhaps there is a political reasons for that,  
20 but then again, maybe you need to seriously  
21 consider that you have a gerrymandering problem  
22 in the state when you go about this  
23 redistricting process.

24 What happens when you have gerrymandering  
25 present is that the populous is not accurately

1 represented in their political bodies, the  
2 political bodies that belong to them.

3 When you have that problem it leads to  
4 things like cronyism, it leads to special  
5 interests being perhaps represented a little  
6 more heavily than the people.

7 It leads to corruption. We have certainly  
8 seen indications of corruption problems coming  
9 out of Tallahassee in recent years.

10 We have had -- I would call it a  
11 disastrous legislative session this year. We  
12 have had a legislative session that I don't  
13 believe in any way, shape or form reflects the  
14 wants and needs of the Florida population.

15 You all passed SB 430 which will just  
16 about guarantee to raise homeowner insurance  
17 policy rates, at least by double over the next  
18 five years. I don't believe any Floridian  
19 wanted you to do that, and you did it anyway.

20 To me it represents a problem with special  
21 interest influence. Maybe that is related to  
22 gerrymandering, maybe it isn't. You have just  
23 about destroyed growth management process in  
24 this state.

25 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Ms. Nelson, I apologize

1       for interrupting. Because today's hearing is  
2       about redistricting, if you could narrow your  
3       comments to redistricting. We would be  
4       delighted to hear from you about these other  
5       issues, and you are welcome to come to the  
6       Legislative Delegation meeting that will be a  
7       public meeting and discuss those or we will  
8       provide other venues, but today just to respect  
9       the other people who are behind you who wish to  
10      speak, could you confine your comments to the  
11      purpose of the hearing today, please?

12           MS. NELSON: I appreciate that. And my  
13      point was that those problems do point to the  
14      gerrymandering situation, but I will go ahead  
15      and move on.

16           I would just ask you all if you could  
17      answer at least, do you have any idea of a time  
18      frame when you think this process is going to  
19      be finished as far as how far in advance of the  
20      2012 elections people are going to know where  
21      the districts are?

22           Do you all have any plan for that or any  
23      idea when that is going to happen?

24           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Well, Ms. Nelson, we have  
25      a website that lists the schedule. It is

1 flsenate.gov/redistricting. You can go to that  
2 and see the schedule, but also Speaker  
3 Weatherford will remark at the end of the  
4 willing to our timeline in case you didn't hear  
5 his comments at the beginning.

6 MS. NELSON: Do you have a specific date?

7 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Ma'am, the date, the  
8 dates depend upon when the hearings are  
9 concluded, when Bills are introduced. Any  
10 member of the Legislature can introduce a Bill  
11 at any time, but any other comments you have,  
12 ma'am?

13 MS. NELSON: Well, I would just again,  
14 just like other speakers have done, just urge  
15 you to be very transparent with this process.  
16 I think there is a lot of mistrust of the  
17 current sitting Legislature and I think that,  
18 you know, it is not going to help you any if  
19 you are behind closed doors making this happen.  
20 So please, you know, just make sure people know  
21 what is going on. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
23 Ms. Nelson, for being here and for your  
24 comments. Jerry Couey, who is perhaps your  
25 co-host on Santa Rosa Week TV, and then

1 following Mr. Couey, Dr. Calvin Avant, who is  
2 with the Escambia Pensacola Human Relationship  
3 Commission.

4 Mr. Couey, you are recognized. Thanks for  
5 being here.

6 MR. COUEY: Thank you, and I appreciate  
7 the opportunity to be here. There have been a  
8 few things swirling, so I would like to get,  
9 and Ms. Nelson asked a question and she didn't  
10 get an answer. So let me just ask what a lot  
11 of people are wanting to know.

12 Is anybody here going to answer a question  
13 today with the cameras rolling?

14 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I am sorry, sir?

15 MR. COUEY: Will any question be answered  
16 by any of our elected officials today, because  
17 that seems to be a real concern for the  
18 citizens of the state of Florida.

19 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Well, let's spike that  
20 rumor right now. At the end of this hearing,  
21 assuming everyone in the public has the  
22 opportunity to speak, we will invite any member  
23 of this Committee to make any comment, answer  
24 any question that has come up today if they  
25 would like, or to offer any proposal they would

1       like, but now we would love to hear your  
2       testimony, sir, and we are now up to 44  
3       individuals.

4               So I am going to have to ask you to, if  
5       you can, be as succinct as you possibly are  
6       able to be.

7               MR. COUEY: Well, again, I will certainly  
8       push forward the idea that this needs to be  
9       transparent, but apparently what we are hearing  
10      is true. Although you say questions will be  
11      answered, you have been asked a question  
12      already and you really didn't answer it. You  
13      just put it off.

14              I would like to second the thought that it  
15      is too late in the process. I see it as real  
16      gamesmanship again. We really won't know until  
17      late in next year, and I just really encourage  
18      this Committee to reconsider that immediately  
19      and not drag it out so long.

20              How -- how are we as voters going to --  
21      how is anybody going to prepare a campaign?  
22      How is anybody going to know who is running? I  
23      just have some real doubts in this whole  
24      process.

25              I realize it appears it be transparent. I



1       will tell you my perception is, and some of the  
2       things that we are hearing now that questions  
3       don't get answered, there is no maps available.

4             You know, I think it is kind of ridiculous  
5       that the people that are going to be proposing  
6       this haven't furnished a map yet, and I would  
7       also like to second the thought that I don't  
8       appreciate districts that are split north and  
9       south.

10            I want you to truly consider that and I  
11       will reserve any additional time in case  
12       somebody will answer a question. Thank you.

13            CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
14       Mr. Couey, and next we have Doctor, is it  
15       Dr. Avant or Avant?

16            DR. AVANT: Avant.

17            CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Yes, sir, and following  
18       you, Doctor, is Ray, I believe it is Ray  
19       Huggins or Hudkins, with the Coffee Party.

20            Doctor, you are recognized. Thanks for  
21       being here.

22            DR. AVANT: I am Dr. Calvin Avant,  
23       Executive Director for the Escambia Pensacola  
24       Human Relations Commission, and I come to speak  
25       to -- the last time you redistrict, made your

1       redistricting, you took as a part of those who  
2       would represent us in the Florida State, State  
3       House, our State Representatives, and diluted  
4       the minority vote in District III.

5             You took and the two, one of the two  
6       larger and older minority communities and took  
7       them out of District III and put them in  
8       District II. That was communities of Wedgewood  
9       and Lincoln Park.

10            Both of those communities were taken and  
11       put into, and when I say diluted, these are  
12       voters, these are people who are a larger block  
13       of minority voters who actually vote, and they  
14       were taken out of District II and put into, I  
15       mean, out of District III and put into District  
16       II.

17            Then they took and brought in Gulf Breeze,  
18       which was explained to you which is the great  
19       majority of the people who live in Gulf Breeze  
20       are from the majority community, and we have  
21       been -- the minority, as has been stated, the  
22       minority community here in Escambia County has  
23       not had a Representative in Tallahassee ever.

24            And to take and take, to move where there  
25       was an opportunity, I think, I don't know if it

1       was the last time they voted or the time  
2       before, but one of the candidates lost by about  
3       800 votes, and it is well over about four or  
4       five thousand votes out in the area that I just  
5       got through speaking of.

6               And if we are looking at having an  
7       opportunity for everyone to be represented, we  
8       need to go back and revisit how you move, how  
9       you set that district up and to assure that  
10      minorities have an opportunity to have  
11      representation in Tallahassee out of Escambia  
12      County. Thank you.

13             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
14      Doctor. That is very helpful testimony. Next,  
15      is it Ray Hawkins, and I apologize if I messed  
16      up your name?

17             MR. HUDKINS: That is all right, it has  
18      happened before.

19             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And my handwriting is  
20      even worse than yours, sir. Thank you for  
21      being here, and we welcome you and you are  
22      recognized, and following Mr. Hawkins will be  
23      Dustin Ponder.

24             MR. HUDKINS: Thank you very much. If  
25      your handwriting is worse than mine, I hope you

1 use a computer.

2 My name is Ray Hudkins. I live here in  
3 Pensacola. As you stated, I am a member of the  
4 Coffee Party USA, which is a nationwide  
5 organization that is only 15 months old.

6 I coordinate the activities, both here in  
7 Pensacola and for the state of Florida, and our  
8 group is a democracy movement that seeks to  
9 give voice to people of all political  
10 persuasions.

11 We are grassroots volunteer, non partisan  
12 citizens who are independent of all political  
13 parties and labels. We strive to restore  
14 stability to the political process to reduce  
15 the extreme polarization of interest where both  
16 Republicans and Democrats too often act in the  
17 interest of their parties rather than of  
18 people, and you have heard previous speakers  
19 state to that fact.

20 One statement in the Declaration of  
21 Independence stands out that essentially says  
22 your task is to listen to the people, and I  
23 quote, "Governments instituted by men derive  
24 their just powers from the consent of the  
25 governed."

1           My goal here today is to add to the voices  
2           that you have heard and will hear following me  
3           to take a message to your leadership and to  
4           you, listen to the people.

5           Recent legislative actions by the  
6           Legislature and the Governor indicate you are  
7           not listening. Please do so.

8           You have heard a lot about the timeline  
9           already, and I will echo the comments of the  
10          folks that preceded me. And I have to ask, it  
11          only took you 60 days to modify our election  
12          laws which are probably in violation of the  
13          Voting Rights Act.

14          Why can't you give us maps in 60 days? I  
15          don't understand the process. I understand the  
16          process that you would like to hear from the  
17          public, but it is almost like a poker game.  
18          You want us to show our hand before you show  
19          yours, and I would offer that you have the  
20          experts on the staff to come up with the maps  
21          and then put those forward for public hearings.

22          These public hearings essentially are very  
23          difficult for us as citizens who are not  
24          familiar with the software, not familiar with  
25          all of the demographics that go into that, and

1 I think it would be so much more open and  
2 transparent if you actually provided the maps,  
3 and I would ask you to think about suspending  
4 public hearings until you can provide the maps  
5 and then go back and do the hearings.

6 I wasn't aware of the comment that was  
7 made about the Constitution forbidding the  
8 Legislature from taking action until 2012.

9 I would assume taking action is actually  
10 finalizing something. Preliminaries are not  
11 action taken, they are action proposed. So  
12 notwithstanding the 2012 Constitutional  
13 requirement, I don't think there is any problem  
14 with you providing maps prior to 2012.

15 And as previous speakers have said, you  
16 essentially are putting a person who wants to  
17 run for office in a position of not knowing who  
18 their constituents are, and that is kind of  
19 important when you are running for office.

20 The sad but true fact is that a lot of the  
21 redrawn districts possibly will end up in  
22 court. I think a way to avoid that is to have  
23 the public input on what you are proposing,  
24 because ultimately you are going to take your  
25 version of the public input to the review

1 process, and if you get the public input you  
2 can start building a consensus of the public  
3 that ought to short circuit some of the  
4 potential litigation.

5 And quite frankly, I with rather have the  
6 Legislature and the citizens making decisions,  
7 not lawyers and judges.

8 As a Coffee Party activist I am pledged to  
9 support leaders who work towards positive  
10 solutions and hold accountable those who  
11 obstruct them. Please be leaders that we can  
12 support and thank you very much for allowing me  
13 to comment.

14 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
15 We appreciate you being here. Our next speaker  
16 is Dustin Ponder, who comes all of the way from  
17 Gainesville. Thank you for driving all this  
18 way to talk to us here in northwest Florida,  
19 and following Mr. Ponder is Janet, I believe it  
20 is Delorge, Janet Delorge. So if Ms. Delorge,  
21 if you will be on deck. Mr. Ponder.

22 MR. PONDER: Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: It is good to see you  
24 again.

25 MR. PONDER: It is good to see you again.

1 I was in Tallahassee yesterday, so I got to see  
2 some of the process and full disclosure, I am  
3 writing a story about it. So you will probably  
4 be seeing more of me as we go on, hopefully not  
5 speaking as much, but since there is no maps to  
6 talk on today, I want to talk on the two points  
7 that Representative Weatherford brought up, and  
8 I want to talk about this process here today,  
9 because ultimately if we want to get the  
10 process of redistricting right, I mean, as  
11 Weatherford said, it is going by public input.

12 It is going by what has to happen here  
13 today. So this has to be correct, this actual  
14 meeting, these 26 meetings, but first, the  
15 first point that Representative Weatherford  
16 brought up was that we are bound by the  
17 Constitution, we can't act on maps until 2012,  
18 because we can't vote on them, but that doesn't  
19 mean we can't start the process now of looking  
20 at maps.

21 Nobody is asking from the public to vote  
22 on maps right now. I mean, I just don't think  
23 that is a legitimate reason not to have maps,  
24 and I would hope at the next meeting that that  
25 is not brought up, because to me, that just



1           sounds like a sort of misleading talking point.

2           The second reason is that we don't want  
3           any preconceived notions. That is why  
4           supposedly we are having these 26 meetings, so  
5           the voice of the people can be heard and this  
6           process can be correct.

7           And if I was to take your word, that might  
8           be a legitimate reason, but I would say the  
9           actions here today say otherwise, and as great  
10          as it is to see so many retirees and some paid  
11          lobbyists from Tallahassee here, this meeting  
12          is at 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and I know we  
13          have 17 percent real unemployment right now,  
14          and some of those folks might have been able to  
15          make it if they weren't looking for jobs that  
16          don't exist.

17          But the question I have and I would like  
18          answered and I would like somebody to maybe  
19          write it down if you want and make comments at  
20          the end, is if you want public input from the  
21          vast majority of people who work for a living,  
22          how can you schedule a meeting at 10:00 a.m. to  
23          1:00 p.m., and multiple meetings throughout the  
24          process.

25          I mean, there is many more, I think my

1       actual meeting in Gainesville, I believe is at  
2       10:00 to 1:00. That might be 6:00 to 9:00, but  
3       one of those in my home district is actually  
4       going to basically disenfranchise all of the  
5       people who work for a living from being part of  
6       this process, and that just tells me that we  
7       don't care about working families here.

8               And it tells me that we don't care about  
9       the people at NAS, the Naval Air Station or  
10      military veterans, farmers, like Senator Evers,  
11      we don't care about those people's input, you  
12      know, and that is sad to see.

13             So one thing I propose, I encourage all  
14      areas that are having meetings to have evening  
15      sessions. I appreciated that in Tallahassee  
16      yesterday, so that everybody could have their  
17      input, because if we have a public meeting with  
18      no working people, with none of the vast  
19      majority of people you represent here, that  
20      means we have a flawed process.

21             I mean, today is a failure in my opinion,  
22      and if we have a flawed process, we are going  
23      to have flawed districts, again, that  
24      disenfranchise exactly who has been coming up  
25      and saying here.

1           So I mean, that is all I got to say today  
2           and hopefully we will see some maps and we will  
3           see some working people here and we can have a  
4           legitimate discourse and move forward. Thank  
5           you.

6           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Ponder,  
7           and we look forward to seeing you tonight at  
8           6:00 o'clock at Ft. Walton Beach.

9           MS. DELORGE: Hi.

10          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Janet, how do you  
11          pronounce your last name?

12          MS. DELORGE: Delorge, Delorge.

13          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Delorge, and following  
14          Ms. Delorge is Lonnie Hawkins.

15          MS. DELORGE: Thank you for allowing me to  
16          express a couple of my concerns about  
17          redistricting in Florida.

18          The Florida voters have spoken. Last year  
19          Florida voters passed Amendments V and VI  
20          setting standards for redrawing boundaries the  
21          Census. These Amendments passed with a  
22          63 percent favorable vote, greater than  
23          lawmakers consider to be a super majority in  
24          legislative settings.

25          Please recall that you as Legislators

1       increase the requirement that citizen initiated  
2       proposals would have to meet the super majority  
3       standards for approval rather than a simple  
4       majority vote.

5               Supposedly this change was made so that we  
6       could prevent frivolous issues from becoming  
7       part of our State Constitution.

8               The citizens of Florida have met and  
9       extended that requirement or those  
10      requirements. Thus, as members of the  
11      Redistricting Committee, have an obligation to  
12      follow the constitutionally approved standards  
13      of these Amendments.

14              Among the standards to be taken into  
15      account is that of geographical boundaries.  
16      That includes city and county boundaries. I  
17      want to address that aspect of the provision.

18              At the present time, Escambia County, the  
19      largest county in the area with the largest  
20      population has no representation in the Florida  
21      Senate.

22              Escambia County has a population of almost  
23      300,000, and Santa Rosa's population is  
24      slightly greater than 150,000.

25              That gives these two counties almost

1       enough population for one State Senate seat.  
2       Only a small portion of Okaloosa County, of  
3       their population would need to be added to  
4       these two counties to reach the approximate  
5       470,000 population that would be required for a  
6       State Senate District. I encourage you to  
7       consider that.

8               Further, a district drawn in this way  
9       would meet the standards of being compact.  
10       That was one of the standards approved by the  
11       voters in Amendments V and VI. The entire  
12       populations of Escambia and Santa Rosa would be  
13       in one Senate District rather than having the  
14       southern part of Escambia County in another  
15       district as it is under the current designation  
16       from the last census.

17              I understand your concerns about  
18       incumbency and political party affiliation.  
19       However, the Constitution is the document by  
20       which we as Florida citizens live and our  
21       future is dependent on it.

22              It is imperative that you set aside your  
23       personal considerations, incumbency and that  
24       you act as statesmen rather than political  
25       politicians with party -- party affiliations

1           and follow the dictates of the voters when you  
2           redraw the boundaries of the Florida  
3           Legislature. Thank you.

4           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
5           Ms. Delorge. We appreciate your testimony, and  
6           next is Lonnie Hawkins, and behind Mr. Hawkins  
7           is Bea Thomas. Mr. Hawkins, welcome, you are  
8           recognized.

9           MR. HAWKINS: Thank you. Let me give you  
10          a proper welcome which has not been done yet,  
11          and Mayor Vince Webbs is no longer with us, so  
12          let me welcome you to the western gate to the  
13          sunshine state.

14          This morning I had the privilege of  
15          sitting on the shores of Pensacola Bay watching  
16          the Blue Angels as they practiced. And now I  
17          have the privilege of addressing our elected  
18          representative government. What other country  
19          in the world has that opportunity?

20          My concerns are that most of the people I  
21          have heard speak today have it backwards. You  
22          represent us. We are here to propose to you  
23          our ideas, not you to come down and dictate to  
24          us, here is the pre-drawn maps, what do you  
25          think of the work I did.

1           We are to let you know what we think. So  
2           let me tell you what I have done. Yesterday I  
3           got on to the My District Builder, didn't quite  
4           understood how it worked, so this morning I  
5           came and asked, tell me how it works.

6           So I played with Escambia County just to  
7           start. Mr. Laird, you are not going to get  
8           three Representative Districts. You don't have  
9           the numbers for two. So you going to have to  
10          share with other counties.

11          The way they run now, I am not real  
12          excited about long wide districts, but I  
13          understand the logic from ten years ago that  
14          the rural farming districts had a lot in common  
15          and maybe they needed a farmer representative.  
16          The southern districts that deal with tourism  
17          and business, maybe they needed their own  
18          Representative or Senator.

19          We could compact them and I have looked at  
20          the maps and, yes, it will work compacted, but  
21          in doing so do we dilute the representation  
22          from the north and the south in our diverse  
23          counties.

24          So I don't envy the job that you have to  
25          do. I have heard this morning what you did ten

1       years ago. I look at our local delegation and  
2       I think two members were freshmen ten years  
3       ago, they didn't do anything. They sat back  
4       and watched the process.

5               Now you have grown up and you get to deal  
6       with it. Again, I don't envy what you are  
7       doing, and yes, I do have a job, I took a  
8       personal day of leave to be here today, and  
9       also Mr. Laird, let me save you that drive to  
10      Crestview. Senator Evers does have a Pensacola  
11      office.

12             And the other thing I am confused about,  
13      when I got here this morning, the doors weren't  
14      closed, they were open. There is nothing here  
15      but transparency. So thank you for doing open  
16      transparent hearings. The good news is, two  
17      down, 24 to go. Thank you.

18             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
19      Mr. Hawkins. We appreciate your testimony.  
20      Next is Bea Thomas, and following Bea Thomas is  
21      Susan Watson from the ACLU. Bea Thomas, you  
22      are recognized, and thank you very much.

23             MS. THOMAS: Hi, and good morning to  
24      everyone, and I just want to make it real, real  
25      brief. I really thank God for people, thank



1 God for this awesome creation of the United  
2 States of America, but we have to make sure  
3 that we -- we step on people toes because we  
4 always are voicing our opinion.

5 Somehow or another you never get it right,  
6 okay. I represent District III, and I do see  
7 my Representative. I do see the County  
8 Commissioners at the County Commission, the  
9 woman that is over District III. District III  
10 do have some problems. It has got to be worked  
11 out.

12 The redistricting of it, I have to study  
13 it. The word of God say study thy self, show  
14 thy self the proof, but you have to have wisdom  
15 and knowledge of how to do it.

16 So what I represent is this is my motto to  
17 everybody, we have what we voted for, we had a  
18 chance, we voted, so what we have and we voted  
19 for, we got to work with it one way or another.  
20 Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
22 Ms. Thomas. We appreciate you being here, and  
23 next up is Susan Watson with the ACLU of  
24 Florida, and behind Ms. Watson is Jerry, I  
25 believe it is either, I think it is Jerry David

1 from the Florida Farm Bureau, and I apologize,  
2 Mr. David, if I -- if I am misunderstanding the  
3 writing of your last name.

4 But Ms. Watson, thank you for being here  
5 and you are recognized.

6 MS. WATSON: Thank you. Chairman Gaetz,  
7 Chairman Weatherford and Committee members. It  
8 was my honor a couple of weeks ago to attend a  
9 public meeting when Chairman Gaetz was the  
10 featured speaker.

11 Fortunately, Chairman Gaetz was not under  
12 a gag order then, for he cheerfully explained  
13 the process of redistricting, telling us that  
14 if things go well and without a hitch, and  
15 there is always a hitch, but if things go well  
16 without a hitch, we should know nine days prior  
17 to qualifying where the district lines are  
18 going to be drawn.

19 Why, I wonder? If this isn't a recipe for  
20 chaos, then I don't know what is. Florida's  
21 process is one of the slowest, most secretive  
22 in the country. There is no reason that it  
23 needs to be like this, unless the goal is to  
24 keep the people in the dark and confuse them.

25 Show us the maps now. You say that you

1       invite us to draw the maps, but that is your  
2       job. It is your job. It is our job to comment  
3       on them and give meaningful input.

4               We can't do that if we don't have maps.  
5       It is a slap in the face to the voters of  
6       Florida to cut us out of the process. You are  
7       holding meaningless hearings with no proposals  
8       and nothing for us to comment on.

9               The voters overwhelmingly approved the new  
10       rules for redistricting. It is an insult for  
11       you to ignore us and to play games with us.  
12       Please stop playing games now. Please stop the  
13       charade, please show us the maps. Thank you.

14              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
15       Ms. Watson. It is good to see you again.  
16       Next, is it Jerry David?

17              MR. DAVIS: Davis.

18              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Davis, I am sorry,  
19       Mr. Davis. And following Mr. Davis is Brett  
20       Ward, and Mr. Davis, it says here you are with  
21       Farm Bureau, is that right, sir?

22              MR. DAVIS: Yes, I represent -- I am a  
23       Director for Florida Farm Bureau, and represent  
24       Escambia, Okaloosa and Santa Rosa Counties.

25              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Well, you are recognized

1           and we are delighted you are here, sir.

2           MR. DAVIS: Thank you, and one thing I  
3           wanted to say to the delegation that we  
4           appreciate when we call that a Representative  
5           or one of ya'll contact us back and we have  
6           never had any problem having any communication  
7           with our Representatives and Senators, and we  
8           appreciate that fact.

9           And we represent agriculture in the rural  
10          communities of the area, and agriculture is the  
11          second leading economic generator for the state  
12          of Florida, and we would like to see that  
13          recognized, as well as the fact and appreciate  
14          Mr. Hawkins' comment about the districting.  
15          They are giving the rural areas a voice in the  
16          Legislature.

17          Without these horizontal areas of it we  
18          would be leaving off the large expanse of the  
19          state that is rural and agricultural, and we  
20          appreciate the continued focus on that through  
21          the state, and also this redistricting process.

22          And as you see, we are working farmers and  
23          several of us have taken off our days to come  
24          down here because this is very important for us  
25          to have a voice in our state government, too,

1           and we appreciate the fact that ya'll are here  
2           to do that.

3           And we represent thousands of working farm  
4           families there and we would like to continue  
5           representation of them, and one of the  
6           definitions of a good compromise is when all  
7           parties go away semi mad and we don't, we do  
8           not envy your job here of doing this  
9           redistricting, but we appreciate your efforts  
10          and we would like ya'll to keep these points in  
11          mind as you go through the process.

12           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very, very  
13          much, sir. Next is Brett Ward, Mr. Ward, and  
14          following Mr. Ward is Mike Godwin.

15          Mr. Ward, thank you for being here with us  
16          this morning and you are recognized.

17          MR. WARD: Mr. Chairman, ladies and  
18          gentlemen. It is a pleasure to speak with you  
19          today on this redistricting. I guess I will be  
20          in the minority.

21          I have heard a lot of speakers speak about  
22          the south end of the county and how they would  
23          like to encompass the north end into their  
24          district.

25          We are Americans first, Floridians second

1       and that is about where it stops when it comes  
2       to this county. The south end is the south end  
3       and the north end is the north end. I am very  
4       pleased right now with the way the district is,  
5       the district lines are drawn. We have  
6       representation.

7               If Escambia County is put together and  
8       Santa Rosa County is put together, we will lose  
9       our voice on the north end because the south  
10      end of both counties is where the population  
11      is.

12             Right now we can pick up the phone, call  
13      Representative Broxson, Senator Evers, we can  
14      get a response, they know who we are. That is  
15      a good thing in state government.

16             The goals are different. The lifestyle is  
17      different. Let us keep the districts where the  
18      rural area is represented. If the districts  
19      are put together we will lose our voice, and as  
20      a member of Escambia County Farm Bureau Board  
21      of Directors, we choose to lead and not follow  
22      in this.

23             We will give you a map as it presents, as  
24      it pertains to our rural area, not for the  
25      whole county, but just for our area, and how we

1           would like to see it drawn. Thank you for your  
2           time.

3           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
4           We appreciate your being here. Mike Godwin is  
5           our next speaker and following Mr. Godwin is  
6           David A. Nelson.

7           Mr. Godwin, we appreciate your taking time  
8           to come to speak to the Committee today and you  
9           are recognized, sir.

10          MR. GODWIN: Thank you very much. I am a  
11          farmer in the north end of the county and also  
12          a Board member of the Farm Bureau. I have no  
13          problem with the east/west boundary lines  
14          district and the way it is laid out, because  
15          that gives agricultural its representation and  
16          that is why I came today to tell you that  
17          agriculture needs its representation.

18          I am probably a minority here. I doubt if  
19          anybody else has got spray planes and we  
20          service two or three counties in the north end  
21          of the county with ag planes and we don't need  
22          to be tied in with Pensacola, because I doubt  
23          if anybody down there has any concern other  
24          than not to use it.

25          But we would like to stay in the north

1           end, all agricultural areas across the north  
2           end of the counties be represented by one  
3           Representative. Thank you very much.

4           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
5           Our next speaker is David A. Nelson and  
6           following Mr. Nelson, Ellen, I believe it is  
7           Ellen Roston.

8           Mr. Nelson, thank you for being here  
9           today. We appreciate your taking your time and  
10          you are recognized in front of the Committee.

11          MR. NELSON: Thank you very much, Senator,  
12          and Representative Weatherford and the rest of  
13          the panel. I certainly appreciate the  
14          opportunity to have this venue and have a  
15          chance to make some comments about this  
16          process.

17          It is a heck of a thing to follow these  
18          three gentlemen who just talked eloquently  
19          about the needs and the special demands of  
20          farmers and we respect that.

21          However, going forward we all know that we  
22          are in a tremendous crunch as it relates to  
23          revenue. Our cost of everything is rising, and  
24          unfortunately, even though for those who have  
25          special interests in the south end of these



1       counties, like Escambia, Santa Rosa and  
2       Okaloosa, the north very definitely has those  
3       same kind of issues and respect that.

4               But unfortunately our counties are not put  
5       together that way, and I think that it is  
6       important that your emphasis be put on how we  
7       can encourage the integration of these counties  
8       in order to maximize our potential to develop  
9       revenue, to encourage development and hold on  
10      to our citizens.

11             Having grown up here and had to leave for  
12      many, many years to make a living, I see that  
13      process. I have got four kids, they are spread  
14      all over the country. We need to keep our  
15      people home, and I think we have to have  
16      vehicles put in place that help to encourage  
17      understanding and representation that brings  
18      counties together and I don't think that your  
19      job is going to be easy.

20             I certainly don't envy you, and this job  
21      of redistricting is only a precursor to the  
22      problems that you are going to face or those  
23      who will sit in your seat will face in  
24      providing for our government, and providing for  
25      the needs of the citizens.

1           And I think the only way that is going to  
2           happen is if we can find a way to bring  
3           together these divergent needs and divergent  
4           priorities and make the county entities that we  
5           have, and unless we are going to change that,  
6           unless we are going to redraw the lines of  
7           counties, then I think it is incumbent upon all  
8           of us to give the input and for you to do the  
9           job to bring our alignment of districts back to  
10          respect and maintain the integrity of our  
11          counties and our communities. Thank you very  
12          much.

13           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, Mr.  
14          Nelson, for your testimony. Next is Ellen, I  
15          think it is Roston. Did I get that right,  
16          many?

17           MS. ROSTON: Yes.

18           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And following Ms. Roston  
19          is Muriel Wagner. Ms. Roston, we appreciate  
20          your being here, and you are recognized.

21           MS. ROSTON: Thank you. Escambia County  
22          lacks full and fair representation in the State  
23          Legislature. This is a statement made by when  
24          Dr. Wynn Teasley, former Head of the University  
25          of West Florida Whitman Center for Public

1           Service, and I agree with his statement.

2           The Senate District II is currently drawn  
3           so that the northern sections of Escambia,  
4           Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton and Bay Counties  
5           are in District II.

6           Senate District IV is currently drawn so  
7           that the southern portion of Escambia, Santa  
8           Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton and Bay Counties are in  
9           District IV.

10          The counties are effectively split between  
11          north and south for their Senate Districts.  
12          District IV is approximately 115 miles long. I  
13          can tell you that as a resident of Escambia  
14          County I rarely go to Bay County and feel I  
15          have little in common with them.

16          I would like to see the district lines  
17          drawn not between north and south, but county  
18          by county. A combination of Escambia and Santa  
19          Rosa Counties would nearly equal the population  
20          required for one Senate Seat.

21          Escambia County residents do have a lot in  
22          common with Santa Rosa County residents. We  
23          are neighbors. Many people live in one county  
24          and work in the other. Basing the Senate  
25          District on county boundaries rather than an

1       artificial split between north and south, not  
2       only makes more sense, but follows the  
3       requirements of the Constitutional Amendments  
4       passed in 2010 by the voters, that districts be  
5       compact, contiguous and use existing political  
6       boundaries. Thank you.

7               CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
8       Ms. Wagner. We appreciate your coming today.  
9       Next is Beatrice, I think it is, is it Belous?

10              MS. BELOUS: Yes.

11              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I am sorry, ma'am, could  
12       you pronounce your name for us?

13              MS. WAGNER: My name is Muriel Wagner.

14              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I am sorry, behind  
15       Ms. Wagner is Beatrice Belous. I apologize,  
16       Ms. Wagner, you are recognized. I am glad that  
17       you are here.

18              MS. WAGNER: And her name -- her name is  
19       pronounced Belous.

20              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Is that right?

21              MS. WAGNER: Yes.

22              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Well, we are delighted to  
23       have you here to help us pronounce the name of  
24       the person behind you.

25              MS. WAGNER: I am a former Escambia County

1 Commissioner. And I was the first woman  
2 elected, woman elected in her own right, and I  
3 ran a grassroots campaign.

4 So that meant that I had to have a very  
5 experienced group of people mapping out my walk  
6 routes, because you don't do grassroots  
7 campaigns without walking.

8 That was a while back, and I don't intend  
9 to do that again, but I just want to remind you  
10 that I ran into a great many problems.

11 One of them was the fact that I would  
12 sometimes have one side of the street but not  
13 the other, and when you got into the northern  
14 part of the District it was very confusing and  
15 I found other candidates who were also  
16 confused.

17 I just want to point out that Escambia  
18 County's Districts are not perfect, and Wynn  
19 Teasley's column about perfect districts should  
20 be examined a little more carefully.

21 When I moved to the congregate living  
22 facility where I live now I found out that I  
23 live in a gerrymandered district. That the  
24 person, a person running for School Board, I  
25 guess, didn't want those old folks voting for

1           them.  So I mean, I have in a gerrymandered  
2           district.

3           I think we should look at the districts in  
4           Escambia County with an eye to using the  
5           natural resources to determine the boundaries  
6           so that people can have a logical way of  
7           examining them.  And that is all I have to say.  
8           Thank you.

9           CHAIRMAN GAETZ:  Thank you very, very much  
10          for being here and for your service to this  
11          community.

12          And now Beatrice, you are up, and behind  
13          her is Barbara Goggins, I believe it is,  
14          Barbara Goggins.

15          Thank you very much for being here today,  
16          ma'am, and you are recognized to speak before  
17          the Committee.

18          MS. BELOUS:  Well, I don't have much to  
19          say, but I read in the paper that only the  
20          leaders can make, can answer questions.  So I  
21          want to know why the others have taken the  
22          Fifth Amendment so as not to be able to answer  
23          our questions.

24          CHAIRMAN GAETZ:  Well, ma'am, let me spike  
25          that rumor for the second time.  It is not true

1       and any member of this Committee will have the  
2       opportunity after the public has been heard to  
3       make any comments they wish. The floor is  
4       yours.

5               MS. BELOUS: Well, all I want to say is  
6       that we do need the fifth -- the fair  
7       amendments to the Constitution of Florida and  
8       hope that we can get a fair district and not  
9       gerrymandering. Thank you.

10              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you. Thank you  
11       very much, ma'am, for being here. Next is  
12       Barbara Goggins and behind Ms. Goggins is  
13       Rosemary Hays-Thomas, with the League of Women  
14       Voters. Ms. Goggins.

15              MS. GOGGINS: Yes, I am Barbara Goggins.  
16       At one time I lived in the south part of  
17       Escambia County and I was in a snake and the  
18       snake went from the Alabama line all the way  
19       down to Panama City.

20              Now, there is very little that the western  
21       side of Pensacola has to do with Panama City.  
22       I don't know whether you saw the joke, that  
23       really the districting was a joke in the  
24       newspaper where some of our districts looked  
25       like Barney and some of our districts looked

1           like the Enterprise taking off someplace.

2           I would like to say that we live in a  
3           county, this is Escambia County. We have  
4           county government, we have county police and  
5           the least we can do is have districts that are  
6           within our county and close.

7           We have a lot in common with Santa Rosa  
8           County and I am not even sure where Baker  
9           County is. So the only thing I ask you is to  
10          put our governments together, and I would like  
11          to pass my thing to this gentleman and maybe  
12          you can look at my jokes.

13          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: We will be happy to. We  
14          will be happy to. We need a little good humor.  
15          Now, Rosemary Hays-Thomas from the League of  
16          Women Voters, and beyond Ms. Thomas, the next  
17          speaker is Jack Livingston, if you can be  
18          ready, Mr. Livingston.

19          Ms. Hays-Thomas, thank you for being here  
20          and you are recognized.

21          MS. HAYS-THOMAS: You are welcome, thank  
22          you for giving us the opportunity to talk to  
23          you today. My name is Rosemary Hays-Thomas. I  
24          am Co-President with Dr. Paula Montgomery of  
25          the League of Women Voters of the Pensacola Bay



1       area. The following comments are made on  
2       behalf of our local League.

3               First we would like to make the point that  
4       the timeline sent by the Legislature is  
5       unrealistic and seems designed to cause massive  
6       voter confusion, which is a quote from the  
7       House's own redistricting attorney, Miguel  
8       DeGrande.

9               The legislative plan to pass the maps in  
10      March of 2012, at the end of the session does  
11      not leave enough time for court approval and  
12      Department of Justice review before the end of  
13      the period to qualify to run for the election  
14      in June, which is going to cause a lot of  
15      confusion.

16              This seems calculated, regardless of what  
17      the motive was, the appearance is that it is  
18      calculated to give a big advantage to  
19      incumbents, since challengers will not know the  
20      districts nor have time to campaign.

21              This contradicts Amendments V and VI which  
22      were passed as has been said previously by  
23      almost two-thirds of the voters of the state.

24              Other states are drawing their maps early.  
25      Why can't Florida? Prepare the maps earlier,

1 debate them in the fall and pass them at the  
2 beginning of the session, which would double  
3 the time available for challenges and  
4 pre-clearance by the U. S. Department of  
5 Justice.

6 Second, as other speakers have asked,  
7 where are the maps? These hearings are not in  
8 my opinion a good use of taxpayer time and  
9 money, and I have thought a little bit today  
10 about what it is costing the state to have  
11 these hearings, looking around at the numbers  
12 of those of you who have had to travel  
13 distances to be here and the audio visual  
14 equipment and the software, all of that stuff.  
15 It seems to me pretty expensive.

16 There aren't my maps on which we can  
17 comment. Legislators and their staff are paid  
18 by us to do things, like draw maps for  
19 redistricting and we are curious why you are  
20 asking us to do it.

21 Considerable time and money has been spent  
22 to develop the software for the public to play  
23 with, drawing maps that give them the illusion  
24 of inclusion. What will be done with these  
25 maps drawn by citizens who do sign up to use

1 the system?

2 I also call your attention to the fact  
3 that this system is restricted to people who  
4 are computer literate and have access to  
5 computer facilities. Why are maps not  
6 available to which we can react?

7 Other states use hearings to solicit  
8 public comment on maps. Why can't Florida? If  
9 maps have been drawn, where are they? Why  
10 aren't they made available to us for public  
11 comment?

12 These hearings are spending our time and  
13 money to give the illusion that the Legislators  
14 are listening to the citizens, and I grant you  
15 the attribution that that is what you are doing  
16 today, listening to us, but the voters of  
17 Florida have spoken loud and clear in approving  
18 Amendments V and VI, and we expect our  
19 Legislature to implement them.

20 Third, in this time of financial austerity  
21 why is the Legislature spending taxpayer money  
22 to oppose fair districts, as were specified in  
23 Amendments V and VI which were overwhelmingly  
24 approved by the voters?

25 The Legislature has hired expensive

1       lawyers and held Committee meetings to fight  
2       the Amendments, argued to the Supreme Court  
3       that they should be stricken from the ballot,  
4       tried to confuse voters by adding a misleading  
5       Amendment VII, which was stricken.

6               Worked to avoid pre-clearance by the U. S.  
7       Justice Department, joined a lawsuit  
8       challenging their constitutionality, thus using  
9       taxpayer money to challenge Amendments that  
10      were passed by two-thirds of our voters, and  
11      finally chosen a course that requires the state  
12      both to attack and defend these Amendments,  
13      because our Secretary of State, Kurt Browning,  
14      is the Defendant in this case.

15             This appears to me to be a giant waste of  
16      money, which I wish you could spend for other  
17      purposes, such as maintaining and creating  
18      employment for our citizens. I thank you for  
19      the opportunity to speak today.

20             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
21      Ms. Hays-Thomas. Next is Jack Livingston and  
22      following Mr. Livingston is Patti Hightower.  
23      Mr. Livingston, thank you for being here.

24             MR. LIVINGSTON: Good morning.

25             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And you are recognized.

1           MR. LIVINGSTON: Good morning, thank you,  
2           sir. I am Jack Livingston. I am the President  
3           of Escambia County Farm Bureau and we have over  
4           4,900 members in Escambia County.

5           We have already had three of my friends  
6           speak for Farm Bureau, and one of the persons  
7           before I came up was talking about he didn't  
8           know where the districts where, didn't know  
9           where people's offices were. Jeff Miller, I  
10          have called him numerous time, Greg Evers, I  
11          did him when he was in the House. I visited  
12          with him several times. I never called him  
13          when he didn't help me out, didn't help out the  
14          farmers of Escambia County.

15          Doug Broxson is new, Clay Ingram, Clay  
16          Ford, I visited with all of them in Tallahassee  
17          and in their offices locally, and speaking on  
18          behalf of Escambia County Farm Bureau, we like  
19          the way the districts are east or west and for  
20          the benefit of the farmers, the people who grow  
21          our food, we would appreciate it if it would  
22          stay that way. Thank you.

23          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
24          Mr. Livingston, for your comments. And next is  
25          Patti Hightower. It is good to see you again,

1 Patti. Thank you for being here. You are  
2 recognized.

3 MS. HIGHTOWER: Thank you for this  
4 opportunity, and just as a disclaimer, I am  
5 speaking as Patti Hightower. Some of you may  
6 know me as a School Board member in Escambia  
7 County, and I need to tell Ms. Wagner I did not  
8 draw those lines.

9 All of our School Board members are  
10 involved in this process even as we speak. So  
11 we know what an awesome task you have laid in  
12 front of you and you know that you will be  
13 lucky if you can please one or two people, but  
14 I did want to get -- so many people have spoken  
15 so eloquently about the issue here of trying to  
16 draw the lines vertically rather than  
17 horizontally.

18 I respect our Farm Bureau people because I  
19 understand what their needs are, too, but I  
20 would like to say that I would like to concur  
21 in creating the Escambia, Santa Rosa County  
22 District, if that is at all possible.

23 I would also like to ask you to be sure  
24 that you publicize the hearings after the maps  
25 are drawn as well as you have done this. I

1       really appreciate as a taxpayer, I know it is a  
2       lot of money, but the opportunity to see where  
3       our population is, how it has grown, be able to  
4       play with the lines.

5               We have been doing that as our school  
6       districts and it is a valuable tool and I want  
7       us to be able to also be able to comment once  
8       those lines are committed to paper or to the  
9       computer, so that we all have the same  
10      opportunity since the maps are not drawn now to  
11      be involved afterwards.

12             And the other thing is, again, about the  
13      contiguous lines and using the geographical  
14      boundaries. So thank you very much.

15             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Hightower.  
16      Thank you for your service to the people of  
17      Escambia County. Next we have Jeremy Evans and  
18      behind Mr. Evans is Jeff Bergosh.

19             Mr. Evans, thank you for taking the time  
20      to come today. You are recognized. We are  
21      delighted to have you.

22             MR. EVANS: Thank you very much. First  
23      off I am the Vice Chairman of the local  
24      Republican Party in the nature of full  
25      disclosure, and I have been involved in

1 politics since I was a little kid and this is  
2 the first time I have ever heard of anybody,  
3 any organization, government organization,  
4 supplying the data to the citizens so the  
5 citizens can then go and make the maps  
6 themselves.

7 On top of that you are going to as many  
8 places as you can throughout the state to speak  
9 to anybody who wants to come and let us tell  
10 you what we think, and I have never heard of  
11 anybody being more transparent than that, and  
12 there always can be calls for more  
13 transparency, but I think you have done more  
14 than anyone has ever done before, so for that I  
15 thank you.

16 There has been several things said today  
17 that I would just like to kind of offer a  
18 rebuttal to.

19 The first is there has been a lot of talk  
20 about vertical lines for the Senate and I would  
21 like to remind the Committee as you know, and  
22 everybody here, that you have to draw lines for  
23 an entire state and if you make a vertical line  
24 of Escambia and Santa Rosa, there has huge  
25 population centers in the panhandle, the next



1 district over has to be ginormous in order to  
2 encompass as many people as is necessary to  
3 create a district.

4 And I think if, as many people get on to  
5 My District Builder as they can, they will find  
6 that it is not easy to do to make districts  
7 that are geographically concise and have a  
8 population, the population necessary to create  
9 districts.

10 It is also true in the, with House  
11 Districts. You have, you know, Escambia County  
12 with a large part of the population in  
13 Pensacola. So if you are going to have  
14 multiple districts, a large parts are going to  
15 come in and encompass part of Pensacola in  
16 order to make the population centers necessary  
17 to have a vote -- to have a district.

18 And the final statement I would like to  
19 say, there has been a lot of talk about  
20 disenfranchising voters based on, based on  
21 partisanship, and I think that a lot of times  
22 we cannot define people in their political  
23 views by the party they choose to be registered  
24 by.

25 If that were the case in the 2010

1 election, we have more Democrats registered  
2 statewide than we do Republicans. I think we  
3 have 4.7 million Democrats and 4 million  
4 Republicans, and yet in the statewide election  
5 that doesn't have anything to do with  
6 geographical boundaries we elected an entire  
7 Republican Cabinet for the first time, and by  
8 the Democratic candidates in most of those  
9 races garnered under 40 percent of the vote,  
10 and what that says to me, at least somewhat, is  
11 that if all Democrats voted for all Democratic  
12 candidates, then we wouldn't have had that  
13 election result.

14 And not at all times can we look at  
15 people, look at, look at race, creed,  
16 partisanship and say those are the people that  
17 they choose to vote by and I think when we do  
18 that we start to box people in unnecessarily  
19 and I hope that as you move forward you choose  
20 to look at more than just race, partisanship,  
21 gender, whatever it is, and try to create  
22 districts that best suit the state.

23 And I know that you are going to have  
24 challenges, because the Supreme Court and the  
25 courts are going to have to say whether or not

1       you chose to favor or disfavor any individual  
2       or candidate.

3               So I don't envy you for the rest of what  
4       you are doing. Thank you for being here today.  
5       I appreciate it.

6               CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
7       Mr. Evans. Next, Jeff Bergosh who says he is  
8       here on his own behalf as a private citizen,  
9       but I know that people also are aware that you  
10      are a public servant and an elected official,  
11      serve with great distinction here in Escambia  
12      County.

13              MR. BERGOSH: Thank you very much, Senator  
14      Gaetz. First I want to welcome everyone to  
15      Pensacola, again, I want to echo that  
16      sentiment.

17              As Ms. Hightower mentioned, the School  
18      Board and our counterparts and the County  
19      Commission are doing a similar exercise on a  
20      much smaller scale, thankfully, and so I know  
21      what you are doing is difficult.

22              I appreciate the fact that you have taken  
23      the time to come to Pensacola, and I appreciate  
24      the fact that you are going to listen to all of  
25      the people that want to speak.

1           I came in here with some things that I  
2           wanted to say. I am glad that I am further  
3           down the line so I could hear some of the other  
4           folks speak, but I do have one thought and I  
5           would like to leave that with you.

6           When you look at Escambia and Santa Rosa  
7           County, there is a lot of similarities and  
8           there is a lot synergy between those two  
9           counties.

10          We have our news channel, we have our  
11          newspaper. When you move over to Okaloosa you  
12          lose a little bit of that. They have their own  
13          identity, their own major newspaper.

14          When you go through the process I would  
15          just like to say, there is enough population  
16          there that we could do three State Reps Seats,  
17          two from Escambia and one from Santa Rosa, and  
18          a majority of one Senate District, and I have  
19          heard the compelling arguments from the Farm  
20          Bureau.

21          It makes sense to me, however, what I  
22          would say to that is if you look at any group  
23          of people you are going to have a Doctor living  
24          next to a lawyer living next to a mechanic.  
25          Just because you are a farmer doesn't mean you

1 are entitled to something special.

2 I mean, we all appreciate what you do,  
3 believe me, I do when I go to Walmart and I buy  
4 corn, but with that said I think it is more  
5 important to keep geographic boundaries in  
6 tact, and also as a School Board member I will  
7 say this, too.

8 When you start moving things all of the  
9 way over to Destin and Panama City, Okaloosa,  
10 Walton county, when it comes to issues that  
11 relate to schools, issues that we confront as  
12 School Board members and representatives, we  
13 have some unique challenges here in Escambia  
14 County.

15 We have poverty. We have demographics  
16 that are quite different. I think if you  
17 consolidate the seats and you are able to put  
18 one Senator and two Reps from Escambia, I feel  
19 we would have a better connection with our  
20 Legislators.

21 So I appreciate you coming here. Please  
22 give some thought to what I said and thank you  
23 for your time.

24 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you. Thank you  
25 very much, Jeff. Marilyn Badessa is our next

1 speaker, Marilyn Badessa, and behind  
2 Ms. Badessa is Vivian Faircloth.

3 Ms. Badessa, thank you for taking time to  
4 be here today, and you are recognized.

5 MS. BADESSA: Okay, thank you. I just  
6 want to say I agree.

7 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Would one of the  
8 Sergeants or one of the staff members please  
9 pull the microphone down. There you go.  
10 Sometimes those are hard to pull up and down.  
11 I didn't know how flexible it was, but thank  
12 you for being here and please start again.

13 MS. BADESSA: Well, I agree with many of  
14 the other speakers, Lynn Laird, Paula  
15 Montgomery and Jeff Bergosh.

16 I really think that it is unfair. The  
17 current districting is unfair to the people in  
18 Escambia County as a whole, and I really would  
19 like to see the districting be more compact and  
20 vertical, and also I would like to see, I hope  
21 that you all would not keep fighting the  
22 passage of Amendments V and VI.

23 That you would go ahead and let, get on  
24 with the process so that we can get these  
25 districts done in a good time.

1           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
2           Ms. Badessa. Vivian Faircloth is our next  
3           speaker, Ms. Faircloth, and behind her is Don  
4           Richards.

5           Thank you for being here, Ms. Faircloth,  
6           we are anxious to hear your testimony, and you  
7           are recognized.

8           MS. FAIRCLOTH: Thank you very much. I am  
9           Vivian Faircloth and I am a resident of the  
10          city of Pensacola. I had looked forward to  
11          being able to see your initial maps to get an  
12          idea of your philosophy on how the lines for  
13          the redistricting would be done, would be  
14          drawn.

15          The differing points that prior speakers  
16          have pointed to showing the different  
17          philosophies really illustrates the fact that  
18          we really need to have something tangible so  
19          that we could have the beginning of a  
20          conversation.

21          Escambia County is a population of  
22          297,619. It is the largest county in the area  
23          and has sufficient population for two  
24          Representatives.

25          At the present time Escambia County has

1       one Representative in the House and none in the  
2       Senate. At the same time, Okaloosa County,  
3       population 180,822, has two Senators and one  
4       House Representative.

5               Santa Rosa County, about half the size of  
6       Escambia County with a population of 151,372,  
7       has two House members residing.

8               The present structure is not really fair  
9       in my view. The population in Escambia County  
10      is 68.9 percent white, 22.9 percent black, and  
11      9.2 percent of other races.

12              Santa Rosa County has 87.8 percent white  
13      with 5.4 black and 6.8 other races. Using  
14      existing count, Escambia County boundaries  
15      would allow racial minorities to having more  
16      equal opportunity to elect representatives of  
17      their choice. Thank you for allowing me to  
18      speak.

19              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
20      Ms. Faircloth. We are delighted that you were  
21      here, and Don Richards is our next speaker, and  
22      following Mr. Richards is David Radcliffe.

23              Don Richards, thank you for being here, we  
24      are grateful for your testimony.

25              MR. RICHARDS: Senator, thank you very



1       much, and Chairman, I appreciate you allowing  
2       us the opportunity. I understand that  
3       Representative Broxson must have known that I  
4       was going to have a comment to say about him.

5               One of our previous speakers talked about  
6       some of you in your freshman stint not  
7       accomplishing much, and I was just going to say  
8       and his ears were probably going to be burning  
9       now that he is gone and I see Clay Ingram has  
10      left as well, so they obviously knew I was  
11      going to speak.

12             Representative Broxson was clearly a  
13      statesman this year representing his people on  
14      the south end of his area, and I just want to  
15      say thanks for doing that.

16             Another spokesperson, I believe the first  
17      person up was here chastising quite a few of  
18      you in terms of what you have attempted to do.  
19      If you listen to what went on today so far, you  
20      have an unenviable task, a task of you can't  
21      satisfy all of these people any of the time and  
22      only some of them some of the time, and that is  
23      going to be the way it is.

24             I live on the south end of Santa Rosa  
25      County and I don't object to the districts the

1 way they are at all. I was born and raised in  
2 Escambia County, and like one of the other  
3 speakers, had to leave to earn a living. I,  
4 too, have five kids and they are all in  
5 Atlanta, not here.

6 Vertical districting, if you go back to  
7 vertical districting, there are going to be  
8 people that don't understand what they are  
9 about to get into with that. Maybe it is  
10 better representation.

11 I have no complaints and I can name  
12 everyone of you and everyone of you can name me  
13 because I have spoken and met with you on  
14 numerous occasions from first year  
15 Representatives to Representative Evers when he  
16 represented us and now Senator Evers,  
17 Representative Gaetz and Senator Gaetz, all of  
18 you, I don't have any trouble getting access to  
19 any of you.

20 I applaud you for being able to on one  
21 hand represent farmers that have a very diverse  
22 need for this county and the other counties,  
23 and to some of the other gentlemen that have  
24 been here, and ladies that have spoken about  
25 this, think about what you said.

1           You want vertical districts and I want  
2       Escambia and Santa Rosa County to come together  
3       with one Senator.

4           Do you really? I am not sure that Santa  
5       Rosa County would enjoy a one-third, two-third  
6       representation. Maybe that is not the way that  
7       it should be done, and I believe you have got  
8       more representation right now with horizontal  
9       districts, even though it is played forward  
10      from the City of Gulf Breeze, that is the City  
11      of Gulf Breeze with 5,000 some odd people, not  
12      in proper Gulf Breeze that has 50,000 plus  
13      people.

14          I happen to live out there, and we don't  
15      have a problem saying we are from Gulf Breeze.  
16      Some people have a problem understanding we  
17      don't necessarily live in the city of, but I  
18      have never had a problem of contacting  
19      Representative Clay Ford and talking with him  
20      about all of the interests of northwest  
21      Florida, not just the city of Gulf Breeze.

22          Senator Evers, former Representative Evers  
23      represented Gulf Breeze on the south end  
24      equally well, although he is a farmer and I  
25      happen to know where Okaloosa is and Baker,

1       been through them quite a bit, every week back  
2       and forth to Atlanta.

3               I go right through the whole stretch of  
4       Santa Rosa County. It is extremely diverse,  
5       and the south end and the north end happens to  
6       be represented right now by Representative  
7       Broxson.

8               We have two Senators that we can call on  
9       to help get together to be a block vote in  
10      bringing some interest to something in the  
11      state of Florida. If you go to all vertical  
12      boundaries you are going to have Santa Rosa  
13      County and Escambia County and that is the far  
14      west.

15              It is fun to say we are the western gate  
16      of the sunshine state, but it is also kind of  
17      an appalling task if you are having to compete  
18      for monies, as Senator Gaetz has found out on  
19      the BP Oil Spill, the impact for the south  
20      Florida people where the oil never got to.

21              So I think it is really a daunting task  
22      that you have. I hope you will listen to what  
23      has been heard loud and clear today by a  
24      majority of the people, and that is we would  
25      like to see some idea of what you have in mind

1 as far as maps go. I think that is kind of  
2 important.

3 I have gone on My District Map and I have  
4 played with that and I am fairly computer  
5 literate, and I would venture to say that quite  
6 a few people here would have a challenge  
7 working on that if they even had the computer  
8 to go on and get on that and not be confused  
9 with exactly what that meant.

10 So please, think about that and when you  
11 complete these, get back out as quickly as you  
12 can with your ideas of what is going on.

13 And thank you all so much, you are elected  
14 people representing us. Most of you, while we  
15 may not always agree, I certainly applaud you  
16 for the efforts that you have done this past  
17 year and thanks again ever so much.

18 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much.  
19 Thank you, Mr. Richards. Next is David  
20 Radcliffe, Mr. Radcliffe, you are recognized  
21 and after Mr. Radcliffe is through we have John  
22 W., I think it is Baker, from Pensacola.  
23 Mr. Radcliffe, thank you for coming today.

24 MR. RADCLIFFE: Thank ya'll, thank ya'll  
25 for letting me speak. I am from south Santa

1       Rosa County. I have no problems with the way  
2       the Senate Districts are aligned and  
3       everything. South Santa Rosa County though, I  
4       felt for many years and everything, having us  
5       split up into having three different  
6       Representatives from our area and everything, I  
7       do like to see it go back and have the  
8       horizontal lines.

9               I think that the tourism, the financial,  
10       the retail interests of the south Santa Rosa  
11       County, south Escambia County, and if it  
12       stretches far enough to get over into south  
13       Okaloosa County, all of those people have the  
14       same interest and everything and they are very  
15       diverse from our, the interest of the rural  
16       north of the county.

17              While I have had great results and great  
18       communications with Representative Broxson and  
19       Representative Ford, I do feel like  
20       Representative Broxson's district goes way up  
21       to much, way too far north and everything and  
22       takes into too many, too much of the rural area  
23       to represent of the interest of south Santa  
24       Rosa County. Thank you.

25              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

1           Next -- is it Mr. Baker? Thank you very much,  
2           Mr. Baker, for being here, and behind Mr. Baker  
3           is Robert Rollo.

4           Mr. Baker, thank you for taking the time  
5           to come before the Committee today, and we look  
6           forward to your testimony. You are recognized.

7           MR. BAKER: Thank you so much. Thank you  
8           for having this meeting to let the citizens  
9           actually be involved and have some say. I  
10          surely don't envy your task, because it reminds  
11          me of a retarded school teacher mathematician  
12          that says I am going to give you a test. You  
13          have to give me the answer to these ten  
14          numbers, but I am only going to give you seven.

15          So it is, you kind of got to get started  
16          before you get started. So I don't envy your  
17          process. All you need is a little magic.

18          I would like to say that in the interest  
19          of public awareness that we, the notification  
20          that I got of these hearings indicate that they  
21          are going to be numerous and they are going to  
22          go into the night. So the poor people that  
23          work in the day time can also be heard if they  
24          would like.

25          And I believe Senator Evers does have an

1 office here in Pensacola, down on Palafox and  
2 he has been extremely responsive to any of our  
3 needs, I believe.

4 I am here as a citizen. I have lived in  
5 Pensacola for eight years, and the -- I am a  
6 member and on the National Leadership Council  
7 of the Social Citizens Group that numbers over  
8 30 million people.

9 I have been at meetings with some of these  
10 people at national meetings around the country,  
11 and they all have the same problems that we are  
12 having right here right now.

13 Everybody wants to be involved in the  
14 process, but we want the process to be  
15 completed so we can see what it looks like  
16 before we get involved in it to see if we want  
17 to be involved in it and it is kind of a  
18 ridiculous situation.

19 So most of what I wanted to be said has  
20 already been said and there is no need to  
21 belabor that, but I do think that we should  
22 give strong consideration to the farm industry  
23 in the north end of our counties up here,  
24 because they can't really move their farms and  
25 come down to be included.



1           So I think we are going to have to give a  
2           little bit and I would highly recommend strong  
3           consideration to some east/west districts, that  
4           the farmers are absolutely essential, and by  
5           the way, I am not a farmer.

6           And in the interest of total disclosure  
7           now that the Coffee Party has been recognized  
8           here, our group here is the Tea Party. Thank  
9           you so much.

10           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
11           Appreciate your being here. Mr. Rollo, you are  
12           up next and following that is Ronald McCollum.  
13           Mr. Rollo, we appreciate your taking time to  
14           come here today and you are recognized.

15           MR. ROLLO: Thank you, sir. My name is  
16           Robert Rollo. I am a native of Santa Rosa  
17           County. I didn't just come here over the  
18           weekend to be a part of this thing.

19           I would like to say that I am here as a  
20           member of the Tea Party. Like the Coffee  
21           Party, the reason the Tea Party exists today is  
22           we have not been totally happy with what our  
23           elected officials have been doing.

24           I would say that I wrote several of you,  
25           ya'll have responded nicely, I got no problem

1 with that, but the fact that you are having  
2 these meetings, we don't have maps, we are  
3 somewhat not informed as much as we would like  
4 to be.

5 That is the reason the Tea Party exists  
6 today. We exist to hold your feet to the fire  
7 that you would do what you said you would do  
8 during an election.

9 I for one am in favor of the east/west  
10 districts, not up and down the county lines. I  
11 think that would be a disaster for everybody.  
12 I think that Representative Senator Evers is  
13 doing a good job.

14 I think what happened last year was a sure  
15 Bill to, the Septic Tank Bill tells me what  
16 would happen if I had the municipal Pensacola  
17 or municipal Gulf Breeze representing me.

18 Now I have got to dig up my septic tank  
19 once every five years and have it inspected.  
20 So I don't need no more of the city politicians  
21 telling me.

22 I think you draw the districts to  
23 represent the people, and as far as the people  
24 I think they have the obligation to dig into  
25 your backgrounds, all of the candidates and try

1 to find out how you would vote in similar  
2 situations, educate the voters.

3 That is our responsibility, and I think we  
4 should do it and then when politicians come  
5 around knocking on our doors, we can ask them  
6 educated questions about their philosophies and  
7 try to determine how they are going to vote,  
8 because so far we have been sorely  
9 misrepresented.

10 I have been represented and everybody in  
11 the state of Florida has, so they don't have a  
12 problem with that, but I think there is a lot  
13 of responsibility to be answerable to the  
14 people and that is one of the reasons I am  
15 here.

16 But I would like to challenge the audience  
17 to get involved in the process and if you don't  
18 like the way it is going, 2012 is when you have  
19 your chance to make it right, and not only  
20 that, people that ask for your vote in 2012,  
21 they need to know that you are not going to  
22 forget it and go home and go fishing, which I  
23 love to do, or go hunting, which I love to do,  
24 but I still want to know and am deeply  
25 disappointed that I got to dig up my septic

1 tank every five years.

2 I don't have a problem with it, and I  
3 don't like Tallahassee telling me I got a  
4 problem with it, but I would just like to say  
5 that I don't envy your job.

6 I have had the fortune or misfortune or  
7 whatever it may be to be in sort of the same  
8 situation, but I am looking forward to the  
9 results. I personally would have loved to have  
10 seen some kind of a map.

11 I think that would have been highly  
12 helpful and I ask that you provide them as soon  
13 as possible and then not go back to Tallahassee  
14 and hold your hearings.

15 I attended hearings in Tallahassee over  
16 the Septic Tank Bill, in the pecking order in  
17 which people speak in Tallahassee is not what  
18 it is in Pensacola or Ft. Walton Beach. The  
19 lobbyists, the pecking order down there is  
20 entirely different.

21 We were put at the end of the speaking  
22 schedule and most of the time as you referred  
23 to several times today, time cut us off. We  
24 would have like 15 seconds to have our speech.

25 So I don't envy your job, but please take

1       into consideration the east/west, get the  
2       Representatives to represent the districts such  
3       as the farmers or what-have-you and I would  
4       appreciate it very much. Thank you.

5               CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
6       Mr. Rollo, appreciate your comments. Next  
7       Ronald McCollum, and after Mr. McCollum speaks  
8       we have Martin Simmons, but before Mr. Simmons  
9       speaks, after Mr. McCollum speaks we will take  
10      a very short break.

11             We will take a five minute break for  
12      members of the audience and Legislators to use  
13      the facilities if they care to or stretch their  
14      legs.

15             But right now, Mr. McCollum, we are  
16      delighted you are here and you are recognized.

17             MR. MCCOLLUM: Thank you, Senator Gaetz.  
18      In all of the years that I have been down here,  
19      lived here, we moved here in '04, I have not  
20      had any problems getting in touch with my  
21      Senator or Representative, as some of the other  
22      earlier speakers have.

23             When you look at the past history of this  
24      nation we have always had gerrymandering  
25      throughout the history of this nation. When

1 the Democrats were in power and those of you  
2 who spoke earlier in this hearing who have a  
3 Liberal view point. I used to be a member of  
4 the Union, 34 years in a trade.

5 About midway I changed parties and now  
6 consider myself a Conservative, but when you  
7 look back at the Liberals they were promoting  
8 gerrymandering.

9 We have Liberals here today who are  
10 arguing about the way it is done now, and have  
11 tried to work to change the laws. I have an  
12 ACLU member right next to me here who is very  
13 opposed to what is going on here, and I oppose  
14 the ACLU.

15 I think we have a party in control of this  
16 nation right out of the White House who is very  
17 difficult to work with, and I just want to  
18 thank each of you. I feel for what you are  
19 going through. It is difficult times we are  
20 living in, we are trying to get men to work,  
21 people with jobs and stuff in the state.

22 We have expenditures that have grown  
23 beyond what is coming into the state and I want  
24 to thank each one of you for what you are  
25 doing, the way you are working hard for this

1 state, and that is about it today. Thank you,  
2 again.

3 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir,  
4 for your testimony today. Representatives and  
5 Senators, I would ask that we stay pretty  
6 close, but we will take a five minute recess  
7 and my clock says 11:42. So we will back here  
8 at 11:47 and commence. This Committee stands  
9 in recess.

10 (Brief recess taken.)

11 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Ladies and gentlemen, we  
12 are going to reconvene. If you would all  
13 please take your seats. If you will all please  
14 take your seats we ask the Committee members if  
15 they will find their spot as well. Thank you  
16 all.

17 During the break there were -- there were  
18 two suggestions just of procedure that were  
19 made and we are going to follow those  
20 suggestions.

21 The first was that there were folks who  
22 thought that all of the people up here who did  
23 not have name tags in front of them were staff.

24 That is not true. The fact is that  
25 Speaker Designate Weatherford being a true

1           Conservative decided not to afford name tags  
2           for the House members, but all of these folks  
3           are members of the Florida Legislature.

4           They are elected Representatives or  
5           Senators, and they have been chosen by their  
6           respective presiding officers by Speaker Cannon  
7           and President Haridopolos to serve on the  
8           Redistricting Committee of the House and the  
9           Reapportionment Committee of the senate.

10          So you may feel free to chat with any of  
11          them about anything you would like after the  
12          hearing or during any breaks we might take.

13          The second suggestion that was made to me  
14          by several people was to ask that there be some  
15          clarification at the end of the meeting, and I  
16          will ask the Speaker Designate to do this.

17          A clarification as to the timeline of the  
18          process, whether or not it is really true that  
19          somehow it is preordained that maps would not  
20          come out until the end of the process, to try  
21          to provide a little information about that  
22          since there seems to be some either  
23          misconceptions or some scripts that were  
24          written without knowledge as to -- as to what  
25          the real facts are.



1           But now why don't we continue with our --  
2           with our public testimony and Martin Simmons,  
3           thank you very much for being here today, and  
4           you are recognized.

5           MR. SIMMONS: Glad to be here. Thank you  
6           all for being here. Full disclosure, I am  
7           State Committee man for the Santa Rosa County  
8           for the Republican party, but in my opinion on  
9           this issue, I don't know if it is partisan or  
10          not, because I haven't asked anybody, nobody  
11          has told me anything about the lines, drawing  
12          of the lines, the directions.

13          No matter where you draw the lines, north  
14          or south, east or west you are going to have  
15          Representatives and Senators that are going to  
16          live in one county but have part of their  
17          district that is in another unless you drew  
18          them according to county lines.

19          For instance, Greg Evers, of course, as  
20          Senator when he was Representative he lived in  
21          Okaloosa County, but he represented the other  
22          counties, did a fine job doing the same thing.

23          You are going to live, I know, Senator  
24          Thrasher, you live in one county and others,  
25          and no matter how you draw the lines, there is

1 not going to be county lines, east or west.

2 If the things are going correct now and  
3 granted, we do have to trust that if you live  
4 in one county and it is not our county, you  
5 will still represent us, but I don't think that  
6 drawing, changing the line direction is going  
7 to change that much if any. Thank you very  
8 much.

9 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
10 We appreciate your testimony. Next we will  
11 hear from Lee Smith and following Mr. Smith or  
12 Ms. Smith, whichever it is, we will hear from  
13 Jewel Cannada-Wynn. And so next, Lee Smith,  
14 please, Mr. Smith, quite obviously.

15 You are recognized. Thanks for being  
16 here, and we welcome your testimony.

17 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and  
18 members of the Committee and staff. My name is  
19 Lee Smith, I am a resident of Escambia County,  
20 here not representing any group or  
21 organization, as a private citizen.

22 However, I am a professional engineer, and  
23 I am working today, I am approved leave so I  
24 made time to come down here to be heard.

25 I am just, very briefly, wanted to speak

1       in support of the communities of interest of  
2       the fact that coast communities have different  
3       interests, different goals, different values  
4       than the rural communities in the north.

5               Just the fact that I think the north part  
6       of the county should have their own district  
7       and this other their own. I wanted to thank  
8       you all for allowing input before the maps are  
9       drawn, but I would encourage you to make maps  
10      available, you know, sooner than later. I  
11      think the balance of having both is a good  
12      thing.

13             Not wanting to be redundant I will  
14      conclude and thank you all for your time.

15             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
16      We really appreciate your comments today. Next  
17      it is Jewel Cannada-Wynn, and following her,  
18      Steve Bogan, please.

19             Thank you very much, ma'am, and you are  
20      recognized.

21             MS. CANNADA-WYNN: Thank you, Jewel  
22      Cannada-Wynn. Thank you so very much for  
23      having this here and I know the question of the  
24      process has been questioned. However, you have  
25      to get all phases of opinions from everyone,

1           and thank you very, very much.

2           It had been mentioned in previous  
3           speakers, they have covered most of the things  
4           that I wanted to cover. This is not about  
5           whether or not I can contact my Representative,  
6           because I have contacted my Representative.

7           My Representative is Representative Clay  
8           Ford, and his office has been very, very  
9           helpful. However, the two main concerns that I  
10          have is one, District III, a little history and  
11          research on your part will go back to ten years  
12          ago when that district was redistricted and you  
13          took out a predominantly black district and  
14          included the Gulf Breeze district which was a  
15          predominantly white district.

16          I felt as a simple citizen that that was  
17          wrong and that was a disenfranchise of my vote  
18          personally that to have an opportunity for an  
19          African-American to be elected from this  
20          district was taken away from me by that  
21          particular action by our State Legislature.

22          The second thing is the way in which the  
23          districts are done now with the Senators. Here  
24          in Escambia County sometimes I felt like we had  
25          an absence of power to make things happen

1           economically.

2           I think the way the districts are run now  
3           it impacts us economically. To our west we  
4           have a state and counties who vigorously  
5           support economic development in that area.

6           I feel like Escambia County does not get  
7           its representation because of the way the lines  
8           are drawn and focuses effort on increasing our  
9           economic development so that we can be  
10          competitive here in Escambia County when  
11          compared to our sister county to the west.

12          Santa Rosa and Escambia County, we are  
13          sisters, we do have many things in common and I  
14          would hope that we can come together to have  
15          one voice so that we can strengthen our  
16          position in reference to economic development.  
17          Thank you.

18          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Ms. Cannada-Wynn, thank  
19          you very much for being here today and for your  
20          testimony.

21          Next, Steve Bogan. Mr. Bogan? We will  
22          come back to Mr. Bogan in case he had to step  
23          out for a moment.

24          Next is Anthony Washnool, Mr. Washnool.

25          And following Mr. Washnool will be Bessie

1 Vallianos, I believe and I apologize if I  
2 butchered that name.

3 Mr. Washnool, thank you for being here.  
4 You are recognized.

5 MR. WASHNOOL: May it please the public  
6 servants and the public for which they serve,  
7 D. Anthony Washnool, I am a trial attorney in  
8 Arkansas, Tennessee and the state of Florida.

9 I reside in Chumuckla with my wife on a  
10 family farm. Since the Spaniards occupied  
11 Pensacola these people have been on this land  
12 and I am humbled today to talk about the change  
13 in a ten-year redistricting plan.

14 I think that over the last ten years the  
15 logic for which the lines were drawn has  
16 probably changed. I would ask that in the next  
17 ten years we take greater concern for future  
18 generations.

19 That we consider the economic  
20 opportunities and growth. While dealing with  
21 the actual line drawing, one of the things that  
22 I noted from the charts that you had was that  
23 for the most part in this north part of the  
24 state, the districts aren't going to change  
25 that much in terms of population.

1           I think the largest deviations in  
2       populations are Districts III and IV in the  
3       State House. The rest of it is pretty  
4       standard, about the same. There is not a  
5       tremendous need for redrawing the lines, except  
6       under the considerations previously named.

7           And as an overarching principle I would  
8       just have this prayer, that the special  
9       interests not be the drive, that the actual  
10      demographics be for a cross section of the  
11      community and that our future generations are  
12      considered when making any change, whether it  
13      be specifically on redistricting or any other  
14      vote for which you serve the public.

15           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Washnool,  
16      we appreciate your testimony very much, and I  
17      apologize, is it Bessie, V-a-l-l-i-a-n, I think  
18      o-s? Is she here? We will come back to her if  
19      she had to step out for a moment.

20           Our next speaker then would be Art Rucker,  
21      and following Mr. Rucker would be Johnny  
22      Blackman. Mr. Rucker, if you are here we would  
23      be delighted to hear from you. We will give  
24      you a moment to come down.

25           We gave you no warning here, I am sorry.

1           You are Mr. Blackman. Is Mr. Rocker here? All  
2           right, we will come back to Mr. Rocker as well.

3           Mr. Blackman, you were recognized. We are  
4           delighted that you are here today, and  
5           following your testimony we will hear from Gail  
6           Honea, please.

7           MR. BLACKMON: Johnny Blackmon, Escambia  
8           County, Pensacola. I am here to speak on  
9           something that I wasn't aware of until probably  
10          now, because I wasn't aware of the fact that  
11          Wedgewood and Lincoln Park was taken out of  
12          District III, in which Gulf Breeze was added  
13          and I am here I think Dr. Avant and Ms. Jewel  
14          Cannada-Wynn spoke to this, so I won't go any  
15          further, other than to say that I wish you  
16          would put Wedgewood and Lincoln Park back,  
17          which is a black voting district, heavily black  
18          voting district.

19          I am not asking you to take Gulf Breeze  
20          out, but I am asking you to put back Lincoln  
21          Park and Wedgewood, thank you.

22          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much for  
23          your testimony, sir. Next is Gail, is it Honea  
24          or Honea?

25          MS. HONEA: Honea.



1           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you for being here,  
2           and you are recognized before the Committee,  
3           ma'am.

4           MS. HONEA: Thank you. My name is Gail  
5           Honea. I am not here representing any group.  
6           I worked in state government, actually, in  
7           Virginia. I have worked in the private sector,  
8           and I just retired from managing a non profit  
9           in Escambia County for 15 years.

10          And when we were always worrying about  
11          efficiencies, this is a little off the side,  
12          but I would want to let you know that if you  
13          want to have efficient people in office you  
14          might want to try to recruit people from the  
15          non profit sector, because they are the hardest  
16          working and most efficient people I know.

17          For those of us who love and believe in  
18          our democracy, we feel that enhancing the  
19          ability for more citizens to participate in the  
20          process of citizenship and feeling connected to  
21          our government is a positive thing.

22          So I concur with previous speakers, that  
23          districts should be drawn keeping counties  
24          together and with folks that have something in  
25          common together rather than the north/south

1 divisions that we currently have.

2 I would ask our elected officials to draw  
3 lines that are conducive to citizenship  
4 participation in government rather than  
5 enhancement of the reelection of incumbents as  
6 some folks feel is currently done.

7 This year unfortunately, our officials  
8 have taken steps that many of us feel make it  
9 each more difficult for citizens to vote and  
10 feel connected to the process of citizenship.  
11 And now that our elected officials are wasting  
12 tax dollars fighting Amendments that two-third  
13 of our citizens have passed, to me this shows a  
14 disrespect for the citizens of the state of  
15 Florida.

16 I hope that maps will be available sooner  
17 than later so that we can see them and make  
18 decisions and give you feedback.

19 I hope the process of giving feedback will  
20 not be limited to Tallahassee where everyone  
21 will have to travel in order to talk to you.  
22 And while the work you have ahead of you is  
23 difficult, I do remind you that you chose to  
24 run for this office and do the work you have to  
25 do. Thank you.

1           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Honea.  
2           Thanks for reminding us we are all volunteers.  
3           Clorissti Mitchell, Clorissti Mitchell? Thank  
4           you for being here, Ms. Mitchell, and behind  
5           Ms. Mitchell is Rebekah Johanson, who will be  
6           our next speaker.

7           Ms. Mitchell, we appreciate you taking  
8           time from your day and you are recognized  
9           before the Committee.

10          MR. MITCHELL: Thank you, I took the day  
11          off, because at 10:00 I am usually at work. I  
12          do respect that there is a lot to consider in  
13          drawing the lines, and I am going to be very  
14          brief because I really do hope that you guys  
15          address and answer some questions at the end.

16          One, the state of Florida should ensure  
17          transparency, fairness in compliance with the  
18          Voting Rights Act and with equal protection.  
19          You should ensure one person, one vote.

20          You should redistrict in a way that avoids  
21          minority vote delusion which to me is what  
22          happened with District III. You should avoid  
23          drawing district lines so that minority  
24          population is over concentrated or packed into  
25          election districts.

1           You should also be careful to avoid  
2       cracking or fracturing, which is drawing  
3       district lines so that an area of concentrated  
4       minority population which is large enough for  
5       separate representation and that it could  
6       constitute one or more majority, minority or  
7       majority black district is divided and spread  
8       among several districts that are predominantly  
9       white.

10           I also respectfully request that you avoid  
11       drawing lines, drawing plans that erode  
12       minority rights relative to the status quo,  
13       that is, that you avoid creating retrogressive  
14       redistricting plans.

15           I am aware of the redistricting principles  
16       outlined in Section 20 and 21 of the Florida  
17       Constitution and they must be adhered.

18           Districts shall not be drawn with the  
19       intent or result of denying or abridging the  
20       equal opportunity of racial or language  
21       minorities to participate in the political  
22       process, or to diminish their ability to elect  
23       a representation of their choice.

24           In addition, districts shall be compact  
25       and contiguous. Additionally, I want to ensure

1           that the long established principles by our  
2           Constitution and the Voting Rights Act of 1965,  
3           are continued and we ensure one person one vote  
4           and avoid minority vote delusion. That is all.

5           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much for  
6           your comments. Next is Rebekah Johanson.  
7           Ms. Johanson, you are our next speaker, and  
8           then we are going to go back to those who we  
9           missed.

10          Ms. Johanson, thank you for being here and  
11          you are recognized.

12          MS. JOHANSON: Thank you. First of all, I  
13          have to say, I live in Cantonment right now,  
14          but I did grow up in Barineau Park. I think  
15          Senator Evers might know where that is, but I  
16          don't know if many of you do.

17          But it is north, it is in the north end of  
18          the county, and I have to say that in contrast  
19          to what a lot of speakers have said, there are  
20          differences county to county, and I would  
21          really like to encourage you all to keep that  
22          in mind.

23          I live in Cantonment and when I go  
24          downtown or when I go to the beach, I love that  
25          part of my county, but I know it is very, very

1 different from where I live and from where many  
2 of my fellow citizens live, and please keep in  
3 mind the demographics and the interest of the  
4 area and not just the arbitrary county lines in  
5 moving forward, because it is very, very  
6 different.

7 So you might be surprised to know this,  
8 but I am not a farmer, I am a college student.  
9 I just got my BA in Political Science Prelaw  
10 and I am pursuing a Master's degree in  
11 Political Science Public Administration, and I  
12 find redistricting extremely confusing and  
13 tedious and I -- you have my sympathy in moving  
14 forward.

15 But please keep in mind that the vast  
16 majority of the people you represent are most  
17 likely going to be even more confused by this  
18 process.

19 People don't choose to do this stuff and  
20 the average citizen really doesn't know a lot  
21 about what is going on as you, as you  
22 redistrict. And so I would encourage you to  
23 keep those concerns in mind while moving  
24 forward. I am not here to complain.

25 I really appreciate you all being here,

1 but if I did have one complaint it would be the  
2 time for now the fact that I am unemployed  
3 during the summer until the fall term starts  
4 has worked in my favor, but the majority of the  
5 people my age, the people who are like me can't  
6 be here because we do have jobs or class or  
7 responsibilities.

8 So please keep that in mind while moving  
9 forward. It is great to have this meeting, but  
10 it would be even better if the average citizen  
11 could attend. So do keep that in mind that the  
12 citizens, the people are listening and we are  
13 paying attention.

14 We are here to help, we appreciate the  
15 chance to help, but we are also here to hold  
16 your feet to the fire, because that is what you  
17 elected us to do. I mean, that is what we  
18 elected you to do, something like that. Thank  
19 you.

20 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very, very  
21 much, Rebekah, for your testimony. We would  
22 like to go back now to those who we missed who  
23 may have stepped out. We want to make sure  
24 everyone has an opportunity. Steve Bogon, if  
25 Mr. Bogon is here we will take his testimony.

1           All right, Bessie Vallianos,  
2           Ms. Vallianos, are you here? I thought that  
3           was you, Ms. Vallianos, you held us in thrall.

4           Art Rocker, is Mr. Rocker here? If not,  
5           that concludes the public testimony for those  
6           who have turned in cards.

7           Let me ask, is there anybody here who  
8           would like to testify but didn't turn in a  
9           card?

10          If you are a little bit shy but you have  
11          heard the testimony and now you would like to  
12          testify, we are here to listen, is there  
13          anybody? If so, would you raise your hand, we  
14          will get to you with a card and take your  
15          testimony now. Is there anyone?

16          Well, if not we thank all of those who  
17          have testified, and also point out that the  
18          face-to-face hearings are not the only way that  
19          people are following the redistricting process  
20          or having input into the redistricting process.  
21          We have a very active on-line presence by many,  
22          many, many Floridians.

23          We are picking up scores more almost by  
24          the minute who are following us on the web and  
25          through the Florida Channel and are giving us



1       their views by e-mail, by Snail Mail and by  
2       telephone. So we thank, thank them very much  
3       for that.

4               We would like to now go to any comments or  
5       questions from any members, any Representatives  
6       or Senators who are here that you would like to  
7       make.

8               Okay. I would like now to turn to our  
9       Speaker Designate, and I have asked him to be  
10      prepared to answer some of the questions of  
11      fact that have come up. I realize that some  
12      folks may have had a script prepared for them  
13      or in advance of the meeting and may not have  
14      had the chance to hear the Speaker Designate's  
15      explanation of the process and the timeline and  
16      the calendar that he gave at the beginning.

17              So I would ask him to reprise some of  
18      those key points and respond to the points of  
19      information that we have had raised by  
20      testifiers today. Mr. Speaker.

21              SPEAKER WEATHERFORD: Thank you very much,  
22      Mr. Chairman. I want to thank again the  
23      members of the public who took time to be here  
24      today. We got a lot of offers of sympathy, and  
25      I wish I could get the same sympathy from my

1       wife being gone so much, but she is not quite  
2       as sympathetic.

3               So I will tell you that the members of  
4       this body and this Committee, we have dedicated  
5       ourselves and sacrificed a lot of time and  
6       effort to be here today with you and with other  
7       people around the state of Florida, because we  
8       recognize how important it is that we get your  
9       input and we thank you for taking time from  
10      coming from the north end of the county or the  
11      south end of the county to be here and to be a  
12      part of this process.

13              I would like to, if I could, Mr. Chairman,  
14      answer a few quick questions that were brought  
15      up during the hearing to see if I can't clear  
16      up a few things.

17              The first thing is in regards to  
18      Amendments V and VI. We heard that referenced  
19      many times. Make no mistake about it, the  
20      Amendments V and VI were voted overwhelmingly  
21      by the public to pass.

22              The Senator and myself and every member of  
23      this chamber, both the House and the Senate  
24      swears every two years to uphold and defend the  
25      Constitution of the State of Florida, we will

1 do that and we will faithfully uphold the  
2 Amendments V and VI that have gone into law.

3 They are the law. They are the  
4 Constitution, we will faithfully uphold it and  
5 I want to make sure that is extremely clear.

6 The second thing is, there was a term that  
7 was used a few times today and I want to be  
8 very clear on this, and that was in regards to  
9 a gag order, or that somehow members were asked  
10 not to speak.

11 As you noticed just now, the Chairman of  
12 the Committee asked if any member wanted to  
13 speak or have thoughts or ask questions.

14 Yesterday in Tallahassee we had some  
15 questions that were asked from members of the  
16 Committee and we answered those questions.

17 There is no gag order. We have not asked  
18 members not to speak, simply we have reminded  
19 them that this is a listening tour. This is  
20 one of the few times I have seen in politics  
21 where you don't sit back and listen to  
22 politicians give speeches or pontificate for  
23 hours and hours on end.

24 This is your opportunity to give input to  
25 us and you have done so in a very thoughtful

1 manner today and we appreciate that very much.

2 So there is no gag order whatsoever.

3 Thirdly, in regards to the maps. There  
4 has been a lot of questions in regards to the  
5 maps and why we don't have them here today, and  
6 I just want to point out a few things.

7 First of all, we believe in the  
8 Legislature that allowing the citizens of  
9 Florida to start the conversation first about  
10 what you think before we start drawing the  
11 first line is of the utmost importance.

12 Imagine if we would have shown up today  
13 and said, here are the maps that we have drawn,  
14 you know, here they are, what do you think. We  
15 would have probably spent an hour of people  
16 saying, how did you draw these maps and why  
17 didn't you ask anyone who lives here their  
18 opinion first before you drew them.

19 So we feel it is of the utmost importance  
20 to make sure that we seek public input first as  
21 opposed to coming before you and asking for a  
22 rubber stamp from the public on maps that have  
23 already been drawn without input whatsoever.

24 I also would like to point out that in a  
25 letter that was sent to the Legislature just

1 recently from the crafters of the Amendments V  
2 and VI and Fair Districts, they asked us to  
3 produce maps and to bring them to the public  
4 hearings, and what was interesting about that  
5 was over a year and-a-half ago when they  
6 testified before the Legislature under oath,  
7 they specifically said when we asked them if  
8 they could help us draw fair districts, they  
9 said they could not even attempt to do it, both  
10 Ms. Freeman and Former Speaker Mills  
11 specifically said they could not even attempt  
12 to do it until they got public testimony from  
13 the citizens of Florida.

14 So we are simply doing what they stated  
15 two years ago, which is seeking the public  
16 testimony from you, and we are grateful that we  
17 have gotten it here today.

18 Lastly, in regards to the timeline which  
19 is very, very important, and I want to make  
20 sure that I am clear about this as well.

21 In regards to the timeline it is important  
22 to know, we were one of the last states to get  
23 the census data from the Federal government.

24 We did not get the official census data  
25 until April, which were in the middle of the

1 Legislative Session that went into the second  
2 week of May. So we were not able to do  
3 anything with that data and start to have  
4 public hearings until the summer, which we are  
5 now doing.

6 On top of that, the Constitution says very  
7 clearly that we cannot take action on any maps  
8 until January of 2012. And so what we are  
9 doing is we starting seven months before then.

10 We are taking three and-a-half months of  
11 testimony in every pocket of the state of  
12 Florida and then we are going to take the Bills  
13 that are filed by members and by the Committees  
14 and they are going to work their way through  
15 the process with public input at every step of  
16 the way.

17 And finally go when we get to January and  
18 have our session, that we have moved up two  
19 months just so we could do this early, we will  
20 then take action on formal maps and plans.

21 I think those are very important things to  
22 bring to the light. We encourage you to  
23 continue to be a part of this process. This is  
24 the most interactive redistricting process that  
25 the country has seen.

1           We have websites, we have social media, we  
2           have e-mail, we have public hearings and all of  
3           this public comment will take place throughout  
4           the entire process, not in the beginning, but  
5           through the middle and all of the way up until  
6           the very end, and lastly, Mr. Chairman, I will  
7           just say this.

8           I believe it is incumbent upon this body  
9           to make sure that politics and partisan  
10          politics specifically is not a part of this  
11          process. The Constitution is clear about that.

12          We do not believe that politics has any  
13          reason to be a part of this process and I think  
14          it is incumbent upon us as Chairs and the  
15          members of this Committee to make sure that we  
16          put the citizens first and that we put the  
17          voters and the districts and what is right for  
18          the state of Florida ahead of anything that is  
19          political, and I know that you will do that and  
20          I will work with you as well and I look forward  
21          to working with you and your leadership and  
22          thank you very much for having us here in God's  
23          country today.

24          Thank you, members, for being a part of  
25          this process. I can assure you, we heard you

1           loud and clear. Thank you.

2                   CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
3           Mr. Speaker, and there being no further  
4           comments from members, President Margolis moves  
5           we rise.

6                   (Whereupon, the proceedings were  
7           concluded.)

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## 1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )

3 COUNTY OF LEON )

4 I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript  
5 is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned,  
6 and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting  
7 under my direction;

8 That the foregoing pages 2 through 117  
9 represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of  
10 the tape-recording;

11 And I further certify that I am not of kin or  
12 counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the  
13 regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor  
14 am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

15 Dated this 9th day of August, 2011.

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

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Notary Public

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State of Florida at Large

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Commission Expires:

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November 13, 2014

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REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

11

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2011

12

11:00 A.M.

13

GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE

14

PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA

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Transcribed by:

22

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

23

Court Reporter

24

25

1 T A P E D P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you all for being  
3 here this morning. The Joint House/Senate  
4 Redistricting Hearing is called to order.

5 We want to first of all thank Gulf Coast  
6 State College, the Board of Trustees and the  
7 Administration for allowing us to use this  
8 facility today.

9 And thank all of you for being here,  
10 especially members of the public who have come  
11 to help us by sharing your comments and your  
12 recommendations to assist in shaping  
13 Congressional Senate and House Districts in  
14 Florida for the next decade.

15 My name is Don Gates. I Chair the Senate  
16 Reapportionment Committee. My colleagues to my  
17 immediate left is the Speaker Designate of the  
18 Florida House of Representatives,  
19 Representative Will Weatherford, he Chairs the  
20 House Redistricting Committee, and together we  
21 are chairing these hearings around the state.

22 This -- this hearing is one of a series.  
23 We started in Tallahassee, then went to  
24 Pensacola yesterday, then to Ft. Walton Beach.

25 Today we are fortunate to be in Panama

1 City, in Bay County, and then we will move on  
2 to the rest of the state, and ultimately we  
3 will be all of the way south to Key West. So  
4 we will cover the State of Florida and hope to  
5 hear from many, many people.

6 I would like to begin today so that you  
7 will know who is here and where they have come  
8 from, to ask the members of the House  
9 Redistricting Committee and the Senate  
10 Reapportionment Committee if they would just  
11 state their name, whether they are a member of  
12 the House or the Senate, and the community that  
13 they represent.

14 And Mr. Guthrie, if you would hand the  
15 microphone to our first member.

16 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Thank you,  
17 Mr. Chairman. My name is Martin Kiar, and I  
18 represent an area in south Florida called  
19 Broward County, and thank you all very much for  
20 giving us the opportunity to come and hear your  
21 voices.

22 SENATOR MONFORD: I am Bill Monford. I  
23 represent District 6, Senate District 6 and it  
24 stretches from Madison County, that is Madison,  
25 Jefferson, Leon, Wakulla, Franklin, Gulf,

1 Calhoun, Liberty, Jackson, Gadsden and a little  
2 bit part of Bay, right down the street down  
3 here.

4 So if you are my constituent, glad you are  
5 here. If you are not, I wish you were. Glad  
6 to be here.

7 REPRESENTATIVE ADKINS: Hi, my name is  
8 Janet Adkins, I serve in the Florida House and  
9 I represent Nassau County, Baker, Bradford,  
10 Clay, Union and Duval Counties.

11 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Good morning, my  
12 name is Peter Nehr, and I am from District 48.  
13 I represent Pinellas County.

14 SPEAKER WEATHERFORD: Hello, my name is  
15 Will Weatherford. I am in the State House of  
16 Representatives. I represent District 61,  
17 which is in Pasco County.

18 REPRESENTATIVE MARGOLIS: Good morning, my  
19 name is Sandra Gwen Margolis. I represent the  
20 east side of Miami Dade County and a little bit  
21 of Broward, just a very little bit.

22 REPRESENTATIVE FORD: I am Clay Ford,  
23 Representative for District 3.  
24 Ninety-five percent of my district is  
25 Pensacola, five percent is Gulf Breeze, and we

1       have got a beach up in that area, too, sort of  
2       like Panama City. I feel at home here.

3               REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS: Good morning, my  
4       name is Alan Williams, native, north Floridian.  
5       I represent parts of Tallahassee, Leon County  
6       and parts of Gadsden county. It is great to be  
7       here.

8               REPRESENTATIVE COLEY: I am Marti Coley.  
9       I represent District 7 here and the panhandle,  
10      including Bay County and encompassing nine  
11      counties in the panhandle.

12              REPRESENTATIVE HOOPER: Good morning,  
13      everyone, I am Ed Hooper, Florida House, I  
14      represent District 50, which is about one  
15      fourth of Pinellas County.

16              REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: Good morning, I am  
17      State Representative Jim Frishe, I am from  
18      District 54 which is the western edge of  
19      Pinellas County, all of the beaches. I feel  
20      right at home here.

21              REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Good morning,  
22      Chuck Chestnut, District 23, a portion of  
23      Alachua County and a portion of Marion County.

24              REPRESENTATIVE REED: Good morning, I am  
25      Betty Reed, I represent part of east Tampa,

1 Hillsborough County, parts of Riverview, and a  
2 snibbling of west Tampa, and glad to be here.

3 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Good morning,  
4 I am State Representative Gwyndolen  
5 Clarke-Reed. Don't let the New York accent  
6 fool you, I am a native Floridian. I represent  
7 House District 92, which is in Broward County,  
8 representing the cities of Deerfield Beach,  
9 Pompano Beach, Oakland Park, Wilton Manors,  
10 Tamarac, and part of north Lauderdale, Victoria  
11 Park area of Ft. Lauderdale. Thank you, I am  
12 glad to be here.

13 REPRESENTATIVE CAMPBELL: Good morning, my  
14 name is Daphne Campbell, I represent District  
15 108, part of Miami, Dade County, and as we have  
16 four municipalities, North Miami. We have four  
17 municipalities, North Miami, North Miami --  
18 North Miami, Miami Shores, El Portal and  
19 Biscayne Park and I am glad to be here.

20 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Good morning,  
21 State Representative Hazel Rogers representing  
22 areas of Broward County. Seven cities,  
23 Lauderdale Lakes, Lauderhill, Oakland Park,  
24 North Lauderdale, Tamarac, Sunrise, Plantation  
25 and, of course, Broward County, 1.8 million

1 residents.

2 It is good to be here. We are State  
3 Representatives, representing the entire State  
4 of Florida, so I thank you for being here.

5 REPRESENTATIVE BURGIN: Hello, I am State  
6 Representative Rachel Burgin from the Tampa Bay  
7 area, representing District 56 in Hillsborough  
8 County.

9 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Good morning,  
10 State Representative Mack Bernard, representing  
11 District 84 in Palm Beach County.

12 REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Good morning, my  
13 name is John Patrick Julien, proudly  
14 representing the Florida House of  
15 Representatives District 104 which encompasses  
16 North Miami beach, North Miami, Miami Gardens,  
17 Opa Locka, the City of Miami, the City of  
18 Hialeah and Unincorporated Miami-Dade, and it  
19 is truly an honor and a privilege to be here.

20 REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: Good morning,  
21 my name is Kathleen Passidomo, House District  
22 76, which is Collier County and it includes the  
23 City of Naples, the City of Marco Island,  
24 Everglades City and as I indicated, less than a  
25 ton of alligators. Thank you.



1           REPRESENTATIVE GOODSON: Good morning, my  
2           name is Tom Goodson, I represent House District  
3           29, which runs from Mims, Florida through the  
4           Space Coast, Brevard County down into Indian  
5           River County. Thank you for having us.

6           REPRESENTATIVE HAYS: Good morning, and  
7           thank you for being here. I am Alan Hays,  
8           State Senator from District 20 which includes  
9           parts of Volusia, Seminole, Lake, Sumter and  
10          Marion Counties, right in the heart of Florida.  
11          Thanks are being here.

12          REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: Good morning, I am  
13          Dennis Baxley, a country undertaker from Ocala,  
14          Marion County, representing District 24 there  
15          for the folks there, fourth generation  
16          Floridian. Love to be back in Panama City  
17          today. Thank you for coming and talking to us.

18          SENATOR THRASHER: Good morning, I am  
19          State Senator John Thrasher in District 8. I  
20          live in St. Augustine, Florida, and I represent  
21          parts of Nassau County, Duval County, St. Johns  
22          County, Flagler County, and I end up at the  
23          International Speedway in Daytona Beach, and it  
24          is great to be here and thank you all for  
25          coming this morning.

1           REPRESENTATIVE CRUZ: Good morning, I am  
2           State Representative Janet Cruz. I, along with  
3           my colleagues, Representative Reed and  
4           Representative Burgin, represent a portion of  
5           Tampa, Hillsborough County. It is an honor and  
6           a privilege to be here. For those of you who  
7           took time off of work, I appreciate you being  
8           here.

9           For those of you that took time from your  
10          golf game or time from the beach, I appreciate  
11          you being here even more. Have a good day.

12          REPRESENTATIVE STARGILL: Good morning, I  
13          am Representative Kelli Stargel from District  
14          64, which is North Polk County and a lot of the  
15          City of Lakeland.

16          REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Good morning, I am  
17          State Representative Dwayne Taylor from Daytona  
18          Beach, Florida, where the world center of  
19          racing and the world's most famous beach on the  
20          Atlantic, on the Atlantic side.

21          CHAIRMAN GATES: He got in real trouble in  
22          Ft. Walton Beach last night.

23          REPRESENTATIVE DRAKE: Thank you, I am  
24          Brad Drake. I represent House District 5. I  
25          live about 45 miles down the road in Walton

1 County. I have five counties here in the  
2 panhandle, Okaloosa, Walton, Holmes, Washington  
3 and Jackson. So thank you for letting me be  
4 here with you today.

5 REPRESENTATIVE PATRONIS: Good morning.  
6 Thank you all for coming today. Welcome to Bay  
7 County, members. Constituents, I want to tell  
8 you, this is probably the largest assembling  
9 you have had of State Legislators in Bay  
10 County's history, and please take your  
11 opportunities to vet to them.

12 I am humble to have so many here in Bay  
13 County and as I look at the audience, there is  
14 members, you have the highest quality of folks  
15 you are going to get testimony from here today,  
16 and I am glad to be here with you.

17 I guess it would help, Peter Nehr pointed  
18 out to me, I am State Representative Jimmy  
19 Patronis, representing Bay County, proudly.

20 SENATOR EVERS: I am Senator Greg Evers, I  
21 represent the northern portion of Escambia,  
22 Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Washington,  
23 Holmes and North Bay County. So I cover  
24 everything between Senator Gates and the  
25 Alabama line.

1           That is in District 2, and it is always a  
2           pleasure to come to Bay County. I really enjoy  
3           it. I guess I am from the what you call it,  
4           the Sand Hills portion of Bay County is where I  
5           represent. So thank you very much. It is a  
6           pleasure to be here today.

7           CHAIRMAN GATES: Well, there are more than  
8           one way to follow the redistricting process.  
9           We have obviously a number of people who are  
10          here today. We want to hear from you in a  
11          couple of moments, but we also want to let you  
12          know that the Florida Channel is broadcasting  
13          these hearings, and there are literally  
14          thousands of people following us on the  
15          Internet.

16          We have had very heavy Internet traffic  
17          for which we are immensely grateful, and if you  
18          are interested in following the other hearings  
19          on the Internet or through the Florida Channel,  
20          before you leave today you might want to ask  
21          one of the Florida Channel people for the way  
22          to do that or check with one of our  
23          professional staff.

24          Our sole purpose today is to hear from the  
25          public about how you believe the legal

1 standards governing redistricting should be  
2 applied in this community so that you can be  
3 represented sensibly, fairly, equitably in  
4 Washington and in Tallahassee.

5 Our procedures for today's hearing are  
6 simple, but important. It is important that  
7 you sign in so that we can create a record, an  
8 accurate public record of all attendees and  
9 speakers, and also you may opt to join our  
10 e-mail list or our Snail Mail list so we can  
11 keep you informed about the redistricting  
12 process and how it will be working, and your  
13 opportunities for further input.

14 If you have not signed in, please raise  
15 your hand. If you want to speak, if you have  
16 not filled out one of these speaker cards and  
17 you would like to speak, we want to hear from  
18 you.

19 So if you have not done that and you still  
20 would like to speak, please just raise your  
21 hand and we will have a member of our staff  
22 come around and get you to sign a speaker card  
23 so that we can add you to the list.

24 Is there anybody else who would like to  
25 speak? We will ask later in case there are

1       some people who come in late and that often  
2       happens.

3               Before we begin I would like to recognize  
4       the Speaker Designate of the Florida House,  
5       Representative Will Weatherford, and ask the  
6       Speaker D to explain how today's hearing fits  
7       into the redistricting process. Mr. Speaker.

8               SPEAKER WEATHERFORD: Thank you very much,  
9       Mr. Chairman, and it is an honor to be here in  
10      Bay County. We are very pleased with the  
11      tremendous turn out that we have today.

12              We are wrapping up our tour of God's  
13      country starting in the panhandle and we start  
14      here and are working our way south, but we are  
15      very happy to be here today in Bay County.

16              And I think it is important that we take  
17      just a moment to walk everyone through why we  
18      are here today and some of the laws and  
19      specific things that we have to do as a body to  
20      make these decisions and why we are here  
21      listening to you first.

22              Every ten years the Legislature is  
23      required by our Constitution to redistrict the  
24      state based on increases, decreases and  
25      movements in population. Because Florida has

1       grown so significantly over the last ten years  
2       we are actually picking up two new  
3       Congressional seats in the State of Florida.

4               Because some of our parts of our state  
5       have increased or decreased disproportionately  
6       in population, many House and Senate seats,  
7       along with Congressional seats, will either be  
8       adding population or losing population.

9               When redistricting is completed,  
10       Congressional Districts must be equal in size  
11       and each contain 696,345 people. The 40 Senate  
12       Districts must also be nearly equal at 470,033  
13       people and our 120 House Districts must also be  
14       nearly equal at 156,678 persons.

15              There is a map at the front of the room,  
16       right here behind us here, showing this area of  
17       the state. The current boundaries of the  
18       Districts and the numbers of persons which must  
19       be added or subtracted from the current  
20       Districts to achieve equal representation.

21              Equality of representation isn't the only  
22       legal requirement that redistricting plans must  
23       meet. The laws and important court cases  
24       governing redistricting are explained in detail  
25       on the House and Senate websites.

1           Those websites are listed on the  
2           Redistricting 2012 brochure that was available  
3           to you when you came in, and if you would like  
4           a copy of that brochure and you do not have  
5           one, this is what it looks like and we will  
6           make sure that they are passed out to you as  
7           well.

8           Our redistricting 2012 brochure summarizes  
9           Federal and State laws and outlines topics we  
10          will hope to be discussed here today at the  
11          hearing. If you didn't get -- those same  
12          websites have available to all of the public  
13          the demographic information from the U. S.  
14          Bureau of Census that will be used in drawing  
15          districts and redistricting software that  
16          Legislators will be using to draw maps.

17          These websites will allow any member of  
18          the public to see all district maps proposed by  
19          the Legislature and also citizens, themselves,  
20          to propose their own district maps for their  
21          own communities, or for the whole state using  
22          the very tools that the Legislators are using  
23          themselves.

24          Before and during this hearing Senate and  
25          House professional staff are available to show



1 anyone the simple steps into getting on-line  
2 and to making your submissions in the weeks to  
3 come.

4 Every recommendation from the public will  
5 be made available to the public, and in fact,  
6 some public submissions have already been made  
7 on the web. The submission of proposed maps  
8 that makes -- that makes sense for your  
9 community is the single most effective tool  
10 that you can use to have a voice on how the  
11 districts are drawn in the future.

12 The redistricting schedule under which we  
13 are operating is imposed by our State  
14 Constitution. The Constitution does not allow,  
15 it does not allow us to act on legislative maps  
16 before the second year after the census.

17 In other words, that means the 2012  
18 legislative session. Now, this body and the  
19 Legislature has accelerated that process as  
20 much as we possibly can by moving the session  
21 up from what is normally in March, up until  
22 starting in January in 2012.

23 It has also been suggested that the  
24 Legislature should draw maps first and then ask  
25 the public to comment. And ladies and

1 gentlemen, we believe that that puts the answer  
2 ahead of the question.

3 There should be no preconceptions created  
4 by politicians, but rather testimony should be  
5 free and unrestricted for you. Our intent is  
6 to use those recommendations made at the 26  
7 hearings around the state and through our  
8 Internet cites and the base -- as a basis for  
9 developing one or more of our district maps.

10 We will discuss those options in open  
11 public meetings before any votes are taken on  
12 the maps even in committee.

13 Throughout the process we will solicit  
14 additional public comment so that proposed maps  
15 can mature with the public's involvement. All  
16 the public will have final approval and will  
17 have final transparency before we vote on any  
18 maps.

19 Whatever the Legislature votes on is then  
20 submitted for judicial review to the courts to  
21 insure that final plans meet every single legal  
22 requirement.

23 Because our mission today is to hear from  
24 you, 100 percent of the time between now and  
25 1:00 p.m., will be used to insure that every

1 member here has the opportunity to speak and to  
2 present public testimony and to be listened to  
3 respectfully without interruption or argument.

4 If after every citizen has had his or her  
5 say and there is time remaining before our  
6 schedule is here for adjournment, any member of  
7 the committee may make any statement or offer  
8 observation.

9 Of course, any member of the Legislature  
10 may also today or at any time propose a map or  
11 a plan and we will make it available to you and  
12 the public.

13 Mr. Chairman, thank you for indulging me.  
14 I hope that this description of our schedule  
15 and our process helps set the stage for a very  
16 successful hearing.

17 CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you very much,  
18 Mr. Speaker, and let's get at it in terms of  
19 public testimony. By Senate and House rules as  
20 Representative Weatherford indicated, we will  
21 adjourn promptly at 1:00 o'clock.

22 There are already over 20 individuals  
23 signed up to speak. We hope more will sign up  
24 to speak as we go. The last person who is  
25 signed up to speak so far is Jamie Shepard, and

1 I am an advocate for Jamie Shepard.

2 I want to make sure she has just as much  
3 time as Barbara Day, who is the first speaker.  
4 And so what that means is that we ask you to  
5 impose on yourself a polite and civil  
6 respectful time limit of say, three or four or  
7 five minutes. Try to get it said in that  
8 period of time.

9 If someone else has said what you were  
10 going to say, maybe you can think of something  
11 else that might add value to the discussions  
12 here today.

13 If we get closer to our adjournment time  
14 and more people have come in and have signed  
15 up, then Speaker Weatherford and I will  
16 probably ask you to observe a tighter time  
17 frame just so that everybody gets an  
18 opportunity to speak.

19 Our first speaker, as I indicated, is  
20 Barbara Day, and I am going to call two  
21 speakers at once so that you will know who is  
22 on deck and you can be ready.

23 John McDonald from the Bay County  
24 Democratic Executive Committee is second, and  
25 Ms. Day, representing the AARP, is first.

1 Ms. Day, thank you for being here today, and  
2 you are recognized.

3 MS. DAY: Thank you. Good morning,  
4 Chairman Gates and Chairman Weatherford and to  
5 the Committee members.

6 My name is Barbara Day and I do reside in  
7 Panama City. I appear today as an AARP  
8 volunteer.

9 I urge the Legislature to make the  
10 redistricting process to be all it can be. As  
11 you exercise your constitutional duty to draw  
12 voting districts for ten years, beginning with  
13 the 2012 election, AARP urges you to insure  
14 transparency of the legislative redistricting  
15 process, every step of the way.

16 Keep transparency in place with  
17 redistricting discussions among members and by  
18 members should be noticed and open to the  
19 public.

20 Also keep transparency in place, meaning  
21 the public has the opportunity to comment and  
22 to have those comments meaningfully considered  
23 by the Legislature during all legislative  
24 redistricting proceedings and redistricting  
25 proposals, that is before Legislators make

1 decisions.

2 Insure timeliness of the redistricting  
3 process and insure public input. The  
4 Legislature has an obligation to meet the  
5 Constitutional dictates as already expressed by  
6 the Florida voters.

7 The Legislature owes Florida's residents  
8 and voters professionalism and timely  
9 completion of the redistricting process. The  
10 Legislature should know the procedural steps  
11 that redistricting plans will need to complete  
12 in order for there to be a timely qualification  
13 of the 2012 candidates, under the new district  
14 and for vigorous campaigns before voters cast  
15 their ballots.

16 That means the Legislature should complete  
17 its portion of the process sooner than later.  
18 Remember to take steps to insulate the  
19 redistricting process from the appearance of  
20 conflict of interest.

21 For example, subcommittees of Legislators  
22 could research and develop alternative  
23 redistricting proposals for the areas of the  
24 state remote from subcommittee members.

25 Geographic residences, perhaps, example,

1 four areas of the state then refine and  
2 reconciled for two halves of the state, then  
3 refine and reconcile by the full chambers into  
4 one state plan.

5 When it is time for your performance the  
6 Florida voters will not favor undue expense and  
7 delay in that performance. It is up to the  
8 Legislator. What will it be, redistricting,  
9 presentment or voter resentment?

10 I am confident that the Legislators, the  
11 Legislature and its staff have the professional  
12 competence and technical assistance to research  
13 and propose new voting districts in accord with  
14 all of the Constitutional and Federal  
15 requirements. Wishing you good luck and you  
16 make your best effort.

17 Thank you for your attention.

18 CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you, Ms. Day. It  
19 was great to see you again. And next we will  
20 have John McDonald from the Democratic  
21 Executive Committee, and behind John, Ray  
22 Gaggis, please. Please be on deck. Thank you  
23 for being here and we look forward to your  
24 testimony, you are recognized.

25 MR. MCDONALD: Thank you, Senator. I

1 appreciate this opportunity and I would just  
2 like to introduce myself.

3 My name is John McDonald, I am a Panama  
4 City native, and, you know, I don't have a  
5 prepared speech or anything. I am pretty much  
6 an average Joe and that is what I look out for.

7 I ran against Mr. Patronis in the last  
8 general election, Jimmy is a good guy. I am  
9 not here to talk politics. I just want people  
10 to understand what is going on.

11 We have got -- we are spending a lot of  
12 money on this right now. I mean, upwards of  
13 \$30 million is being spent on this process. At  
14 the same time, we got state workers, teachers  
15 being laid off. We have got an attack on  
16 social services, our law enforcement, you know,  
17 I think this is unacceptable, because I live  
18 here and I know what the economy is like, and,  
19 you know, our state economy, our state workers  
20 are a big part of this economy.

21 CHAIRMAN GATES: And John, I apologize.  
22 We would love to hear your views on economic  
23 issues and you can come at a delegation meeting  
24 or contact any of us, but if you could possibly  
25 work your comments back into the purpose of the



1       hearing, the redistricting just to be fair to  
2       the others who are waiting to speak.

3               MR. MCDONALD: Well, I did get this in the  
4       mail the other day and it is from Nature Coast  
5       Conservatives, and it says that as Tallahassee  
6       politicians decide our future it is time we are  
7       heard, Bay County needs a voice. Bay County  
8       deserves our own State Senator and  
9       Representative, and with all due respect,  
10      Senator, your family has representation in both  
11      the House and the Senate, but Bay County does  
12      not.

13             So what I am wondering here is what is  
14      going to happen, you know, what is this process  
15      going to lead to? I am just concerned once  
16      again about, I grew up here, I want this area  
17      to succeed, and I just don't want, you know, so  
18      much money being spent on a process of drawing  
19      maps when we have teachers being laid off. We  
20      have law enforcement being threatened, and, you  
21      know, I am just -- I am sorry. I hope you  
22      listen and I hope you heed the word of the  
23      common man. Thank you, sir.

24             CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you so much for  
25      being here. We appreciate your testimony, and

1 Ray Gaggis is next and following Ray we have --  
2 we have Larry who gave us his first name, but  
3 not his last name. So we are going to ask to  
4 know more about Larry when he speaks, but Ray  
5 Gaggis, you are up.

6 Would you please come down here, sir,  
7 because we want to put you on statewide  
8 television. No pressure, no pressure.

9 MR. GAGIS: No pressure, but don't say  
10 nothing about me, because --

11 CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you for being here  
12 and you are recognized, sir.

13 MR. GAGIS: Well, I am like the last man.  
14 I am not for people being laid off, because if  
15 you look, the money today is troubling. It is  
16 poured out in sacks from the government in  
17 Washington, and I would say today, everybody,  
18 everybody should cut back. If we don't, we are  
19 going to go like Greek.

20 Now, we got a Greek man back there. I  
21 never can get to him, but I am a Greek. I  
22 didn't mean to say this much.

23 CHAIRMAN GATES: When you are a hole now,  
24 quit digging.

25 MR. GAGIS: But if we don't and you are

1       redistricting, back to that, are we going to  
2       get more Representatives? Why? Why not use  
3       the same amount of Representatives or cut back  
4       on them or cut back on their pay?

5               I am not against anybody getting fired  
6       from anything, if they can't do their job, they  
7       can go. They should go. I spent 20 years in  
8       the Navy. I learned all I could about my job.  
9       I done as much as I could for my job.

10              I have run a business for 26 years after I  
11       got out. I have never found the time that I  
12       could not get a job, never, and today, the  
13       people that is fed that won't work should not  
14       be fed. It is a fact. Should not be fed.  
15       Welfare is eating you to death.

16              CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you very much,  
17       Mr. Gaggis and thank you for your service to our  
18       country.

19              Larry, can we learn more about you?  
20       Larry, we hardly knew you. We will come back  
21       to you in case you would like to come out of  
22       the shadows.

23              Jean Miller is our next presenter, and  
24       following Ms. Miller is Carolyn Herrera, if you  
25       would be on deck, please, Ms. Herrera.

1           Ms. Miller, thank you for being here  
2           today. We appreciate your taking time and you  
3           are recognized.

4           MS. MILLER: Thank you, sir. I appreciate  
5           you having this hearing. The only thing I have  
6           to say is I am a common citizen. Please, when  
7           you redistrict, try to make the districts as  
8           equal as can be with different groups of  
9           people.

10          Do not make beaches one and farmers one,  
11          because then you have unequal money that can  
12          buy influence. Please remember this is for all  
13          the state of Florida, not just one district or  
14          one group of people. Thank you.

15          CHAIRMAN GATES: Ms. Miller, thank you  
16          very much for your testimony. Carolyn Herrera  
17          is next, and following her Wayne Garnett,  
18          please, Mr. Garnett, if you will be on deck.

19          Thank you, ma'am, for coming today. We  
20          look forward to what you have to say and you  
21          are recognized.

22          MS. HERRERA: Well, thank you very much  
23          for having me here. I -- forgive the northern  
24          accent, I will never lose it, okay. But I do  
25          want to say that while you are cutting back on

1 everything, it needs to be cut back in  
2 Tallahassee, too, as far as the government  
3 goes.

4 But setting up the voting things I would  
5 like to see it done by county. Keeping one  
6 county together. I live in northern Bay  
7 County, and I have no Representative, you know,  
8 it is spread out over the whole area, and it is  
9 very, very frustrating.

10 I would just like to see if they could set  
11 like a block coming down from the Alabama  
12 border to the Gulf of Mexico and fit in the  
13 number of people that you need in that area and  
14 then move over to the next block and do that so  
15 we can keep as many counties together as we  
16 possibly can, where the whole county has one  
17 group. And that is all I would like to say.

18 CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you, that is very  
19 helpful. We appreciate it. And Mr. Garnett,  
20 if you would come forward and behind  
21 Mr. Garnett, Brenda Rees.

22 Mr. Garnett, we appreciate you taking time  
23 from your day and you are recognized.

24 MR. GARNETT: Thank you, sir, I appreciate  
25 being here. I thought I was signed up for a

1 drawing for a boat or fruit. I didn't know I  
2 was really going to be on the program.

3 CHAIRMAN GATES: You are, you will see  
4 Representative Patronis and his fellow Greek  
5 afterwards.

6 MR. GARNETT: All right.

7 CHAIRMAN GATES: They have a bunch of  
8 devalued drachmas for you.

9 MR. GARNETT: If I would have known you  
10 was going to put me on television I would have  
11 waited to come tomorrow, because I get better  
12 looking every day.

13 CHAIRMAN GATES: And I thought we would  
14 handle the jokes. Would you like to travel  
15 with us?

16 MR. GARNETT: Well, in fact, I was just  
17 looking at your itinerary. You are starting  
18 off eating shrimp in Pensacola and you are  
19 going to wind up eating conch in the Keys.  
20 Now, that ain't a bad way to spend the summer.

21 CHAIRMAN GATES: Come on along.

22 MR. GARNETT: If you have time though, you  
23 ought to stop by Tampa, go by Ebor City and get  
24 you some Pompano and populi and some black bean  
25 soup, black beans, white rice and onions.

1           I really, I came over here today because  
2           when there is this many politicians all at one  
3           place, you need to watch them. And I apologize  
4           for the crowd because there is more of ya'll  
5           than there are of us.

6           But I think what you are doing is a very  
7           serious thing and I just want to say, just try  
8           to do something that makes sense. That is all  
9           I ask of you. Thank you very much.

10          CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you, sir. We  
11          really appreciate you being here. Next is  
12          Brenda Rees, it is nice to see you again,  
13          Ms. Rees, and following Brenda will be Roger, I  
14          believe it is Straley or Stanley, if you will  
15          be on deck, please.

16          Brenda, nice to see you, you are  
17          recognized.

18          MS. REES: Senator Gates, Representative  
19          Weatherford and Senate and House Committee  
20          members, thank you for coming over to this part  
21          of northwest Florida.

22          I live in Walton county, which is in the  
23          middle, so part of my district is over there  
24          and part is impacted over here, so I thought it  
25          was important to come to both.

1           I will try to say something a little bit  
2           different today and not the same testimony that  
3           I gave last night.

4           But I am a Florida native. My family has  
5           been here about seven generations, so there has  
6           been a lot of map changes in the time that my  
7           family has been in Florida, but thank you for  
8           holding these statewide public redistricting  
9           meetings. I believe you are getting  
10          substantial evidence that you will be able to  
11          use in your redistricting process.

12          I have lived in several states and have  
13          witnessed several redistricting processes. In  
14          Alaska I was on the State Redistricting Board  
15          appointed by the Governor.

16          The five member Board redistricted, not  
17          the Legislature. We had rules to follow just  
18          as you. My brother is an NFL Referee. He was  
19          the head referee for the Super Bowl this year.  
20          He had rules to follow, and just like him, at  
21          the end of the game I hope it is a good game  
22          called, well done by the players in taking care  
23          of the people at hand.

24          The ball is in the citizen's hand right  
25          now and this is our chance to speak to you, so



1       thank you very much for giving us this  
2       opportunity to come to you and give you our  
3       opinions in developing the important  
4       redistricting plans for the state of Florida.

5             I know how important redistricting  
6       hearings are in Alaska. One day it was  
7       50 degrees below zero and with had to go to  
8       Fairbanks and the heat went out in the hotel  
9       and people showed up. So I hope your weather  
10      fares well for you in all of your meetings.

11            Follow the rules by adhering to one  
12      person, one vote. The Voting Rights Act of  
13      1964 as amended in 1965, that districts are  
14      compact, contiguous and reflect communities of  
15      interest as much as is practical as you heard  
16      last night.

17            Follow the rule of 10 percent deviation  
18      for the state Senate and House Districts. We  
19      have 67 counties now in Florida. Well, we have  
20      40 Senators, 120 Representatives and we will be  
21      having 27 Congressional leaders. There is  
22      going to have to be -- 29, have to be some  
23      mixing of counties.

24            There is no way to divide 18 million  
25      Floridians up with those numbers without some

1 cross counties. One vote difference for  
2 Congressional will be challenging.  
3 Redistricting by census block, what some people  
4 don't understand is, you have to do it by  
5 census block. The census wasn't by counties,  
6 it wasn't by cities. It wasn't by other  
7 municipalities. It was by census block.

8 So sometimes you may get that odd squiggly  
9 little line that makes no sense, but you might  
10 have to use it. I hope you can keep them as  
11 compact as possible and contiguous, but the  
12 public needs to understand, it is by census  
13 block.

14 Thank you for providing maps, numbers and  
15 extensive information. We know that our  
16 Congressional District 1 is 2,000 short and  
17 Congressional District 2 is 41,000 over the  
18 ideal 696,000 ideal district. CD 1 is 2,000  
19 short and CD 2 is about 41,000 over. So there  
20 will have to be some adjustments made there.

21 Please try to keep South Walton. That is  
22 where I live. I was born in Defuniak Springs  
23 on the north end, but I live in South Walton on  
24 the south end and it is a historical community  
25 of interest.

1           It is -- I brought this picture here. It  
2           is a beautiful little community, even Thomas  
3           Hannah of Pointe Washington was a one time  
4           Speaker of the House from Pointe Washington, a  
5           little known fact. So we do, even though we  
6           are small and we get juggled around a little  
7           bit, we have had political importance.

8           Also, in redistricting South Walton it is  
9           very important to keep us together as we are  
10          down here, and what separates us from the  
11          northern end is a large bay and also Eglin Air  
12          Force Base which is one of the largest the Air  
13          Force Bases in America and it is also a bombing  
14          range. So sometimes roads are closed, so that  
15          is just something to keep, keep in mind.

16          Congressional District 1, you heard last  
17          night, should consolidate Okaloosa County as  
18          much as possible, and Congressional District 2,  
19          I have already discussed that.

20          You will eventually have to make the final  
21          call on the redistricting plan going forth,  
22          make the right call and follow the rules.  
23          Thank you.

24          CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you very much,  
25          Ms. Rees. We appreciate your testimony.

1       Mr. Roger, I believe it is Straley. I think,  
2       could I possibly have that wrong. You are  
3       going to help me out.

4               MR. STRALEY: It is Roger Straley.

5               CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you, sir, welcome,  
6       and you are recognized.

7               MR. STRALEY: I am from Bay County, a long  
8       time resident of Florida. The only thing that  
9       I would ask is it has been touched on here  
10      before by previous people. Is that you would  
11      make your districts based on common sense on  
12      county lines, on geographic features that would  
13      make sense and not consider the party  
14      representation necessarily within the  
15      districts.

16              I think that has been a great cause for  
17      the spread out districts. No common sense at  
18      all is purely political considerations, but I  
19      would ask you to try to make them using common  
20      sense and not political considerations. Thank  
21      you very much.

22              CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you, Mr. Straley,  
23      we appreciate your comments.

24              Next is Dr. Rufus Wood, I believe, and  
25      following Dr. Wood is Jim Anders.

1           Dr. Wood? As we are waiting for Dr. Wood  
2           to approach the podium, President Margolis, our  
3           former Senate President has admonished me to  
4           point out that the maps that are behind us  
5           which were in the front previously and will be  
6           -- a number of people were looking at them and  
7           they will be available later, are maps that  
8           show the current districts, Congressional  
9           Senate and House Districts, and those maps can  
10          be used by you as a point of departure, a take  
11          off point for where you specifically think  
12          changes ought to be made.

13                 Thank you very much, Doctor, for being  
14          here, and you are recognized to speak, sir.

15                 DR. WOOD: Thank you, Chairman and to all  
16          of our Representatives and our Senators. We  
17          are so delighted to have you in our community  
18          and to all of the citizens who have come today  
19          to share with, I appreciate this opportunity.

20                 I am Reverend Dr. Rufus L. Wood, Jr. I  
21          represent the Bay County Branch National  
22          Association for the Advancement of Colored  
23          People.

24                 It was Dr. James Cone who once said that  
25          we can never understand the political process

1       until we become active and be a part of that  
2       process.

3               We are here today to that political power  
4       is essential for all people in the state of  
5       Florida and throughout this great nation. As  
6       you all know, the 1965 Voters Right Act was a  
7       landmark national piece of legislation which  
8       was passed that outlawed discriminative  
9       practices in the voting procedures, which had  
10      been responsible for many years for the  
11      wide-spread disenfranchisement of  
12      African-Americans.

13              So we have come today to say again that we  
14      believe that political power is essential for  
15      African-Americans and, in fact, it is essential  
16      for all of the citizens of the state of  
17      Florida.

18              We appreciate this opportunity today to  
19      appeal to our State Legislators, we want to  
20      appeal to you first of all as you travel  
21      throughout the great state of Florida to  
22      conduct meaningful hearings. We want  
23      meaningful dialogue.

24              Unfortunately, in Bay County and some of  
25      our political forums that we have had here and

1 public hearings, we have had political leader  
2 who have said, my mind is already made up. So  
3 we are here today to request that your minds  
4 are open to the input that is being given in  
5 these hearings.

6 I believe that time is a gift from God.  
7 Somebody once said yesterday is a cancelled  
8 check, tomorrow is a promissory note, today is  
9 cash, and that is all you have, so spend it  
10 wisely.

11 So we hope and pray that as you travel  
12 throughout the state that you will certainly  
13 not waist the time of the citizens of the  
14 various communities throughout this state.

15 Time is so important and is so valuable  
16 and we hope that you are open to hear what is  
17 being shared.

18 Secondly, we appeal to you, don't play,  
19 with all due respect, don't play political  
20 games with the citizens of this state. Certain  
21 parties drawing lines to advantage themselves  
22 and to benefit themselves, so that they are  
23 more likely to have officials elected, so that  
24 they are more likely to control the committee,  
25 so they are more likely to control the

1 procedures.

2 So they are more likely to past the laws  
3 which support their particular point of views.  
4 So once again, with all due respect we do hope  
5 and pray that you will not play games with the  
6 citizens of the state of Florida.

7 Thirdly, we appeal to you to provide  
8 equity in terms of representation for all of  
9 the citizens of the state of Florida.

10 In Bay County, in the past ten years there  
11 has been an increase in the African-American  
12 population, 10 percent. There has been  
13 114 percent increase in terms of the Latino and  
14 Hispanic, and we certainly hope that as you  
15 make plans to redraw the lines, that that will  
16 be taken into consideration, and that there  
17 will not be minority delusion in this process  
18 as you redraw the lines in this state.

19 Finally, we appeal to you at the end of  
20 the process that you again will remember all of  
21 the citizens and we would love to have the  
22 vital information which has already been stated  
23 that after the maps have been drawn up, that  
24 there still will be an opportunity for input.

25 We would like to know in terms of the



1        demographics, in terms of race, in terms of  
2        national origin, in terms of the age, and in  
3        terms of all of those people who will be  
4        allowed and permitted to vote.

5                Thank you so very much, and as I go to my  
6        seat, I always remember the words of the late  
7        Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who once  
8        said, injustice anywhere is a threat to justice  
9        everywhere. So we only appeal to you to please  
10       be fair in this process.

11               CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you very much,  
12       Dr. Wood. Our next speaker is Jim Anders.  
13       Mr. Anders, and following Mr. Anders is Wanda  
14       Raley, who is the Supervisor of Elections here  
15       in Bay County. Jim, it is good to see you.

16               MR. ANDERS: Good to see you.

17               CHAIRMAN GATES: And you are recognized.

18               MR. ANDERS: All right, thank you. Again,  
19       I am Jim Anders and I am from South Walton  
20       County over to the county to the west, Seagrove  
21       Beach, but I was raised in Blountstown. As a  
22       matter of fact, Bill Monford over there, he was  
23       Student Body President and I was a  
24       Representative of his in that class back in the  
25       60's, so -- but having grown up in the rural

1        areas in the Florida here, north Florida and  
2        living along the coast, I see a need to keep  
3        the issues separate.

4            That we have coastal issues that are  
5        needed to be done by Representatives who are  
6        familiar with the coast, and then we have the  
7        rural areas that need to be represented by  
8        people that have an interest and need in the  
9        rural areas.

10           So I think that was what I really wanted  
11        to say, having lived in this area all my life  
12        and all, and so I would like to make that  
13        statement.

14           But also I just like the process, the way  
15        you all allow people to open up and come and  
16        speak and all. I can remember 30 years ago  
17        when we had and I was a support of his, Senator  
18        Barron, he, back then, you know, I think he was  
19        President of the Senate, and I think there were  
20        three Senators in north Florida.

21           You had W. D. Childers in Pensacola, you  
22        had Pat Thomas in Quincy, and you had Senator  
23        Barron here in Panama City, and back then I  
24        think you could push a button, and I think  
25        Dempsey got 70 percent of the vote where he got

1       70 percent of the vote and it was his district,  
2       you know.

3               So, I mean, it has changed a lot. I think  
4       that was done I think all over, but back then  
5       we didn't have the process like we have now,  
6       and what I am saying is, thank you all for  
7       allowing the people to come and have public  
8       input and all. I think that is much needed.

9               CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you very much, Jim.  
10       Appreciate it. And now our Supervisor of  
11       Elections. Thank you very much for taking time  
12       from your day and we look forward to hearing  
13       your testimony.

14              I know that our professional staff has had  
15       an opportunity to meet with many of the  
16       Supervisors of Elections and we look forward to  
17       your guidance. You are recognized.

18              MS. RALEY: Thank you. First of all, I  
19       would like to say that I am not the Supervisor  
20       of Elections. I am representing him today.  
21       Our Supervisor is Mark Anderson.

22              CHAIRMAN GATES: That is what I thought,  
23       but I thought perhaps Mr. Anderson went fishing  
24       and you -- there was a codetta or something.

25              MS. RALEY: While he was away.

1           CHAIRMAN GATES: Well, since there was no  
2           codetta, please give, please give him our best  
3           wishes.

4           MS. RALEY: I will.

5           CHAIRMAN GATES: And I am glad that -- I  
6           am glad there was not a power struggle or  
7           anything like that in the office, but you are  
8           here representing him.

9           MS. RALEY: Yes.

10          CHAIRMAN GATES: And nonetheless, we are  
11          delighted to have your testimony.

12          MS. RALEY: Thank you very much. He is  
13          not able to be here so I would like to read a  
14          prepared statement for him.

15          CHAIRMAN GATES: Please.

16          MS. RALEY: First I send my regrets for  
17          being unable to attend this meeting. I am  
18          currently at the State Association Conference  
19          where Supervisors around the state are also  
20          addressing redistricting issues.

21                 For conducting elections, it is beneficial  
22                 to use large arterial boundaries, such as main  
23                 roads or county lines as much as possible to  
24                 ease and tabulation of voter population for  
25                 precinct districts.

1           With the current timeline and possible  
2           legal challenges, as well as public concerns,  
3           it is imperative to move as quickly as possible  
4           to complete this task. This will allow  
5           adequate time for my office to prepare for the  
6           2012 primary election. Respectfully, Mark  
7           Anderson, Bay County Supervisor of Elections.

8           CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you very much, and  
9           please give Mr. Anderson our best, and thanks  
10          for your testimony today.

11          MS. RALEY: I will, thank you.

12          CHAIRMAN GATES: Next we have, I believe  
13          we have someone who's handwriting is almost as  
14          bad as mine. I think it is Richard, is it  
15          Plant, or -- what is it, sir?

16          MR. PLANTEC: Plantec.

17          CHAIRMAN GATES: Plantec, okay. Well,  
18          thank you very much for being here, and Danny  
19          Smith is recognized following Mr. Plantec.  
20          Thank you for taking time from your day. You  
21          are recognized before the Committee.

22          MR. SMITH: Yes, I am retired. I could be  
23          out at the beaches right now, but I came here  
24          instead.

25          First of all I want to thank all of you.

1 I think this is a wonderful thing that you are  
2 doing and I think it will really help your  
3 process.

4 I know that the Constitution tells you to  
5 consider geographical and political boundaries,  
6 but I would also like you to think about  
7 community boundaries, which may be different  
8 from what some of the other people have said,  
9 because I know for example, out on Panama City  
10 Beach, parts of it are represented.

11 We have two wonderful State Reps and they  
12 are both great, but parts of the beach are  
13 represented by different ones. They are  
14 basically, it is one community, you should have  
15 one, one representative there.

16 By the same token, even the beach, Panama  
17 City Beach and Panama City, Lynn Haven, are  
18 part of the same community. People belong to  
19 the same clubs, give to the same charities, go  
20 to the same fundraisers and things. So there  
21 is a lot in common beyond what the -- beyond  
22 what the legal boundaries may be and the  
23 geographical boundaries, and I would like you  
24 to keep that in mind.

25 And also when you are grouping, you are

1       grouping communities together, group similar  
2       communities together as much as possible,  
3       because I have been around, I have seen a lot  
4       of the Congressional District which is very  
5       large so you have to diversify to a certain  
6       extent, but I know like communities such as,  
7       you know, the Panama City Beaches and the  
8       Panama City downtown, it is still they have a  
9       lot of the roots and the background with the  
10      rural communities around here.

11             I see a lot less of a connection with  
12      Tallahassee. You should keep in mind how the  
13      communities blend, try to put people together.  
14      I -- I guarantee you if you do this it will  
15      make your jobs a lot easier, because you will  
16      have those common interests together, and once  
17      again I would like to thank you for this  
18      opportunity.

19             CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you very much for  
20      your testimony. Very well said. Next is Danny  
21      Smith and then after Mr. Smith is Tim Pugh.  
22      Mr. Smith, thank you for coming, and you are  
23      recognized.

24             MR. SMITH: Good morning, Senator Gates  
25      and thanks for all of you for taking the time

1           to come here. I think you have put together a  
2           wonderful process and I think most of us have  
3           to remember that it is, you know, we really  
4           want compact districts easy to understand where  
5           you got to go to vote and all of that sort of  
6           thing.

7           We don't want anymore of those snakes  
8           along from one city to the other just to get  
9           certain people in there, of course, and I know  
10          you are not going to do that, because this  
11          process that you have set up is really good and  
12          it is open for everyone to speak.

13          Yes, it may be a little expensive to do,  
14          but I think you are doing the right thing and  
15          we appreciate the opportunity to come here and  
16          just give you our little two cents worth, so  
17          thank you.

18          CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you very much, sir.  
19          We really appreciate your time. Mr. Pugh?

20          MR. PUGH: Yes.

21          CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you very much for  
22          taking time from your day and you are  
23          recognized to speak, sir.

24          MR. PUGH: Good morning, Senator Gates and  
25          thanks for all of the communication, the



1 updated information that you give me all of the  
2 time. I appreciate that.

3 Most everything I wanted to say was  
4 already said today. The process should be  
5 common sense, community based, and I hope that  
6 through the whole process that gerrymandering  
7 never comes up. We shouldn't have a bunch of  
8 squiggly lines.

9 And the other thing I have to say is that  
10 as an IT person, your online tools are  
11 terrible. I mean, the interface is terrible,  
12 and if there is anything we can do about that  
13 to make it easier, because --

14 CHAIRMAN GATES: You are hired.

15 MR. PUGH: Huh? But, yes, it -- they are  
16 just really clumsy at best.

17 CHAIRMAN GATES: Would you do us a favor?

18 MR. PUGH: Sure.

19 CHAIRMAN GATES: Since you are an IT  
20 person and we have heard, you know, we had a  
21 gentleman testify yesterday who said he spent  
22 15 minutes with them and was able to navigate  
23 easily and, in fact, had already drawn  
24 Congressional and Senate Districts.

25 So would you -- where is John Guthrie? Do

1           you see that gentlemen right over there?

2           MR. PUGH:   Yes.

3           CHAIRMAN GATES:   Would you mind spending  
4           10 or 15 minutes with him now or after the  
5           hearing and share some of your concerns and  
6           maybe he can offer you a couple of suggestions  
7           as well, and I am sure you can have some  
8           recommendations that will help us, because in  
9           general we are getting very good responses, but  
10          if there are difficulties and there are two  
11          cites, a House cite and a Senate cite.   So  
12          anxious to have your help there, but please go  
13          ahead, sir.

14          MR. PUGH:   Okay, I will do, I will be with  
15          you, but that is basically all I had to say,  
16          just make sure it is a common sense approach  
17          and that gerrymandering doesn't come up during  
18          this entire process.

19          CHAIRMAN GATES:   Okay, thank you, and if  
20          you would spend some time with Mr. Guthrie,  
21          that would benefit everybody.

22          MR. PUGH:   Okay, thanks.

23          CHAIRMAN GATES:   Thank you so much.  
24          William Pritchard is next and then Candice  
25          Harbison.

1 William Pritchard and then Ms. Harbison,  
2 if you would be on deck, please.

3 MR. PRITCHARD: I thought I was going to  
4 get the on deck sign ahead of time.

5 CHAIRMAN GATES: Well, it was my fault. I  
6 was so wrapped up in trying to get some free  
7 help here that I --

8 MR. PRITCHARD: Yes, I understand.

9 CHAIRMAN GATES: I am a conservative,  
10 understand. Mr. Pritchard, you are recognized,  
11 and thanks so much for coming today.

12 MR. PRITCHARD: Good morning, my name is  
13 Bill Pritchard and I am representing myself, as  
14 well as our Greater Bay Chapter of the ACLU of  
15 Florida which I am President of.

16 Of course, you all know, everybody knows  
17 that anybody that has been paying attention  
18 anyway, that the majority of voters, in fact,  
19 almost two-thirds voted for Amendments V and VI  
20 to create compact, contiguous districts and to  
21 put an end to gerrymandering no matter which  
22 side you are on.

23 This is a non-partisan thing, it is  
24 supposed to be anyway, and the thing that  
25 bothers me about this process is that where are

1 the maps?

2 It is a good question, because all we have  
3 is the old maps and ultimately you people are  
4 going to draw the maps and vote on them, and I  
5 think it would have been better had you  
6 presented us with at least tentative maps that  
7 we could comment on, because otherwise all we  
8 can comment on here is the process.

9 And as some other people have said, they  
10 have gotten right to work on this in other  
11 states and why in Florida does it take so long  
12 to develop maps of House, Senate and  
13 Congressional Districts.

14 That information has been available for  
15 months and if anybody can use the Internet to  
16 draw a map, why can't you use the Internet to  
17 draw a map so that we could see what your  
18 intentions are?

19 But this is going to take too long, and I  
20 understand that you can't vote on maps ahead of  
21 time, but there is no reason why you can't  
22 create some, because there is going to be a lot  
23 of confusion and last minute problems because  
24 people who want to run for office aren't going  
25 to know what district they are in, and I won't

1 know who my Representative is going to be ahead  
2 of time, and let me see here.

3 Another thing that I find as a problem  
4 with this process is that after the maps are  
5 proposed, are you going to conduct hearings  
6 after that so that people can actually comment  
7 on the maps that you are going to vote on?

8 I think people would want to know that.  
9 The Florida process is one of the slowest and  
10 most secretive in the country, and there is no  
11 reason this needs to be like this unless the  
12 goal is to keep people in the dark and confuse  
13 them, and that leads us to more things about  
14 Fair Districts Florida.

15 I am troubled that so many of you have  
16 opposed, fought and continued to fight against  
17 these amendments, and it is pretty much an  
18 insult to the voters who overwhelmingly  
19 approved these rules that you are trying to  
20 ignore them or play games with them, and why  
21 are you spending so much of my money and other  
22 taxpayers' money to try to undermine my vote  
23 and the vote of the majority of Floridians for  
24 a fair process and fair districts.

25 I understand that there has been maybe as

1 much as \$30 million put away to try to work  
2 against the Fair District Amendment. Still it  
3 would be better to stop spending money on  
4 lawyers and just to draw the maps.

5 If you are planning to spend that kind of  
6 money to defend the kind of districts that you  
7 are going to come up with in court, then people  
8 are going to suspect that there is something  
9 wrong with this process.

10 If you draw -- if you drew good fair maps  
11 I think perhaps nobody would sue you, so that  
12 is what I have to say.

13 CHAIRMAN GATES: Well, thank you,  
14 Mr. Pritchard and you raised some very  
15 interesting questions from your script that  
16 others from the ACLU have raised and we are  
17 going to ask the Speaker Designate to comment  
18 on those because I think we want to make sure  
19 that there are no questions of fact that remain  
20 at the end of the hearing.

21 Thank you very much, Ms. Harbison, for  
22 being here, and you are recognized to speak,  
23 and behind you is James Gould.

24 MS. HARBISON: Thank you. I don't want to  
25 sound like a broken record, but the reason we

1       are doing this now is because we have new  
2       census data, and I don't understand why those  
3       data weren't put together to draw up some  
4       logical, sensible maps that we could all  
5       comment on.

6               Perhaps this expensive process could be  
7       drawn a little shorter and something more  
8       meaningful to comment on could be proposed to  
9       us.

10              Locally, a properly compact district would  
11       not include a rat tail. It would not  
12       concentrate special interests, but it would  
13       represent the variety of interests in the  
14       district.

15              It has been very confusing for the people  
16       of Bay County to have been split up into  
17       various districts. Unless there is a really  
18       good reason for it, a county should be kept in  
19       tact.

20              CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you, and it is good  
21       to see you again, Ms. Harbison. James Gould is  
22       our next speaker and following Mr. Gould, Gary  
23       Bechler, please.

24              Mr. Gould, thank you for taking time to  
25       come, and we appreciate your presence today.

1           You are recognized.

2           MR. GOULD: Thank you all for coming and  
3           opening up this to public comment. My name is  
4           James Gould. I live in Southport, Florida.

5           My wife and I run a Tea Party and I would  
6           just like to admonish you, the Constitution,  
7           the Federalist papers say the end goal of the  
8           Constitution is justice, that is justice for  
9           all.

10          It also says that a Republic, which is a  
11          form of government that we have, cannot stand  
12          unless there is a self-reliant and virtuous  
13          citizenry.

14          I admonish you as you go through this  
15          process to put principle and high moral  
16          standards above cheap partisan goals. Thank  
17          you.

18          CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you very much,  
19          Mr. Gould. Good words for all of us. Gary  
20          Bechler, please, and following Mr. Bechler,  
21          Jamie Shepard would be on deck, and Jamie is  
22          also with the League of Women Voters.

23          Mr. Bechler, thank you for coming, and you  
24          are recognized.

25          MR. BECHLER: Thank you. I would also



1       like to ask where the maps are, why the other  
2       states can get this stuff done and let their  
3       constituents see what is being proposed or what  
4       we are looking at. I feel like this is more or  
5       less a farce.

6               We will not even get to comment on these  
7       maps once you Legislators draw them up. So we  
8       are being put out of the process, I feel like.  
9       I feel like when you do redistrict you should  
10      take into account how some of these counties  
11      are split up.

12             As far as our Senate District here, if you  
13      are not in the tourist industry you have no  
14      representation. If the counties are kept more  
15      whole you have the tourist industries in the  
16      south of the counties, you have the farmers in  
17      the north, you have, you know, other -- other  
18      citizens involved. I don't even have access to  
19      my State Senator, which is you, Mr. Gates.

20             By your own words, you know, I tried to  
21      talk to you in Tallahassee when we had  
22      sessions, after the sessions, when everybody  
23      talks to their Representatives.

24             You flat out told me and my business  
25      partner that you knew we were in the Union, you

1       knew we didn't vote for you, and you knew, and  
2       you didn't have time for us.

3               CHAIRMAN GATES:   Now, sir, sir --

4               MR. BECHLER:   And I feel, I feel like no  
5       matter what --

6               CHAIRMAN GATES:   Excuse me.   We are not  
7       going to have an argument today, but --

8               MR. BECHLER:   I am not having an argument.  
9       I am making a statement.

10              CHAIRMAN GATES:   Yes.

11              MR. BECHLER:   I feel like rather I am an  
12       Independent, a Democrat or a Republican.   If I  
13       vote, you know, if I am an Independent and I  
14       vote Republican and a Democrat gets elected, I  
15       should still have access to my Representative,  
16       and I don't.   That is all I have to say, thank  
17       you.

18              CHAIRMAN GATES:   Thank you for your time.  
19       And Jamie Shepard is our next speaker, and  
20       following Jamie Shepard we will hear from  
21       Celia, I think it is either Fith or Fitz, and  
22       Ms. Shepard is as well a representative of the  
23       League of Women Voters.   Nice to see you again.

24              MS. SHEPARD:   Nice to see you.

25              CHAIRMAN GATES:   Please, you are

1 recognized.

2 MS. SHEPARD: Thank you very much. On  
3 behalf of the League of Women Voters of Bay  
4 County and all of our citizens, we welcome the  
5 committee.

6 We sincerely hope you will come back to  
7 Patronis country. As you may very well know,  
8 the League of Women Voters of Florida has been  
9 front and center on this issue for 70 years.  
10 We have been fighting for this for 70 years.

11 Fair election districts are a good  
12 government, non-partisan issue, just like the  
13 League. We have supported this measure,  
14 regardless of which party was in control of the  
15 State Legislature.

16 The League of Women Voters was, was not,  
17 has not been and is not anti incumbent, because  
18 we have a long history of opposing term limits  
19 because we understand the importance of time in  
20 office for clarity on the issues and  
21 familiarity with the concerns of your  
22 constituents.

23 We thank you for your website, Florida  
24 Redistricting.org, which will allow us all to  
25 monitor what the Legislature and our fellow

1 citizens are proposing, but we encourage the  
2 Committee to go ahead and put something on  
3 paper.

4 Everybody knows it is easier to edit than  
5 create. We encourage the Committee to move the  
6 timeline up as your own attorney suggested, to  
7 preclude chaos and confusion in 2012.

8 This is kind of what we are paying you  
9 for, and so as our Governor has succinctly  
10 said, let's get to work on it. We encourage  
11 you to drop your lawsuit. Sixty-three percent  
12 of the voters has spoken, we passed Amendments  
13 V and VI last fall. This is a waste of  
14 taxpayer dollars to combat this.

15 What is the logic of this? Minority  
16 districts are protected already, communities of  
17 interest are a concern, but our compliance with  
18 the national voting rights laws must take  
19 precedence.

20 We thank you again for your time, your  
21 time here across the state to listen to all of  
22 us. Your consideration is truly appreciated  
23 and we are hoping for the best. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you so much for  
25 being here, and it is good to see you again.

1        Now, Celia Fitz, nice to see you again. This  
2        is like old home week, and Frederick, I think  
3        its Croon or Crown may be next, please. You  
4        are recognized, and thanks for being here.

5                MS. FITZ: I am a resident of Bay County.  
6        I have been a citizen here for many years and I  
7        just wanted to say a few things.

8                One, that Fair Districts was the will of  
9        the vast majority of Floridians and I would  
10       like very much for you to simply follow the  
11       Fair District laws and to draw the maps first  
12       before.

13               I know you have made up your mind and you  
14       are going do this and I know I am not going to  
15       change your mind, but I really wish you would  
16       have drawn the maps first. I think it would  
17       have made the process much more meaningful and  
18       efficient.

19               And I am very concerned with the number of  
20       cuts down to the bone for education and many  
21       other agencies in Florida that we are spending  
22       so much money. I assume taxpayers are paying  
23       for all of you to travel all around the state  
24       and do all of this, and that lady I am sure  
25       gets paid quite well and other folks.

1           We don't have the money in Florida to be  
2           just wasting it, and let's make the process  
3           more meaningful and more efficient. Let's move  
4           it forward. Let's move it along, and it will  
5           be a real problem if we don't have these  
6           districts drawn and in place in plenty of time  
7           for people to decide who is going to qualify  
8           for that district, what district, with won't  
9           have any districts if you take until June to  
10          make a decision.

11          The courts are going to have to review it.  
12          So we really wish you would go ahead and draw  
13          the maps and then let us speak on it. Okay.

14          Well, that was pretty much it, and also I  
15          did want to bring up the legal challenges. I  
16          have been very resentful of the State  
17          Legislature using our tax dollars to go after  
18          Fair Districts when it is the will of the  
19          people. Thank you.

20          CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you, Celia, and I  
21          should have, I apologize, I should have  
22          mentioned that Celia as well represents the  
23          League of Women Voters or is a member. I am  
24          sorry, you are wearing your League button and I  
25          apologize.

1           Frederick Croon, and following Mr. Croon,  
2           Beth Oltman from the Panama City Beach Chamber.  
3           You are recognized, sir, thank you for being  
4           here.

5           MR. CROON: Thank you, good morning to  
6           everyone. I am with the Union, I am Union,  
7           too, so but irregardless, my number one thing  
8           is I am a citizen of the United States and I am  
9           definitely a citizen of Bay County.

10          This -- we appreciate ya'll coming. This  
11          is very important. You can tell by the number  
12          of people here that it is important, but really  
13          I think it should be more people here.

14          Even the local news here evidently didn't  
15          think it was important enough, because it is  
16          not on the front page, it is not on the local,  
17          but I request that this Committee put the  
18          information out to the people of the state of  
19          Florida that how important this is.

20          How this will subject to effect our way of  
21          life in the state of Florida for the next 10  
22          years or even longer, because right now by the  
23          number of people here, local newspaper, et  
24          cetera, the people don't think it is important  
25          as it is, and you up here do know that it is

1           important on how we draw our district lines and  
2           who our leaders are for the state of Florida.

3           And I live in Bay County. I live on the  
4           southeast portion of the county, and we have  
5           three Senators in Bay County, and most people  
6           in Bay County do not have a clue who the three  
7           Senators are, and the only reason I know who  
8           they are, because I do visit Tallahassee pretty  
9           frequently, and Gates, yes, you are my Senator  
10          according to my residential location.

11          I think Patronis is for the Callaway area  
12          and the Tyndall Air Force base is our  
13          Representative, but earlier people spoke on the  
14          part that it needs to be made equally fair  
15          where the people of the counties or the cities  
16          will actually know who their Representatives  
17          are and who their State Senators are.

18          And I know Mr. Evers, who is a Senator and  
19          he quoted earlier in his comment earlier, he  
20          said but he have the Sand Hills of Bay County.

21          He lives in Milton, Florida. You live in  
22          Pensacola, but irregardless where you live at,  
23          we need to know who represents us, and  
24          Mr. Monford, when I was in Tallahassee he is  
25          the only one that I got a chance to talk to. I



1        didn't get a chance to talk to you. I didn't  
2        get a chance to talk to Mr. Evers.

3            Now, last year, Mr. Evers, I did talk to  
4        you when you was a Representative, but as a  
5        Senator I did not, but the people needs to know  
6        who their Representatives are, not just Union  
7        members or the League Voters or people that  
8        have groups or organizations, but all of the  
9        citizens need to know who their leaders are.

10           So when you are doing these redistricting  
11        and setting these boundary lines or the area  
12        you cover, try to think about we need the  
13        citizens to know who we are, who we can e-mail  
14        to, who we can write a letter to if we are  
15        having a problem, and, you know, some things  
16        are gripes or some grievances or whatever you  
17        want to say about the problem, but with need to  
18        know who you all are.

19           So if ya'll would think about that while  
20        you are traveling the state of Florida, that  
21        the people need to know who their leaders are.  
22        Thank you.

23           CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you very much,  
24        Mr. Croon. And Mr. Croon raises an interesting  
25        point, and just informationally, is Nick Abrams

1       here, Nick? Do you see the tall guy in the  
2       back, Mr. Croon, Nick Abrams, right back here,  
3       I apologize, sir.

4             If there is anybody here who would like an  
5       appointment with either their Representative or  
6       their Senator, and perhaps when they were in  
7       Tallahassee they didn't get a chance because of  
8       a committee meeting or a conflict, if you would  
9       like an appointment to see Senator Evers or  
10      Representative Coley or Representative Patronis  
11      or myself, that tall fellow back there, just  
12      keep him in mind, give him your name and  
13      number, we will call and set up an appointment  
14      for any of you.

15            Ms. Oltman, thank you very much for being  
16      here, you are recognized.

17            MS. OLTMAN: Well, hello there. My name  
18      is Beth Oltman, and I am the President of the  
19      Panama City Beach Chamber of Commerce.

20            I actually live in Lynn Haven. I am a  
21      very proud resident of Bay County, and I want  
22      to thank all of you for coming to our beautiful  
23      part of the state, and I, too, wish that I know  
24      all of your intentions are very positive, but I  
25      want you to show your true leadership skills

1           and try to expedite this process.

2           Make quick decisions for the entire state,  
3           because I know you all can, take away the  
4           self-interests and do what is best for our  
5           state as a whole.

6           Now, speaking for Bay County, I do wish  
7           that we would hold -- keep all of Bay County  
8           together. As Bay County has changed throughout  
9           the years we now have our airport, we are  
10          growing economically. We have our beach, we  
11          care so much about our education system.

12          We have many of us are moving into this  
13          area from other parts of the country and are  
14          very proud to call this home. So I, too, wish  
15          to ask that all of Bay County stays together,  
16          even though I love Marti and Jimmy and Don, all  
17          of you, I sincerely hope that we can expedite  
18          this entire situation and keep Bay County whole  
19          so we keep our power and grow continually.  
20          Thank you for coming once again.

21          CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you very much, and  
22          I should have said also that Senator Monford I  
23          am sure takes the same view that if there are  
24          any citizens here who may have attempted to  
25          reach him when he was in Tallahassee, we get

1           called away a lot for votes on the floor or  
2           committee votes and you couldn't reach him, see  
3           the tall guy in the back, Nick Abrams, and he  
4           will make sure that Senator Monford gets your  
5           name and number so that you can get a meeting  
6           with him if you would like.

7           Next is Alvin Peters, and following Alvin  
8           Peters is Kristy Terry from the Calhoun Chamber  
9           of Commerce.

10          Alvin Peters, if you are here, we would be  
11          delighted to hear from you.

12          I am sorry I didn't give you as much of a  
13          heads up as you might have liked, but you are  
14          moving quickly to the floor here and we  
15          appreciate that.

16          MR. PETERS: Thank you, Senator Gates, and  
17          thank you all of you panel members for  
18          attending Panama City's public forum. It is  
19          great to see you.

20          It is impressive to see so many of you  
21          putting so much time into listening. I think I  
22          echo some of the other comments that you may  
23          have heard, that this conversation might have  
24          been a little more substantive if we had had  
25          some proposals and then we could talk about how

1       this might specifically impact different  
2       issues, but since we are on the general level I  
3       guess we can't help but have the conversation  
4       be fairly general.

5             And the good news I think for all of you  
6       is that Florida has spoken in a bi-partisan  
7       way, I think, to encourage you to draw  
8       districts that are contiguous and that show  
9       communities of interest. And that is a good  
10      thing.

11            I think each of you will have to deal with  
12      a little bit of the history of how Florida has  
13      gotten to where it is, and one of the things  
14      that I would urge you to do is to think of your  
15      self as Judges.

16            How would a Judge decide this matter of  
17      drawing districts. Think about it. Think  
18      about how a Judge would do it, not a  
19      politician, you know, and what factors would  
20      you consider.

21            Obviously they are different, so if you  
22      think of, for example, how would it effect me,  
23      that might not be a real judicial approach to  
24      deciding, you know, the proper drawing of a  
25      line.

1           If you allow factors to effect your  
2       consideration, such as how would it effect my  
3       party, right, that wouldn't be something that a  
4       Judge might realistically consider or properly  
5       consider in drawing these districts.

6           So I would ask each of you to put on a  
7       Judge's hat as you make these decisions of  
8       drawing, you know, these lines. Think about it  
9       as a Judge and think about it in a non-partisan  
10      uninvolved fashion where you are basically  
11      creating fair districts, and to do so in good  
12      spirit, not contesting the constitutional  
13      changes that mandate you to do so, so that is  
14      the first thing.

15          The second thing I think that you need to  
16      think about a little bit is how we got here.  
17      Florida has drawn these districts. A lots of  
18      districts have been drawn largely based on  
19      party and race, and I haven't really heard  
20      enough of that in this conversation so far  
21      today and I would encourage each of you to  
22      openly acknowledge the history of how these  
23      districts have been drawn.

24          I think Senator Monford comes in to Panama  
25      City to get a couple of precincts, and you

1        basically your district goes, was Al Lawson's  
2        district and it goes down the train tracks of  
3        231.

4            Many of you will leave town and you will  
5        drive up 231 on your way out and you will be  
6        passing Senator Monford's district. Now, no  
7        one lives there, but it goes down the train  
8        tracks to get to a couple of precincts that are  
9        predominantly African-American in Panama City.

10           And so what you are going to be doing is  
11        deciding how to reshape that, and it will make  
12        some sense probably for Senator Monford's  
13        odometer if he doesn't have to do that, but how  
14        will that effect each and every, you know,  
15        district and how will that then, you decide,  
16        how does it effect me.

17           How does that effect the amount of  
18        minority representation in the Florida  
19        Legislature. To what extent is that an  
20        important factor in deciding how to draw these  
21        districts. To what extent should we just go  
22        across the state of Florida and draw straight  
23        lines every time we get, you know, the right  
24        number.

25           To what extent should we create districts

1           that are actually communities of interest that  
2           relate to like the beach. Mr. Anders was  
3           talking for example, sensibly, you could draw  
4           bubbles across Panama City and Panama City  
5           Beach and say that is a community of interest.  
6           Those people are interested along the coast,  
7           they share a community of values, draw that  
8           district. Let the rural areas and cut the  
9           county in half if necessary on the northern  
10          side or respect the county line to the extent  
11          you can, which I think everybody says makes  
12          some sense.

13                 So I would encourage you to have an open  
14          conversation about the history and how much  
15          party and race have affected the drawing of the  
16          current lines. How much the citizens of  
17          Florida have spoken to you to do less of that,  
18          to weight that less importantly. To create  
19          communities of interest and give it a try.

20                 Let's see how grown up, how responsible,  
21          how open minded, how less subject to party and  
22          race the current voters are and we will see  
23          where it goes, and that is what I would urge  
24          you to do.

25                 CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you so much for



1       your testimony. Good testimony. Next is  
2       Kristy Terry, and next after Ms. Terry would  
3       be, I think it is Betty, and she has lovely  
4       handwriting, Betty Briard, is it Briard?  
5       Ms. Briard will be after Kristy Terry.

6             Ms. Terry, thank you for being here. You  
7       are recognized.

8             MR. TERRY: Thank you. I want to tell all  
9       of you how much we appreciate you coming and  
10      listening.

11            CHAIRMAN GATES: Would you pull your mike  
12      up because that way all of Florida can hear  
13      you.

14            MR. TERRY: Wonderful. Thank you all for  
15      coming. We certainly appreciate your  
16      willingness to sit through these and listen and  
17      take into account everybody's opinions and how  
18      they feel about this issue.

19            I am just here to ask you to as you move  
20      through this process, to consider the rural  
21      counties. We -- it works well for us that we  
22      are all in districts where we can partner  
23      together and have a stronger voice when we are  
24      partnered together.

25            We are limited in our resources. It is to

1       our benefit that we are able to join together  
2       and work as a stronger, a stronger voice, and  
3       so I just ask that as you move forward you keep  
4       that in the back of your mind, that we have a  
5       voice, too, and we have to kind of group  
6       together, but that works for us. So please  
7       just consider that as you move forward.

8               CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you very, very much  
9       for being here and for your testimony. And  
10       now, Ms. Briard, if you are still here, ma'am?  
11       Did I pronounce your name correctly?

12              MS. BRIARD: Briard.

13              CHAIRMAN GATES: Briard, yes, okay.

14              Well, thank you for being here in any  
15       case, appreciate it.

16              Next is Art Kimbrough with the Jackson  
17       County Chamber of Commerce. Art, it is good to  
18       see you. Thanks for coming all this way and we  
19       appreciate your testimony. You are recognized.

20              MR. KIMBROUGH: It is always good to see  
21       you, Senator, especially when we are not having  
22       to battle over money.

23              CHAIRMAN GATES: That is right.

24              MR. KIMBROUGH: In a discussion we have  
25       been through those wars before. My name is Art

1       Kimbrough, I am the President and CEO of the  
2       Jackson County Chamber of Commerce up in  
3       Marianna.

4             I was born and raised here in Panama City,  
5       Lisnby Hospital just down the road longer ago  
6       than I would like to remember, Jimmy, but I am  
7       a seventh generation native of the panhandle  
8       with roots in Jackson, Bay, Calhoun and Gulf  
9       Counties.

10            So my family, my heritage, my history is  
11       all about what we are trying to do today to  
12       have good government and representing the  
13       texture and culture of our communities.

14            I have got three messages that I have  
15       crafted that are aimed at protecting and/or  
16       strengthening the voice of Jackson County and  
17       rural Florida in the Legislature.

18            These three positions or principles are  
19       deliberatively broad, but also very specific  
20       and measurable in their goals, and I have extra  
21       copies of this for you, Senator, for you to  
22       take with you.

23            My basis for these messages includes years  
24       of dialogue with Chamber members who have  
25       watched the influence of rural Florida dwindle,

1 as well as discussions with our legislative  
2 delegations and many other civic and business  
3 leaders throughout Jackson County and beyond.

4 First, I believe rural areas do constitute  
5 a community of interest that would benefit if  
6 their influence is concentrated rather than  
7 disbursed.

8 The beach economy, the bigger city markets  
9 and rural markets each have unique needs and  
10 concerns best served by the Legislators focused  
11 on those needs and concerns.

12 Districts aligned according to these  
13 communities of interest will be better equipped  
14 to articulate their common cause and aggregate  
15 the power needed to make sure their voice is  
16 heard and their needs addressed.

17 Second, legislation and representation is  
18 as much as about relationships as it is  
19 district maps. Considering very personally  
20 here, we have two Representatives in Jackson  
21 County, Marti and Brad, and I can tell you,  
22 they don't care where that line falls in  
23 Jackson County in terms of representing Jackson  
24 County in the state.

25 They don't know it. In fact, I can even

1 reach down and know that Jimmy Patronis, our  
2 neighbor right there, he doesn't care about the  
3 boundary either. If we need a voice I can call  
4 on Jimmy just as well.

5 Senator Monford, you cover the whole  
6 county, but Senator Gates I know I can call you  
7 just as well. Those relationships are as  
8 important into a community as the district  
9 boundaries, but we do understand those district  
10 boundaries play a key role and that is part of  
11 what you are dealing with today.

12 But Jackson County currently benefits from  
13 having two Representatives with a strong  
14 understanding of rural needs. If we were to be  
15 sent back to just one Representative for one  
16 county it would further weakened the political  
17 influence of rural areas like Jackson County  
18 and shift more power to larger markets.

19 Without strong voices from rural  
20 Representatives it is very easy for rural  
21 concerns to be overrun by large market needs  
22 and political power.

23 We need to maintain coverage by two  
24 Representatives with a mutual focus on rural  
25 needs.

1           Third, and last, two-mile wide, 200 long  
2           winding districts with multiple environments,  
3           rural, big city and beach, make it very  
4           difficult for a Representative or a Senator to  
5           stay closely connected to their constituents  
6           and deliver a focused message.

7           Creating more compact geographical  
8           districts is beneficial from a travel logistics  
9           and access perspective so long as those  
10          boundaries take into account the previous two  
11          concerns.

12          Concentrations of communities of interest  
13          and keeping our multiple representation in  
14          Jackson County.

15          If the Redistricting Committee and the  
16          Legislature adhere to these three principles,  
17          the specifics of where the actual lines are  
18          drawn will less likely be a cause for concern  
19          and more likely be a cause for some  
20          celebration.

21          On behalf of the Jackson County Chamber of  
22          Commerce and myself, I respectfully request  
23          that the spirit of these three principles be  
24          incorporated into the strategic framework for  
25          developing this plan for redistricting.

1           Thank you for your time and consideration.

2           CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you, Art, it is  
3           good to see you and excellent points.  
4           Appreciate it.

5           MR. KIMBROUGH: Who would I give these to?

6           CHAIRMAN GATES: If you will give them to  
7           me I will make sure that all members of the  
8           Committee get them and we will post them on the  
9           website so that -- okay, John will make sure  
10          that we all get them. We will put them on the  
11          website and that way everybody can see them.  
12          Thanks a million, Art.

13          Our next two speakers are Kylel Hall and  
14          Jerry Gerde. Kylel Hall?

15          MS. HALL: Actually, it is Kyle.

16          CHAIRMAN GATES: Kyle, you and I both need  
17          to go back to penmanship school, I think.

18          MS. HALL: Yes, I am working on it.

19          CHAIRMAN GATES: Kyle, it is good to see  
20          you notwithstanding that. And you are  
21          recognized for your remarks to the Committee.

22          MR. HALL: Thank you. I was just looking  
23          around the room and I noticed that there is not  
24          very many college students that took advantage  
25          of this great opportunity. Shame on them,

1 first of all.

2 But as a recent graduate from Gulf Coast,  
3 then Community College, now State College, I  
4 just wanted to kind of focalize my experience  
5 that I heard from different students in some of  
6 my classes, specifically in my state and local  
7 government where we looked into great detail  
8 the districting of Florida.

9 And the biggest comments that everyone  
10 made, it is something very somewhat simple and  
11 I know that there is reasons perhaps behind it,  
12 but the biggest concern that the students had  
13 was the complexity of the redistricting.

14 As many have mentioned, the snaking and  
15 the -- it is very complex and I just wanted to  
16 mention to you that as kind of representing the  
17 Student Body, that was somewhat of a big  
18 concern of theirs.

19 And then also just as a little side note I  
20 would just like to say, because I don't know if  
21 you hear it that much, that thank you for the  
22 2011 legislative session and I was very proud  
23 of all of you.

24 CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you, and Kyle, we  
25 just might mention that if you go on to either



1 the House or Senate websites you will see that  
2 a group of students from Columbia University  
3 took on as a project redistricting in Florida,  
4 and they have already developed using our  
5 websites, they have already developed  
6 redistricting plans for our consideration.

7 We would welcome students that you know  
8 doing the same thing either individually or as  
9 a group, and if you would be interested in  
10 doing that we would be very interested in that  
11 input.

12 MR. HALL: It looks like I am going to  
13 have to call them because they are not here.

14 CHAIRMAN GATES: Good, good, Jerry Gerde  
15 is next, and following Mr. Gerde is Cecile, I  
16 think it is Scoon. I apologize if I messed  
17 that name up.

18 Mr. Gerde, thank you for being here, and  
19 you are recognized.

20 MR. GERDE: Thank you, Senator, thank you,  
21 visitors. I think it is important to recognize  
22 that some traditions, such as judicial circuits  
23 go back for, in some cases, generations, and as  
24 all of you know, the 14th Judicial Circuit is  
25 part of the web that binds Holmes and Gulf and

1 Bay, Jackson and Calhoun and Washington  
2 together.

3 Those are established and functioning  
4 entities. The judicial circuits have their own  
5 budgets, they have their own, of course,  
6 judicial staff, so that Judges who are -- who  
7 reside in Panama City have duties in Poplar  
8 Springs and Bethlehem, in Jacob and in the most  
9 rural of areas of our circuit.

10 So that I encourage -- and there tends to  
11 be a, we over use the word perhaps, community,  
12 but there tends to be a sense of community.

13 For example, as all of you undoubtedly  
14 know, the Circuit Judges every two years change  
15 divisions and rotate through the divisions so  
16 that the less desirable kind of work is only  
17 borne for two years and the more desirable kind  
18 of judicial work is enjoyed for two years.

19 So I encourage, I encourage you to think  
20 of judicial districts, because it does bind us  
21 together already and for the -- for the  
22 Legislature in 2000, to have fragmented the,  
23 particularly the Fourteenth and the Third  
24 Circuits was harmful and tended to dampen the  
25 sense of community.

1           I know Al Lawson had the eastern one  
2       quarter by geography of Bay County. I think it  
3       was really an eighth by population, but where  
4       on Tram Road did that begin and end? I don't,  
5       I expect Mr. Lawson and his staff knew, but  
6       most of us didn't know.

7           So that I encourage you to look to the  
8       Judicial Circuits as part of the fabric, in  
9       which we function in our Sheriffs in our six  
10      counties in our circuits tend to be, cooperate  
11      and work together. The other judicial  
12      officials do, also, so that is really one sense  
13      of community that I encourage each of you to  
14      give weight and respect.

15          And talk about compact, the Fourteenth  
16      Circuit happens to compact. The first happens  
17      to be about as compact as you can make those  
18      western most counties as you know, and so there  
19      was some sense given to the use of those  
20      district boundaries in order to -- so that a  
21      Circuit Judge from Marianna could cover a  
22      matter in St. Joe or could cover a matter in  
23      Panama City and so on.

24          So there is already some logic to the way  
25      those Judicial Circuits were drawn and I

1 encourage you to consider that as you move  
2 through this time consuming process. Thank  
3 you.

4 CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you, Mr. Gerde. We  
5 appreciate you being here and your testimony.  
6 Cecil, is it Scoon?

7 MS. SCOON: Scoon.

8 CHAIRMAN GATES: Scoon, I am sorry,  
9 Ms. Scoon. Thank you for being here. We are  
10 delighted to have your testimony and look  
11 forward to it, and following Ms. Scoon would be  
12 Jennifer Jones.

13 MS. SCOON: Good morning. I have to say  
14 it is very exciting to see all of you here  
15 today. It is a great opportunity for us in Bay  
16 County to be in the presence of so much  
17 leadership of our state. So I welcome you and  
18 I am very appreciative.

19 I am a little concerned though that we  
20 were not presented with even just a basic map  
21 or of an idea for us to kind of discuss. I  
22 think that would have been more substantive and  
23 a better use of the time, and when I sit down  
24 at some point I would like to hear exactly how  
25 the public is going to have input after the

1 preliminary maps are drawn.

2 Because it was mentioned, but, I mean, it  
3 with have been great to have the maps and have  
4 that discussion, you know, at this time while  
5 you are here, and I don't know if there is the  
6 expense is going to be borne for you to come  
7 back again for us to be before you, which is a  
8 wonderful opportunity after the maps. So that  
9 is really weighing on my mind very heavily.

10 A comment that I would like to make, I  
11 think that any county that has three  
12 Representatives, I think that is too much. It  
13 is very, very difficult for citizens, local  
14 citizens to get together efficiently and  
15 effectively to talk and have the common  
16 interests when you are split in three. It is  
17 just kind of crazy.

18 I mean, you talk to people and you are  
19 like, well, he is not -- she or he is not my  
20 Representative. Boom. There -- that  
21 connection, that ability to build and share  
22 information is kind of blown away.

23 I respect what the gentleman said a few  
24 speakers before. He gave the perspective of  
25 what it is like for a rural county, and for

1       them, I mean, I guess that is something you  
2       will have to weight, but I don't think we need  
3       that in Bay County. I think we need basic -- I  
4       would like to see Bay County be whole.

5               That would be my personal wish, and I  
6       think you need to respect what people from the  
7       rural counties, if it is better for them to  
8       have two Representatives, then you need to take  
9       that into consideration for them.

10              I am also would like someone to speak to  
11      what is going on with the litigation that is  
12      being, I guess involving the Amendment that was  
13      passed by almost two-thirds of the voters, why  
14      is there litigation?

15              It seemed that the Amendment was very  
16      straightforward, it said compact, contiguous,  
17      you know, basic and follow the Voters Rights  
18      Act. I mean, basically that is my  
19      understanding of what the Amendment stood for  
20      and I am wondering what is the purpose of the  
21      litigation, where is that going?

22              I mean, it seems like we are headed for a  
23      really serious train wreck in terms of the maps  
24      not being presented early for all of us people.  
25      I am off my job. I work in a place where if I

1 am not in the office I lose money.

2 I mean, and I -- but this is that  
3 important for me to be here and to be in your  
4 presence and I really appreciate your being  
5 here for me to take the time to do that.

6 My background is, I don't have seven  
7 generations of Bay County. I was given a  
8 little slip of paper by Catherine Wineberger.

9 I was active duty at Tyndall Air Force  
10 Base and I was a Judge Advocate General. My  
11 husband and I, when we looked at this  
12 environment we got here 26 years ago, it was  
13 very different from the home where we come  
14 from, the D. C. area, but it was, people were  
15 so friendly and so open and there was so much  
16 that seemed to -- work to be done and things to  
17 be done in the community we decided to stay and  
18 raise our families.

19 So that is the perspective that I have and  
20 we love this community and I think Bay County  
21 being one voting block basically I think it  
22 would be better for us, thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you so much, ma'am,  
24 and you did raise a couple of questions that  
25 the Speaker Designate I think will intend to

1 address at the end of the hearing, because I  
2 think there may have been a little  
3 misinformation planted.

4 Jennifer Jones is next. And Ms. Jones, if  
5 you would just wait one second, Ms. Jones is  
6 our last speaker who has turned in a card.

7 So now if there are people who, having  
8 heard what you have heard, would like to speak  
9 and you were a little shy maybe before and  
10 weren't sure, we still would like to hear from  
11 you. We will have time.

12 So if you would like to speak and haven't  
13 had a chance yet, please raise your hand and  
14 that gentleman right over there, let's give him  
15 a speaker card, anybody else need a speaker  
16 card?

17 The gentleman right over here in the red  
18 tee-shirt, the AARP tee-shirt. Anybody else  
19 would like to have an opportunity to speak?  
20 Okay.

21 Thank you, Ms. Jones, for your  
22 forbearance. I am sorry, there is a gentleman  
23 over here, late breaking news, he would like to  
24 speak.

25 Ms. Jones, thank you very much, and she



1 represents the Bay Arts Alliance. It is good  
2 to see you and you are recognized.

3 MS. JONES: Thank you, I have several  
4 Board members and former Board members here and  
5 I think, unless I have just been  
6 misunderstanding, I am going to say something  
7 that hasn't been said.

8 So it is going to be maybe unpopular based  
9 on the comments, so no tomatoes, if the State  
10 Trooper will come stand right here.

11 CHAIRMAN GATES: You are well protected.

12 MS. JONES: Thank you. I -- my job  
13 requires that I advocate for the arts in  
14 Florida and in Bay County. I like having  
15 several Representatives in the House and  
16 Senate, because the odds of my Representative  
17 being on a committee that has an impact on an  
18 issue that influences me are greater.

19 I have a Representative on an education  
20 committee, I have a Representative on a  
21 transportation and economic and tourism  
22 committee. I like knowing that I have got  
23 several people I can call, because if I got one  
24 and they are on a committee that has no  
25 influence on the issues that concern my

1 industry, then you have no -- I feel like I  
2 have no influence.

3 And this is politics, I mean, that is what  
4 this is, right? So if you can operate  
5 politically to further your cause I think that  
6 is important, not just as a geographic  
7 district, but as an industrial interest.

8 And I also believe that we should not  
9 discount the value diversity in the districts.  
10 It keeps our Representatives accountable to  
11 several groups of people.

12 If they only have one interest, one  
13 industry at heart, then you have winners and  
14 losers when the session is over, and they may  
15 be better able to weight the interest of  
16 multiple groups within their district and be a  
17 Solomon when it comes to making decisions, and  
18 I recognize Senator Margolis.

19 Her name is very popular in my statewide  
20 conference calls. She is -- she is a good  
21 friend to the arts and I appreciate what our  
22 Representatives have done this year for the  
23 arts and education and I just, I want to say  
24 thank you and I like having lots of people I  
25 can contact, and maybe if it doesn't work out

1           that way, if we have, you know, common, the  
2           little bubbles, the geographic lines that maybe  
3           we should consider the region as our  
4           Representatives in all of the districts also  
5           come together and communicate as a region  
6           because we are terribly diverse when you go  
7           from north to south and east to west.

8                     It is not just where the great population  
9           exists that we need to have influence. Thank  
10          you.

11                    CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you very much for  
12          your testimony. We are glad to have you here.  
13          Now we have some additional individuals who  
14          wanted to testify, and I think, I think Larry  
15          has resurfaced, and Larry, I apologize. I  
16          can't, I can't do justice to your last name.  
17          So if you will share it with us, that would be  
18          helpful, but we are delighted to have you here.  
19          What is your last name, sir?

20                    MR. SUGGS: Suggs.

21                    CHAIRMAN GATES: Suggs.

22                    MR. SUGGS: S-u-g-g-s.

23                    MR. SUGGS: I ain't got much education.

24                    CHAIRMAN GATES: Are you a physician?

25                    MR. SUGGS: No, I am a welder.

1           CHAIRMAN GATES: All right.

2           MR. SUGGS: I am a welding company owner.

3           CHAIRMAN GATES: Well, it is good to have  
4 you here.

5           MR. SUGGS: Or must I say, used to be.

6           CHAIRMAN GATES: Used to be, well, it is  
7 good to have you here and you are recognized.

8           MR. SUGGS: I still got -- I still got the  
9 welding company and I named it Ark On Welding  
10 and Crane Service, not Ark Off. So it spirally  
11 went downhill since 2007, when I had 60  
12 employees, and I also was taking in \$4 a year.

13           So we have got great Representatives  
14 representing our area as far as I am concerned,  
15 Mr. -- Ms. Marti Coley. I have spoken with her  
16 on the phone several times when I actually got  
17 kicked off of my county property I had my  
18 welding company on.

19           And so now I am down to two employees and  
20 that is my wife and myself. So I think you  
21 guys need to speak to the bald headed guy in  
22 Tallahassee and get us some work going like he  
23 said we were voting him in for doing.

24           Instead of worrying about the regulations  
25 of the land and all of this kind of stuff is

1 at, we need work in Bay County as well as  
2 Florida and the guy in the office up there  
3 ain't doing --

4 CHAIRMAN GATES: You mean Senator Monford,  
5 right?

6 MR. SUGGS: No, I mean --

7 CHAIRMAN GATES: Just checking, just  
8 checking.

9 MR. SUGGS: Scott, the Governor, so if  
10 ya'll could put all of ya'll selves together  
11 and go before him and get some work for this  
12 area, I got an 11-year-old son I got to raise  
13 and I am not taking in enough to even feed my  
14 family.

15 So we need to look at these issues,  
16 because I can't be the only one in Bay County  
17 in this situation, and Bay County is down and  
18 out. So I would appreciate any thought you  
19 guys could give to that.

20 CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you very much. We  
21 appreciate you being here. And you are not the  
22 only one. Patrick McGann is our next speaker,  
23 Mr. McGann followed by Scott Kilpatrick.

24 Thank you for being here, Mr. McGann, you  
25 are recognized.

1           MR. MCGANN: Thank you for offering me  
2           this opportunity. I hadn't intended to speak  
3           but there is something that hasn't been  
4           stressed enough that I think needs to be  
5           stressed at these hearings.

6           And that is that the people of Florida  
7           like people all over this country are looking  
8           for a level playing field. When they voted on  
9           this, on these Amendments it was because they  
10          wanted a level playing field and they wanted  
11          everybody to work together.

12          I know and I think everybody in this room  
13          knows that the -- all of you politicians who  
14          are going to make these decisions in the first  
15          instance are going to have to almost have a  
16          stem cell injection, because you have to  
17          overcome 175 years of history.

18          Gerrymandering has been business as usual  
19          all over this country, as well, certainly in  
20          the state of Florida throughout its history,  
21          whether the Democrats were in power or the  
22          Republicans were in power, the same thing  
23          happens.

24          They draw the lines to advantage  
25          themselves, and the inertia is huge to do the

1 same thing this year.

2 What the people of Florida, two-thirds of  
3 the people of Florida, and I think it would  
4 have been 100 percent if people knew what they  
5 were voting for, really want, is a government  
6 that works for them, not for interest groups.

7 We want the games to end. We want  
8 fairness and we don't see fairness, frankly, we  
9 are suspect. I certainly am suspect that there  
10 will be fairness in this enterprise, because of  
11 the inertia of 175 years of history.

12 This is something that I ask you to bear  
13 in mind. I ask all of our audience to bear in  
14 mind and I ask all of the people of Florida to  
15 bear in mind, because we have to watch you  
16 closely because we don't have any reason to  
17 expect that you will be fair, because of your  
18 history, and I hope you can appreciate that.

19 And that is why it is imperative that you  
20 come out with maps as soon as possible so that  
21 the people of Florida can react to those maps  
22 and there can be a full and frank discussion of  
23 what is taking place. That is all I have to  
24 say, thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you very much.

1           Before you leave the podium, sir, would you  
2           mind -- would you mind writing down your  
3           residence here just so we can keep a record of  
4           your appearance?

5           MR. SUGGS: I have another form that I  
6           filled out.

7           CHAIRMAN GATES: Okay, just so we have got  
8           your full contact information.

9           MR. SUGGS: I have E-mail and everything.

10          CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you, sir, Scott  
11          Kilpatrick is next, followed by Pam Dorwarth.  
12          Scott, it is good to see you again and thanks  
13          very much for being here.

14          MR. KILPATRICK: Thank you, thank you for  
15          coming here today. I wasn't prepared to speak,  
16          but after listening to some of the things that  
17          were said, some of them I just want to repeat  
18          in a way.

19          I am from Jackson County. There has been  
20          a lot of changes affecting Jackson County and I  
21          would like to ask that when you redraw these  
22          districts, do what is right, not along  
23          political and party lines, that is very  
24          important.

25          The history is, you know, like it has been



1       said before, you know, we don't want -- we  
2       don't want to repeat history on this, because  
3       we want to do it the right way. We want to  
4       follow the Constitution, and earlier you  
5       mentioned this Committee was here and you  
6       mentioned some of the rules you were following  
7       from the Constitution.

8               I would like to ask that you follow those  
9       throughout the process, and also follow the  
10      Fair Districts. I believe that is very  
11      important, because we are going to have to live  
12      with these changes for ten years. It is not  
13      something that goes away right away. It is ten  
14      years from now that we will still be living  
15      with it. On the maps, do you have a date that  
16      the maps will be available?

17             CHAIRMAN GATES: The Speaker Designate can  
18      remark again to the schedule. You might not  
19      have been at the very beginning where he kind  
20      of laid out what the schedule was, but we will  
21      be happy to articulate it again before the end  
22      of the meeting after everybody else had a  
23      chance to speak.

24             MR. KILPATRICK: And also if maybe those  
25      maps could be e-mailed to the people that left

1       their e-mail address, that way everyone would  
2       know what is going on.

3               I wasn't aware of this meeting, except for  
4       through some people that I knew told me about  
5       it, but as far as, you know, in the paper or  
6       the news or anything, I wasn't aware of this  
7       meeting today. Just some other people told me  
8       about it, so I came down.

9               I had a very interesting time a little  
10       while back. I was in the Senate Chambers for  
11       the last day of the legislative session and  
12       there were a lot of changes there, and there  
13       may be a lot of back lash from those changes.

14              I really think -- I don't think Floridians  
15       wanted as much change as they are getting.  
16       There are a lot of changes in that legislative  
17       session.

18              We do need jobs, we don't need pink slips,  
19       and in Jackson County where I live there are  
20       some -- there is quite a few issues there. We  
21       have got Sunland that has been in the news up  
22       there.

23              The Dozier School I understand is closed,  
24       and I know that some of you have worked on that  
25       trying to help out the situation there. There

1       is a lot of prisons. So when you put those  
2       three things together, Jackson County is going  
3       to take a serious hit.

4               So we need some help up there with that,  
5       and I am a Union member, I have been since  
6       1977, and I think Legislators should work more  
7       closely with Union members, make sure you do  
8       talk to them when they come down there in a  
9       legislative session or at any time.

10              Unions do provide a lot of good things.  
11       We work hard to provide pensions and healthcare  
12       for people and those are some of the same  
13       issues that you are fighting right now is  
14       pensions and healthcare. And there might be a  
15       common ground there where everyone could work  
16       together and make that work, and that is all I  
17       got to say.

18              CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you. Thanks very  
19       much for taking the time to speak. And next,  
20       Pam Dorwarth, and following Pam Dorwarth, John  
21       Salak.

22              MS. DORWARTH: It is already on, thank  
23       you.

24              CHAIRMAN GATES: Yes, ma'am, you are  
25       recognized. Thank you for being with us today.

1 MS. DORWARTH: And I thank you for  
2 accommodating me as ADA requires for my hearing  
3 impairment and my other disabilities.

4 I have represented people with  
5 disabilities for over 20 some years. I have  
6 held five State positions and I was appointed  
7 by the President, former President Bush to the  
8 U.S. Access Board. I have been very involved  
9 with my community.

10 Disabilities doesn't care if you are a  
11 Union member, if you are a Democrat,  
12 Republican, if you are a black, if you are  
13 white, it hits everybody.

14 I represent a large body of people that  
15 don't understand, they vote, but they don't  
16 understand what you are doing today and the  
17 importance of it. So I think it is critical  
18 that you make it more understandable for  
19 everybody on the process.

20 I was aware that there was Amendments  
21 passed. Are you following those Amendments  
22 that were passed in this process? I didn't  
23 hear when I first came in, you are going to  
24 address that, correct?

25 CHAIRMAN GATES: I think the Speaker

1       Designate indicated in the beginning that we  
2       intend to follow every aspect of the  
3       Constitution and he will reiterate that at the  
4       end.

5               MS. DORWARTH:  And the Voters Rights.  I  
6       just wanted to thank you all for being here and  
7       recognize that you have a large body of  
8       population.  You have Floridians like myself  
9       that don't understand this process and would  
10      like to participate, but they don't understand  
11      exactly what is going on and how they can voice  
12      their opinions.

13              So if you could make that a little more  
14      out there and not through the Internet.  A lot  
15      of people cannot afford an Internet, you know,  
16      the computers and all of that.  So your  
17      newspapers are critical and any other way you  
18      want to put it up in the grocery store or  
19      whatever, a notice, I don't care how you do it,  
20      but get it out to the people that also need to  
21      speak and give you some advice.

22              CHAIRMAN GATES:  Thank you.

23              MS. DORWARTH:  Thank you.

24              CHAIRMAN GATES:  Yes, ma'am, thank you for  
25      your contribution to this discussion.  John

1           Salak, Mr. Salak?

2                   Sir, thank you for being here. We look  
3 forward to your testimony and you are  
4 recognized.

5           MR. SALAK: Thank you, Senator Gates and  
6 Representative Weatherford. I really  
7 appreciate you all taking the time to do this  
8 and to hear the voices of the people of the  
9 state of Florida and what they have to say  
10 about redistricting.

11                   This is important and I did want to talk a  
12 little bit about Amendment V and VI and the  
13 impact that I view that it has on this.

14                   I did not support V or VI. I liked some  
15 of the ideas in it, but from a practical  
16 standpoint, some ideas are good, but when it  
17 comes down to actually executing it, it leaves  
18 a lot of stuff that is well, well undefined.

19                   Things like drawing district lines compact  
20 along natural lines, I certainly agree with  
21 that -- that concept, but from a legal  
22 standpoint it is ill-defined, what is it?

23                   It is whatever you happen to like on that  
24 particular day, and unfortunately, these  
25 situations, you know, we elect you to go out

1       there and draw these lines, not the courts to  
2       sit here and decide whether this stuff is  
3       right.

4             And all that this is really aimed at I  
5       think in a lot of cases is getting us into  
6       court and letting Judges make the decision  
7       rather than the people and the elected  
8       Representatives that the people have.

9             So in that respect I didn't support V and  
10       VI, but I did like the idea of citizen  
11       involvement and this is a great avenue for  
12       getting the citizens' input.

13            As I mentioned, I would like to see our  
14       districts redrawn along compact lines and to  
15       follow natural boundaries. If you look at the  
16       current -- the current situation you will see a  
17       lot of the little carve outs, particularly  
18       things like Congressional District II is a good  
19       example where some of it extends into Walton  
20       County and Okaloosa County, a very small part  
21       of it, and, you know, that district is very  
22       wide, about 200 miles wide.

23            And why we carved out that little bit and  
24       don't go north, I am not sure why. So when we  
25       redraw these lines I would like to see the

1 lines drawn to where it is a little more, you  
2 essentially take a ruler, start at the west  
3 side of Florida, draw a line from the north,  
4 north border of Florida down to the coast and  
5 say here is this district and keep moving, you  
6 know, west and then down south and kind of take  
7 that approach to it.

8 The main idea that I would really like to  
9 see that is our districts not become  
10 vulcanized. I think that is a very dangerous  
11 political situation when we draw districts and  
12 we say, all right, this is going to be a safe  
13 Democrat district, this is going to be a safe  
14 Republican district.

15 We have got this group we want in this  
16 district and that group we want in that  
17 district, and I think that is what some of the  
18 language in V and VI was intended to do, and  
19 that is what I really think from a political  
20 standpoint, that is a very dangerous situation  
21 for a democratic society to get into.

22 So I would like to see the lines drawn to  
23 where we have a broad range of people involved  
24 in these, you know, in particularly in western  
25 Florida here in the panhandle, you know, we



1       have a lot of agriculture in the northern part  
2       of the panhandle, and then along the coast it  
3       is all tourism, or mainly tourism and then some  
4       military mixed in with that.

5               So I would like to see the districts have  
6       a good mix of representation so that you as  
7       Representatives represent a cross section of  
8       people, not just one particular group, and that  
9       way when you go into the Legislature and make  
10      decisions in the Legislature, you are having to  
11      consider the farmers as well as the people that  
12      own condos on the beach when you make a  
13      decision.

14             I think that is a far better balance as  
15      far as representation goes than having a  
16      district and say, all right, this is all beach  
17      people here and I am only going to interest the  
18      interest of restaurants and the tourism  
19      industry and, you know, the agriculture people  
20      can take care of themselves. I think that is a  
21      good example.

22             I would like to see the elimination of  
23      these strange lines, you know. Panama City is  
24      a good example, the Panama City annexation, if  
25      you are not familiar, runs along the railroad

1 tracks for a number of miles to get to another  
2 part of Panama City.

3 And it is a strange, it as very strange  
4 looking map and a strange way to annex a city,  
5 and I really don't want to see that happen with  
6 these districts.

7 So hopefully, the other piece I would like  
8 to mention is, I think the nature, particularly  
9 in the panhandle here of a Democrat only or a  
10 Republican only district is kind of a fallacy.

11 Most of the north Florida is majority  
12 Democrat registration, yet just about all of  
13 our Representatives are Republican and we vote  
14 Republican in presidential elections, we vote  
15 Republican in gubernatorial elections.

16 So I think, you know, when you look purely  
17 at party, if you just look purely at party  
18 affiliations, that is not really a good  
19 indication of how the people are voting. So  
20 that is, again, going back to V and VI, that is  
21 not a good -- a good quality of those things.

22 Anyways, I hope you all do nice compact  
23 districts and get a broad, a broad cross  
24 section of people in them. So thank you very  
25 much.

1           CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you, John, very  
2           good testimony. We appreciate it. Is there  
3           anyone else who had not filled out a card who  
4           would like to testify in today's hearing?

5           Well, if you are shy or if you wake up in  
6           the middle of the night and say, gee, there is  
7           something I really wanted to share, we still  
8           would be happy to get your input all the way  
9           through this process.

10          This isn't the end of public input. This  
11          is the beginning of public input. If you  
12          didn't speak, but would like to add your  
13          opinion at any time in the future, you can  
14          either e-mail to us, you can Snail Mail to us  
15          at the address listed on your brochure and we  
16          will place your comments on-line.

17          Yes, sir, did you wish to address the  
18          session?

19          MR. HABER: Don, I just want to ask a  
20          question.

21          CHAIRMAN GATES: Please come forward and  
22          give us your name and we are happy to take your  
23          question as testimony and see if we can answer  
24          it if no one else wishes to testify.

25          MR. HABER: I filled out a card in the

1 front, but I didn't put down I wanted to speak.

2 CHAIRMAN GATES: Well, we are delighted to  
3 have you anyway.

4 MR. HABER: My name is Wallace Haber.

5 CHAIRMAN GATES: Yes, sir.

6 MR. HABER: A 22-year resident of  
7 Marianna, Florida. We have a terrific  
8 Representative in Marti Coley and also in  
9 Senator Monford.

10 I am sorry, I have got a Bachelor's degree  
11 from the University of Miami, but I don't  
12 understand why we are using State taxpayer  
13 money to put aside the Amendments V and VI  
14 which were voted on by the majority of the  
15 registered voters.

16 It don't make sense to me anymore than us  
17 suing the Federal government because Washington  
18 put in a law about Medicare.

19 I mean, I don't understand this. How can  
20 we take taxpayer money and sue the taxpayers,  
21 and that is what we are doing. I am an  
22 ignorant man. I have got a college education.

23 I just don't understand, who's side are we  
24 on? Who's side are we on? Does anybody know  
25 what is going on in Florida?

1           It is bad enough we are sending \$12  
2       billion a month over to Afghanistan and we  
3       don't know where that money is going on.

4           CHAIRMAN GATES: Well, we may be getting a  
5       little far afield. Afghanistan is a little far  
6       away from our redistricting.

7           MR. HABER: Let's stick to Florida. Why  
8       are we suing to do away with Amendment V and  
9       VI?

10          CHAIRMAN GATES: That question has been  
11       asked and thank you for asking it again. I  
12       think the Speaker Designate will take that  
13       question.

14          MR. HABER: Thank you.

15          CHAIRMAN GATES: And make sure that we  
16       provide you with whatever information we have,  
17       as well as the other questions that have been  
18       raised.

19          But before we go to comments by members of  
20       the House or Senate Committees, is there anyone  
21       else who wishes to comment? If not, let me  
22       make the offer again to you that if you have  
23       comments or if you want to follow the comments  
24       that others are making, you can go on-line if  
25       you use on-line services, and the on-line

1 addresses are in the Redistricting 2012  
2 brochure you were handed when you came in the  
3 door.

4 You can Snail Mail to us at the Snail Mail  
5 address that is listed on those brochures and  
6 your comments will be included in the public  
7 record and made public for all of the people of  
8 Florida, including all members of the  
9 Legislature who will have those comments at  
10 hand.

11 All of the legal records from today's  
12 meeting, the video, the pod cast, the  
13 transcripts will be available in the coming  
14 days via the Senate and Houses respective  
15 redistricting websites and those cites are  
16 listed on the brochure that you got when you  
17 came in.

18 Now I would like to, before I go to the  
19 Speaker Designate and ask him if any of his  
20 colleagues from the House have any comments or  
21 questions. Let me go to members of the Senate  
22 who are here from the Senate Reapportionment  
23 Committee to ask if they have any comments or  
24 questions before we go forward.

25 And I apologize, I may not be able to see

1 all of our Senators.

2 Senator Thrasher, you are recognized.

3 SENATOR THRASHER: Thank you,  
4 Mr. Chairman, and -- first of all, this is our  
5 fourth visit, I guess, in the last two  
6 and-a-half days, and again I said last night in  
7 Ft. Walton, I thought the input tonight and  
8 this morning was incredible and we appreciate  
9 it.

10 We are here to listen to you for ideas,  
11 and I think you gave us all a bunch of ideas on  
12 how to get started in the process, and that is  
13 what we intend to do.

14 I can tell you as one Senator and I think  
15 I speak for everybody here, we are going to  
16 follow the Constitution, but we are going to do  
17 it in the right way. We are going to do it in  
18 an effective way that meets the needs of the  
19 people of the state of Florida.

20 When the day is over, I guarantee you, we  
21 will have a good map, good maps. Remember, by  
22 the way, we are drawing 40 Senate seats, 120  
23 House seats, 27 Congressional seats for over  
24 18 million people in the state of Florida.

25 Twenty-seven -- I said -- it is 27, okay.

1           But in any event, we got to take into  
2           consideration 18 million people. A couple  
3           hundred people were here today, a couple  
4           hundred were there last night. We are going to  
5           have 24 or 25 more of these hearings throughout  
6           the state of Florida.

7           We are going to listen to the input of the  
8           people of the state of Florida and at the end  
9           of the day I promise you we are going to do the  
10          best job we can under the constitutional  
11          constraints that have been placed upon us by  
12          the people of the state of Florida.

13          I remember somebody referenced earlier on,  
14          Dempsey Barron. I knew Dempsey Barron. I have  
15          been in and out of this process for a number of  
16          years. I can tell you, 20 or 30 years ago, in  
17          all due respect to the great Senator from this  
18          area, when maps were drawn they were usually  
19          done at the late night. They were usually done  
20          at late session, very little input from the  
21          people of the state of Florida.

22          This will be the most transparent process  
23          in my opinion of redistricting that we have  
24          ever had in the state of Florida, and it is due  
25          because of your input and your concern and you



1 as citizens of the state of Florida who have  
2 come out to give us your guidance and it is  
3 very appreciated. Thank you very much.

4 CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you, Senator  
5 Thrasher. Other members of the Senate wish to  
6 speak? Senator Monford, you are recognized,  
7 Senator Monford.

8 SENATOR MONFORD: Thank you, Senator  
9 Gates, and just to make it real brief, thank  
10 you for your participation. I can assure you  
11 that your voice has been heard today. We are  
12 taking good notes. We will go back and we will  
13 review those and we will take everything that  
14 you have said into consideration, but you also  
15 realize that some of you are conflicting here  
16 today. Some of you want one thing and one  
17 another. You can imagine what is going to  
18 happen when we go from here to Miami.

19 There will be differences of opinion all  
20 over this state, but I promise you, we will do  
21 our dead level best.

22 Someone asked me, as a Democrat will you  
23 have any chance, and I said I have total  
24 confidence in my colleagues in the Republican  
25 Party, and I believe and sincerely believe that

1 all of us are going to do what is best for the  
2 people of Florida.

3 Thank you for being here and we look  
4 forward to seeing you on down the road.

5 CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you very much,  
6 Senator Monford. Any other members of the  
7 Senate? If not, let me turn to the Speaker  
8 Designate.

9 Did somebody else in the back? See, this  
10 is why we let you talk first, because in the  
11 Senate there is no time limit. In the House  
12 they put a time limit on them.

13 Senator Evers, you are recognized.

14 SENATOR EVERS: I just wanted to be sure  
15 everyone understood that we did not have a gag  
16 order, absolutely, because in other places we  
17 have been asked that if we were scripted or if  
18 we had a gag order and I just wanted to be  
19 perfectly clear that there was no gag order.

20 And also, as a member of the delegation  
21 that represents Bay County, in fact, thanks to  
22 Jimmy Patronis, I am the Chair of the Bay  
23 County delegation, make that perfectly clear,  
24 and if you have a concern and you are a  
25 resident of Bay County, or if you are a

1       resident of Jackson County, even though I do  
2       not represent Jackson County, but if you need a  
3       voice in Tallahassee, trust me, I am there.

4               But I would ask my Aide, Molly, to please  
5       stand up, and if you need to have an  
6       appointment with any of the delegation and you  
7       feel like that, you know, you haven't been  
8       represented and you need a voice, see Molly and  
9       we will -- we will work through that process to  
10      see that you have a voice in Tallahassee or in  
11      this, in this redistricting.

12             We will see that you do have a voice. You  
13      know, we are very fortunate here in the  
14      panhandle that the delegations, whether it is  
15      in Escambia County, whether it is Okaloosa,  
16      whether it is Bay County, whether it is even  
17      Washington and Holmes county and Jackson  
18      County, that the delegations work hand in hand  
19      here in the panhandle.

20             So, you know, it doesn't matter to us  
21      where the district lines are. That has never  
22      affected any of our decisions. We work as a  
23      unit for you and we are proud to have the  
24      opportunity to work together, to represent you  
25      and take your plight to Tallahassee, and with

1           that, Senator Gates, thank you for the  
2           opportunity to speak, and thank you all for  
3           coming. You could have been on the beach or  
4           fishing. Thank you.

5                   CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you very much,  
6           Senator Evers, and now I would yield to the  
7           Speaker Designate of the House and ask him if  
8           he would -- he has taken some notes during the  
9           meeting, so that we can provide some answers to  
10          some of the factual questions that were raised,  
11          as well as maybe spike a couple of rumors that  
12          may have crept into the process.

13                   Mr. Speaker, thank you.

14                   SPEAKER WEATHERFORD: My name is Will  
15          Weatherford. Thank you. Thank you very much,  
16          Mr. Chairman. Before I go into answering some  
17          questions we had some tremendous questions and  
18          frankly input today, but there was an  
19          announcement that Representative Patronis  
20          forgot to make early on this afternoon.

21                   He and I were chatting earlier today and  
22          he told me that anyone who actually sat through  
23          this entire hearing got a free meal at Captain  
24          Anderson's this evening, so congratulations.  
25          What a guy.

1           Just -- just do me a favor and safe me one  
2           of those Scamp Imperials, would you,  
3           Representative Patronis. You have not lived  
4           until you have had a Scamp Imperial from that  
5           wonderful restaurant.

6           But in all seriousness, it really has been  
7           a pleasure today and what a pleasant group of  
8           folks who have taken the time to be here and we  
9           are just very grateful for that.

10          I am going to touch on a couple of things,  
11          I am going to try not to talk too long, but I  
12          certainly want to make sure everyone has  
13          clarity on what we are doing and why the  
14          decisions that have been made thus far about  
15          this process are being made.

16          The first is there were several people who  
17          mentioned money that was being spent, like a  
18          \$30 million pot of money that is being spent.

19          There is no \$30 million pot of money.  
20          That doesn't exist. Apparently some newspaper  
21          wrote that somewhere some time ago and it has  
22          continued to trickle into the process in the  
23          conversation. There is no \$30 million and it  
24          is not being spent. Your tax dollars are not  
25          being spent on anything like that.

1           Certainly we have to have attorneys, this  
2           process is legal in nature, we have to have  
3           staff, so resources are being addressed, but  
4           there is no large pot of money that is out  
5           there that is fighting anything.

6           But also I want to talk a little bit about  
7           the timeline. The timeline seems to be  
8           something that everywhere we go we hear a lot  
9           about in regards to why we are doing things in  
10          the order that we are doing them.

11          First of all, the state of Florida is one  
12          of the last states to have received its census  
13          data. So you cannot even begin to draw maps or  
14          do anything of that nature until you actually  
15          have data from the Census Bureau.

16          We did not get that data until just about  
17          60 days ago or so, and so we have been -- we  
18          have just now finished putting together our  
19          what we have in the House is My District  
20          Builder, the Senate has a very similar format  
21          that allows us to draw districts.

22          We are just now bringing those on-line as  
23          of late, so we can start this process. So I  
24          want you to know, it is not like we have been  
25          sitting on data for a year and have chose to

1       ignore it. We have just recently been in  
2       receipt of it.

3               Also in regards to the timeline, the  
4       Constitution, and I said this earlier, but the  
5       Constitution tells us that we cannot take  
6       action on any maps until 2012, and what we have  
7       already done is moved up our legislative  
8       session by two months so that we can pass those  
9       maps out as quickly as we possibly can to give  
10      our Supervisors of Elections, to give our  
11      constituents to have certainty in knowing who  
12      they are voting for and what the districts are  
13      going to look like.

14             That is very very important. So what we  
15      are doing really in regards to a timeline, is  
16      we are starting now, and we started this week  
17      and we are going to spend three months on a  
18      listening tour, and we are going to listen to  
19      the desires, to the input, and to the counsel  
20      of citizens across the state of Florida to tell  
21      us what they think districts should look like.

22             We are going to let you start the  
23      conversation and I don't know about you, but  
24      historically when I have been around  
25      politicians and politics, we seem to do all of

1 the talking and we are always asking everybody  
2 else to do the listening.

3 This is one of the few instances I have  
4 been around where we are letting you start the  
5 conversation and we are doing the listening,  
6 and I think that is what the citizens of  
7 Florida want from their elected officials.

8 Also, in regards to the maps, we heard  
9 several people say today, where are the maps.  
10 We want to see the maps. It would have been  
11 more productive if you would have put maps in  
12 front of us.

13 Well, we do have maps here. They are the  
14 current existing maps. They are not the new  
15 maps, but the reason for that is, if we were to  
16 show up with maps today and tell you, here is  
17 what our maps are going to look like, everybody  
18 would be upset and say, what do you want us to  
19 do, rubber stamp with the decision that you  
20 already made?

21 We have made the decision that we are  
22 going to let you start this conversation and I  
23 want to really, really put an emphasis on this.  
24 The input that you will have on this process  
25 does not end today.



1           As Senator Gates mentioned just a moment  
2           ago, we are going to be gathering public input  
3           in forums in Tallahassee, via e-mail, via Snail  
4           Mail, everything, throughout this entire  
5           process, so this is not the end.

6           This is only the beginning, and I want to  
7           point out one other thing in regards to  
8           Amendments V and VI, and that is this. The  
9           drafters of Amendments V and VI, a lady by the  
10          name of Ellen Freidin, who was the leader of  
11          Fair Districts and a former Speaker of the  
12          House, Speaker Mills, testified before a Joint  
13          Hearing of our colleagues here, and  
14          specifically stated when they were asked if  
15          they could give us some examples.

16          We specifically asked them, could you give  
17          us some examples of what you think a fair  
18          district looks like.

19          Their comments under oath, I will tell  
20          you, both of them, said, we would not even  
21          begin that process until we had had public  
22          hearings around the state of Florida. And so  
23          now we are hearing after we are doing exactly  
24          what they asked us to do, is to have public  
25          hearings, now they are saying they want us to

1       produce the maps first, and frankly we just  
2       think that that is putting the question ahead,  
3       -- the answer ahead of the question.

4               In regards to litigation, there were  
5       several questions about why are taxpayers  
6       fighting Amendments V and VI that have passed.

7               Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart, who is a  
8       Republican from Miami, Dade County, along with  
9       a Democratic Congresswoman, Karen Brown, from  
10      Jacksonville, actually are the ones who filed a  
11      lawsuit only in regards to Amendment VI, and it  
12      deals with a Federal constitutional issue.

13              It only deals with the Congressional maps,  
14      and it is whether or not the U. S. Constitution  
15      had been impeded -- has been impeded by that  
16      constitutional amendment that passed in  
17      Florida, and I won't get you into the details,  
18      but we will give you all of the information on  
19      that case if you want it.

20              But just so it is clear, the two  
21      Congressmen, a Republican and a Democrat were  
22      the ones who originally filed that lawsuit, and  
23      I think that is very important. I think there  
24      has been some misinformation out there about  
25      that as well.

1           Long story short, to kind of put a bow on  
2           everything, I want to go back to something that  
3           Reverend Wood said.

4           Reverend Wood, thank you for being here  
5           today and you made a comment, sir, early on in  
6           your comment, in your thoughts that you wanted  
7           to make sure that our minds were open and that  
8           they were not closed and that decisions had not  
9           been made.

10          And, sir, that is exactly what this is  
11          about. This is the reason we are doing this,  
12          the reason we are traveling the state,  
13          Reverend, is because our minds are open, and we  
14          are here to listen and we are here to make  
15          decisions after, after we have heard from  
16          everyone around the state of Florida.

17          I want to thank you for those words and we  
18          will take those to heart as we go through this  
19          process. You have my word. You have the word  
20          of the Senator and the rest of this body that  
21          we will abide by Amendments V and VI.

22          They are the law. We raise our right hand  
23          every two years and promise to uphold and  
24          protect the Constitution of the State of  
25          Florida, and we will do so, and we will make

1       this process, as it has already been, the most  
2       transparent, the most accountable and what I  
3       believe to be the most open process it has ever  
4       been and we will follow the law.

5               So thank you very much, Mr. Chairman,  
6       again, for that indulgence. I hope that  
7       cleared up some issues. If you still have  
8       concerns, stick around afterwards, we will have  
9       staff and many other people to talk with you  
10      directly. Thank you.

11             CHAIRMAN GATES: Thank you. Before we end  
12      today, as we begin our hearing we thank Gulf  
13      Coast State College for their generosity and  
14      their hospitality in allowing us to use these  
15      facilities.

16             We are delighted to be joined now by the  
17      President of Gulf Coast State College, Dr. Jim  
18      Curley, Dr. Curley, thank you so much for being  
19      here.

20      //////////

21      //////////

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1           There being no more business to come  
2       before this hearing, President Margolis moves  
3       we rise.

4           (Whereupon, the recorded proceedings were  
5       adjourned.)

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## 1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )

3 COUNTY OF LEON )

4 I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript  
5 is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned,  
6 and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting  
7 under my direction;

8 That the foregoing pages 2 through 124  
9 represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of  
10 the tape-recording;

11 And I further certify that I am not of kin or  
12 counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the  
13 regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor  
14 am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

15 Dated this 2nd day of August, 2011.

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

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Notary Public

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State of Florida at Large

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Commission Expires:

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November 13, 2014

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10 REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

11 MONDAY, JULY 11, 2011

12 2:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M.

13 FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE JACKSONVILLE DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

14 JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

15

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21 Transcribed by:

22 CLARA C. ROTRUCK

23 Court Reporter

24

25

1 T A P E D P R O C E E D I N G S

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: If we could  
3 get everyone to grab their seats, we would like  
4 to start here momentarily. Members, please  
5 find your chair. Okay, if we could get  
6 everyone to please grab their seats.

7 Thank you very much. Please call the  
8 roll. Okay, we are not doing a roll yet, I'm  
9 sorry.

10 Ladies and gentlemen, the Joint  
11 Senate/House Redistricting Committee is called  
12 to order. We are pleased to be joined today by  
13 several members of both the House and the  
14 Senate, and what we would like to do is to take  
15 just a brief moment to allow each one to  
16 introduce themselves to you.

17 They have come from near and far, many  
18 from right here in Duval County, you've got a  
19 great delegation here, but also we have  
20 Legislators from all over the state of Florida.

21 We would like to just take a few moments  
22 to allow them to introduce themselves, let you  
23 know who they are and where they are from, and  
24 I think we will start down at the end.

25 REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS: Good afternoon,



1 my name is Alan Williams, State Representative  
2 from Tallahassee, Florida, and it is great to  
3 see so many of you out here concerned about the  
4 process.

5 REPRESENTATIVE CALDWELL: Thank you.  
6 Representative Matt Caldwell, Ft. Myers, Lee  
7 County, down in the southwest corner of the  
8 state.

9 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Good afternoon, Jim  
10 Boyd, Representative from Manatee County, which  
11 is Bradenton, down below Tampa on the west  
12 coast.

13 REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: Kathleen  
14 Passidomo, District 76, which is Naples,  
15 Everglades City, Marco Island.

16 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Representative  
17 Chuck Chestnut, District 23, a portion of  
18 Gainesville and a portion of Ocala.

19 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Representative  
20 Dwayne Taylor representing House District 27,  
21 the world center of racing and the world's most  
22 famous beach, Daytona Beach.

23 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Representative Peter  
24 Nehr from District 48, Pinellas County, home of  
25 another famous beach, Clearwater Beach.

1           SENATOR THRASHER: I am Senator John  
2 Thrasher. I represent parts of Nassau, Nassau  
3 here, Duval County, St. Johns County, Volusia  
4 County and Flagler County, and we have some of  
5 the greatest beaches in the world right here in  
6 north Florida.

7           REPRESENTATIVE HOOPER: Hi, everybody. I  
8 am Ed Hooper from District 50, which is  
9 Pinellas County, predominantly Clearwater.

10          REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: I am  
11 Representative Jim Frishe. I represent the  
12 beaches of Pinellas County, and we don't get to  
13 compete for the world's best beaches anymore,  
14 because we've been retired.

15          REPRESENTATIVE ADKINS: Hi, I am Janet  
16 Adkins. I represent House District 12, which  
17 is Nassau, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Union and a  
18 bit of Duval, and it is wonderful to see so  
19 many people here from the outlying rural  
20 counties. Thank you for coming.

21          SENATOR MONTFORD: Thank you. I am Bill  
22 Montford, Senator from District 6, which is 11  
23 counties, Tallahassee is the center of it.

24               Obviously we have state government, but we  
25 also have some of the world's most beautiful

1 beaches on the Gulf of Mexico, I believe, for  
2 clarification.

3 REPRESENTATIVE LOGAN: Thank you. I am  
4 Representative Ana Rivas Logan from Miami-Dade  
5 County from the best beach in the world, South  
6 Beach.

7 REPRESENTATIVE FORD: Clay Ford, I  
8 represent District 3 in Pensacola, the other  
9 north Florida anchor, other end of the state.

10 SENATOR DEAN: My name is Charlie Dean, I  
11 am Senator, District 3. I represent all or  
12 part of 13 counties. I represent interior  
13 rural Florida.

14 We don't have any beaches. I go from  
15 Baker County to the steps of the Capitol, down  
16 to 98 and 19 just to the south end of Citrus  
17 County. I am from Inverness, Florida.

18 SENATOR LYNN: I am Senator Evelyn Lynn.  
19 I represent Clay, Marion, Putnam and Volusia  
20 Counties, and we are so diverse from party to  
21 nature, from beaches to jungle, you can't beat  
22 it.

23 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Rob Schenck, I  
24 represent the metropolitan areas of Hernando  
25 County.

1           SENATOR BRAYNON: Oscar Braynon, Senator,  
2           District 33, representing Miami-Dade County.

3           REPRESENTATIVE WEINSTEIN: Mike Weinstein  
4           representing part of Duval, Clay and St. Johns  
5           County, and thanks for coming.

6           SENATOR HAYS: Thank you all for being  
7           here this afternoon. I am Alan Hays, State  
8           Senator from District 20, which I live in  
9           Umatilla, and it is 85 miles east and west and  
10          55 miles north and south.

11          REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Hello, everybody, my  
12          name is Martin Kiar. I represent District 97  
13          in the Florida House of Representatives, which  
14          is all within Broward County, Florida. Thanks  
15          for having us.

16          REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Good afternoon,  
17          everyone. My name is John Patrick Julien  
18          representing District 104, and Representative  
19          Ana Rivas Logan told me that the entire  
20          Miami-Dade County delegation represents the  
21          best beach in the world, that being South  
22          Beach.

23          REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Hi, everyone, I am  
24          Dorothy Hukill. I am the State Representative  
25          from District 28, which is southeast and

1 southwest Volusia, and I actually represent the  
2 most number of miles of beaches in Volusia  
3 County.

4 REPRESENTATIVE MCBURNEY: I am Charles  
5 McBurney. I represent District 16, which is  
6 the greatest city in the state of Florida, the  
7 City of Jacksonville, Florida.

8 REPRESENTATIVE THURSTON: Good afternoon,  
9 I am State Representative Perry Thurston from  
10 Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, District 93. We refer  
11 to it as God's country.

12 REPRESENTATIVE RAY: Good afternoon, I am  
13 Lake Ray. I represent District 17, kind of the  
14 northeast quarter of the county here. It is a  
15 pleasure to see everybody. And to my  
16 colleagues, welcome to Jacksonville.

17 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: State  
18 Representative Mack Bernard from West Palm  
19 Beach, Florida.

20 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: State  
21 Representative Hazelle Rogers from Broward  
22 County, 1.79 million residents in Broward  
23 County. It is good to be here.

24 REPRESENTATIVE YOUNG: Hello, and thank  
25 you all for being here. I am State

1 Representative Dana Young, and I represent the  
2 City of Tampa and surrounding areas, and we  
3 just have little beaches, but we are close to a  
4 lot of really good ones. Thank you for coming.

5 REPRESENTATIVE REED: Good afternoon, I am  
6 State Representative Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed, and  
7 I represent Broward County, northeast quadrant  
8 of Broward County, where we have the best  
9 beach, Deerfield Beach.

10 SENATOR EVERS: I am State Senator Greg  
11 Evers, and I represent Senate District 2, which  
12 encompasses north Escambia, Santa Rosa,  
13 Okaloosa, Walton, Washington, Holmes Counties,  
14 which is also referred to as God's country, but  
15 yet also the great northwest, as far north and  
16 far west you can go in Florida without being in  
17 Alabama.

18 Okay. I am here representing the folks  
19 that grow the best cotton and peanuts in the  
20 state of Florida. Thank you all.

21 REPRESENTATIVE GOODSON: I don't think I  
22 can pass that. My name is Representative Tom  
23 Goodson. I represent District 29, which at one  
24 time was the gateway to space, but after our  
25 last shuttle, it is no longer that. But I go

1 from North Mims all the way down to the St.  
2 Lucie County line, wonderful people and 300,000  
3 cows. Thank you.

4 REPRESENTATIVE DRAKE: My name is Brad  
5 Drake. I represent House District 5, which is  
6 in northwest Florida: Okaloosa, Walton,  
7 Holmes, Washington, Jackson. My district is  
8 the only House District that borders two  
9 states.

10 REPRESENTATIVE TRUJILLO: Good afternoon  
11 and thank you for being here. My name is  
12 Carlos Trujillo. I represent southwest  
13 Miami-Dade County. It is a pleasure to be here  
14 in Jacksonville.

15 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: Good afternoon,  
16 State Representative Mia Jones, just thanking  
17 you so much for being here in great numbers.  
18 We are excited for the delegation members  
19 across the state to hear from you, and so it is  
20 a pleasure for me to be able to be here, and I  
21 represent District 14, north and west of  
22 Jacksonville.

23 REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Good afternoon, my  
24 name is Daniel Davis. I am the Representative  
25 from District 13. I am proud to represent the

1 west portion of Jacksonville and Clay Counties,  
2 and it is an honor to see all of my friends  
3 here today. Thank you.

4 REPRESENTATIVE FULLWOOD: Good afternoon,  
5 Representative Reggie Fullwood, District 15,  
6 and we are happy to have you here in  
7 Jacksonville where Florida officially begins,  
8 right here.

9 REPRESENTATIVE CORCORAN: Representative  
10 Richard Corcoran from Pasco and Pinellas  
11 Counties. Thank you.

12 SENATOR ALTMAN: Thad Altman, State  
13 Senator from east central Florida where we have  
14 the Space Coast, but I have to put a big kudo  
15 here for Jacksonville, because our first  
16 commercially rated space center is right here  
17 at Cecil Field, so we have a lot in common.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: All right.  
19 We were trying to set the record for the  
20 Guinness Book of Records of squeezing the most  
21 politicians into one room. We are close. We  
22 are going to get an official count before the  
23 end of the day.

24 But, no, seriously, members, thank you for  
25 being here, and Senators, for taking the time



1 to hear from the constituents here in northeast  
2 Florida. We are honored to be here.

3 And I want to make a special thanks to  
4 Florida State College for allowing us to use  
5 this beautiful facility. Thank you all for  
6 taking the time to be here, because this is  
7 important.

8 It is important, and the sole purpose of  
9 what we are here for is to hear from you and to  
10 give your input and to hear what you think the  
11 legal standards that are set before the  
12 Legislature and how those can be applied to  
13 districts that represent you here in northeast  
14 Florida.

15 My name is Will Weatherford, and along  
16 with my colleague, Senator Don Gaetz, I will be  
17 chairing today's hearing, which is being  
18 webcast statewide by the Florida Channel over  
19 the Internet.

20 I also want to make sure that everyone can  
21 hear us okay. If you are in the back of the  
22 room, can you hear us okay on the microphone?  
23 Wonderful. Thank you.

24 Our procedures here today, ladies and  
25 gentlemen, are very simple, but they are very,

1       very important. It is important that you sign  
2       in so we can create an accurate public record  
3       of all the attendees and speakers. Also, you  
4       may opt to join our e-mail list so that we can  
5       keep you informed about how the redistricting  
6       process is working over the next several  
7       months. If you have not signed in, please  
8       raise your hand, and a staff member will give  
9       you an attendance card for you to fill out. If  
10      you wish to speak today, and you have not  
11      filled out an attendance card, please also  
12      raise your hand, and we will make sure we get  
13      you a card so that we cannot miss your  
14      testimony. It is the same attendance card  
15      whether you speak or if you plan to sit, but  
16      please raise your hand either way.

17           I also want to point out that the  
18      microphone is kind of in the middle of the  
19      room, it is a little different than the way we  
20      have done it historically, but I think that is  
21      the best-placed position. So as you are coming  
22      up to speak and we read out your name, you will  
23      go to this microphone.

24           But before we go to public testimony, I  
25      would like to turn the microphone over to my

1 co-Chair, Senator Don Gaetz, who will explain  
2 how today's hearing fits into the redistricting  
3 process.

4 Senator Gaetz, you are recognized.

5 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
6 Mr. Chairman. I am Don Gaetz. I represent the  
7 coastal counties of northwest Florida.  
8 Jacksonville is, as my wife, Vicky, says, our  
9 second home. It is where we met, it is where  
10 we feel in love, and we love Jacksonville.

11 Let me just say that there is one person  
12 here who -- let me depart, if I can,  
13 Mr. Chairman, from the script to say there is  
14 one person here who has not been introduced who  
15 has served this community and served the State  
16 of Florida effectively and well. He's now  
17 moved on to another important assignment within  
18 the City of Jacksonville. We are going to miss  
19 him, and I want to recognize him, and that is  
20 Senator Tony Hill. Senator Hill.

21 Mr. Chairman, and members, and members of  
22 the public who are here, every ten years the  
23 Legislature is required by our Constitution to  
24 redistrict the state based on increases or  
25 decreases or movements of population within the

1 state, and because Florida has grown more than  
2 other states in the last ten years, we will  
3 move up from 25 to 27 members of the U.S. House  
4 of Representatives, and up to 29 electoral  
5 votes in the presidential election.

6 Now, because some parts of our state have  
7 increased or decreased disproportionately to  
8 the rest of the state, many Senate and House  
9 Districts will change, either adding or losing  
10 population. You can see a chart over there on  
11 the wall. A number of you have had a chance to  
12 review it before we started. Please take a  
13 look at it during the meeting, after the  
14 meeting, and you will see the districts and  
15 which districts have to gain or lose population  
16 in order to be equal in size, which is one of  
17 the requirements of law.

18 We also have displays at the front of the  
19 room showing the current boundaries of  
20 districts in this area of the state. Those are  
21 the maps, the maps of our current districts, so  
22 that is a good point of departure for those who  
23 have testimony today to indicate if you believe  
24 that there are changes that need to be made.

25 Those are the maps that we have right now, and

1       those are the same maps that we will be looking  
2       at as your Legislators as we consider the  
3       public testimony that has been provided around  
4       the state. We are doing 26 public hearings.

5               When redistricting is completed,  
6       congressional districts must be equal in  
7       population, and each congressional district  
8       must contain 696,345 people. Now, past law and  
9       court cases have indicated that congressional  
10      districts that are even 11 individuals  
11      different, one from the other, are not equally  
12      divided. So with congressional districts, it  
13      is pretty important that each one be just about  
14      on the money at 696,345 people.

15             The 40 Senate districts must also be  
16      nearly equal at about 470,000 people each, and  
17      our 120 House districts must be nearly equal at  
18      about 156,700 people.

19             Equality of representation, though, is not  
20      the only legal requirement that redistricting  
21      plans have to meet. The laws and important  
22      court cases governing redistricting are  
23      explained in detail on the House and the Senate  
24      websites. Those websites are listed in the  
25      redistricting 2012 brochure that was available

1 to you when you came in, will be available to  
2 you as you leave. Our redistricting 2012  
3 brochure summarizes federal and state laws, and  
4 outlines topics we hope that you will discuss  
5 here today at our hearing. If you didn't get a  
6 copy when you came in, our staff will be happy  
7 to give you one. The brochure also lists the  
8 House and Senate websites, and the websites are  
9 packed with information about redistricting in  
10 Florida. You will see that it is some what  
11 complex and somewhat simple, but we urge you to  
12 look at the websites and look at the laws that  
13 governing redistricting. The two websites, the  
14 House and Senate, are complementary and are  
15 updated very frequently. Visit both, check  
16 back often. It is a great way to stay current  
17 about how your new congressional Senate and  
18 House districts are taking shape.

19 The websites deliver to your fingertips  
20 also all of the demographic information that  
21 comes from the U.S. Bureau of the Census that  
22 will be used in drawing districts, and the same  
23 computer programs and the same computer  
24 software that courts would be using or that  
25 policy makers would be using are overlaid on

1 all the demographic information. This means  
2 that any member of the public or any interest  
3 group can participate by building plans or  
4 seeing maps submitted by other interest groups,  
5 other citizens or by Legislators themselves.  
6 There have already been maps submitted.  
7 Before, during and after this hearing, Senate  
8 and House professional staff are available to  
9 show anyone the simple steps to getting  
10 on-line, building districts and submitting a  
11 plan now or in the weeks to come, and you can  
12 submit a plan for northeast Florida, for your  
13 county, for your neighborhood or for the whole  
14 state. If you would like to have direct input,  
15 the most important thing you could do is to  
16 say, "Here's how we think the lines ought to be  
17 drawn to take care of problems or to make sure  
18 there is equal representation in our area, in  
19 our community." The submission of proposed  
20 maps that makes sense for your community is the  
21 single most effective form of public  
22 participation in the redistricting process.

23 Now, the redistricting schedule that we  
24 are operating under is imposed by the state  
25 Constitution. We can't change it. Nobody who

1       testifies today can change it. The  
2       Constitution does not permit the Legislature to  
3       act on state legislative maps before the second  
4       year after the census; in other words, before  
5       2012. We have accelerated the process as much  
6       as possible by moving up the 2012 legislative  
7       session from March, when it usually starts, to  
8       January, and by beginning our statewide  
9       hearings five months in advance of the 2012  
10      session.

11           Now, it's been suggested that the  
12      Legislature ought to draw the maps first and  
13      then ask the public to comment. We believe  
14      that puts the answer ahead of the question.  
15      There ought to be no preconceptions or  
16      preconceived notions or pre-drawn maps created  
17      entirely by politicians, but rather public  
18      testimony should be free and unrestricted. In  
19      fact, that is the position taken by the head of  
20      the Fair Districts movement statewide who  
21      testified before the House and Senate  
22      committees, and she is on record as saying that  
23      new maps should not be drawn until after the  
24      public has had an opportunity to comment in  
25      public hearings. And we agree with Ms. Freidin



1       in her public testimony that that is exactly  
2       what should be done, and that is what we are  
3       doing.

4               Our intent is to use the recommendations  
5       made at the 26 public hearings and through the  
6       input we receive on our Internet sites and  
7       information that you might send us through  
8       snail mail or input to your legislator as the  
9       basis for developing one or more options for  
10      district maps.

11             Now, here is the procedure: Once we have  
12      public testimony and public input, we have  
13      already gotten an enormous amount in the first  
14      four hearings that we have held, we will hold  
15      22 more hearings including today, then we will  
16      develop options, and those options will be  
17      available to the public, and before one single  
18      vote is taken on any of those options, the  
19      public will see them all. We will discuss any  
20      option, any plan, any proposal, in open public  
21      meetings before any votes are taken, even in  
22      committee. Throughout the process, we will  
23      solicit additional public input so that any  
24      proposed maps can mature with the public  
25      involved, all before the Legislature approves

1       any maps. Whatever the Legislature approves is  
2       then submitted for judicial review to insure  
3       that the final plans meet every single  
4       requirement of law.

5               Because our purpose today is to hear from  
6       you, all the time when I am finished between  
7       then and four o'clock today, and then between  
8       six and eight o'clock today, will be used to  
9       insure that every member of the public who is  
10      here and wishes to speak will have time to  
11      present testimony and be listened to  
12      respectfully, without interruption and without  
13      argument. And you can see that if we let  
14      politicians take over and talk, you know, we  
15      would hear about beaches all over Florida until  
16      tomorrow morning.

17             If after every citizen who wants to speak  
18      has had his or her say there is time remaining,  
19      if there is time remaining then before our  
20      scheduled adjournment, then, of course, any  
21      member of the committee may make any statement,  
22      offer any proposal or any suggestion.

23             There, of course, is no gag order. Any  
24      member of the Legislature, any interest group,  
25      any citizen, may today or at any time propose a

1 map or a plan, and we will instantly make it  
2 available to the public for your comment and  
3 review.

4 And, Mr. Chairman, I hope this description  
5 of our schedule and our process and our time  
6 table helps set the stage for a successful  
7 hearing.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
9 very much, Senator, for that thorough  
10 explanation of today's hearing.

11 I would like to take a brief moment. We  
12 always like to save the best for last and the  
13 most prestigious for last, and we also want to  
14 make sure that there is a person who came a  
15 very long way to be here and I think may even  
16 have a vote to make this evening, and that is  
17 our Congresswoman Corrine Brown.

18 Congresswoman, thank you very much for being  
19 here this evening, we appreciate it. We are  
20 going to have the opportunity to hear from the  
21 Congresswoman soon, and so we appreciate your  
22 participation here.

23 We are going to adjourn promptly at 4:00  
24 p.m., but as the Senator stated, we will be  
25 back at 6:00 p.m. Currently we have 51 people

1       who have signed up to speak. Ladies and  
2       gentlemen, we would like to try to limit each  
3       speaker to three minutes, if you possibly  
4       could. We are not going to be overly strict  
5       about it, but the further and further we get  
6       down, we just want to make sure that every  
7       person who has made the effort to be here has  
8       the opportunity to speak for at least three  
9       minutes, so please be cognizant of that.

10           Our first speaker today is going to be a  
11       Mr. Michael Yost, and following Mr. Yost -- and  
12       this is all in the order that people signed  
13       up -- there will be Ms. Tammy Hardin.

14           Mr. Yost, the floor is yours and you are  
15       recognized for three minutes. And just so  
16       everyone knows, what we are going to do, as I  
17       call out the name of the next speaker, I will  
18       call out a name after that so you can kind of  
19       get on deck and be prepared.

20           Mr. Yost, the floor is yours. Thank you  
21       for being here.

22           MR. YOST: They said give me about five  
23       seconds. Now it is working.

24           Mr. Chairman and Mr. Chairman, and members  
25       of the House and Senate committee, I want to

1       thank you for giving me this opportunity to  
2       address this meeting here today.

3               Ladies and gentlemen, sadly, there is an  
4       issue in the state of Florida, and I think  
5       nationwide, but sometimes we as legislatures  
6       and also people who are in the public sometimes  
7       wish to put blinders on and not think about,  
8       and that is the issue of race in politics.

9               Unfortunately, it seems to have been a  
10      division that has been created, for whatever  
11      reason, in this nation, and I think we first  
12      need to recognize that we are Americans first,  
13      and that if we will keep these things in mind,  
14      I think that redistricting will be something  
15      that this committee and committees can do and  
16      do in a way in which all people in the state of  
17      Florida are properly represented.

18              Unfortunately, there have been some  
19      Supreme Court cases that have come down the  
20      pipe that are going to restrict you, and I am  
21      going to try to address these very briefly.  
22      The first one is Thornburg versus Gingles, and  
23      I am sure you gentlemen are very familiar with  
24      that, in which it sets three basic tenets that  
25      must happen on a Section 2 Voting Rights Act

1 claim, 1965 Voting Rights Act, also as amended  
2 throughout the years.

3 First of all, there must be a  
4 demonstration that a majority group is large  
5 enough and compact enough to constitute a  
6 majority if they were placed in a single member  
7 district. Secondly, they must demonstrate that  
8 the minority group is politically cohesive.  
9 And third, they must demonstrate that while a  
10 white majority votes together in enough numbers  
11 to defeat the minority's preferred candidates.  
12 If those requirements are met, the court will  
13 then examine the totality of the circumstances  
14 to determine if a violation is -- it was --  
15 occurred.

16 Voinovich versus Quilter also influenced  
17 another Section 2 violation, I am sure you are  
18 aware of that one.

19 Johnson v. DeGrandy was another Section 2  
20 violation that was settled by the Supreme  
21 Court.

22 The Lulac decision, this was a Section 5  
23 that was also -- Section 5 and Section 2 was  
24 addressed in both of that, which takes us then  
25 to one other decision fairly recently was the

1 Georgia v. Ashcroft. I want to discuss that  
2 for just a moment.

3 In that particular ruling, it was the  
4 desire of the State of Georgia to unpack these  
5 minority and majority districts in order that  
6 minorities could better represent and have  
7 better effectiveness throughout the State of  
8 Georgia.

9 One thing that they discovered in the  
10 State of Georgia by doing this, the minorities  
11 became better represented, not worse. They had  
12 a better influence throughout the political  
13 spectrum.

14 Let's face some realities, and I want to  
15 read the very last sentence in this analysis,  
16 because I think it comes into play, and that  
17 analysis came from none other than Chief  
18 Justice John Roberts, and he said, "The most  
19 effective way to prevent discrimination on the  
20 basis of race is to stop propagating laws that  
21 discriminate on the basis of race."

22 We need to be Americans, folks, first and  
23 foremost, in which we have communities that are  
24 represented by the district boundaries that are  
25 drawn by these committees, and that we have an

1       effective representative voice in which whoever  
2       is elected by the majority of the voters  
3       represents all the people of these districts,  
4       not just the ones who can cast a ballot for  
5       you. And this is why the Barnett v. Strickland  
6       ruling was so important. I am going to leave a  
7       copy of the entire ruling with the committee  
8       before I leave today, I think that it is  
9       applicable in this case, in which that it  
10      allows this Legislature to draw the types of  
11      compact districts that these Fair Districts  
12      amendments have put you under the onus of  
13      having to follow. And I think that these  
14      district boundaries can be drawn, and can be  
15      drawn fairly.

16           I do not envy your job, particularly in  
17      congressional districts in which you have to  
18      put 697,345 people in one congressional  
19      district, and you have to do that 27 times. So  
20      I don't envy your job one bit.

21           I commend you. I believe that this  
22      committee is doing the right thing by taking  
23      public input, and I believe that if they will  
24      take what the people are saying and apply those  
25      beliefs and those feelings that we have, not



1           only as communities, but as Americans, I think  
2           you will find that we will have better  
3           congressional districts, we will have better  
4           state House districts and we will have better  
5           Senate districts. And we will have districts  
6           in which the public debate becomes something  
7           that, instead of dividing us, brings us  
8           together and allows us to vote and elect  
9           representatives of our choice which best  
10          represents the views that we have and beliefs  
11          that we have as Americans, and we can end once  
12          and for all these racial divisions that have  
13          continually seemed to infect our population.  
14          Let's face it, we all love America.

15                 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Yost, I  
16          am going to ask you to try to wrap it up there.

17                 MR. YOST: Thank you.

18                 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
19          very much, sir. Appreciate your comments.

20                 MR. YOST: Thank you very much.

21                 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
22          Mr. Yost. Next up we have Tammy Hardin.  
23          Following Tammy Hardin, we have Barbara  
24          Wisnosky.

25                 MS. HARDIN: How lucky am I to draw the

1 second one, right?

2 First, thanks for allowing the voters the  
3 opportunity to voice our opinions and concerns  
4 about redistricting. I am a St. Johns County  
5 resident, and I would like to remark on  
6 District 19, if I may.

7 According to the last census, District 19  
8 needs to shed about 19,000 voters, while  
9 District 16 needs to add a little bit over  
10 16,000. In my opinion, the best and most  
11 practical solution seems to be making the  
12 geographical boundary to the north end of  
13 District 19 at I-295. The trade-off almost  
14 balances.

15 Here is my fear: That the Township of  
16 South Mandarin, Fleming Island and Julington  
17 Creek, and even parts of IGP, which is  
18 International Golf Parkway, becomes disrupted  
19 if any other option comes to the table. Having  
20 a son who participates in Creeks Lacrosse and  
21 Mandarin sports, and a husband who coached, I  
22 know there is a sharing of resources in that  
23 area, in District 19, like sports fields and  
24 sponsorships for athletic programs.

25 A disruption could have also an economic

1        impact on the district. I will stick to sports  
2        as an example. Just about a month ago, Fleming  
3        Island held the lacrosse tournament, which had  
4        an estimated impact on District 19 of over two  
5        million dollars. District 19 cannot afford to  
6        lose those businesses that support us, and, in  
7        turn, we support them. The kids not only play  
8        sports together, they attend schools, both  
9        public and private. We shouldn't separate this  
10       township and community that has been built  
11       around not just sports, but businesses. The  
12       redistricting board should do whatever it can  
13       to preserve this working, thriving township  
14       that has developed over the past years.  
15       Families play sports together, shop and eat all  
16       within their district, and it should stay that  
17       way.

18                I know what happens personally when you  
19       break up townships. Just within our school  
20       district, there was a battle not too long ago  
21       where we were separated by a road, and I know  
22       the upheaval it caused, and I would like to  
23       preserve District 19.

24                In short, since all these areas share in  
25       so much, the district boundaries which affect

1 representation should mirror the community.

2 Thanks for your consideration.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
4 very much, Ms. Hardin.

5 Next up we have Barbara Wisnosky, followed  
6 by Ms. Helen Ludwig with the League of Women  
7 Voters.

8 MS. WISNOSKY: Good afternoon. Tammy  
9 Hardin and I are actual neighbors in our St.  
10 Johns community, and we both feel very strongly  
11 about how we live in a big town/small town.  
12 Our community of St. Johns County, District 19,  
13 consists of South Mandarin, Julington Creek,  
14 County Road 210, and we have the International  
15 Golf Parkway. And I can say I am a PTO mom and  
16 I have been business liaison for our school for  
17 the last almost four years, and when I go  
18 looking at fundraisers and donations from local  
19 businesses, I go to every single one of those  
20 areas within our county, and they view the  
21 schools in the area as one big community. We  
22 are one tight community. We go back and we  
23 thank all our businesses and we think of them  
24 as our sponsors for this one tight area that we  
25 participate in. Our children do go to the same

1 athletic activities, we shop in the same area  
2 and it is all familiar faces.

3 It would be very disruptive to our  
4 neighborhoods if we were divided, and as Tammy  
5 stated, our proposal is that we cut off the  
6 northern part of the county, 295 corridor, and  
7 that would probably alleviate roughly 19,000  
8 residents, and which District 16 needs probably  
9 in that area, 16,000 plus residents. So that  
10 would be a solution to both our districts.  
11 And, again, that would be the least disruptive.  
12 It would allow students in our community to  
13 participate in the athletic activities that we  
14 have, especially in Julington Creek. And  
15 basically we would very much appreciate you  
16 taking our comments seriously. And, again,  
17 talking from a -- just a parent, a PTO mom who  
18 really values our beautiful area, thank you,  
19 and thank you for hearing our comments and our  
20 recommendations. We appreciate it.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
22 very much, Ms. Wisnosky.

23 Next up we have Ms. Helen Ludwig with the  
24 League of Women Voters. Following Ms. Ludwig  
25 will be our Congresswoman here, Corrine Brown.

1       While we are waiting for Ms. Ludwig to get up  
2       there, I just want to mention earlier Mr. Yost  
3       talked specifically about some court cases, and  
4       there is a website you can go to,  
5       Floridaredistricting.org, that will provide a  
6       the lot of that background and information. So  
7       for those of you who heard about those court  
8       cases, or any other information you hear about  
9       today, most of it can be found on-line at  
10      Floridaredistricting.org. I just want to point  
11      that out.

12             Mrs. Ludwig, you are recognized. Thank  
13      you for being here.

14             MS. LUDWIG: Thank you, and I didn't take  
15      as long as you thought I would.

16             Am I missing something? Is there some  
17      reason why we are behind Arkansas, Colorado,  
18      Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota,  
19      Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada and Oklahoma in  
20      completing or almost completing the maps for  
21      redistricting? Is there some reason why you  
22      doubt the intelligence of we, the citizens,  
23      when we overwhelmingly passed Constitutional  
24      Amendments 5 and 6? Does it seem right to you  
25      to use our tax money to fight against complying

1 with 5 and 6? Does it seem right that you may  
2 not have drawn the new districts in time for  
3 the candidates to know which district they  
4 should file for and campaign for the 2012  
5 election?

6 I guess that after you have studied the  
7 answers to these and other questions, we may  
8 know just what thinking process you were using  
9 to justify all this. Thank you very much.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
11 very much, Ms. Ludwig.

12 Next up we have Congresswoman Corrine  
13 Brown. Congresswoman, thank you very much for  
14 being here. We are grateful for your presence  
15 and look forward to hearing from you. You are  
16 recognized.

17 CONGRESSWOMAN BROWN: Thank you very much,  
18 and thank you all for having this listening  
19 tour prior to making a decision of how you are  
20 going to draw the districts.

21 I represent the Third Congressional  
22 District of Florida, and I got to say it is  
23 probably the most popular district, not just in  
24 Florida, but the entire country, and so, you  
25 know, I wonder why, because I look at some of

1       the other districts, it is not the -- I don't  
2       have more counties than anybody else, you know,  
3       I have nine. There are several districts that  
4       have more than nine. The numbers are the same.

5               But the most important thing I want to  
6       point out is that -- the law of the land, you  
7       know. When you listen and -- to people talk,  
8       you would think that I drew the district. The  
9       district was drawn based on the 1965 Voting  
10      Rights Act. And so I want to submit to the  
11      record the votes of the members that  
12      participate in the '65 Voting Right Act, and  
13      that is the basis of, you know, how people  
14      voted. And Florida has always been kind of  
15      progressive, because during that time, we had  
16      13 members. Seven of them voted against it and  
17      six voted for it. And so -- but I can report  
18      that all of the members voted to re-enact the  
19      Voting Rights Act, all of the members of the  
20      congressional delegation, which I think is very  
21      important.

22             Let me tell you something. You all were  
23      talking about the beaches. I don't represent  
24      the beaches. When America have a cold, the  
25      African-American community have pneumonia. We



1       have a high unemployment rate. And it is very  
2       important that we remain in the room. I feel  
3       very strongly about that. Basically I want to  
4       put in the record -- where is -- where is -- I  
5       have something that I want to give you. Ken,  
6       where is it? Okay. Where is the book? I want  
7       to give you a copy of the book. This book is  
8       America -- *Black America in Congress from 1870*  
9       *to 2007*, and there was a period of 28 years  
10      when the United States Congress went dark,  
11      meaning it was no African-Americans in  
12      Congress. For Florida, it was 129 years when I  
13      got elected.

14             I am committed that we will never go dark  
15      again in the United States Congress, never.  
16      And it is not just about the congressional  
17      seat, because when you draw the congressional,  
18      you draw the House, you draw the Senate, you  
19      draw the school boards, you draw city council.  
20      So everything is based on how you draw those  
21      districts based on communities of interest.

22             And so I feel very strongly that the  
23      paramount reason that when you start drawing,  
24      that you consider communities of interest. I  
25      am putting in the record the fact is how those

1       members -- you talked about Georgia, Florida,  
2       the different states, how they voted in '65 and  
3       how they voted to date, the last time we voted,  
4       and I want to tell you, the reason -- one of  
5       the reasons why they passed the 1965 Voting  
6       Rights Act is because there was not one single  
7       African-American in the southern states, all 11  
8       of them. Now ten of them have had at least one  
9       representation, one, but the rest of them had  
10      absolutely none. To date, Arkansas still have  
11      never elected an African-American. It was 129  
12      years since we elected one, and that one was  
13      from Gainesville. We will never go back.

14             It is very important when you draw  
15      districts -- and let me clear something up for  
16      my friends in the room. I want to elect  
17      Democrats; in fact, I wouldn't care if all 27  
18      of them was Democrats. Not quite true, I want  
19      a few Republicans, but we got too many in  
20      Washington right now. But the point is, that  
21      is not what we are talking about. What we are  
22      talking about is including the principles of  
23      the 1965 Voting Rights Act when you draw those  
24      districts. Yes, we have come a long way. I  
25      know we all are excited that the fact that we

1       have an African-American as President. Well,  
2       he didn't carry none of those southern states.  
3       So keep in mind -- well, Florida don't think  
4       they are a southern state, and I don't either,  
5       but the point is -- but the point is that we've  
6       got to make sure that when we draw districts,  
7       that we consider the law. And nothing has  
8       changed as far as the voting rights is  
9       concerned, we just re-enacted it, and we did it  
10      for 25 years after having hearings all over the  
11      country because there was a need.

12             And so with that, that is my position  
13      on -- as you draw districts, and we will be  
14      monitoring it, and certainly, you know, a lot  
15      of people wanted to imply that I have something  
16      to do with drawing the districts. I haven't  
17      been in Tallahassee in almost 20 years, so  
18      clearly I have not had anything to do with  
19      drawing of the districts.

20             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
21      Congresswoman.

22             CONGRESSWOMAN BROWN: The districts have  
23      been -- you drew the districts based on the  
24      law. Thank you.

25             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you

1           very much. Thank you very much for your  
2           comments.

3           I apologize, I didn't read the name after  
4           Congresswoman, but it is Mr. Jim Last. Jim,  
5           you are up, and after Mr. Last, I apologize, I  
6           cannot read the last name here, but the first  
7           name, I believe, is Marcie. If that is right,  
8           if there is a Marcie here, you are next, and  
9           you are from Fernandina Beach, and we will try  
10          to get to you next, but until then, Mr. Last,  
11          you are recognized. Thank you for being here,  
12          sir.

13          MR. LAST: Thanks. I just want to say  
14          that John Thrasher is my Senator, and very  
15          happy to have him, but the main thought I want  
16          to get across here is that I would like to see  
17          Nassau County be whole. When you redistrict, I  
18          would like to see Nassau County be in one  
19          district, not separated beach from the west  
20          side.

21          I also wanted to say that I really -- and  
22          this is so wonderful to get to follow Corrine  
23          Brown for this -- I really think that  
24          gerrymandering is bad for all reasons, and I do  
25          not want you to do it. One of the things that

1 Mike Yost said about the Supreme Court ruling,  
2 or one of the rulings, on the reason for  
3 gerrymandering districts was that, you know,  
4 you couldn't feel like white people would vote  
5 for a minority. I think we can safely throw  
6 that out the window now as a reason to  
7 gerrymander.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
9 very much, sir.

10 Next up, Ms. Marcie, it could be Mary, I  
11 apologize. Is it Mary? Okay. No problem, no  
12 problem. You are recognized. Thank you very  
13 much for being here.

14 After Ms. Mary, we've got Sherry Behning.  
15 Sherry, you will be next.

16 You are recognized.

17 MS. DOWNEY: Thank you very much, and  
18 thank you very distinguished representatives,  
19 my wonderful Senator Thrasher, my State  
20 Representative, Janet Adkins.

21 We are here -- I wish to echo Jim Last's  
22 comments and to say that we are all Americans  
23 and we come from Nassau County, and our mission  
24 is to keep it whole. So thank you again for  
25 all of your time in giving up your summer for

1           us. Thank you.

2           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
3           very much.

4           Next up we have Ms. Sherry Behning,  
5           followed by Katie Ross. Ms. Sherry, thank you  
6           for being here. You are recognized.

7           MS. BEHNING: I appreciate you holding  
8           these hearings ahead of time. It is very  
9           important to me that you hear our voices, and I  
10          believe you are.

11          I have lived in beautiful Clay County for  
12          37 years. When I first came here, we were the  
13          bedroom of Jacksonville, and over the time, I  
14          have seen Clay County develop into its own  
15          unique county, style, culture. We are a  
16          community. No matter where we think Clay  
17          County, we are of like mind, we want the same  
18          things. We want certain things taken care of  
19          within our community.

20          I believe that Clay County should be held  
21          as a county, as one spot, keeping really  
22          distinct boundaries, not dividing gated  
23          communities and neighborhoods, because we are  
24          so much on the same like mind.

25          I work in one of the biggest retail

1       salers -- stores in our community, and I can't  
2       tell you how many times I have heard people  
3       talk about we really need to have one voice,  
4       one person, that we can feel like represents  
5       us, Clay County. Thank you.

6               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
7       very much.

8               Next up we have Ms. Katie Ross, followed  
9       by Linda Storey.

10              MS. ROSS: Thank you, ladies and  
11       gentlemen, for allowing us to speak today, and  
12       I want to thank also everyone in the audience  
13       for caring so much about this issue.

14              My name is Katie Ross, and I am the  
15       President of the League of Women Voters,  
16       Jacksonville First Coast. The League of Women  
17       Voters seeks to improve our systems of  
18       government and impact public policy through  
19       education and advocacy.

20              For the past 70 years, the League of Women  
21       Voters has been working on the issue of  
22       redistricting here in Florida. It is one of  
23       the first issues we brought to the Florida  
24       Legislature. There have been four petition  
25       drives over the past years, and last November,

1       Amendments 5 and 6 were on the ballot, and they  
2       passed by 63 percent.

3             The League worked with the coalition of  
4       organizations, including the NAACP and  
5       democracy to advocate on behalf of the  
6       amendments.

7             Up until this past November, there have  
8       been no rules in terms of redistricting. Now  
9       there are guidelines, simple, simple  
10      straight-forward rules as to how districts  
11      should be drawn.

12            That being said, I urge you and your staff  
13      to draw these districts as soon as you can.  
14      The proposed timeline has the Legislature  
15      reviewing the maps and voting the second week  
16      of March. This does not leave enough time for  
17      candidates to file for office, mount their  
18      campaigns, accommodate a constructive review  
19      process and any litigation that might occur.  
20      We urge you to draw these maps soon and review  
21      them in committee in the fall. That way, the  
22      Legislature can vote on them the first week of  
23      session, giving candidates plenty of time to  
24      file and mount their campaigns. In the words  
25      of one of your own attorneys, the current



1 timeline will cause chaos and voter confusion.

2 The Legislature says they want to honor  
3 the voice of the people, and we appreciate  
4 that, but I do ask you to stop using taxpayers'  
5 money to fight redistricting in court. These  
6 amendments were passed by 63 percent of Florida  
7 voters. Stop these lawsuits.

8 Finally, these hearings need to be  
9 productive. Citizens are expressing their  
10 opinions, and we want to know what is on your  
11 mind, too. Again, I encourage you to draw  
12 these maps in a timely manner, and I appreciate  
13 you visiting our fair city, Jacksonville,  
14 today. Thank you.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
16 very much, Ms. Ross.

17 Ms. Linda Storey, you are next, also with  
18 the League of Women Voters, followed by Ben  
19 Chavis. Ms. Storey.

20 MS. STOREY: Hi. Thank you again for  
21 being here.

22 The most important thing I feel is that  
23 the districts be contiguous. The communication  
24 with your elected people is the most important  
25 thing. Some districts have so much spaces in

1 terms of miles, that it is very hard to keep in  
2 touch. I know you have -- it must be fair, not  
3 only for the number of people, but also for the  
4 amount of miles that each representative has to  
5 represent. Sixty-three percent of the voters  
6 voted for this, so I appreciate your efforts in  
7 making it fair for the people and doing it in a  
8 timely manner for the candidates that are  
9 trying to run for the next election. Thank  
10 you.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
12 very much.

13 Mr. Chavis, you are recognized, sir,  
14 followed by Mr. Spencer Meeks. Thank you for  
15 being here.

16 MR. CHAVIS: Thank you. I am a resident  
17 of Broward County. I have been involved in the  
18 civil rights movement in the United States for  
19 over 50 years. The Voting Rights Act was not  
20 just enacted by the Congress of the United  
21 States, but it came as a consequence of a lot  
22 of sacrifice, a lot of struggle.

23 When each of you introduced yourselves at  
24 the beginning of the hearing, I said to myself,  
25 Florida is a very diverse state. I want to

1           thank you for having us here.

2           At the end of the day, it will be the map,  
3           the map that we started with and the map that  
4           you end with. The outcome of the new map  
5           should reflect the growing diversity of the  
6           state of Florida. It should not reflect less  
7           diversity. It should reflect more diversity.

8           I am hoping, and I appeal to each of you  
9           who are decision-makers in the state  
10          Legislature that the redistricting not only  
11          ought to be fair, but it ought to be  
12          representative of the increased diversity of  
13          the state of Florida.

14          Earlier a speaker mentioned race and  
15          politics. I noticed some people kind of shook  
16          their heads, but I don't think we should fear  
17          what happened in the past, and I don't think we  
18          should fear the future. Racial diversity is  
19          not -- or should not be a huge hurdle. It  
20          should be seen as a blessing. Some of you  
21          introduced yourself saying, "I represent God's  
22          district." This ought to be God's state, and  
23          in God's state, all of God's children ought to  
24          be treated fairly, without discrimination of  
25          race, without discrimination of any other

1 barrier.

2 What we are hoping is that at the end of  
3 the day, the new redistricting in the State of  
4 Florida would not have any regression, would  
5 not have less minorities being in the House or  
6 being in the Congress of the United States. We  
7 should start there. The congressional  
8 districts should not be less minority  
9 representation. They should be more.

10 We celebrate the journey that Florida has  
11 just arrived. Let's move forward and not move  
12 backwards.

13 The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is still the  
14 law of the land as amended. The reason why  
15 there are a lot of court cases, somebody made  
16 reference, is because there are continuing  
17 attempts to dismantle the Voting Rights Act,  
18 and that is why the federal courts are  
19 available to protect citizens' rights.

20 I commend this committee, and I hope and  
21 pray that the state Legislature will do what is  
22 right, and that is to pass and put a new map up  
23 that will be more reflective of the diversity  
24 and of the journey of the State of Florida to  
25 insure equal voting rights for all of its

1 citizens.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
3 very much, Mr. Chavis.

4 Next we have Mr. Spencer Meeks, Jr.,  
5 followed by Andrew Curtin with the Nassau  
6 Patriots Tea Party. You are recognized, sir.

7 MR. MEEKS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
8 First of all, I don't have a lot of statistics  
9 to give you, but I want to just say two things.

10 One thing, I want to acknowledge our  
11 Congresswoman, Corrine Brown, because I know  
12 how dedicated she has been for equality in the  
13 state of Florida. I know how hard she has  
14 worked so many years to see that every  
15 individual had a chance to be what they wanted  
16 to be in the state of Florida.

17 Secondly, I would like to ask this board,  
18 this committee here, to think about our future  
19 and the future we are coming, that we have to  
20 face that we do not leave an example of going  
21 backwards. Whatever we do, let it be a  
22 progress made forward, so that instead of  
23 losing delegation, instead of losing  
24 minorities, that we do all we can to build a  
25 bridge to make and create more position for

1 minorities. Thank you.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
3 Mr. Meeks.

4 Next up we have Andrew Curtin. After  
5 Mr. Curtin will be Barbara Engle. Mr. Curtin  
6 is with the Nassau Tea Party Patriots. Thank  
7 you for being here, sir.

8 MR. CURTIN: Good afternoon. Thank you  
9 very much for holding this meeting.

10 I am speaking as a long-time resident of  
11 Nassau County. I would like to reemphasize  
12 what Mr. Last and Ms. Downey said about the  
13 integrity of Nassau County and the  
14 redistricting process. We are located at the  
15 far end of the state, and any events where we  
16 get fragmented into multiple districts, I feel  
17 that we lose the effectiveness of our  
18 representation both at the state level and the  
19 congressional level. So I would urge you,  
20 whatever the redistricting process requires,  
21 that the county be held -- because of the way  
22 it is structured and the population -- be held  
23 intact throughout the redistricting process.  
24 Thank you.

25 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,

1           sir.

2           Ms. Barbara Engle is next, followed by  
3           Raymond Chute.

4           MS. ENGLE: Good afternoon. Thank you for  
5           this opportunity. I am here as a concerned  
6           citizen and as an active member of the  
7           Northeast Florida Chapter of the American Civil  
8           Liberties Union.

9           The process and the hearings have been  
10          troubling to me, and I am trying to understand  
11          the process as best I can. I don't understand  
12          why it takes so long to develop the maps. You  
13          have had information from the census for  
14          months. And I heard your comments earlier  
15          prior to this portion of the meeting, but I  
16          really don't feel that this is a conversation.  
17          I would like to be able to meet and talk to  
18          some of the people who will be running to  
19          represent me, but you have to draw the maps and  
20          draw the districts to let me know who they are.  
21          I am looking forward to you making those maps,  
22          to present it to the public to start a  
23          conversation; otherwise, I am afraid we are  
24          just wasting everyone's time.

25          The new rules overwhelmingly approved by

1       the voters last November mean that you can't  
2       make a district to favor any political party.  
3       I am troubled that so many of you opposed,  
4       fought and continue to fight these  
5       voter-approved fair district rules. Please  
6       don't confuse fair districts with minority  
7       districts. Remember, the Florida House's own  
8       special council on redistricting told this  
9       committee on April 28th that the intent of the  
10      Fair District amendments is to enhance minority  
11      protections beyond what is provided in the  
12      Voting Rights Act. In fact, if followed  
13      correctly, the Fair District amendments should  
14      lead to more diversity and more districts being  
15      represented by minorities, not fewer, by  
16      placing significant numbers of minority voters  
17      in more districts throughout the state rather  
18      than the existing super-majorities that exist  
19      in just a few districts.

20           Keep in mind that not only were the Fair  
21      District amendments approved by 63 percent of  
22      Florida's voters, they were also supported by  
23      the state's leading civil and voting rights  
24      groups: The NAACP, ACLU and League of Women  
25      Voters as examples.



1           Why are you spending my money and that of  
2           other Florida taxpayers to undermine my vote  
3           and the vote of the overwhelming majority of  
4           Floridians for a fair reapportionment process  
5           and fairer districts? Maybe it would be better  
6           to stop spending money on lawyers and just draw  
7           fair maps. Thank you very much for hearing me  
8           out.

9           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
10          Ms. Engle.

11          Next up we have Mr. Raymond Chute. After  
12          Mr. Chute, we have Thomas Watson. You are  
13          recognized, sir.

14          MR. CHUTE: Thank you, sir, and I would  
15          like to thank the committee for holding these  
16          hearings so that everyone can have a chance to  
17          voice their opinions.

18          I would like to refer back to this lady  
19          over here that lived on Fleming Island and  
20          spoke about living there 35 years. Well, I  
21          have been living -- she said 37. I have been  
22          living there 35 years. And, unfortunately, I  
23          live on the east side of Pine Avenue, which  
24          runs down Fleming Island, and I am not in the  
25          same congressional district as everyone else

1           who lives on Fleming Island. My daughter lives  
2           on the other side of Pine Avenue, about a  
3           quarter of a mile from me, and she has a  
4           different Congressperson than I do.

5           Now, I can tell by looking at that and  
6           after having read about it for so many years  
7           that many of these districts are gerrymandered  
8           to force a particular result whenever people  
9           are voting. I don't think that gerrymandering  
10          is a fair way of doing things. I think there  
11          -- I agree with the lady about fair districts,  
12          but I don't know that we are all -- when we say  
13          "fair," I didn't know that we all have the same  
14          definition.

15          I would like to see the redistricting maps  
16          drawn so that they use -- make use of natural  
17          boundaries, county line boundaries, city  
18          boundaries, river boundaries, that sort of  
19          thing, in so far as possible. I recognize it  
20          can't happen totally in all cases, but it  
21          should be something that is reasonable and  
22          sensible, not this meandering district running  
23          through Fleming Island.

24          Thank you for your attention.

25          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,

1           sir. We appreciate your comments.

2           Next up we have Thomas Watson, followed by  
3           Sandra Jones. Mr. Watson.

4           MR. WATSON: Thank you very much. I am  
5           another member of Fleming Island, and I live on  
6           that little tiny strip that runs from Duval  
7           County all the way down to Putnam County is in  
8           my case, where I live, about 2,000 feet wide,  
9           and I am completely divorced from all the  
10          things that I do in Clay County. I beg you to  
11          please get rid of that little strip of shame  
12          and give me some representation back. Thank  
13          you.

14          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
15          Mr. Watson, and we always give bonus points to  
16          brevity, sir, so thank you very much.

17          Next up we have Sandra Jones, followed by  
18          Chris Chambless. Ms. Jones?

19          Okay. We like that even better than  
20          brevity, so thank you very much. We appreciate  
21          that, Ms. Jones.

22          We have Mr. Chris Chambless. After  
23          Mr. Chambless, we are going to have James  
24          Minion.

25          You are recognized, sir. Mr. Chambless is

1 with the Clay County Elections Office.

2 MR. CHAMBLESS: Good afternoon,  
3 distinguished members of the committee. I  
4 certainly want to speak to you as the  
5 Supervisor of Elections of Clay County, as well  
6 as the Florida State Association of Supervisors  
7 of Elections, District 5, Board of Directors.  
8 District 5 represents eight counties in  
9 northeast Florida and nearly one million  
10 registered voters.

11 To that point, over 20,000 of those  
12 registered voters are overseas civilian and  
13 military absentee voters who continue to foot  
14 the bill of freedom of this great country.

15 This afternoon I wish to take a -- take  
16 the discussion to a different area of concern  
17 than has been discussed thus far, a discussion  
18 which focuses more on the process, specifically  
19 the time lines, then the districting lines  
20 themselves. I am asking that greater  
21 consideration is given to the time lines of  
22 redistricting, and where possible, that the  
23 process be expedited to allow more time to  
24 adjust precinct lines to the new district  
25 lines.

1           To conduct elections efficiently and  
2 accurately, election officials need time to  
3 adjust precinct lines to the new districts,  
4 gain approval of those districts and precincts  
5 by the Board of County Commissioners, secure  
6 additional polling locations, notify all voters  
7 well in advance of election day.

8           If the Legislature, the Attorney General,  
9 Supreme Court and Justice Department all  
10 complete their work on schedule, elections  
11 administrators will have less than two weeks to  
12 adjust the records of Florida's 11 million  
13 voters before the first absentee ballot must be  
14 mailed. The calendar provided by legislative  
15 staff indicates that final Justice Department  
16 review of the new districts will likely be  
17 completed after candidate qualifying. That has  
18 the potential of confusing candidates and  
19 delaying ballot printing.

20           In addition to that, I wish to discuss the  
21 district lines themselves. Please respect  
22 communities when drawing your district lines.  
23 For the first time, in my opinion, legislative  
24 staff worked with elections office and census  
25 officials to establish the Voting Tabulation

1       Districts, or VTDs, which take into  
2       consideration intact communities, traffic  
3       patterns, physical boundaries. Please adhere  
4       to these lines wherever possible.

5               Currently in Clay County, there are 291  
6       different representation splits, which each  
7       require a different ballot style in a primary  
8       election, 97 in a general election. The best  
9       place to draw a district line is along the  
10      county line. Please divide districts along the  
11      county lines whenever possible.

12             While there is much attention to Florida's  
13      meandering districts, there are many more  
14      examples of small cities that are being  
15      separated into three or four districts, or  
16      gated communities with district lines running  
17      right through them. The best way to avoid this  
18      is by following those established VTD lines.

19             I certainly appreciate your commitment and  
20      your long-standing interest in this process, as  
21      it is very important. Thank you so very much.

22             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
23      Mr. Chambless. We appreciate the input from  
24      the elections office.

25             Next up we have Mr. James Minion from

1 Florida Prospers. After Mr. Minion, we have  
2 Frank Farrell.

3 You are recognized, sir.

4 MR. MINION: Thank you very much, and I  
5 would like to thank the entire committee for  
6 appearing and touring the state in this way,  
7 allow us all our input. But I will just simply  
8 reiterate what many of the previous speakers  
9 have said in that it was a super-majority of  
10 Florida voters who did approve the Fair  
11 District amendments for Congress and for state  
12 Legislators. I would say that is a high  
13 margin, it is a high standard, and I would say  
14 it is tough to get elected with 63 percent,  
15 don't you think?

16 So I think when I hear and I read things  
17 about how the state at a time where Tallahassee  
18 is telling us we cannot fund our schools, that  
19 we are squirreling away millions and millions  
20 of dollars to -- to attack these districts with  
21 lawsuits or defend the maps that are drawn, it  
22 just makes it seem like the process has gotten  
23 off on the wrong foot, that you are kind of  
24 preparing for the worst when you should be  
25 engaged in doing the best.

1           And I would certainly concur with the  
2       previous speaker that -- and some other  
3       speakers that we do need -- as voters, we do  
4       need a significant timeline. We have a  
5       presidential election in the year coming up,  
6       and the folks below that on the ticket have  
7       enough trouble getting in front of their  
8       constituents and their voters than to continue  
9       to -- then to delay that timeline right up to  
10      the -- right up to the horn, right up to the  
11      gun, and it just doesn't allow us to even find  
12      out who can run for the seats. We won't even  
13      know who can run for the seats until you guys  
14      are done. So we would appreciate the most  
15      accelerated timeline you can provide.

16           And I would just also like to mention  
17      something that is interesting, this for the  
18      first time ever in the redistricting process,  
19      we talk about a state that is slightly majority  
20      Democrat, majority Republican in the House and  
21      Senate, but what we have is a plurality now of  
22      the fastest-growing party affiliation, which is  
23      no party affiliation. We now have a couple of  
24      million voters, about 22 percent of our  
25      registered voters in the state are no party



1       affiliation. So I think that is something  
2       important to keep in mind, I think, when you  
3       are -- when you are putting the demographics  
4       together in the districts. And, again, please  
5       accelerate that timeline as fast as you can and  
6       let's try to stay out of court. Thank you very  
7       much.

8               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
9       very much, Mr. Minion.

10              Next we have Frank Farrell, who is  
11       followed by -- I believe it's Arie Rodriguez,  
12       could be Annie Rodriguez, I apologize if I  
13       misstated that.

14              But, Frank, you are up. Thank you, sir.

15              MR. FARRELL: Good afternoon. My name is  
16       Frank Farrell, and I live in Orange Park,  
17       Florida. I have the privilege of serving as  
18       the current Chairman of the Clay County School  
19       Board, as Vice-Chairman of the Northeast  
20       Coalition of School Boards, and on the Board of  
21       Directors of the Clay County Educational  
22       Foundation. In addition to that, I serve on a  
23       number of other community-based boards and  
24       committees. Thank you for the opportunity to  
25       address the redistricting of the Florida

1           legislation.

2           As you know, Clay County is currently  
3           represented in the House by five  
4           representatives, Ms. Adkins and Messrs.  
5           Weinstein, Daniels, Van Zant and Proctor, and  
6           in the Senate by Mr. Wise and Ms. Lynn.

7           Clay County has its own unique  
8           personality, if you will. We are urban and  
9           very rural, spread over 661 square miles. Our  
10          perspective, values, outlook and character are  
11          old Florida, influenced, of course, by new  
12          arrivals, and largely influenced by the number  
13          of military, both active duty and retired. We  
14          are fiercely patriotic and very supportive of  
15          our military. Clay County folks are  
16          conservative, church-going and family-oriented.  
17          You will see these values celebrated at the  
18          Clay County Fair, recently at our Fourth of  
19          July celebrations throughout the county, and  
20          literally in every observance of every holiday  
21          throughout the year.

22          Now, we enjoy our proximity to  
23          Jacksonville and Duval County and everything  
24          that that has to offer by way of recreation,  
25          sports, theater, restaurants, shopping, and, of

1 course, the beaches. We do not have a beach.  
2 The pace is vibrant, sometimes too much so, but  
3 always exciting.

4 As communities, we share many of the same  
5 problems and many of the same challenges.  
6 Others are unique to our own community.

7 There is a risk, and that risk is that  
8 Clay County's issues and concerns and needs  
9 could -- could become sublimated to those of  
10 Duval County.

11 I would hope that Clay County citizens are  
12 an important part and percentage of each and  
13 every newly redrawn district, preserving our  
14 perspective, our values, our outlook. The  
15 voice of Clay County with responsive  
16 representation in Tallahassee is my message and  
17 my request to the Legislature. Thank you very  
18 much.

19 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
20 Mr. Farrell.

21 Next up we have Annie Rodriguez, followed  
22 by Lynn Watson.

23 I would like to take just a brief moment  
24 to let everybody know where we are. We are  
25 looking at 3:05. This is our 21st speaker. We

1       have just about 55 or 56 speakers, so were are  
2       on a very tight time frame. I would ask you to  
3       please try to keep your comments within three  
4       minutes, and just so everyone knows, we will be  
5       back at 6:00, 6:00 to 8:00, so if we do not get  
6       to everyone, it will carry forward to the next  
7       hearing.

8               But with that, Ms. Annie, you are  
9       recognized. Thank you.

10              MS. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. Thank you for  
11       this opportunity. I moved to Jacksonville  
12       about three and a half years ago, so I am  
13       fairly new to the area.

14              When I hear us talk about the minority  
15       community, that word really makes me tense. I  
16       want to say if -- when we refer to the minority  
17       community, I am assuming we are talking about  
18       the people of color. If we were all to come  
19       together, all those people that we keep calling  
20       minority, will we truly be the minority? I  
21       want to put that out there.

22              What I want to say is in the  
23       redistricting, a lot of us are talking about  
24       diversity, and I want to -- for you all to  
25       consider the Latino/Hispanic community when you

1       are looking at the redistricting, especially  
2       with the statistics showing that so many of us  
3       are moving down south.

4               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
5       very much.

6               Okay. We have Lynn Watson. Ms. Watson is  
7       followed by Carolyn Woods from the Atlantic --  
8       who is an Atlantic Beach commissioner.

9               You are recognized, Ms. Watson.

10              MS. WATSON: I -- in the sake of brevity,  
11       I will say just very few things.

12              One, I am a resident of Fleming Island,  
13       the east side. Across the street is a totally  
14       different district.

15              Fleming Island, a sliver of Orange Park,  
16       the sliver of Fleming Island and the portion of  
17       Green Cove Springs, all in Clay County, to  
18       use -- to speak of Ms. Congresswoman Brown's  
19       commonality of interest, it does not exist in  
20       that sliver. We would like to be in Clay  
21       County as one district. Thank you.

22              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.  
23       Carolyn Woods, who is -- I should say  
24       Commissioner Woods is next up, and after  
25       Commissioner Woods, we will have Tamara

1 Pendleton.

2 Commissioner, you are recognized. Thank  
3 you for being here.

4 COMMISSIONER WOODS: Thank you very much.  
5 I want to thank all of you for coming out,  
6 participating in this and allowing all of the  
7 citizens to come and speak.

8 I agree with a lot of what has been said  
9 today, and I just want to add one brief comment  
10 to the subject of Amendments 5 and 6, and that  
11 is basically that I feel it is one thing for  
12 the people to sue the government, but it is  
13 quite another for the government to sue its  
14 people, and I am hoping that all of these  
15 workshops and public gatherings are your good  
16 faith effort to move forward with Amendments 5  
17 and 6. Thank you very much.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

19 Ms. Tamara Pendleton, and after  
20 Ms. Pendleton, we have Benetta Standly with the  
21 ACLU of Northeast Florida.

22 You are recognized.

23 MS. PENDLETON: Hi, Tammy Pendleton with  
24 the Nassau County Supervisor of Elections  
25 Office. Thank you for the opportunity to speak

1           today.

2           On behalf of the Florida State Association  
3           of Supervisors of Elections and the Nassau  
4           County Supervisor of Elections Office, Vicki P.  
5           Cannon, Supervisor of Elections, we would like  
6           to submit the following input for inclusion in  
7           the record: We echo the two important areas  
8           and consideration regarding the redistricting  
9           process, the first one being time. In order to  
10          conduct successful elections in 2012, election  
11          officials do need time to complete the required  
12          tasks. To conduct elections efficiently and  
13          accurately, election officials need time to  
14          adjust the precinct lines to new districts,  
15          gain approval of those precincts by the Board  
16          of County Commissioners and notify voters well  
17          in advance of election day. If the  
18          Legislature, Attorney General, Supreme Court  
19          and Justice Department all complete their work  
20          on schedule, administrators will have less than  
21          two weeks to adjust the records of Florida's  
22          11 million voters before the first absentee  
23          ballots must be mailed. The calendar provided  
24          by legislative staff indicates that final  
25          Justice Department review of new districts will

1       likely be completed after candidate qualifying.  
2       This has the potential, of which you have  
3       heard, that it could be confusing to candidates  
4       and delay ballot printing.

5               As you are aware, there are many  
6       activities that go into preparing for elections  
7       after the redistricting process: Notifying  
8       voters, securing polling locations, voting  
9       equipment programming, typesetting ballots,  
10      preparation and mailing of absentee ballots,  
11      the law requires mailing 45 days prior to the  
12      election to uniform service voters and overseas  
13      voters who have requested absentee ballots, and  
14      training poll workers are just a few. It is  
15      our mission to ensure that the voters are  
16      well-informed and prepared for the voting  
17      process, and that the integrity of the voting  
18      process is protected.

19             The second most important area, district  
20      lines. Please respect communities when you do  
21      draw the district lines. We greatly appreciate  
22      that for this redistricting process,  
23      legislative staff worked with election and  
24      census officials to establish Voting Tabulation  
25      Districts which take into consideration intact



1 communities, traffic patterns and physical  
2 barriers. We respectfully request that you  
3 adhere to these lines whenever possible.  
4 Traffic -- I'm sorry. Much time and thought  
5 was invested so that the best possible product  
6 could be produced to assist in the  
7 redistricting and election processes.

8 While there is much attention to Florida's  
9 meandering districts, there are many more  
10 examples of small cities being separated into  
11 three or four districts, or gated communities  
12 with district lines running right through them.  
13 The best to avoid this is by following the  
14 Voting Tabulation District lines. The best  
15 place to draw the line, a district line, is  
16 along county line. Please divide districts  
17 along county lines whenever possible.

18 Again, thank you for the opportunity to  
19 speak with you today and to provide our input  
20 into the process.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

22 Ms. Standly, thank you very much for being  
23 here with the ACLU of the northeast region.

24 Followed by Ms. Standly, we will have  
25 Vincent Schuppert.

1           MS. STANDLY: Good afternoon. So my name  
2           is Benetta Standly. I am with the ACLU of  
3           Florida. I want to welcome those of you in the  
4           Legislature who are not from Duval County here  
5           to Jacksonville. Glad to have you. So I will  
6           make my remarks very brief. I am going to  
7           touch five quick points.

8           One, we need to protect minority  
9           districts; two, you need to follow the will of  
10          the voters; three, I need to know that this  
11          process is deeply flawed; and also you need to  
12          stop being wasteful of taxpayers' monies, and  
13          you need to show me a map, quite frankly.

14          So as you know, Amendments 5 and 6  
15          actually added minority voting rights  
16          protections into the Florida Constitution. It  
17          had never been there before. So it actually  
18          adds two provisions of the Florida -- the  
19          Federal Voting Rights Act.

20          However, we need information from you as  
21          our elected officials on how many  
22          majority/minority districts exist in Florida.  
23          Where are they located and how will your map  
24          address those? You all have a legal obligation  
25          to make sure that minority voters have the

1       opportunity to elect the persons that they  
2       choose.

3               Secondly, the new rules for drawing  
4       legislative boundaries have been overwhelmingly  
5       approved by the Florida voters. As you know,  
6       nearly 63 percent of Floridians, including  
7       myself, agreed to amend our Florida  
8       Constitution so that no political party would  
9       be favored. We need you, the Florida  
10      Legislature, to follow these rules. We elected  
11      you. You have to follow the rules we set  
12      forward.

13             Quite frankly, I am disappointed that many  
14      in our state Legislature are not trying to  
15      follow the rules. You are simply opposing them  
16      and you are fighting them.

17             Three, the political party in charge,  
18      quite frankly, who will be drawing the maps, is  
19      probably likely to draw lines that favor  
20      themselves. That is absolutely not okay. The  
21      entire purpose of Amendments 5 and 6 was that  
22      voters choose the politicians, not the other  
23      way around. This is not -- this is supposed to  
24      be a fair and nonpartisan process. We do not  
25      want fake public hearings. We do not want

1       shady back-room deals. We want a fair process.

2               Four, please stop wasting my taxpayer  
3       dollars. Stop wasting our dollars and stop  
4       undermining our vote and our voice, and just  
5       draw the maps. It is just that simple, draw  
6       good maps, draw fair maps, and perhaps the  
7       lawsuits will cease.

8               Finally, my last point is, with all due  
9       respect, where are the maps? This is not a  
10      real conversation. You bring us here, you  
11      invite public comment and you give us nothing  
12      to comment on. You have had this data from the  
13      census for many months. You need to bring  
14      something forward and stop wasting time. There  
15      are people who are going to run for office.  
16      They don't even know what district they are in.  
17      They can't even campaign. We need to speed  
18      this process up.

19              So, again, this isn't a conversation, and  
20      quite frankly, I see it as this traveling tour  
21      around the state on my taxpayer dime.

22              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
23      Ms. Standly, for your comments, and a lot of  
24      the questions that were brought forth I believe  
25      Senator Gaetz is going to address at the end of

1 the hearing if they are not addressed before  
2 that. So thank you very much for your  
3 comments, and next up we have Mr. Schuppert,  
4 retired from the United States Navy. Sir,  
5 thank you for your service and thank you for  
6 being here today.

7 MR. SCHUPPERT: Proud to be here. I am an  
8 Orange Park resident of 29 years. I live along  
9 the river with a one block neck of Congress,  
10 U.S. Congress District 3, which was  
11 gerrymandered to connect Jacksonville all the  
12 way to Gainesville and Ocala. Unfortunately, I  
13 now feel unrepresented. And if you reflect  
14 just a little bit, my Congresswoman addressed  
15 all of us a little bit earlier, very proud of  
16 speaking about her representation of the  
17 minority. Unfortunately, she never talked  
18 about representing me. And so, therefore, I  
19 feel, quite frankly, unrepresented, and that is  
20 too bad.

21 The gerrymandered district has absolutely  
22 no logical boundaries, and I am talking  
23 Congressional District 3. We are symmetry in  
24 its creation.

25 I have this suggestion for you in creating

1 the map, and that is we've got some fine  
2 Florida universities, hand the project to them  
3 and let them design and lay out the map. Thank  
4 you.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
6 Mr. Schuppert. We appreciate your comments and  
7 your ideas.

8 Next up we have Dee Lansford, I believe.  
9 Ms. Dee, thank you very much, and followed by  
10 Ms. Lansford will be Marge Hutton.

11 MS. LANSFORD: Thank you so very much for  
12 coming and seeing us, giving us your ideas and  
13 allowing us to give you ours.

14 I am from Orange Park, I live there and  
15 have since 1964. We are a unique, and I am  
16 sure all of us for every county, our counties  
17 are unique. They belong to us, and that is the  
18 way we look at them.

19 We have been growing and we are looking  
20 forward to where we don't have to borrow  
21 representation from one of our neighboring  
22 counties. But the last -- we gave you -- you  
23 are borrowing our Lieutenant Governor, Jennifer  
24 Carroll, and I've got a wonderful replacement  
25 for him, so I can't really fuss at you about

1       that, but, anyway, it is just, you know, we  
2       want to be our own people, we want to be our  
3       own selves. I think we are strong enough to do  
4       that, and I think our neighbors will help us as  
5       we help them. And a lot of times people will  
6       say, "Hey, I was elected because of Clay  
7       County," so -- and a lot of you, I recognize  
8       your face right now.

9               Remember us when you put your maps  
10       together. Let us know, and let us know more  
11       what we can do for you as well. We put you  
12       there, but we need to keep giving you our input  
13       so you will know what we want you to do. Thank  
14       you very much.

15              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
16       Ms. Dee.

17              Next up we have Ms. Marge Hutton. After  
18       Ms. Hutton, we have John Libby. Thank you for  
19       being here.

20              MS. HUTTON: Hello, my name is Marge  
21       Hutton, and I am a resident of Clay County and  
22       Orange Park since 1975. My husband served 26  
23       years with the United States Navy. I currently  
24       sit as Town Councilwoman for the Town of Orange  
25       Park, and I am also Chairman of the Clay County

1 Chamber of Commerce. So I bring a lot of  
2 diverse reflections from Clay County.

3 I come today before you to say that we  
4 have -- we request in your consideration to  
5 consider Clay County with one voice, one  
6 representation. We are a strong community. We  
7 would ask that we have that reflection.

8 The next thing I would ask is please  
9 didn't divide our community. We already heard  
10 several people tell you how it has been divided  
11 and has been for many years.

12 And then again, to echo the sooner rather  
13 than later, not only for the consideration of  
14 the people that are trying to run, but so that  
15 the ballots get out in a timely manner, and  
16 most importantly, so they get over to our  
17 military that are asking for absentee ballots  
18 so those votes can be counted, which are most  
19 important.

20 And I thank you very much. I hope God  
21 inspires you for the best opportunities and  
22 decisions for the State of Florida. Thank you.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.  
24 Thank you, thank you.

25 Next up we have Mr. Libby. Followed by



1 John Libby, we have Darryl Register.

2 MR. LIBBY: This is a plan that I  
3 submitted on Friday to the Florida House. It  
4 is 27 congressional districts. The deviation  
5 in population from the largest district to the  
6 smallest district is three people. There are  
7 11 districts that are ideal population. None  
8 of the districts are under the ideal  
9 population. Using the Fair Districts  
10 principles that the voters of the State of  
11 Florida approved last year, this is one  
12 configuration of how our congressional  
13 districts could look after redistricting.

14 Starting first at the county level, then  
15 moving to the Voting Tabulation District level,  
16 and only where necessary to the block level, I  
17 redistricted, keeping counties intact, not  
18 splitting consolidated communities, and  
19 generally trying to find the little bits and  
20 pieces of population that we -- were needed in  
21 rural areas where you can go for miles and only  
22 pick up one or two individuals.

23 So, as I said, these districts are exactly  
24 equal in population, and I would like to focus  
25 the attention on the two northeast Florida

1 districts. If you take Nassau County, Clay  
2 County, St. Johns County, Putnam County and  
3 Duval County, you have almost ideal population  
4 for two districts. You need to remove about 20  
5 people from someplace along the lines to come  
6 up with different districts, or with two ideal  
7 districts. In any case, the two districts on  
8 this map are Districts 4 and 5 for northeast  
9 Florida.

10 Now, I will say this about the plan. It  
11 is regressive. District -- what is currently  
12 District 3 under this configuration, which only  
13 encompasses three counties, two of which are  
14 intact completely, is roughly 31 percent  
15 African-American voting age population. But as  
16 we have heard from the various speakers today,  
17 this is really where we face the metal meets  
18 the road here in Florida, where under the '65  
19 Voting Rights Act we need to have minority  
20 access, and that needs to be defined by this  
21 committee and both houses in Tallahassee.

22 Secondly, the Department of Justice has  
23 pre-cleared our two constitutional amendments,  
24 but there is still -- Florida still has to have  
25 a review when our congressional plans were put

1 in, but I felt that at least people should have  
2 an opportunity here in north Florida today to  
3 see what a potential Fair Districts type of  
4 plan would look like in regards to the  
5 congressional districts. And like I said, the  
6 deviation among the 27 districts is only three  
7 people, so I think it meets all constitutional  
8 criteria currently in effect under the Florida  
9 Constitution, but it does run into the issue of  
10 the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and whether  
11 minority representation requires a  
12 majority/minority population within a district.  
13 Thank you very much.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
15 Mr. Libby. Mr. Libby, I would just like to  
16 point out -- I want to thank you again for  
17 taking the time, not only to be here today, but  
18 for the effort you put into producing these  
19 maps. It is a perfect example of redistricting  
20 in the 21st century. Before we were not able  
21 to get input from the public like this, because  
22 the technology did not exist, but today we can.  
23 And, Mr. Libby, that is a gold standard in  
24 regards to working with us and giving us input  
25 and giving us options and giving us your

1       opinion, not only in the form of the spoken  
2       word, but on paper as a map, and I just want to  
3       thank you again for taking the time to do that.  
4       I know that took a lot of effort.

5               Next up we have got Mr. Darryl Register.  
6       Following Mr. Register is Eric Haeseler. I  
7       hope I didn't say that wrong, but that is the  
8       way I read it, Eric Haeseler.

9               So, Mr. Register, you are up, sir. Thank  
10      you.

11              MR. REGISTER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
12      am a third-generation dairy farmer from Baker  
13      County. I am also the Executive Director of  
14      the Baker County Chamber of Commerce and the  
15      Economic Development Commission.

16              I come before you today thanking you for  
17      taking the time to come here to northeast  
18      Florida, and I ask, as you draw the district  
19      lines for the three distinguished governing  
20      bodies that you are responsible for, that you  
21      keep Baker County whole. We ask that we remain  
22      as a single member of representation in the  
23      three districts, and we ask, when possible, to  
24      be grouped with counties of like demographics  
25      with the small rural Baker County. Thank you

1           for your time.

2           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:   Thank you.

3           Great, thank you, Mr. -- Mr. Haeseler, did  
4           I say that right?   Okay, Mr. Haeseler, thank  
5           you, you get bonus points today as well.

6           After Mr. Haeseler, we have Mike Griffis.  
7           Mr. Griffis?   Somebody told me Mike left.   Oh,  
8           he is here, he is here.   Come on down, you are  
9           the next contestant on the Price is Right.

10          MR. GRIFFIS:   That is what I have been  
11          waiting for.

12          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:   And after Mr.  
13          Griffis, we have Jimmy Anderson.

14          So, Mr. Griffis, thank you for being here,  
15          sir, you are recognized.

16          MR. GRIFFIS:   Thank you very much.   And  
17          first I want to thank you guys, thank you,  
18          Florida Legislature, for coming out and taking  
19          this tour across the state of Florida,  
20          listening to the people that you represent.  
21          Thank you very much.

22          And really, I am Mike Griffis again, a  
23          resident of Baker County, and right now Baker  
24          County is represented by Congressman Ander  
25          Crenshaw, Representative Janet Adkins and

1       Senator Charlie Dean. And if we had our way,  
2       we would like to leave things just like they  
3       are, but if Baker County has to be  
4       redistricted, as Darryl Register has already  
5       said, we want to be a whole county, we want to  
6       be represented by one representative from each  
7       branch.

8               With a county like Baker County, which has  
9       limited resources, when an issue, whether it is  
10      a federal issue or a state issue, comes up, it  
11      is certainly easier for us to talk to one  
12      person than it is to try to talk multiple  
13      people. So we would ask for that, along with  
14      being grouped, as Darryl said, with counties of  
15      like interest. I think someone said earlier  
16      that Clay County is like a rural county. Well,  
17      Baker County folks go to Clay County for  
18      entertainment. So just keep us with counties  
19      like us. Thank you.

20             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
21      Mr. Griffis.

22             We've got next up Jimmy Anderson.

23      Mr. Anderson, sir, thank you for being here.

24             Following Mr. Anderson is Wilbert River  
25      Torres. You are recognized, sir.

1           MR. ANDERSON: I want to thank you for the  
2           opportunity to speak here. I am Jimmy  
3           Anderson. I am the Commissioner of Baker  
4           County. And I just want to thank you for the  
5           opportunity, and I echo basically what the  
6           people before me said about Baker County. I do  
7           think that we are God's country, but actually,  
8           I think that the United States is God's  
9           country, and I think -- I also wanted to say  
10          that I like the single representation on all  
11          three districts. I mean, it is just -- it's  
12          the way to go. And I think that if we are  
13          going to draw our lines, boundary lines, they  
14          need to stay along your county lines as much as  
15          possible.

16          Also, I need -- we need to get this  
17          process done as quick as we can so, you know,  
18          that the members can get out there and they can  
19          try to drum up some support. And also I would  
20          like for it to hurry up because I don't know if  
21          y'all know, which I am sure you do, that when  
22          y'all draw these lines, it is going to affect  
23          each polling location. If Baker County gets  
24          split, that means that Baker County  
25          Commissioners are going to have to come up with

1       some more money to give to the Supervisor of  
2       Elections to send out all the paperwork and  
3       everything showing that their districts has  
4       changed, and I would think and hope that y'all  
5       would take that into consideration when you  
6       split these small counties, that that is going  
7       to be a cost that the small counties are going  
8       to have to absorb if you split them. So that  
9       is one thing.

10           And another thing, I want to say on a  
11       personal note that it is sad for me to say that  
12       we are here in 2011 and we still are talking  
13       and speaking about the race card. My lord and  
14       savior don't see color, and I don't think we  
15       should neither.

16           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
17       Mr. Anderson.

18           Next up, Wilbert River Torres, followed by  
19       Nita Crawford.

20           Mr. Torres, you are recognized, sir.

21           MR. TORRES: I am speaking on behalf of  
22       the Hispanic community. A lot of people tend  
23       to -- tend to disregard it, especially in  
24       northeast Florida. Too many times like people  
25       aren't realizing that the population is



1 increasing up here. There's a lack of  
2 Spanish-speaking voters. So if you could  
3 please speed up the process so that way we can  
4 get adequate translators at these locations.  
5 Thank you.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
7 sir.

8 Ms. Nita Crawford is next, and following  
9 Ms. Nita is C. J. Thompson.

10 MS. CRAWFORD: Good afternoon. I  
11 represent Baker County as Supervisor of  
12 Elections, and I would like to concur, first of  
13 all, on what Chris, Supervisor of Elections of  
14 Clay County, and Tammy, Assistant Supervisor of  
15 Nassau County, had to say about the election  
16 laws and how -- I know you've got a big job  
17 ahead of you, but if there is anyway that you  
18 can get your job completed in time to give us,  
19 all of the Supervisors of Elections in Florida,  
20 significant time to do our job, we would  
21 appreciate it.

22 And also, I also concur with the other  
23 members here representing Baker County that if  
24 we could be left one district, then that way I  
25 would not have to go back to Jim Anderson, our

1 county commissioner, and ask for more funds. I  
2 would appreciate that.

3 And I would like to thank you again for  
4 coming out and letting everyone give their say,  
5 and you being patient and listening to  
6 everyone. Thank you so much.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
8 Ms. Crawford, and thank you for your public  
9 service to Baker County and the State of  
10 Florida.

11 We have C. J. Thompson up next, and  
12 following C. J., we have Mr. Larry Dixon.

13 Mr. Thompson, thank you for being here  
14 today.

15 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
16 will keep it brief.

17 Like my fellow Baker County citizens, we  
18 would -- obviously first we would like to keep  
19 our current representation, if at all possible;  
20 however, if changes are necessary, we ask that  
21 we maintain our single representation and be  
22 grouped with similar small, rural counties.  
23 Thank you again for your time.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
25 very much.

1           Mr. Larry Dixon is next, and then after  
2           Mr. Dixon -- I am probably going to butcher  
3           this name, but it is Doug Conkey, I believe. I  
4           hope I have said that right. I got a thumbs  
5           up, I said it right.

6           Mr. Dixon, you are first. Thank you for  
7           being here, sir. You are recognized.

8           MR. DIXON: Thank you. I just want to say  
9           that obvious in this process and all of the  
10          difference of opinions, we are going to end up  
11          with a bride and a bridesmaid, but hopefully,  
12          you know, we can find some common ground in  
13          this entire process. I think -- I am going to  
14          be very brief. I have just three things I  
15          think should be taken into consideration.

16          First, I want to thank you for the  
17          transparency of this process. I think it is  
18          important for everybody to be able to come  
19          together and give their opinions in terms of  
20          how the redistricting should take place.

21          I also think that it is important that you  
22          do take time to get it as right as possible.  
23          Obviously, it is a thing that everybody have an  
24          opinion, different opinions, but I think it is  
25          important that enough time is given to the

1 process that you can do it in the most  
2 expedited time, but yet in fairness also to the  
3 process.

4 And then lastly, I think one of the common  
5 threads we hear individuals speaking of is  
6 community. People want to stay connected in  
7 terms of how you go about the redistricting  
8 process. I think most people will find that  
9 when you look east to west to your neighbors,  
10 you develop a greater bond than sometimes going  
11 too further north to south.

12 I think that you are doing an excellent  
13 job of taking time to listen to the people  
14 before you start drawing. I think that it is  
15 going to impact the way you draw because you  
16 took the time to listen to the people. So I  
17 just want to thank you again for allowing me to  
18 share my thoughts and continue to make the  
19 process transparent in whatever way necessary.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
21 sir.

22 Next speaker is Mr. Doug Conkey, and then  
23 following Mr. Conkey we have Jay McGovern.

24 COMMISSIONER CONKEY: Thank you for  
25 allowing me to be here, and to the gentleman

1       who offered the universities to help, I will  
2       offer up the naval academy to help in that  
3       service.

4               I want to thank you for your service and  
5       for taking the time to reach out to the public  
6       and provide opportunities for verbal feedback  
7       and electronic feedback, as we have seen. Your  
8       task is daunting, to say the least, given your  
9       mandate to follow federal law, state law, and  
10      traditional principles.

11             In northeast Florida, as with our state,  
12      there has been much growth over the last  
13      decade, especially in the outlying counties  
14      surrounding Duval, such as Clay County. Such  
15      exercises, like the First Coast Reality Check,  
16      reveal the desire to have multiple growth  
17      centers or job centers, so to speak. In this  
18      growth, you have transitions of urban to  
19      suburban to rural. With budding economic  
20      engines such as Jax Port and the Cecil Airport  
21      and their connections to other growth centers,  
22      are they better represented by one or two  
23      champions or several that may have to learn  
24      multiple interests due to population and other  
25      directives impacting their district size?

1           You can build areas of expertise such as  
2       rural experts, suburban experts and urban  
3       experts, along with economic engine experts.  
4       This will help compact some areas, while other  
5       areas may grow, such as a rural area. That  
6       person becomes the rural area champion.

7           This has worked well in Clay County, for  
8       the most part. In Clay, we are represented by  
9       seven representatives -- seven Legislators, two  
10      Senators and five Representatives, and they are  
11      all wonderful. Would we be better served with  
12      just two or three to become our experts or  
13      champions while trying to operate within the  
14      checklist constraints of the federal law,  
15      Florida Tier I and II law, and traditional  
16      principles? Not sure, but it would be worth a  
17      look from the input that we are getting today,  
18      and also from the taking into account the  
19      possible inter-jurisdictional impacts you have  
20      in other counties or possible growth centers.

21           I will say our current legislators have  
22      been wonderful and professional, and I truly am  
23      thankful for their service and dedication to  
24      the citizens of Clay County and the State of  
25      Florida. I want to thank you again for your

1 service and this opportunity to speak, and,  
2 again, I want to thank all veterans and those  
3 who currently serve who protect our freedoms to  
4 allow us and do and exercise these rights, so  
5 thank you again.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
7 Commissioner. Thank you, and thank you for  
8 your public service to the State of Florida.

9 Mr. Jay McGovern is next, and after  
10 Mr. McGovern, we've got Clifford Johnson.

11 You are recognized, sir.

12 MR. McGOVERN: Thank you very much.  
13 Thanks for coming.

14 I would like to point out that this  
15 listening tour is the minimum required by law,  
16 and of our leaders, of which most of us count  
17 you, we expect more. We expect you to do more  
18 than the minimum. As Doug was talking about,  
19 we have men and women serving all over the  
20 world who today are not doing the minimum that  
21 was asked of them, they are doing so much more  
22 than that, and we expect you to do the same  
23 thing.

24 My second point is to stop fighting us  
25 with our own money. We overwhelmingly approved

1       Amendments 5 and 6. We want you to follow  
2       them.

3           Third point is you have talked about there  
4       is no gag order, but your prompt end to this  
5       hearing is in effect a gag order. Your not  
6       showing us map is effectively a gag order. So  
7       we really need you to do your jobs. We are  
8       paying you for that.

9           And my fourth and last point is the  
10       committee, by not speaking, is suggesting that  
11       this whole issue is about black versus white,  
12       and it is not. We don't see it that way. What  
13       we see, the 800-pound gorilla in the room is  
14       that it is about power and it is about  
15       incumbents clinging to theirs.

16          The districts can be drawn, the districts  
17       can be drawn responsibly, taking into account  
18       the Voters Rights Act, but they just may not be  
19       drawn so overwhelmingly for re-electing the  
20       incumbents. So we really need you to get on  
21       with drawing fair districts in accordance with  
22       our Constitution, as amended. Thank you.

23           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
24       Mr. Johnson.

25          Next up we have Robert Henning with the



1 National Association of Letter Carriers,  
2 followed by Joan Carver with the League of  
3 Women Voters.

4 Mr. Henning, you are recognized, sir.

5 MR. HENNING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 A couple things that -- the Legislature  
7 plans to pass district maps at the end of 2012  
8 session. According to this timeline, new  
9 district maps will not be finalized and  
10 approved before qualifying for the 2012  
11 elections closes, which closes on June 8th, and  
12 they may not be finalized until August. This  
13 means that the voters will be voting for  
14 candidates they have little opportunity to get  
15 to know.

16 One of the -- I represent 1,100 letter  
17 carriers in northeast Florida. Every one of  
18 those congressional districts over there, I  
19 have letter carriers in that we have to visit  
20 on issues. I can't speak on the redistricting  
21 or maps without the maps. That is what the  
22 voters asked for. We want to see the maps  
23 before we can informatively talk on it. Thank  
24 you.

25 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,

1           sir.

2                   Next up we have Ms. Joan Carver with the  
3           League of Women Voters, and then after  
4           Ms. Carver is Alberta Espie.

5                   You are recognized.

6                   MS. CARVER:   Mr. Chairman and members of  
7           the committee, I am here to urge you to draw  
8           the new Florida House and Senate districts and  
9           the congressional districts without  
10          consideration of protection of incumbents and  
11          for partisan advantage.   I might note that most  
12          of our peer democracies that use single member  
13          districts select their legislators through a  
14          neutral commissioner.

15                  Gerrymandered districts have long been one  
16          of the things Americans like least about their  
17          government.   They have good reason for this  
18          dislike.   For elections and the resulting  
19          governing bodies to have legitimacy, elections  
20          should be fair.   If elections are to have  
21          legitimacy, they should reflect the divisions  
22          within the state.

23                  A review of recent election results in  
24          Florida indicates that this is not the case  
25          currently.   In recent statewide elections, the

1 parties' candidates have divided fairly evenly.  
2 In the last three presidential elections, for  
3 example, Gore and Bush had virtually the same  
4 number of votes, Kerry and Bush were just five  
5 percentage points apart, while Obama received  
6 50.9 percent of the vote. In the recent  
7 gubernatorial election, the difference between  
8 Alex Sink and Governor Scott was one percent of  
9 the vote, 48.7 percent to 47.7 percent. Yet  
10 the Florida House and Senate have veto-proof  
11 Republican majorities, 28 of the Senate seats  
12 -- of the 40 Senate seats, and 81 of the 120  
13 House seats. We find a similar situation in  
14 the congressional delegation with 19 of 25  
15 seats being held by Republicans. The  
16 difference between statewide votes and those by  
17 districts suggest Florida is among the least  
18 fairly apportioned states currently.

19 Elections have consequences, and  
20 gerrymandered districts, beyond casting doubt  
21 on the fairness of the process, can lead to  
22 several electoral and policy results. Such  
23 districts squelch the development of a healthy  
24 opposition, important to real democracy. Who  
25 wants to run in an election in which you know

1           you have little chance of winning?

2                   It also can lead to Legislators who do not  
3           engage in that key component of politics:  
4           Negotiation and compromise. If you do not have  
5           to take account of the opposition in the  
6           district election, you don't have to take  
7           account of them in policy terms. In fact, it  
8           may be a disadvantage to do so, because this  
9           could anger your key supporters. Result: The  
10          kind of stalemate found today in Minnesota.  
11          If, however, you have a veto-proof majority, as  
12          is the case in Florida today, policies may be  
13          enacted that are more extreme than most of the  
14          state desires.

15                 Thus, for fundamental fairness and to  
16          follow the mandate of the electorate in  
17          Amendments 5 and 6, I urge you to make Florida  
18          a model of fair reapportionment by drawing the  
19          lines for state and legislative and  
20          congressional districts without favoring  
21          incumbents or political parties. Thank you  
22          very much.

23                 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
24          very much.

25                 Alberta Espie is next with the League of

1 Women Voters, and following Ms. Espie is Hanson  
2 Gabriel.

3 You are recognized.

4 MS. ESPIE: I want to say thank you to the  
5 Senate that made District Builder available. I  
6 signed up and I already got an answer that I  
7 can play with maps, too. That will be fun.

8 I am a minority. I might -- no, I am not  
9 a minority, I am the majority. However, the  
10 voter registration in the state of Florida is  
11 46 percent Democrat, twenty -- 39 something  
12 Republican, and growing, growing, the non-party  
13 participation is 21 something percent. But our  
14 state Legislature is -- got majorities for the  
15 Republican party that are veto-proof. They can  
16 do anything they want. And so I am a minority  
17 because I am a Democrat and I have no -- the  
18 Democrats that represent me have no chance to  
19 do anything with the Governor. Nothing the  
20 Governor wants -- anything the Governor wants  
21 is passed, and I have very little voice. So we  
22 do need fair districts.

23 One other point: We talked about --  
24 several people mentioned all the states that  
25 have already done it. Florida is hamstrung by

1       the fact that Florida's Constitution says that  
2       you can't do it until the second year after,  
3       you can't do it until next year.  However, as  
4       the President of the League of Women Voters  
5       pointed out, you can do it in 2011 and act at  
6       the very beginning of 2011, and that I beg of  
7       you to do because -- well, so many people have  
8       said it is so unfair, unfair to the military  
9       and others who live abroad, just unfair to any  
10      candidate.  My party has not run in elections  
11      because they -- in many districts because they  
12      know that it is a Republican district, period.  
13      I don't want it all to be Democrat, but I want  
14      it all it be fair.  Thanks.

15                REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:  Thank you.

16                Next up we have Mr. Hanson Gabriel with  
17      the Sierra Club of Northeast Florida, followed  
18      by Rod Morrill with the Concerned Taxpayers of  
19      Duval County.

20                You are recognized, sir.

21                MR. GABRIEL:  Thank you very much.  I have  
22      been most active with the Sierra Club on the  
23      Legislative Advisory Committee, which is the  
24      statewide group that works with our lobbyist,  
25      Dave Cullen, at the Florida Legislature.  We

1       worked hard last year, along with several other  
2       groups that we cooperated with, including the  
3       League of Women Voters, to see that the issues  
4       of our concern were paid attention to in the  
5       Legislature, and I must say the outcomes were  
6       terribly, terribly disappointing and a major  
7       setback.

8               Now, I am -- all my life have been more of  
9       a good government person than an  
10      environmentalist, although I have been an  
11      environmentalist all my life as well. I am  
12      convinced through experience that you cannot  
13      separate good government from good development  
14      policy and good environmental policy, and that  
15      is why I favor and worked for Amendments 5 and  
16      6, and I am hoping that you will step up to  
17      your responsibility and follow both the letter  
18      and the spirit of the state law and these  
19      amendments in the process of redistricting.  
20      Thank you very much.

21              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
22      sir.

23              Next up we have Rod Morrill with the  
24      Concerned Taxpayers of Duval County. After  
25      Mr. Morrill, we have Deborah Courtney.

1           Thank you for being here, sir.

2           MR. MORRILL:   Good afternoon, and I  
3           prepared for this, and like so often when I go  
4           before government bodies, I wind up rewriting  
5           everything I am going to say by the people that  
6           precede me, and this certainly is one of those  
7           cases.   So many times I have heard today, "This  
8           beach is God's country."   No, this country is  
9           God's country, and I am going to tell you  
10          something else, this country is my country, the  
11          taxpayers' country, and that is who owns this  
12          country.   And the -- soon as the politicians  
13          find out that they are the employee and not the  
14          employer, we will get along a lot better.

15          The next thing, we talked about diversity  
16          and the voting rights and so forth.   I would  
17          like to welcome you to someone that maybe you  
18          can use as an example.   Jacksonville and Duval  
19          County is an extremely diverse location.   We  
20          have urban, rural, suburban, and racial  
21          diversity like you won't find in too many other  
22          places, and yet look at our elected officials,  
23          look at the people that are in the community  
24          and see how exactly diversely we are  
25          represented here in Duval County.   And you know



1       what, we didn't have to zig and zag and change  
2       any boundaries to accomplish that. We just had  
3       to involve the voters and get out in front of  
4       the voters and win their respect. Then  
5       equality works.

6               The other thing I would like to remind  
7       you, that the Superintendent of Elections have  
8       been repeatedly here, and they know how to set  
9       up the districts. That is what they do.  
10       Listen to them, listen to the boundaries, the  
11       geographic boundaries, the voting boundaries.  
12       They have been doing this, they have been  
13       shuffling this for years. They know how. How  
14       many months have you spent doing that? Listen  
15       to them, follow those boundaries. They take  
16       into consideration the groups, the people, the  
17       geography, the importance of how you are  
18       drawing the lines. When you decide that you  
19       know better how to do something than the people  
20       that do it, you've got your shoes on backwards.

21              Again -- again, this is my country. We  
22       are the people. We develop and govern the  
23       government, and for the government to sue the  
24       citizens is one step away from democracy and a  
25       Republican.

1           You had John Libby here that took the time  
2           to develop the districts. You had someone say,  
3           what about the universities, why aren't you  
4           putting task force out to start volunteering  
5           these maps and publicizing the maps that you  
6           receive? You have the websites, I have been on  
7           those, the district programs. You needed to do  
8           a little better PR on those availabilities, and  
9           you need to have meetings like this more often  
10          than every ten years. Maybe you should come  
11          and listen to us just a little more often than  
12          once every ten years. That would help you do  
13          your job. Thank you.

14                 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
15          very much, sir.

16                 Next up we have Deborah Courtney and Kevin  
17          Hanley, I believe. I may be saying that  
18          incorrectly, but Ms. Courtney, nonetheless,  
19          thank you so much for being here. You are  
20          recognized to speak.

21                 MS. COURTNEY: Thank you, and good  
22          afternoon, and I am a resident of Jacksonville  
23          Beach. And ten years ago I stood before a  
24          panel of Legislators at the last public hearing  
25          on redistricting, and at that time, I asked the

1 leader of that panel, Stan Jordan, to make sure  
2 that the Legislature ends gerrymandering and  
3 draws the districts fairly, and he assured me  
4 that the Legislature would do just that.

5 Well, this is an example of what I got for  
6 my efforts. This is my Congressional District  
7 4, which essentially stretches from  
8 Jacksonville to Tallahassee. It spans  
9 180 miles. And I would like to know what  
10 Jacksonville and Tallahassee have in common.  
11 So it makes a lot more sense to me to keep the  
12 districts community based, and I really hope  
13 that this time that this Legislature will do a  
14 better job than they did last time.

15 And so here I am again asking the same  
16 question, asking for you to please end the  
17 gerrymandering and to draw the districts  
18 fairly. But I do have to admit that I am a  
19 little confused, because on the one hand, you  
20 are doing such wonderful things, like you are  
21 having these public hearings and you have the  
22 software that I saw out in the hallway and you  
23 are allowing citizens to submit their own  
24 drawings, and that is all wonderful. And then  
25 on the other hand, this same Legislature is a

1 party to the lawsuit against Amendments 5 and  
2 6, which require the fair districting. So it  
3 really makes me wonder about your commitment to  
4 actually drawing the districts fairly. And I  
5 would urge you to drop this lawsuit and listen  
6 to the will of the voters and draw the  
7 districts fairly like 63 percent of the people  
8 of Florida do -- I mean want you to do.

9 So thank you so much for your time, and  
10 just please know that the citizens of Florida  
11 will be watching you.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

13 I apologize on this last name, but I  
14 believe it is Kevin Hanley. Kevin, St.  
15 Martin's Drive. I think we found him. After  
16 Kevin, we've got Jacqui Lowe, okay. Jacqui,  
17 you are recognized, and we will try to find  
18 Kevin.

19 After Jacqui, we have Jeff Burgess, who is  
20 a concerned citizen.

21 Jacqui, you are recognized. Thank you  
22 very much.

23 MS. LOWE: Thank you. My name is Jacqui  
24 Lowe, and I am a resident of Duval County. I  
25 have been a resident for about 14 years. Thank

1       you so much for giving us the opportunity to  
2       have our voices heard today. We appreciate all  
3       of the open and honesty that you have allowed  
4       us into giving us a little bit of insight into  
5       what goes into drawing these maps. I  
6       understand and appreciate the arduous task that  
7       you have in front of you.

8               That being said, it feels like we are  
9       putting the cart before the horse without  
10      having an opportunity to see anything. I ask  
11      that since Amendments 5 and 6 passed with over  
12      63 percent of the vote, and is now law and  
13      embedded into our Constitution, that we move  
14      forward in a continued open and transparent  
15      fashion, and that the maps are drawn in a  
16      timely manner so that constituents and the  
17      people that we are going to elect know who they  
18      are running for and what they are supporting.  
19      Thank you.

20             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.  
21      Ladies and gentlemen, we have got about six or  
22      seven minutes left. We are going to go right  
23      up until four o'clock, and instead of allowing  
24      members of the committee and Senator Gaetz and  
25      others to address some of the issues, what we

1       are going to do is try to get through as much  
2       public testimony as we can. There will  
3       probably be 10 or 15 cards that we will not get  
4       to that we will come back to at six o'clock, we  
5       will hear from them and then we will also have  
6       time, hopefully, for members of the committee  
7       and my co-Chairman, Senator Gaetz.

8               So with that, Mr. Burgess, you are up  
9       next. Following Mr. Burgess is Leslie Giller.  
10       Jeff Burgess.

11              No, ma'am, not right now. We have six  
12       minutes left, and we are going to try to hear  
13       -- I -- ma'am, yes, we will try to do that, we  
14       will try to do that, but first we are going to  
15       hear from Mr. Burgess if he is here.  
16       Mr. Burgess, are you here, sir? Okay,  
17       Mr. Burgess is not here.

18              Leslie Giller. Ms. Giller, you are  
19       recognized to speak. Thank you for being here.

20              MS. GILLER: Thank you. My name is Leslie  
21       Giller, and I would like to address what was  
22       said in the introduction, which made it sound  
23       like to the public that you all weren't allowed  
24       to have published the maps or the projected  
25       maps until after the first of the year, and

1       that is incorrect. You could have had the maps  
2       earlier, and these meetings, frankly, should  
3       have been held earlier so that you could have  
4       had public input, and we should be looking at  
5       the maps now. And then you need to have  
6       commentary about what we think about the maps.  
7       So I object to how it was presented when we  
8       started out where it was said that our  
9       Constitution prevents you from being able to  
10      have the maps at this point in time. That is  
11      simply incorrect.

12           I wanted to also say that I am a white  
13      woman who is in support of the Voting Rights  
14      Act and is in support of the law, and that is  
15      Amendments 5 and 6, which it stands now. And I  
16      also do not appreciate that my government is  
17      suing me for a law that has passed, and, you  
18      know, when I don't like a law that is passed, I  
19      obey it, but I might also try to work to do  
20      something to have the law changed. That is  
21      your all's business the next time you meet in  
22      the Legislature. If you want to try to amend  
23      the Constitution out of what we've passed as  
24      citizenry, then that is your prerogative, but  
25      you don't have the right to try to change the

1 law and use my money to sue me to get the law  
2 changed.

3 The other thing in supporting diversity,  
4 because diversity is a strength, and I don't  
5 think you will ever find somebody that will say  
6 that diversity is not a strength, and we have  
7 diversity in our state, whether it is race,  
8 whether it is sex, whether it is age, whatever  
9 or not you want to say, whether it is religion,  
10 we can name off all the projected classes, but  
11 if the districts are drawn properly and the law  
12 is followed, then the state Legislature will  
13 reflect the diversity of our state. And in the  
14 same percentage of existence, the same  
15 percentage of diversity that is in Florida will  
16 also be in the Legislature. Then you know you  
17 have done the job right.

18 So please follow Amendment 5 and 6.  
19 Please follow the Voting Rights Act. Thank  
20 you.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
22 very much.

23 Ladies and gentlemen, what we will do,  
24 because we do understand there will be some  
25 folks who cannot come back, we are not going to



1       get to all the cards. We are hoping if your  
2       name has not been called, that you will come  
3       back for the six o'clock hearing. We have run  
4       out of time for this hearing; however,  
5       Ms. Bruno actually made a good point, which was  
6       to allow a member of the committee to address  
7       some of the concerns that were brought up  
8       today. I would like Senator Gaetz, who is  
9       co-Chair of the committee, to take just a few  
10      minutes to do that.

11             Senator Gaetz, you are recognized.

12             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
13      Mr. Chairman, and there will be an opportunity  
14      after we hear from everyone who wishes to speak  
15      at the second part of our hearing for any  
16      member to comment, to offer any proposals, and,  
17      of course, any member, any legislator, any  
18      special interest group, any citizen, and we saw  
19      that with Mr. Dixon, can offer any map, any  
20      proposal, at any time.

21             The first question that I would like to  
22      respond to -- and I am not going to be -- try  
23      to debate those who provided information,  
24      because the information today was so hopeful  
25      and relevant, but just in terms of providing

1       some information that would assist in a little  
2       bit of perhaps fact-checking. First of all,  
3       the question was asked, will the Legislature  
4       follow the Fair Districts amendments to the  
5       Constitution. The answer is, they are in the  
6       Constitution, we have sworn an oath upon taking  
7       office to preserve, protect and defend the  
8       Constitution of the United States and of the  
9       State of Florida, and so we will. But as you  
10      have seen today, there are differences  
11      expressed in how those legal standards, which  
12      seem so simple when they roll off the tongue,  
13      there are differences expressed in this  
14      audience today about how those standards ought  
15      to be applied to communities, to counties, to  
16      geographic barriers, someone talked about  
17      growth centers, so that is why we need to  
18      listen to your views and not just presume that  
19      we know.

20               Secondly, as to timing, and Mr. Chairman,  
21      as was noted at the beginning of the meeting,  
22      the timing for the drawing of maps and the  
23      voting on maps is set out in our Constitution.  
24      If our Fair District friends wanted to change  
25      the timing so that we could vote on maps

1 earlier than 2012, they could have included  
2 that in the Fair Districts amendment. They  
3 didn't. So we are -- you know, there are many  
4 of us who have ideas now as we have heard from  
5 voters, maybe people on this committee want to  
6 propose maps, like Mr. Dixon has, but we are  
7 obliged to follow the Constitution.

8 Now, there's been some suggestion that no  
9 voting can occur until March on maps. That is  
10 simply not true. We can vote as soon as there  
11 are maps presented. The League of Women  
12 Voters, for example, ten years ago presented  
13 maps. So far they have decided not to. We  
14 hope they will. Any group can present a map,  
15 and it can become the focus or locus of a bill  
16 that then can be voted on. We don't have to  
17 wait until March to vote. We can vote as soon  
18 as there are maps that are available, and we're  
19 already getting maps presented to us.

20 One gentleman said, and I think rightly  
21 so, that we ought to look to our universities.  
22 We have. Florida students attending Columbia  
23 University have already proposed maps, and  
24 those maps are on our website.

25 Another individual said, "Gee, if you are

1 getting maps that are proposed, they need to be  
2 shown to the public." They are. If you go to  
3 Flsenate.gov/redistricting, you will see all of  
4 the maps that have been proposed, including  
5 Mr. Dixon's that has been proposed today.

6 Community college students, state college  
7 students, university students have already  
8 indicated that they are working on or will  
9 present maps, so our universities have been  
10 invited, and we would like to invite today the  
11 University of North Florida to present any maps  
12 that they would like to present.

13 Mr. Chairman, there has been some  
14 suggestion that there is a gag order. Those  
15 who would like to stay to the end of the  
16 hearing, we will want to hear from the public  
17 first, not politicians first, but those who  
18 want to stay until the end of the hearing,  
19 Mr. Chairman, we are going to give an  
20 opportunity for any member of the committee to  
21 react to any of the testimony that we have  
22 heard today.

23 Finally, Mr. Chairman, there's been a  
24 suggestion from three Supervisors of Elections  
25 that there will be -- could be problems with

1 ballot printing and distribution if the Supreme  
2 Court of Florida, if the Federal Justice  
3 Department, take all the time that they are  
4 allowed under federal and state law. We hope  
5 they don't. We hope they will take the advice  
6 that you are giving us, and that is as soon as  
7 proposals are received, to act in an  
8 expeditious fashion, in a thoughtful fashion,  
9 but in an expeditious fashion. Members of  
10 these two committees work together to pass  
11 legislation, making it possible for our  
12 overseas citizens, whether they are in uniform  
13 or not, to be able to use the overseas absentee  
14 ballot to make sure that their votes get  
15 counted. So every effort will be made to  
16 ensure that overseas voters are included, and  
17 the Supervisors of Elections' information and  
18 their testimony today was well-taken,  
19 well-spoken, but there is no reason why our  
20 federal and state courts have to take  
21 100 percent of the time that they are allowed  
22 to take, and we certainly will -- will begin to  
23 entertain proposals, in the Senate, and I am  
24 sure, Mr. Chairman, you will in the House, as  
25 soon as any member presents any plan or any

1       proposal, and once again, we invite the League  
2       of Women Voters, the ACLU, the Sierra Club, the  
3       Fair Districts, and all of the other interest  
4       groups represented here today, as well as  
5       individual citizens, as well as members of the  
6       Legislature, to present plans, present maps, so  
7       that they can be fully described and shown to  
8       the public, so they can be fully discussed in  
9       committee meetings, and voted on and discussed  
10      in public. And hopefully that information,  
11      Mr. Chairman, will provide some factual basis  
12      for our further discussions this evening. We  
13      hope as many of you as possible will come back  
14      and testify.

15                REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
16      very much, Senator Gaetz, for clarifying those  
17      for us.

18                Ladies and gentlemen, we appreciate your  
19      time today. We thank you for your  
20      attentiveness, your respect of the committee.  
21      We respect you. We look forward to seeing  
22      hopefully most of you back at six o'clock, but  
23      for now, we are adjourned. Thank you.

24                (Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned.)

25                               \* \* \*

1           (Whereupon, the six o'clock session of the  
2           redistricting committee convened.)

3           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: If we could  
4           get everyone's attention, please, to grab a  
5           seat, we would like to start. Please grab a  
6           seat. Lake Ray, if we could get the meeting  
7           started. You always have to embarrass one  
8           person.

9           Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, if we could  
10          get everyone's attention. I know that we still  
11          have people filtering into the room. Feel free  
12          to grab a seat. We appreciate everyone being  
13          here.

14          The Joint Senate/House Redistricting  
15          Hearing is now called back into order. We had  
16          meetings from two to four o'clock and had a  
17          packed house and got a lot of great public  
18          testimony, and we are excited about hearing  
19          from you as well, and I think we have some  
20          familiar faces from the earlier meeting, and we  
21          welcome you back.

22          We first want to say thank you to Florida  
23          State College for opening up this wonderful  
24          facility, we are grateful for them and their  
25          hospitality, but we also want to say thank you

1 to those of you who have taken time to be here  
2 this evening to share with us your thoughts and  
3 your ideas about what the state of Florida  
4 should look like and what the districts should  
5 look like. So thank you very much for being  
6 here.

7 My name is Will Weatherford, and I  
8 represent House District 61 down in Wesley  
9 Chapel, which is in Pasco County, and I,  
10 alongside with my co-Chair, Senator Don Gaetz  
11 from the Panhandle, I will be Chairing today.  
12 This entire process will be webcast on the  
13 Florida Channel and over the Internet.

14 Our sole purpose here today is to hear  
15 from you. It is to hear from you and to give  
16 you an opportunity to give us feedback, to give  
17 us input, and to make sure that this process is  
18 open and transparent when it comes to public  
19 input.

20 It is also important that we keep an  
21 accurate public record of all attendees and  
22 speakers. So we would ask that you -- you may  
23 also opt to join our e-mail list so that we can  
24 keep you informed about how the redistricting  
25 process is working over the next several



1 months.

2 If you have not signed in, please raise  
3 your hand, and a staff member will give you an  
4 attendance card. Also, if you wish to speak  
5 today and you have not filled out an attendance  
6 card, please raise your hand, and we will make  
7 sure that we get you a card to fill out so that  
8 you can speak.

9 With that, I would like to just take a few  
10 moments -- I know we have some new faces in  
11 here, and I would like to take a few moments to  
12 allow the members of the committee to introduce  
13 themselves and let you know who they are and  
14 the district that they represent within the  
15 state of Florida. So, Chairman Gaetz, if you  
16 could maybe kick us off and pass the mike.

17 SENATOR GAETZ: Sure. My name is Don  
18 Gaetz. I am a state senator from the Panhandle  
19 of Florida, the other side, northwest Florida,  
20 coastal northwest Florida, and along with  
21 speaker designate Weatherford, I Chair the  
22 Senate Reapportionment Committee as he Chairs  
23 the House Redistricting Committee.

24 Senator John Thrasher is here. He will be  
25 back in a moment, he is doing an interview with

1 a Jacksonville TV station, but Senator Thrasher  
2 represents northeast Florida and many of you  
3 are very familiar with him.

4 REPRESENTATIVE HOOPER: Good evening,  
5 everybody. I am Ed Hooper from Clearwater,  
6 House District 50, and to speed the meeting  
7 along, everyone here has great beaches and they  
8 are all tied for number one.

9 REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: I am  
10 Representative Jim Frishe from Pinellas County,  
11 and I do represent all the beaches in Pinellas  
12 County, and I am the majority whip of the  
13 Florida House.

14 REPRESENTATIVE ADKINS: Hi, my name is  
15 Janet Adkins, and I represent Florida House  
16 District 12, which is Nassau, Baker, Bradford,  
17 Clay, Union and Duval, and thank you all so  
18 much for coming out tonight.

19 SENATOR MONTFORD: I am Bill Montford from  
20 Senate District 6, 11 counties, Tallahassee is  
21 the center, everything around Tallahassee.  
22 Glad to be here.

23 REPRESENTATIVE MCBURNEY: I am Charles  
24 McBurney. I represent District 16, which is  
25 the great City of Jacksonville, Florida.

1           REPRESENTATIVE FORD: Clay Ford,  
2           Representative from District 3, Pensacola, the  
3           other end of the state.

4           SENATOR DEAN: My name is Charlie Dean, I  
5           am State Senator for District 3. Start over  
6           here at the county line in Baker County, go to  
7           the courthouse, the Capitol steps on Monroe  
8           Street, south to 98 and 19, and south central  
9           Florida, I represent all or part of 13  
10          counties. But the most important thing I  
11          forgot to tell you a while ago this morning, we  
12          were here this afternoon, and that's the fact  
13          that I was born in Jacksonville.

14          SENATOR LYNN: Senator Evelyn Lynn. I  
15          represent District 7, Clay, Marion, Putnam and  
16          Volusia Counties, and it is very impressive to  
17          see the crowds that we have here, not only this  
18          afternoon, but tonight especially.

19          REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Hello, everybody, my  
20          name is Martin Kiar. I represent District 97  
21          in the Florida House of Representatives, which  
22          is located solely within Broward County. Thank  
23          you so much for coming out tonight.

24          REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Good evening,  
25          everyone. My name is John Patrick Julien. I

1 represent House District 104, which is in  
2 Miami-Dade County, and it is a pleasure to be  
3 here and it is great to see you all, looking  
4 forward to hear what you have to say.

5 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Hi, I am Dorothy  
6 Hukill. I represent District 28, which is  
7 parts of Volusia County, southeast and  
8 southwest Volusia County, and I am so happy to  
9 be here and grateful that all of you could come  
10 out and talk to us tonight.

11 REPRESENTATIVE YOUNG: Hi, I am Dana  
12 Young. I represent House District 57, which is  
13 the City of Tampa and parts of Hillsborough  
14 County. Thank you all for being here. We look  
15 forward to hearing from you.

16 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Rob Schenck.

17 REPRESENTATIVE DORWORTH: He is from  
18 Spring Hill on the west coast.

19 I am Chris Dorworth. I am from Orlando,  
20 Florida, Seminole County and Orange County.  
21 Thank you very much.

22 SENATOR BRAYNON: I am Senator Oscar  
23 Braynon. I represent the central area of  
24 Miami-Dade County, District 33.

25 REPRESENTATIVE RAY: Good evening, I am

1 Representative Lake Ray from Jacksonville,  
2 District 17. It is great to see everybody out,  
3 and I, of course, welcome my colleagues to  
4 Jacksonville this evening. Thanks for being  
5 here.

6 SENATOR HAYS: I am Alan Hays from Senate  
7 District 20, which is parts of five counties:  
8 Volusia, Seminole, Lake, Sumter and Marion  
9 Counties.

10 REPRESENTATIVE THURSTON: Good evening,  
11 everybody. I am Perry Thurston, District 93,  
12 and that is Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Looking  
13 forward to hearing from you.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WEINSTEIN: I am Mike  
15 Weinstein, House District 19, the privilege of  
16 representing Duval, Clay and St. Johns  
17 Counties.

18 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Good evening,  
19 State Representative Mack Bernard, District 84  
20 in West Palm Beach, Florida.

21 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Good evening, I am  
22 Hazelle Rogers representing District 94 in  
23 Broward County, I would say eight cities in  
24 central Broward County, one of the most diverse  
25 counties, a million point eight nine -- 1.89

1 million folks in my -- in Broward County.  
2 Looking forward to hearing from you. Thank  
3 you.

4 REPRESENTATIVE REED: Good evening, I am  
5 State Representative Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed,  
6 representing House District 92 in Broward  
7 County, which is the northeast part of Broward  
8 County from Deerfield Beach down to Victoria  
9 Park, Ft. Lauderdale. Good evening.

10 SENATOR EVERS: State Senator Greg Evers,  
11 I represent District 2, which encompasses  
12 Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton,  
13 Washington and Holmes and a little bit north of  
14 Bay County, so it is known as the great  
15 northwest, as far north, far away as you go in  
16 Florida without being in Alabama. Thank you.

17 REPRESENTATIVE GOODSON: Good evening, my  
18 name is Tom Goodson, House seat District 29,  
19 which is in Brevard County from Mims to St.  
20 Lucie County. Thank you for coming.

21 REPRESENTATIVE DRAKE: Brad Drake, I  
22 represent the Fifth House District, central  
23 time zone, Okaloosa, Walton, Holmes,  
24 Washington, Jackson.

25 REPRESENTATIVE TRUJILLO: Good evening, my

1 name is Carlos Trujillo, I represent southwest  
2 Miami-Dade County.

3 REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Good afternoon,  
4 Daniel Davis. I represent Duval County and  
5 Clay County.

6 REPRESENTATIVE CORCORAN: Richard  
7 Corcoran, I represent Pasco and Pinellas  
8 Counties.

9 REPRESENTATIVE LOGAN: Ana Rivas Logan, I  
10 represent southwest Miami-Dade.

11 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: Good evening, State  
12 Representative Mia Jones representing District  
13 14, north and west of the city, and thank you  
14 all so much for being here and showing your  
15 commitment to being a part of the process.

16 REPRESENTATIVE FULLWOOD: Good evening,  
17 Reggie Fullwood, representing Jacksonville,  
18 District 15. Again, thank you for being here  
19 tonight. We really appreciate your input.

20 REPRESENTATIVE CALDWELL: Good evening,  
21 Representative Matt Caldwell, District 73 down  
22 in southwest Florida, Lee County.

23 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Hi, I am Jim Boyd,  
24 State Rep from District 68, which is Manatee  
25 County, just south of Tampa on the south side

1 of Tampa Bay. Thanks again for coming tonight.

2 REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: Kathleen

3 Passidomo, House District 76, Collier County.

4 I represent the City of Naples, City of Marco  
5 island, City of Everglades City and a gazillion  
6 alligators.

7 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Good afternoon,

8 Chuck Chestnut, House District 23, a portion of  
9 Marion County and a portion of Alachua County.

10 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Good evening,

11 everyone. My name is Dwayne Taylor. I  
12 represent House District 27, which is in  
13 Volusia County. I am from Daytona Beach where  
14 we have the world center of racing and the  
15 world's most famous beach.

16 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: My name is Peter

17 Nehr, and I represent Pinellas County and Pasco  
18 County.

19 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay. Thank  
20 you very much, members.

21 Before we go into the public testimony, I  
22 would like to ask Senator Gaetz and recognize  
23 him to explain how today's hearing fits into  
24 the redistricting process and maybe explain a  
25 little bit about the process that we are here



1 to do today and how it will be done. Senator,  
2 you are recognized.

3 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
4 Mr. Chairman.

5 Every ten years, the Legislature is  
6 required by the Constitution to redistrict the  
7 state based on increases, decreases and  
8 movements of population. Our Constitution  
9 requires this to be done by the Legislature,  
10 not by a commission, not by anybody else. That  
11 is because we are elected by you, and you can  
12 un-elect us. You can't un-elect somebody who  
13 is not elected. So that is why our  
14 Constitution sets it up that way.

15 Florida has grown in the last ten years  
16 more than other states. So we have picked up  
17 two additional members of the U.S. House of  
18 Representatives. We will go from 25 to 27  
19 members of the U.S. House of Representatives,  
20 and also we pick up two additional electoral  
21 votes in the presidential election.

22 Now, some parts of our state have  
23 increased or decreased disproportionately in  
24 population, and many Senate and House districts  
25 will have to change, either adding or losing

1 population. There is a chart over there, some  
2 of you were looking at it before we started.  
3 You can look at it during or after our hearing.  
4 And in that chart, you will see the districts,  
5 the congressional and Senate and House  
6 districts in this area, and by law, how many  
7 additional people will have to be picked up in  
8 those districts or be lost, be subtracted from  
9 those districts. That is because when  
10 redistricting is completed, congressional  
11 districts must be equal in population and must  
12 contain 696,345 people each. It doesn't matter  
13 how many counties are covered, doesn't matter  
14 how dense the population is, how widespread it  
15 is, it must have 696,345 people by federal law.  
16 The 40 Senate districts must also be nearly  
17 equal at about 470,000 people, and our 120  
18 House districts must be nearly equal at about  
19 156,700 people.

20 Now, there are displays that are over on  
21 my right side that you can see that have maps  
22 showing the districts. So those are the  
23 district maps. Those are the maps. They are  
24 here. You can look at those maps and use them  
25 as a take-off point for what is right, what is

1 wrong, what should be changed, where are there  
2 aberrations, where are there areas or  
3 neighborhoods or communities that are  
4 appropriately within a House, Senate or  
5 congressional district.

6 Equality of representation is not the only  
7 redistricting requirement that we have to meet  
8 legally. The laws and the important court  
9 cases governing redistricting are explained on  
10 the House and Senate websites. Those websites  
11 are listed on the redistricting brochure -- the  
12 redistricting 2012 brochure that you were  
13 offered on the way in. If you didn't get one,  
14 you can get one on the way out. That brochure  
15 briefly summarizes federal and state laws, and  
16 outlines topics on which we really need your  
17 input. If you did not get a copy when you came  
18 in, there will be plenty on the way out. Our  
19 staff has them. The brochure lists the Senate  
20 and House websites. These websites are packed  
21 with information about redistricting in  
22 Florida, including the explanation of all the  
23 laws, federal and state, and the court cases  
24 governing redistricting. The two websites, the  
25 House and Senate, are complementary and will be

1 updated frequently. We hope you will visit  
2 them often and leave your comments and your  
3 suggestions as well. It is a good way to stay  
4 current on how the redistricting process moves  
5 forward.

6 The websites also deliver to your  
7 fingertips all of the demographic information  
8 about the people of Florida, the information  
9 that the Bureau of Census gives to us.

10 Someone asked a very good question earlier  
11 today, and that was, "Well, why is Florida not  
12 finished with its redistricting? It appears  
13 like we are just in the process when some other  
14 states have already finished." Two answers.  
15 One is, first the Bureau of the Census releases  
16 census information in groups of states, and  
17 Florida is in the very last group, so there are  
18 some states that are finished because they got  
19 their demographic information, who lives where,  
20 months before Florida did.

21 A second reason is because Florida has a  
22 much more interactive and open process where  
23 you can attend public hearings, you can provide  
24 input on the Senate and House websites, you can  
25 propose maps of your own communities, your own

1 neighborhoods, your own counties, your own  
2 parts of the state or the whole state, and  
3 that's never been done before in the United  
4 States through an interactive web process, and  
5 it is not being done by most other states. So  
6 that is -- those are two reasons why this  
7 appears to be a more thoughtful process.

8 Before, during and after this hearing,  
9 Senate and House professional staff are  
10 available to show anybody the simple steps to  
11 getting on-line, building districts and  
12 submitting a plan now or in the weeks to come.  
13 And I am pleased to say that we had a plan  
14 submitted earlier today, and while we have been  
15 in session today in this committee, three more  
16 plans have been submitted by interested  
17 citizens or groups around the state. So these  
18 websites are working, people are submitting  
19 their plans, Legislators are seeing your ideas.

20 Recommendations from citizens and groups  
21 of citizens will all be made publicly  
22 available. Any plan that is developed by any  
23 legislator or any interest group or any citizen  
24 will instantly be made available to the public  
25 so everybody can see it, everybody can comment

1 on it, criticize it, offer amendments to it or  
2 suggestions for how it can be made even better.  
3 The submission of proposed plans for your  
4 community is the single most effective form of  
5 public participation in this redistricting  
6 process. The redistricting schedule under  
7 which we are operating also raises some good  
8 questions that we heard today, and questions  
9 which, you know, require factual answers.

10 The redistricting process, the timeline is  
11 actually imposed by our state Constitution.  
12 Our Constitution does not permit the  
13 Legislature to act on legislative maps before  
14 the second year after the census; in other  
15 words, the Constitution says the Legislature  
16 can't vote until 2012. Now, if the Fair  
17 Districts folks who proposed a couple of  
18 amendments that were passed thought that  
19 schedule should be changed, they could have  
20 included a change in the schedule, but they  
21 didn't. So, factually, we are stuck with the  
22 same schedule that we've had before. But that  
23 doesn't mean we can't begin working now.

24 So we have accelerated the process as much  
25 as possible by moving up the 2012 session of

1       the Legislature from March, when we usually  
2       start, to January, and by beginning our  
3       statewide hearings five months in advance of  
4       the 2012 session.

5               We also can begin committee hearings as  
6       soon as September, and we will, and we can  
7       begin to hear, debate, discussion, see  
8       proposals, anyone, any legislator, any member  
9       of the public, any interest group, can propose  
10      a map, and it can be discussed and debated as  
11      early as September.

12             And there is absolutely nothing that  
13      requires that we hold off voting in the  
14      Legislature until March. Somehow that's gotten  
15      out into the bloodstream, and while March would  
16      be the last time we could vote, it is not the  
17      first time we can vote.

18             A principle -- it's been suggested that  
19      the Legislature ought to draw the maps first  
20      and then ask the public to comment on those  
21      maps. We believe, frankly, that that puts the  
22      answer ahead of the question. We believe there  
23      ought to be no preconceptions, no created maps  
24      developed by politicians and then handed to you  
25      as a *fait accompli*, but rather, public

1 testimony should be free and unrestricted and  
2 ought to come first. And I am pleased to say  
3 that the head of the Fair Districts group not  
4 only agrees with us, but also testified before  
5 the House and the Senate saying that no new  
6 maps could be drawn or should be drawn until  
7 after public hearings have been held. So we  
8 are taking the Fair District founder's advice  
9 and we are following that advise to the "T" in  
10 that regard.

11 Our intent is to use the recommendations  
12 made at the 26 public hearings and the input  
13 that we are getting already through our  
14 Internet sites as the basis for developing one  
15 or more options for district maps.

16 We will then discuss those options in open  
17 public meetings. You will see all of the  
18 options. They will be available on the  
19 Internet before the first vote is cast even in  
20 committee. And throughout the process, we will  
21 solicit additional public comment so that  
22 proposed maps can mature with the public  
23 involved all before the Legislature approves  
24 final maps.

25 And then whatever the Legislature approves



1 is subject to judicial review. We can't simply  
2 decide what we want to decide. First we have  
3 to follow the Constitution and the laws and the  
4 court cases, and then we have to submit  
5 anything that comes through the legislative  
6 process, Republicans and Democrats, House and  
7 Senate working together, everyone with having  
8 their own ideas, you having your ideas, all of  
9 that when synthesized has to be given to the  
10 courts for their approval.

11 Because our purpose today is to hear from  
12 you, all of the time taken when I conclude my  
13 brief remarks until eight o'clock tonight will  
14 be consumed by hearing from the public. We  
15 want to hear from you. Anybody who is here  
16 from the public and wishes to speak ought to  
17 have time to present their testimony.

18 Obviously we want to make sure that the last  
19 person who signed up is given the same chance  
20 as the first person to offer testimony and to  
21 be listened to respectfully without  
22 interruption and without argument.

23 Now, after every citizen who is here has  
24 had her say or his say, if there is time  
25 remaining before our scheduled adjournment, and

1 we hope there will be, then any member of the  
2 committee can offer any comments, any  
3 rejoinder, any discussion, any proposal, any  
4 maps that they wish to offer, any Democrat, any  
5 Republican, any House member, any Senate  
6 member.

7 Mr. Chairman, I hope this description of  
8 our schedule, our process and the method of  
9 operation of this hearing will help us be  
10 successful this evening.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
12 very much, Senator Gaetz. Moving forward,  
13 before we start the public hearing process, I  
14 would like to just mention that we have two  
15 distinguished guests with us here. First we  
16 have an old friend and -- State Representative  
17 Audrey Gibson. Audrey, it is really good to  
18 see you. Thank you for being here today. A  
19 former colleague to the House.

20 And, of course, we also have -- we also  
21 have a dear friend and a -- Congresswoman  
22 Corrine Brown, who is here as well. She was  
23 here earlier today. We appreciate you being  
24 here today, and thank you for your service to  
25 the State of Florida and our country.

1           Okay. First up I am going to read two  
2 names at a time. The name -- the first name  
3 will be the person coming to the microphone  
4 right in front of me, and then we will read the  
5 next name, who will be the person on deck to  
6 speak. We are trying to limit each person to  
7 three minutes so that everyone has an  
8 opportunity to speak, so please be cognizant of  
9 the folks behind you due to the fact that we do  
10 have a limited amount of time.

11           First up we have Marsha Dean Phetts, and  
12 after Marsha, we have James Howell.  
13 Ms. Phetts, thank you for being here. I know  
14 that you wanted to speak earlier today, and I  
15 apologize that we did not get to you, but we  
16 are happy that you are here tonight.

17           MS. PHETTS: I am a resident of Duval and  
18 Nassau Counties, Representative Weatherford and  
19 Senator Gaetz, as well as the members of the  
20 redistricting committee, I am very happy to  
21 have this opportunity to share with you the way  
22 I feel about the job that you are doing for me.

23           Also, I want to say that many of my  
24 neighbors are not here who were here earlier,  
25 but because of previous commitments, they are

1           gone on to other things, and I must leave, too.

2           About redistricting, I have heard the  
3           speakers, the more than 20 speakers before me,  
4           and they talked about many things, specifically  
5           race and being an American. And, of course, I,  
6           too, am an American, and race has been an issue  
7           in America for more than 500 years, and so I  
8           cannot ignore it.

9           I want you as my Representatives to  
10          represent me, because you are my voice. When  
11          you call me on the telephone and when you send  
12          mail to me and shake hands and lobby and  
13          hobnob, you are telling me that you will  
14          represent me, and that is exactly what I want.  
15          I want my fair representation. I want my  
16          cultural and historical heritage  
17          representation.

18          Today I've never heard the word  
19          "gerrymandering" sound so bad. It is like the  
20          "L" word and a few other words that I won't  
21          say. Call it what you want. As I listened to  
22          you from all of your districts, you have  
23          multiple counties, and we're trying to get,  
24          what, 700,000 people for Congress, and so --  
25          for a congressional district. And I want and I

1       hear that we have increased from 25 to 27  
2       Representatives in Congress. Don't erase me  
3       and don't erase my community. There are three  
4       African-Americans, there are Hispanics, and I  
5       would certainly not want to see less. I don't  
6       want us to repeat history in Florida  
7       especially, and I don't want Florida to be  
8       tarnished politically again, and so I plead  
9       with you to do what is right by me and my  
10      constituents, and thank you very much.

11                REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
12      very much.

13                Next up we have Mr. James Howell. Is  
14      Mr. Howell here? I didn't see him stand up  
15      earlier. We will try to find Mr. Howell, but  
16      we will keep moving.

17                Lee Harris. Is Lee not here as well? We  
18      will save him as well and hope we can get back  
19      to him.

20                We have, I believe -- I believe it is a  
21      Mr. Bussard from the Duval County National  
22      Executive Committee -- Democratic Executive  
23      Committee. I cannot make out the first name.  
24      Billee, is it Billee? Not here?

25                Okay. Arnett Girardeau, former Senator

1       Arnett Girardeau. I should have introduced you  
2       earlier, sir. Welcome to the committee. Thank  
3       you for being here, thank you for your service  
4       to Florida, and you are recognized, sir. I  
5       apologize for missing you earlier.

6               MR. GIRARDEAU: Mr. Chairman, I probably  
7       was not here earlier, because I just walked in,  
8       but I was here early this morning.

9               I am Arnett Girardeau, former State  
10       Senator, and I came in --

11              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Senator,  
12       could we just wait just a second while they  
13       adjust your mike? We want to hear everything  
14       you have to say.

15              Go ahead, sir.

16              MR. GIRARDEAU: Testing, one, two, three,  
17       four, testing. All right. I will do the best  
18       I can with what I have left.

19              I came in a little early and I noticed  
20       that most people who spoke said that they  
21       were -- their name and where they are from and  
22       they have resided in Florida for so many years.  
23       Well, some of the people said 35 years or 45  
24       years, and I remember some of those years as  
25       people who we welcomed into Florida, because

1 after World War II, Florida began to grow.  
2 Florida was the seventh-largest state up until  
3 that time, and now it is the fourth. The point  
4 being I have been a Florida resident all of my  
5 life, and that is only 82 years.

6 I have also participated in this process  
7 of redistricting twice. That is why I came  
8 this evening to tell you what I thought of your  
9 job, first of all. I commend all of you for  
10 taking the opportunity, responsibility and the  
11 time to be here, because it is one of the most  
12 daunting tasks you will ever have.

13 Now, why do I say that? Everybody talking  
14 about fairness, fairness, fairness in the  
15 election. And the fairness is in the eyes of  
16 the beholder. What was fair 50 years ago is no  
17 longer fair today. What do I mean by that?  
18 When I was a boy, well, let's look, I haven't  
19 changed colors, but at the same time, my people  
20 could not vote in primary elections. It was  
21 only toward the end that -- of the  
22 desegregation plans of this country that we  
23 were able to vote in primary elections. We  
24 could vote in a federal -- federal election,  
25 but not in primaries.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:   Maybe another  
2 couple of minutes.

3           MR. GIRARDEAU:   Notice what change that  
4 has made.   Forty to 50 years later, you now  
5 have an African-American President.   You may  
6 not like that, some of you might, but the point  
7 is this:   Our lady this morning said, "Why  
8 should I vote for somebody" -- no, "Why should  
9 I run for office that I know I can't be  
10 elected?"   You think about that.   That is very  
11 serious.   Most whites, Caucasians or otherwise  
12 did not know enough about non-whites or blacks  
13 in order to feel comfortable with voting for  
14 them.   We have turned that corner now, and as a  
15 result, we have gone to the extreme in both  
16 directions.   You have people who are on the  
17 extremist conservative side, and those who are  
18 on the most liberal side.   As I recall, we had  
19 one in Congress that passed the voting right --  
20 the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act  
21 that they call liberal, and they voted them all  
22 out of office.   All of the liberals were out in  
23 the early '70s.

24           Now, at that time, Florida's parties were  
25 controlled by the Democrats, Florida's House



1           and Senate. Look what has happened in that  
2           time. In that time, it has completely  
3           back-flipped, just like the arbiter.

4           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Senator, if I  
5           could, I am really enjoying this, I've got to  
6           tell you, but I just want to make sure, we've  
7           got a lot of speakers, probably 30 or so to get  
8           to, I don't want to rush you, but at the same  
9           time, I want to make sure we get all your  
10          comments in. So if you could --

11          MR. GIRARDEAU: You won't get them all in,  
12          but I will give you a few. And the reason for  
13          that is because, as I said, you have the most  
14          daunting task before you ever.

15          The main thing is when you come down to  
16          what is fair districting, you have to consider  
17          the demography as far as Republican, Democrats,  
18          Independents, et cetera, and what is right for  
19          one is not always right for the other. But the  
20          most important one, I think, the United States  
21          government has these, and that has to do with  
22          the racial equality.

23          Last point would be this: Although you  
24          are -- you are about 15 million people now in  
25          Florida, of which you have about 11 million

1 votes, but at the same time, you don't measure  
2 -- you don't redistrict along lines based on  
3 votes. You redistrict based on population.  
4 That is why a lot of these pine trees that is  
5 used to vote in the old elections are no longer  
6 voting.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes, sir.  
8 Thank you, Senator, thank you for your service  
9 to the State of Florida.

10 Next up we have Ms. Lisa Bruno, who was  
11 here earlier. I do not see her now. We will  
12 probably save her and try to get back to her if  
13 she is here later.

14 We also have next Bishop McKinley Young.  
15 Bishop? Not here?

16 We had also another Bishop, but I  
17 apologize, I can't see the first name.  
18 McKossick? McKissick? Not here.

19 We have Ms. Glorious Johnson, city council  
20 member from Jacksonville, former city council  
21 member. Thank you very much, Ms. Johnson, for  
22 being here. You are recognized.

23 MS. JOHNSON: Good evening, everyone. Can  
24 you hear me?

25 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes.

1           MS. JOHNSON: You know, as I used to be a  
2 politician, we always have plenty to say, but  
3 there comes a time when you are just -- just  
4 hoping for the best. My thing is, and my  
5 concern, and I think Mr. Girardeau,  
6 Dr. Girardeau, my former dentist at that time,  
7 and Congresswoman Brown, they had some points  
8 from my research when it talks about the  
9 gerrymandering.

10           I, too, am a long resident of  
11 Jacksonville. This month, I will be 64 years  
12 old, and I have been here 64 years. And the  
13 gerrymandering at that time was supposed to be  
14 set up where we would have the right  
15 representation, or we would have an opportunity  
16 to be represented by people who we chose to  
17 represent us.

18           Yes, we have a President that is black.  
19 He is an American. Yes, we have a mayor who is  
20 black and from this city. But the point is,  
21 there's still some things that must be done in  
22 representation, and that is having an  
23 opportunity for us to choose who we want to  
24 represent us, and what we want, not saying that  
25 as a race based, because I am one of the last

1 to pull the race card out if I have to, but the  
2 point is there comes a time, and that is why it  
3 was written in the two ballots that, first of  
4 all, one thing that they want considered is  
5 that districts shall not be drawn to deny  
6 racial or language minorities the equal  
7 opportunity to participate in the political  
8 process and elect representatives of our  
9 choice. If you do in the pocket-size, like the  
10 compact, the contingency, like it says in here,  
11 if you do work it that way, make sure under  
12 whoever -- whomever the recommendation is for  
13 fairness, who knows what fairness really is,  
14 but within your heart do like Dr. Martin Luther  
15 King stated, and he said, "Cowardice asks the  
16 question, is it safe. Expediency asks the  
17 question, is it politic. Vanity asks the  
18 question, is it popular. But conscience asks  
19 the question, is it right." And there comes a  
20 time when one must make a position that is  
21 neither safe nor politic nor popular, but  
22 because conscience tells one it is right.

23 I hope that you do understand why we as  
24 black Americans -- Americans, period -- feel  
25 the way we feel and we want representation.

1       And if we decide we want to have an American  
2       who happens to be black to represent us, let us  
3       have that. If we decide we want a white,  
4       Hispanic, Asian, whatever it is, let us be the  
5       one, the voters, who make the decision. Thank  
6       you very much.

7               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
8       Ms. Johnson.

9               Our next speaker is Sollie Mitchell,  
10       followed by Judith Youngblood.

11              Ms. Mitchell? Mr. Mitchell, I'm sorry.

12              MR. MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
13       and all of the representatives from the  
14       different districts.

15              I am here to bring your attention to the  
16       Voting Rights Act. As the new district lines  
17       are drawn, to uphold the hard fought work that  
18       we have made, it is absolutely an essential to  
19       incorp the essence of the state Voting Right  
20       Act into the way in which the State of Florida  
21       political boundaries are drawn.

22              I am Sollie Mitchell, I live at 4009  
23       Gillislee Drive. I am 93 years old. I  
24       registered to vote in 1939, and have -- the  
25       only time I missed voting was when I was in the

1 service, and I just want to thank the way that  
2 you are operating now. I am energized,  
3 energized to see what you are doing now.  
4 Please, please, please. Thank you.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
6 Mr. Mitchell. God bless you, sir, and thank  
7 you for your service to our great country.

8 Next up we have Ms. Judith Youngblood,  
9 followed by Bobby Burton.

10 MS. YOUNGBLOOD: My name is Judy  
11 Youngblood. I am feeling younger by the minute  
12 as I see Doc and Holly. Gosh, you know, I am  
13 only 75, so I am feeling pretty good about  
14 that. Been a registered voter in Jacksonville  
15 since 1960. Would have been that sooner, but I  
16 missed by just a few days' vote turning 21 for  
17 the '56 election. I go back a long way in the  
18 city.

19 One of the things that I have always been  
20 concerned about is having representative  
21 government. That is what we were given in this  
22 country by our founding fathers, and  
23 "representative" means that you -- we get  
24 together and we meet people and we say, "You  
25 would be good to represent me since I can't go

1       there, so you go and represent me, then I tell  
2       you what I want, then you come back and tell me  
3       what happened and I tell you what I want  
4       again." This means that I need to know my  
5       representatives. Many of you, I do know, I  
6       have known -- I have known your folks, like I  
7       went to high school with Lake's mom and -- Lake  
8       -- Representative Ray's mom and others that I  
9       have known for a long time.

10           One of the things about representation, if  
11       you do a good job and people know you, you  
12       don't have to worry about getting reelected.  
13       You don't need incumbency. If necessary, back  
14       in this -- and I went to the University of  
15       Florida back in the early '50s with many of our  
16       elected politicians, many of whom are now  
17       retired. There is a solution for that. You  
18       just move or buy another house, and then you  
19       are in the district again. It is not a problem  
20       with redistricting. It is a problem with you.

21           I have felt for quite a bit of time -- I  
22       have been divorced for over 20 years, was  
23       married for over 30, lived on the south side,  
24       knew all of my representatives, didn't matter  
25       if they were mine or not. If I had a problem,

1 I could go to any of them and they didn't say,  
2 "Well, go to yours, I am not yours." They  
3 said, "Sure." And that is the way things made  
4 it good and you felt like you had  
5 representative government.

6 Unfortunately, when I moved where I could  
7 afford after divorce to the west side, I found  
8 that I had a Congressperson who didn't  
9 acknowledge me, and still doesn't, except when  
10 I get a card when he is running again. I have  
11 even gone down to his office in Orange Park and  
12 taken information to try to get answers to  
13 questions. Never got the answers. Got them  
14 from the other Congressmen in the area who  
15 didn't really represent me supposedly, but I do  
16 my voicing at the ballot box.

17 So, once again, if you represent people  
18 who know you, if you say, "Yes, I know you are  
19 in my district," not saying, "Well, I don't  
20 think I represent way up there," you -- you  
21 will be treated fairly by the voters as you  
22 treat them fairly. So please keep in mind when  
23 you are redistricting.

24 There used to be an old joke about you  
25 could take a Spirograph, remember those, and



1       you could draw your districts, because  
2       populations do run somewhat in concentric  
3       circles. Should be community based where we  
4       can know each other, where people have the  
5       opportunity to know who they are voting for,  
6       where those people have an opportunity to  
7       know -- get input from more --

8               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Ms.  
9       Youngblood, we are running over a little bit.

10              MS. YOUNGBLOOD: Right. So that the  
11       Legislators have the opportunity to get input  
12       from more of the lobbyists to get them from the  
13       electors. Thank you for your time.

14              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
15       very much.

16              Next we have Mr. Bobby Burton, followed by  
17       Beth Davey, and before Mr. Burton gets up,  
18       although I don't see him, I just want to remind  
19       everyone we've got about an hour and a half and  
20       we've got over 25 speakers, please be cognizant  
21       of the folks behind you, and if someone said  
22       what you planned to say, use brevity. We give  
23       bonus points for that. So just be mindful.  
24       Thank you very much.

25              Mr. Burton, is Mr. Burton here? Okay, we

1 will try to find him.

2 Ms. Davey, Beth Davey? Beth, thank you  
3 very much for being here. Following Beth is  
4 going to be Thomas Wing.

5 You are recognized, Beth.

6 MS. DAVEY: I just wanted to thank you  
7 guys for coming to Jacksonville and allowing us  
8 an opportunity to have input into this process.  
9 I am coming more and representing hopefully  
10 District 19. And my evaluation of this is as a  
11 plan -- a possible plan would be to follow the  
12 boundary line of I-295 and cut off everything  
13 north of that and place it into District 16.  
14 Given the fact that District 19 needs to lose  
15 over 18,000 people and District 16 needs to  
16 gain over 16,000 people, it would seem like a  
17 help in both districts. This would also not  
18 cause a ripple effect on either district. And  
19 in keeping in line with Amendments 5 and 6, it  
20 would allow northwest St. Johns and Mandarin  
21 Township to stay together, which kind of goes  
22 along with the lady that just spoke, it is  
23 about keeping community together, and that is  
24 my opinion. Thank you.

25 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you

1           very much.

2           Thomas Wing? You are recognized, sir.

3           After Thomas, we have Mr. Ray Alford.

4           MR. WING: Thank you very much for this  
5           opportunity to speak to the panel and to the  
6           citizens here of Jacksonville.

7           Justice is blind, except probably when it  
8           comes down to the final decision as to where  
9           the actual demarcations of the different  
10          districts will be and that type of thing. Now,  
11          I hope the gerrymandering, that type of thing,  
12          which is so prevalent in some of the districts  
13          will be stopped, but it will take political  
14          courage to do that, of course. Most people, as  
15          I have discovered in Tallahassee and that type  
16          thing, don't have that.

17          I've heard the -- for both of these  
18          sessions, I have heard the race card pulled so  
19          many times. It is time to get over it. Mayor  
20          Brown won the election, not by a whole bunch,  
21          but, you know, we have to start accepting that  
22          we have this situation in this city like we  
23          have. We have 47 percent of these kids doing  
24          horrible in schools. To me, that is more  
25          important than playing the race card.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Alford, I  
2 would like to keep your comments focused on the  
3 redistricting, if you could.

4           MR. WING: It is, it is, it is.

5           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Help me get  
6 to it.

7           MR. WING: Okay. In politics, everything  
8 is about power and control, and I would hope  
9 that the panel, the decision-makers, the people  
10 who do the final analysis and vote on where --  
11 what is going to where and that type thing,  
12 will do it based on that justice is blind.  
13 Thank you.

14          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
15 sir.

16          Next up we have Ray Alford, and after  
17 Mr. Alford, we have Mike Kuhn. Do we have Ray  
18 Alford here?

19          Okay. How about Mike Kuhn, is Mike here?  
20 Mike, thank you for being here, sir. You are  
21 recognized.

22          MR. KUHN: Thank you. Thank you so much.

23          Senator Gaetz, I want to compliment you on  
24 laying out the rules of the road and some of  
25 the -- you did some good preemptive strikes, I

1       would say, on taking care of the issues that so  
2       many people had during our first session.

3               I am Mike Kuhn, I am from a little  
4       community called Orangedale, that is somewhere  
5       in 19, and when I look at community, I guess I  
6       look at it a little bit differently in the fact  
7       where do I go to church, what is happening to  
8       our St. Johns River, where do I go eat dinner,  
9       and Representative Gwyn, she and I had to fight  
10      over a chicken wing, I think, for dinner. When  
11      I want to go to a fish restaurant, I go up to  
12      Bonefish, which is just south of 295. If I  
13      want to grab some quick Italian, I go across  
14      the river and grab up some Olive Garden. And  
15      if I want to fix something at the house, I go  
16      to Home Depot. And when I go to church, I go  
17      south to around World Golf Village, and that  
18      church never was ever there before. And when I  
19      want to go to the library, I go to a little  
20      place around Fruit Cove. And so that is my  
21      community.

22             And it is interesting, everybody that I  
23      end up running into seems to have the same  
24      concerns as I do. Is our properties being  
25      taken care of, is the river being taken care

1 of, what's the education like, what is the  
2 funding from the State, from the Feds, what are  
3 the issues around the county? And so when I  
4 look at the dilemma that you might face in our  
5 arena, I look at 19, and there's, what, Mike,  
6 16,000 extra that you've got sitting there, so  
7 we could take that and move it into, what is  
8 it, 16, Beth, I think, that would take care of  
9 that issue, and everything south and everything  
10 to my community over in Orange Park as it is  
11 today all the way down to Fleming Island where  
12 my Home Depot is, makes sense and we are all  
13 very dumb, fat and happy.

14 So -- and Gwyndolen, all of my favorite  
15 dining places are right there. I don't have to  
16 go over 295, and all the sizing is correct.

17 And one thing I want to just share with  
18 you all, sir, 93 years, wonderful, and the  
19 history that some of our folks have shared with  
20 us tonight is wonderful, and the traditions  
21 that as a community you've all had. I come  
22 from Colorado, so, my gosh, the Civil War, I  
23 had to scratch my head on that one. But the  
24 thing is, in my community, all of us take the  
25 same approach in making sure that we want a

1 Representative who stands for the rights of the  
2 people, who represents that all of us have a  
3 proper place in our society, that we should all  
4 be treated respectfully, and finally, we should  
5 honor the individuality of each and every one  
6 of us. And in my community, that is what  
7 happens, and it doesn't make any difference  
8 whether you are black, white, Ukrainian or  
9 Hispanic, my community will represent all of  
10 us, and that is what we expect. Thank you.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

12 Next up we have Mr. Richard Billings. I  
13 apologize, Richard, I didn't give you a  
14 heads-up. Thank you for being here. And after  
15 Richard, we are going to have Jay McGovern.

16 Mr. Billings, you are recognized.

17 MR. BILLINGS: I am Richard Billings from  
18 Fernandina, Nassau County, Representative  
19 Adkins, and I want to score some points, so I  
20 will be brief.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Good.

22 MR. BILLINGS: Basically -- can everybody  
23 here me? I just want to make one point and ask  
24 one question. I would love to see when you  
25 guys are done at the end of the day to have the

1 districts resemble something that it is either  
2 geometric or follows natural boundaries. You  
3 know, before the meeting, I was looking at the  
4 Florida congressional districts, and I got a  
5 chuckle out of District 3, look at that. And I  
6 don't want to go into politics, but I hope we  
7 don't see that when you folks are finished with  
8 your deliberations.

9 The second thing -- and I hope politics  
10 and party politics don't enter into the  
11 equation, too much anyway. And my question is,  
12 at the end of this session, can we get a little  
13 update on Amendment 5 and 6, how will that  
14 impact your thinking? If you could write that  
15 down, if we have time. Thank you very much.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.  
17 To give you two quick answers, the first one to  
18 your question is you can actually sign up on  
19 this card and you can get updates via e-mail as  
20 to what we are doing and the timing and  
21 process.

22 Also, in regards to Amendments 5 and 6,  
23 Senator Gaetz will touch on this at the end,  
24 but to say it very briefly, we are going to  
25 follow it. It is the law, it is the



1 Constitution and we will absolutely follow it.

2 Mr. McGovern, thank you for being back  
3 this afternoon. You are recognized, sir.

4 MR. MCGOVERN: Thank you.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: After  
6 Mr. McGovern, we have Jonathan Loesche. I hope  
7 I am saying that right. Mr. Loesche, you will  
8 be next from the Libertarian Party of Duval  
9 County.

10 You are recognized, sir.

11 MR. MCGOVERN: Thank you. There's been a  
12 lot of talk about having individuals or civic  
13 organizations submit plans, and I would  
14 certainly suggest that people do that, as you  
15 have. We want that public input. But it  
16 doesn't preclude you from giving us a look at  
17 what you guys have in mind as members of the  
18 committee. I think that is really important.  
19 I mentioned earlier about it is effectively a  
20 gag order by you not communicating with me. It  
21 is important that I communicate with you, but I  
22 need you to communicate with me as well. I  
23 don't think it is the job of civic  
24 organizations to submit a plan for you guys.  
25 It is your job. That is what we pay you for.

1           The other part of that is, as a citizen,  
2           it suggests to me that I have to have a special  
3           interest group to be represented, that I have  
4           to have some civic group submit a plan that  
5           fits my needs, or I won't be represented. So  
6           that is why it is so important for me to see  
7           your plan.

8           And then in the introductory remarks, you  
9           talked about the timeline and you consistently  
10          say that you have accelerated the timeline, but  
11          I would please like to clarify that is only the  
12          final enactment of the districts that has to  
13          wait until 2012.

14          What we didn't see was enough early on,  
15          you know. The Governor sort of slow-rolled the  
16          census data, and we are off to a start now, but  
17          it is a late start, and I think that should be  
18          acknowledged. And there are things that you  
19          can do to speed the process. We don't need to  
20          depend on the courts to have a speedy process  
21          after January.

22          So the last thing I would like to point  
23          out is there's a couple of people who have  
24          talked about fairness is in the eye of the  
25          beholder. The purpose of Fair Districts

1 Florida was to define fairness, and that is  
2 codified now in our Constitution, that fairness  
3 is defined, as one guy was talking about,  
4 compact, geometric, blah, blah, blah. So that  
5 is codified. And the last point of that  
6 fairness is these districts can be done meeting  
7 the requirements of the Voters Rights Act. We  
8 just have to pay less attention to Republican  
9 versus Democrat constituencies. Thank you.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
11 sir. Thanks for coming back.

12 Jonathan Loesche. After Mr. Loesche, I  
13 hope I am saying that right, we have Craig  
14 Shoup.

15 Jonathan, you are recognized, sir. Thank  
16 you for being here today.

17 MR. LOESCHE: My name is Jonathan Loesche,  
18 I am with the Libertarian Party of Florida, and  
19 first off I just want to thank all of you for  
20 making this process as seemingly open as  
21 possible.

22 You know, like the other gentleman said,  
23 it seems like the -- with the issue of  
24 gerrymandering, this isn't an issue about race.  
25 Somebody else said about District 3, the other

1 main thing about that district is that it is  
2 almost primarily Democrat, and I would be  
3 willing to wager that all -- I know at least  
4 District 4 is Mr. Crenshaw, and I am not sure  
5 about the others, but I am willing to bet  
6 almost all of them are Republican, because  
7 almost all the Democrats in this part of the  
8 state are within District 3. As someone who is  
9 a third party -- potential third-party  
10 candidate, it is already tough enough for us to  
11 try and get into the game and win a state like  
12 Florida where it has one of the highest  
13 incumbency rates in America, gerrymandering is  
14 a real issue. So I just want to say that --  
15 that is about it. So thank you very much.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
17 very much.

18 Next we have Craig Shoup, and after Craig,  
19 we've got Justin Taylor.

20 While we are waiting for Mr. Shoup, I just  
21 want to take a moment to let everyone know,  
22 unfortunately, the live webcast for this  
23 meeting has failed due to a technical issue,  
24 but we should be able to have video replay  
25 available on the pod cast and on the web in the

1 next day or so. So we apologize for that  
2 technical difficulty.

3 Mr. Shoup, you are recognized, sir.

4 MR. SHOUP: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
5 wanted to just express my gratitude to the  
6 committee and to all of our Representatives and  
7 Senators for this open process. I think we  
8 have heard people talking that we need to have  
9 openness, and I think you guys have listened  
10 before anyone ever said anything about  
11 openness, and creating this openness with the  
12 web, let anyone be able to submit a plan, you  
13 couldn't ask for a more open process. I just  
14 want to say thank you for that and thank you  
15 for coming over here to Jacksonville.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
17 very much. Extra points for Mr. Shoup.

18 Justin Taylor is next. After Justin -- we  
19 need you on the mike, because everything is on  
20 the record. We want to make sure that you are  
21 properly represented and your thoughts are  
22 represented, sir, so go ahead.

23 MR. TAYLOR: Thank you. My name is Justin  
24 Taylor, I am the President of the Nassau County  
25 Young Republicans, and I just wanted to say

1           thank you very much for representing us and  
2           thank you for all you do and for having this  
3           night to hear testimony from the public, so  
4           thank you.

5           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
6           very much, Mr. Taylor.

7           We next have Mr. William Wright, and after  
8           William Wright, Roger Thomas.

9           Mr. Wright, you are recognized, sir.

10          MR. WRIGHT: Thank you very much. I am  
11          using this little form that Congressman Stern  
12          sent out, so he said make sure you tell him who  
13          you are and all that kind of stuff. So my name  
14          is William Thomas Wright. Most people call me  
15          Tom. I am here representing myself; however, I  
16          am a proud member of the First Coast Tea Party.  
17          Then it says tell them how long. All right, I  
18          have been here since I was ten years old and I  
19          have been in Jacksonville for 57 years,  
20          graduated from a local high school, married an  
21          Englewood girl. I have five grandchildren, one  
22          great-grandchild. And I was one of those  
23          people when I was working for a living, I was  
24          too damn busy for politics, but since I  
25          retired, I decided I would try to dabble in it

1 a little bit and I got involved with the First  
2 Coast Tea Party and I started going to events  
3 and I started meeting people and I started to  
4 get a little enthused, but I had a real  
5 awakening in our last mayoral election. I was  
6 a poll watcher, and I was assigned to precinct  
7 four. I learned so much about political  
8 activism. These people know what they are  
9 doing. They took us to the wood shed,  
10 basically what happened.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Wright,  
12 we would like you to focus on the -- comments  
13 on redistricting, if you could.

14 MR. WRIGHT: I am getting to that. I am  
15 getting to that.

16 Now, item one on this sheet says "compact  
17 of districts." Then number three says,  
18 "preserve existing districts." Boy, I don't  
19 know how y'all are going to do that. I'll tell  
20 you one thing, I wouldn't want to be in your  
21 shoes. It is a heck of a job. And if you have  
22 to stick to this 696,000, no wonder the thing  
23 looks like a jigsaw puzzle.

24 So I ask you, please do your due diligence  
25 as much as you can, especially with cutting

1       into two new districts, and I hope you have  
2       divine guidance, because I believe you are  
3       going to need it. Thank you.

4               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
5       very much, Mr. Wright. Appreciate your  
6       prayers.

7               Next up we have Mr. -- Mr. Thomas.

8               MR. THOMAS: Good evening, ladies and  
9       gentlemen. I --

10              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: And, excuse  
11       me, Mr. Thomas, I'm sorry, after Mr. Thomas, we  
12       have Donna Barrow, or Barrow.

13              You are recognized, sir.

14              MR. THOMAS: I am Mr. Roger Thomas, a  
15       long-term resident of Jacksonville. I lived  
16       down in Winter Park before that for many years.

17              I would say that the person that comes  
18       closest to expressing my opinion tonight has  
19       been Mr. McGovern, so that is just a second of  
20       his position. I think the overall thing that I  
21       have heard tonight is a request for fairness on  
22       your part.

23              I can say that of the community here in  
24       Jacksonville, that my experience as a campaign  
25       worker was that some of my associates were run



1 out of some neighborhoods, and, therefore, to a  
2 certain extent, representation fairly in  
3 Jacksonville is still deficient. Whatever that  
4 makes problems for you, Lake Ray or the other  
5 people from Jacksonville, I'm sorry, but I do  
6 know that it is not working as it exists now.  
7 The Fairness in Representation Act needs to be  
8 implemented in your absolute, most ethical and  
9 scrupulous method that you can apply. Thank  
10 you.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

12 Next up we have Donna Barrow, and after  
13 that, we have John Libby who visited with us  
14 earlier. Donna. Donna left, okay.

15 John? We would love to have you back  
16 again, sir.

17 Are we going to put his maps up on -- if  
18 we could. Give us one second, John, I think we  
19 will get your maps up again.

20 Mr. Libby, for those of you who do not  
21 know, submitted a full congressional map to  
22 this committee as a -- now is probably a good  
23 time to mention, in fact, just today we have  
24 received three submissions of congressional  
25 maps just today on-line, and one state Senate

1 map. So we are certainly appreciative of the  
2 feedback we are getting, and Mr. Libby, we are  
3 very grateful for yours, so you are allowed to  
4 proceed.

5 MR. LIBBY: I just wanted to come forward  
6 one last time and commend the committee for  
7 holding these public hearings, and to suggest  
8 to everyone that is present that the  
9 opportunity exists here in Florida to have your  
10 input and put it on paper, send it  
11 electronically to these ladies and gentlemen  
12 over in Tallahassee. And having been through  
13 the redistricting process here in Florida in  
14 1980, 1990 and 2000, we've never had this type  
15 of opportunity as private citizens before. So  
16 I would suggest as Americans we all take this  
17 opportunity and be -- continue to follow this  
18 process through to its conclusion, and  
19 hopefully we will come up with districts that  
20 everybody can live with and are agreeable to.  
21 Thank you.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
23 very much, Mr. Libby, and thank you for  
24 submitting those maps to us. We are very  
25 grateful, and we hope many more people will

1 follow suit.

2 After that, I believe we've got a Dwayne  
3 Clarkson. Is that right?

4 MR. CLARK: Clark, Senior.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Clark,  
6 Senior. I'm sorry about that. Mr. Clark,  
7 Senior, thank you very much for being here. We  
8 welcome you, and after Mr. Clark, Senior, we've  
9 got Brenda Simmons.

10 You are recognized, sir.

11 MR. CLARK: Again, my name is Dwayne  
12 Clark, Sr. I am a resident of Jacksonville for  
13 quite a few moons, and I would just like to  
14 thank the Representatives and the Senators here  
15 today for this transparent proceedings. And  
16 also I would just like to mention, just to echo  
17 what Dr. Girardeau said earlier, when you are  
18 doing your redistricting, do it demographically  
19 based upon the registered voters. That will  
20 eliminate the gerrymandering, that will  
21 eliminate the race issue, that will eliminate  
22 everything and it would be -- everything would  
23 be neutrally based upon that and your other  
24 regulations that you are governed by, and I  
25 think everything will be okay. God bless you.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
2           sir.

3           Next up we have Ms. Simmons. Thank you  
4           for being here. And Arlyn Dockery will be  
5           after Mr. Simmons.

6           You are recognized, ma'am.

7           MS. SIMMONS: Thank you, Representative  
8           Weatherford, Senator Gaetz and distinguished  
9           ladies and gentlemen of the Legislature.

10          I rise this evening to speak in favor of  
11          abiding by the letter and the tenets of the  
12          Voting Rights Act, first enacted in 1965 and  
13          expanded in 1975.

14          Indulge me for a moment as a articulate  
15          from my perspective. I am an English  
16          literature professor by trade, and today's  
17          debate reminds me of a poem written by Dudley  
18          Randall at the turn of the 20th century. The  
19          poem was about two 20th-century icons, Booker  
20          T. Washington and W. E. B. Dubois. In  
21          Randall's widely anthologized poem, Booker T.  
22          and W. B., Washington argues that  
23          African-Americans should go about their work  
24          quietly and save money to buy a house, among  
25          other things, as part of a fictional

1 conversation with his contemporary. He said  
2 something like this: "It seems to me, said  
3 Booker T., that all you folks have missed the  
4 boat who shout about the right to vote, and  
5 spend vain days and sleepless nights in uproar  
6 over civil rights. Just keep your mouth shut  
7 and do not grouse, but work and save and buy a  
8 house."

9 W. B. Dubois constantly disagrees with  
10 Mr. Washington, citing education as the goal to  
11 which African-Americans should aspire. W. B.  
12 Dubois makes a very salient point relative to  
13 today's topic when he says in his poem, "For  
14 what can property avail if dignity and justice  
15 fail? Unless you help to make the laws, they  
16 will steal your house with a trumped-up  
17 clause."

18 Amendments 5 and 6 in all its geometry are  
19 the trumped-up clauses of today that will  
20 summarily strip African-Americans and Hispanics  
21 from the ability to appropriately be  
22 represented in the Legislature. Enactment of  
23 these amendments will destroy the communities  
24 of interest that comprise the minority access  
25 districts. I am firm in my belief, because for

1       the balance of my adult life I have lived in  
2       districts that were represented by people who  
3       look like me, some of whom are in this very  
4       room this evening. These Legislators  
5       understand, can interpret, and most  
6       importantly, can do and fervently fight for the  
7       issues important to me. There is an ease in  
8       this relationship, because similar backgrounds,  
9       interests and aspirations make for a  
10      synergistic relationship between legislator and  
11      constituents. After all, this is what  
12      democracy is about, persons duly elected to  
13      ensure that genuine interests of constituents  
14      are not compromised.

15           I ask myself the question: If I began my  
16      statement today citing a turn of the 20th  
17      century debate covering a similar topic,  
18      knowing full well that twice in that century,  
19      in 1965 and 1975, the issue was confronted and  
20      handled head-on, why is it that we are here  
21      today in the second decade of the 21st century  
22      still debating an issue that is so clearly one  
23      that is regressive instead of progressive?  
24      But, alas, we are here, and I register my  
25      sentiment and strong opinion that blatant

1 violation of the Voting Rights Act through the  
2 enactment of Amendments 5 and 6 and creating  
3 districts that are not representative of  
4 communities of interest is degenerative,  
5 insulting and it erodes the progress made by so  
6 many of America's foreparents.

7 In a word, let us continue to uphold the  
8 Voting Rights Act and ensure that any  
9 redistricting maintains minority access  
10 districts. Thank you very much.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
12 very much.

13 Arlyn Dockery. After Ms. Dockery, we have  
14 Beth Davey.

15 MS. DOCKERY: Thank you. My name is Arlyn  
16 Dockery, I have lived in Jacksonville for over  
17 45 years, and I thank you all for representing  
18 us, and I hope and pray that when all is said  
19 and done and all the redistricting has been  
20 re-graphed, that all the people will be fairly  
21 represented, equally and geographically from  
22 Jacksonville to Orlando. Thank you.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
24 very much.

25 Beth Davey? Is Beth here? She already

1 spoke. We had her in here twice, okay. I  
2 apologize for that. I thought I had seen that  
3 before.

4 Robert, I want to say Sponsor, but I don't  
5 think that is right.

6 SENATOR GAETZ: Lives on Forest Circle.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes, on  
8 Forest Circle. He left? Okay, he is not here.

9 Bruce Rockwell. Is Mr. Rockwell here?  
10 Come on forward, Mr. Rockwell. You will be  
11 followed up by the Vice-President of the city  
12 council, Mr. Bishop. Mr. Bill Bishop, you are  
13 next, sir.

14 You are recognized.

15 MR. ROCKWELL: Mr. Weinstein, you forgot  
16 about us folks in Duval County when you  
17 announced who you represented.

18 The young lady that just spoke before me  
19 with the Voting Rights Act, we seem to forget  
20 that we are all Floridians, we are supposed to  
21 be representative of everyone. So my  
22 suggestion to you gentlemen, which the State of  
23 Florida residents voted for Amendment 5 and 6,  
24 if you believe in democracy, then what is the  
25 problem? What we need to do is have a computer



1 graphics giving us three or four choices,  
2 leaves you gentlemen off the hook, and we do it  
3 by population, not by black, white, green,  
4 purple, Republican, Democrat or whatever you  
5 happen to be. I am a registered Democrat, I  
6 vote Republican, but I speak independently, so  
7 I don't know --

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Sounds like  
9 you got all the bases covered there, sir.

10 MR. ROCKWELL: Well -- and one last thing  
11 that is not on subject. The Georgia-Pacific  
12 redistribution of their waste into the St.  
13 Johns River, you know, they are polluting  
14 Wright's Creek, now we are all going to get a  
15 little bit. Thank you for listening.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
17 Mr. Rockwell, we appreciate your comments.

18 We've got the Vice-President of the city  
19 council, Mr. Bill Bishop. Councilman, thank  
20 you very much for being here, and following  
21 Mr. Bishop, we have Ms. Audrey Gibson, former  
22 Representative.

23 COUNCILMAN BISHOP: Thank you,  
24 Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.  
25 Thank you all for being here and conducting

1       this hearing.  You truly do have a daunting  
2       task, and I am glad I don't have yours.  We  
3       have our own little redistrict thing going on,  
4       and it is nothing like this, so my hat is off  
5       to you, but my comment will be very brief.

6               Speaking as a resident of several of the  
7       districts that exhibit what one might call  
8       creative geometric properties, my hope is that  
9       compactness is a principle that ranks very high  
10      in the decision matrix in which you conduct  
11      your business going forward, and thank you very  
12      much.

13             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:  Thank you  
14      very much, sir.

15             Yes?  I think we have time for everybody.  
16      We would love to here from you, Ms. Gibson.  It  
17      is good to see you again in your neck of the  
18      woods.  And after Ms. Gibson, we have got -- I  
19      am going to ask Senator Gaetz to help me with  
20      this one.  I think it is Celia --

21             SENATOR GAETZ:  Miller.

22             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:  -- Miller.  
23      Celia Miller will be next.

24             Representative, thank you for being here,  
25      and you have the floor.

1           MS. GIBSON: Thank you, and thank you all  
2           for being here. I know it is very difficult to  
3           leave family, particularly when session is over  
4           and committees are over, so I appreciate all of  
5           you all being here, and certainly all of you  
6           all need to give yourselves a hand for being  
7           here because you are interested in the process.  
8           Go ahead and do that.

9           I just have a couple of comments. You  
10          know I am a woman of many words, but I wrote  
11          down today what I want to say, and I had some  
12          dental work done, too, so that is going to cut  
13          in really badly.

14          I think as you consider how the district  
15          lines are going to be drawn, I hope that you  
16          all will consider what is in the best interest  
17          of all of the communities throughout this  
18          state. Will the people who are drawn within  
19          particular district lines have an opportunity  
20          to elect someone who represents their  
21          interests, the diversity of interests, where  
22          the schools are going to be drawn, where the  
23          libraries are going to be, and the trickle-down  
24          effect of the lines that you draw on not only  
25          congressional districts, but legislative

1 districts, school districts and city council  
2 districts, and how that all plays into the  
3 daily lives of the citizens of the state of  
4 Florida.

5 I also would ask that you consider that  
6 the census and redistricting is not only about  
7 how many people there are in our state and  
8 within district lines, but who those people  
9 are. And, again, the overwhelming  
10 consideration, I think, is whether or not they  
11 have opportunity -- the opportunity to elect  
12 people who represent their interests and their  
13 needs, and then, again, remember the domino  
14 effect. Thank you very much.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
16 Representative Gibson.

17 We have Ms. Celia Miller next, and after  
18 Ms. Celia, we have Lisa King.

19 You are recognized, ma'am.

20 MS. MILLER: Good evening, Representative  
21 Weatherford and distinguished other  
22 Representatives and fellow citizens. I am  
23 Celia Miller, practically a life-long resident,  
24 native of Jacksonville, and I would like to  
25 thank the Representatives and those people who

1       are responsible for making this process very  
2       transparent and the many opportunities that we  
3       will have to have input.

4               I think most of the speakers have made  
5       very valid points, and I concur with most of  
6       them, and I think all of us want fairness so  
7       that we will all be represented.

8               This is a democratic democracy, but some  
9       people have their own interpretation about with  
10      democracy is. Some see it as being fair, and  
11      some feel it and interpret it as not being fair  
12      since it is a democracy, but we live in a  
13      capitalistic society. So we are not always  
14      certain that our best interests are  
15      represented, but the voting process allows for  
16      that to be accomplished if everyone is to use  
17      their best judgment, their best knowledge and  
18      their most earnest consciousness to accomplish  
19      what all the people would want. Whether half  
20      feel it is wrong or half feel it is right, we  
21      want to be able to represent all the people,  
22      and that is basically what I wanted to say  
23      tonight, and hopefully from my community, which  
24      is in the heart of Jacksonville, we will be  
25      submitting suggestions, maps and ideas for the

1           committee to consider. And I like the idea of  
2           having the final draft include three options at  
3           least from which the people will have to  
4           decide. Thank you and God bless all of you.

5           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
6           very much, Ms. Miller.

7           We have Lisa King next, and after Lisa,  
8           John Thomas.

9           MS. KING: Good evening.

10          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Good evening.

11          MS. KING: My name is Lisa King and I am a  
12          native of Jacksonville, and I am here  
13          representing little, tiny precinct 11-A, the  
14          only precinct in Duval County that is in House  
15          District 12, and -- all 315 of us. And we live  
16          on Hecksher Drive, which is a 1920's toll road  
17          that was built by a New York businessman. It  
18          connects a string of islands. Out in my little  
19          precinct, I have one gas station, the ferry, a  
20          liquor store, a church, a surf shop and two  
21          restaurants. However, we are -- yes, we do,  
22          we've got the important bases covered. But  
23          because of the way the district is drawn, our  
24          Representative, who has, God bless her, more  
25          counties than any one person should have -- and

1 I know some of you folks in the Panhandle know  
2 what that is about -- we all work in  
3 Jacksonville, we -- our children go to school  
4 in Jacksonville. We really have no community  
5 of interest with the rest of that district.  
6 Our precinct has flip-flopped in between that  
7 district and District 17. And I will never  
8 forget meeting with Representative Davis one  
9 time, God rest him, and arguing with him that I  
10 was indeed in his district. He did not believe  
11 me. I had to take out my voter card and show  
12 him that I was indeed in House District 17. So  
13 we would really like to be in House District  
14 17. I am asking nicely.

15 Okay. That being said, trusting  
16 government is at a record low. Florida is a  
17 purple state, okay. We -- you know, we just  
18 elected a Democrat president, a Democrat mayor  
19 here in Jacksonville, barely, we have one U.S.  
20 Senator who is Republican, one U.S. Senator who  
21 is a Democrat. We have -- but yet the  
22 Legislature, the makeup of the seats does not  
23 reflect that kind of 50/50 atmosphere. That is  
24 why we voted for fair districts. It was not an  
25 accident. We knew what we were voting for. We

1 know that y'all can draw districts in a way  
2 that reflects our voter performance, which kind  
3 of goes back and forth, we are right there in  
4 the middle, and also respects minority access  
5 districts. We know it is possible and we  
6 expect it from you.

7 We also expect that at this time where  
8 money is so tight and we have such major  
9 problems to deal with, we don't want to spend  
10 our taxpayers' dollars watching you guys suing  
11 yourselves. Enough, okay. So it is really  
12 going to be really easy to judge the job y'all  
13 are doing. So I just want you to know there's  
14 a lot of folks watching you close. Thank you.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

16 We have John Thomas up next, and following  
17 John is Tom Larson. Is John here? Maybe not  
18 here.

19 Is Tom Larson here? Mr. Larson, thank you  
20 for being here, sir.

21 After Mr. Larson, we have John Wehrung.

22 MR. LARSON: Thank you very much for  
23 coming here from your far-flung districts  
24 around the state. My name is Tom Larson. I  
25 live in Jacksonville Beach. I am a life-long



1 American, though I am only in the Jacksonville  
2 area for the last 13 years. I am here after  
3 being in eight other cities following my  
4 career, and I am glad to be here. I got here  
5 as soon as I could.

6 I find the district shapes that we live  
7 with today to be extreme. My Congressional  
8 Representative has a district that spans from  
9 the east side of Tallahassee all the way to  
10 Ponte Vedra Beach. My state senatorial  
11 district ranges from the Georgia border to  
12 Ormond Beach, and it takes so long to drive  
13 from one end to the other of these districts  
14 that there's no way to know my neighbors. I  
15 really urge you to undertake compact district  
16 designs that reflect the community that people  
17 live in and their interests that surround their  
18 jobs, their schools, their families, and I hope  
19 that you find the word "fair" to be your  
20 mantra. I know that is subject to  
21 interpretation, but we really seek a state  
22 where we are all proud of the layout, we are  
23 all proud to be represented by you, and urge  
24 you to do your best to do us good service.  
25 Thank you very much.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
2           sir.

3           John Wehrung, and with the desire to earn  
4           bonus points has decided not to speak, so John,  
5           thank you very much for being here.

6           Raymond Pringle is next, and after Mr.  
7           Pringle, we have Tanya Bison. I do want to  
8           mention that Tanya Bison is our last speaker,  
9           and so if there's anyone here who wishes to  
10          speak, but has not filled out a card, please  
11          raise your right hand now. We will get a card  
12          to you and give you an opportunity to speak.  
13          Sir, I see someone right here. Could have been  
14          one of the ones that was absent earlier when I  
15          called your name. We will come back and look  
16          for you, sir.

17          But Raymond Pringle. All right. Good to  
18          see you, sir. Thank you for being here. I  
19          guess we are in Gator country tonight.

20          MR. PRINGLE: Yes, sir.

21          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Go Gators.

22          MR. PRINGLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
23          distinguished panel. Welcome to the bold city  
24          of the south, Jacksonville. I see some of you  
25          ladies and gentlemen up there that I have known

1       for a long time, and we sure do appreciate you  
2       coming.

3               Our town is a great military town, and  
4       we -- we are so glad that we have such a  
5       wonderful city that we live in, and one of the  
6       things that I am really concerned about is our  
7       community is changing, and I am just wondering  
8       if we are cognizant of just what is going on in  
9       our communities in trying to draw out some of  
10      these maps.

11             Equality is one of the things that is very  
12      important, I think, to each one of us as we sit  
13      here and I have heard a lot of folks talking.  
14      I live in the Dinsmore area, which is very  
15      rural, and our community is changing really a  
16      whole lot, and our community has been competing  
17      with -- the way the districts are drawn, our --  
18      competing with a lot of the downtown district,  
19      and a lot of the amenities that go into that  
20      district are winding up downtown and not in the  
21      area that we live in, and a lot of -- if you  
22      see on our map, Jacksonville has a tremendous  
23      amount of rural territory, such a big city that  
24      we live in, and our services are very sparse,  
25      especially transportation. We get a bus down

1 through Dinsmore one time a day, salute. And  
2 that is something that we really are concerned  
3 about.

4 And another thing, as I look at the  
5 drawing of these districts, it reminds me of a  
6 drunk chicken, and I don't -- as he maybe drags  
7 his tail along with ink on it and going through  
8 the lines, it is very hard to get a grasp on  
9 just where you are at. Unless you have your  
10 voter's card and it will tell you what's going  
11 on, you have to be a genius with a map to do  
12 so.

13 And so -- but with that, we appreciate you  
14 sitting here and listening to all of us and our  
15 concerns and maybe a little bit of griping and  
16 growling, which all Americans love to do, but  
17 we appreciate your ear and thank you very much  
18 for listening to us. God bless you one and  
19 all.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
21 Mr. Pringle.

22 Okay, Tanya Bison. Ms. Bison, and then  
23 following Tanya Bison, we have Kathy Davenport.

24 You are recognized.

25 MS. BYRON: Tanya Byron.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:   Byron, I'm  
2       sorry.

3           MS. BYRON:   Yes.

4           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:   My apologies.

5           MS. BYRON:   I never wanted to attend one  
6       of these things before, it is not what I wanted  
7       to do, but when the decisions that you folks  
8       are making in Tallahassee are affecting my  
9       daily life, I start to pay attention.

10          I second this gentleman's thoughts that I  
11       don't quite understand why we, the people, are  
12       being asked to put all this effort into this  
13       redistricting. We have the expectation that  
14       you have the -- that you have the smarts and  
15       the know-how and the tools to do this. I would  
16       say keep it simple, do it concentrically and  
17       keep it simple.

18          I am a property owner. I am busy trying  
19       to make my mortgage. I don't have time to do  
20       this. But, again, we want you to know that we  
21       are watching, the citizens are aware, and I  
22       think there is a level of distrust that has  
23       made probably a lot of these people show up  
24       that would rather be home with their families.

25          You guys have cut more than a billion

1       dollars from Florida schools while you are not  
2       making big corporations pay their taxes. Key  
3       growth management rules protecting our natural  
4       resources have been dismantled lately.

5               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Ma'am, if you  
6       could please focus your comments on the  
7       redistricting and the map specifically, that  
8       would be great.

9               MS. BYRON: Okay. Well, I think this talk  
10      about gerrymandering is coming from that place  
11      of distrust. That is really all I have to say  
12      besides to keep it simple and try and be fair.  
13      Thank you.

14              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
15      very much.

16              We've got Kathy Davenport, and after that,  
17      Mr. Solomon.

18              Ms. Kathy, you are recognized.

19              MS. DAVENPORT: Thank you. Thank you very  
20      much, and thank you all for your services.

21              This will be short. I just would like to  
22      request that as much as is absolutely possible,  
23      to keep Clay County all in one area, and not  
24      broken up. I think it would be all in our best  
25      interest.

1           And, also -- and I really appreciate you  
2       folks working as fast as possible to get all  
3       this done so that the information can get to  
4       our soldiers overseas so they will have plenty  
5       of time to vote and get back to the United  
6       States. So thank you very much.

7           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
8       very much.

9           Mr. Solomon, I'm sorry if we missed you  
10      earlier, sir, you are recognized, and thank you  
11      for taking the time to be here tonight.

12          Mr. Solomon is our last speaker. If there  
13      is anyone who would like to speak, we still  
14      have time, please fill out a card and raise  
15      your hand and we will get one to you. I see a  
16      gentleman right here. I see two gentlemen. We  
17      will get you a card. Thank you.

18          MR. SOLOMON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
19      definitely need to attend these kind of  
20      affairs, because recently I find myself serving  
21      on the North Florida Transportation and  
22      Planning Organization, and one of the things we  
23      do, we articulate concerns for the year 2050.

24          So we are talking about redistricting,  
25      which is good, but one of the things that has

1           to be noted is that there is too much  
2           astounding levels of apathy that exists, not in  
3           this room, within the general community. And  
4           at the same time, there is an imperialistic  
5           attitude that exists in some of our  
6           Legislatorsures. We need to have a commonality  
7           of bond and realize the fact that we are all  
8           here together.

9           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
10          Mr. Solomon.

11          We've got folks filling out cards right  
12          now, so we will give them a minute to do so.

13          Go ahead and come up, sir. I will get  
14          your name as you are walking up. Keith? I  
15          will let you pronounce your last name for me.

16          MR. SEADORF: Seadorf.

17          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Seadorf.

18          MR. SEADORF: A little bit unique. I am  
19          actually on the other end from most of the  
20          people here. I have actually only been in the  
21          Jacksonville area for a year now. I moved from  
22          Atlanta.

23          My only thing is, I would just like to say  
24          that I am an IT guy. I was a network engineer  
25          for HP in my last job. I am now well on the



1 way to becoming a psychologist right now, so I  
2 kind of switched careers, but the point I would  
3 like to make from both sides of the House is  
4 keep it simple, keep it very technical.  
5 Concentric circles is what's been mentioned  
6 before. I am sure something can come up with  
7 it. That is it.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
9 sir.

10 The last person, Randy Covington.  
11 Mr. Covington, sir, you are recognized.

12 MR. COVINGTON: My name is Randy  
13 Covington. I am a citizen living in District  
14 19 in northwest St. Johns County.

15 The first thing I want to do, Chairman  
16 Weatherford, Chairman Gaetz and all the members  
17 of the distinguished committee here tonight, is  
18 take the opportunity to thank you for your  
19 service this past session. This is a period of  
20 dwindling resources, budgets are stretched to  
21 the limit, and everything that you did  
22 reflected the best of what we as citizens of  
23 this state expect from State Representatives  
24 and State Senators. Thank you very much.

25 Beyond that, I want to say this: Fairness

1 is a very difficult thing to really describe.  
2 What I will say is this: At the end of the  
3 day, what anybody who will be involved in this  
4 process will have to make their judgment on is  
5 the very open process and all the wonderful  
6 tools and paths to participation you have  
7 provided the citizens of this state. It is  
8 only through open engagement that people can  
9 come to understand how difficult the process  
10 is, and all of you, we know, have good  
11 intentions and will do your very best to serve  
12 us in that regard. Thank you very much.

13 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
14 sir.

15 The next speaker, the last name is  
16 Pittman, I apologize, I can't make out the  
17 first name, and after Pittman, we have James  
18 Richardson.

19 Ms. Pittman? Thank you for being here,  
20 ma'am.

21 MS. PITTMAN: Thank you so much. First of  
22 all, I want to thank you all again for taking  
23 time and including us in the process.

24 We hope that as you look at redistricting,  
25 that you really be fair. We realize that over

1       the years what has worked in the community has  
2       helped a lot of people and the residents in our  
3       community. So we want you all to keep that in  
4       mind, what has worked in our community, and we  
5       want you to do this in a fair way that  
6       represent and that is very inclusive of our  
7       community. We want to thank you for your time  
8       in being here, and thank you for giving us an  
9       opportunity to speak and be a part of the  
10      process.

11               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
12      very much.

13              Mr. Richardson, James Richardson, you are  
14      recognized, sir.

15              MR. RICHARDSON: Thank you. I was born in  
16      Jacksonville. I've lived in many other places,  
17      mostly in Florida, and then here continuously  
18      over the last several years, but one of the  
19      reasons why I voted for the Fair District  
20      amendments was because it has just become too  
21      political and we have a situation where the  
22      vast majority of members of the Legislature are  
23      of a party that is actually a small -- is  
24      actually an under 50 percent minority of the  
25      total number of voters. And the reason that

1       can happen is that the few voters of the party  
2       that are disapproved -- or the voters that are  
3       disapproved by the people in charge are crowded  
4       into a few districts where a few of their  
5       members, a few of their citizens, can win  
6       re-election very easily because of -- because  
7       of the public sentiment in that area, whereas  
8       the remaining members of the actually minority  
9       party of voters are spread out over enough  
10      districts to make sure that that -- the  
11      minority party will win in almost every  
12      district. They give a few incumbents of the  
13      majority party and the majority interest, which  
14      is the average working person, a few of those  
15      people the plums of being able to constantly be  
16      re-elected, maybe because of their racial  
17      makeup or maybe because of various other  
18      self-identification factors. And that doesn't  
19      really help the people that belong to those  
20      communities, because they get a few -- they can  
21      point to a few inspirational members of  
22      Congress and the State Legislature that always  
23      get outvoted by the others, which doesn't  
24      really do them any good. And I think it is  
25      fairer to everyone, especially when

1 demographics do change periodically, to have  
2 the voting districts drawn up without regard to  
3 any demographics other than geographical  
4 proximity and community of interest, as it is  
5 called.

6 And as much as I love the fact that I, a  
7 Caucasian, am in the district that -- where I  
8 can vote for an African-American Congresswoman,  
9 I would like to see more Congress people, more  
10 State Representatives and more -- and more  
11 State Senators that represent my views, because  
12 so many of the people who represent my views  
13 are spread throughout the state rather than  
14 having a few that -- a few that always get  
15 outvoted. Thank you.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
17 sir.

18 Okay. Thank you all so much for your  
19 comment. Before we move forward and allow  
20 Senator Gaetz to close us out, I would like to  
21 give members of the committee an opportunity to  
22 either ask questions and/or give input. So at  
23 this moment, any members of the committee that  
24 wish to speak, we would love to give you that  
25 opportunity. Representative Julien? Any

1 members?

2 Representative Frishe, you are recognized,  
3 sir.

4 REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: Thank you, Mr.  
5 Chairman. Okay, now we are on.

6 Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much  
7 for coming out. What we have heard today has  
8 been very instructional. I don't come from the  
9 Jacksonville area, and I am on the House  
10 Subcommittee for Redistricting, and I have  
11 learned a great deal about your interests here  
12 locally. And I know I have a lot more to learn  
13 about it, so please send your ideas in, send  
14 your concerns in.

15 Freedom is a heavy lift, and as you  
16 probably all know, we are part-timers up here,  
17 we all have other full-time jobs that we try to  
18 maintain. And as much as I love my job, my  
19 wife likes me to earn a living, too.

20 So be involved, contribute to the process.  
21 Freedom is a heavy lift, we need you to help.  
22 But thank you very much for coming out tonight.  
23 We appreciate it.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
25 Representative Frishe.

1           Members, any other comments or questions  
2           tonight? Not seeing any.

3           Senator Gaetz, perhaps maybe -- there were  
4           some questions that were raised during the  
5           hearing. Perhaps maybe you could shed some  
6           light on those for us and for the members of  
7           the audience. You are recognized, sir.

8           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
9           and thank you all for being here.

10          We just concluded a series of hearings in  
11          Senator Montford's, Senator Evers' and my home  
12          territory, the Panhandle, and now we are here.  
13          And as I was listening to all the input we got  
14          in the Panhandle, I was so glad that my  
15          colleagues from the rest of the state were  
16          there and listening, because how else could  
17          they appreciate some of the nuances, some of  
18          the idiosyncrasies, some of the little  
19          irritations that we have dealt with over the  
20          past ten years?

21          And I am so glad that I am here in  
22          northeast Florida tonight with my colleagues  
23          from elsewhere in the state, because while  
24          there may be some who would say, "Why didn't  
25          you just bring us the maps and we would have a

1       *fait accompli*, and then we could either say we  
2       like them or don't like them," you know, there  
3       is something to be gained by listening first  
4       and then sitting down and drawing conclusions.  
5       How else could we have heard about or learned  
6       about the specifics of your neighborhoods, of  
7       your communities? I have taken eight pages of  
8       notes just about specific neighborhoods, about  
9       where District 16 and District 17 ought to be  
10      -- ought to be divided. We couldn't -- we  
11      couldn't have possibly accomplished receiving  
12      that sort of input if we would have just sat in  
13      Tallahassee in an echo chamber and didn't have  
14      the benefit of your involvement. So thank you  
15      for taking the time.

16           Let me comment on a couple of things,  
17      again, just so that we can do a little  
18      fact-checking. There have been a couple of  
19      comments made tonight and today about some sort  
20      of a gag order, suggesting that you are  
21      communicating with us, but we are not  
22      communicating with you, and, therefore, there  
23      is a gag order. You heard the Chairman offer  
24      the mike to any member of this committee,  
25      Democrat or Republican, House member or



1        Senator, to offer any proposal, and what I am  
2        hearing is that most are like me, and that is  
3        we want to hear from people in the 26 public  
4        hearings before we commit ourselves to  
5        something that might not work for your  
6        neighborhood or your community. But, you know,  
7        I learned a long time ago that when both sides  
8        are talking at the same time, that is not  
9        communication. First somebody has to speak and  
10       somebody has to listen. And I think it is our  
11       view in Senate and in the House that it is  
12       better for you to speak and us to listen.  
13       There will be plenty of time for us to  
14       communicate back, as I indicated at the  
15       beginning of this hearing. We will be back in  
16       Tallahassee in September. We will be holding  
17       open committee meetings. Members will use all  
18       of the input we have received to make  
19       proposals, to propose maps. Believe me, we  
20       will be communicating back. You don't need to  
21       worry about politicians not having enough  
22       interest in talking and making their proposals.  
23       It is remarkable we have been able to be this  
24       still this long.

25                And a comment was made, "Well, you know,

1       gosh, why are there references to special  
2       interest groups and why they haven't made  
3       proposals, why does it take a special interest  
4       group to make a proposal?" It doesn't. We've  
5       already had multiple submissions of plans for  
6       the Senate, for the House, for congressional  
7       districts, for particular areas of the state,  
8       made by individuals, including an individual  
9       who was here earlier today and as well tonight.  
10      We simply wanted to make it obvious and  
11      welcoming that the special interest groups who  
12      are following us from hearing to hearing with  
13      the same preordained scripts are also welcome  
14      to make proposals if they would like. They  
15      don't have to. It is absolutely true, we're  
16      paid that huge salary of \$28,000 a year to be  
17      state Legislators, and you are darn right we  
18      are going to propose maps and we are going to  
19      offer up bills, but that doesn't mean that you  
20      don't have good ideas that we shouldn't listen  
21      to first. And we have heard -- as I said, I've  
22      got eight pages of good ideas that's come out  
23      of today.

24               Then someone made the comment that the  
25      Governor slow-rolled the census data. Well,

1       let's do a little fact-checking on that. The  
2       Governor doesn't provide census data. That is  
3       the Bureau of the Census, that is a federal  
4       agency, and they provided the census data in  
5       groups of states. Florida was in the last  
6       group that received census data. That was a  
7       federal decision. They don't release all the  
8       census data at once. And as soon as we  
9       received the census data, within hours, we had  
10      all of the demographic information on our  
11      websites available to every Floridian. The  
12      Governor didn't tell us to do it, didn't tell  
13      us not to do it, had absolutely no role in it.

14           The Senate and the House, in response to  
15      another question, did offer to the United  
16      States Justice Department, Amendments 5 and 6  
17      for pre-clearance. It took a little while to  
18      make sure that we could put down the legal  
19      arguments that we thought were germane as to  
20      why 5 and 6 should be pre-cleared, and we  
21      offered them for pre-clearance and argued that  
22      they should be pre-cleared, and they were  
23      pre-cleared based on our submission.

24           You know, there are some who say, "Well,  
25      we should have come here with preordained maps

1           and just put them down and then said, 'By  
2           golly, take it or leave it." My guess is if we  
3           would have done that, we would have had  
4           criticism from people who said, "Well, why  
5           didn't you listen first?" And, frankly, and I  
6           don't mean to be cynical, we might have heard  
7           that criticism from some of the very same  
8           people who are saying, "Why in the world are  
9           you letting citizens speak first, why don't you  
10          just come and give us the answer?"

11                 There's someone who suggested there ought  
12          to be -- that redistricting ought to be based  
13          on registered voters only. Well, federal law  
14          won't let us do that. Federal law says that  
15          districts must be based on population, not just  
16          on people who choose to vote. People who  
17          choose not to vote have just as much right to  
18          be represented equitably as people who do vote.  
19          So it can't be based on registered voters or on  
20          people who decide to vote.

21                 And then someone else had an idea that I  
22          wish we could do. They said, "Why don't you  
23          just have computer graphics, just program this  
24          into a computer, let the computer draw the  
25          maps?" Well, first, we have had groups of

1 students from as far away as Columbia  
2 University look at redistrict in Florida and  
3 offer maps based on computer models. But the  
4 Constitution says that it is the Legislature,  
5 not the computer, that has to vote, because you  
6 can vote us out if you don't like what we do,  
7 but if we just trust it all to a computer, will  
8 the computer take into account all of the  
9 concerns that you have laid out in our hearing  
10 today? I am not so sure.

11 So computer models are welcome. If you've  
12 got one, send it in. We've had several people  
13 who have done it. We will be using computer  
14 models. We have provided the computer software  
15 that would be used by policy makers, it is on  
16 the website and you can use it. So if you  
17 think a computer model might be useful, go  
18 ahead. But at the end of the day, there still  
19 have to be accountable decisions made by people  
20 whom you elect.

21 Then there was -- there have been a couple  
22 of comments made, and I find this to be  
23 interesting as well, I am sure all of us do,  
24 and that is, "Well, we really have a state here  
25 where, you know, the plurality of voters are

1        Democrats, and the next group either are  
2        Republicans or non-party affiliated, depending  
3        upon where you count, and then the  
4        fastest-growing group of voters are non-party  
5        affiliated, so why can't the Legislature just  
6        be divided that way?" Well, the reason is  
7        because we can't guarantee how people are going  
8        to vote. There are 40 Senate districts, and  
9        there are 28 Republicans in those 40 Senate  
10       districts, we have 28 Republican Senators. But  
11       Barack Obama carried eight of the districts  
12       that are represented by Republican Senators.

13                Now, you know, should we force people, go  
14       to the polls and say, "Well, now, look, you are  
15       Republicans, you can't vote for Barack Obama"?  
16       You know, what happened was that Barack Obama  
17       had, you know, a better campaign, a more  
18       persuasive campaign, a better message in the  
19       eyes of many, many Independents and Republicans  
20       who voted for him.

21                So we can't -- we can't guarantee results.  
22       We still have to allow Republicans, Democrats  
23       and that growing group of voters who are  
24       Independents to make their own decisions. And  
25       I can tell you this, that there are many people

1       who will vote for a Democrat for one office, a  
2       Republican for another office, because they are  
3       looking at the individual and the campaign and  
4       the message and the issues. Very few people  
5       now vote a straight party line. And so we  
6       can't guarantee that the state is going to come  
7       out numerically exactly the way the voting  
8       population does, because we can't force people  
9       to vote a straight party line. And there is no  
10      way to draw districts to do that.

11           There have been a couple of references  
12      today to a lawsuit and the government suing its  
13      citizens. Anybody here been served with a  
14      lawsuit about redistricting? Anybody here  
15      gotten the sheriff to come to your door and  
16      tell you you are being served on a lawsuit  
17      about redistricting? I don't think so. The  
18      fact is that the government is not suing its  
19      citizens. The real fact is that there is a  
20      lawsuit. The lawsuit has been brought by two  
21      members of the United States Congress, a  
22      Democratic member of Congress and a Republican  
23      member of Congress. The lawsuit has nothing to  
24      do with state redistricting. It has to do with  
25      only congressional redistricting. And I am not

1       a lawyer, but as I understand it, the lawsuit  
2       seeks clarification as to any apparent  
3       inconsistencies between the Voting Rights Act  
4       and Amendment 6. And anybody has a right to do  
5       is that.

6             My guess is that that won't be just the  
7       first lawsuit. That will be one of many  
8       lawsuits that might be filed, because now we  
9       are in a time when, arguably, more people will  
10      feel like they have standing to file a lawsuit  
11      when, as the Constitution now says, "No line  
12      may be drawn with the intent to either favor or  
13      disfavor any incumbent or any political party."  
14      That is what Amendments 5 and 6 say: "No line  
15      may be drawn with the intent to either favor or  
16      disfavor any incumbent or any political party."  
17      Now draw the first line. You see, there will  
18      be people who feel that they have a standing to  
19      file a lawsuit. Two members of Congress have.  
20      That is the lawsuit that people are talking  
21      about.

22             Now, it is true that the House of  
23      Representatives is an intervenor in that  
24      lawsuit to seek this clarification. The Senate  
25      choose not to be an intervenor. But I think



1       it -- we probably need a little fact-checking  
2       on the assertion that somehow there's millions  
3       and millions of dollars being spent by the  
4       government suing its citizens. That is not  
5       true. The lawsuit is by two members of  
6       Congress, one a Democrat and one a Republican.

7               Lastly, Mr. Chairman, there are several  
8       people who have said, "Keep it simple." We  
9       sure would like to, we sure would like to, but  
10      imagine today, and my eight pages of notes bear  
11      this out, I am sure others have notes as well,  
12      there's not agreement in this room. We might  
13      keep it simple and make you happy or make you  
14      happy, but I am not sure we could keep it  
15      simple and make everybody happy.

16             What we have to do is follow Amendments 5  
17      and 6, they are in the Constitution, but as we  
18      have seen today, there's a lot of difference of  
19      opinion about what those terms might really  
20      mean. We have to follow the Voting Rights Act.  
21      We have heard differences of opinion today  
22      about what that might mean. You know, is it  
23      communities of interest? Is it geographic  
24      boundaries? Is it political boundaries? We  
25      heard today about growth centers. Maybe growth

1       centers, that is a new term, ought to be used  
2       to define communities and districts.

3               That is why we are doing the 26 hearings,  
4       to hear from you. That is why we have the  
5       Internet sites up, because we want you to  
6       propose what you think makes sense. We are not  
7       asking you to do our job. We are asking you to  
8       do your job as a citizen in a town meeting to  
9       stand up and say what you think ought to be  
10      done with something that is critical to our  
11      democracy, and that is the determination of how  
12      we will be represented, a determination that we  
13      make once every ten years.

14             I just want to thank you again. We have  
15      received extraordinary input, input we couldn't  
16      have received any other way other than you  
17      being here. So thank you very much. Thank  
18      you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing all of this  
19      input today. And we hope that if you have  
20      further comments to make -- this is not your  
21      last time to have input. This is your first  
22      time. You can have input through the Internet,  
23      through snail mail, through additional public  
24      hearings. We are going to be in St. Augustine  
25      tomorrow. If you are part of the traveling

1 road show -- we have some folks who travel with  
2 us and give the same testimony at every  
3 hearing -- you are welcome to come to St.  
4 Augustine. But thank you very, very much for  
5 being citizens who cared and participated.  
6 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
8 very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you all, ladies  
9 and gentlemen, for being here and for your  
10 input, and Chairman Gaetz moves we rise.

11 (Whereupon, the proceedings were  
12 concluded.)  
13  
14  
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## 1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )

3 COUNTY OF LEON )

4 I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript  
5 is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned,  
6 and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting  
7 under my direction;

8 That the foregoing pages 2 through 205  
9 represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of  
10 the tape-recording;

11 And I further certify that I am not of kin or  
12 counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the  
13 regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor  
14 am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

15 Dated this 1st day of November, 2011.

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

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Notary Public

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State of Florida at Large

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Commission Expires:

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November 13, 2014

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10 REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

11 TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2011

12 6:00 P.M.

13 NEW JOURNAL CENTER AT DAYTONA STATE COLLEGE

14 DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA

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21 Transcribed by:

22 CLARA C. ROTRUCK

23 Court Reporter

24

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1 T A P E D P R O C E E D I N G S

2 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you,  
3 members. The Joint Senate House Redistricting  
4 Hearing is called to order. Several committee  
5 members are here, as well as other  
6 Representatives and Senators, and I am going to  
7 ask that each introduce themselves and just  
8 tell us where they are from. So if we could  
9 past the mike around.

10 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Could we begin with  
11 Senator Lynn, in who's district we are  
12 delighted to be, Senator Lynn.

13 SENATOR LYNN: I am so happy that you are  
14 all here, and I want to thank the two Chairmen.  
15 Is it on?

16 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Yes, it is on.

17 SENATOR LYNN: Can you all hear me?

18 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: No.

19 SENATOR LYNN: Okay, now, we go. I want  
20 to thank you all for being here, because  
21 certainly this is an opportunity for you to  
22 tell us whatever it is you think is important  
23 as we look at redistricting, but I also want to  
24 thank Representative Weatherford and Senator  
25 Gaetz were kind enough and our own

1 Representative Hukill is a Co-Chair on the  
2 House side, but they were kind enough to have a  
3 meeting here in Daytona Beach which I very,  
4 very much appreciated because I think it is so  
5 important that we all have opportunities  
6 throughout the state to have input.

7 There are very many meetings and we will  
8 be going to a lot of them throughout the entire  
9 state, but I thought it was very important,  
10 because in this area we have reached a  
11 diversity of opinion on so many things.

12 So I do thank you, Chairman, for doing  
13 this and I thank you all for being willing to  
14 come out and I look forward to hearing what you  
15 have to say. Where would you like me to pass  
16 this now?

17 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Anywhere you want.

18 SENATOR HAYS: Do you want me to take it?  
19 You can tell we get along well. Thank you for  
20 being here. I am Alan Hays, Senator for  
21 District 20, which includes the western half of  
22 Volusia County and points on further west than  
23 that, but we are glad you are here. We  
24 appreciate you coming and we look forward to  
25 hearing what you have to say.

1           REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Could we pass that  
2           down here, because I would like to have  
3           Representative Costello and Representative  
4           Taylor introduce themselves since this is  
5           Volusia County, and Representative Brodeur. I  
6           am sorry, let's get Representative Brodeur, he  
7           is right there, it is easier.

8           SENATOR THRASHER: I am Senator Thrasher.  
9           I am John Thrasher. I represent Senate  
10          District 8 which includes part of Nassau,  
11          Duval, St. Johns, Flagler and I am proud to  
12          say, Volusia County. Thank you for being here.  
13          I appreciate it.

14          REPRESENTATIVE BRODEUR: Thank you, I am  
15          Jason Brodeur, State Representative from  
16          District 33. I represent, I live in Sanford in  
17          Seminole County, but I represent parts of  
18          Volusia County, in the western part, parts of  
19          Deltona, Osteen and Enterprise. So very  
20          excited to be here and thank you for coming  
21          out.

22          REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Let's just keep  
23          it, Representative Precourt, just take it. We  
24          are moving around too much.

25          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, your



1 call. I am Steve Precourt, House  
2 Representative from District 41 and Vice-Chair  
3 of the House (inaudible).

4 A VOICE: Senator Caldwell.

5 REPRESENTATIVE CALDWELL: Representative  
6 Matt Caldwell from southwest Florida, District  
7 73, Lee County.

8 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Representative Jim  
9 Boyd from District 68, Manatee County, which is  
10 Bradenton, Florida, just south of Tampa Bay.

11 REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: Kathleen  
12 Passidomo, Collier County. I represent the  
13 City of Naples, Marco Island, Everglades City  
14 and a lot of the Everglades.

15 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Representative Peter  
16 Nehr from Pinellas County and Pasco County.

17 SENATOR EVERS: I am Representative Greg  
18 Evers. I represent Senate District 2 in the  
19 panhandle, great northwest.

20 REPRESENTATIVE ADKINS: Hi, my name is  
21 Janet Adkins, I represent House District 12,  
22 which is Nassau, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Union  
23 and Duval County.

24 SENATOR MONTFORD: I am Bill Montford,  
25 State Senator from District 6 with 11 counties,

1 rural counties and around Tallahassee, Leon  
2 County, and ten others, all or a part of them.  
3 Glad you are here, appreciate you coming and  
4 sharing your ideas with us.

5 REPRESENTATIVE PLAKON: My name is Scott  
6 Plakon, House District 37, and I represent  
7 parts of Orange and Seminole Counties.

8 SENATOR DEAN: State Senator Charlie Dean.  
9 I represent District 3, the Florida Senate from  
10 Baker county west to Leon County, south to  
11 Citrus County, Hernando County and all or part  
12 of 13 counties.

13 REPRESENTATIVE DORWORTH: Hi there, my  
14 name is Chris Dorworth. I am a Representative,  
15 I serve in Seminole and Orange Counties.

16 REPRESENTATIVE LOGAN: Representative Ana  
17 Rivas Logan and I represent parts of Miami Dade  
18 County.

19 REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: Hi, I am Dennis  
20 Baxley, House District 24, serving Ocala,  
21 Marion County, and I am a graduate of Mainland  
22 High School. It is great to be back.

23 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Hi everybody, my  
24 name is Martin Kair, and I am The state  
25 Representative for House District 97 which is

1       located solely within Broward County. Thank  
2       you for coming today.

3               REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Good evening, I am  
4       Hazelle Rogers. I represent eight cities in  
5       Broward County, 1.8 million residents in  
6       Broward County, one of the most diverse  
7       counties in the State of Florida. Good to be  
8       here. Thank you.

9               REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Good evening,  
10       I am State Representative Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed  
11       and I represent House District 92, which is the  
12       northeast part of Broward County down to Ft.  
13       Lauderdale. Glad to be here and I want to hear  
14       what you have to say.

15              REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Good evening,  
16       Chuck Chestnut, House District 23, a portion of  
17       Alachua County and a portion of Marion County.

18              REPRESENTATIVE JONES: Good afternoon,  
19       State Representative Mia Jones from  
20       Jacksonville.

21              REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Good evening,  
22       State Representative Mack Bernard from West  
23       Palm Beach, Florida.

24              REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: Welcome, I am  
25       Representative Jim Frishe, I represent the

1 western edge of Pinellas County, all of the  
2 beaches.

3 REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Good evening. My  
4 name is John Patrick Julien. I represent House  
5 District 104. It is a pleasure to be here and  
6 look forward to hearing what you all have to  
7 say.

8 REPRESENTATIVE DRAKE: Brad Drake, Fifth  
9 House District, panhandle Florida.

10 REPRESENTATIVE HOOPER: Good evening, Ed  
11 Hooper, House District 50, part of Pinellas  
12 County.

13 REPRESENTATIVE FORD: Clay Ford, House  
14 District 3, parts of Escambia and Santa Rosa  
15 County. It is the Pensacola area.

16 REPRESENTATIVE COSTELLO: Good evening,  
17 everybody, Fred Costello, District 22, I am  
18 honored to represent many of you. Let me just  
19 tell you something. This is one group of  
20 wonderfully honorable people. I want you to  
21 give them a warm Daytona Beach, Volusia County  
22 welcome.

23 REPRESENTATIVE YOUNG: Representative  
24 Costello is hard to follow, but I am  
25 Representative Dana Young. I represent the

1 City of Tampa and part of Hillsborough County.

2 Welcome. Thank you.

3 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Good evening,  
4 everyone, I am Dwayne Taylor and I am proud and  
5 honored to represent you here in Daytona Beach  
6 and in Volusia County.

7 I just want you to know I have a bunch of  
8 wonderful colleagues that I would like to  
9 welcome, not only to my district, but my home  
10 where I spent 43 years of my life here. I want  
11 to thank the Chairs, chair Weatherford and  
12 Chair Gaetz for honoring Daytona Beach by  
13 bringing this House Redistricting Committee  
14 here.

15 We need the money in this community, and  
16 folks, please don't say anything to embarrass  
17 me tonight. Thank you.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Forty-three.  
19 We thought he was a lot older than that. My  
20 name is Will Weatherford. I am a State  
21 Representative from District 61. It is in  
22 Pasco County and part of Hillsborough County.  
23 Honored to be here.

24 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you so much.  
25 My name is Dorothy Hukill, and I represent

1 District 28, Volusia County. I am so proud  
2 that so many of my fellow Volusians came out  
3 tonight to greet us and to tell us how they  
4 feel about this process and what they think is  
5 important to them.

6 I, along with my Senate colleague, Don  
7 Gaetz, sitting to my right, will be chairing  
8 today's hearing which is being webcast  
9 statewide by the Florida Channel over the  
10 Internet.

11 Our sole purpose tonight is to hear from  
12 the public about how you believe the legal  
13 standards governing redistricting should be  
14 applied in your community so that you will be  
15 represented in Washington and Tallahassee  
16 fairly, equitably and sensibly.

17 Our procedures today are simple but  
18 important. It is important that you sign in so  
19 that we create an accurate public record of all  
20 attendees and speakers.

21 Also, you may opt to join our e-mail list  
22 so that you can keep informed about the  
23 redistricting process and how it is working  
24 over the next several months.

25 If you have not signed in and we have many

1 people signed in, if you have not signed in to  
2 speak tonight, please raise your hand and a  
3 staff member will give you an attendance card.

4 If you wish to speak today and have not  
5 filled it out, please do that now. Before we  
6 begin the Chair will recognize Senator Gaetz to  
7 explain how today's hearing fits into the  
8 redistricting process. Chairman Gaetz.

9 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much.  
10 Thank you, Representative Hukill. I am Don  
11 Gaetz and I represent five coastal counties in  
12 northwest Florida in the panhandle, from  
13 Pensacola to Panama City.

14 Every ten years the Legislature is  
15 required by our State Constitution to  
16 redistrict the state based on decreases,  
17 increases or movements of population from one  
18 place to another, and because Florida has grown  
19 more than other states in the last ten years,  
20 we also move up from 25 members of the U.S.  
21 House of Representatives to 27 members, and we  
22 also pick up two more electoral votes in the  
23 electoral college as a result of our increased  
24 population.

25 Now, because some parts of our state have

1       increased or decreased disproportionately to  
2       others, many Senate and House Districts will  
3       change either adding or losing population.

4               There is a chart in the back that many of  
5       you I saw were looking at when you came in.  
6       You can look at it during the hearing or on  
7       your way out and it indicates all of the  
8       Congressional House and Senate Districts in  
9       this part of Florida, and how many additional  
10      voters those districts will have to pick up or  
11      lose in order to be equal in population.

12              Because when redistricting is done,  
13      Congressional Districts must be equal in  
14      population and every Congressional District in  
15      America and every Congressional District, of  
16      course, in Florida, must contain 696,345  
17      people.

18              There are 40 Senate Districts in Florida,  
19      and they must be nearly equal at about 470,000  
20      people, and our 120 House Districts must also  
21      be nearly equal at about 156,700 people.

22              There are displays that you can see.  
23      There are maps in the back of the room showing  
24      the current boundaries of our current districts  
25      in this part of the state, and you can see over



1       on the chart over in that part of the room the  
2       number of persons that have to be added to or  
3       subtracted from current districts to achieve  
4       equal representation. So those are the maps.

5               Those are the districts that we can use as  
6       a take-off point to say, here is what is wrong  
7       with this district, here is where that line  
8       needs to be changed, here is where this makes  
9       sense or doesn't make sense.

10              You have an opportunity to use that as a  
11      take-off point for any of your comments tonight  
12      or your comments going forward, but equality of  
13      representation isn't the only legal requirement  
14      that redistricting plans have to meet.

15              The laws and the important court cases  
16      governing redistricting are explained in detail  
17      on the House and Senate websites.

18              Those websites are listed on the  
19      Redistricting 2012 brochure that was available  
20      when you came in. The gentleman in the yellow  
21      shirt down front has one. Would you hold it  
22      up, just hold it up? There you go. That is  
23      the brochure.

24              That brochure summarizes Federal and State  
25      laws and outlines topics that we hope to hear

1 from you on tonight. If you did not get a copy  
2 when you came in, they are available as you  
3 leave, and our staff will be happy to get you a  
4 copy.

5 The brochure lists our websites and the  
6 websites are packed with information about  
7 redistricting, including an explanation of the  
8 laws and the important court cases governing  
9 this topic.

10 You see the Legislature can't do what it  
11 wants, we have to follow Federal law, State  
12 law, constitutional requirements and applicable  
13 court cases, and they are all listed in detail  
14 on the website for you to look at if you would  
15 like.

16 The website will also deliver to your  
17 fingertips all of the demographic information  
18 that is used to draw districts, and you will  
19 also see overlaid on the demographic  
20 information the same computer programs that  
21 Legislators and policymakers would use to draw  
22 lines.

23 So the demographic information provided to  
24 Florida from the Bureau of the Census, and we  
25 got our demographic information later than many

1       states. We got, got it in a later tranche.  
2       That is why some states are ahead of us, but  
3       all of that information is on the website, and  
4       then the software that we will be using to draw  
5       districts is there, so that you can use the  
6       software if you would like and build districts  
7       and submit a plan for your neighborhood, your  
8       community, this part of the state or the whole  
9       state if you would like.

10           Recommendations from citizens and from  
11       groups of citizens, interest groups will be  
12       made publicly available as soon as we get them  
13       from you. In fact, some public submissions  
14       already are available on the web.

15           We are delighted, yesterday when we were  
16       in Jacksonville during our hearing there were  
17       three maps submitted by groups, by individuals  
18       in the state of Florida just dealing with  
19       Senate Districts alone, and we received  
20       Congressional District maps and other maps  
21       during that hearing as well.

22           So we are already receiving a lot of  
23       information and input. The maps are on the  
24       website and we would be delighted for you to  
25       look at them and comment on them.

1           The submission of proposed maps from  
2           Legislators as well as from the public is the  
3           best way for you to show your public  
4           participation in the redistricting process.

5           Now, the redistricting schedule, the  
6           timeline under which we are operating is  
7           imposed by the State Constitution. We can't  
8           change it. The Constitution does not permit  
9           the Legislature to act on legislative maps. We  
10          can't vote on them before the second year after  
11          the census.

12          In other words, we can't vote until 2012.  
13          Now, in order to accelerate that process  
14          because we want to make sure that candidates  
15          and incumbents and political parties and  
16          citizens mostly know what the maps are and what  
17          the process is as soon as possible, we have  
18          accelerated the redistricting process as much  
19          as we could by moving up the 2012 legislative  
20          session from March, when we usually start to  
21          January, the first time we could do it  
22          constitutionally.

23          And we are beginning our statewide  
24          hearings five months in advance of the 2012  
25          session. Now, some folks have suggested that

1       the Legislature should just draw the maps and  
2       bring them here and say, go ahead and you  
3       comment on them and we will draw them, you  
4       comment on them, but we believe that that puts  
5       the answer ahead of the question.

6               We think there ought to be in this  
7       important process no preconceptions created by  
8       politicians. We already have maps that we can  
9       use as a take-off point, but rather public  
10      testimony should be free and unrestricted by  
11      any political preconceptions that members of  
12      the Legislature have.

13             In fact, Ellen Freidin, the Chairperson  
14      for Fair Districts stated in testimony before  
15      the Legislature last year that no maps could be  
16      drawn. She wouldn't even attempt to draw maps  
17      until after the public has had an opportunity  
18      to comment, and we agree with Ms. Freidin in  
19      Fair Districts on that issue.

20             Our intent is to use the recommendations  
21      made of the 26 public hearings that we are  
22      holding and the input we are receiving through  
23      our Internet sites as the basis for developing  
24      one or more options for district maps.

25             Then we will discuss those options in open

1 public meetings before any votes are taken. So  
2 this is not your last opportunity for input.  
3 It is your first opportunity for input, and any  
4 map that is drawn or submitted by any member of  
5 the Legislature, any interest group, any  
6 citizen, you will see it and you will have a  
7 chance to comment on it again before the first  
8 committee vote is taken.

9 Whenever the Legislature passes a map or a  
10 plan or looks at one or more options, then that  
11 is submitted for judicial review to ensure that  
12 a final plan meets every legal requirement. So  
13 the Court has to review anything that we  
14 finally do.

15 Because our purpose today is to hear from  
16 you now that we have kind of laid out what the  
17 process is going forward, all of the time  
18 between now and our adjournment tonight at  
19 9:00 will be used to ensure that every member  
20 of the public who is here and wishes to speak  
21 will have time to present testimony and be  
22 listened to respectfully, without interruption  
23 and without argument, but there is no gag rule.

24 Every, after every citizen has had his or  
25 her say, then if there is time remaining and we

1 hope there will be before scheduled  
2 adjournment, then any member of the committee  
3 may make any statement, offer any observation,  
4 answer any question or offer any proposal or  
5 map.

6 Madam Chair, I hope that this description  
7 of our schedule and the process going forward  
8 helps set the stage for a successful hearing  
9 and we look forward to hearing from the people  
10 who have come here tonight to share their  
11 views.

12 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you,  
13 Mr. Chairman. Before we proceed with that  
14 process I want to recognize one of our former  
15 colleagues. We have now County Council Woman  
16 Joyce Cusack, former State Rep. Joyce, could  
17 you to stand up? Good to see you.

18 No, I didn't, and we also have, I can't  
19 see with the lights, but Pat Patterson, former  
20 State Rep Pat Patterson, where are you? There  
21 you are. Welcome. Thank you for coming  
22 tonight.

23 All right, we will adjourn promptly at  
24 9:00 tonight. So far there are 36 individuals  
25 -- Senator -- I am sorry. We have Senator

1 Baker, is Senator Carey Baker here?

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Senator Baker.

3 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you for  
4 coming. All right, we will adjourn promptly at  
5 9:00 tonight. There are 36 individuals signed  
6 up to speak so far.

7 Is there anyone else who wishes to speak,  
8 please raise your hand and we will get a card  
9 to you.

10 To ensure that each person is heard we are  
11 going to divide the time equally and ask each  
12 testifier to please limit your time to three to  
13 five minutes.

14 Please be considerate of all of the people  
15 behind you. We want the first person who  
16 speaks and then the last person who speaks to  
17 have the same amount of time. So please be  
18 considerate.

19 I am going to call on a person and then  
20 have the next up so that you know that you are  
21 on deck and you will be ready.

22 Our first speaker tonight will be Jim  
23 Cameron from the Daytona Regional Chamber,  
24 followed by Sandra Rose.

25 Mr. Cameron, you are recognized. The



1 floor is yours.

2 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. I am Jim  
3 Cameron, Senior Vice-President of Government  
4 Relations, Daytona Regional Chamber, and I want  
5 to say we are glad to have you in town tonight.

6 We appreciate you going on the road,  
7 taking the input of people like we have out  
8 here throughout the state. So we think this is  
9 the right process, because you are getting the  
10 input from the people.

11 Like Senator Gaetz said, you don't have  
12 maps come in here already drawn, you are  
13 getting the input first, so we like that  
14 process there.

15 We, at the Chamber, as far as Volusia  
16 County, we have had a nearly 12 percent  
17 increase from the last process though, but we  
18 have had some shifts in population, but we want  
19 to support any type of plan that is going to  
20 increase voter turn out.

21 We can't get enough of that, but we feel  
22 that communities of like interests should be  
23 well represented as a top priority. We want to  
24 make sure that minorities, all constituencies  
25 are represented in the Legislature as well as

1 Congress.

2 As for Volusia County, our Chamber, we  
3 would like to see two to three Congressional  
4 Districts and we would like to see these built  
5 around strategic economic drivers. Our  
6 beaches, our ports, airports, speedway,  
7 industrial parks, higher educational  
8 facilities. So that is what we are looking at,  
9 two to three congressional districts.

10 As for Senate Districts, we are saying no  
11 more than four Senate Districts with at least  
12 one being Volusia majority based. As for the  
13 House, no more than six House Seats in Volusia,  
14 but with at least three of those being, again,  
15 Volusia majority based.

16 I also want to commend, like I say, all of  
17 you for coming here tonight. As I said earlier  
18 for taking the time and doing this process. I  
19 wanted to also thank your staff, because I have  
20 been working with my District Builder, it is a  
21 little bit different from the Fred System ten  
22 years ago though, but Alex and Jason, they have  
23 done -- they have been very patient and walked  
24 me through the process and all. So I wanted to  
25 thank them as well. Thank you for coming

1           tonight.

2           REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
3 much, Mr. Cameron. Thank you for your  
4 testimony. Next up we have Sandra Rose,  
5 followed by Ann McFall. Ms. Rose, you are  
6 recognized.

7           MS. ROSE: Good evening. As we know, the  
8 Legislature cut \$300 million in corporate  
9 taxes. Now you are suing us with our own  
10 money. You have put up saying maybe up to \$30  
11 million that you are willing to spend to sue  
12 the taxpayers.

13           What I want to know, if we are supposed to  
14 be cutting back, saving money, why are you  
15 willing to spend \$30 million of my money, their  
16 money, to sue us for Amendments that we have  
17 already voted for and passed. Thank you.

18           REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
19 much, Ms. Rose. Ann McFall and Ann is our  
20 Volusia County Supervisor of Elections,  
21 followed by Lynn Peterson. Ms. McFall.

22           MS. MCFALL: Thank you.

23           REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you for your  
24 service to our county and our state.

25           MS. MCFALL: Thanks. And Senators and

1       Representatives, welcome to Volusia County. I  
2       have been to this rodeo before. In the '90s, I  
3       served on the Volusia County School Board  
4       during the reapportionment and the  
5       redistricting. In 2000, I was the Chair of the  
6       Volusia County Council when we redistricted,  
7       and the most challenging job there ever is, is  
8       to be Supervisor of Elections when lines are  
9       drawn. It makes you a little testy, if you  
10      will.

11           I just want to share a few minutes,  
12      political jurisdictions going through Volusia  
13      County and I don't want to sound selfish. This  
14      is not exclusive to Volusia County. I think  
15      everyone on the dais knows this happens in  
16      their counties as well.

17           Volusia County shares political  
18      jurisdictions with 13 other counties. We have  
19      three Congressional Districts, 3, 7 and 24;  
20      four State Senate seats, 1, 7, 8 and 20; six  
21      State House seats, 21, 25, 26, 27, 28, 33; five  
22      County Council districts; five School Board  
23      districts, elected by zone; an elected hospital  
24      district, going through half of Volusia County  
25      alone, not all of Volusia County votes in the

1 west Volusia hospital district; five Soil and  
2 Water seats elected county-wide.

3 We have 16 cities, four of which run by  
4 zone, Daytona Beach, Deltona, Ormond Beach,  
5 Orange City. Volusia County has 179 precincts.  
6 It cost the general fund of Volusia County  
7 about \$1,500 per precinct per election.

8 Of the 179 precincts, 43 precincts are  
9 split. Well, what does that mean? That means  
10 every time a line is drawn and then another  
11 line is drawn and another line is drawn, you  
12 have splits in that one precinct, because the  
13 precinct is there for ten years as well.

14 Precinct 602 I think is probably the  
15 poster child for split precincts. It has eight  
16 different splits, and that is the Pelican Bay  
17 area. The eight splits during our primary  
18 means you have a Democratic ballot, a  
19 Republican ballot and an MPA ballot. So three  
20 times eight gives you 24 different ballots in  
21 one precinct.

22 If Volusia County had no split precincts  
23 we would have 290 precincts. Of those 290, 55  
24 would have less than 100 voters. So you see  
25 the impact and I am sure everyone on the dais

1 understands the impact of drawing a line, and  
2 what impact it has for the next ten years on  
3 every department of elections statewide.

4 So I ask that you look at the lines, maybe  
5 be appreciative of political jurisdictions,  
6 whether it is a county or a city. I don't care  
7 how many districts there are, just let me know  
8 in plenty of time, so ideally I -- actually,  
9 the VTDs we presented last year to the  
10 legislative staff, Volusia County, if things  
11 were drawn a little clearer, would just need  
12 129 precincts, we wouldn't need 179.

13 So I just ask that you be mindful of that.  
14 I don't care where you draw the lines, but be  
15 mindful of the political jurisdictions, and I  
16 thank you.

17 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
18 much, Ms. McFall. All right, next up we have  
19 Lynn Peterson, followed by Lisa Walker.  
20 Ms. Peterson, you are recognized.

21 MR. PETERSON: Thank you. I received an  
22 e-mail reply from Will Weatherford,  
23 Redistricting Chair and Don Gaetz, the  
24 Reapportionment Chair thanking me for my  
25 interest in speaking at this hearing.

1           The e-mail describes this as the most open  
2           transparent and interactive redistricting ever.

3           However, it did not claim to be efficient  
4           or done in a timely manner, which is of huge  
5           concern to me and others. The process seems to  
6           be purposefully stalling, intentionally slow to  
7           thwart the time and opportunities that new  
8           legislative hopefuls will have to prepare and  
9           execute an effective campaign for office.

10          In addition, voters' time to familiarize  
11          themselves with candidates and issues will also  
12          be curtailed. It feels as if the residents of  
13          Florida are not your main concern, but that  
14          favoring your reelection, with reelection of  
15          incumbents seems most important.

16          And in speaking of voting, in 2002, the  
17          people of Florida voted to limit public school  
18          classroom size. Parents wanted small classes  
19          so their kids could get more help, teachers  
20          wanted it because they are more personally  
21          interactive with 25 kids rather than 35 kids.

22          I am a teacher in Volusia County and right  
23          now I am scheduled to have 178 students in my  
24          six classes. This is because even though we  
25          voted to limit class sizes, the Florida

1       Legislature defied our vote and has changed  
2       what voters --

3               REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL:   Ms. Peterson,  
4       could you please limit your comments to  
5       redistricting?

6               MR. PETERSON -- voted for.   Oh, I am.   I  
7       have never taught 178 students before, and you  
8       should tremble at the thought that I have that  
9       much to do.

10              Now, you think I have gotten sidetracked.  
11      Again, after 63 percent of the people of  
12      Florida voted, voted for fair redistricting,  
13      the Florida Legislature wants to ignore the  
14      voters of Florida again and challenge in court  
15      our wishes and fair, for fair and compact  
16      redistricting.

17              We would like our Representatives to  
18      represent Floridians, not extreme right wing  
19      Floridians, not extreme left wing Floridians,  
20      but just plain old every day Floridians.   Thank  
21      you.

22              REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL:   Thank you very  
23      much.   All right, next we have Lisa Walker  
24      followed by Robert Field.   Ms. Walker, you are  
25      recognized.



1 MS. WALKER: Good evening, everybody.  
2 Thank you for allowing me to speak at this  
3 meeting.

4 First of all, I want to say that I am for  
5 the Amendments V and VI and hope that you all  
6 will follow that law that was agreed on by  
7 63 percent of the voters last November.

8 Specifically, what I would like to speak  
9 about tonight is the town that I live in. I  
10 live in the town of Deltona, and Deltona right  
11 now is the largest city in Volusia County.

12 Deltona has almost 85,000 people. Back in  
13 2000, when the redistricting was done, I don't  
14 know why it was done the way that it was, but  
15 Deltona was split in so many different ways  
16 that Deltona now does not have any  
17 Representatives.

18 Deltona has split into two Congressional  
19 Districts, two State Senate Districts and four  
20 State House Districts, and none of those  
21 Representatives live within 30 miles of  
22 Deltona.

23 They don't come to our City Commission  
24 meetings. They basically, Deltona is being  
25 ignored in the State House and the State Senate

1           and within our Congress, and I hope when you go  
2           ahead and redraw the lines that you do follow  
3           Amendments V and VI and follow the lines so  
4           that you make Deltona be in a State House  
5           District by itself, a State Senate District by  
6           itself, and also a Congressional District by  
7           itself, and that is basically what I have to  
8           say. Thank you.

9           REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
10          much, Ms. Walker, for your testimony. Next we  
11          have Robert Field, followed by Charles  
12          Moskowitz.

13          MR. FIELD: Thank you.

14          REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Mr. Field, you are  
15          recognized.

16          MR. FIELD: I was a supporter of V and VI  
17          and I support the aims of 20 and 21 for compact  
18          and contiguous districts that are consistent  
19          with existing political boundaries.

20                I think this is paramount, not just to  
21          represent the voters, but also to encourage  
22          turn out. When people know who their  
23          Representatives are, when their Representatives  
24          are the same as their neighbors, their  
25          co-workers, their family members, they are more

1       likely to vote. They feel involved in the  
2       process.

3               Now, I think some of the preliminary maps  
4       that I have seen are encouraging in some  
5       respect, but I have one major concern.

6               We have, it seems that we may continue  
7       this practice of gerrymandering majority  
8       minority seats. Now let me say right up front,  
9       I am in favor of minorities in government. I  
10      have worked for minority candidates in the  
11      past. I will again in the future.

12              I am committed to the ideal of a  
13      representation in our legislative bodies that  
14      represent our demographics as a state and as  
15      communities.

16              However, I think the cost that we pay for  
17      these safe seats for candidates is too great,  
18      because what it does, is at the cost of  
19      offering representation to certain minority  
20      groups, it then disenfranchises members of  
21      those minority groups, because when people who  
22      live in what should be three or four different  
23      districts and you should be competitive in  
24      those competitive districts, are instead,  
25      sheppard into one district. Their votes are

1           neutered.

2           They don't have a real impact on the  
3           future of their state or the future of their  
4           nation. I think this is a grave problem. We  
5           should address it aggressively. We should --  
6           we should apply the ideals of 20 and 21 for  
7           compact and contiguous districts with  
8           consistency with existing political boundaries,  
9           absolutely, thank you.

10           REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
11           much, Mr. Field, for your testimony. Next we  
12           have Charles Moskowitz, followed by Judy  
13           Ngying. Am I saying that right, N-g-y-i-n-g?  
14           All right, Mr. Moskowitz, you are recognized.

15           MR. MOSKOWITZ: Thank you. Good evening  
16           everyone, we do appreciate everybody coming up  
17           this evening to hear and answer questions.

18           I have two questions for you. Since  
19           Amendments V and VI passed, I am a little  
20           puzzled about why we, I guess the people, the  
21           State, the Legislature, whatever, had to hire a  
22           law firm to try to find fault with Amendments V  
23           and VI. That is my first question.

24           The second question is, is, which law firm  
25           did we have to pay \$300 per hour of taxpayer

1 money to try to find fault with Amendments V  
2 and VI. I hope you have answers to that,  
3 because there is a lot of other folks that are  
4 going to ask me the same question and I  
5 couldn't answer them. Thank you very much.

6 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
7 much, Mr. Moskowitz for your testimony. Judy  
8 Ngying, followed by Candy Gilman.

9 MS. NGYING: Hi, I am Judy Ngying, and I  
10 am a resident of Deltona and I am happy to be  
11 here, and I am going to piggy-back a little bit  
12 on Charles, what he just said.

13 I like my money and some of my money has  
14 been taken away with the three percent on state  
15 employee, with a three percent for my pension,  
16 and then I am also seeing that \$30 million of  
17 my tax money, not personally, of course, but of  
18 Florida, is being used to fight that Amendment  
19 that 63 percent of us voted for.

20 And we know that many of you sitting here  
21 right now did not even get 63 percent of our  
22 votes. So we have a super majority that have  
23 voted for this Amendment, yet our tax dollars  
24 are being spent to fight the Amendment and then  
25 defend the Amendment.

1           It is very hard to explain to the upcoming  
2       children who are going to be voters how such a  
3       thing can happen. So that is my statement, and  
4       my question and I hope that we do have a  
5       resolution to that very quickly before that \$30  
6       million is exhausted. Thank you.

7           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Madam Chair.

8           REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Yes.

9           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Just since that question  
10      has been raised a couple of times at, you know,  
11      our goal tonight is not to -- not to argue with  
12      anybody but to listen, but everybody is  
13      entitled to their opinion, but everybody is not  
14      entitled to their own set of facts.

15           There is no \$30 million. I don't know who  
16      told you that, ma'am, but there is no \$30  
17      million that has been set aside to sue anybody.

18           There is a lawsuit that has been entered  
19      into by two members of Congress, one a Democrat  
20      and one a Republican, dealing with the Federal  
21      issue in Amendment VI, but the lawsuit has  
22      nothing to do with state redistricting.

23           The Senate is not a party to that lawsuit.  
24      The House is an intervenor in the lawsuit. I  
25      am not a lawyer, but my understanding is that

1           they are an intervenor in order to get  
2           clarification as to any inconsistencies between  
3           the Federal Voting Rights Act and Amendment VI,  
4           but the lawsuit is not entered into, was not  
5           started by the Legislature, and there is no \$30  
6           million.

7           So whoever told you that, please encourage  
8           them to give me a call and I would be happy to  
9           share with them any information that I have.  
10          Thank you, ma'am.

11                 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL:   Thank you very  
12           much, Mr. Chair.   Next we have Candy Gilman,  
13           followed by Ellen Darden.

14                 MS. GILMAN:   Well, first of all, I would  
15           like to say thank you very much for giving us  
16           the opportunity to come out and meet with you  
17           and this is democracy in my opinion, and I  
18           think we have got a great group of people  
19           sitting on that table, at the stage, I am  
20           sorry.   And you have done an excellent job.

21                 You have done a wonderful job for Florida  
22           and I think our Governor has done an  
23           outstanding job.   He is cutting our cost --  
24           folks -- shame, shame on you.

25                 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL:   Ms. Gilman, Ms.

1       Gilman, just hang on one minute. Members of  
2       the audience, please, out of respect for the  
3       speaker, let's not have a reaction to what is  
4       said.

5               Give her the opportunity to say what she  
6       wishes to say just as you want that opportunity  
7       when you are at the mike. Thank you very much.  
8       Go ahead, Ms. Gilman.

9               MS. GILMAN: That was mainly what I want  
10      to say. I have listened here and I am going to  
11      go on home to my mom, but I want to say thank  
12      you from the bottom of my heart, and if  
13      Floridians do not understand what you go  
14      through, they shouldn't be trying to wear your  
15      shoes. Thank you.

16              REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
17      much, Ms. Gilman for your comments and your  
18      testimony. Next up we have Ellen Darden,  
19      followed by Matty Rose. Ms. Darden, you are  
20      recognized.

21              MS. DARDEN: Good evening, I am Ellen  
22      Darden. I reside in New Smyrna Beach. I want  
23      to thank you all so much for allowing me to  
24      address you today.

25              I have got three brief points that I would



1       like to make, but the first one is the most  
2       important one to me, and that is to  
3       congratulate you and to thank you for being  
4       here for us in this series of meetings around  
5       the state.

6               I am here just as a concerned citizen, but  
7       I have never in my life seen a redistricting  
8       reapportionment process being carried on in  
9       such a positive, open and transparent method.

10              You have to take my word for this, but I  
11       spent my entire life interested in or  
12       participating in good government, public policy  
13       and politics, and straddled two redistricting  
14       times in Tallahassee while I was working in and  
15       around the Capitol.

16              This is unique and I think the people in  
17       this audience and around the state need to  
18       understand how unique it is for the  
19       transparency, for the opportunity for  
20       individual citizens who aren't anybody to get  
21       up in front of you all and tell you what we  
22       think for the site that you have up on the  
23       website where you are even giving us the tools  
24       to help law the lines. It is unbelievable.

25              Everybody has always thought of

1       redistricting as sneaky stuff done in back  
2       doors and I, behind closed doors and dark rooms  
3       and that sort of thing. I don't think there is  
4       anyway that we can evaluate this process in  
5       such a fashion.

6               Secondly, I want to address the protection  
7       of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Voting  
8       Rights Act, we all are proud of. It has been  
9       in place for 45 years, but this process isn't  
10      -- is about protecting the sacred rights of all  
11      of us for an equal and fair opportunity to  
12      vote.

13             So I am hoping that through this process,  
14      given the fact that over the last 45 years, so  
15      many of the people who were called minorities  
16      have achieved magnificent positions of power  
17      and responsibility and population and so on  
18      that perhaps our districts could go away from  
19      being those, some of those snaky little  
20      squiggly things that I think dilute  
21      representation, to be more of communities of  
22      interest where the districts are more compact.

23             I think certainly our most recent  
24      elections, just look at the evidence here in  
25      Florida, where a minority gentleman, Marco

1       Rubio is now a State Senator, a U.S. State  
2       Senator and Mr. Allen West is now a Congressman  
3       in a district that demographically he may not  
4       represent, shows how far we have come. So  
5       perhaps we could get those districts a little  
6       bit more compact.

7               And then finally just a couple of wishes  
8       for my home county, Volusia County. We have  
9       needs that are different in various  
10      geographical areas of our county. As you  
11      consider the House Districting, consider  
12      perhaps a seat that represents the coastal  
13      area.

14             The needs of the coast are different than  
15      the more rural areas in the western part of our  
16      state. And secondly, on the Senate side, if  
17      there is anyway possible to dedicate a Senate  
18      seat to Volusia County so that we don't have  
19      people spiking in from other communities of  
20      interest.

21             That is just a couple of points I wanted  
22      to make, but most importantly, thank you all  
23      for this process. It is amazing.

24             REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
25      much, Ms. Darden, for your comments and your

1 testimony. Next we have Matty Rose, followed  
2 by Ken Ali.

3 MR. ROSE: Good evening, stage people. My  
4 name is Matty Rose, and I am a resident of  
5 Volusia County, a long time resident in  
6 Florida.

7 I come before you because I am a voter, a  
8 registered voter, and I voted in the last  
9 election and I voted on the prevailing side for  
10 Amendment V and VI.

11 I also want to tell you my story. If you  
12 turn around and look at the screen, it says  
13 tell us your story. And I want to share  
14 something with you, and then I will get into  
15 the specifics of redistricting.

16 Many years ago when I was a young man I  
17 joined the Army voluntarily because those that  
18 were in the hierarchy of the military service I  
19 admired. I admired because they always looked  
20 good, they dressed in uniform and they made  
21 decisions that I had to follow, and the  
22 Congress of the United States and the President  
23 of the United States were admired because those  
24 in power, you had respect, due respect for  
25 them.

1           And later on in life after I got out of  
2           the service I started to become politically  
3           involved and I start to admire in the same  
4           respect those that were in the military, but  
5           those that were in the political scene, and  
6           because they always looked good and they always  
7           talk good and you can always depend upon those  
8           that were elected to do the right thing for  
9           you, but those of you that are on the stage  
10          that are representing this meeting here today,  
11          I don't have that same feeling, and I am very  
12          disappointed not only in the current  
13          Congressional Districts that are gerrymandered  
14          and have been for a long time, to just seek  
15          different needs of different people or  
16          different political parties.

17                You are gerrymandering the process,  
18                although these are open meetings and they are  
19                dragged out and the road show, to put all of  
20                you on stage here to hear comments, I am of the  
21                opinion that you your mind, your voting made up  
22                and this is just an event and all of the other  
23                events scheduled around the state to have  
24                individuals come and speak and hear my story.

25                So what I would like to ask you to do

1           tonight and in the other hearings you go to is  
2           not just listen, I would like to see some  
3           action. I would like to see those maps drawn.

4           You have enough information, you are all  
5           well-schooled and you are on the political  
6           scene, you are behind the scenes, you know much  
7           more than I do, and I would hope that you would  
8           draw these district lines to represent the  
9           people in Florida.

10          You don't need anymore information. You  
11          should have been here already showing us what  
12          you have done and not asking us what you should  
13          have done. Thank you very much.

14          REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
15          much, Ms. Rose. Next we have Ken Ali, followed  
16          by Joe, I can't read the name, but is it  
17          Siegmerster. Is that an S? S, okay, I am  
18          sorry. All right, Mr. Ali, you are recognized.

19          MR. ALI: Thank you, I am Ken Ali and I am  
20          glad to be here and I want to welcome you all  
21          it Volusia County. I am a proud immigrant  
22          American, and I want to say I am proud to be  
23          American.

24          I came to this country legally. I crossed  
25          legally, I went through the process and I

1       became a citizen. This is the first census  
2       that I am experiencing as an American citizen  
3       and I am proud of the process.

4             I have been to countries where  
5       representatives don't get to come and meet the  
6       people, and I welcome you. I want to thank you  
7       for the work that you have been doing, and this  
8       country is a great country, and we cannot  
9       afford to lose it.

10            We cannot afford to slip, and you are our  
11       representatives. You are charged with the  
12       responsibility of representing us in  
13       Tallahassee. I came to this country, I started  
14       a business. I ran for office after I became a  
15       citizen.

16            I was a candidate for City Commissioner in  
17       this city and in no other country can you do  
18       that, and I believe in the exceptionalism of  
19       America and we got to continue going forward.

20            I appreciate each and every one of you,  
21       regardless of which side of the aisle you are  
22       on. We vote for who we want to represent us,  
23       and I hope that this process will be a fair  
24       one, that each group is represented.

25            I agree with Ms. McFall that precincts

1       should not be sub divided and it puts more  
2       strain on her department and her budget cuts is  
3       going to be tougher.

4               So I would ask that you look at that, and  
5       as I always say, I always say, I wasn't born in  
6       this country but I will die for this country.  
7       My son has just back from Afghanistan, two  
8       towers in Iraq, one in Afghanistan.

9               And to all of our sons and daughters, we  
10       are proud of them, we are proud of our  
11       veterans, I know there are veterans up there  
12       that have served this country, who have given  
13       their lives and we have got to continue moving  
14       forward. Going back is not an option. Thank  
15       you very much.

16               REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
17       much, Mr. Ali. Thank you so much for your  
18       testimony, and I want to thank you specifically  
19       for your service to our country, and also your  
20       family members. Thank you very much.

21               All right next, we have Joe Siegmerster.

22               MR. SIEGMERSTER: Siegmerster.

23               REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: I am sorry, and  
24       followed up by Patricia Drago.

25               MR. SIEGMERSTER: Yes.



1           REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Go ahead. You are  
2 recognized.

3           MR. SIEGMERSTER: First off I would like  
4 to thank all of you for coming. I know as you  
5 go around the state that you will have people  
6 that are on your side and people that are  
7 against you, and to sit up and take some time  
8 is not an easy thing. So as a voter and as a  
9 citizen, I thank you for your citizen activist  
10 in being in the place that you are.

11           I am a citrus farmer, an entrepreneur, a  
12 former teacher. I am an agriculturalist and I  
13 live and reside in Volusia County, and what I  
14 would like to do is just say a little bit  
15 tonight, as you go, and as you do these  
16 districts, as well as your job, that you  
17 remember that agriculture is an important part  
18 of this state and this country.

19           We have always been a free country because  
20 we are able to feed ourselves. At the time  
21 when another country controls our food, we no  
22 longer have that control.

23           As you go out and you go, most people do  
24 not realize that agricultural is the second  
25 leading industry in the state, and when we talk

1       about jobs and tourism and in building and in  
2       the other legs of the stool of the support,  
3       agriculture continues to do that.

4               So when you make these districts, I ask  
5       that you take that one person who has talked  
6       about the rural concerns, that you take that  
7       into account, because I can tell you that my  
8       concerns are not the same concerns as the  
9       people of Daytona Beach.

10              I have had the opportunity to deal with  
11       several of you, because I have agriculture  
12       interest in other parts in other districts, and  
13       I can say that the people that we have in  
14       office, whether Democrat or Republican, have  
15       always treated me with the utmost respect and  
16       took notice of my concerns.

17              My concern is, is that with term limits  
18       some of you on both sides will not be there in  
19       the future, and if these districts aren't drawn  
20       to take into those considerations, you could  
21       have people put into or elected in the  
22       districts that are split where that is not  
23       taken into account.

24              The average American is more than three  
25       generations from a farming background, and

1       most, I would venture to say that I could  
2       probably find one person in any group that  
3       thought that food came from Winn-Dixie or  
4       Publix.

5               So as you do this and as you go, please  
6       take heart and do that. Just to give you an  
7       example, agriculture and related industries is  
8       the number one employer in Volusia County,  
9       okay. It is number two in the state.

10              We account for, you know, 40,000 jobs in  
11      this county alone. And so please, you know,  
12      thank you once again for doing that, and, you  
13      know, people are going to agree with me and  
14      disagree with me, that is fine, I can deal with  
15      that, but thank you for coming, thank you for  
16      listening, and please, you know, remember  
17      agriculture as you sit down through this  
18      process.

19              REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you so much.  
20      Very important comments. Thank you very much.  
21      All right next we have Patricia Drago, followed  
22      by Tony Ledbetter, and then just so you can get  
23      ready, John Hoyt has a presentation. All  
24      right, you are recognized, Ms. Drago.

25              MS. DRAGO: Thank you. I am speaking this

1           evening on behalf of the Volusia County League  
2           of Women Voters. I have been designated. I  
3           want to say as many of our other speakers did,  
4           thank you for holding these hearings. I know  
5           that it takes a great deal of time and energy  
6           traveling the state and not all of what you  
7           hear is what you want to hear and a lot of what  
8           you hear is just a repeat, repeat, repeat. So  
9           thank you for your patience.

10                 As you hold these public hearings around  
11           the state I know that a lot of the input in the  
12           absence of maps is going to be generalities.

13                 Well, the generalities really are in sync  
14           with much of the language of Amendments V and  
15           VI that passed recently in the 2010 election.  
16           And just for your information, they passed by  
17           greater than 70 percent in Volusia County.

18                 So your audience has been strong  
19           supporters of the change to the Constitution  
20           with Amendments V and VI. We heard  
21           compactness, we heard geographic contiguity and  
22           we heard racial minorities and ethnic  
23           minorities and making sure that those are  
24           protected.

25                 Please draft and publish the proposed maps

1 as soon after the conclusion of these hearings  
2 in September as you can. This would facilitate  
3 in another, I know we welcome it, another  
4 citizen input prior to legislative session and  
5 the committee hearings.

6 As I saw on your schedule, the committee  
7 hearings are from the end of September to  
8 December. So if the hearings conclude at the  
9 end of September, that is a very short turn  
10 around to get the maps out to the public and to  
11 take that input.

12 I think we heard from our Supervisor of  
13 Elections not just the number of --  
14 presentation of the maps, taking input and then  
15 adoption by the Legislature, reviewed by the  
16 voting rights, compliance with the voting  
17 rights by the Justice Department.

18 There are a lot of other steps in this  
19 process, to make sure that not just Volusia  
20 County Supervisor of Elections, but every  
21 Supervisor in the state is able to prepare the  
22 ballot for a good election.

23 Florida has not always had the smoothest  
24 elections. Any delay would threaten that  
25 process and if this is done smoothly with great

1 attention to the schedule, it is conceivable,  
2 not probable, conceivable that the maps could  
3 be adopted early in the legislative session.

4 We appreciate the fact that you scheduled  
5 the session up. We hope that that would  
6 expedite that. We also want to say, thank you,  
7 Senator Gaetz, for clarifying about where the  
8 role of the Senate and the House and the  
9 litigation, but I think you heard from us as  
10 taxpayers and as citizens that we have a  
11 concern that taxpayer dollars are clearly spent  
12 now in enforcement and defense of the  
13 legislation that was adopted and not to go  
14 further afield than that.

15 We feel very strongly that that has, it is  
16 now law, and we look for you to implement it  
17 and we thank you very much for your time.  
18 Thank you.

19 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
20 much, Ms. Drago. Next up we have Tony  
21 Ledbetter and then John Hoyt.

22 MR. LEDBETTER: My name is Tony Ledbetter.  
23 I live in Ormond Beach. I would like to also  
24 thank you for coming to have these hearings  
25 here.

1           I think it is important. I want to echo  
2 my friend, Ellen Darden, Candy Gilman and Ken  
3 Ali. I had, I back up 100 percent what they  
4 said.

5           I think this is the first time that we,  
6 the people, have been involved in these kinds  
7 of meetings, and I think that is important  
8 because we, the people, are who you are  
9 supposed to be listening to, and I am going to  
10 make my comments short.

11          I believe that you have the ability to  
12 look and draw the maps in a fair way. So I  
13 would trust you to do that, you know, and it is  
14 very important that the people have input and  
15 that is what we are doing today, is having  
16 input.

17          So I just believe that you have the  
18 ability to take the information and draw the  
19 maps fairly and I appreciate you coming and we  
20 will see you in 2012.

21          REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you,  
22 Mr. Ledbetter, so much for your comments. Next  
23 we have John Hoyt with a presentation, and then  
24 we have -- let me just make a comment right  
25 now.

1           We are going to need to limit this very  
2           strictly to three minutes after your  
3           presentation, because we have many, many more  
4           people who have signed up, which I am really  
5           happy about, but we have limited time. Go  
6           ahead, you are recognized.

7           MR. HOYT: First of all, good evening, and  
8           just, I think it is great that you all here to  
9           listen to some specific proposals.

10          I hope they are of interest and are  
11          reasonable. I have a partial redistricting  
12          proposal for Volusia County and portions of  
13          northeast Florida.

14          My name is John Hoyt, I am a resident of  
15          Port Orange and I am the President of the FMO,  
16          that is the Federation of Manufactured Home  
17          Association in Florida, homeowners in Florida,  
18          and my responsibility extends from Volusia  
19          right up through the northern border of the  
20          state.

21          My proposal suggests some boundary changes  
22          for the House, Senate and U. S. Congress  
23          Districts in Volusia County, as well some  
24          changes in adjacent districts due to these  
25          changes.



1           If you will look at the screen up there,  
2           you are looking in the center there at House  
3           District 25. Now, you will see on the eastern  
4           boundary of that a little green area there  
5           sticks out into Volusia County, picking up  
6           Deberry and half of Deltona.

7           Now, that is problematical. I had someone  
8           that lived in a mobile home park there and I  
9           wanted to find out who their Representative was  
10          so that they could promote something important  
11          to mobile home owners, and I called three  
12          different Representatives and they didn't know  
13          from that address whether or not that person or  
14          that park was represented in their district.

15          They said I have to contact their aides.  
16          Well, I contacted the aides and the aides said,  
17          well, I will call you back. I have to look it  
18          up by the address to see if you are in my  
19          district. That is ridiculous.

20          We need to have these boundaries along  
21          geographical boundaries or political boundaries  
22          that are easily recognizable. So if you come  
23          from a given town, that is your Representative,  
24          that is your Senator.

25          So Volusia County, the district boundaries

1           currently divide many cities that are currently  
2           resulted from severe gerrymandering efforts  
3           during the last redistricting effort. I hope  
4           we get away from it this time around.

5           Now, my proposal attempts to realign  
6           district boundaries along more logical  
7           political and geological boundaries.

8           Now, Volusia County has natural  
9           boundaries. You have a series of wildlife  
10          management areas running north and south  
11          dividing the state east and west. You have the  
12          Spruce Creek area which is a logical division  
13          between cities north of Ponce Inlet and south  
14          of Ponce Inlet, and then you have St. Johns  
15          River which is a natural boundary on the west,  
16          and the ocean, of course, on the east.

17          The four major populations area are  
18          Deltona, the Daytona Beach, Orlando area, a  
19          cluster of towns along I-95 in the western part  
20          of the state, and a string of towns from Ponce  
21          Inlet down to the southern boundary from Spruce  
22          Creek.

23          Now, House District 25 currently includes  
24          the very end portion of Deltona. This boundary  
25          should be moved westward to the St. Johns River

1           and compensating adjustments of District 25 can  
2           be made to the west.

3           House District, next slide, please. House  
4           District 26, now, look at that thing. It kind  
5           of wraps around the center part of Daytona  
6           Beach, and it actually includes part of Deland  
7           and some of the north Deland area.

8           I suggest that that entire area be moved  
9           eastward to the wildlife management areas so  
10          that that section would be added to 26.

11          Now, compensating adjustments to 26 can be  
12          made either on the northern boundary or down in  
13          the south. You will see that 26 has half of  
14          Deltona in there.

15          Now, we can either exclude Deltona and  
16          move it over to 27 or move it down to Deberry  
17          or back up, but one way or another we need to  
18          do something about Deltona so that it is not  
19          split into two districts. It can easily be  
20          done.

21          Next slide, please. Now, 27, that is  
22          where most of us live right here in the Port  
23          Orange area. It is illogical to divide Port  
24          Orange in half there.

25          You hear someone from Port Orange, you

1       don't know what Senate or House District they  
2       are in. I recommend that the southern boundary  
3       of District 27 be moved down to Spruce Creek.

4               That is natural geographic boundary, and  
5       that compensating adjustment be made by  
6       deleting Deland and just moving that whole  
7       western boundary to the wildlife management  
8       area. I believe that should be sufficient.  
9       If you need more adjustment you can go up there  
10      and adjust that northern boundary with Ormond  
11      Beach.

12             Next slide, please. House District 28 is  
13      reasonably well-founded. It takes in all of  
14      south Volusia County, and it is well-designed,  
15      except that I recommend moving that northern  
16      boundary in my previous slide down to the  
17      Spruce Creek area, the Ponce Inlet. Ponce  
18      Inlet would be in there, but the New Smyrna  
19      Beach down to Oak Hill would be still remain in  
20      28.

21             And to compensate for that I would suggest  
22      moving the western boundary over to pick up  
23      Deltona or Deberry or both of them. You would  
24      have to juggle the population figures to figure  
25      out how best to do that, but I just mention

1 District 25. It is that little piece of green  
2 there, that should be moved west so that we can  
3 allow for some compensating area put in 28, and  
4 perhaps 26.

5 Next slide, please. The Senate. This  
6 needs some work. Look at that thing. That is  
7 some of the worse gerrymandering I have ever  
8 seen in my life. Look at the one in the middle  
9 there, that gray thing. I don't know who  
10 managed it, he must have had some political  
11 pull, but he has got all of the center of  
12 Jacksonville, comes right down through Flagler  
13 and St. Johns and picks up the International  
14 Airport and the Speedway.

15 Now, tax revenue or something, he had some  
16 clout, I am telling you, but that needs some  
17 work.

18 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Mr. Hoyt,  
19 Mr. Hoyt, we have so many people who are signed  
20 up. I want do get to them. Please, can you --

21 MR. HOYT: Okay.

22 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: One minute.

23 MR. HOYT: One minute, you got it. Okay,  
24 in summary, move the district that -- a  
25 district that includes what some of the part of

1 Volusia, make that district all of Volusia, and  
2 then District 8 along the coast, make that the  
3 district above District 1 and District 1 would  
4 lie between 8 and then adjust the boundaries  
5 westward for the population centers.

6 For the U.S. Congress Districts, again,  
7 District 24, U.S. Congressional District should  
8 include all of Volusia, and to move the  
9 boundaries westward and upward and make  
10 compensating changes elsewhere.

11 District 3, again, District 3 slide. We  
12 need to move that District 3 slide such that it  
13 does no longer come down as a spike into  
14 Volusia County. That should be moved right up  
15 north of Volusia.

16 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Okay, Mr. Hoyt, I  
17 am going to have to stop you.

18 MR. HOYT: Okay, that completes my  
19 presentation, thank you for listening to me.

20 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Mr. Hoyt, if you  
21 haven't done this already you can submit it  
22 on-line, and submit it to staff, too, all  
23 right. So just talk to one of our staff  
24 members, please.

25 MR. HOYT: Yes, I submitted in an e-mail

1 to the staff.

2 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
3 much. Right, next we have Joe Stich followed  
4 by Sally Gillies and then Tom McGurn. Mr.  
5 Stich.

6 MR. STICH: Okay, everyone, please, let's  
7 try to limit our comments because we have so  
8 many people signed up. Thank you very much.  
9 Mr. Stich, you are recognized.

10 MR. STICH: Thank you. My name is Joe  
11 Stich. I live in New Smyrna Beach and I do  
12 thank you all for showing up here this evening.  
13 It is -- it is very well appreciated by the  
14 community and I thank you for it.

15 What I wanted to address is something that  
16 is going on in our country that affects where  
17 the population lives. And what I am talking  
18 about is Agenda 21, and Agenda 21 is a movement  
19 inside the United States to move the population  
20 to --

21 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Mr. Stich, Mr.  
22 Stich. You need to limit your comments to  
23 redistricting.

24 MR. STICH: I am.

25 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: That is not

1           redistricting.

2           MR. STICH: It affects redistricting.

3           REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Could you talk  
4           about the process of redistricting? Thank you  
5           very much.

6           MR. STICH: The movement of people into a  
7           confined area that is the process that is going  
8           on with it affects how those districts are  
9           going to be drawn, and what happens is the  
10          people that are not in a confined district have  
11          limited populations for their area. Five  
12          people for 20 acres, whatever the case might  
13          happen to be.

14          You are disenfranchising their votes,  
15          because across the street is an apartment  
16          complex that has 400 people living in it, and  
17          if you don't take into consideration the  
18          disenfranchisement of the voting population of  
19          the people in conservation areas, which is what  
20          is happening with this process, then you end up  
21          with no option, except to gerrymander, because  
22          there is no way to put the people anywhere  
23          else, except to reach out and grab 300 people  
24          over here and 200 people over there, to  
25          compensate for the numbers that you need.



1           Presently 40 percent of the land in  
2           Florida is owned by the government, and  
3           40 percent of the land in Volusia County is  
4           owned by the government, and that pushes people  
5           into these confined areas and it makes it, in  
6           my opinion, a bad situation for representative  
7           government.

8           REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
9           much, Mr. Stich. Next we have Sally Gillies,  
10          followed by Tom McGurn. Ms. Gillies, you are  
11          recognized.

12          MS. GILLIES: Thank you, Chairman Hukill.  
13          And thank you all for being here to listen to  
14          us. I had no idea so many of you would come  
15          down, and I think that is pretty cool.

16          I hope that you do hear us though about  
17          contiguous small districts. It is just insane  
18          the way it has been going here. I lived in  
19          Palm Beach County for 20 years. I don't want  
20          to see that in my new county.

21          I have been up here in Volusia for, since  
22          2003, and I love it. I think it is just a  
23          great beautiful place, but I don't want to see  
24          what happened down there happen up here, and  
25          drawing the districts so that they are small,

1           contiguous, people are a community that have a  
2           Representative or a Senator I think is very  
3           important and I appreciate your interest very  
4           much.

5           REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL:   Thank you very  
6           much, Ms. Gillies.   Next we have Tom McGurn,  
7           followed by James Harper.   Mr. McGurn, you are  
8           recognized.

9           MR. MCGURN:   Thank you.   Tom McGurn,  
10          Daytona citizen for all of over 60 years, I  
11          believe.   Forty years ago I was a District  
12          Manager for the Federal Census which all of you  
13          realize takes place every ten years and I had  
14          11 counties.

15          I had about 1,000 employees that I had to  
16          find, I had to recruit, test and then have them  
17          trained all in three months.   We got -- we had  
18          a successful census.   I believe we had a  
19          million people we counted at that time and we  
20          covered from St. Augustine all of way down to  
21          Brevard County, and all of the way across to  
22          Pasco and Hernando.

23          Ever since that time I have been very  
24          interested in the population process here in  
25          Florida.   I have been very dismayed at the

1       gerrymandering that has been going on and these  
2       maps out here in front, to me, they are  
3       reprehensible, and I wish that we would have  
4       had a few sample maps here.

5               I heard some excuses saying, well, people  
6       would be afraid if we had some type of pre -- I  
7       can't think of the right word, but we could  
8       have at least had some of the sample maps  
9       sitting out here to look at.

10              I haven't had a chance to look on-line to  
11      look at some of these things, but I will later  
12      on. It would have been nice if I could have  
13      looked at them and made some comments on them  
14      this evening. Unfortunately that didn't  
15      happen.

16              Long before Ann McFall became the  
17      Supervision of Elections I was involved in the,  
18      every so often when I wasn't on military duty I  
19      would get involved in the election process  
20      here, and I saw some of these split precincts  
21      that she is talking about.

22              I think I have -- I worked in one of those  
23      precincts, and it had six splits in it and I  
24      was appalled. People were putting their  
25      ballots in the machines, in the wrong machines,

1           this way and that way and the clerks didn't  
2           have any idea on how to run things.

3           I hope that somebody will have enough  
4           sense to do something about that. Deltona is  
5           probably the biggest city in Volusia County  
6           now. It has District 33, 25, 26. How many  
7           people in Deltona know Dr. Costello?

8           They probably know Jason Brodeur because  
9           he lives over there in that -- close to that  
10          area there, okay. Somebody down there needs to  
11          be in that one area there.

12          Geographical compactness, city, county  
13          lines should be taken into effect. I think  
14          that is all I can say right now.

15          REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
16          much, Mr. McGurn. Next we have James Harper,  
17          followed by Les Thackston. You are recognized,  
18          Mr. Harper.

19          MR. HARPER: Good evening, my name is  
20          James Harper, and I am a resident of Daytona  
21          Beach, Florida. I want to take a 30 second  
22          side bar.

23          Someone said something about the Voting  
24          Rights Act earlier. Basically the purpose of  
25          the Voting Rights Act wasn't so that blacks

1           could get elected to office, it was so that we  
2           could vote, we would have the right to vote.

3           So just to say that very clearly, you  
4           know, and having said that, I am glad to see so  
5           many black Representatives up on the stage, and  
6           unfortunate -- well, don't anybody take  
7           anything I say personal, but unfortunately, a  
8           lot of you are only window dressing.

9           You have no power, you have no voice,  
10          because you are dominated by a Republican led  
11          Senate and House.

12          So therefore, I say this only to go to the  
13          redistricting point. The minority/majority  
14          districts basically is legalized segregation.  
15          That is basically what it is.

16          There was a point in time -- there was a  
17          point in time when it was needed, because there  
18          was no black representation in elected office,  
19          but as we continued to do better, you know, it  
20          is not the color of the person today  
21          necessarily that needs to be voted into office.  
22          It is the person, itself.

23          Now, let me qualify that. We need black  
24          representation, we need minority representation  
25          or women representation, but if their voices is

1 not heard, and I don't mean they can speak and  
2 you hear them, it doesn't really mean a hill of  
3 beans.

4 So they are now and now the lines are  
5 drawn so that the majority Republican  
6 districts, which are majority white districts,  
7 do not have to cater to their black  
8 constituents.

9 These white majority districts you all  
10 have drawn them, I wouldn't call it a  
11 conspiracy, but they have been drawn in such a  
12 way that the blacks that vote do not, you do  
13 not have to be accountable voters because your  
14 districts are drawn so that there are no blacks  
15 and Hispanics in them. All of the blacks and  
16 Hispanics are in the minority/majority  
17 districts.

18 So you all need to be accountable to all  
19 of the residents of the state of Florida.  
20 Again, we need, you need to cater to everybody.

21 Very quickly, and I am going to wrap this  
22 up, because I see you all fumbling and jumbling  
23 up there, which is fine, you know, because the  
24 thing is, you need to be accountable to all of  
25 us.

1           These white majority Republican districts  
2           have got to stop. As I mentioned earlier, the  
3           Voting Rights Act was important because at that  
4           time we could not vote and it is important  
5           today even more so because the Republican  
6           Congress and House and Senate are doing things  
7           and it is getting harder for people to vote  
8           today.

9           You are making it harder for us to vote  
10          today. You know what you --

11          REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Mr. Harper, please  
12          stick to redistricting, and just can you wrap  
13          up your comments, thank you.

14          MS. HARPER: Yes, ma'am, I will do that.  
15          As I was saying, wrapping it up, and what I was  
16          saying in tying it in was things that you all  
17          have done recently in reference to the voter so  
18          that we can vote you all in, okay, have been  
19          done to make it harder for us to vote, and you  
20          know what you have been doing.

21          And I will just say this real quickly and  
22          I will get out of here, so that Barack Obama  
23          isn't elected in 2012. We know what you are  
24          doing, but I just -- I am partial, but having  
25          said that I hope, you know, you do things that

1       make it easier for all of us to vote, for  
2       people to get to vote easier, but also most  
3       importantly, draw the districts so that these  
4       white majority districts --

5                REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: All right,  
6       Mr. Harper, Mr. Harper.

7                MR. HARPER -- aren't drawn in such a way  
8       that you all are not accountable to your  
9       minority Representatives.

10               REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
11       much. All right, next, could I please ask  
12       members of the audience to refrain from the  
13       whistles, et cetera, so we can get moving.

14               Mr. Thackston, followed by John Nicholson.

15               MR. THACKSTON: Good evening, Les  
16       Thackston.

17               REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: You are  
18       recognized.

19               MR. THACKSTON: I live in the world's most  
20       famous beach, that is Daytona Beach in case  
21       anybody wants to know.

22               REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: We can't hear you.  
23       Can you talk into the mike, please?

24               MR. THACKSTON: Sure.

25               REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you.



1           MR. THACKSTON: A little low. I live in  
2           the world's most famous beach, that is Daytona  
3           Beach. I got to say it twice.

4           I would like to speak on being in a state  
5           that has a mandate, and I think ya'll know what  
6           mandates are. Someone earlier said that most  
7           of you probably didn't get in with 63 percent.  
8           Well, if you don't do something about the  
9           redistricting on V and VI, there will be  
10          another mandate next year. I think there is  
11          going to anyway.

12          So please make them compact, as compact as  
13          you can. I would like to make an observation  
14          on the maps, on the District Builder maps. I  
15          asked the gentleman outside what they were  
16          going to be used for and how they were going to  
17          be aggregated to come up with something, and he  
18          said they weren't. They were going to be  
19          looked at by somebody.

20          I think that is a real waste of time. I  
21          am not sure if it is just something to make  
22          people feel good, but if you are not going to  
23          do anything but just look at them and not use  
24          the data that you get from them, and then what  
25          happens if four million people send them again.

1           REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
2 much. All right, next up we have  
3 Mr. Nicholson, and then Mike Nolan. Mike  
4 Nolan? Mike Nolan? I have to get my other  
5 stack.

6           All right, we will put Mike Nolan aside.  
7 Faye McHugh followed by Elizabeth Albert. Faye  
8 McHugh? Do you want to waive your time?

9           Okay, next we have Elizabeth Albert,  
10 followed by -- Matty Rose we had, no? Okay,  
11 Elizabeth Albert.

12          MS. ALBERT: Yes.

13          REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: You are  
14 recognized.

15          MS. ALBERT: Good evening. Before I start  
16 I want to just put a little sidebar in, not as  
17 aggressive as our previous speaker, but a  
18 moment ago the \$30 million was discussed, and I  
19 excited the forum to check some sources.

20          And I just want to say that three  
21 independent media outlets researched that \$30  
22 million, and those would be the St. Peter  
23 Times, the Orlando Sentinel and the Miami  
24 Herald and they found the denial that there was  
25 a fund to be false.

1           Now, this is a public input hearing. I am  
2           a member of the public and I hope that you are  
3           hearing me as I notice some of you are  
4           participating in text messaging.

5           I am going to go ahead and read the  
6           comments that I had prepared because I spent my  
7           time preparing them, and I would hope that you  
8           would just listen. If you don't like what I  
9           say, that is fine, but I am going to start now.

10          REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Go ahead.

11          MS. ALBERT: Thank you so much. Good  
12          evening, I would like to begin by saying thank  
13          you, thank you all, the citizens of Florida who  
14          sit here this evening.

15          Thank you to all of the members of the  
16          audience who have given their time to exercise  
17          their constitutional rights and participate in  
18          this public hearing. Thank you for donating  
19          time that should be spent with a spouse,  
20          children or loved one.

21          Thank you for coming out to fight for what  
22          63 percent of voters approved in 2010. My  
23          focus this evening is on the current lawsuit  
24          filed to oppose the implementation of Fair  
25          Districts. I urge the Legislature to drop this

1 unnecessary and very expensive lawsuit.

2 The Legislature should be working to  
3 uphold the Constitution, not working to protect  
4 the interest of the incumbents by spending  
5 \$30 million taxpayer dollars to fight what  
6 approximately two-thirds of the voting public  
7 approved.

8 I want to know how the taxpayers can  
9 afford to fund this lawsuit during a time when  
10 our state cut the education budget by \$1.3  
11 billion. How can \$30 million be spent to fight  
12 fair districts when 2,000 State employees will  
13 be forced into unemployment?

14 Couldn't \$30 million be spent to avoid  
15 layoffs for workers in State mental health  
16 hospitals, juvenile justice facilities and  
17 state prisons?

18 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Ms. Albert, could  
19 you limit your comments to redistricting,  
20 please?

21 MS. ALBERT: I am wrapping it up, yes,  
22 ma'am, I sure am.

23 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you.

24 MS. ALBERT: Thank you. How does the  
25 Legislature justify spending \$30 million

1 taxpayer dollars when social services are being  
2 cut to the most needy citizens of our state and  
3 there are nearly one million Floridians out of  
4 work.

5 To quote a former Governor of our great  
6 state, this is a do nothing Legislature. Well,  
7 it seems when referencing the implementation of  
8 fair districts, you are still a do nothing  
9 Legislature.

10 To quote the current Governor, let's get  
11 to work. Why don't we get to work on stopping  
12 this lawsuit and creating fair districts?  
13 Thank you for hearing me.

14 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
15 much.

16 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: I am going to ask  
17 the audience, please, let's refrain, it is  
18 going to take time away from people who really  
19 want to speak and we want to hear them.

20 All right, next we have Kathy, I can't  
21 read it, from Ocean Terrace, Kathy. Is it  
22 P-o-l.

23 MS. POGAS: P-o-g.

24 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: P-o-g, Pogas, I am  
25 sorry. Followed by Michael Arth. You are

1 recognized.

2 MS. POGAS: Most of what I want to talk  
3 about has already been brought up, but I do  
4 want to make a point.

5 Mr. Hoyt, who brought these maps up and  
6 showed us what they look like, that had an  
7 impact, we could see how things are drawn.

8 If you would please make some maps, get  
9 them out to us and let us see what they are and  
10 then we can make good comments and points  
11 specific to what we are looking for.

12 Right now we are making general comments,  
13 general ideas of what we want, but it is hard  
14 to put that altogether. We need a place to  
15 start and work together towards a goal where  
16 everybody is represented. That is all we  
17 really want.

18 We want everybody to be represented  
19 fairly, and we want the people that represent  
20 us to know who we are and be there for us.  
21 Thank you.

22 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
23 much. All right, next we have Michael Arth,  
24 Michael, followed by Reverend Victor Gooden.  
25 You are recognized.

1           MR. ARTH: My name is Michael Arth, I am  
2           an urban designer and a policy analyst, and I  
3           have a bumper sticker that says if voting  
4           actually worked, it would be illegal.

5           Why would I have such a bumper sticker? I  
6           spent 17 years working as a policy analyst  
7           trying to understand our system, and I also ran  
8           for Governor. So I got an intimate look at how  
9           our system works, and I voted for Amendments V  
10          and VI because I think they are little baby  
11          steps in the right direction, and I hope you  
12          will implement the policy that has been voted  
13          by a quorum of the voters.

14          But unfortunately, V and VI are not fair,  
15          equitable or sensible. It is only slightly  
16          better than what we had before. Much like when  
17          we go to the polls and we vote for a Democrat  
18          or Republican, we are usually voting a lesser  
19          of two evils.

20          The system that is put before us, it is  
21          sort of like a mommy with her two-year-old. Do  
22          you want spinach or do you want broccoli. At  
23          least that mommy cares about the two-year-old,  
24          but when it comes to the political system, the  
25          Democrats and the Republicans do not care about

1 the voters. They care about staying in power.

2 We have seen this because we have what is  
3 called a winner take all system, which forces  
4 us into a duopoly.

5 Now, we could take a little baby step  
6 further and improve our districts by having  
7 what is called instant run off voting where you  
8 rank your candidates in order of preference.

9 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Mr. Arth, can you  
10 limit your comments to redistricting, please?

11 MR. ARTH: This is about redistricting,  
12 this is how to have fair districts. May I  
13 continue, please?

14 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Well, can I --

15 MR. ARTH: The way you have a fair  
16 district, all right, and the way you have a  
17 fair district is you rank your candidates in  
18 order of preference.

19 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Mr. Arth, please  
20 limit your comments to redistricting.

21 MR. ARTH: Okay.

22 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: It has been  
23 adopted. It is in the Constitution. We are  
24 going to follow it. So let's talk about  
25 redistricting. Thank you.



1           MR. ARTH: What I am going to explain is  
2           how to have fair districts, if you will just  
3           give me a minute. This is how we can make V  
4           and VI work even better.

5           Just like the Republicans in their own  
6           internal election, this is how they elect the  
7           Chair. They have what is called rank choice  
8           voting, and they don't want most Americans to  
9           know about this, but it is a fair, it is  
10          called, it is a fair and equitable way and  
11          sensible way to elect a leader.

12          The system we have only creates about  
13          12 percent representation in Congressional  
14          Districts, 12 percent. So if you want full  
15          representation and you want a fair and sensible  
16          and equitable system, then you implement and  
17          this is something that could be done on the  
18          legislative level.

19          You will have rank choice voting. You  
20          don't have spoilers, parties are not so  
21          important, and you will -- you will never have  
22          to have a redistricting fight if you also  
23          implement proportional representation, which  
24          would take it even one step further. Thank  
25          you.

1           REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
2 much. Next we have Reverend Victor Gooden,  
3 followed by Jim Oddie. Reverend, you have  
4 signed up twice.

5           REVEREND GOODEN: Two different groups.  
6 Going to speak once though.

7           REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Okay, thank you  
8 very much. Go ahead, thank you, Reverend.

9           REVEREND GOODEN: Madam Chair, Mr. Chair,  
10 Senators and Representatives, good evening.  
11 First of all, thank you for all that you do and  
12 we certainly appreciate it.

13           My name is Reverend Victor Gooden, I am  
14 coordinator for Governmental Relations at the  
15 great Bethune Cookman University, and I have  
16 lived and voted in Daytona Beach for over 22  
17 years.

18           Communities of interest should be  
19 represented as a top priority over arbitrary  
20 geographical boundaries. We want to make sure  
21 that minorities are represented fairly in  
22 Tallahassee and Washington, especially in the  
23 area of higher education.

24           When you sit down to finally draw these  
25 new lines, remember us here in Volusia County,

1       because of the factors that drive our economy  
2       are diverse and different, such as our beaches,  
3       the world's most famous beach, airports, the  
4       speedway, other businesses and higher  
5       education.

6               We need at least two to three  
7       Congressional Districts, no more than four  
8       Senate Districts, at least one of those would  
9       be based in our county. No more than six House  
10      Districts with at least three of those based in  
11      our county, and fairness should be the major  
12      issue throughout this whole process.

13             It is important for people to have a say  
14      in how the district lines are drawn, and the  
15      Legislature's redistricting hearing process  
16      that we are having tonight is legitimate and  
17      the best way to do it.

18             Judges, Commissions and Panels are okay,  
19      but not for this particular situation. You are  
20      the ones that we elected. You are the ones  
21      that we are holding accountable, and again, we  
22      thank you for all that you do, and please  
23      remember Volusia County. Appreciate it.

24             REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
25      much, Reverend, so much for your comments. We

1           are going to have adhere strictly to the clock  
2           now. So please use your time wisely.

3           MR. ODDIE: Oh sure, when I get up here.

4           REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Starting with you,  
5           Mr. Oddie, yes.

6           MR. ODDIE: Now we stick to the clock,  
7           okay.

8           REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: You are recognized  
9           Mr. Oddie.

10          MR. ODDIE: That is okay.

11          REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Followed by Peter  
12          Kouracos.

13          MR. ODDIE: I should be able to go under  
14          the time because I have the benefit of being  
15          able to reference to specific speakers.

16          My name is Jim Oddie, I am a long time  
17          resident of Volusia County, a business owner  
18          and a part of the Republican Executive  
19          Committee.

20          And tonight I would like you to give  
21          special weight to what Mr. Jim Cameron has said  
22          about our business, and also Ms. Ann McFall,  
23          our Supervisor of Election as far as making it  
24          easier on their office and the complexities of  
25          getting people out to vote.

1           I would also like to recognize what  
2       Mr. Ken Ali said. He tied up a lot of things  
3       about service to our country and what it means  
4       to be an American, especially when you are not  
5       born here.

6           And I would also you very much to consider  
7       what the gentleman spoke about the agriculture.  
8       I think that is very important. Since I had  
9       the advantage of being able to reference off of  
10      those people, now I would just like to get to  
11      my own point.

12          And that is we saw the judicial, the  
13      judicial branch keep some amendments off the  
14      ballot in this last election, things that  
15      referred to protecting us from healthcare  
16      initiatives that were given to us from the  
17      Federal government. Those weren't on the  
18      ballot.

19          We saw V and VI that were allowed on the  
20      ballot, and at the Federal level we see that  
21      Amendment VI is being challenged, and that is  
22      good, because this isn't a democracy.

23          This is a representative Republic, and we  
24      did things for 140 years when one party was  
25      making the decisions and now that the other

1 party is doing it the same way, it is being  
2 challenged.

3 So I want you guys to do the same things  
4 that they are doing in Congress for Amendment  
5 VI, and challenge that, challenge Amendment V.  
6 We elected you to go up there and make the  
7 districts and I am asking you guys to keep it  
8 out of the hands of the judiciary.

9 We already know it is going to be reviewed  
10 by them, but let's play by the same rules that  
11 worked for a long time and not change it just  
12 because another party is doing the  
13 redistricting or is in charge of it, because I  
14 would like to reiterate one other speaker up  
15 here.

16 We don't need black representation. We  
17 don't need white representation. What we need  
18 is good representation, and we have seen now  
19 that that is good or bad is not limited by what  
20 color they are or where they are from.

21 So with that in mind, let's use the rules  
22 we had, but let's keep the districts compact  
23 and fair so that we can avoid the judicial  
24 review. Thank you.

25 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you,

1 Mr. Oddie, so much.

2 MR. ODDIE: Thank you for coming out  
3 tonight for this transparent process.

4 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you. Next  
5 we have Peter and then followed by Harry  
6 Rosenthal. You are recognized.

7 MR. KOURACOS: Madam Chairman,  
8 distinguished members of the State Legislature.  
9 I am not sure if the public knows that we have  
10 the incoming Senate President and the incoming  
11 Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives  
12 here, am I correct?

13 Anyway, I want to make this very brief.  
14 The first thing that I would start at is, this  
15 is a very big issue, and it has affected us a  
16 number of times throughout the course of my  
17 lifetime as redistricting has occurred at least  
18 four times in my lifetime that I can recall.

19 I would like to start by asking the most  
20 high Lord God to impart the wisdom of Solomon  
21 upon the entire Legislature as it would relate  
22 to the crafting of the districts in question  
23 for this redistricting.

24 And I would like to touch on briefly the  
25 Congressional Districts in this county which,

1       and my comments are basically reserved toward  
2       Volusia County only. For many, many years in  
3       the earlier part of my lifetime, probably about  
4       35 years ago, Volusia County comprised one  
5       county in whole as part of its Congressional  
6       District.

7               At that time it was Congressional District  
8       4. Throughout the course of several  
9       redistrictings which really started to occur as  
10      the Democrats started to lose their grip on  
11      power maybe about 20 or so years ago, the  
12      district or the county became carved up several  
13      times and now we have at least three  
14      Congressional Districts here. District 24,  
15      Sandy Adams, District 7, John Mica and District  
16      3, Corinne Brown. I think the time has come at  
17      this particular point that Corinne Brown is  
18      really living too far away to -- to have a  
19      position in this county. She is too distant  
20      and it is really too gerrymandered.

21             So Congressional District 3 needs to be  
22      reformed out of this county and as far as the  
23      remainder of the county, it really either needs  
24      to fall into Congressional District 24 or  
25      Congressional District 7, one or the other,



1           whichever is easier for the Legislature to do.

2           Insofar as the State Senate boundaries, I  
3           am sure it is a hassle for Senator Thrasher to  
4           come all the way down here and campaign in this  
5           county. Senator Lynn has served us extremely  
6           well as a Senator, I as an individual elector  
7           in this county have been very pleased with her.

8           I don't know what you need to do with  
9           that, but something needs to be done with it,  
10          and I have to say, you know, 30 or so years ago  
11          there were a lot of complaints from the four  
12          towns area, which is Deltona, Deberry,  
13          (inaudible) City and Enterprise.

14          During that time period the Democratic  
15          Legislature refused to give a State House seat  
16          over in that area over the complaints of many  
17          of the residents of that time period,  
18          principally because they were afraid that it  
19          would create a Republican seat.

20          Well, that may or may not be the case  
21          today, because of changes in the demographics  
22          in the population in the city of Deltona.

23                 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: I need to stop  
24          you.

25                 MR. KOURACOS: Okay.

1           REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
2 much. Sorry. All right, Harry Rosenthal,  
3 followed by Ed Kelley. And after Ed Kelley, we  
4 have Andy Kelly. You are recognized,  
5 Mr. Rosenthal.

6           MR. ROSENTHAL: My name is Harry  
7 Rosenthal. For 53 years I have been a  
8 registered voter in Daytona Beach. I want to  
9 thank each of you for being here. I don't  
10 remember this ever having occurred before.

11           I understand that Volusia County is  
12 represented by four State Senators and six  
13 State Representatives. That is 10 percent of  
14 the State Senate and five percent of the State  
15 House.

16           Are we over represented in the Senate or  
17 are we under represented in the State House of  
18 Representatives? One or the other has got to  
19 be true.

20           The second is, if we have 40 Senators and  
21 120 Representatives, then why not we have three  
22 House seats in every Senatorial seat at our  
23 district and therefore you have eliminated a  
24 lot of this problems that you have with  
25 overlapping. Thank you very much.

1           REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
2 much for your comments, Mr. Rosenthal. Ed  
3 Kelley. Good evening, Mayor.

4           MR. KELLEY: That followed up that pretty  
5 easy, because one of the concerns that we have  
6 and we adopted it at our Commission meeting,  
7 that District 26 we feel would be well served  
8 by combining that to have Ormond Beach in that  
9 District 26.

10          I have nothing against Senator Thrasher.  
11 He is my Senator. Senator Lynn also represents  
12 Ormond Beach and I am sure that we will send a  
13 letter supporting that as well. You have heard  
14 from most everyone that that is part of the  
15 problem.

16          We were told that we would be better off  
17 having more people representing a smaller part.  
18 Maybe it is time to look at the other way and  
19 try to keep us all uniform. Thank you.

20          REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
21 much, Mayor, for your comments. Andy Kelly.  
22 Good evening to our County Council member.

23          MR. KELLY: Thank you very much. That is  
24 what I came up to say was good evening to you  
25 on behalf of the Volusia County Council. And

1 Co-Chair, I am looking for Ms. Joyce Cusach  
2 right here, thank you very much, and  
3 Ms. Alexander is here as well. Carl Persis is  
4 here, thank you very much.

5 I would be happy to read this, thank you,  
6 but if I may, I wanted to say welcome and I  
7 wanted everybody on the floor, general floor  
8 that are going to be redistricting in the  
9 county, as well as your local cities are, and I  
10 want to say thank you to each of the  
11 Representatives past and present for serving us  
12 as you have been serving us.

13 I think what you have heard the  
14 predominant message is very loud and clear, is  
15 that you hear us, and then please that you be  
16 fair to our Volusia County. Ms. Cusach, would  
17 you would like me to read this?

18 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Mr. Kelly, do you  
19 want to continue?

20 MR. KELLY: Dear Representative, this is  
21 from the concurrent Chair, Frank Bruno. "Dear  
22 Representative Taylor. The Volusia County  
23 Council unanimously voted at its July 7th  
24 meeting to let Florida Legislators know that  
25 our preference to put boundary lines that will

1       be created for Florida Senate District 7. As  
2       you know, Volusia County residents currently  
3       are represented by four State Senators from  
4       Districts 1, 7, 8 and 20.

5               Voters in the last election made it clear  
6       that they wanted to have districts that are  
7       more compact and follow natural boundaries.  
8       The County Council agrees, and we request that  
9       the new boundaries that are drawn and make  
10      Volusia County the core of Senate District 7.  
11      Thank you for your consideration."

12             REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
13      much. Can we -- I have not seen a copy of  
14      that. Has that been sent to us? All right,  
15      if you could just leave us a copy of it, I  
16      would appreciate it.

17             Next up we have Jerry, is it Doty, D-o-t  
18      -- is that D-o-t-y? Jerry from Flushing  
19      Avenue, Daytona Beach? Followed by Eddie  
20      Stamm. Okay, Jerry not here? Jerry? No. All  
21      right, Eddie Stamm. You are recognized, Mr.  
22      Stamm, followed by Sussanne Jones.

23             MR. STAMM: First off, thank you for  
24      coming. I moved here from Washington, D. C.,  
25      about three years ago. I grew up in Baltimore,

1 Maryland, and I have to say this would have  
2 never happened up there.

3 You guys could have been home doing  
4 whatever you wanted to do. So I just wanted to  
5 take the time to thank you. It is a  
6 representative government, and since I have  
7 been involved with some of the political  
8 processes here, I know the people in their  
9 candidacy to get elected, I have met these  
10 people and I feel that, you know, I can speak  
11 to any one of them or call their office if  
12 there is something that I am not really  
13 comfortable with.

14 I don't know a lot about the  
15 redistricting. I know it is an issue that for  
16 years has troubled depending on what side you  
17 are on, but I think if, you know, the  
18 transparency you are showing right now, we  
19 couldn't ask for anything more, and, you know,  
20 the industry of grievance continues on.

21 There is always going to be somebody that  
22 has something that they don't like, and  
23 hopefully, you know, that can get worked out,  
24 so I want to thank you for coming. This is  
25 something that is very hard for me to believe,

1 coming from Washington, D. C. It would be very  
2 unlikely that this would happen, so thank you.

3 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you, Mr.  
4 Stamm, for your comments and your testimony.  
5 Next we have Susanne Jones, followed by Lois  
6 Troxell. You are recognized, Ms. Jones.

7 MS. JONES: Thank you for allowing me to  
8 give my opinion. My name is Susanne Jones and  
9 I am from New Smyrna Beach. I have a question.

10 Why is the Legislature even drawing up  
11 these districts when it should be done by a  
12 nonpartisan commission, a computer could even  
13 do it.

14 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Madam Chair, let's give a  
15 factual answer.

16 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Go ahead.

17 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Because the Constitution  
18 of Florida requires the Legislature to do it,  
19 and does not allow anyone else to do it. That  
20 is the answer.

21 MS. JONES: I am glad I have my answer  
22 then. Well, I believe that the districts  
23 should be drawn geographically, contiguous with  
24 the diverse people in our areas to prevent  
25 safe, safe seats from being continuing forever.

1           That will make the politicians have to  
2 understand all of the issues of the people in  
3 this community so that they don't just address  
4 the few.

5           The other comment I want to make is, and I  
6 think that fair districting is appropriate, but  
7 why on earth have you voted to suppress the  
8 vote?

9           REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
10 much for your comments. Next we have Lois  
11 Troxell, followed by Harold Butts. You are  
12 recognized, thank you.

13           MS. TROXELL: Hi, I am Lois Troxell from  
14 Edgewater, Florida. It was very discouraging  
15 to hear you when you were telling your -- who  
16 you represent. A piece of this county, a piece  
17 of that county, a piece of this city, a piece  
18 of that city.

19           Doesn't that sound crazy to you? Doesn't  
20 it sound crazy to you? And some of you were  
21 probably involved in it before when it was done  
22 this way. This is what we don't want.

23           We don't wouldn't you to do  
24 gerrymandering. We don't want you to protect  
25 your seat. Give us a little credit. You draw



1 fair districts and we will vote for the best  
2 candidate, and that will be the best for the  
3 state, and that is what you should be  
4 interested in ethically, morally, every other  
5 kind of way. Thank you.

6 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
7 much for your comments. Harold Butts, followed  
8 by Kleu Nguyen. I might be misstating that. I  
9 hope not.

10 MR. BUTTS: Good evening, honorable ladies  
11 and gentlemen. I am from Daytona Beach. In  
12 fact, I was born in Daytona Beach. How many in  
13 the room were born in Daytona Beach? Five  
14 other fellow members -- six. I compliment you  
15 for being here.

16 I have been active in politics for  
17 probably 30 years, both here, California, and  
18 North Carolina. I have never seen a pamphlet  
19 like this. I had no idea that the emphasis  
20 would be so much on protecting minorities of  
21 their representation, and I am appreciative  
22 that probably the demographics of Florida are  
23 somewhat represented by the whites and the  
24 blacks up there.

25 However, there is one color I don't see on

1           that stage. What about the browns? How are  
2           they represented if this purpose of this whole  
3           effort is to give representation to minorities,  
4           why are there no browns up there with you,  
5           Latinos I am referring to. Have you thought  
6           about that?

7           I don't know the demographics of the House  
8           and the Senate. Is it roughly that proportion,  
9           Hispanic? I ask you that. That is all. If  
10          you don't have it, look with them.

11          REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Let me tell you,  
12          we have a Hispanic member serving. He just may  
13          not be here today, all right. Thank you. Do  
14          you have further testimony?

15          MR. BUTTS: That is it.

16          REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Okay, thank you,  
17          Mr. Butts. Next, how do you say your last  
18          name, I am sorry. Nguyen all right, and  
19          followed by Joyce Cusach. Thank you very much,  
20          you are recognized. Ms. Nguyen.

21          MS. NGUYEN: Hello. I can't believe that  
22          out of the all people here I am the shortest  
23          one. Thank you. I am here representing the  
24          City of Deland, Mayor Robert Apgar. He was  
25          unable to attend tonight because of budget

1 meetings.

2 So I am just going to read a letter that  
3 he drafted and I will sent the letter out to  
4 the Representatives later on this week.

5 "Dear Representatives. As you begin your  
6 deliberations on the establishment of new State  
7 House and Senate Districts for the state of  
8 Florida, we want to share with you our  
9 thoughts.

10 Over the past decade Volusia County has  
11 been served by six House members and four  
12 Senators who's districts are spread across  
13 several counties.

14 While we have always enjoyed good  
15 representation by those elected to serve us, we  
16 think that west Volusia and all of Volusia  
17 County will be better served by fewer  
18 districts.

19 West Volusia and Volusia County as a whole  
20 have shared interests that are best represented  
21 by having Representatives and Senators that are  
22 solely dedicated to the needs, values and  
23 aspirations of the people they serve.

24 Having fewer districts with the vast  
25 majority of the people in it reside within west

1 Volusia and Volusia County would enable  
2 Legislators to achieve compliance with  
3 Amendments 5 and 6 and enable our  
4 Representatives to focus more clearly on the  
5 concerns of the people they serve.

6 As always, we appreciate your service and  
7 for taking the time to weigh our thoughts and  
8 concerns. Sincerely, Mayor Robert Apgar."

9 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
10 much. Please convey our thanks to the Mayor.  
11 All right, next we have Joyce Cusack followed  
12 by Charles, K-n-a-u-s-e, is that correct? From  
13 Sunny Brook Circle. Good evening, you are  
14 recognized.

15 MS. CUSACK: To the wonderful folk that  
16 are before us, to the august body of the  
17 Florida Legislature. I greet you in the  
18 beautiful city of Daytona Beach and the home of  
19 Volusia County. I am glad to see you.

20 It has been too long. I want you to know,  
21 Baxley, it is good to see you. I want you to  
22 know that we are honored that you are here in  
23 Volusia County and I bring you greetings from  
24 Volusia County Council where I was elected to  
25 be a part of that august body this past

1 November. So I am still serving as you are  
2 serving.

3 I want to talk, tell us your story, well,  
4 I have a story to tell, but you probably know  
5 my story, that I live in west Volusia and ended  
6 up in east Volusia with the redistricting.

7 So I would want you to know that drawing  
8 compact districts is very important. It is  
9 just so that not every person that lives in  
10 west Volusia would be able to represent east  
11 Volusia, as it happened to me, Representative  
12 Hukill, in 2000.

13 So just keep these districts compact,  
14 contiguous and make sure that they are a  
15 representative of the people, and I do not need  
16 to have a minority district. I just need to  
17 represent people, and so, and that is what  
18 happened to me in 2000. I represented the  
19 people, so make that happen.

20 Make that happen and the citizens in  
21 Volusia County and the state of Florida will  
22 always be eternally grateful for you and the  
23 service that you provide for all of us. Thank  
24 you, and God bless you all.

25 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very

1           much. All right, next we have I believe  
2           Charles has waived his time, so we have Carl  
3           Persis, followed by Dana Swanson, followed by  
4           Benetta Standly. Where is Mr. Persis? Did Mr.  
5           Persis leave? Is Carl Persis back there?

6           All right, let's take Dana Swanson, can  
7           you come, Dana, and we will come back to Mr.  
8           Persis. You are recognized.

9           MS. SWANSON: Thank you very much for  
10          coming out here tonight. Again, a lot of  
11          people have said, you could have had other  
12          things you could have been doing for your  
13          evening.

14          And as a resident of Volusia County since  
15          I was four years old, as a resident of west  
16          Volusia County and also have also worked in the  
17          east side, I also know that each side has its  
18          own special unique qualities and its own  
19          special unique traits, and that I hope that you  
20          try to represent, draw the lines to best  
21          represent both sides as fairly as possible.

22          And that I know sometimes you can't draw a  
23          box and have everything work out perfectly,  
24          especially like on our coast line, yes. So I  
25          just would hope that you would try to draw them

1 as compact as possible, but still maintaining  
2 the interests of that community. Thank you.

3 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
4 much, Ms. Swanson, for your comments. Next we  
5 have Benetta Standly, followed by Anita  
6 Lapidus. Ms. Standly, you are recognized.

7 MS. STANDLY: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
8 Good evening, my name is Benetta Standly.  
9 Welcome to Daytona Beach. I direct the  
10 northeast Florida Office for the American's  
11 Civil Liberties Union of Florida.

12 I am here tonight on behalf of Dr. Joyce  
13 Hamilton Henry who directs our north central  
14 Florida office and she is not able to be with  
15 you tonight.

16 So I am here to hold you accountable. You  
17 work for the voters across Florida. I am here  
18 to give voice today to the voters who supported  
19 Amendments 5 and 6 last November. The  
20 disenfranchised and the folks who simply  
21 couldn't be here tonight that needs to have  
22 their voices heard.

23 I want to make sure that everyone  
24 understands that Amendments 5 and 6 actually  
25 adds minority voting rights protections into

1 the Florida Constitution for the first time,  
2 which helps the provisions that are within the  
3 Federal Voting Rights Act.

4 As I have said before to you all, to the  
5 delegation, we need information from you on how  
6 many majority, minority districts exist in  
7 Florida, where they are located and how your  
8 maps will protect them.

9 Perhaps you could do that through having  
10 some sort of voter workshop across the state.  
11 You know you have a legal obligation to make  
12 sure that the minority voters have the  
13 opportunity to pick the candidates of their  
14 choosing.

15 As you know, the new rules for drawing the  
16 legislative boundaries have been overwhelmingly  
17 approved by the voters, but we need the Florida  
18 Legislature to follow by these rules.

19 You said you will, but hear me, people do  
20 not trust the work that you are going to do.  
21 Quite frankly, I am disappointed that the House  
22 has intervened in the Amendment 6 lawsuit, and  
23 you guys continue to oppose and fight these new  
24 rules.

25 Quite frankly, it is insulting to the



1 voters. We understand that when redistricting  
2 happens all around this country, and Florida is  
3 no different, that the political party in  
4 charge is likely to draw lines that favor  
5 themselves. That is not acceptable.

6 The entire purpose of Amendments 5 and 6  
7 were for voters to choose their politicians,  
8 not the other way around. This is supposed to  
9 be a fair nonpartisan process. I trust that  
10 you guys will make sure that that is adhered  
11 to.

12 Again, as I have said before, these  
13 hearings are window dressing, they are fake and  
14 they are not really a conversation. We don't  
15 want any insider back room deals. This is  
16 quite frankly a slap in the face. You guys  
17 haven't presented us with any information to  
18 give you public comment on.

19 We want you to stop wasting taxpayer  
20 money, because quite frankly, Senator Gaetz,  
21 \$30 million in the State House has been set  
22 aside in reserves to fight these Amendments,  
23 and we know that in the Senate \$8 million has  
24 been set aside.

25 So stop undermining the will of the voters

1 in Florida. It is your job to draw these maps,  
2 not mine. Stop suggesting to the public that  
3 we submit maps to you. It is your job. It is  
4 written into the Constitution.

5 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: All right. I need  
6 to cut you off. Your three minutes is up.  
7 Thank you very much.

8 MS. STANDLY: Well, I am going to make one  
9 final point. Let's have a real conversation.  
10 Give us some maps, let us react to those.

11 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
12 much. All right, next we have Anita Lapidus,  
13 Anita Lapidus, followed by Sally Sherman. You  
14 are recognized.

15 MS. LAPIDUS: Hi, I am Anita Lapidus.  
16 Good evening, and thank you for coming. Most  
17 of what I would say has been said. I agree  
18 with the League of Women Voters. I even find  
19 myself tonight agreeing with Ann McFall that  
20 precincts shouldn't be subdivided into postage  
21 size voting areas.

22 We need sensible solutions, common sense  
23 approaches, contiguous districts, and we need  
24 to see them in order to have trust in this  
25 process.

1           You have heard a lot of angry people.

2           Well, I was one of the people who sat in a  
3           theater and handed out the little petitions to  
4           get this on the ballot, to have it voted for,  
5           and I want to see that it means something, that  
6           it means we can have truly fair elections.

7           I am sure that is what you want, too, but  
8           things get pulled to one way or another. Stand  
9           firm. Look for the honest fair election.  
10          Thank you.

11                 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
12           much, Ms. Lapidus, for your comments. Next,  
13           Sally Sherman, followed by Heidi Herzberg,  
14           Herzberg, I am sorry. Ms. Sherman, you are  
15           recognized.

16                 MS. SHERMAN: Thank you. Good evening,  
17           Madam Chair and to our distinguished panel. I  
18           would like to bring you greetings from the  
19           Flagler County Board of County Commissioners,  
20           chaired by our own Alan Peterson, Commissioner.

21                 On July 6th, our Board of County  
22           Commissioners met and they sent me here to  
23           deliver a very simple message that is important  
24           and has a lot of impact. We ask as you go  
25           through the redistricting process, please keep

1 Flagler County whole.

2 We ask again, for the Senate seat, keep  
3 Flagler County whole, include any other whole  
4 county districts as needed to make your numeric  
5 thresholds.

6 As it relates to the House seat, we are  
7 going to ask, please keep Flagler County whole,  
8 to the extent possible. We do recognize that  
9 in order to meet our numbers a few years ago we  
10 were included as a part of St. Johns and  
11 Volusia County, but again we say, please keep  
12 Flagler County whole. Thank you.

13 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
14 much for your comments. Very good. All right,  
15 next, we have Heidi Herzberg, followed by  
16 Dennis Bonilla. You are recognized.

17 MS. HERZBERG: Thank you, good evening,  
18 ladies and gentlemen, first of all, as a  
19 Representative and a Commissioner of the City  
20 of Deltona, I would like to thank you for  
21 providing all of us, the residents of Volusia  
22 County, this opportunity to speak to you and to  
23 see all of you in person. We appreciate your  
24 coming here and your representation.

25 I speak to you as a resident of 25 years

1 of the City of Deltona. We are the largest  
2 city in Volusia County. We are the second  
3 largest city in central Florida. We have a  
4 population of 85,000 people.

5 Currently we are experiencing the three  
6 levels of redistricting that many of our cities  
7 are, city redistricting, county redistricting  
8 and state redistricting for which you are here  
9 this evening.

10 With each level of redistricting our  
11 citizens become more and more limited and  
12 diluted as to what their role is and to what  
13 representation they have. They have city  
14 redistricting, then we have county  
15 redistricting and now state.

16 In the City of Deltona we have two  
17 Congressional seats, we have two State Senate  
18 seats and we have four State House  
19 Representative seats. Not one of our  
20 Representatives, as you heard here before this  
21 evening, lives in the city of Deltona. Some of  
22 them live as far away as Jacksonville.

23 Our Representatives, as some of you are  
24 you up here, do the best with the limitations  
25 that they have. We understand that it is very,

1       very difficult when most of you have a small  
2       section of Deltona and many of our residents do  
3       not know which Representative represents their  
4       part of Deltona.

5               This evening you have heard one out of  
6       every five speakers that have come up here  
7       mention the city of Deltona, and almost every  
8       map that was presented to you by the gentleman  
9       prior mentioned Deltona and the fracturing that  
10      has occurred in our city.

11             This fracturing is very confusing for our  
12      residents. And it encourages, unfortunately  
13      encourages voter apathy as well as  
14      disenchantment in our elected officials as it  
15      is very difficult for the residents of Deltona  
16      to know who their Representatives are and who  
17      to contact.

18             I encourage you to consider the city of  
19      Deltona as the largest city in the county, the  
20      second largest city in central Florida when you  
21      are providing your redistricting. I would  
22      encourage you to look at the lines and see how  
23      we are fractured.

24             We have 85,000 people. It is a huge voter  
25      base for everyone. You have the opportunity to

1       make history. This challenge of redistricting  
2       and the census comes along once every ten  
3       years, and it is your wisdom as Representatives  
4       and your responsibility as Representatives of  
5       the citizens of the state of Florida to shape  
6       the future of our state, and I encourage you to  
7       do so, and please look at Volusia County and  
8       please look at the city of Deltona and try to  
9       pause our Representatives to have better  
10      representation for the citizens in our county,  
11      because we do have a large voter block and I  
12      thank you again very much for allowing all of  
13      us to be a part of this opportunity.

14            REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you. Thank  
15      you for your service, too. Next we have Dennis  
16      Bonilla, followed by Nick Koval. Dennis, you  
17      are recognized.

18            MR. BONILLA: Thank you. My name is  
19      Dennis Bonilla, and I am a brown man, and --  
20      but that is how it was described, but I like to  
21      think of myself as off white.

22            Now, I have lived in Volusia County for 41  
23      years and consider myself almost a southerner.  
24      My main concern here this evening is that the  
25      work that you have been charged with that has

1       been spoken to by the voters be done so that it  
2       is completed in time for the 2012 election, and  
3       that would mean my understanding is that you  
4       get through with these sessions by  
5       September 1st, and you have upped the time for  
6       your regular meetings through January, and this  
7       should be the first order of business.

8               I am a great believer in the Constitution  
9       and I do not feel our courts, I support them  
10      and respect them. I want the opportunity to  
11      see the work that you are going to do and if I  
12      don't agree with it, have the opportunity to  
13      challenge in court and then have the court  
14      decide between them in time for the next  
15      election. Thank you very much.

16             REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
17      much for your comments. All right, next we  
18      have Nick Koval and Amy -- I am sorry, Barry,  
19      Barry Maquire. You are recognized.

20             MR. KIVAL: Good evening, ladies and  
21      gentlemen, my name is Nick Koval. I live in  
22      the city of Deberry.

23             REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: A local elected  
24      official.

25             MR. KOVAL: Thank you very much. There is



1       only a few things that I would like to comment  
2       on, and I am listening here to all of these  
3       folks give you ladies and gentlemen an idea  
4       that we are here to try to re-enforce our duty  
5       as citizens of Volusia County.

6               My suggestion, if anybody realizes or have  
7       been involved in a redistricting plan, at best  
8       it is a monumental task. My suggestion would  
9       be to look at Volusia County and where at all  
10      possible keep cities or municipalities or towns  
11      intact, where possible.

12             Where that is not possible, use physical  
13      feature boundaries so it doesn't confuse the  
14      voters, and what I mean by physical feature  
15      boundaries, streams, railroads, power lines and  
16      major roads where possible. This way that  
17      would set the lines of these alignments.

18             This way it gives the voters a clear idea  
19      of where they are supposed to vote, who they  
20      are supposed to vote for and give them a  
21      general idea and understanding on what the  
22      redistricting plan is.

23             Ladies and gentlemen, I know it is a  
24      monumental task. I don't envy you, but one  
25      that has been involved with the Census Bureaus

1       since 1970, and worked on redistricting plans  
2       from where I originally came from, I know what  
3       a difficult task it is, but I believe that if  
4       you keep the population that is assigned to  
5       each census tract within a municipality, within  
6       a county, I think your job would be much easier  
7       following those boundaries.

8               Thank you very much for listening to what  
9       I have to say and my suggestions and I believe  
10      that everybody here is all looking at the same  
11      idea. Thanks very much, everybody.

12             REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
13      much for your comments and for your service  
14      also. All right, next we have Barry Maquire,  
15      followed by Richard Gardner.

16             A VOICE: Barry Maquire waives his time.

17             REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Waive, thank you  
18      very much. Richard Gardner, followed by  
19      William Ternent. Richard Gardner? There is  
20      Richard.

21             MR. TERNENT: Hello, I am Bill Ternent.  
22      As many other folks have said, thank you for  
23      being here and thank you for what you are  
24      doing.

25             My message will be short, just really in

1 two parts. Many of you I have met and talked  
2 to you on other issues before, so I have been  
3 out talking with a number of different groups  
4 and suggesting that they do get involved in  
5 this process, urging them to be here tonight  
6 and to be in contact with you as it moves  
7 forward.

8 The first part of that message is just  
9 simply follow through on what it is the voters  
10 have asked you to do. It is not that  
11 complicated. I know that there is some  
12 ambiguities in it, but they are not excessive,  
13 and I know that you are strong enough and  
14 courageous enough and thoughtful enough to  
15 follow through on what it is that they have  
16 asked.

17 The second thing that I have found though  
18 in talking with folks in various settings, I  
19 have encouraged them to go out and get on-line  
20 and try to use the materials that are there so  
21 that they could directly participate, and I  
22 think that that is very good that you have  
23 tried to reach out to encourage people to  
24 participate, but what I am finding from most  
25 people is that they say, those materials are

1           very, very difficult to use.

2                   That the instructions that are out there  
3           are not adequate for them to be able to do what  
4           it is that they intended to do when they moved  
5           out to that. So I would encourage you to have  
6           whomever is in charge of that part of the  
7           project to really take a very close look at it  
8           and see what can be done in order to make those  
9           materials more useful and that would allow more  
10          people to give you their direct input in a  
11          meaningful way. Thank you.

12                   REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
13          much, and for clarification, that was William  
14          Ternent. I happen to know Bill, so, and Bill,  
15          I will give you a number of a person where you  
16          can talk to someone from staff to give you  
17          clarification.

18                   All right, next we have Richard Gardner.  
19          He just preempted you while you were working  
20          your way down.

21                   MR. GARDNER: That is quite all right.

22                   REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you, you are  
23          recognized.

24                   MR. GARDNER: Thank you, Representative  
25          Hukill. My name is Richard Gardner. I live in

1 Ormond-by-the-Sea, and I am a registered  
2 Independent and I vote. And the slide behind  
3 you says tell us your story, and my story  
4 tonight is one of perception.

5 62.6 percent of the voters voted to sort  
6 of change the rules or to change the game a  
7 little bit on setting up districts and  
8 redistricting, and I think it is imperative  
9 that the Legislature follow that, follow that  
10 lead, and the perception out there though is  
11 something I think quite different.

12 The perception, whether it is \$30 million  
13 in reserve or the \$900,000 that has already  
14 been spent to try to overturn this, or the  
15 organization is that some of you up there on  
16 the stage belong to that have contributed to  
17 the Diaz Balart and Brown lawsuit, it all goes  
18 to the perception that the Legislature is  
19 trying something nefarious to overturn 62.6  
20 percent of the public that voted for it.

21 And given the fact that we also have a  
22 Supreme Court decision, Citizens United, now we  
23 don't even know who might be out there  
24 distributing money to overturn what actually is  
25 an overwhelming number of people that voted to

1 change this. So I woulds urge all of you, urge  
2 to look inside, urge you to work hard. As  
3 Senator Gaetz pointed out, it is your job to  
4 draw those districts.

5 While you might say, might be a good  
6 little game for us to play that, to play  
7 Legislator for a day and draw those districts,  
8 it is really going to come down to what you all  
9 do.

10 Please do the right thing. There is going  
11 to be people that are going to be watching. We  
12 have confidence in our form of government and I  
13 want to make sure that that confidence remains  
14 and destroy those perceptions that are out  
15 there. Thank you.

16 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you so much,  
17 Mr. Gardner, for your comments. All right,  
18 next we have Judy Reiker, followed by Jane  
19 Mealy. Judy, are you here, is Commissioner  
20 Reiker here? No, okay, Jane Mealy, followed by  
21 David Buldautt. Jane Mealy? Okay. You are  
22 recognized, thank you.

23 MS. MEALY: Thank you, I am Jane Mealy, I  
24 am the Commissioner in City of Flagler Beach,  
25 which is the jewel of the east coast for the

1 people from Daytona Beach not to be  
2 competitive.

3 We are the only beach that is three miles  
4 from 95, so come visit us. Flagler Beach is  
5 about the size of Deltona, so I can well relate  
6 to my colleagues from Deltona who complained  
7 about being split up, and in no way do I mean  
8 to say anything negative about Dr. Costello or  
9 Representative Taylor or any of our others, but  
10 we are divided up and it doesn't work well.

11 Flagler County is a very small county. We  
12 have about 90,000 people. Flagler Beach only  
13 has 5,500. I am represented by a person who  
14 represents part of Putnam County, part of St.  
15 Johns County and on up the beach.

16 I don't have very much in common with the  
17 people from Ponte Vedra, and I feel like I have  
18 more in common with the people in Daytona. I  
19 would like to see, as Sally Sherman said before  
20 representing the County Commission, that  
21 Flagler be made whole or become whole.

22 We have five cities in Flagler County,  
23 some very small, one very large by comparison.  
24 We are working very hard to work together to  
25 come up with solutions to our common problems.

1           Parts of Flagler County are agriculture.  
2           Parts are typical suburb area, coming from New  
3           York, that is, compare Palm Coast to. Flagler  
4           Beach is very much a beach community. Bunnell  
5           is more an industrial and agricultural area.

6           So we are very diverse. We are very  
7           diverse in our population as well, but we are  
8           working very hard. We meet quarterly, each of  
9           the city governments, to try and find ways that  
10          we can help each other.

11          If we had one set of government people  
12          that we could turn to, it would work better and  
13          I see Dr. Costello agreeing. So I am hoping  
14          that when you do your redistricting that you  
15          will keep things like that in mind for the  
16          citizens of Flagler County, and others that are  
17          similar to us.

18          We may be small, but we have a lot of  
19          voters, too, and they do vote, I can tell you.  
20          And our votes count just as much as the people  
21          from the big cities. So please keep this in  
22          mind. Thank you.

23          REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
24          much for those comments and for your service.  
25          Thank you. Next we have David Buldautt



1 followed by Carolyn Morgan. Mr. Buldautt, you  
2 are recognized. Good evening.

3 MR. BULDAUTT: Chairman Hukill, members of  
4 the Volusia voters, legislative delegation,  
5 Senator Gaetz, thank you for coming here.

6 Thank you for hearing us, my name is Dave  
7 Buldautt, a life long resident of Deland. As  
8 far as redistricting goes, I like what we have  
9 here, because I actually think having nine  
10 people on our legislative delegation gives more  
11 count to Volusia than it would be having only a  
12 few.

13 I kind of like it. I don't feel like I am  
14 a disenfranchised voter. I love Deland and I  
15 live in District 26, Fred Costello is my State  
16 Representative. I live in State Senate 7.  
17 Evelyn Lynn is my State Senator, and I live in  
18 Congressional District 7, John Mica has been my  
19 Congressman since the day I turned 18 and  
20 registered to vote, so I like my  
21 Representatives. I like where I live. I don't  
22 want to see it changed. Thank you.

23 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
24 much, Mr. Buldautt, for your comments. Next we  
25 have Carolyn Morgan, followed by Leslie Parent.

1           You are recognized, Ms. Morgan.

2           MS. MORGAN: Thank you. I am from Flagler  
3           County. I work in Clay County. I have to  
4           admit that I attended the Clay County  
5           delegation meeting and was quite surprised to  
6           see so many of our Flagler County  
7           Representatives all of the way up in Clay  
8           County.

9           But I think that the compact districts are  
10          essential to what we are doing. I think that  
11          the confusion that so many of our voters have  
12          as to who they represent, who represents, whom  
13          we would contact in terms of any issue that is  
14          before the Legislature, it is just really hard  
15          to keep track of.

16          The districts are extruded. They are  
17          strange looking, I think they need to be  
18          compact. They do need to watch reasonable  
19          boundaries, the kinds of boundaries that people  
20          can relate to. I think it would make a better  
21          representative situation.

22          I think the Legislature needs to stop  
23          fighting the Amendment 5 and Amendment 6, and I  
24          will, as a Flagler County person I would say  
25          that Flagler needs to have -- to be made whole.

1           It is too small a county to be separated  
2       and parsed out into different districts the way  
3       it is. We already I know from working in  
4       Flagler and now in Clay, that we are pulled to  
5       the north by regional transportation issues.  
6       We are pulled to the south by the District 5  
7       designation that we are following for  
8       transportation at DOT.

9           We have got a media market that is  
10       Orlando. We have got representation that is  
11       Jacksonville. We don't, if you are listening  
12       to Bright House television, you haven't got a  
13       clue what is happening in Jacksonville. Nobody  
14       will tell you what is even happening in St.  
15       Augustine.

16           We really need to be put in one place.  
17       Flagler suffers so badly from being pulled  
18       apart. Thank you very much.

19           REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you so much  
20       for your comments. Next we have Leslie Parent,  
21       followed by Alan Peterson. Leslie? Leslie  
22       Parent? Alan?

23           MR. PETERSON: Good evening, Madam  
24       Chairman, Senator Thrasher, Representative  
25       Costello, my name is Alan Peterson. I am

1 Chairman of the Flagler County Board of County  
2 Commissioners.

3 I am here tonight to represent all 95,000  
4 residents of Flagler County. You have heard  
5 other people speak tonight. Please keep  
6 Flagler whole. We are represented by two  
7 Representatives currently and two Senators, but  
8 the Senate Districts for example run 100 miles  
9 from Duval down into Volusia County. It makes  
10 no sense in today's environment.

11 So please, as others have spoken tonight  
12 from Flagler County, please keep Flagler County  
13 whole, give us one Senator, one Representative.  
14 Thank you.

15 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you,  
16 Chairman, for your comments and for your  
17 service. Now we have David Corcoran, David  
18 Corcoran? Is Mr. Corcoran here?

19 MR. CORCORAN: Yes.

20 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: There you are.  
21 Let me just say, there are certain people who  
22 did not respond when I called their name. So  
23 if they are here, Carl Persis, Mike Nolan,  
24 Jerry Doty and Leslie Parent, we will get you  
25 right after Mr. Corcoran, you are recognized.

1           MR. CORCORAN: Thank you very much,  
2           Ms. Hukill, Senator Thrasher, members of this  
3           Committee, and the citizens of Volusia and  
4           Flagler and maybe Seminole County, wherever.

5           My name is David Corcoran. I live  
6           occasionally in Daytona Beach, sometimes in  
7           Orlando, and then sometimes I go to Phoenix,  
8           Arizona area to work as a food service worker  
9           during the fall football season.

10          So I have a lot of interest about the  
11          redistricting and all of this stuff and  
12          everything, and I know it is all part, you  
13          know, the Constitution, you know, the census  
14          every ten years it has to be done.

15          But let me give a little history lesson to  
16          all of the people here, you know, in the good  
17          old days they used to have the old good old boy  
18          ways of politics. You know, they stack the  
19          deck for however is in power.

20          Now, the Legislature, whether with the  
21          Democrats or the Republicans and they are going  
22          to make it all in favor of their, and maybe  
23          give a little more for the minority candidate  
24          districts, maybe here or there, but in these  
25          days, now, I got to make one thing.

1           We know that the Republicans can throw the  
2       cards for the next two years, we know Rick  
3       Scott is the Governor and he was elected with  
4       huge Tea Party support, that stands for tax,  
5       enough already, and we know for a fact that in  
6       2000 when George W. Bush was elected, that  
7       Kathleen Harris had a large part with her dirty  
8       old hands with the Secretary of state, and what  
9       was her reward?

10           The Legislature, some of you guys went  
11       out, made a special district in Sarasota just  
12       for her, and to let the people know,  
13       Representative Harris was so incompetent, she  
14       got out real quick and got beat by Bill Nelson  
15       a couple of years ago in a landslide.

16           To make it real short, ladies and  
17       gentlemen, we know that everybody wants their  
18       piece of the pie. Everybody knows they want  
19       their little bit of the money coming from D. C.  
20       and Tallahassee, so they can take care of their  
21       little pet projects, but at the end of the day,  
22       watch out for the lobbyists, watch out for the  
23       attorneys, because if you go to Tallahassee  
24       during the season, there is sometimes more  
25       lobbyists and attorneys talking to all of you

1       guys that can fill the whole football stadium  
2       at Doak Campbell Stadium when the Florida State  
3       Seminoles play and that is about 90,000.

4               So a lots of eyes and ears. It is more  
5       than we the people, sometimes follow the money.  
6       Thank you very much.

7               REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
8       much for your comments. All right, next Carl  
9       Persis, is Carl here? Not here, okay, Mike  
10      Nolan, Mike Nolan from New Smyrna Beach. Jerry  
11      Doty, Jerry, from Daytona Beach? And Leslie  
12      Parent? Who am I seeing? No, Leslie Parent  
13      from Holly Hill.

14              All right, last call for those four. All  
15      right, that concludes the list of those who  
16      have already signed up who wish to speak. Yes,  
17      sir.

18              MR. NICHOLSON: I had a card, John  
19      Nicholson.

20              REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Yes, we did, I  
21      think. Come forward, yes. I am sorry.

22              MR. NICHOLSON: Not a problem.

23              REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: All right, John  
24      Nicholson.

25              MR. NICHOLSON: John Nicholson, Daytona

1 Beach. I have four people up there that  
2 represent me and I don't know whether you are  
3 here or not. I mean, I have neighbors up  
4 there, Dwight (inaudible) lives across the  
5 bridge from me, but I don't know whether he  
6 represents me or not. I have Fred that lives  
7 up the road on Ormond, but I don't know whether  
8 I am in his district or not, because they  
9 gerrymander Daytona Beach in such a fashion  
10 that they think they are doing the right thing,  
11 but it really ends up that I am confused, and I  
12 can tell you, I go to one or two meetings so I  
13 am familiar with how politics works.

14 If I am confused, you can imagine what the  
15 rest of the community is confused. They will  
16 ask me and I will say how in the heck do I  
17 know. I have to look at my card to let me know  
18 who is where and what.

19 So what I am asking you is there used to  
20 be a dirty word called gerrymandering. It was  
21 wrong back then, and now gerrymandering is  
22 okay. When you gerrymander, and I understand  
23 you can look us straight in the face and say  
24 that Corrine Brown's district had nothing to do  
25 with race.



1           I am sorry, when you say that to me, I  
2       know you are lying, okay. It had everything to  
3       do with race. The Supreme Court says you can't  
4       do it. If you look at it with the fact that,  
5       well, she can't get elected any other way, what  
6       I am telling you, that in Daytona Beach we have  
7       70 percent white voters and the previous Mayor,  
8       we had 60 percent of our City Council was  
9       black, all right.

10           We had a Commissioner from a 99 percent  
11       white district was voted in. It can happen.  
12       Things are changing. This is 2012. You are  
13       looking at 2020. Things are changing. We have  
14       to look at who the person is, and if they can't  
15       be qualified to get elected on any other reason  
16       then they shouldn't be there in the first  
17       place.

18           So I am asking you, I know you think you  
19       are doing us a good favor by dividing us up  
20       into 10, 12, 15 districts, and having that many  
21       Representatives, but we really don't. You only  
22       get a small portion of their time.

23           If Evelyn was for Volusia County only we  
24       could go to her and we could know that she  
25       backed us, but when she represents God knows

1       how many other counties, then where does her  
2       allegiance lie.

3               That is the same thing when all of you get  
4       divided up, where does your allegiance lie. I  
5       know you want to represent all of us in  
6       Florida, but we are distinct communities. So I  
7       ask you to try to keep whole the cities, first  
8       of all, and the counties, second of all. Try  
9       to keep the communities together. Thank you.

10              REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
11       much for your comments. All right, we have  
12       Charles Field. Mr. Field wants to speak. Yes.  
13       You are recognized, Mr. Field. Thank you.

14              MR. FIELD: Thank you. When I came here  
15       tonight, I didn't know whether I would have  
16       anything relevant to say that my son, Rob, Rob  
17       Field is, you know, very active in the  
18       community.

19              I am a retired labor economist from  
20       northern Virginia, worked in Washington, D. C.,  
21       for 30 years. When I try to synthesize what  
22       has been said here tonight, I have two  
23       additional things that I would like to say that  
24       I think are relevant.

25              Number one, I have traveled all over the

1 country for many, many years. In this county  
2 there must be at least 15 independent cities  
3 involved.

4 Some of them are contiguous, some of them  
5 aren't, that the other thing is, and what has  
6 been, you know, most of the people say that  
7 cities, I mean, if a city can't stand on its  
8 own, it should be combined with the city next  
9 to it, that so we don't have a lot of  
10 gerrymandering.

11 On the other hand, we do have a lot of  
12 minorities in this -- in this county. Many of  
13 them, most of them I guess are located in  
14 Daytona Beach, but there has been, I have  
15 noticed over the 11 years that I have been here  
16 that the minorities is spreading out to other  
17 cities within the county, that -- but I would  
18 like to see both of these concepts recognized  
19 in redistricting.

20 That -- so that -- so that minorities have  
21 an equal chance of being or a larger chance of  
22 being elected and also that the districts are  
23 (inaudible) so that, and consolidated.

24 I live in south Daytona which has 13,000  
25 residents. Thank goodness, we only, you know,

1           that we are not divided. I would hate to see  
2           something like that happen. Thank you for  
3           listening to me.

4           REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
5           much for your comments, Mr. Field, and  
6           Mr. Field, I am going to have a staff member  
7           bring a card over to you. We don't have a card  
8           from you. We have one from your son. So I  
9           would appreciate it if you would fill that out.  
10          Thank you very much.

11          All right, is there anyone else in the  
12          audience who would like to speak? I have  
13          called all of the cards and we have recalled  
14          people who did not -- who left the room or had  
15          to leave completely.

16          Anyone else who would like to speak?  
17          Going once, going twice, no. I just want to  
18          tell you, especially representing Volusia  
19          County, how proud I am for the input.

20          You have just turned out in mass, in  
21          numbers, with wonderful ideas and I am so  
22          proud. We have actually some time left. So I  
23          am going to see if there are members, House  
24          members who would like to speak and Senate  
25          members. I think we will start with the Senate

1 first.

2 Any Senators which to say anything, or  
3 comment? Okay, there being none, all right,  
4 House members?

5 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I think Senator Montford  
6 has something.

7 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: I am sorry, go  
8 ahead. You are recognized.

9 SENATOR MONTFORD: Thank you. This is the  
10 first time I have taken the opportunity to  
11 speak after a public hearing, but I felt moved  
12 to do so, and if you may just bear with me just  
13 for a moment.

14 My, I am a freshman. I may not look like  
15 it, but I am a freshman among this group, but  
16 my experience has been about 40 years in the  
17 public school system, and two terms, two terms  
18 as a County Commissioner, three terms elected  
19 as School Superintendent, and I participated  
20 over the 40 years in a lot of public hearings.

21 Public hearings about growth management  
22 when we didn't have a Growth Management Act in  
23 Florida, school rezonings, redistricting and  
24 all of you have been through that, know how  
25 tough that is, but I sat here tonight and this

1 is the ninth public hearing that I have  
2 participated in with this group, especially  
3 under the leadership of Senator Gaetz and  
4 Representative Weatherford, and I am proud to  
5 be a part of this process.

6           Going into this process when we began, I  
7 anticipated and thought I would learn  
8 something, and I have, but I have learned far,  
9 far more than what I ever dreamed I would.

10           I thought I sort of knew it all, but from  
11 Pensacola to Tallahassee, Ft. Walton Beach,  
12 Panama City, Jacksonville, St. Augustine and,  
13 where are we? I apologize, it has been a long  
14 day.

15           This is the ninth one and I have learned  
16 so much. So I want to say thank you. Every  
17 time there has just been a different flavor and  
18 what has been so important to us in this group  
19 and I think I can speak for my colleagues, is  
20 the sincerity and honesty with which we have  
21 been granted the opportunity to learn from you,  
22 but I also want to give, hopefully give you  
23 some comfort.

24           And I am a Democrat, so I am -- I am one  
25 the ones that asked to be on this Committee as

1 a freshman and was granted the opportunity, but  
2 I, in all of my years I don't think I have  
3 worked with a group of colleagues that have  
4 been more dedicated and open to the process.

5 You talk about a transparent process.  
6 This is transparent, but what goes even deeper  
7 than that, and I have learned over these nine  
8 public hearings and working with my colleagues  
9 here how genuinely sincere they are in what I  
10 call growing up, doing what is right.

11 Now, we all are not going to agree. I  
12 don't think any of us will probably agree with  
13 exactly what we come out with, but I can go to  
14 sleep on tonight and when we finish the  
15 process, I will know that I worked with some  
16 colleagues that really honestly did it right,  
17 and I have got, I have a lot of experience in  
18 that.

19 Again, we may not all happy with the  
20 process. I may not be happy with it, I mean  
21 with the results, but I promise you, you can  
22 sleep tonight knowing that these  
23 Representatives and Senators will do what is  
24 right in their heart and I honestly believe  
25 that, and I promise you, I wouldn't say that if

1 I didn't believe it.

2 So thank you for the opportunity to say a  
3 few. This is the first time I have done this.  
4 Thank you.

5 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you so much,  
6 Senator, for your comments. Thank you.  
7 Representative Taylor.

8 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Thank you, Volusia  
9 and Flagler for showing up tonight. It is  
10 important that you did come out and you shared  
11 your story. You have made me be envy of the  
12 Legislature because I know all of my members  
13 here are jealous that I have got the number one  
14 group of people who have come out in support  
15 and shared their stories.

16 So thank you for coming out. Thank you.

17 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very  
18 much, Representative Taylor. Representative  
19 Costello.

20 REPRESENTATIVE COSTELLO: Thank you very  
21 much for coming out. I want to thank Senator  
22 Montford for his comments, because I echo that.  
23 This is an outstanding group of people. I  
24 mentioned that up front.

25 I just want to tell you and I know we are



1 not to get specific, Deltona, I represent, I  
2 love it, I love them, I am honored to represent  
3 them. They want one Representative.

4 Deberry, I represent part of Deberry. I  
5 am honored to represent them, they want one  
6 Representative. Deland, I am honored to  
7 represent part of them, they want one  
8 Representative. Ormond Beach, I represent part  
9 of Ormond Beach. I am honored, I was Mayor  
10 there for eight years, they want one  
11 Representative.

12 Flagler County, I am honored to represent  
13 part of Flagler County. They want one  
14 Representative. Whatever I end up  
15 representing, I am honored to represent you.

16 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Very good. Thank  
17 you, Representative Costello. Next we have  
18 Representative Baxley.

19 REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: Thank you,  
20 Chairman. First of all, I wanted to thank all  
21 three of our fine Chairmen for the leadership  
22 that we have had, the decorum with which these  
23 meetings have been conducted for us to hear  
24 things that we needed to hear, and I am very  
25 grateful.

1           I hope many of you will come join this  
2           fine crew as they get near my home at The  
3           Villages tomorrow, a very different environment  
4           and also in Gainesville tomorrow night. So you  
5           come and travel with us, but thank you and for  
6           the freedom that we have felt as members to  
7           participate.

8           No one has ever told me that I shouldn't  
9           say something, but I believe that this is,  
10          there is a time to listen and there is a time  
11          to speak, and for the bulk of these hearings it  
12          has been a great time for us to listen. Thank  
13          you, Chairman.

14          REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you,  
15          Representative Baxley, so much, for your  
16          comments.

17          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Madam Chair?

18          REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Yes, Chairman.

19          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, and  
20          thanks to all of you who have hung with us.  
21          There are other things that you could have done  
22          tonight that probably would have been even more  
23          entertaining.

24          Let me just say as the Senate Chair of the  
25          Reapportionment Committee, that this has been

1           extraordinarily helpful to me.

2           I think there is somebody who has been  
3           traveling with us from hearing to hearing who  
4           made the comment tonight that this was window  
5           dressing, but yet it is her third hearing that  
6           she has been to.

7           I can tell you that I took eight pages of  
8           notes earlier today. I took four pages of  
9           notes tonight. There are things that I have  
10          learned from your testimony about -- about the  
11          east and west Volusia County, about Deltona,  
12          about the way that you look at your communities  
13          that we couldn't have learned if we would have  
14          sat in Tallahassee in an echo chamber and drew  
15          some maps and said, well, here they are.

16          It is much better it seems to me, that we  
17          should listen first and then make a proposal or  
18          a series of proposals, and I want to emphasize  
19          that any member of this committee can offer a  
20          map at any time today, tomorrow, tonight.

21          Any member of the Legislature who is not  
22          on this committee can offer a proposed map any  
23          time they want to. Any member of this  
24          audience, any special interest group who is  
25          represented here tonight or who wasn't

1 represented here tonight can propose a map at  
2 any time.

3 They will all be made public and we will  
4 all have a chance to comment on them before any  
5 votes are taken. So this isn't your last time  
6 to participate. This is your first time to  
7 participate in what we believe will be an open  
8 process.

9 Someone mentioned earlier tonight that  
10 Florida hasn't had the most, you know, perfect  
11 record as far as elections are concerned. That  
12 is true, but ten years ago when these maps were  
13 drawn, by the way, I should say hardly anybody  
14 in the Legislature was there ten years ago.

15 So I, for example, ran in a district that  
16 somebody else drew, and that is the case with  
17 all or most everybody on this stage. We didn't  
18 create the districts we are running in. We are  
19 running in districts that somebody else drew.

20 But I would tell you this, that the  
21 redistricting process that Florida has used has  
22 been honored nationally for being open and  
23 transparent and this is more open and  
24 interactive with the public than any in the  
25 country.

1           There is a reason that some states have  
2           finished earlier, and that is because they had  
3           some people who went in a back room, drew some  
4           maps, came out, voted, that was it. That was  
5           Illinois.

6           There are other states that vote in off  
7           years, like Louisiana and others, and they got  
8           their census information before we did and they  
9           were able to act before we did. We were one of  
10          the last states to get our census data from the  
11          Bureau of the Census, not the last, but one of  
12          the last, and as soon as we got the census  
13          information, the demographics information upon  
14          which redistricting is based, it was  
15          immediately put on the website so that the  
16          people of Florida could see all of the  
17          information that we would see, and then we  
18          placed the software that we will use to draw  
19          the maps on our websites so that you could look  
20          at that software and we are delighted that  
21          Mr. Hoyt tonight offered up his maps.

22          We had maps that have been offered in the  
23          last two days. We have had three Senate maps  
24          that have been proposed. We have had two  
25          Congressional maps that have been proposed. We

1       have had a House map that was proposed by  
2       Mr. Hoyt, as well as the Senate and the  
3       Congressional map, and if you go on the  
4       websites you will see that there are plenty of  
5       maps to react to, and it is not that it is  
6       going to be some official map that will be  
7       drawn by some member of this committee.

8               Any member of this committee or member of  
9       the Legislature or you can propose a map at any  
10      time, but before any votes are taken those maps  
11      will be publicly available and you will have a  
12      chance to see them and you will have a chance  
13      to react to them.

14             Let me mention a couple of other things,  
15      Madam Chair. There was someone who said  
16      tonight, and I wrote it down because I so wish  
17      it were true. He said this is not a  
18      complicated process, there are some  
19      ambiguities.

20             Well, I wrote that next to all of the  
21      specific requirements and recommendations that  
22      people made for what ought to determine a  
23      district line, and here they are.

24             Natural geographic boundaries, geological  
25      boundaries, strategic economic driver

1 boundaries, county lines, city lines, racial  
2 and ethnic minorities, contiguous lines,  
3 communities of interest, streams, roads,  
4 railroads, power lines.

5 Now, it would be hard to draw maps that  
6 would make everyone happy using all of those  
7 indicators, so I wish it were simple. I wish  
8 everyone could agree, but if you have the  
9 perspective tonight to listen as we did, and it  
10 was such a great gift to listen to all of you,  
11 gosh, we had people in this room who disagreed  
12 strongly with each other.

13 We will have people on this committee,  
14 Democrats and Republicans, House members and  
15 Senators who will disagree with each other.  
16 This Representative democracy stuff, it is a  
17 little bit messy.

18 It probably would be easier if we had a  
19 group of people who just said, here are the  
20 maps, take them or leave them, if you don't  
21 like it, sue us, but that is not the way we  
22 have chosen to operate.

23 So we look forward to the interactive  
24 process, and if the gentleman, the letter  
25 carrier who came forward, I will tell you, that

1       was Americana when he said I want a chance to  
2       see everything, and if I don't like it, I want  
3       a chance to take my case to court, and that  
4       opportunity will be there, too, because  
5       anything we draw has to be submitted for  
6       judicial review and anything that is drawn and  
7       voted on, it can be submitted as well to the  
8       courts under a legal case that any member of  
9       the public wants to bring forward or any  
10      special interest group wants to bring forward.

11             Finally, Madam Chair, I would just say  
12      this. So many people said tonight, you know,  
13      you just need to abide by Amendments 5 and 6,  
14      quit fighting them.

15             Just a couple of notes. First, I hope we  
16      have, I don't know where it got in the blood  
17      stream that there was \$30 million in the House  
18      and what was the number, eight or \$9 million in  
19      the Senate dedicated to fighting Amendments 5  
20      and 6. I don't know how it got in the blood  
21      stream, but if I had a quarter for every rumor  
22      that we heard in Tallahassee we wouldn't have  
23      had a \$3.8 billion budget deficit last year.

24             I will just tell you this. It was the  
25      House and Senate that submitted Amendments 5



1       and 6 for pre-clearance to the Department of  
2       Justice. We submitted them through  
3       pre-clearance, we made the arguments through  
4       our lawyers that we paid with your money that  
5       Amendments 5 and 6 would comply with the Voting  
6       Rights Act and ought to be carried forward.

7               We submitted them and they were  
8       pre-cleared. We took an oath to preserve and  
9       protect and defend the Constitution of the  
10      United States and of the State of Florida,  
11      Democrats, Republicans, House and Senate  
12      members, you know, that is in the Constitution.  
13      We are going to follow our oath.

14             And finally I would just say this. You  
15      will have a chance to see whether the final  
16      products and it may not be one product, it may  
17      be several options that are laid before the  
18      Legislature and the courts, are faithful to  
19      what you believe Amendments 5 and 6 were  
20      intended to do, and if you don't like it you  
21      will have the opportunity to stand up in public  
22      and say you don't like it, and if you are part  
23      of a group or even if you are an individual you  
24      will have the opportunity to challenge it  
25      politically and challenge it legally.

1           That also the way the process is supposed  
2           to work. So thank you for helping us take the  
3           first step toward a conversation that we  
4           believe will end in plenty of time.

5           We don't plan to drag our feet a bit. We  
6           are bound by the Constitution in terms of the  
7           timeline, we can't vote until January. If the  
8           fair districts people thought that it was wrong  
9           and we should vote sooner, maybe they should  
10          have included it in their Constitutional  
11          amendments. They didn't.

12          So we can't vote until January, but by  
13          golly, you will see plans, you will already, if  
14          you go on the websites now, you will see plans  
15          that are already available that people are  
16          already debating and discussing and you will  
17          have the opportunity to see those just as we  
18          will.

19          So thank you, Representative Hukill, for  
20          doing a good job chairing our meeting tonight.  
21          Thank you, Senator Lynn and Senator Thrasher  
22          for having us in your district. Thank you all  
23          for being here, and God bless you. This is  
24          what it is all about.

25          REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you. Thank

1           you very much, Senator. I want to thank  
2           Senator Gaetz's Chair and Chairman Weatherford  
3           for the way they have conducted these meetings.

4           The committee will be moving on tomorrow  
5           to two more meetings in different cities. Just  
6           for you in the audience, I want to thank you  
7           the most for your contributions, your comments.  
8           This is truly representative democracy at its  
9           best.

10          If you spoke and have more to say you want  
11          to add, you can do a written extension of your  
12          remarks on-line. If you did not speak and wish  
13          to submit comments on-line, you can.

14          I do want to say that all of the records  
15          from today's meeting, video, pod cast,  
16          transcripts will be available in the coming  
17          days via the Senate and House Redistricting  
18          websites.

19          Please continue to follow us so we can  
20          participate together to draw the lines that  
21          will define our community and how we are  
22          represented in Washington and Tallahassee in  
23          the days and weeks to come.

24          Thank you once again, Volusia.

25          (Whereupon, the proceedings were

1           concluded.)

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## 1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )

3 COUNTY OF LEON )

4 I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript  
5 is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned,  
6 and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting  
7 under my direction;

8 That the foregoing pages 2 through 144  
9 represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of  
10 the tape- recording;

11 And I further certify that I am not of kin or  
12 counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the  
13 regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor  
14 am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

15 Dated this 20th day of September, 2011.

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

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Notary Public

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Commission Expires:

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November 13, 2014

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REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

11

TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2011

12

FLAGLER COLLEGE (AUDITORIUM)

13

ST. AUGUSTINE, FL

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Transcribed by:

22

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

23

Court Reporter

24

25

1 T A P E D P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much. The  
3 Joint Senate House Redistricting hearing here  
4 in St. Augustine is called to order. We want  
5 to thank our friends at Flagler College for  
6 allowing us to use this outstanding facility.

7 Typically when we have meetings like this  
8 we are in a much more intimate relationship  
9 with the audience. I feel as though we have a  
10 football field and a half between us and you,  
11 and that is not the way we like it.

12 Usually we like to be where you can see  
13 the whites of our eyes, but this is a beautiful  
14 facility and we are extraordinarily grateful to  
15 the folks at Flagler for making it available to  
16 us.

17 Thank you all for being here, especially  
18 the members of the public who have come to  
19 share their comments and their recommendations  
20 to help shape Congressional Senate and House  
21 Districts for the next decade here in our  
22 state.

23 My name is Senator Don Gaetz and along  
24 with my colleague immediately to the left, the  
25 Speaker Designate of the Florida House of

1       Representatives, Will Weatherford, I will be  
2       chairing today's hearing which is webcast  
3       statewide by the Florida Channel over the  
4       Internet.

5               Our sole purpose today is to hear from the  
6       public about how you believe the legal  
7       standards governing redistricting ought to be  
8       applied in your community and in your part of  
9       Florida so that you are represented in  
10      Washington and Tallahassee fairly, equitably  
11      and sensibly.

12             Our procedures for today's hearing are  
13      simple, but important. First, it is important  
14      that you sign in so that we with can create an  
15      accurate public record of all of who attended  
16      and all who spoke, and also you may wish to  
17      join our e-mail list so that we can keep you  
18      informed about how the redistricting process is  
19      working and moving forward.

20             If you have not signed in, please raise  
21      your hand. If you haven't signed in and a  
22      member of our staff will find you with a sign  
23      in card. If you wish to speak today, but you  
24      have not yet filled out a speaker card, please  
25      raise your hand and we will get you a card so



1           that you can be called on in order and we won't  
2           miss the benefit of your testimony.

3           It is the same attendance card, whether  
4           you wish to speak or simply listen and record  
5           your attendance.

6           Before we begin, the Chair recognizes  
7           Speaker Designate Weatherford to explain how  
8           today's hearing fits into the redistricting  
9           process. Mr. Speaker.

10           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
11           Chairman Gaetz, ladies and gentlemen, thank you  
12           for being here and taking the time to share  
13           with us your thoughts.

14           Every ten years the Legislature is  
15           required by the Constitution to redistrict the  
16           state based on increases and decreases in the  
17           movements that are within our population.

18           Because Florida has grown so significantly  
19           over the last ten years we are moved up from 25  
20           Congressional Seats to 27 Congressional Seats.

21           Because some parts of our state have  
22           increased or decreased disproportionately in  
23           population, many Senate and House Districts  
24           will change either adding or losing population.

25           When redistricting is completed,

1 Congressional Districts must be equal in  
2 population and contain 696,345 people. The 40  
3 Senate Districts must also be nearly equal and  
4 contain about 470,000 people, and our 120 House  
5 Districts must also be nearly equal at about  
6 156,700 people.

7 We have displays at the very front of the  
8 auditorium that show the current boundaries of  
9 districts in this area of the state and the  
10 number of persons which must be added or  
11 subtracted from the current districts to  
12 achieve equal population.

13 Equality of representation is not the  
14 legal requirement redistricting plans must  
15 meet. The laws and important court cases  
16 governing redistricting are explained in detail  
17 on both the House and the Senate websites.

18 Those websites are listed on the 2012  
19 Redistricting brochure that was available to  
20 you when you came in. Our Redistricting 2012  
21 brochure summarizes Federal and State laws and  
22 outlines topics we hope you will discuss here  
23 at today's hearing.

24 If you did not get a copy when you came  
25 in, they are available on the tables outside

1       the meeting and our staff would be happy to get  
2       you a copy if you would just raise your hand.

3             The brochure also lists House and Senate  
4       websites. The websites are packed with  
5       information about redistricting in Florida,  
6       including explanation of laws and important  
7       court cases governing redistricting.

8             The two websites are complimentary and are  
9       updated frequently. If you visit the two -- it  
10      is a great way for you to stay current about  
11      your new Congressional, new State Senate or new  
12      House Districts as they are taking shape.

13            The websites also deliver to you at your  
14      fingertips all of the demographic information  
15      that will be used in drawing districts, and at  
16      the end the exact same computer programmers,  
17      programs that us as Legislators use to draw  
18      districts within the state of Florida.

19            Any member of the public can participate  
20      in building plans or seeing maps submitted by  
21      Legislators or other citizens.

22            Before or during the hearing, Senate and  
23      House professional staff are available to show  
24      anyone the steps into getting on-line, building  
25      districts and submitting a plan to us as the

1           Legislature in the weeks to come.

2           Recommendations from citizens and groups  
3           of citizens will be made publicly available  
4           immediately. In fact, just as of yesterday we  
5           had four plans submitted before this committee,  
6           three Congressional plans and one Senate plan  
7           all during our hearing.

8           The submission of these proposed maps that  
9           makes sense for your community is the single  
10          most effective way that you can participate in  
11          the redistricting process.

12          The redistricting schedule under which we  
13          are operating is imposed by the State  
14          Constitution. The Constitution does not allow  
15          the Legislature to act on state maps before the  
16          second year after the census.

17          In other words, 2012. I am going to say  
18          that again. The Constitution does not permit  
19          the Legislature to act on any state legislative  
20          a maps before the second year after the census  
21          which would be 2012.

22          We accelerated this process as much as we  
23          possibly could by moving our session up from  
24          what normally starts in March, to early  
25          January. It has been suggested that the

1       Legislature should draw maps first and then ask  
2       the public for comment.

3               We believe that that puts the answer ahead  
4       of the question. There should be no  
5       preconceptions created by politicians, but  
6       rather public testimony that is free and  
7       unrestricted from you.

8               In fact, a principle author of Florida's  
9       new redistricting standards and the  
10      Chairperson, the Florida Fair Districts dot  
11      org, actually came and spoke before a committee  
12      in Tallahassee and specifically told us that  
13      she thought you could not draw any districts in  
14      the state of Florida until you got public  
15      testimony from people just like you and we  
16      agree with her wholeheartedly.

17              Our intent is to use these recommendations  
18      that have come from our 26 public hearings and  
19      through our Internet cites and all of the other  
20      ways that we are gathering information and to  
21      use those to draw the maps for the state of  
22      Florida.

23              Throughout the process we will solicit  
24      additional public input so that proposed maps  
25      can mature with public involvement all before

1 the Legislature approves them in 2012.

2 Whatever the Legislature passes, then it  
3 is submitted for judicial review to ensure that  
4 the final plans meet every single legal  
5 requirement.

6 Because our purpose today is to hear from  
7 you, all of the time between now and 11:00  
8 will be used to ensure that every member of the  
9 public who is here and who wishes to speak has  
10 enough time to tell us their thoughts.

11 If after every citizen has had his or her  
12 say and there is time remaining before the  
13 scheduled adjournment, any member of this  
14 committee may make a statement, may offer an  
15 observation and, of course, any member of this  
16 committee or any person here could submit a  
17 plan or a map to this committee.

18 Mr. Chairman, I hope the description of  
19 our schedule and the process helps set the  
20 stage for a very successful hearing today.

21 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
22 Mr. Speaker. We will adjourn promptly at  
23 10:00 this morning in order to move down the  
24 road to our next hearing. There are a good  
25 number of individuals, we are very grateful, a

1 large number of individuals who have signed up  
2 to speak.

3 If there is anybody else who wishes to  
4 speak during the course of the hearing, just  
5 raise your hand if you came in late and we will  
6 have somebody get to you with a speaker card so  
7 that we can call on you.

8 And to ensure that we all have time to  
9 speak, I want to take the prerogative of the  
10 Chair and ask that everyone try to limit your  
11 comments to about three minutes.

12 That way we can make sure that the last  
13 person who is on the agenda, the last member of  
14 the public has as much opportunity to speak as  
15 the first person.

16 Before we begin, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to  
17 ask if we could allow the members of the panel  
18 to introduce themselves, just briefly indicate  
19 what part of the state they come from. That  
20 way the audience knows who they are talking to  
21 and where they come from. If we could start  
22 with Senator Lynn, please, John.

23 SENATOR LYNN: Good morning, all, thank  
24 you for being here. I am Senator Evelyn Lynn.  
25 I represent Volusia, Clay, Marion and Putnam

1 Counties in District 7.

2 SENATOR DEAN: Good morning, my name is  
3 Charlie Dean, I am a Senator from District 3.  
4 I represent all or part of 13 counties from  
5 Baker County to Leon County, down to 98 and 19,  
6 the Citrus and Hernando County line.

7 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Rob Schenck,  
8 Hernando County.

9 REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Good morning, John  
10 Patrick Julien, representing House District  
11 104, which is basically northeastern Miami Dade  
12 County. It is a pleasure to be here, and thank  
13 you all for coming out.

14 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Hi, everybody, my  
15 name is Martin Kiar. I am the State  
16 Representative for House District 97, which is  
17 solely within Broward County. Thank you so  
18 much for coming today.

19 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Good morning,  
20 Mack Bernard, District 84, West Palm Beach,  
21 Florida.

22 REPRESENTATIVE DRAKE: Brad Drake, Fifth  
23 House District, panhandle.

24 REPRESENTATIVE GOODSON: Good morning, Tom  
25 Goodson, District 29, House of Representatives



1       which is from Mims, Florida, to the St. Lucie  
2       County line. Thank you.

3               SENATOR HAYS: Good morning, I am Alan  
4       Hays, a State Senator for District 20 which  
5       encompasses parts of Volusia County, Seminole  
6       County, Lake County, Sumter County and Marion  
7       County.

8               REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Good morning,  
9       Representative Chuck Chestnut, House District  
10      23, a portion of Marion County and a portion of  
11      Alachua County.

12              REPRESENTATIVE REED: Good morning, state  
13      Representative Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed, House  
14      District 92, northeast Broward County.

15              SENATOR MONTFORD: Good morning, I am Bill  
16      Montford, I am State Senator from District 6,  
17      which is Tallahassee and the surrounding ten  
18      counties.

19              REPRESENTATIVE ADKINS: Good morning, I am  
20      Janet Adkins, representing House District 12,  
21      which is Nassau, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Union  
22      and a bit of Duval counties.

23              REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Good morning,  
24      Hazelle Rogers, representing District 94,  
25      Broward County, a population of 1.8 million and

1 very, very diverse. Thank you. Good morning.

2 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Good morning, State  
3 Representative Peter Nehr, representing  
4 Pinellas and Pasco County.

5 SENATOR THRASHER: Good morning, and first  
6 of all, welcome to St. Johns County to all of  
7 my colleagues. I am Senator John Thrasher from  
8 District 8. I represent parts of Nassau,  
9 Duval, St. Johns, Flagler and Volusia Counties.

10 REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: Thanks for the  
11 home team, right, Senator. Great to be in your  
12 district. I am Dennis Baxley from Florida  
13 House District 24, that is Ocala, Marion  
14 County. Thank you.

15 REPRESENTATIVE HOOPER: Good morning, I am  
16 Ed Hooper, representing, a Representative from  
17 District 50, part of Pinellas County.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEINSTEIN: Good morning, I  
19 am Mike Weinstein, House District 19,  
20 representing parts of Duval, Clay and St. Johns  
21 County.

22 REPRESENTATIVE MCBURNEY: Charles  
23 McBurney, District 16, from Jacksonville.

24 REPRESENTATIVE CALDWELL: Good morning,  
25 Matt Caldwell, District 73 down in southwest

1 Florida, Lee County.

2 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: Good morning, State  
3 Representative Mia Jones from Jacksonville,  
4 north and west.

5 REPRESENTATIVE FORD: Representative Clay  
6 Ford, Pensacola, the Florida's other oldest  
7 city.

8 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Good morning,  
9 Dorothy Hukill, representing Volusia County,  
10 District 28.

11 REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: Good morning,  
12 Kathleen Passidomo, Collier County. I  
13 represent the city of Naples, Marco Island,  
14 Everglades City and a lot of the Everglades.

15 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Good morning, I am  
16 Representative Jim Boyd. I am in District 68,  
17 which is the south side of Tampa Bay, Manatee  
18 County.

19 REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: Good morning, I am  
20 Jim Frishe, from Pinellas County. I represent  
21 the beaches in Pinellas County, it is a tough  
22 duty.

23 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You may wonder why we  
24 have joint hearings, House and Senate together.  
25 It is because when Senators make statements,

1           then the House can correct them. I have  
2           already made a misstatement.

3           We are happy to be here until 11:00 this  
4           morning. I wish we could stay all day, I love  
5           St. Augustine. But we will be here until 11:00  
6           or as long as there is public testimony to be  
7           heard or comments or observations or proposals  
8           by members of this Committee.

9           Here is how we will proceed today. I am  
10          going to call two names at a time. That way  
11          you know you are next, you are on deck. So if  
12          you could be ready, that way we could have  
13          limited time between speakers.

14          We are going to start with Gloria LeBlanc,  
15          representing the St. Augustine Coffee Party and  
16          our next speaker will be Sandra Parks, with the  
17          Stetson Kennedy Foundation.

18          So we will start with Gloria LeBlanc.  
19          Ms. LeBlanc, thank you very much for being with  
20          us this morning. I am sorry that you are so  
21          far away from us, but we are delighted to have  
22          you here and look forward to your testimony.  
23          You are recognized.

24          MS. LEBLANC: Thank you, can you hear me?

25          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Yes, ma'am, but you may

1 want to speak directly into the mike so that  
2 everybody here can hear you.

3 MS. LEBLANC: Good morning, my name is  
4 Gloria LeBlanc. I have been a resident of  
5 Florida since 1970, and a resident of St.  
6 Augustine for most of those years.

7 I am also the coordinator of the St.  
8 Augustine Chapter of the National Coffee Party.  
9 The Coffee Party is a transportation partisan  
10 grassroots democracy movement which seeks to  
11 empower citizens in the political process.

12 Our goal is an informed and involved  
13 electorate that takes seriously the  
14 responsibilities of citizenship, not only for  
15 the purpose of winning elections, but to ensure  
16 effective and just governance on behalf of we,  
17 the people, and not on behalf of special  
18 interests.

19 Gerrymandering of voting districts is an  
20 assault on our democratic form of government,  
21 and an insult to the voters of the state. I am  
22 requesting that fair districts be created, not  
23 only according to the letter of the law, but  
24 according to the spirit of the law.

25 I am deeply concerned about the need to

1 speed up redistricting timelines. I, and also  
2 I think we need to provide preliminary maps to  
3 encourage meaningful discussion and feedback.

4 I strongly urge you to provide maps for  
5 just consideration now so that there can be  
6 sufficient time for thoughtful examination and  
7 consensus building as well as the speeding up  
8 of the current timeline.

9 The most important consideration in  
10 creating the new districts should be a focus on  
11 ensuring that the individual vote of each  
12 citizen within a district counts. With that in  
13 mind, districts should not be power blocks of  
14 political, racial, economic, rural, urban or  
15 other group interests.

16 I am asking you to set up districts in a  
17 way that preserve as much as possible the one  
18 person, one vote I deal for each district. As  
19 we try to achieve consensus as to what is truly  
20 a fair district, we would do well to consider  
21 the guiding principles of our founding fathers  
22 as outlined in the preamble to the  
23 Constitution.

24 The preamble begins, "We, the people of  
25 the United States", it does not say, we, a

1 select constituency group or special interest  
2 group. It continues, "in order to form a more  
3 perfect union", it does not say in order to  
4 create imbalance, division and polarization  
5 among groups and parties, or in order to form  
6 power monopolies in voting districts.

7 To establish justice, gerrymandering is a  
8 clear violation of justice that, in effect,  
9 disenfranchises large segments of our  
10 population.

11 Finally, creating truly fair districts  
12 according to the spirit of the law is indeed a  
13 challenging task. I would ask this committee  
14 to keep in mind a long term vision as you  
15 create the new maps.

16 Consider how the districts you set up now  
17 will lead to a more perfect union in the years  
18 to come. It is high time to end the  
19 polarization that is infecting our politics and  
20 our culture.

21 Please protect the power of one person,  
22 one vote so that the form of democracy  
23 envisioned by our founding fathers is restored  
24 and preserved for future generations.

25 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. LeBlanc,

1           very, very good testimony. And next Sandra  
2           Parks from the Stetson Kennedy Foundation, and  
3           then following Ms. Parks, Stetson Kennedy from  
4           the Stetson Kennedy Foundation.

5                     Sandra Parks, you are recognized. Thank  
6           you very, very much for being here.

7                     MS. PARKS: And thank you for this  
8           opportunity and I know that there is going to  
9           be a greater peace in the family if I invite my  
10          husband, Stetson Kennedy, to speak first.

11                    CHAIRMAN GAETZ: It is ladies first here,  
12          but you are allowed to yield to your husband.  
13          Mr. Kennedy, you are recognized.

14                    MR. KENNEDY: Mr. Chairman, members of the  
15          Commission, thank you for this opportunity to  
16          be heard. My name is Stetson Kennedy, I reside  
17          at Beluthalatchee Park, 1523 State Road 13, in  
18          Fruit Cove, Florida.

19                    I am here this morning primarily to say a  
20          few words in behalf of the sanctity of the  
21          referendum as an institution of higher  
22          democracy.

23                    At age 94, you can imagine how many  
24          redistrictings I have lived through here in the  
25          state of Florida. It is something of a Florida



1           and American history book.

2           I have -- I am painfully aware of the  
3           historic fact that the Democratic Party for not  
4           only decades, but generations, a century even,  
5           was able to use redistricting in addition to  
6           the poll tax and the white primary as a means  
7           of manipulating the vote and the outcome of the  
8           vote in many of the southern states.

9           These things went hand in hand. The poll  
10          tax affecting whites as well as blacks,  
11          cumulative in many states. The white primary,  
12          it was a common custom to simply change the  
13          location of the voting booth on the night  
14          before the election and tell only the white  
15          folks where the new location would be.

16          So that I born and witnessed all manner of  
17          things under the heading of redistricting.  
18          When I think of the word my first thought is of  
19          that great Republican, Abraham Lincoln, who  
20          said all of the people, by the people, for the  
21          people will not perish from the earth, and I,  
22          standing here in the year 2011, and continue to  
23          share that concern.

24          Back in those days, as I said, the poll  
25          tax, white primary, white supremacy and white

1 rule and enforced racial segregation,  
2 residential segregation all went hand in hand.  
3 They were all cornerstones in a political  
4 edifice. The KKK and the FBI were quite right  
5 in regarding me and thousands of other  
6 southerners, Americans, of being subversive of  
7 that system.

8 We were just as subversive a white rule as  
9 we could be, and I am proud of the fact and  
10 proud and very happy that I have lived this  
11 long to see as many changes as we have, even  
12 including my hometown of Jacksonville which we  
13 often said would be the last place on earth --

14 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And Mr. Kennedy, I  
15 apologize. We have a large number of people  
16 signed up behind you to speak and even  
17 Mr. Lincoln kept it to less than five minutes  
18 at Gettysburg.

19 So we thank you very, very much for your  
20 testimony, and Ms. Parks, you are recognized to  
21 speak, and thank you, Mr. Kennedy.

22 MS. PARKS: I come forward -- I come  
23 forward this morning to suggest two principles  
24 for redrawing districts that are bold, that are  
25 rare and that are difficult.

1           The first is that the demographics of the  
2           people that you represent should be the primary  
3           consideration in how the districts are drawn.

4           I am asking you to put principle above  
5           both personality and party, to assure that as  
6           much as possible the people of St. Johns County  
7           are well represented.

8           We have, this county of a little under  
9           200,000 people, we have three Senators and  
10          three Representatives. This means that we the  
11          people have a very difficult time knowing who  
12          to go to when we have issues we care about or  
13          measures that we need to have addressed.

14          I would recommend this morning that as  
15          much as possible that St. Johns County remain  
16          intact within any redistricting plan and that  
17          we be coupled whenever possible with our  
18          neighbors to the south in Flagler County  
19          because our issues are very similar.

20          Julington creek and Pondera Veda are not  
21          south Jacksonville. These are families who  
22          have invested heavily in their tax dollars to  
23          produce the finest school system in the state  
24          of Florida, and we expect our Representatives  
25          to protect that investment.

1           We have more in common with our neighbors  
2           to the south in Flagler County because we share  
3           beach issues. We share large farming  
4           communities that need to be represented  
5           somewhere in the body of politic in  
6           Tallahassee.

7           We represent -- we share growth issues.  
8           Our concerns are different from Duval County.  
9           If district lines have to be drawn for the  
10          proper numbers, we urge you to move them south  
11          into Volusia County, keeping as much as  
12          possible the integrity of the farm issues that  
13          so many of our families pull to be important.

14          The second principle that I ask you to  
15          consider as you are drawing redistricts is to  
16          be sure that these districts are compact enough  
17          that we know you and you know us.

18          While Senator Thrasher and his staff are  
19          as conscientious as anyone could be in trying  
20          to know and be known by the people that they  
21          represent, when his district stretches from  
22          Georgia to Volusia County, along a narrow  
23          stretch of land, it is very difficult for him  
24          to know us and for us to know him, inform him  
25          of our needs and hold him responsible for what

1 we in our county need.

2 So I ask you as you draw these districts  
3 to please consider the primary criterion, not  
4 party, not self, but the people that you serve.  
5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
7 Ms. Parks, we appreciate your testimony. Next  
8 we will have, and I apologize for not giving  
9 you a heads up, Edwin Dupont, Edwin Dupont  
10 would be next, followed by Benetta Standly with  
11 the American Civil Liberties Union.

12 Mr. Dupont, if you are here, we would be  
13 delighted to hear from you, and you are  
14 recognized before the Committee, and  
15 Ms. Standly, if you would be on deck, please.

16 MR. DUPONT: Thank you very much, and I  
17 would like to go, I would prefer to go by Ed,  
18 if you don't mind.

19 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Yes, sir.

20 MR. DUPONT: Again, I am Ed Dupont and I  
21 am a life long resident of St. Johns County and  
22 I now reside in Pondera Beach. I would  
23 like to thank the Committee for the service you  
24 are doing to the state and to us for taking  
25 time, not to rush into these decisions and put

1 in the effort you are doing right now.

2 I know you are sitting through a lot of  
3 hearings and I know it is pretty tedious  
4 because you are hearing a lot of the same  
5 ideas, but it is appreciated.

6 Last November, Amendment 5 was passed by  
7 the majority of voters by actually a margin of  
8 almost, well, actually over three to two.  
9 Amendment 5 reads something like this.

10 "Congressional districts or districting  
11 plans may not be drawn to favor or disfavor an  
12 incumbent or political party. Districts shall  
13 not be drawn to deny racial or language  
14 minorities the equal opportunity to participate  
15 in the political process and elect  
16 representatives of their own choice."

17 "Districts must be contiguous, unless  
18 otherwise required, districts must be compact,  
19 as equal in population as feasible and where  
20 feasible, must make use of existing city,  
21 county and geographical boundaries."

22 I don't want to lecture here, but, because  
23 you know this better than me, but contiguous  
24 means all parts must be attached. It does not  
25 mean, and it does not mean by artificial means.

1           It must, compactness is -- has to do with  
2           shape, a reasonable shape. You know, you could  
3           say you have your basic circle and square or  
4           even a rectangle, triangle or an oval, if the  
5           proportions are not too extreme.

6           Equal in population as feasible basically  
7           means one person, one vote, as feasible, as  
8           feasible, and, of course, feasible might be up  
9           to interpretation, and that is where you folks  
10          come in.

11          And one more thing I would like to say,  
12          whatever you do, if you must, you must if at  
13          all possible keep this out of the courts. They  
14          could abridge the will of the voters and delays  
15          will reap havoc upon the next upcoming  
16          elections. Thank you for your time.

17          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Dupont,  
18          thanks, Ed, an Ms. Standly, with the ACLU is  
19          next, and following Ms. Standly, Robert Veit.

20          Ms. Standly, thank you for being here, it  
21          is good to see you, you are sort of traveling  
22          with us from place to place and we are  
23          delighted to have you here today.

24          MS. STANDLY: Absolutely. It is my job to  
25          hold you accountable and I am happy to do it.

1           So good morning, my name is Benetta  
2           Standly. I am with the American Civil  
3           Liberties Union and I want to welcome members  
4           of the Florida Legislature to the nation's  
5           oldest city.

6           I direct the northeast Florida office for  
7           the ACLU, and as you know, I testified  
8           yesterday in Jacksonville and I will testify in  
9           any corner of my region to represent voters who  
10          passed Amendments 5 and 6 who could not be  
11          here, who are disenfranchised or simply don't  
12          have the courage to speak up and share their  
13          voice.

14          As I mentioned yesterday, I need to  
15          correct some misinformation. People are  
16          stating that Amendments 5 and 6 will harm the  
17          Federal Voting Rights Act.

18          That is absolutely not true. Amendments 5  
19          and 6 actually added minority voting rights  
20          protections into the Florida Constitution for  
21          the first time. It adds to the provision of  
22          the Federal Voting Rights Act.

23          You guys know this already. What we need  
24          from you is to tell us how many majority  
25          minority districts exist in Florida, where they



1       are located and how your map which you are  
2       responsible for drawing, not me, how your map  
3       will protect them.

4             You all have a legal obligation to make  
5       sure that the minority voters in Florida have  
6       the opportunity to elect their candidates of  
7       their choosing.

8             Secondly, the new rules of drawing these  
9       legislative boundaries have been overwhelmingly  
10      approved by nearly 63 percent of Floridians,  
11      and it said that no political party would be  
12      favored.

13            We need you to follow those rules.  
14      Actually, I am disappointed that you guys have  
15      continued to oppose and fight these new rules  
16      by entering into or intervening into  
17      litigation.

18            Third, the political party in charge has  
19      been known to draw maps that will likely favor  
20      themselves. That is absolutely problematic. I  
21      hope that you guys don't do that.

22            The entire purpose of Amendments 5 and 6  
23      were for voters to choose their politicians,  
24      not the other way around. This is supposed to  
25      be a fair and nonpartisan process. We didn't

1 want fake public hearings where you guys are  
2 not giving us feedback, we are not producing  
3 map. We don't want any insider back room  
4 deals. We want this to be a fully transparent  
5 and informative process.

6 The ACLU strongly advises you to please  
7 stop spending taxpayer dollars on lawyers and  
8 lawsuits. Just simply draw fair maps. If you  
9 draw good and fair maps perhaps there will be  
10 no further lawsuits.

11 Five, quite frankly, and we talked about  
12 this yesterday. Where are the maps? It is  
13 your job to draw the maps, not mine. You  
14 cannot have a really meaningful public  
15 discussion when you invite the public here and  
16 you have nothing for us to comment upon.

17 You have had the census information for  
18 several months now. You need to present a map  
19 to us. People, as you know, people are trying  
20 to run for office. They need to figure out  
21 what district they are in.

22 They need to start campaigning. The  
23 sooner we can get that done, the better for all  
24 of us. Thank you so much.

25 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you. It is good to

1           see you again, Ms. Standly. Next is Robert  
2           Veit and following Mr. Veit we will have Susan  
3           Godby.

4           Mr. Veit, thank you for being here this  
5           morning, and you are recognized.

6           MR. VEIT: Thank you very much, my name is  
7           Bob Veit pronounced but that is okay.

8           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Is it Veit, sir?

9           MR. VEIT: That is right.

10          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I apologize for  
11          mispronouncing your name.

12          MR. VEIT: No problem, everybody has done  
13          it all my life.

14          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You should see what they  
15          do to mine.

16          MR. VEIT: Just as an aside, I happened to  
17          be an elected state assemblyman in New Jersey  
18          during the redistricting based upon the 1970.

19          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Your seat is right up  
20          there at the end, sir.

21          MR. VEIT: 1970 census, and we were  
22          essentially given a map that was carved out by  
23          the leadership and the Congressional  
24          delegation. So I applaud you for what you are  
25          doing and going and listening to the public for

1       what they have to say prior to drawing up a  
2       map.

3             A map will be useful in the future, but at  
4       this point I applaud for what you are doing.  
5       And I guess my only concern -- excuse me. My  
6       only concern in the -- what will be considered  
7       is the implementation of the racial and  
8       language minority protections.

9             And in reading the 14th Amendment which is  
10       overriding our Constitution it -- it is moot on  
11       how you draw your districts, except that it  
12       requires equal protection under the law.

13            So when you are drawing your districts, if  
14       you are protecting one group against another,  
15       that -- the one that is not protected is  
16       certainly not getting equal, equal protection.  
17       So I ask you to consider that in your  
18       deliberations. Thank you.

19            CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very, very much  
20       for your testimony, sir. And next is Susan  
21       Godby, and then following Ms. Godby is Gail  
22       Wadsworth, the Flagler County Clerk.

23            Ms. Godby, you are recognized. Thank you  
24       for coming this morning.

25            MS. GODBY: Thank you very much. I am

1 with the St. Augustine Tea Party, the Molasses  
2 Junction Tea Party and the Putnam County Tea  
3 Party and I am sorry, I forgot to put that on  
4 there.

5 I have been in Florida for 18 years and I  
6 live in St. Johns County. District 19, I am  
7 just going to give some figures, District 19  
8 and 20 must shrink. District 18 is slightly  
9 over population, and District 21 is under  
10 population.

11 What we would like to see is that District  
12 21 come down to the St. Johns County line, then  
13 go all of the way down to Flagler County.  
14 There is a lot of interests in tourism and they  
15 have a lot of things in common.

16 Then we like to see 19 to come below 295,  
17 and in the St. Johns County, and then it also  
18 crosses Julington Creek area, we would like to  
19 see that backed up.

20 We have three boundaries which is the  
21 Atlantic ocean, St. Johns River and then I-95.  
22 So we would like to see those changes made.  
23 The Mandrian and Julington Creek areas have a  
24 lot of things that are in common and if you  
25 would coordinate those areas, that way it does

1           need to shrink in that area.    That is all I  
2           have to say.   Thank you.

3           CHAIRMAN GAETZ:   Thank you, thank you,  
4           Ms. Godby, very helpful testimony.   And next is  
5           Gail Wadsworth, the Flagler County Clerk, and  
6           behind Ms. Wadsworth will be Henry Lange.

7           Ms. Wadsworth, thank you for your service  
8           to the people of Flagler County and we are  
9           delighted to have you here today.

10          MS. WADSWORTH:   Thank you, and thank you  
11          for coming today.   What you are doing isn't  
12          easy.   For a little history's sake, I was born  
13          in Florida.   I am one of those rare people, I  
14          am an eighth generation Floridian.

15          And years ago in 1965, I was a teenager  
16          working for my dad in the House during that  
17          crazy reapportionment period when small  
18          counties lost their House members.

19          However, we gained an alliance with St.  
20          Johns County, and we were well represented then  
21          by Charlie Eucena and later Gus Craig, and not  
22          so long ago, Doug Wilds and today, Dr. Proctor,  
23          and today, John Thrasher, but before him there  
24          was Senator Polk.

25          I knew all of those people, and I cherish

1 the knowledge of those people and the  
2 similarities between Flagler County and St.  
3 Johns County. I know Flagler County hasn't  
4 grown enough even since the last census to have  
5 its own, but walking around Flagler County and  
6 talking to people, all I hear is, we want to be  
7 together, and, of course, we want to have our  
8 own.

9 We are not large enough yet. So like  
10 Ms. Parks, I would love to hear you say you are  
11 going to scoop Flagler County up, keep its  
12 wonderful relationship with St. Johns County,  
13 understand its demographics, its agriculture,  
14 its silviculture and its beautiful beaches in  
15 the Hammock where we do have some wealthy  
16 people, keep us whole.

17 More importantly, we want to be kept  
18 whole, and more importantly to me, I like our  
19 history with St. Johns County and would like  
20 for you to keep us there, and that is really  
21 all I have to say. Thank you so much.

22 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you so much. We  
23 appreciate your testimony. Henry Lange is  
24 next, and then John Webber is on deck.

25 Mr. Lange, we are grateful you took time

1 to come here this morning, and you are  
2 recognized.

3 MR. LANGE: Yes. Good morning, and thank  
4 you very much, members of the Committee, for  
5 having us here.

6 My name is Henry Lange and I live in St.  
7 Augustine, been a resident for 12 years. Prior  
8 to that I was an executive with an  
9 international high tech company and of all  
10 places, Orlando.

11 And I am representing four members of my  
12 family because at this early hour on a working  
13 day prevents them from taking the morning off  
14 from work to represent them.

15 Further, please recognize that this venue  
16 here at the college requires those of us who  
17 are here to pay for parking, when if it was  
18 held in the St. Augustine regular offices, free  
19 parking would be available.

20 This is an additional unnecessary burden  
21 placed on the citizens of St. Augustine. You  
22 didn't do this in Jacksonville.

23 The citizens of Florida last year with an  
24 overwhelming 62 to 63 percent vote, voted for  
25 the election districts to be -- to be



1       redistricted in a fair, compact, unambiguous  
2       and continuous manner.

3             If you will look at the map of District 7  
4       it is appalling, it is the most screwed up  
5       arrangement, ranges the southern end down in  
6       Longwood and area ranging all of the way to the  
7       northern part of St. Johns County, is 135 miles  
8       long.

9             I have a map of this district. You also  
10       have one, I realize in front of us here. This  
11       is not what the citizens of the state of  
12       Florida want in the future.

13            More of the same is probably shown  
14       elsewhere in Florida. We have so much of this,  
15       we have had too much of this and this election  
16       last year stated why we want it changed.

17            The legislation has a mandate. Waiting  
18       like they are does not indicate that there are  
19       -- may indicate that there are back room  
20       arrangements that have been made or in the  
21       works in spite of what you have said.

22            What are we to take from the delays of  
23       showing us maps? You already know what you  
24       have in mind. We need these maps now to be  
25       able to take advantage of where we will be

1       called upon. Some of us may have to change  
2       districts. Some of us may want to run for  
3       political office.

4               We need to know in advance what these maps  
5       will be. The Legislature needs to provide all  
6       of the citizens a date certain when these maps  
7       will be available for us to examine.

8               Please act in a responsible manner,  
9       provide us with these maps before the months  
10      that you are required by law so that we can  
11      ascertain what our position would be like and  
12      how we will act in the future. Thank you very  
13      much for your time.

14              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you so much, Mr.  
15      Lange. Our next speaker is John Webber, Mr.  
16      Webber, representing the St. Johns Democratic  
17      Executive Committee.

18              MR. WEBBER: Well, I am not exactly  
19      representing them. I have a membership with  
20      them.

21              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I am sorry, that is what  
22      you had written down.

23              MR. WEBBER: Yes.

24              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And following, excuse me,  
25      Mr. Webber, following Mr. Webber will be Vicky

1           Oakes, so if you could be on deck, Ms. Oakes.

2           Mr. Webber, you are recognized. Thank you.

3           MR. WEBBER: Okay, I have lived in the St.  
4           Augustine area since 1987, and I just mention  
5           that, and I worked in all parts of St. Johns  
6           County and I have also worked in Flagler County  
7           at times.

8           The one recommendation I would make for  
9           the State House is that one seat come out of  
10          St. Johns County which has more than enough  
11          people for a State House member, and if Flagler  
12          County likes to be a part of St. Johns County  
13          in with its population in the State House, then  
14          I would have no problem with that.

15          We should be able to come up with one  
16          House seat that has nothing but St. Johns  
17          County residents in it.

18          Now, there are approximately three State  
19          Senators, a ratio of three to two when you are  
20          dealing with Congress. Now, you come very  
21          close to the population for two members of  
22          Congress when you combine Nassau, Duval, Clay  
23          and St. Johns counties.

24          You might have to add a small population  
25          like Baker or Putnam County to get the two

1 Congressional seats.

2 Now, that, you should be able to come up  
3 with a minority responsive Congressional seat  
4 out of that area in the second one, without  
5 running afoul of any kind of minority denial or  
6 rights or anything like that, and you should be  
7 able to come up with three State Senators out  
8 of that same area. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
10 We appreciate your being here, and Ms. Oakes  
11 represents the Supervisor of Elections Office  
12 in St. Augustine, and following her is Chris,  
13 and I believe it is Ranung, R-a-n-o-n-g, if I  
14 understand it correctly, representing the AITSI  
15 Local 477.

16 So Ms. Oakes, thank you for being here,  
17 and we are delighted to have somebody from the  
18 Supervisors' Office to give us good guidance  
19 this morning.

20 MS. OAKES: Thank you, and good morning,  
21 Ms. Haliburton, the Supervisor, sends you her  
22 greetings and her regrets that she could not  
23 make it to the meeting today.

24 However, I would like to speak on behalf  
25 of our election officials. We are entrusted

1 with conducting fair and impartial elections,  
2 our voters expect no less.

3 It is very important for us as election  
4 officials that you stick to a specific timeline  
5 with the redistricting process. If the  
6 Legislature, the Attorney General, Supreme  
7 Court, Justice Department, all complete your  
8 work on schedule as election officials we have  
9 less than two weeks to adjust the records of  
10 11 million Florida voters before the first  
11 absentee ballots are scheduled to go in the  
12 mail.

13 You see, when your work ends, our work  
14 begins. Time for us is critical. We need time  
15 to efficiently and effectively prepare for the  
16 elections in order to be ready for our  
17 August 12th primary election.

18 We have to redraw precinct lines,  
19 establish new polling places, gain approval  
20 from our local Board of County Commissioners  
21 and our own public hearings. We also have to  
22 verify the information is correct.

23 As local election officials we not only  
24 deal with Congressional, Senate and House  
25 lines, we also deal with County Commission,

1       School Board, municipal, special districts and  
2       community development district lines.

3             It is critical in the election process  
4       that we have time to make sure our information  
5       and all of these lines are perfect. There is  
6       no room for error.

7             We also must notify all of our registered  
8       voters in advance of their new district lines,  
9       through new precinct lines and their new  
10      polling places in order to have our voters  
11      prepared and ready for the election.

12            As you know, candidate qualifying occurs  
13      the first week of June. From then our  
14      tabulation systems must be programmed. Our  
15      ballots laid out, proofed, printed, and  
16      absentee ballots prepared and ready to mail 45  
17      days prior to the election.

18            The first absentees that are mailed go to  
19      our military and overseas voters. It is  
20      Federal and State law that they be mailed 45  
21      days before the election. That date is  
22      June 30th.

23            Let's not disappoint our absentee voters,  
24      our military overseas voters who are fighting  
25      for our freedom.

1           Secondly, please respect communities when  
2       drawing your district lines. Compact districts  
3       are the best, including the lines for the  
4       counties. While there is much attention to  
5       Florida's meandering districts right here in  
6       St. Johns County, in the city of St. Augustine,  
7       we have a perfect example.

8           The city of St. Augustine has 9,000  
9       registered voters. They are currently divided  
10      into two Senate and two House Districts. This  
11      happens too much of the time. Communities need  
12      to be kept intact.

13          This year working with your legislative  
14      staff we have had unprecedented opportunities  
15      to establish voting tabulation districts.  
16      These keep communities together. They keep our  
17      cities together and we request that you please  
18      adhere to these lines whenever possible.

19          It is in the best interest of the voters,  
20      and same neighborhoods that have things in  
21      common, to have the same Representatives, have  
22      the same candidates on their ballots and be  
23      able to vote on the same issues.

24          We all know that 2012, will be a very busy  
25      election year and it will be a challenging one.

1 I do believe we share a common goal of wanting  
2 Florida to have not just successful but  
3 outstanding elections as we know the world  
4 would be watching.

5 Thank you for the opportunity to speak,  
6 and for having these meetings.

7 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very, very  
8 much. Excellent advice, and now, I apologize,  
9 Chris, how do you pronounce your last name?

10 MR. RANUNG: It is Chris Ranung, and thank  
11 you, Senator.

12 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
13 representing Local 477, and we are glad you are  
14 here, and you are recognized.

15 MR. RANUNG: Thank you very much. I hope  
16 I am close enough to this. Can you hear me?  
17 Thanks.

18 Yes, I live in St. Augustine. I am Chris  
19 Ranung. Like everybody in this room, I deeply  
20 care about and love Florida, and, yes, I am  
21 from organized labor. We are somewhat of a  
22 minority --

23 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Sir, I apologize, so that  
24 everyone can hear your testimony, could you  
25 speak up just a little more?



1 MR. RANUNG: How is that?

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: That is great. Thank  
3 you. Thank you.

4 MR. RANUNG: Okay, good. I am from  
5 organized labor. We are a bit of a minority in  
6 this state, but that is okay. Some of my  
7 points of view may not jive with yours, but  
8 that is okay. I have the freedom to speak with  
9 you any time. I have exercised that freedom  
10 and I appreciate that you are here and giving  
11 us all an opportunity to speak.

12 I am very aware that I am standing in  
13 front of a mostly Republican panel. I may  
14 wonder why Democrats are a minority majority in  
15 this state, but that is all part of why we are  
16 here this morning.

17 I know some of you well enough to respect  
18 you very much. I know some of you well enough  
19 to be wary of you. I don't know some of you  
20 yet, but I intend to.

21 Some of you know that I go to Tallahassee  
22 quite a lot. I still trust the fact that  
23 ultimately we work together for the common  
24 good. So there is much I would like to say but  
25 probably the most important thing is this.

1           Our country, or democracy is always and  
2           only at its finest when diversity is allowed a  
3           clear and strong voice. The diversity between  
4           those of us who are wealthy and those who  
5           struggle, the diversity of religion over race,  
6           that of sex, gender, age, political opinion,  
7           philosophy, on and on, all of this is our  
8           country speaking, and we need to allow it to  
9           speak.

10           Your redistricting must respect and  
11           incorporate this diversity because it gives our  
12           democracy its strength. So we the people are  
13           trusting you to protect the voice of diversity.  
14           That is your job.

15           The purpose of redistricting is not to  
16           preserve a veto proof majority for the next ten  
17           years. It is to let the people speak, and I am  
18           confident going forward that we all share this  
19           very fundamental goal. Thank you.

20           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, sir, very good  
21           testimony. Next is William O'Malley, and  
22           behind Mr. O'Malley is, I believe it is  
23           Patricia, and I apologize, ma'am, I am sure it  
24           is my eyes. I think it is Patricia Gill,  
25           representing the League of Women Voters, living

1 at 218 B Street here in St. Augustine. You are  
2 on deck, but Mr. O'Malley, you are next.

3 We will give you all of the time you need,  
4 sir. While Mr. O'Malley is coming to the  
5 microphone I want to thank those who have been  
6 respectful of those speakers behind them who  
7 want to speak and have stuck to our three  
8 minute time limit. That way all of the members  
9 of the public will have a chance to share their  
10 opinions.

11 Mr. O'Malley, we are grateful you took  
12 time to come this morning and you are  
13 recognized.

14 MR. O'MALLEY: Well, you didn't give me a  
15 little warning. That is why it took me so  
16 long. I live in north St. Johns County and in  
17 looking at the population maps I see that there  
18 is a possibility we may lose our Congressman.

19 I am going to echo a lot of the things  
20 previous speakers have said. I, too, would  
21 like to see a tentative redistricting map some  
22 time ahead of time so that we could have some  
23 more input as we are today.

24 I am also obviously in St. Johns County,  
25 and I agree with the lady that said, St. Johns

1 County has a fine school system, health system,  
2 we would like to keep it that way, and we hope  
3 you will respect our county lines, et cetera,  
4 and I want to thank you for your patience.

5 I have been watching the videos and you  
6 folks show a lot of patience. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
8 We appreciate it, and Ms. Patricia, I  
9 apologize, it is my bad eyes, I am sure I  
10 couldn't read your last name. Could you please  
11 tell us your last name, ma'am?

12 MS. GILL: My name is Patricia Gill,  
13 G-i-l-l.

14 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Gill,  
15 representing the League of Women Voters and you  
16 are recognized.

17 MS. GILL: Thank you. There are three  
18 areas of concern to the public that I would  
19 like to discuss today at these public hearings.

20 Redistricting timeline which has been  
21 mentioned by a number of people and certainly  
22 the concern by our Supervisor of Elections'  
23 Office into doing something about this  
24 timeline, which is just crazy.

25 Taxpayer money to oppose the Fair District

1       Amendments and the gag order for the  
2       Legislature on these issues.

3               Last night I participated in the ceremony  
4       swearing in two new police officers in St.  
5       Augustine Beach. Part of the ceremony these  
6       new officers swore allegiance to defend the  
7       Constitution of the State of Florida.

8               That is what I am here today, is to ask  
9       you to defend the Constitution of the State of  
10      Florida and the will of the people, as  
11      63 percent of the voters approved Amendment 5  
12      and 6.

13              The two Amendments outline standards for  
14      establishing Congressional District boundaries  
15      after the census of 2010. The current timeline  
16      established by the Legislature is calculated to  
17      protect incumbents by delaying finalization the  
18      Congressional and Legislative districts, until  
19      almost time for the election, which is  
20      June 8th, sorry, the qualifying, which is  
21      June 8th.

22              Legislative session begins January, and  
23      the decisions will not be made until March. It  
24      is submitted that we could delay finalization  
25      of the qualifying. This timeline does not

1 allow for the public to provide adequate input,  
2 confines the public since people will, or  
3 potential candidates to express their opinion  
4 to the people and unfairly benefits incumbents.  
5 We do see the amount of time for potential  
6 challenges to have a campaign.

7 Despite the clear will of the Florida  
8 voters who approved the Fair District  
9 Amendments in 2010, the Legislature is using  
10 taxpayer dollars to fight the new standards at  
11 every stage.

12 The Florida Legislature has taken  
13 extraordinary steps using taxpayer money to  
14 avoid having to follow the Fair District rules.

15 It is a party to two suits to keep  
16 measures off the ballot after spending more  
17 than 1 million in legal fees to find fault with  
18 the Fair District Amendments, both Houses  
19 approved a competing amendment which was  
20 ultimately thrown out by the courts as  
21 misleading.

22 Now the House of Representatives is using  
23 more money, money to sue the State of Florida,  
24 to stop implementation of reforms. Florida  
25 taxpayers are paying large sums for lawyers to

1 represent both the Plaintiff and the Defendant  
2 in this particular lawsuit while we are having  
3 trouble with schools and so many other issues  
4 as far as costs are concerned in the state.

5 Finally, lift the gag order you have  
6 placed on Legislators for the hearings. You  
7 have indicated that Legislators should not make  
8 public statements about redistricting, least  
9 they betray and tend to engage in political  
10 favoritism.

11 You have recently written to your members  
12 forbidding them to speak at the upcoming  
13 hearings. We are hopeful that such intent to  
14 draw districts to favor incumbent or parties  
15 does not exist.

16 However, in order to remain silent creates  
17 an impression that there is some, something to  
18 hide. We urge you to reconsider the gag order  
19 and encourage the productive give and take at  
20 each of the hearings. This will give voter  
21 confidence that the representation intended to  
22 fully comply with the new redistricting  
23 standards.

24 And I am asking you, please, to move that  
25 timeline up so that we can get our election

1 moving, and there is no reason you can't do  
2 that.

3 Now, you did say this morning in your  
4 introduction that you can't do anything for two  
5 years after the -- after the redistricting, but  
6 you can do, you can do potential maps and we  
7 need those maps right now, at least potential  
8 maps and you have had a number of suggestions  
9 at your hearings. Thank you very much.

10 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
11 Ms. Gill. Ms. Gill, it is possible that you  
12 weren't here at the very beginning or maybe you  
13 were, but I don't know if you have had a chance  
14 to observe the web casts of the other hearings.

15 I am not sure where the gag order came  
16 from, but I don't think you could keep all of  
17 these people quiet. At every single hearing  
18 from the very beginning in Tallahassee, until  
19 the hearing yesterday, we have had members  
20 speak.

21 What we are trying to do though is to make  
22 sure that everybody in the public has a chance  
23 to speak first, and then we give members a  
24 chance to speak.

25 So thanks a lot for your comments and the



1 Speaker Designate will -- is also taking notes  
2 so that we can respond to a couple of the  
3 factual issues that have been raised today, not  
4 to be argumentative with anybody.

5 Everybody is entitled to their opinion,  
6 but everybody is not entitled to their own set  
7 of facts, and the Speaker Designate will remark  
8 to that at the end of the hearing, if there is  
9 time, giving everybody a chance to speak.

10 Next we will hear from Mary Lou Woods and  
11 follow is Ms. Woods, from Gina Burrell.

12 Ms. Woods, if you are here, we would love  
13 to hear from you this morning. And Ms. Burrell  
14 would be next, and following Ms. Burrell will  
15 be Denise Caldewood, I believe, Denise  
16 Caldewood, who also represents the League of  
17 Women Voters.

18 Ms. Woods, thank you for being here. You  
19 are recognized.

20 MS. WOODS: Thank you. My name is Mary  
21 Lou Woods and I live in the same community as  
22 that of John Thrasher, so we are on the same  
23 page.

24 Right now it seems like the system is so  
25 flawed. Instead of the voters choosing the

1 politicians, the politicians are literally  
2 choosing the voters.

3 This is done by pre-determinating  
4 districts whether it represents Republicans or  
5 Democrats, so that they can get who they want  
6 to vote for them.

7 Now, for example, Corrine Brown and John  
8 Mica, one is a democrat, one is a Republican.  
9 Corrine Brown lives in Jacksonville, yet she  
10 represents all of the way down there in a part  
11 of Orlando.

12 How are we supposed to know who is  
13 representing us? And then you have John Mica  
14 who drives over 100 miles every day to get to  
15 his office in St. Augustine. This is not fair  
16 representation.

17 We are trying to fix things here. More  
18 than three million people in this state voted  
19 to end gerrymandering last year and we  
20 supported the Fair District Amendments to the  
21 Constitution. That is more than 60 percent of  
22 the voters demand that the future districts be  
23 drawn upon compact geographical sense rather  
24 than party affiliation.

25 It would be a very good day for democracy

1       when all is done fairly. However, I doubt very  
2       seriously that Corrine Brown or Dean Cannon  
3       will ever want that day to pass, because both  
4       of them benefit from gerrymandering, and they  
5       are trying to -- well, the Fair Districting  
6       votes then in a falling outrageous thing our  
7       Speaker Dean Cannon has decided the State  
8       Legislature should join the lawsuit and spend  
9       our money trying to overturn the vote that we  
10      just passed.

11             This is still America, right? Think about  
12      the park for a moment. If a dictator or  
13      someone, some other third world leader spent  
14      the public's money trying to overturn its own  
15      vote, we as Americans would be appalled, but  
16      yet business as usual in the state of Florida.

17             What I am asking seriously is I come from  
18      New York, I have lived in Florida for several  
19      years now. Let's be fair. Let's make it  
20      compact so that we can all work together for a  
21      better Florida. Thank you.

22             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Woods,  
23      very helpful. Ms. Burrell, you are next, and  
24      following Ms. Burrell will be Denise, I believe  
25      it is Caldewood, with the League of Women

1 Voters.

2 Ms. Burrell, thank you so much for being  
3 here, you are recognized.

4 MS. BURRELL: Thank you for being here.  
5 My name is Gina Burrell, I live in the city of  
6 St. Augustine. I have been here in the city  
7 for 17 years and the state of Florida for 47.

8 When a group of us were asking St. Johns  
9 voters to sign our petitions in support of  
10 Amendments 5 and 6 redistricting, we had  
11 Republicans and Democrats do so. We got a few  
12 hundred petitions signed. They considered it a  
13 fairness issue.

14 Neither political party should be in  
15 complete control. In November 2010, Amendments  
16 5 and 6 passed overwhelmingly with 63 percent  
17 of the vote statewide.

18 Now in the Florida Constitution these  
19 amendments prohibit political favoritism,  
20 requires that districts be compact, continuous  
21 and follow city or county lines where feasible.  
22 Amendments 5 and 6 will stop the gerrymandering  
23 and the splitting up of a city.

24 For example, here in St. Augustine Senate  
25 District 8, Precinct 507, which has many black

1 voters is removed from District 8.

2 Florida House District 18 comes into St.  
3 Augustine to May Street, Florida House District  
4 20 continues from May Street south to the rest  
5 of St. Augustine. This breaks up Precinct 503  
6 and is confusing for voters.

7 On May 31st, 2011, U.S. Justice  
8 Department, the civil rights section voting  
9 rights, approved these two amendments for  
10 preclearance stating they don't discriminate  
11 against minorities.

12 Why does it have to take the Florida  
13 Legislature so long to get redistricting done?  
14 Many other states, including Alabama, Arkansas,  
15 Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana,  
16 Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada,  
17 Oklahoma, have already completed or almost  
18 completed their redistricting.

19 We hope this will get done as much faster  
20 than you have said it. Thanks a lot.

21 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you so much. And  
22 Ms. Burrell, you have raised a good question  
23 which the Speaker Designate will remark to at  
24 the end, and that is why Florida is later than  
25 some other states in redistricting. Excellent

1 question.

2 Denise, is it Caldewood or Caldewell?

3 MS. CALDEWOOD: How about Caldewood.

4 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Caldewood, and after  
5 Ms. Caldewood, who represents the League of  
6 Women Voters, we will have Annette Ackerman, if  
7 you could be on deck.

8 Ms. Caldewood, thanks for taking time to  
9 come today, and you are recognized.

10 MS. CALDEWOOD: Thank you very much, I  
11 appreciate it. And it is the Flagler County  
12 League of Women Voters.

13 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And, ma'am, I apologize,  
14 so that we can all hear your testimony, could  
15 you speak directly into the microphone, maybe  
16 someone could help you there to make sure you  
17 got the mike right by your face.

18 MS. CALDEWOOD: Okay, thank you very much,  
19 how about now?

20 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, much better.

21 MS. CALDEWOOD: Okay, perfect. And it is  
22 important to say that it is Flagler County and  
23 I agree with the previous speaker. The  
24 Legislature's timeline for drawing districts  
25 has been unfair to Florida voters.

1           The Legislature plans to pass out the  
2       district maps at the end of the 2012 session on  
3       March 9th, expectedly, which means Florida maps  
4       will be approved later than most every other  
5       state in the nation.

6           That only gives us three months after that  
7       to actually examine it and look at it, so that  
8       becomes a question, and according to that  
9       timeline the maps will not be finalized and  
10      approved before qualifying closes on June 8th,  
11      and that may not be finalized until even after  
12      August, if everything goes well as planned  
13      issues and that is, you know, a very short  
14      timeline.

15          The House's own redistricting attorney,  
16      Miguel De Grandy, has predicted that this  
17      timeline will cause massive voter confusion.  
18      Challengers or new candidates will have little  
19      if any time to mount campaigns and voters will  
20      be voting for candidates they have little  
21      opportunity to get to know.

22          So why won't the Legislature prepare the  
23      maps earlier, debate them in the fall, and pass  
24      them the first week of the session, doubling  
25      the time for the litigation and preclearance,

1       and it gives the appearance that the late maps  
2       may help incumbents, you know, and this can be  
3       construed as an incumbent protection plan, and  
4       that is concerning.

5               The Florida Legislature should also not be  
6       spending taxpayer money to oppose fair  
7       districts. Currently the Legislature has spent  
8       over \$1 million of taxpayer money hiring  
9       lawyers to fight fair districts.

10              It helped -- it fought the approval of the  
11       Amendments for the ballot in 2008, which the  
12       Supreme Court ruled for fair districts anyway.  
13       It held more than 30 hours of committee  
14       meetings in 2009 and '10, to try to find fault  
15       with the Amendments, and they tried to take a  
16       second attempt at fixing the issue, arguing in  
17       court that the Amendments should be stricken  
18       from the ballot.

19              The Supreme Court also rejected that  
20       argument. And it has tried to confuse voters  
21       by placing Amendment 7 on the ballot with  
22       misleading language and the Supreme Court  
23       struck Amendment 7 from the ballot.

24              It even Representatives of the district  
25       have sued the state, itself, and the



1       Legislature is using taxpayer money to attack  
2       and invalidate a provision of our State  
3       Constitution that was supported by 63 percent  
4       of the voters. So it appears that the  
5       Legislatures aren't even listening to Florida  
6       voters.

7               It appears that the politicians feel free  
8       to spend outrageous sums to protect their seats  
9       while leaving the people of Florida  
10      unprotected. We feel that the Legislature  
11      should be working to uphold the Constitution,  
12      not spending our money to protect their own  
13      interest at the expense of the provision placed  
14      there by almost two-thirds of the electorate  
15      last November.

16             And then the other question is, where are  
17      the maps? Other states have had hearings so  
18      far in order to allow citizens the opportunity  
19      to comment on the maps and we haven't seen  
20      them, you know, so the comment, is where is the  
21      beef, where is the maps?

22             Have Legislatures drawn the maps yet, and,  
23      if so, why are they not showing them to us.  
24      When will they show them to us, and if the maps  
25      haven't been drawn yet, why not. We have GIS

1       systems that can produce them very easily  
2       without input and without paying for  
3       consultants, you know, so, you know, these  
4       sessions are important, it is great to be  
5       listened to, everybody wants to be listened to,  
6       but they are just that.

7               It gives you the opportunity to listen to  
8       us, but we need the time to actually, you know,  
9       propose good input on the maps with good  
10      information, and you can use Palm Coast as an  
11      example.

12             They just went through their own city  
13      redistricting and they actually, you know,  
14      redistricted a candidate who was actually  
15      already approved by the, you know, the -- yes,  
16      was approved to run and they actually voted him  
17      out of the process, the redistricting process  
18      and he threatened a lawsuit to actually put  
19      himself back on.

20             So that is an example of how this can  
21      happen for the future. So please don't let  
22      that happen to this state. Thank you very  
23      much.

24             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
25      Ms. Caldewood, and you as well have raised some

1 interesting factual points which the Speaker  
2 Designate and other members of the Committee  
3 may wish to respond to after we hear from all  
4 members of the public.

5 After Annette Akerman, our next speaker is  
6 Robert Zeis who is with the AARP. Ms. Akerman,  
7 thank you for coming this morning, and you are  
8 recognized.

9 MR. AKERMAN: Thank you very much. I  
10 really don't represent anyone. I do have to  
11 say that my grandfather fought all through the  
12 American Revolution and in two major battles in  
13 New York, and I speak from the heart as a  
14 concerned citizen.

15 What I have seen lately has been a  
16 tremendous shift in the use and the definite  
17 misuse of our Constitution. My biggest concern  
18 here is what a serious overreach of  
19 redistricting can mean to the freedoms that we  
20 enjoy because there is a lot to be considered  
21 here.

22 It cannot and must not be allowed through  
23 any political ploys to fall into further decay  
24 via special interests or subverting agendas.

25 Gentlemen, you have a job to do, ladies

1           and gentlemen, excuse me, you have a job to do  
2           and I hope you take it seriously to heart.

3           Please use the truths that have been set  
4           forth in the Constitution to make redistricting  
5           fair and representative of each and every one  
6           of us. That is your sworn commitment and we  
7           will appreciate your upholding that. Thank you  
8           very much.

9           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Akerman,  
10          excellent guidance for all of us. Robert Zeis,  
11          representing the AARP. Good to see you again,  
12          and the next, Pam Linder, I believe it is,  
13          would be on deck.

14          Mr. Zeis, you are recognized.

15          MR. ZEIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I wish  
16          to thank you and the entire Committee for  
17          allowing so many people to come forward and  
18          give their opinion.

19          AARP, of course, represents nearly four  
20          million voters in the state of Florida.

21          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And could you speak a  
22          little closer into the mike so that we can  
23          catch every word?

24          MR. ZEIS: I can do that and I can tell  
25          that is much better, thank you, sir.

1           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you.

2           MR. ZEIS: Our concerns are much more  
3           theoretical. We really believe that the  
4           Committee needs to perform this redistricting  
5           in a very timely manner, stay with the  
6           constitutional requirements of contiguousness  
7           and truly avoid any appearance of conflict of  
8           interest.

9           It is most important that our local  
10          communities and neighborhoods stay intact,  
11          having subdivisions and smaller, small  
12          neighborhoods even within cities to have  
13          deferring representation literally across the  
14          street is something that has to be avoided.

15          I think that you are all doing a job that,  
16          as I understand, is actually quite unusual with  
17          the rest of the states. Very few states are  
18          having the opportunity for public access and  
19          information, and I encourage everyone to  
20          partake of the websites that are available and  
21          they can really glean maybe a better handle on  
22          how the redistricting process takes hold, and  
23          input their own ideas. And I thank you very  
24          much.

25          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, sir, thank you

1           very much for your testimony. Pam Linder is  
2           next, and following Ms. Linder, Connie White,  
3           if you would be on deck.

4           Ms. Linder, thank you for coming this  
5           morning, and you are recognized before the  
6           Committee.

7           MS. LINDER: Thank you. I was hoping all  
8           of my questions would be asked so that I  
9           wouldn't have to talk, but I am here, because  
10          four of my questions have not been answered.

11          I didn't quite understand at the  
12          beginning. Would ya'll just raise your hand if  
13          you represent more than three counties? Just a  
14          quick raise of hands, one, two, three, four,  
15          five, six, seven. Seven, okay.

16          And I also was wondering, how many people  
17          were in the Legislature, legislation when the  
18          2002 redistricting happened? Could you all  
19          just raise your hands if anybody was there?  
20          One, two, three -- three, okay, and I was also  
21          wondering, how many of ya'll would actually be  
22          opposed to working between now and January, so  
23          that we could have preliminary maps ready in  
24          January when the sessions started? Is anybody  
25          opposed to doing that?

1           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Well, I will tell you  
2           what. We will ask the Speaker Designate to  
3           respond to that in terms of the legal  
4           requirements, as well as what the process and  
5           schedule are. I think you will be placed with  
6           the answer, at least I hope you will, but  
7           please continue your testimony.

8           MS. LINDER: Okay, and I wondered, how  
9           many people voted to oppose Amendment 5 and 6  
10          and actually asked that money be spent?

11          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Now, we don't, ma'am,  
12          ma'am, ma'am, in the United States of America,  
13          we don't ask people how they voted in a secret  
14          ballot.

15          So you are welcome to talk to people  
16          individually, but we are not going to anybody  
17          on the spot today about how they voted in the  
18          secret ballot. This is still America. Please  
19          continue with your testimony.

20          MS. LINDER: Okay, and I was wondering if  
21          anybody would consider suing the state if their  
22          redistrict changed?

23          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Again, ma'am, you know,  
24          there are people in this audience who may have  
25          a cause of action, special interest groups who

1           are here who followed us from hearing to  
2           hearing who may file lawsuits.

3           We are not going to put them on the spot.  
4           They have the right to file a suit. Your right  
5           to access to the courts is guaranteed by the  
6           Constitution. We are not going to put them on  
7           the spot today or anybody else. Any other  
8           testimony?

9           MS. LINDER: Yes, I did just want to say  
10          that as a woman and a mother and a healthcare  
11          provider and an educator, I am disenfranchised  
12          in my district.

13          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much for  
14          your testimony. Next we have Susan McCool.

15          MS. WHITE: Corrine White.

16          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Connie White, I am  
17          jumping ahead. Connie White and then Susan  
18          McCool.

19          MS. WHITE: Corrine White.

20          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Ms. White, thank you for  
21          being here today and we are delighted to have  
22          your testimony.

23          MS. WHITE: Thank you very much for the  
24          opportunity, and thank you all for being here.

25          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And could you speak



1 directly into the mike so we can all hear you?

2 MS. WHITE: Yes, sir.

3 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I am sorry that the  
4 acoustics here require you to do that.

5 MS. WHITE: Is this better? Is that  
6 better?

7 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Much better, thanks a  
8 lot.

9 MS. WHITE: Okay. Thank you. I would ask  
10 that you consider after the maps are submitted  
11 and you have gotten all of the testimony from  
12 across the state, that you turn over the  
13 process of re, actually redrawing the  
14 Congressional Districts to an independent  
15 nonpartisan commission, because we have four  
16 criteria that have been articulated here which  
17 are population equality, contiguity, unity of  
18 counties and cities and compactness.

19 And we have a goal of districts being  
20 represented by a member of their own community  
21 who are familiar with their concerns, which as  
22 we all know, which is why the Constitution  
23 requires that Senators and Representatives be  
24 inhabitants of the state that elect them.

25 So attempts to lock out, to lock in party

1        advantage sacrifices the important  
2        Constitutional guarantee that a Legislator  
3        serve as the voice of the community.

4            As you probably well know, 13 states so  
5        far have established nonpartisan redistricting  
6        commissions, and two additional states have  
7        created advisory commissions.

8            While the systems vary, some commissions  
9        actually propose the plans the Legislators must  
10       approve, others strip the Legislators from  
11       redistricting authority. Each of these states  
12       recognize that partisan drawing of  
13       Congressional District boundaries has hurt the  
14       democratic process, leaving elected officials  
15       dependent and beholding to the party bosses who  
16       draw them.

17           So I ask you, please, to consider turning  
18       over after you have done your marvelous work,  
19       turning over the redistricting process in  
20       Florida to an independent nonpartisan  
21       commission. Thank you very much.

22           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much. And  
23       that as well will be a -- that as well -- stay  
24       calm, ma'am. That as well will be, will be a  
25       question that we will ask the Speaker Designate

1 to take up.

2 Now we are delighted to have Susan McCool,  
3 who is the Supervisor of Elections in Palatka  
4 with us. Thank you for your service to the  
5 people of that community, and you are  
6 recognized.

7 MS. MCCOOL: Thank you very much, and that  
8 is Putnam county, not just Palatka.

9 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: That is right, it is the  
10 whole county.

11 MS. MCCOOL: I am Susan McCool, Supervisor  
12 of Elections of Putnam county. I just want to  
13 thank you for allowing the State Supervisor of  
14 Elections to have a more, be more involved this  
15 year in the process of redistricting by  
16 allowing us to show you our voting tabulation  
17 districts.

18 Remember the economic factor when  
19 splitting and dividing counties and  
20 municipalities. That hasn't been brought up  
21 yet. And by the way, St. Johns County did a  
22 wonderful job in the presentation and you are  
23 going to hear this throughout the state. The  
24 rest of the sessions that you have.

25 We all have the same agenda, as you well

1 know. We are concerned about the time frame  
2 and about the splitting. So if you remember  
3 the economic factor in that, because one thing,  
4 it involves the more splits we have, the more  
5 precincts are involved, the more ballot styles  
6 we have.

7 The more ballot styles we have the more it  
8 costs, and this -- the way that paper is now,  
9 of course, you know, the state is a paper  
10 ballot. We destroy many, many ballots, paper  
11 ballots a year for those people who do not  
12 vote.

13 And so the less ballot styles, the less  
14 paper that we have to destroy. Well, if I let  
15 go of it, I can't turn the page.

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You are doing fine.

17 MS. MCCOOL: Okay. Just remember that  
18 less is better. It has already been brought up  
19 about the time frame. We want to make sure  
20 that you definitely remember that, because in  
21 the redistricting process it takes several  
22 months to train our poll workers, move voters,  
23 print the cards to give to the electors,  
24 process the change, mail out the cards,  
25 securing polling locations, which securing

1 polling locations you may think it doesn't  
2 take, you know, just call them and say, okay, I  
3 have got an election, but there is a lot of  
4 things on the polling places calendars that  
5 have to be cleared, so we have to remember that  
6 also.

7 We have to type, proof and then print the  
8 ballots, and that does take quite a bit of  
9 time, so remember the time frame, and thank you  
10 very much, appreciate it.

11 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
12 Ms. McCool, for being here today. Excellent  
13 information.

14 Next we have Rebecca Johnston representing  
15 the Young Democrats of St. Johns, and following  
16 Ms. Johnston, Richard Hebert.

17 So Ms. Johnston, if you are here, we are  
18 delighted to have your testimony this morning.  
19 Thank you for coming.

20 MS. JOHNSTON: Hello, I am Rebecca  
21 Johnston, and I am the President of the St.  
22 Johns Young Democrats.

23 First of all, I am not attempting to do  
24 your job but offer suggestions. I understand  
25 you have a very difficult task as you consider

1       the 2010 census data that shows many districts  
2       with increased population.

3             In St. Johns County, two of our three  
4       State House Representatives live in  
5       Jacksonville. The citizens in St. Johns County  
6       feel like they are not being represented  
7       sufficiently.

8             District 19, for instance, includes part  
9       of northeast Clay, southwest Jaxs and northwest  
10      St. Johns County, and currently it is 12.9  
11      percent over the desired population for the  
12      district.

13            All of St. Johns County districts are  
14      currently over the population desired, and  
15      districts north of us and west of us are under  
16      the desired population.

17            District 20 is over 28.9 percent, and it  
18      encompasses the majority of Flagler, St. Johns  
19      and it continues into Clay County. Next to it  
20      is District 21 of Putnam County and it is under  
21      by 7.49 percent. Please consider pushing their  
22      line east and north into the current District  
23      20.

24            We currently do not appreciate our tax  
25      dollars being used to conduct hearings where

1 we, the people are not receiving any  
2 information from you, our Representatives, or  
3 seeing any proposed plans for us to give input  
4 on.

5 If this, if Amendments 5 and 6 are not  
6 followed properly, there will most likely be  
7 some challenges which will be time consuming  
8 and costly.

9 This will also result in delay in the  
10 redistricting and it will hinder citizens who  
11 wish to file as a candidate for the 2012  
12 election, because they will not know their  
13 district.

14 Incumbents will be given an advantage over  
15 their opponents, because campaign and  
16 fundraising time will be constrained. We  
17 understand that some districts may need to be  
18 drawn cross counties.

19 We ask that when you do, you do not draw  
20 the lines to cut in and out of a county where a  
21 particular political party is favored. We ask  
22 that you draw lines to encompass an area  
23 containing people with similar interests, way  
24 of life, job market, infrastructure and  
25 monetary.

1           By doing these things and following your  
2       legal obligation to the voters, it not only  
3       benefits the people, but the elected  
4       Representatives. They will be able to better  
5       represent their constituents to a one person,  
6       one vote standard.

7           America is about fairness and equality.  
8       We the voters need to see that in Florida.  
9       Thank you very much.

10           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Johnston,  
11       we really appreciate you being here. Richard  
12       Hebert is next, and following Mr. Hebert,  
13       Annette Cappella, if you would be on deck,  
14       please.

15           Mr. Hebert, thank you for taking time to  
16       be with us this morning, and you are  
17       recognized.

18           MR. HEBERT: Thank you, sir, I pronounce  
19       it Hebert.

20           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I am sorry, sir? Hebert.

21           MR. HEBERT: Hebert, thank you.

22           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I apologize to you. I am  
23       sorry for mispronouncing your name.

24           MR. HEBERT: That is okay, at least you  
25       didn't say Herbert.



1           CHAIRMAN GAETZ:  You are recognized.

2           Thanks from coming.

3           MR. HEBERT:  You have heard a lot of anger  
4           out here and you shouldn't be surprised at it,  
5           considering the history of Amendments 5 and 6.  
6           I second everything that you have been hearing.

7           I don't want it reiterate detail by  
8           detail, but just remember that we have gone  
9           through two years of collecting 1.7 million  
10          signatures to put those two Amendments on the  
11          ballot, and we faced nothing but obstruction  
12          from the State Legislature, from lawsuits to  
13          the Governor's refusal to submit it for  
14          approval to the Department of Justice.

15          We had to go to court to enforce that.  
16          The citizens are upset, and I think  
17          understandably so.  You just look at some of  
18          these snake like districts that curl and carve  
19          all the way around the state of Florida, it is  
20          a sham, and without getting into more detail,  
21          you have set aside, as I understand it, \$30  
22          million to fight redistricting related  
23          lawsuits.

24          Half of that is supposed to go to this  
25          lawsuit that you have joined in with Corrine

1 Brown to basically again try to nullify. I  
2 mean, how many times does the Supreme Court  
3 have to tell you you don't have a case, but  
4 they keep going back to court to fight the  
5 voters, using taxpayers, using our money to pay  
6 to sue ourselves and then to defend ourselves  
7 against our own lawsuit.

8 And I think the voters have finally seen  
9 through this sham and I beg you, please, do the  
10 right thing, stop postponing the day of  
11 reckoning.

12 It is time now, draw the districts, these  
13 hearings are a waste of our own money and our  
14 time. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, thank you for  
16 coming in any case. Next, Annette Cappella,  
17 you are recognized, and following Ms. Cappella,  
18 Nell Toensmann, I believe it is, and I want to  
19 just indicate that we do have a number of other  
20 speakers who would like to be heard.

21 So all of us and especially the people  
22 behind you are grateful for your respect of the  
23 three minute rule. Ms. Cappella, you are  
24 recognized. Thanks for being here.

25 MS. CAPPELLA: Thank you, thank you for

1       having me here. I also thank you for  
2       listening. I hope you are hearing as well. So  
3       many good things were said today and I don't  
4       want to re-echo or reiterate much of it which I  
5       have in my notes.

6               However, I am a U. S. citizen. I love  
7       this country and I love Florida. I adopted, I  
8       adopted it in 1978, and have watched some  
9       things happen that I am very concerned about.

10              One of the things now is we have an  
11       Amendment 5 and 6 that has been passed in the  
12       past 2010 election by 63 percent of the voters,  
13       and as Richard Hebert just said, you are  
14       fighting it. Why?

15              We have a problem with economics in this  
16       state and in this country yet you chose to  
17       spend over a million dollars to fight it, of  
18       our money.

19              Also, you also have set aside about \$30  
20       million to keep fighting it. Why? These are  
21       questions I have. I hope you are able to  
22       answer them.

23              I also want to know why close to a dozen  
24       states have already mapped out what their plans  
25       are for redistricting. I know Florida is a

1 large state, and now I know it is crucial to  
2 the upcoming election, and we do have one party  
3 in power.

4 Does that mean you want absolute control?  
5 That is another question I have. We have major  
6 problems in this country, and it is time we  
7 looked at the U.S. Constitution and followed  
8 it, and as you as citizens and as patriots, we  
9 should be able to follow it and not try to buck  
10 it, and I am afraid that is what has been  
11 happening.

12 I want St. Johns County to be contiguous.  
13 You heard the Supervisor of Elections and the  
14 problems she has. I work very closely many  
15 times with them on elections and I see the  
16 problems and the confusion with the voters.

17 What you are doing right now by postponing  
18 maps and getting them to the public is going to  
19 confuse not only the voters, but also the rest  
20 of the world.

21 What is Florida about? We are known for  
22 our, in fact, we are notorious for the kinds of  
23 elections we have held in the past. Are we  
24 going to continue to do that? Come on now.  
25 You represent us.

1           Do your job, please. Make Florida and  
2           make St. Johns County proud of you. Keep us in  
3           our diverse contiguous place, not with three  
4           Senators who represent four or five or six or  
5           seven districts from Nassau County all of the  
6           way to Volusia, or three representatives who  
7           represent three, four, different districts and  
8           counties. I mean, these poor men are confused.

9           They don't even know who they are  
10          representing, because they don't even have a  
11          handle on who we are. St. Johns and Flagler do  
12          have much in common, and I agree.

13          Look at that map. Put us together. We  
14          make good buddies and good brothers, thank you.

15          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Cappella,  
16          and Ms. Cappella, I hope you can stay until the  
17          end of the hearing because I think some of the  
18          points that you raised probably will be  
19          remarked to.

20          MS. CAPPELLA: Thank you.

21          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Our next speaker will be  
22          Nell Toensmann, I believe, or Toensmann, and  
23          following Nell will be Randy Covington, and I  
24          apologize if I mispronounced your name. Could  
25          you pronounce it for the record?

1 MR. TOENSMANN: Toensmann.

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much.

3 MR. TOENSMANN: It is a German name and I  
4 have a German husband.

5 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you.

6 MR. TOENSMANN: I grew up in St.  
7 Augustine, Florida, at a time when Berl Polk  
8 was Senator and we could often find him sitting  
9 on a park bench in the plaza.

10 He talked to the people he represented,  
11 and he represented us very well. Since then I  
12 have spent 32 years in Europe with a German  
13 husband whom I brought over here about seven  
14 years ago, and I have looked back at Florida  
15 and I have looked back at the United States  
16 sometimes in utter amazement at the kind of  
17 things we do and how they reflect on the rest  
18 of the world.

19 Florida is very well known not only around  
20 the United States, but it is also known in  
21 Europe, and I was over there in the 2000  
22 election when the German American Club had a  
23 party to celebrate the election of a new  
24 President, which went on for a few months.

25 The party actually ended some time in the

1        wee hours of the morning, however, and it is  
2        kind of -- it is the kind of thing that when  
3        things are being done that are not well thought  
4        out and for all of the people, it is not only  
5        the people of the state of Florida that are  
6        watching, it is the people outside of the  
7        state.

8                They are looking at us from all around the  
9        United States, but they are also looking at us  
10       from Germany and France and Spain, and believe  
11       me, their international news is a lot better  
12       than our international news which is almost non  
13       existent.

14               They know what is going on. They knew  
15       everything about the whole election process in  
16       2000, and this is why you guys and gals, men  
17       and women have to do something right this time  
18       around.

19               You have to do it soon, you have to do it  
20       contiguously so that we have proper  
21       representation, and believe me, when we have  
22       three Senators that we almost never see and we  
23       have three House members, one of which does  
24       live in St. Augustine, but none of them really  
25       properly represent us in St. Johns County.

1           We want it to be compact. We do not want  
2           to have precincts that are divided among two  
3           House seats or two Senate seats. We do not  
4           want to have the Supervisor of Elections people  
5           have to do an incredible amount of work to  
6           divide and subdivide and re-subdivide and try  
7           to get precincts contiguous with the House  
8           seats or the Senate seats, et cetera.

9           It is not an easy process I know for you,  
10          but the sooner you get it done the sooner our  
11          Supervisor of Elections can get to work. The  
12          sooner the people who want to run for office  
13          will know what district they can run in, the  
14          better it will be for all of the people in the  
15          state of Florida. Thank you.

16          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you so much for  
17          your testimony. Next is Randy Covington, and  
18          following Randy Covington will be Julie  
19          Penrod-Glenn. So Ms. Penrod-Glenn, if you  
20          would be on deck.

21          Mr. Covington, thank you so much for being  
22          here, and you are recognized before the  
23          Committee.

24          MR. COVINGTON: Thank you, and I want to  
25          thank the Committee first of all, all of you



1       for your service in this recent session. I  
2       know you did struggle with a great many of the  
3       things and at the end of the day you did the  
4       best job that we could expect. We appreciate  
5       your service. Thank you.

6               Secondly, it is really interesting to me,  
7       I have heard a lot of people speak of  
8       diversity. It seems they were all reading it  
9       from the same piece of paper.

10              I will tell you for certainty I have to  
11       take strong exception to this. I don't care  
12       one wit what Spain and England and France care  
13       about our electoral process. It is our  
14       Constitution. The process belongs to us, not  
15       to them.

16              Secondly, I heard a lot of talk yesterday  
17       about concentric circles and geometry. I think  
18       that would actually be rather fun if you  
19       produced those maps so you could watch people's  
20       heads explode seeing what they suggested.

21              And lastly, I would just say this, at the  
22       end of the day the fairness of this process  
23       will not be traced to the production of the  
24       maps. It is going to be traced to how you  
25       openly conducted these hearings and gave

1           everybody their input to this process.

2           That is what matters here. The Fair  
3           Districts people clearly drew language that was  
4           intended to force this process to end up being  
5           decided by seven unelected people. We don't  
6           want that. That would be the ultimate  
7           unfairness.

8           We trust you, we believe you all to be of  
9           good intent. Continue on your process, don't  
10          pay attention to all of the continuous  
11          criticisms of you fighting to represent  
12          everybody in the state. Thank you.

13          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
14          Mr. Covington. Next, Julie Penrod-Glenn and  
15          then following Ms. Penrod-Glenn, if William  
16          McCormick would please be on deck.

17          Ms. Penrod-Glenn, thank you for coming  
18          today and we look forward to your testimony.

19          MS. PENROD-GLENN: Thank you for having  
20          us. Thank you for being here. I have been  
21          thinking about what I wanted to say today in  
22          three minutes and I will try to keep my time, I  
23          will keep my time to three minutes.

24          All of you all and everyone in this room  
25          has heard multiple times that in the United

1 States we have one of the lowest voter turn  
2 outs in the world in democracies.

3 Voters say, my vote doesn't count. There  
4 is no need for me to vote, nobody listens to  
5 what I have to say. How many people have heard  
6 that? I have heard it multiple times.

7 When the voters of Florida passed the Fair  
8 District 5 and 6 Amendments to the Florida  
9 Constitution, that represented voters saying,  
10 hey, you all, I want my vote to count.

11 I don't want to continue to be apathetic  
12 and believe that my vote won't be heard, my  
13 vote doesn't matter. These two Amendments give  
14 the Florida Legislature a chance to have every  
15 single person that is eligible to vote in the  
16 state of Florida to be heard.

17 What we have now in Florida is a gross  
18 example of gerrymandering. Gerrymandering in  
19 the United States has a long and very infamous  
20 record. It goes back to the founding, before  
21 the founding of the Constitution wherein slave  
22 states, slave owners wanted to count  
23 100 percent of their slaves as people, but the  
24 Constitution said, hey, no, they only count for  
25 a third.

1           Gerrymandering has continued all through  
2           history.  However, this is our opportunity to  
3           change history, to change what we have been  
4           doing in the past and make it right.

5           I urge you to have open hearings, to  
6           release the maps, to speed up the process so  
7           that people that want to run for election will  
8           be able to have time.  People that are running  
9           elections will have time to let voters know who  
10          is running, what the election process is all  
11          about.

12          We have time to get it straight.  Eighteen  
13          states have already done it.  It is time for  
14          Florida to step up and do the right thing.  
15          Thank you.

16          CHAIRMAN GAETZ:  Thank you,  
17          Ms. Penrod-Glenn.  Excellent advice for us all.  
18          William McCormick is next, and then following  
19          Mr. McCormick, David Sullivan.

20          Mr. McCormick, thank you for coming this  
21          morning.  We look forward to your testimony.

22          MR. MCCORMICK:  Well, can you hear me  
23          okay?

24          CHAIRMAN GAETZ:  Yes, sir.

25          MR. MCCORMICK:  Thank you for letting us

1 speak at this public hearing. I want to begin,  
2 by the way, I live in St. Augustine, 9224 July  
3 Lane. I represent myself, but I want to begin  
4 my statement with a quotation from, and I think  
5 a very statesman like quotation, from a pretty  
6 influential public servant, and the person I am  
7 going to quote is George W. Bush.

8 So the following he his quote. "One way  
9 to reduce the influence of ideological extremes  
10 is to change the way we elect members of  
11 Congress.

12 2006 only about 45 of 435 House races were  
13 seriously contested. Some members in so-called  
14 safe districts do not have to worry about a  
15 challenge from the opposite party. Their  
16 biggest vulnerability is getting out planked in  
17 their own party.

18 This is especially true in the era of  
19 bloggers who make national targets out of  
20 politicians they deem ideologically impure.

21 The result is that members of Congress  
22 from both parties can towards extremes as  
23 insurance against primary challenges.

24 Our government would be more productive  
25 and our politics more civilized if

1 Congressional Districts were drawn by panels of  
2 nonpartisan elders instead of State  
3 Legislators.

4 That would be, make for more competitive  
5 general elections and a less polarized  
6 Congress. Making the change would make  
7 politicians, would require politicians to give  
8 up some of their power, never an easy task, but  
9 for future Presidents looking to tackle a big  
10 problem, this would be a worthy one to take  
11 on."

12 Using those quotations as by stepping up  
13 point and I will keep this short, by the way,  
14 those quotations are from George W. Bush,  
15 decision twice, pages 306 and 307, 2010  
16 copyright.

17 Using those statements as my starting  
18 point, I want to emphasize five points.

19 First, the voters of Florida, 63 percent,  
20 have spoken. They want -- they want the  
21 Legislature and the Governor to follow the  
22 wording and the intent of the specific  
23 guidelines set forth in Amendments 5 and 6.

24 Two, they want those guidelines followed  
25 in establishing the new districts in a timely

1 manner, well before the 2012 elections.

2 Third, borders clearly understand the;  
3 polarizing and paralyzing effects that  
4 gerrymandered districts have on the political  
5 process.

6 And fourth, and I am going to quote a wise  
7 man, one of our, by the way, one of our six  
8 Legislators, State Legislators, that represents  
9 part of St. Johns County, but basically they  
10 understand the power that legislative leaders  
11 have in affecting policy and funding.

12 As that wise State Legislator said in a  
13 public discussion that we had prior to the  
14 passage of the Amendments, Junior Legislators  
15 accomplish little when they come to Tallahassee  
16 and those in the minority party accomplish even  
17 less.

18 He cited the example of one powerful  
19 Committee Chairman who went against the wishes  
20 of the leadership of the State Legislature and  
21 put forth an amendment that they didn't want  
22 put forth and the next day he was no longer  
23 Chairman of that Committee. He wasn't even on  
24 that Committee.

25 It shows you what kind of impact, a long

1 time in the Senate or in the House, whether you  
2 are talking national or state, the power that  
3 these people have.

4 Finally, you are among the parties'  
5 leaders. Well, let me say this. One thing  
6 that Bush, George Bush did not say, and he  
7 could have, is that the reason why we have all  
8 of this money funneled to special interests is  
9 because of the gerrymandering that goes on.  
10 Just look at what West Virginia, just look at  
11 Mississippi. Just look at Alaska.

12 Who gets the money? Why? If you live  
13 long enough, you are going to keep your office  
14 in a gerrymandered district, and of course you  
15 are going to get the money going to your  
16 district.

17 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Sir, in respect to the  
18 people behind you, could I ask you to wrap it  
19 up?

20 MR. MCCORMICK: All right, I will make my  
21 last comment, I got off script. You are among  
22 your parties' leaders and certainly party  
23 leaders choose to circumvent the wishes of the  
24 vast majority of Florida voters, you will  
25 surely be reminded of that should they seek



1 re-election or election to higher office in the  
2 future. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
4 Appreciate your comments. Next is David  
5 Sullivan and then following Mr. Sullivan is  
6 Robert Phillips, if you will be ready,  
7 Mr. Phillips.

8 Mr. Sullivan, thank you for coming today,  
9 and we look forward to your testimony.

10 MR. SULLIVAN: Thank you for having me.  
11 Dave Sullivan, I am a resident of Flagler  
12 County, specifically Palm Coast, here on my  
13 own, Volusia.

14 I appreciate the previous members who have  
15 spoken for Flagler County and the city of Palm  
16 Coast. I have some specific statistics I would  
17 like to reiterate just to remind people of  
18 where we are.

19 The 2010 Census is the reason we are doing  
20 this redistricting. Flagler County has been  
21 the fastest growing county in the United States  
22 for four years in the mid-2000s.

23 The city of Palm Coast now has over 75,000  
24 people. That comes as a shock to some people.  
25 It is clearly the largest city between

1 Jacksonville and Orlando, and over the next few  
2 years it will go over 100,000.

3 I, coming from Palm Coast and Flagler  
4 County, want to make sure that we do stay  
5 attached to St. Johns County. I think those  
6 two counties have a lot in common, and so maybe  
7 when you are doing the State and House and the  
8 State senate redistricting, why not start  
9 south?

10 Start at the Flagler County south border  
11 and go north. When you get to 100 and,  
12 whatever it is, 60,000 people, that is one  
13 district and you continue on north and so  
14 forth.

15 There is, it looks to me like there is  
16 about room for two State Representatives in  
17 that place and this, the two Senate Districts  
18 make no sense at all right now, dividing it up,  
19 coast and inland.

20 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, thank you very  
21 much, Mr. Sullivan, excellent observations.  
22 Next we will hear from Robert Phillips and  
23 following Mr. Phillips, if Lee Owen  
24 representing the Minorcan Families would be on  
25 deck and ready to proceed, we would be

1 grateful.

2 Mr. Phillips, from the Duval County  
3 Supervisor of Elections. Thank you very much  
4 for being here and we look forward to your  
5 testimony.

6 MR. PHILLIPS: Thank you very much, and  
7 good morning, and I send regrets from  
8 Mr. Holland, the Duval County Supervisor of  
9 Elections.

10 He is actually out of the country right  
11 now. He actually wanted me to attend  
12 yesterday's meeting that you had in Duval  
13 County, but I was actually down in our neighbor  
14 Volusia County enjoying some of our wonderful  
15 state parks.

16 So I saw the news last night so I know I  
17 missed a good one, but after I saw, I wasn't  
18 going to speak this morning, but when I saw  
19 several members of the Duval delegation here,  
20 including my Representative and then my  
21 compatriots from Putnam and St. Jones County, I  
22 just wanted to add, first of all, what St.  
23 Johns County and what Putnam County said.

24 I don't have anything to add to that  
25 because they said it so well. I would just

1       like to say that we, for the first time, the  
2       state allowed us to produce those VTDs and all  
3       of the Supervisors spent a lot of time last  
4       year working with them.

5               We appreciate the fact that we have had  
6       this input. This is actually my third  
7       reapportionment that I am going through with  
8       the state, and I could tell you some horror  
9       stories from the '92 one that a lot of the  
10      Supervisors talked about, how bad that one was.

11             It was also a Presidential year, and some  
12      of you may remember, it was held out by  
13      lawsuits and things like that. So I just  
14      wanted to ask that you do take those VTDs into  
15      consideration.

16             A lot of the supervisors put a lot of time  
17      into them and also offer ourself as a resource  
18      because we do have a lot of experience with the  
19      precincts and we are the ones who get the  
20      countless phone calls that say, I am  
21      represented by this person and the person  
22      across the street is represented by someone  
23      else. How does that happen.

24             So just anything we could do to offer our  
25      assistance, and also I would like to take this

1 opportunity to personally thank Mr. Guthrie who  
2 I understand has been there quite a while.

3 He has always been very responsive when I  
4 have called him and asked him for assistance,  
5 so it is good that you have someone like that  
6 as a guiding hand behind the process. Thank  
7 you very much.

8 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you. Thank you  
9 very much for your testimony today, and next is  
10 Lee Owen from the, if I understand this  
11 correctly, the Minorcan Families and after Mr.  
12 Owen, John, I think it is Danahy, on Oglethorpe  
13 Boulevard, if you could be on deck, please.

14 Mr. Owen, thank you for coming today.

15 MR. OWEN: Thank you. If many of you do  
16 not know the Minorcans of this area have been  
17 here before even the inception of Florida as a  
18 territory to the United States.

19 We have seen political maps change. We  
20 have seen districts change. We are what I  
21 guess you can say closest to a true native of  
22 Florida besides the Indian tribes that have  
23 been here.

24 There has been the universal message  
25 presented today that the left and the right of

1       our political spectrums can agree upon, and  
2       that is the fact that we emphasize the need for  
3       every district to be as local as possible and  
4       every election to have local results.

5               It is a great feat when one man can shake  
6       someone else's hand that they know, and they  
7       can vote into office and I can say that,  
8       because I have had the opportunity to shake  
9       hands with Senator John Thrasher. I have had  
10      the opportunity to vote for someone that I  
11      know.

12             That is what we have to pursue in this  
13      redistricting. A local election is an involved  
14      election, an involved election is the true  
15      meaning of a democratic republic. Thank you.

16             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, Mr.  
17      Owen, we appreciate it. Mr., is it Danahy?

18             MR. DANAHY: Yes, that is correct.

19             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Mr. Danahy, thank you for  
20      taking time to come this morning, and you are  
21      recognized.

22             MR. DANAHY: Thank you very much.

23             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And following Mr. Danahy,  
24      if William Stuart will be on deck, and then  
25      Mr. Stuart is our last signed up person who

1 wishes to speak. If there are other people who  
2 have been inspired to share their views with us  
3 and haven't signed up yet, if you will raise  
4 your hand, we will have a House or Senate staff  
5 person come and give you a card so that we can  
6 hear from you as well.

7 Mr. Danahy, you are recognized. Thank you  
8 for being here.

9 MR. DANAHY: Thank you. Before coming  
10 into the auditorium I spent I think a fair good  
11 amount of time with some of the folks that you  
12 have out there giving me some background, et  
13 cetera.

14 Also giving me some background as to what  
15 is, I have to say, supposed to be because I  
16 don't know whether it is going to work out that  
17 way or not, how the redistricting law is going  
18 to bring equity broadly, ethnically, racially,  
19 well, not ethnically, because I would like to  
20 have an Irish contingent, quite frankly.

21 But from what he said and how they are  
22 going to form the -- assist the Committee in  
23 helping to actually propose the redistricting,  
24 when all is said and done, it is going to come  
25 down to the decision of those who have the

1       vote, and if those that have the vote on the  
2       results of this is not being proposed  
3       satisfactorily, it is going to change.

4             You cannot sit there and tell me that you  
5       are blankly going to assume and accept the  
6       recommendations of those of the staff that are  
7       putting the redistricting together according to  
8       the law. I just, I just can't believe it.

9             I have lost faith and hope in so many  
10      Legislators and I am going to stick strictly to  
11      the state, and I have lost hope and faith in  
12      our courts.

13            Not so much our local courts but our state  
14      courts, and I have to go to the Federal court  
15      as well, but I have lost faith in all of that,  
16      because no matter what we have done and no  
17      matter what we say, it is going to come down,  
18      politics.

19            I don't care if you say it is going to be  
20      helped put together by non voting. If you say  
21      you don't have a partisan thought in this  
22      thing, you are lying through your teeth.

23            Everyone has a partisan interest in  
24      everything that is going on here, everything  
25      that is said, and everything that is going to



1       come as a result of it. There is no way on  
2       this earth that anyone of you can say, I am  
3       going to set aside politics. It just cannot be  
4       done.

5             You are human beings, you are political  
6       human beings and it cannot be done. So my  
7       interest is in a fair fight. That is all I  
8       want, a fair fight.

9             We saw a fair fight in Jacksonville with  
10      Mayor Brown, God I gloried in it, not because  
11      he was black and he won, but he was an  
12      underdog, big underdog, and he won. He won  
13      because he had a fair fight.

14            Now, if the supporters are going to assume  
15      in that fight that the opponent can't win,  
16      well, that is their hard luck. It is up to the  
17      -- not because you have an advantage in  
18      redistricting.

19            Here in St. Johns County we have a  
20      preponderance of Republican voters. Now, does  
21      that mean that we are not going to have a fair  
22      fight? If the issue, if the person is going to  
23      create a fair fight, that person has every  
24      right to win. So that is all I am looking for,  
25      a fair fight.

1           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much. And  
2 William Stuart is next, and if there is anyone  
3 else, Mr. Stuart, before you begin, if there is  
4 anyone else who would like to speak, if you  
5 would raise your hand we will get to you.

6           Mr. Stuart, thank you very much for being  
7 here. Thanks for your patience in waiting  
8 through everybody else's testimony. We are as  
9 anxious to hear from you as we were from the  
10 very first person who testified.

11          MR. STUART: Well, thank you very much for  
12 allowing me to testify. I am William Stuart.  
13 I have lived all my life in Florida, I am a  
14 Floridian and I have lived in the same Federal  
15 Seventh District for half of my life, 54 years  
16 old.

17          Needless to say, that is a safe district.  
18 There hasn't been much competition for that  
19 seat as long as I have lived there, and I have  
20 seen the face of St. Johns County change so  
21 much in the 34 years I have lived in St. Johns  
22 County.

23          Before Flagler County was growing at the  
24 rate it grew, and simultaneously, St. Johns  
25 County has grown, and what I think the people

1       are asking for when they voted overwhelmingly  
2       for redistricting, is just what my predecessor  
3       have just said at this microphone today,  
4       fairness and that is basically what I came  
5       down.

6               I am not going to go into a long thing  
7       about it. I think everybody here, that is what  
8       they want, fairness. So when an incumbent is  
9       so safe that he doesn't even have or she  
10      doesn't even have to campaign, that is when we  
11      know there is a problem, and I have seen that  
12      election after election after election where if  
13      you don't worry enough about competition that  
14      you don't even air a commercial, put any signs  
15      out, there is something, that is when I know  
16      the system is broken.

17             So all I ask you is for you people to take  
18      it seriously. There was a mandate, it wasn't  
19      like the Governor's race, it was a mandate that  
20      we won, this redistricting done and we want it  
21      done fairly, and I also, I just wanted to say  
22      in closing, I don't appreciate us having to  
23      support a legal battle on both sides of the  
24      issue. I don't think that is fair to the  
25      voters of Florida, so.

1           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Stuart,  
2           and as a reward for your hanging with us  
3           through the whole hearing, we will certainly  
4           get to a couple of the points, the very  
5           important points that you made and see if we  
6           can provide some factual information for you.

7           Is there anyone else who would like to  
8           testify? Tommy, have you got somebody? Okay,  
9           let's get that card up here, and, sir, you can  
10          come to the microphone while your card is being  
11          brought forward, and if you would kindly  
12          identify yourself, sir, for the record?

13          MR. RETTY: My name is Dick Retty. I had  
14          not intended to speak. I just want to make a  
15          parallel to the Administrative Procedures Act  
16          that governs all, all Federal government  
17          agencies if the rulemaking process which begins  
18          with a statute of and proposed rule to  
19          implement the statute, a period of public  
20          comment which may include hearings, an analysis  
21          of all public comment and their agency response  
22          and the publication or final rules.

23          One of the fundamental problems in this  
24          morning's hearing, as I sat through this, is  
25          you have gone from the requirement of a

1 regulation in this case, redistricting, to  
2 public comment without a proposal, and without  
3 the proposal the public comment has very little  
4 meaning and you should have inverted the whole  
5 thing and whether it is a charade or not it is  
6 hardly the kind of procedure that is embedded  
7 for now over 50 years, 60 years in Federal  
8 government rulemaking. Just make that comment.

9 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Retty,  
10 that is very kind of you. Is there anyone else  
11 who, like Mr. Retty, was inspired to offer some  
12 final comments? Anyone else? Third call?

13 First, let me as Chair of the Committee  
14 and on behalf of the Speaker Designate,  
15 Representative Weatherford, offer my thanks to  
16 every single person who testified.

17 We couldn't have gained the specific  
18 information about neighborhoods and counties  
19 that we received today had we not come here and  
20 had public hearings as the -- as the founder of  
21 Fair Districts urged us to do prior to the  
22 drawing of any maps.

23 I would like to now turn to members of the  
24 Committee and start with House members to ask  
25 if they have any observations, if they have any

1 suggestions or if they have any proposals to  
2 make as a consequence of today's hearing or of  
3 this process.

4 Any members of the House of  
5 Representatives wish to make any comments?  
6 Yes, sir, Speaker, go ahead.

7 REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: Thank you, I want  
8 to thank both of our Chairmen for the  
9 leadership that they have provided, and I want  
10 to make it perfectly clear, no one has limited  
11 my ability to speak. There has been no gag  
12 order.

13 There is a time to listen and there is a  
14 time to speak, and this has been a time to  
15 listen and I thank everyone who contributed to  
16 this. I think it is very important.

17 Chairman, I don't think people would have  
18 been very happy if we would have just rolled  
19 out a map and no one had a chance to comment on  
20 this process beforehand, and so I am very  
21 grateful for the way in which it has been  
22 conducted and I am very grateful for the  
23 information that I have gleaned from being a  
24 part of this process. Thank you, sir.

25 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much. Any

1       other member of the House of Representatives  
2       who is on the Committee, Democrat or Republican  
3       from any state of the state?

4               Then let me turn to members of the Senate  
5       who are on the Committee, Senator Hays, you are  
6       recognized, sir.

7               SENATOR HAYS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
8       and I would like to thank each one of you who  
9       did come out this morning and even listened,  
10      but those especially who participated by giving  
11      us your thoughts and your ideas.

12              I have something I would like for you to  
13      consider though. Those who are advocating to  
14      have only one Senator or only one  
15      Representative for each county, or to have an  
16      entire county under the district of only one  
17      Senator or only one Representative.

18              The reality is, if that one Representative  
19      or Senator that is -- that has your entire  
20      county happens to not be of the same political  
21      party that the leadership of their respective  
22      House is, your county is probably going to be  
23      toast until you get somebody in the Legislature  
24      who is of the same political party that the  
25      leadership is.

1           If your county, if your Legislator is the  
2           only Legislator that represents your county and  
3           they get cross ways with the leadership of  
4           either House, you are probably toast. Your  
5           interests are going to be ignored.

6           Now, is that the ideal way? No, that is  
7           not the ideal way, but as I told you before, I  
8           am giving you a taste of reality as it truly  
9           is.

10          So you might want to really, really give  
11          some serious consideration before you advocate  
12          that your entire county have representation by  
13          only one Legislator. That would be a very --  
14          plus, if your county is split up into two or  
15          three different districts, instead of having  
16          only one voice in Tallahassee advocating for  
17          you, you have multiple voices in Tallahassee  
18          advocating for you.

19          I live in Lake County, and there are,  
20          there is, I apologize, I don't know what the  
21          number is now, but say roughly 200,000 people  
22          in Lake County, enough for one whole House  
23          District and a little bit more.

24          But Lake County has six Legislators, two  
25          Senators and four Representatives that are



1       advocating for Lake County in Tallahassee, and  
2       I don't care how strong that one person is,  
3       four in the Legislature is, six in the  
4       Legislator is a far sight better than only one.

5               So I really think you might want to give  
6       some serious consideration to keeping the  
7       counties with multiple districts in them.  
8       Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9               CHAIRMAN GAETZ:  Other comments?  Senator  
10       Thrasher, you are recognized.

11               SENATOR THRASHER:  Thank you, Senator  
12       Gaetz and Representative Speaker Designate  
13       Weatherford for your great leadership in  
14       today's meeting.

15               Let me just say, first of all, the input  
16       from all of you all has been incredibly  
17       valuable.  I don't think a member will leave  
18       here today who hadn't been touched by some of  
19       the comments that have been made and the  
20       concerns and the passion for our process that  
21       you all have exhibited here today.

22               This is the fifth of 26 hearings that this  
23       Committee will hold around the state of Florida  
24       in order to try to reach out to as many  
25       citizens as we can, and I will tell you that I,

1 I can't speak for everybody here, but I think I  
2 can on this one point.

3 That there is no member of this Committee  
4 that does not intend and cares about upholding  
5 the Constitution of the State of Florida.  
6 Amendments 5 and 6 were voted on. They are the  
7 law and we intend to stand by those Amendments  
8 and do everything we can in our power to make  
9 sure that we abide by them.

10 I know I do and I know every member of  
11 this Committee does, and for you all who have  
12 come here today and asked us to do that, I can  
13 assure you that when we raise our hands and are  
14 sworn into the Florida Legislature and agree to  
15 uphold the Florida Constitution, we will  
16 certainly do that in respect to these two  
17 Amendments.

18 I will tell you the other thing. I have  
19 been around a long time. I -- in and out of  
20 the process of the Florida Legislature. I have  
21 never seen this process be more transparent,  
22 have more opportunities for citizen input from  
23 the standpoint of technology.

24 I wish I understood it all, frankly, but I  
25 am getting better, but it is, it is incredibly

1 transparent, and when we come back from these  
2 hearings which I think end in August, we will  
3 start the process of Committee hearings in  
4 Tallahassee.

5 They are open to the public. They are  
6 open to any citizen. We will begin that  
7 process and we will begin the constructive  
8 process and the dialogue of beginning to  
9 understand the input that we have had from the  
10 folks here.

11 I have heard you, and I think every member  
12 here heard you, sooner than later. Contiguous  
13 and compact, one person, one vote. Those are  
14 all important principles and concepts that we  
15 will be guided by.

16 The one thing I would remind you though,  
17 and this is why we are doing these hearings  
18 around the state. We have 27 Congressional  
19 Districts to draw. We have 40 Senate Districts  
20 to draw and 120 House Districts to draw, for  
21 18 million people in the state of Florida.

22 I wish we could go back to the 60s. I  
23 heard someone reference former Senator Berl  
24 Polk, the lion of the St. Johns. I wish those  
25 days were simpler, where we could simply, you

1 know, draw a contiguous district in a county,  
2 in a county and-a-half or whatever, but  
3 unfortunately, Florida has grown to the point  
4 where we have 18 million people, and our job is  
5 to try to -- try to do based upon the  
6 principles that we have outlined, the best job  
7 we can do based upon the input that you have  
8 given us.

9 I can tell you, I wish Florida was a  
10 square and that the population was all divided  
11 out. It would make our job a lot easier, but  
12 as you well know, the state of Florida ain't  
13 drawn that way.

14 It is a different kind of state than most  
15 states, and we have to deal with the  
16 population, where they are, where they live,  
17 and all of the considerations of contiguously  
18 that you have pointed out to us.

19 None of us in here want to travel  
20 150 miles probably from one point of our  
21 district to the other point. It would be much  
22 easier to do it in a more compact basis. So  
23 those principles which have been outlined in 5  
24 and 6 and some of the issues which  
25 Representative Weatherford will address, I

1 think are the principles which we will be  
2 guided by, but your input today has been  
3 valuable. It has been professionally presented  
4 and we thank you for it. God bless you, thank  
5 you.

6 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Senator  
7 Thrasher. Are there any other comments from  
8 members of the Senate who are here? If not,  
9 let me just say that you are welcome to contact  
10 any member of this Committee to have a one on  
11 one conversation, either by e-mail or on the  
12 telephone, or by letter.

13 You are welcome to contact the House  
14 Committee and the Senate Committee, the web  
15 information, the Snail Mail information is on  
16 the brochures that you received. This isn't  
17 the beginning of our conversation. This is  
18 just the beginning, it is not the end, and all  
19 conversations start with somebody saying  
20 something.

21 If we both talk at once, we can't hear  
22 each other. So we have heard you today and you  
23 will be hearing from us as we gather more input  
24 from across the state.

25 And now, without objection, I would like

1 to turn to the Speaker Designate,  
2 Representative Weatherford who Chairs the House  
3 Committee.

4 Representative Weatherford has made some  
5 notes so we can provide some factual  
6 information in response to some of the comments  
7 and questions that have been made today so that  
8 we can all leave here with the same set of  
9 facts.

10 Mr. Chairman, you are recognized.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
12 sir, thank your, Chairman, and I just want to  
13 echo the comments that were made about how much  
14 I learned today, frankly, about northeast  
15 Florida and some of the issues and the  
16 communities of interest of the surrounding  
17 counties here in Flagler and St. Johns and  
18 Clay, and I think every member of this  
19 Committee is going to walk out of here with a  
20 better understanding of the unique and special  
21 nature that you have here.

22 It is a beautiful part of the state and it  
23 was very enlightening for me to hear about  
24 specifics and things that you wanted to see  
25 this Committee consider as we are making

1 decisions. So thank you for doing that.

2 Mr. Chairman, I would like to just go over  
3 a few facts to make sure that we all walk out  
4 of this room with the same understanding about  
5 what the law says and what we have to do and  
6 what is incumbent upon us.

7 The first of which deals with the  
8 timeline. The timeline seems to come up at  
9 every hearing that we go to. It seems to be an  
10 area that people appear to be scripted up to  
11 talk about and mention at every hearing, but I  
12 just want to make sure that everyone is clear  
13 about this.

14 The Constitution of the State of Florida  
15 tells us that we cannot redraw any districts or  
16 vote on districts until the session starts in  
17 2012.

18 Now, what we have done is we have moved up  
19 our session two months, not in March, which was  
20 mentioned earlier here today, we have moved our  
21 session up to January, so that we can produce  
22 the maps as soon as our Constitution allows us.

23 It is also important for you to know,  
24 there are only two other states in the United  
25 States of America that have similar timing

1 constraints as Florida, and they are Maryland  
2 and Vermont.

3 And so Florida, not because we decide to,  
4 but because the voters voted for a Constitution  
5 that told us that we cannot redraw those maps  
6 until January of 2012, it is the earliest we  
7 can possibly do it.

8 So we are merely following the law and the  
9 Constitution that is set out before us. I also  
10 want to mention a lot of the states that were  
11 talked about that have already drawn the maps,  
12 that have already voted on maps and have passed  
13 them, many of those states have off election  
14 cycle elections, which what that means is,  
15 their elections are this November, in 2011, not  
16 in 2012.

17 And so states like Virginia, New Jersey,  
18 Mississippi, Louisiana, those states got their  
19 census data almost six or eight months ahead of  
20 the state of Florida, Mr. Chairman, and  
21 therefore, were able to vote on maps because  
22 they had an election this year.

23 As we all know, the state of Florida is  
24 not an off cycle state. Our election is in  
25 November of 2012. So we got our census data in



1 the very last tranche of census data that went  
2 out to the last block of states.

3 That came in late March. We have utilized  
4 that data. We had it available to the citizens  
5 of Florida immediately as soon as we possibly  
6 could, and I think that is an important note to  
7 make.

8 There was also some comment in regard to  
9 the maps and whether or not we should produce  
10 maps to show you first as opposed to take  
11 public testimony, and I just have to tell you,  
12 and I don't know if any member of this  
13 Committee feels differently, I don't think they  
14 do, but I don't want to speak for them, but to  
15 me this is one of the rare opportunities for  
16 politicians, public servants, where they are  
17 actually listening first before we are making  
18 decisions.

19 The most criticism I get back in my  
20 district in Pasco County is that we make  
21 decisions before we listen to the citizens of  
22 Florida. This is a case where we have decided,  
23 both Speaker Cannon and President Haridopolos,  
24 myself and Senator Gaetz, that we are going to  
25 listen first before we draw the first map, and

1 I think that is out of respect for you more  
2 than anything.

3 Also, in regards to that, the framers, the  
4 actual framers of Amendments 5 and 6, Ellen  
5 Freidin and Former Speaker Mills, both stated  
6 before a joint hearing in the Legislature that  
7 they would not even try to attempt to draw maps  
8 until they had heard from the public first.

9 These are the framers of Amendments 5 and  
10 6 which I have sworn to defend and protect as  
11 it is part of the Constitution. They said they  
12 would hear from the public first and that is  
13 why we are hearing from the public first as  
14 well.

15 When it comes to Amendments 5 and 6, and I  
16 think this was spoken very eloquently and I  
17 will not try to belabor the point, but we did  
18 take a constitutional oath last November in our  
19 organizational session to uphold and protect  
20 and defend the Constitution of the United  
21 States and the Constitution of Florida, and I  
22 want everyone to walk out of here with the  
23 confidence that you understand that the  
24 Amendments 5 and 6 which passed with  
25 overwhelming majorities in the state of

1 Florida, will be upheld and will be protected  
2 by this Committee and by the Florida House and  
3 by the Florida Senate because it is the law of  
4 the land in the state of Florida. I want you  
5 to know that is going to be the case.

6 In regard to the gag order, again, I  
7 thought Representative Baxley, you spoke to it  
8 very eloquently. There is no gag order.  
9 Again, there seem to be the same scripts that  
10 are floating around that we hear at every  
11 public hearing, but there is no gag order, and  
12 as you heard today, there were multiple members  
13 who spoke, if anyone wants to speak to us  
14 individually after this hearing, we would be  
15 more than willing to speak with you.

16 The gag order does not exist, it never  
17 existed. And also, there were comments made in  
18 regards to litigation and I want to be very  
19 clear about the litigation.

20 The first is, there is no pot of money set  
21 aside by the State legislature, House or  
22 Senate, that is focused on spending money on  
23 fighting Amendments 5 and 6. There is no pot  
24 of money set aside, that does foot exist.

25 That being said, that being said, the

1       litigation that people have been talking about  
2       and that newspapers have been writing about was  
3       filed by two Congressmen, one Congressman and  
4       one Congresswoman, a Republican and a Democrat.

5               They filed the litigation, the Florida  
6       House chose to intervene in that litigation  
7       because what we were doing is seeking  
8       clarification as to whether or not Amendment 6,  
9       which only deals with Congressional Seats, not  
10      Amendment 5, but in regard to Amendment 6, as  
11      to whether or not it is constitutional  
12      according to the Federal Constitution, not the  
13      State Constitution.

14             So we are seeking clarification on that.  
15      We did not file the lawsuit because it affects  
16      the Legislature, we have intervened in that  
17      lawsuit and we are a partner in that, but that  
18      is an important distinction that needs to be  
19      discussed.

20             Someone else mentioned that we should  
21      create an independent commission after we take  
22      all of the public testimony, get all of the  
23      data, hand it over to an independent commission  
24      and let them do the work for us.

25             Ladies and gentlemen, I am sure there are

1 members on this Committee that would love to do  
2 that, but there is a slight problem there, and  
3 that is that the Constitution gives us the sole  
4 authority to draw the maps.

5 We have a responsibility according to our  
6 Constitution to draw the maps ourselves and not  
7 to hand it over to a commission. If the  
8 framers of Amendments 5 and 6 wanted it to be  
9 an independent commission and not the  
10 Legislature, they could have made it that way,  
11 but they chose not to. So we have the sole  
12 responsibility of drawing those maps.

13 Lastly, there was a point that was made in  
14 regard to political registration and that that  
15 can somehow guarantee political results.

16 I want people to understand that in the  
17 Florida Senate, for example, there are 28  
18 Republicans and there are 12 Democrats.  
19 However, 20 of those seats were carried by  
20 President Obama in 2008, when he ran for  
21 President, 20 of them.

22 So that means there were eight seats where  
23 there is a Republican sitting in the State  
24 Senate where that same seat voted for a  
25 Democratic President of the United States.

1           We all know that voters are independent.  
2           We all know that not all Democrats vote for  
3           Democrats. We all know that not all  
4           Republicans vote for Republicans, and we  
5           certainly know that Independents can go either  
6           way, and it is important to understand that the  
7           seats in the state of Florida are not drawn and  
8           will not certainly be drawn with political  
9           intent, and when I talk about us upholding the  
10          law in regard to 5 and 6, you have to  
11          understand, when the Constitution says that we  
12          cannot show intent to favor or disfavor a  
13          political party or a candidate or an incumbent,  
14          we believe that. We know that.

15                I have told every member of this body that  
16          we don't want to know where you live. We don't  
17          want to know what your political agenda is. We  
18          are here to do a job to draw the seats  
19          according to what the law states and according  
20          to what the law and the Constitution requires  
21          us to do.

22                And so, Mr. Chairman, I hope that brings  
23          some clarity. There was some great public  
24          testimony today, but the facts have to be the  
25          facts and we have to make sure that the

1 citizens of Florida and particularly the ladies  
2 and gentlemen who took time out of their busy  
3 day to be here understand what the facts are.

4 We are grateful for your participation  
5 today. Thank you for giving us an opportunity  
6 to present in this wonderful facility. We are  
7 grateful to Flagler College and Mr. Chairman, I  
8 will turn it back over to you, sir.

9 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
10 Mr. Speaker. Let me give you a little bit of  
11 previous upcoming attractions.

12 As Senator Thrasher indicated, we will  
13 continue having the public hearings that we  
14 have publicly noticed to give people in  
15 communities across the state the same  
16 opportunity that you had today, to share your  
17 views, whatever they might have been.

18 Then when we get back to Tallahassee,  
19 contrary to what someone may have told you or  
20 somebody may have scripted, the fact is there  
21 is no requirement that votes can't be taken  
22 until March.

23 Votes can be taken as soon as the  
24 Legislature goes in to session, which by  
25 Constitution, cannot occur until January.

1           Now, we will begin committee meetings in  
2           September, votes can be taken in committee.  
3           Any time anybody makes a proposal, any member  
4           of the Florida Legislature, it can be a member  
5           of the House or Senate Committee, it can be a  
6           member of the Legislature who is not on the  
7           Committee, can offer a proposal, could offer a  
8           map, any time they want, and it can come before  
9           the Redistricting Committee and the House  
10          Reapportionment Committee and the Senate any  
11          time that it is proposed.

12          Similarly, we have had individual citizens  
13          and interest groups already propose maps.  
14          Yesterday when we were in Jacksonville during  
15          the time we were at the hearing, there were  
16          three maps that were proposed by groups in the  
17          state of Florida.

18          Those all will be publicly available and  
19          can be brought before committees at any time by  
20          members of the committee or by members of the  
21          Legislature or brought in testimony by  
22          individual citizens or special interest groups,  
23          and when I say special interest groups, I don't  
24          mean it as a pejorative, but rather there are  
25          people who are a part of groups that have a



1 special interest in this issue. Nothing wrong  
2 with that. That is America.

3 So votes can begin as soon as proposals  
4 are made. As Chairman Weatherford has  
5 indicated, we are having hearings around the  
6 state to hear from voters, but at the same time  
7 maps are already being proposed. So if you  
8 want to know where the maps are, you may go  
9 on-line to either the House or Senate websites  
10 and you will already see proposed maps that you  
11 can begin to comment on, that you can point  
12 out, here is what is right about it, here is  
13 what is wrong about it, here is where it takes  
14 into account our concerns, here is where it  
15 fails to take into account our concerns, and  
16 you can convey your information and your input  
17 to the House or Senate Committees.

18 You as Speaker Designate Weatherford said,  
19 will have the opportunity as all citizens will  
20 to comment on any map, any proposal that comes  
21 before any committee before any vote is taken  
22 and we will, we will move with all dispatch to  
23 do that as soon as we have heard from the  
24 public and as soon as we have proposals in  
25 front of us.

1           To end our session this morning, we are  
2           fortunate to have the Chancellor of Flagler  
3           College and the State Representative from this  
4           area, Dr. Bill Proctor here.

5           Dr. Proctor, if you could make your way to  
6           the microphone we would love to have you give  
7           us the benediction this morning in political  
8           terms, of course.

9           Dr. Bill Proctor. Thank you for allowing  
10          us to be here, Dr. Proctor, in this beautiful  
11          auditorium and on your outstanding and  
12          picturesque campus and you are recognized for  
13          any comments you wish to make, sir.

14          DR. PROCTOR: Thank you so much. I don't  
15          think that I am professionally qualified to  
16          give benedictions, but I do want to welcome  
17          you, glad to have you here.

18          I wish I could have been with you earlier,  
19          but we did have a little illness in the family  
20          that delayed my arrival, but I am so glad to  
21          have you on the campus and I appreciate you  
22          taking the time to be with us.

23          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Dr. Proctor,  
24          and there being no business, Chairman  
25          Weatherford moves we rise.

1                   (Whereupon, the proceedings were  
2           concluded.)  
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## 1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )

3 COUNTY OF LEON )

4 I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript  
5 is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned,  
6 and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting  
7 under my direction;

8 That the foregoing pages 2 through 126  
9 represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of  
10 the tape-recording;

11 And I further certify that I am not of kin or  
12 counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the  
13 regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor  
14 am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

15 Dated this 29th day of September, 2011.

16

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19

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

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Notary Public

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State of Florida at Large

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Commission Expires:

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November 13, 2014

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REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

11

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2011

12

6:00 P.M.

13

SANTE FE COLLEGE

14

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

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Transcribed by:

22

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

23

Court Reporter

24

25

1 T A P E D P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: My name is Don Gaetz. I  
3 am Chairman of the Reapportionment Committee.  
4 I serve five coastal counties in northwest  
5 Florida, from Pensacola to Panama City, and  
6 along with my -- with my colleague,  
7 Representative Precourt, Chair Precourt, who is  
8 here tonight, I will be chairing this evening's  
9 meeting.

10 The meeting is being broadcast, webcast,  
11 statewide by the Florida Channel over the  
12 Internet, and podcasts will be available in  
13 case you miss part of it, or in case you would  
14 like to go back and relive part of it.

15 Those will be available to you on the  
16 Internet. Our sole purpose tonight is to hear  
17 from members of the public about how you  
18 believe the legal standards governing  
19 redistricting ought to be applied in your  
20 community so that you are ably represented in  
21 Washington and Tallahassee fairly, equitably  
22 and sensibly.

23 Our procedures tonight are simple, but  
24 important. It is important that you sign in so  
25 that we can create an accurate public record of

1 all attendees and all speakers, and also you  
2 may opt to join our e-mail lists so that we can  
3 keep you informed as to the redistricting  
4 process and how it is going forward.

5 If you have not signed in, we, and you  
6 would like to speak or if you have not signed  
7 in just period, we would hope you might raise  
8 your hand and one of the House or Senate staff  
9 members will come and give you a card. That  
10 way if you choose to speak tonight we will be  
11 able to have you in the stack and give you an  
12 opportunity to have your opinions heard, which  
13 is what we would like very much.

14 If you wish to speak tonight and have not  
15 yet filled out an attendance card, we will get  
16 you one so that you can be called on. We don't  
17 want to miss your testimony.

18 It the same attendance card whether you  
19 wish to speak or whether you just want to sit  
20 and listen to your friends and neighbors give  
21 their opinions.

22 Before we begin the Chair will recognize  
23 Representative Precourt from the House of  
24 Representatives.

25 This is a Joint House Senate hearing, and

1 Representative Precourt will explain how  
2 today's hearing fits into the redistricting  
3 process and schedule. Representative, you are  
4 recognized.

5 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, Chair  
6 Gaetz. I appreciate the opportunity to be here  
7 with all of you as well tonight. Again, my  
8 name is Steve Precourt and I represent the  
9 southwest side of the Orlando area, as well as  
10 all of the citizens in the state of Florida in  
11 the Florida Legislature and I am Vice-Chair of  
12 the overall House Redistricting Committee.

13 That great staff that the Chairman  
14 mentioned has also provided some notes to make  
15 sure that we touch on all of the key points to  
16 keep you informed of what the process is and  
17 how we are going to go through it and I don't  
18 miss anything.

19 As many of you know, every ten years our  
20 Legislature is required by our State  
21 Constitution to redistrict the state based on  
22 increases, decreases and movements in  
23 population.

24 Because Florida has grown more than the  
25 other states around the country in the last ten



1       years, we are going to add, move up from 25 to  
2       27 members of the U. S. House of  
3       Representatives. So we will get two new  
4       districts, and therefore, have to redraw the  
5       congressional lines statewide.

6               Because some parts of our state have also  
7       increased more or decreased to a degree,  
8       disproportionately in population, many of the  
9       Senate and House Districts that are within the  
10      state, the numbers remain the same, 40 Senate  
11      seats, 120 House seats, but many of those  
12      boundaries will have to change either adding or  
13      losing population to make sure that at the end  
14      of the day they all still have the same  
15      population within them.

16              When our redistricting process is  
17      completed the Congressional Districts must be  
18      equal in population and contain 696,345 people.  
19      The 40 Senate Districts must also be nearly  
20      equal, at about 470,000 people, and our 120  
21      House Districts must also be nearly equal at  
22      about 156,700 people.

23              Now, we have some displays that you saw as  
24      you came in there in the back corner of the  
25      room right over there, showing the current

1 boundaries, the current boundaries of the  
2 Districts in this area of the state and the  
3 number of persons in that table beside them  
4 which must be added or subtracted from the  
5 current Districts to achieve equal  
6 representation, which is a requirement of law.

7 Equal representation though isn't the only  
8 legal requirement that our redistricting plans  
9 must met. The laws and important court cases  
10 governing redistricting are explained in great  
11 detail in the House and Senate websites.

12 Those websites are listed in the brochures  
13 that you should have received on the way in and  
14 that are available and if you need one, just  
15 raise your hand and our staff will make sure  
16 that you have that information.

17 The particular redistricting 2012 brochure  
18 that you will get, summarizes Federal and State  
19 laws and outlines topics that we hope you will  
20 discuss here at today's hearing.

21 If you didn't get copy when you came in  
22 and I see a whole bunch of folks' hands up  
23 right now, if staff can't get them to you as  
24 soon as you need them here, they are also  
25 available outside on the tables.

1           The brochures also list the House and  
2       Senate websites and that is a key piece of  
3       information in today's world. These websites  
4       have a tremendous amount of information about  
5       redistricting in Florida, including explanation  
6       of the laws, important court cases governing  
7       redistricting, as well as a lot of the data and  
8       the geographic information associated with the  
9       process.

10           The two websites, the House website and  
11       the Senate website, and they are separate ones,  
12       are complimentary and they are updated  
13       frequently. So visit both and check back  
14       often, because it is a great way to stay  
15       current with about how your new congressional  
16       State Senate and State House Districts are  
17       taking shape as we move forward.

18           Also on these websites you can get all of  
19       the demographic information that will be used  
20       from the 2010 Census in drawing the districts  
21       and the exact same computer programs, I want to  
22       reemphasize that, you as individuals have  
23       access to the exact same computer programs that  
24       our Legislators and professional staff are  
25       going to use in drawing these maps.

1           Any member of the public can participate  
2           in building plans or seeing maps that were  
3           submitted by citizens, by special interest  
4           groups, by Legislators, by whoever, all of the  
5           maps that are submitted will be there available  
6           for your review.

7           Now, before, during and after this hearing  
8           our professional staff in the House and the  
9           Senate will be available to show you how to use  
10          this information as well.

11          If you need to know some of the simple  
12          steps about getting on-line, building districts  
13          with the district builder tool that we have on  
14          there for drawing and building districts or  
15          submitting a plan, they are available now.  
16          They will be available by phone and over the  
17          Internet for the rest of this process for you  
18          to use.

19          Now, recommendations from citizens and  
20          groups of citizens will be made publicly  
21          available. So when you or your neighbors  
22          submit something, it will be up there for  
23          everyone to see.

24          In fact, there are a number of public  
25          submissions that are already available on the

1 website and we received a couple more today at  
2 this morning's meeting. We hope to see a few  
3 more today.

4 The submission of these proposed maps that  
5 makes sense for your community is, and I can't  
6 emphasize this more strongly, the single most  
7 effective form of public participation in the  
8 redistricting process in my opinion.

9 That is because, like the old saying goes,  
10 a picture paints a thousand words. You can  
11 describe how, what the community is in words,  
12 but as soon as you draw those lines, then we  
13 have, aha, that clear picture of what you  
14 intend for a particular district.

15 The schedule of the redistricting process  
16 under which we are operating is imposed by our  
17 State Constitution. The Constitution does not  
18 permit us as Legislators to act on State  
19 Legislative maps before the second year after  
20 the decennial census. In other words, we can't  
21 act on the 2010 redistricting until 2012.

22 However, we have accelerated the process  
23 as much as we possibly can by moving up the  
24 2012 legislative session from when we usually  
25 meet in March and April, we have moved it up to

1 January and February.

2 In addition, we are beginning this  
3 statewide process by holding these public  
4 hearings five months in advance of that newly  
5 accelerated 2012 session.

6 Now, it has been suggested by some that  
7 the Legislature should draw maps first and then  
8 ask the public to comment. Now, we believe  
9 that puts the cart before the horse. That puts  
10 the answer ahead of the question.

11 There really should be no preconceptions  
12 created by politicians or anyone else about  
13 what the redistricting maps should look like  
14 before you, the public, have an opportunity to  
15 tell us what your opinion is. To provide us  
16 with that additional information on your  
17 communities.

18 In fact, one of the principle authors in  
19 Florida's new redistricting standards and the  
20 Chairperson for fair districts campaign, they  
21 are on record as in agreement with the notion  
22 that new maps should not be drawn until after  
23 the public has had the opportunity to provide  
24 comment and input.

25 Now, our intent is to use the

1        recommendations made at these meetings, and  
2        there is 20 -- there is going to be 26 of them  
3        scheduled formally, and through our Internet  
4        sites and through any other way that you send  
5        us information, whether it is by Snail Mail or  
6        handing us, handing it here tonight, we are  
7        going to use that as the basis for developing  
8        one or more options for district maps.

9            Once we have those options developed we  
10        will discuss those options in additional public  
11        meetings before any votes are taken as part of  
12        the committee process that we will be starting  
13        in September.

14            Now, throughout this process we will  
15        continue, we will continue to solicit  
16        additional public comment so that proposed maps  
17        can develop and mature with the public engaged  
18        and involved in that process, all before, well  
19        before the Legislature actually approves any  
20        final maps.

21            Now, whatever the Legislature passes will  
22        then be submitted for judicial review to insure  
23        that the final plans meet every legal  
24        requirement.

25            Now, because our purpose today is to hear

1 from you, all the time between now and when we  
2 adjourn at 9:00 will be used to ensure that  
3 every member of the public who is here and  
4 wishes to speak will have time to present  
5 testimony and be listened to respectfully and  
6 without interruption or argument.

7 Now, if every, if after every citizen that  
8 is here has had his or her say there is still  
9 any time remaining, any member of the committee  
10 may make a statement or offer any observation  
11 subject to Chair Gaetz' discretion, and of  
12 course, any members of the Legislature at any  
13 time could submit a map or proposed man and we  
14 -- if they do, make that available to the  
15 public on our website almost immediately for  
16 your review as well.

17 Chair Gaetz, I hope that this description  
18 or our schedule and the process sets the stage,  
19 so to speak, for a successful public hearing  
20 today.

21 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Representative  
22 Precourt. We have a large number of  
23 individuals who want to speak tonight, and that  
24 is great. We have a hearing that will last  
25 three hours. We will adjourn promptly at 9:00



1       according to the public notice that we have  
2       given for the hearing.

3               We have 58 people who have signed up to  
4       speak so far. So let me be an advocate for  
5       Dave Schneider. Dave Schneider so far is  
6       number 58, and I think Mr. Schneider ought to  
7       have the same chance as Ann stone, who is  
8       number one.

9               And so, therefore, my hope is that  
10       everybody will stick to and we have to do this  
11       just to give everyone a chance. I hope that  
12       you will stick to about two and-a-half minutes.  
13       If you go to three minutes then Dave Schneider  
14       won't have a chance to talk. So let's be an  
15       advocate for Dave.

16              Now, before we begin, and I ask members to  
17       be extraordinarily brief because of our time  
18       tonight, please indicate so that the audience  
19       will know who you are and what part of the  
20       state you represent.

21              Let's start with Senator Thrasher on my  
22       right.

23              SENATOR THRASHER: Hi, I am John Thrasher.  
24       I represent Senate District 8 which includes  
25       parts of Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, Flagler and

1 Volusia Counties.

2 SENATOR OELRICH: Hi, I am Steve Oelrich,  
3 District 14, Senate District 14. I have half  
4 of Lake City, all of Gainesville, half of  
5 Ocala, over to Levy county and over to  
6 Interlochen area, roughly a square box.

7 SENATOR EVERS: Hi, I am State, I mean, I  
8 am State Senator Greg Evers. I represent  
9 Senate District 2, which encompasses north  
10 Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton,  
11 Washington and Holmes counties.

12 REPRESENTATIVE DRAKE: Brad Drake  
13 representing the Fifth House District,  
14 panhandle of Florida. I am a graduate from the  
15 University of Florida, and I represent  
16 Okaloosa, Walton, Holmes, Washington and  
17 Jackson Counties and I saw my Supervisor of  
18 Elections here, Paul Lux, from Okaloosa County.

19 Paul, thank you for making the trip. We  
20 look forward to tonight's proceedings.

21 SENATOR DEAN: Good evening, my name is  
22 Charlie Dean, I am the District Senator  
23 District 3. My district goes from Citrus,  
24 Hernando County line and 98 and 19, to the  
25 Baker and Duval County line, the Georgia line,

1 west to Monroe Street and the Capitol, the  
2 largest district east of the Mississippi River.

3 SENATOR LYNN: Good evening, I am Senator  
4 Evelyn Lynn. I represent District 7, and I  
5 have large parts of Volusia, Clay, Marion and  
6 Putnam Counties, and thank you all for being  
7 here.

8 REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Good evening  
9 everyone, my name is John Patrick Julien. I  
10 represent House District 104, which is in Miami  
11 Dade County, and earlier today after the  
12 meeting that we had in The Villages I had a  
13 pleasant conversation with several members of  
14 the Citrus County Democratic Party, and they  
15 recommended that each one of us mention our  
16 party affiliation.

17 So keeping in light with that spirit, I am  
18 a member of the Democratic Party.

19 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Hello, everybody, my  
20 name is Martin Kiar. I represent District 97  
21 in the Florida House of Representatives, which  
22 is located solely within Brevard County,  
23 Florida. Thank you all so much for coming out  
24 tonight.

25 SENATOR ALTMAN: Thad Altman, Senate

1 District 24, which is east central Florida,  
2 Brevard, Orange and Seminole County.

3 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Mack Bernard,  
4 State Representative from West Palm Beach,  
5 Florida, and a graduate of the University of  
6 Florida College of Law.

7 SENATOR MONTFORD: I am Bill Montford,  
8 State Senator, District 6, which is all or part  
9 of 11 counties, including, Leon, Tallahassee,  
10 and the surrounding counties. Glad to be here.  
11 Thank you for being here.

12 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Good evening,  
13 I am State Representative Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed  
14 representing House District 92 in Broward  
15 County, the northeast quadrant. I represent  
16 seven cities in that area.

17 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: Good evening, I am  
18 State Representative Mia Jones from  
19 Jacksonville, representing District 14.

20 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Good evening,  
21 Hazelle Rogers, State Representative for  
22 District 94 in Broward County. The county that  
23 boast 1.8 million residents, the most adverse  
24 county in Broward County, representing eight  
25 cities. Thank you.

1           REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Good evening,  
2           Representative Jim Boyd from District 68 which  
3           is Manatee County, down south of Tampa Bay.  
4           Thank you for being here tonight.

5           REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: Representative  
6           Kathleen Passidomo from Collier County. I  
7           represent the City of Naples, Marco Islands,  
8           Everglades city. Thank you.

9           REPRESENTATIVE YOUNG: Hi, I am  
10          Representative Dana Young, and I represent the  
11          City of Tampa and parts of Hillsborough County.  
12          Thank you for being here.

13          REPRESENTATIVE CALDWELL: Good evening,  
14          Matt Caldwell, Representative of District 73  
15          down in Lee County, Ft. Myers, but born here at  
16          Shands Medical Hospital.

17          REPRESENTATIVE BEMBRY: Leonard Bembry,  
18          District 10. I represent all or part of ten  
19          small counties in north central Florida, that  
20          is including Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton,  
21          Taylor, Dixie, Levy, Franklin, Wakulla. So we  
22          have a lot of good people in this part of the  
23          world.

24          SENATOR HAYS: I am Alan Hays, I represent  
25          Senate District 20 which is parts of Volusia,

1 Seminole, Lake, Marion and Sumter Counties, and  
2 one proud graduate of the University of Florida  
3 College of Dentistry, charter class.

4 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Good evening,  
5 everyone, my name is Dwayne Taylor. I  
6 represent House District 27 which is in Volusia  
7 County, and I represent six cities in Volusia  
8 County. Thank you for coming.

9 REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: Thank you. I am  
10 Dennis Baxley, Florida House District 24,  
11 Ocala, Marion County. Thank you.

12 REPRESENTATIVE LOGAN: Anna Rivas Logan,  
13 Miami Dade County, House District 114, and I,  
14 too, am a proud Gator, College of Engineering  
15 and both my daughter and my son-in-law are both  
16 Gators.

17 REPRESENTATIVE PORTER: Hi, Elizabeth  
18 Porter, District 11, represent all or part of  
19 Alachua, Suwannee, Gilchrist, Lafayette, a  
20 little tiny bit of Dixie, part of here. So  
21 happy to be here.

22 REPRESENTATIVE ADKINS: Hi, my name is  
23 Janet Adkins. I represent House District 12,  
24 which is Nassau, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Union  
25 and Duval Counties.

1           REPRESENTATIVE PERRY: My name is Keith  
2           Perry. I represent parts of Alachua, Levy and  
3           Marion Counties and it gives me the distinct  
4           honor and privilege to be your Representative  
5           for some of you in this room. Thank you.

6           REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Good afternoon,  
7           Chuck Chestnut, representing a portion of  
8           Alachua County, Marion County, House District  
9           23. Again, thank you all for coming and I  
10          would like you all to help me welcome the  
11          Legislature here to Gainesville and Alachua  
12          County. And thank you for coming.

13          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: All right, we have now  
14          picked up seven more people, and now Michael  
15          Bowie is number 70. So now we are going to, in  
16          order to be fair to Mr. Bowie and make sure  
17          everybody has a chance to speak we would like  
18          to, we would like to move quickly.

19          Here is what we would like to do. You  
20          will speak from there. So if Ann Stone will  
21          come forward, followed by James Elland, Fred  
22          Pratt, and James, I think it is Desjardin, and  
23          those seats there will be on the deck seats.

24          So Ann Stone will speak first and then  
25          Mr. Elland and Mr. Pratt and Mr. Desjardin if I

1           get that name correctly, if you will be on the  
2           on deck circle we can move quickly.

3           And I apologize to you, but in order to be  
4           fair to everyone who wants to speak, I would  
5           ask that we hold our remarks as briefly as we  
6           can. If somebody has already said what you  
7           have said, you know, you don't have to feel  
8           constrained to say it begin, and I know we all  
9           want to express our views and our feelings  
10          about our speakers, but the more we applaud or  
11          boo or anything else, that takes time away from  
12          the people who are at the back end.

13          So let's get started, and Ms. Stone, you  
14          are recognized for two and-a-half minutes.

15          MS. STONE: Hi, I am very nervous so I  
16          have written out what I want to say.

17          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You are doing fine.

18          MS. STONE: My name is Ann Stone and we  
19          live in Newberry, we have been there for 12  
20          years. I want to thank you for this  
21          opportunity to tell you how important the  
22          redistricting is to my husband and me.

23          As you have guessed, we are retired and  
24          that means Social Security. It is very  
25          important to us to be able to communicate face



1 to face with those who represent us.

2 Steve Oelrich's district is perfect. We  
3 don't have to use a week's allowance of gas to  
4 meet with him. I believe that is the way it  
5 should be for everyone. Thank you very much.

6 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Stone, and  
7 next, James Elland.

8 MR. ELLAND: My name is James Elland.  
9 First I would just like to say, thank you for  
10 actually coming, and actually listening to us,  
11 instead of a lot of the people in the County  
12 Commission that we dealt with last night, they  
13 want to argue with us and not try to move  
14 anything, but we do want to thank you for  
15 coming, and that is all I have to say.

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
17 Mr. Pratt, you are recognized, sir. Thank you  
18 for coming.

19 MR. PRATT: Is it on?

20 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Yes, sir.

21 MR. PRATT: Thank you for being here. I  
22 am really kind of puzzled, you know, there are  
23 no maps. I mean, how are we supposed to make  
24 -- how are you supposed to talk about things  
25 when there is no maps, and I am really in favor

1 of the Fair Districts Florida plan which is  
2 continuous districts that encompass a county, a  
3 city.

4 Don't break up the county like you have  
5 Alachua County where Alachua County is in, some  
6 of it is in one district and some of it is in  
7 another district and the same with Gainesville.  
8 I mean, that is only fair. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Pratt, for  
10 that good testimony. And I apologize, James  
11 Desjardin, followed by John Reiskind from the  
12 Alachua County Democratic Party, and then Dr.  
13 Gunnar Paulson is on deck, and I, if I have  
14 butchered your name, sir, I apologize.

15 MR. DESJARDIN: That is close enough. My  
16 name is Jim Desjardin or Desjardin, and I am a  
17 member of the League of Women Voters in this  
18 county, and also a member of the Democratic  
19 Party.

20 And along with many, many other people I  
21 work very hard to get this amendment, well,  
22 first of all, to get the amendment on and then  
23 to get it passed, and I am here to plead that  
24 you will perhaps follow the law and make  
25 compact contiguous districts rather than having

1           them a yard wide and 200 miles long to pick up  
2           parties, people from your party.

3           I think that the district should choose  
4           the Representatives and not the different --  
5           the Representatives pick out the voters they  
6           would like to have voting for them.

7           So please, we could do a much better job  
8           if we had maps that we could comment on, that  
9           really is your job. Thank you.

10          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, thank you so  
11          much for that testimony, John. I think it is  
12          Reiskind from the Alachua County Democratic  
13          Party, and then Dr. Gunnar Paulson, and then  
14          Roy Abshien, you are recognized, thank you for  
15          being here tonight, sir.

16          MR. REISKIND: Sure, the name is Reiskind.  
17          I wanted to go into a little history of  
18          gerrymandering, which the change of our State  
19          Constitution is going to make a lot more  
20          difficult and hopefully ban.

21          There may be, there may often be good  
22          idealistic reasons to produce geographically  
23          distorted districts, but they are still  
24          distortions and I wanted to talk about the very  
25          first case of this in America that I believe

1       took place 25 years before Governor Jerry of  
2       Massachusetts imposed such a districting plan  
3       in his state and gave the name gerrymandering  
4       to gerrymandering.

5             The perpetrator was the Governor of  
6       Virginia, Patrick Henry. He was strongly  
7       opposed to the new U.S. Constitution which he  
8       felt could lead to a monarchy, a Constitution  
9       that took too many rights away from the states.  
10       A Constitution that did not have provision to  
11       protect many of the rights of citizens. He was  
12       considered at the time an anti Federalist.

13            Now, James Madison, the father of our  
14       Constitution, was a Federalist who promised  
15       that he would do his best to add as amendments  
16       a Bill of Rights to the Constitution, but  
17       Henry, Governor Henry was skeptical and blocked  
18       Madison's Senatorial aspirations.

19            So James Madison decided to run for  
20       Congress in 1789, the very first Congress.  
21       Governor Henry then gerrymandered the first  
22       Congressional District of Virginia, putting in  
23       all of the anti Federalist counties he could,  
24       in addition to the home county of James  
25       Madison, and found a former tall General to run

1       against him by the name of James Monroe, but  
2       Madison campaigned very hard.

3             It was in February, it was cold, and  
4       Madison was a very slight, he was shorter than  
5       I was, am, and he won that race in spite of  
6       Patrick Henry's gerrymandering.

7             He fulfilled his promise, as politicians  
8       should, and we have our Bill of Rights today.  
9       So this is just a little story about I think  
10      the dangers of gerrymandering.

11            Now we have for the first time criteria to  
12      apply to redistricting, that we have neutral  
13      districts, that they are compact, et cetera, as  
14      in our amendments to the Constitution.

15            It should make our elected Legislators  
16      more responsive to the communities they serve.  
17      Maps would, of course, help us at this process,  
18      but I understand your introduction.

19            This process, if done properly, will be a  
20      very good thing. It is time to stop, to end  
21      the distortions, whether it is to keep  
22      incumbents in office, or to put as many of one  
23      party into as few districts as possible.

24            I urge you to do your legal duty and do  
25      your best this coming year. Thank you very

1 much.

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, thank you for  
3 some of that great background. And now  
4 Dr. Gunnar Paulson, followed by Roy Abshien,  
5 and then Robert Jordan would be next.  
6 Dr. Paulson, thank you for being here.

7 DR. PAULSON: Thank you for being here  
8 tonight. It is interesting what John was  
9 talking about gerrymandering because you are  
10 sitting in a county that is the epitomy of  
11 gerrymandering.

12 Here we are in a county of a quarter of a  
13 million people and we have four pieces of four  
14 Representatives in the House. That is  
15 gerrymandering. So I think the other thing is  
16 about the maps, I disagree with you. If I was  
17 going to do something I would have had maps  
18 first.

19 I know when I had to write my dissertation  
20 I didn't just -- I didn't just go around and  
21 write it in pieces, I wrote it and then I had a  
22 draft and then I corrected it from there, but  
23 if you can't have the maps tonight, what really  
24 needs to be done, and I would like you to think  
25 about this.

1           I think you should give us a deadline that  
2       you do have maps. Don't give us maps next  
3       June. Don't give us maps at the end of the  
4       legislative session. You could say you could  
5       have maps to be ready in January. You could  
6       say that you have maps that are debated and  
7       given to us this fall and I hope you take that  
8       into consideration, because I don't think then  
9       if you say no to that, I don't think your  
10      argument would be logical or valid what you are  
11      giving to us tonight if you don't give it to  
12      us.

13           The next thing is, you know, I looked at  
14      this about setting boundaries. If you look at  
15      Alachua County, Alachua County, like I said,  
16      has a quarter of a million people, but we are  
17      really unique in that we have 215,000 people in  
18      the urban area.

19           I live right next door here. I don't live  
20      in the City of Gainesville, but our urban area  
21      has 215,000 people, and if you look at the map,  
22      Marion County has 331,000 people. They have  
23      three seats down there and two of them just  
24      filled in their district and then you have  
25      parts in ours.

1           We could have two full seats here, and I  
2       hope that takes into consideration, or you can  
3       look at, I was looking at it, it took me five  
4       minutes to do this. I looked at us in  
5       Gilchrist County and Levy county, there is  
6       635,000 people, five seats are 650,000 people.

7           You have boundaries of four counties, you  
8       have the river, Santa Fe and the Suwannee  
9       river. These are the kinds of things that I  
10      hope you look at.

11          Now, one of the last things is, I have got  
12      all of my degrees from the University of  
13      Florida and I am glad we have so many Florida  
14      graduates up there. If you really care about  
15      the University of Florida, and we need to be  
16      guaranteed representation in this county and  
17      this city.

18          We don't need to have parts of just all of  
19      these different places where we have our seats,  
20      and I hope you take that into consideration,  
21      because it is the flagship University, we are  
22      the major urban center in north central  
23      Florida, and I hope we do have that, it is all  
24      taken into consideration and I am a proponent  
25      of the fair districts and for what that is, you



1       are trying to keep political and natural  
2       boundaries and it is contiguous. I think I  
3       have given you all of these when I spoke to  
4       you.

5               Again, I appreciate it. I hope that you  
6       can take it again, the last thing I want to  
7       leave you with is, please, set a deadline for  
8       the maps. Even if you have, if you feel like  
9       you are entitled and not giving us maps  
10      tonight, you don't need to give us maps in  
11      April. You don't need to give us maps in May.

12             Set a deadline, let us know so that we  
13      really can have an input. Again, thank you for  
14      coming here tonight and I appreciate you  
15      listening to us, and go Gators.

16             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you. Thank you,  
17      Dr. Paulson. And Dr. Paulson, just so you  
18      would know, just as a factual matter, there is  
19      absolutely no prohibition to any maps being  
20      introduced by any Legislator as soon as today.

21             So, you know, there is certainly no  
22      requirement that maps be introduced late in the  
23      process. They can be introduced today. In  
24      fact, we have maps now that are on the website  
25      that have been proposed.

1           Ray Abshien and then next, Robert Jordan  
2           and following Mr. Jordan, Goldie Schwartz from  
3           the Sierra Club.

4           Ray Abshien, you are recognized, and  
5           thanks so much for coming tonight.

6           MR. ABSHIEN: Yes, sir, thank you,  
7           Mr. Chairman, that is Roy Abshien. Before I  
8           read this, for reasons that will be obvious, I  
9           want to tell you who the signatories are on  
10          this letter.

11          It is Reginald Landers, Jr.,  
12          Vice-Chairman, Marion County Democrat Executive  
13          Committee, and Roy Abshien, Chairman of the  
14          Marion County Republican Executive Committee.

15          Mr. Chairman, on behalf of our Marion  
16          County community, thank you for the opportunity  
17          to address you and the committee members and to  
18          provide input on this most important  
19          redistricting process.

20          We implore you to consider the  
21          significance of Marion County and its five  
22          municipalities of Ocala, Bellview, Dunellen,  
23          McIntosh, and Redding, as a designated  
24          community of interest in your redistricting  
25          process.

1           With the explosive growth over the past  
2           ten years, and a current population of over  
3           330,000 people, Marion County's land mass of  
4           over 1,660 square miles makes us the fourth  
5           largest county in Florida.

6           While we acknowledge and appreciate the  
7           exceptional public service and I want to pause  
8           here, there are four, we are blessed to have  
9           four Senators and they are all on stage tonight  
10          and we thank you for the job you are doing for  
11          us.

12          While we acknowledge and appreciate these  
13          folks, the public service of all of our  
14          legislative delegation under present  
15          conditions, we have only one member out of the  
16          seven members that is from Marion County.

17          While all have been attentive, their  
18          primary seat of interest is in another  
19          community, and we have not yet had a Senator  
20          from Marion County in over 20 years.

21          The county is currently divided into four  
22          separate Senate Districts with each  
23          representing only a portion of our community.

24          It is imperative that Marion County have  
25          contiguous representation whenever possible.

1       These fractured districts preclude our ability  
2       to speak with one voice as a community.

3               In addition, the current district  
4       configuration has created a logistical hardship  
5       in advancing our community issues and needs to  
6       the Legislature.

7               The time to act is now. We, the citizens  
8       of Marion County, together, speak as one voice  
9       on this redistricting issue. Please assure  
10      that our voices heard by giving us compact,  
11      contiguous and equitable legislative  
12      representation. Our economic vitality, our  
13      prosperity and quality of life, our very future  
14      is at stake.

15              Respectively submitted again, Reginald  
16      Landers, Jr., Vice-Chairman, Marion County  
17      Democratic Executive Committee, and Roy  
18      Abshien, Chairman of the Marion County  
19      Republican Executive Committee. Thank you.

20              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Great bi-partisan  
21      comments. Thank you. Robert Jordan is next,  
22      and following Mr. Jordan, Goldie Schwartz, and  
23      then Anna Jordan is next after Goldie Schwartz.

24              Mr. Jordan, thank you for being here  
25      tonight. We look forward to your testimony.

1           MR. JORDAN: Thank you. My name is Robert  
2           Jordan. I am a retired attorney and by the  
3           way, Anna Jordan will not be speaking.

4           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you. Okay.

5           MR. JORDAN: My comments will be brief. I  
6           am concerned about the constitutionality of  
7           redistricting. You base your redistricting on  
8           the U.S. Census which counts all of the  
9           population of the state of Florida regardless  
10          of citizenship.

11          Therefore, some districts are based on  
12          people who are not legally allowed to be here  
13          and are not legally allowed to vote.  
14          Therefore, the people who legally can vote get  
15          more representation than counties and areas  
16          where everybody there is basically legally  
17          there.

18          Instances of south Florida, Dade and  
19          Broward County have a substantial amount of  
20          representation. They also have a substantial  
21          amount of illegal aliens. That is  
22          unconstitutional.

23          I doubt that there is anything that you  
24          can or will do about that, because you have to  
25          base your numbers on the U. S. Census, but it

1 is not fair to counties like Levy County where  
2 I am from, because we get less representation.  
3 That is unconstitutional. Thank you very much.

4 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Jordan,  
5 and next, Goldie Schwartz and following Goldie  
6 Schwartz, Darlene, I think it is P-i-F-a-l-o,  
7 and then Adelia Vachon, Vachon, is that right?

8 Ms. Schwartz, you are recognized. Thank  
9 you for coming tonight.

10 MS. SCHWARTZ: Thank you so much for  
11 coming here, too, and it was kind of a last  
12 minute thing that I came and obviously from the  
13 previous speakers, I didn't do a lot of  
14 homework.

15 All I came to represent is my favor to  
16 what the citizens passed, which was Amendment V  
17 and VI, and I want you to, recommend that you  
18 follow the actual language that was presented.

19 And I also would like to recommend that  
20 cities not be separated, and I agree with a lot  
21 of what the previous speakers have said about  
22 natural areas, natural cities, boundaries being  
23 kept as you are in the process of  
24 redistricting. Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,

1 Ms. Schwartz. And now, is it Darlene, I  
2 apologize, PiFalo, is that correct?

3 MS. PIFALO: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. PiFalo,  
5 and then Adella Vachon is next, and then  
6 Rosalie, I am not even going to try. We are  
7 just going to call you Rosalie from the League  
8 of Women Voters.

9 MS. PIFALO: Thank you, and that was a  
10 very good pronunciation, but I go by Darlene.  
11 Thank you for being here. It is an honor to  
12 have you all sit and listen to us.

13 I was listening, when I was listening to  
14 people and trying to figure out why am I here,  
15 and I think about our Constitution, but someone  
16 just brought up something, I won't take long,  
17 but the Census.

18 I thought that was very interesting,  
19 because I have been, I am a realtor, I have  
20 been a realtor for 38 years in the state of  
21 Florida, but with the Census it brought  
22 something to mind, because actually the Census  
23 takers, I called the National Association of  
24 Real Attorneys, the Florida Association of  
25 Realtors on this, because the Census, when

1 taking the Census, they were calling realtors  
2 to ask them how many people lived in that  
3 house.

4 And I took the liberty of saying I don't  
5 have a right to tell you that, because I think  
6 it would have skewed the numbers of the Census  
7 and if they were doing it all over the country,  
8 it frightens me that that is what they were  
9 doing, because I didn't know if I had a house  
10 listed, if there were five people in there, ten  
11 people in there, or nobody in there.

12 So that kind of concerned me when the  
13 Census was being taken. So I just want to  
14 leave you with that question in your mind.  
15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Very good point. Thank  
17 you very much. Ms. Vachon, is it Vachon,  
18 ma'am? Thank you very much and we look forward  
19 to your testimony. Rosalie, you are on deck,  
20 and then Jean Calderwood, would you please be  
21 ready?

22 MS. VACHON: Yes, I am Adella Vachon and I  
23 also live in Levy County and near the city of  
24 Williston and that is one of the points I want  
25 to make.



1           When you are talking about how lines are  
2       drawn, my understanding is that right down  
3       Noble Avenue, which is down the center of  
4       Williston, one side is one district and the  
5       other side is the other district.

6           And so obviously that is not a very  
7       unified district in, group in that district  
8       because you have one Representative on one side  
9       of the street and the other one on the other  
10      side. So it is a little hard for them to speak  
11      for everybody if they are halfway divided.

12          So I think one of the things we need to  
13      look at is to make sure that these are drawn  
14      fair and equitable, so everybody has fair  
15      representation regardless of whether it is a  
16      political party, regardless of minority group  
17      or whatever they are, all of us should be able  
18      to be represented.

19          So I think that going along with the idea  
20      of gerrymandering and all you have to do is to  
21      look at our maps in color and it is very  
22      obvious that what we have been dealing with  
23      since 2000, there is a lot of gerrymandering in  
24      Florida.

25          I think they should be contiguous, they

1       should be compact if it is possible. Honor  
2       city lines, honor county lines to get your  
3       people in a group so you are not dividing  
4       cities, you are not dividing counties.

5             They have alluded to this, the County of  
6       Alachua has four different districts, it should  
7       never be like that. They should be able to  
8       speak with one voice for that city.

9             It reminds me of a child playing baseball,  
10       and Papa becomes the coach so the kid can play  
11       even though he is not a good player. We go out  
12       and we draw these lines so regardless of what,  
13       you know, what you are doing, you are just  
14       really not up to par representing everybody  
15       equally, and I don't think that should be.

16            And this needs to be done in a timely  
17       manner. As I understand that your maps can't  
18       be out until 2012. Okay, that is fine, but  
19       let's get them done because if you don't get  
20       them done and then they have to be signed off  
21       on by the Florida Supreme Court, they have to  
22       be signed off by the Department of Justice.

23            My question to you is, what if they get  
24       signed off by the Florida Supreme Court and  
25       they go up and they don't get signed off by the

1 Justice Department and we are already up to  
2 May, because you have to declare for your -- if  
3 you are going to be a candidate to run in June.

4 So where is your time going to be to  
5 redraw those and for people to know,  
6 particularly in your Congressional Districts  
7 when you are adding two districts. There are  
8 people now in their districts, as you said,  
9 they change in the population.

10 Somebody that is representing a district  
11 may no longer live in the district they are  
12 currently representing, and one map I want to  
13 show you in particular, and we are up here in  
14 the rural area, and I know that Representative  
15 Bembry, if you look at his district, and if you  
16 look at Senator Dean's district, all you have  
17 to do is look at their districts in these  
18 colored matches and you understand the  
19 territory they cover.

20 How on earth can they represent people  
21 over such an area? There isn't any way  
22 possible they can ever meet with all of these  
23 people in their district or even a very low  
24 percentage of them.

25 But look at our Congressional District 6

1           and tell me this isn't gerrymandering.

2           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Could somebody assist Ms.  
3           Vachon to hold that up so that the audience can  
4           see it? And Ms. Vachon, I would like to ask  
5           you, just because of the large number of people  
6           behind you, if you could wrap it up, please.

7           MS. VACHON: Yes, I am going to with this.  
8           Look at the yellow, that is Congressional  
9           District 6.

10          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Yes.

11          MS. VACHON: I think it is very obvious  
12          there has been gerrymandering there, and I have  
13          other maps that show that --

14          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
15          ma'am, for your testimony. Thank you. And  
16          just as a point of factual information, the  
17          people who are on this stage didn't draw maps  
18          and then run on the maps they drew.

19          Actually somebody else drew the maps in  
20          the districts we had to run in. So we  
21          understand that.

22          And now we would like to hear from  
23          Rosalie, and Rosalie, out of curiosity, can you  
24          help me with your last name?

25          BANDYODHYAY: Sure, absolutely. I am

1 Rosalie Bandyopadhyay, that is how you say my  
2 name, Bandyopadhyay.

3 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Bandyopadhyay.

4 MS. BANDYOPADHYAY: Uh-huh, perfect.

5 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Got it, thank you very  
6 much, and thanks for being here on behalf of  
7 the League tonight.

8 MS. BANDYOPADHYAY: Thank you. I am a  
9 member of the League of Women Voters for 37  
10 years, and our members, we have about the first  
11 three rows here, we are sitting all front and  
12 center, and we would like to welcome you all to  
13 Alachua County, Gainesville, on behalf of the  
14 League and welcome to Gator country.

15 There is a great deal of interest and  
16 concern in our area, as you hear, about the  
17 redistricting process. As the Legislature  
18 makes one of the most important decisions of  
19 the decade, apportionment of legislative and  
20 congressional lines.

21 Throughout these hearings you have been  
22 hearing from citizens and League members about  
23 how upset they are that the state of Florida is  
24 spending taxpayer money to go to court to try  
25 and invalidate the will of 63 percent of the

1 voters, 3.1 million, who voted in favor of the  
2 Fair Districts Amendments in November.

3 Some have said that you are not spending  
4 money to invalidate the will of the voters, but  
5 that you have simply joined the lawsuit in  
6 order to clarify how the amendments impact the  
7 Federal Voting Rights Act.

8 As a long time resident of this area and a  
9 past League president, I need to state that  
10 this statement is contrary to the facts. I  
11 have here the complaint and other legal papers  
12 that have been filed by Gray Robinson of  
13 Speaker Cannon's previous law firm on behalf of  
14 the House.

15 Nowhere in these legal papers is there any  
16 request for clarification as some of you have  
17 said, that it is only for clarification, and in  
18 fact the only thing the House is asking in  
19 these papers for the Court to do is invalidate  
20 Amendment VI by ruling it unconstitutional, and  
21 I quote from these.

22 "Wherefore, the House of Representatives  
23 respectfully request."

24 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Let's let Rosalie talk,  
25 please.

1 MS. BANDYOPADHYAY: Thank you. I am just  
2 reading, quoting from here. "Wherefore, the  
3 House of Representatives respectfully request  
4 the Court to declare the Amendment facially  
5 unconstitutional under the election clause of  
6 the United States Constitution." This  
7 specifically as it is addressed here is Article  
8 1, section (4), clause 1 of the U.S.  
9 Constitution.

10 Misrepresentation of the purpose of this  
11 lawsuit gives the League members and the League  
12 of Women Voters of Florida grave concern and  
13 should be of concern to every Florida citizen.

14 So we now ask this committee and the  
15 Legislature to drop the lawsuit, stop spending  
16 taxpayer dollars for it, follow the law of the  
17 land and let's get to work on drawing these  
18 maps. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very. Jean  
20 Calderwood is next, Ms. Calderwood. And  
21 following Ms. Calderwood, Alton Hines and  
22 following Alton Hines, Alex Patton.

23 Ms. Calderwood, thank you for being here.  
24 We look forward to your testimony.

25 MS. CALDERWOOD: Thank you, and thank each

1       and everyone of you for being here. We know  
2       that a lot of you are far away from your homes  
3       and this has been a very tedious and laborious  
4       project that is again important for the future  
5       generations of the state of Florida of Florida,  
6       so we appreciate you being here and listening  
7       to us.

8               I can tell you that I proudly served as  
9       the Mayor of the City of Alachua, which  
10      compared to Gainesville, we are the next  
11      largest city in Alachua County, but even though  
12      we only boast about 10,000 people, I formally  
13      served about four years as Mayor and seven  
14      years on the Commission.

15             And even though we are a small proud rural  
16      community, we did end or act very much with the  
17      urban areas and our representation with the  
18      House and the Senate from the State standpoint  
19      and Congressional standpoint, our interaction  
20      there often meant that we had to make sure that  
21      the voice of the rural folks was heard.

22             When you start looking at Amendment V and  
23      Amendment VI and the compactness and the  
24      contiguous lines around counties and city  
25      borders, we don't want to sacrifice the vote or



1       the voice of the rural folks that are out  
2       there.

3             If you will look at the City of Alachua,  
4       we are 46 square miles. When you look at an  
5       area, that sounds like a pretty decent amount  
6       of land, but when you are competing with urban  
7       areas, and that is the case throughout the  
8       state of Florida, the rural concerns and the  
9       rural needs can be very much different from  
10      those in the urban areas.

11            We want all districts to be fair. We want  
12      everyone to be represented. We want every  
13      voice to be heard and every vote to count, but  
14      let's not sacrifice those that cross county  
15      lines into rural areas.

16            An example would be the legislation last  
17      year that had to do with septic tanks in the  
18      state of Florida. That was an issue that  
19      probably didn't bother anybody at all in Miami,  
20      Florida. It probably didn't bother a lot of  
21      people in Jacksonville, but in the  
22      unincorporated areas of many counties, that  
23      became a very expensive contentious issue and  
24      some of our Representatives, where they crossed  
25      rural lines, heard that voice. So that

1 representation was extremely important,  
2 Representative Porter, some of our people,  
3 Representative Chestnut, Senator Oelrich from  
4 these areas know, Representative Perry, know  
5 firsthand what that means.

6 So we ask when you look at the appeal to  
7 be compact and contiguous, don't exclude your  
8 rural people from those lines. Don't set a  
9 line that is going to make their voice not  
10 heard when there is legislation enacted,  
11 statewide or in the Congress. Thank you very  
12 much.

13 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you. Thank you for  
14 your service to your community. Next is Alton  
15 Hines, please, and following Alton Hines, Alex  
16 Patton and we have a very large number of  
17 speakers.

18 So please, in deference to your friends  
19 and neighbors, if somebody said it before,  
20 maybe, maybe you can just say ditto, but  
21 Mr. Hines, we are delighted to have you here  
22 and look forward to what you have to say.

23 MR. HINES: Thank you very much for  
24 allowing us this opportunity. I represent the  
25 Columbia County Republican Executive Committee

1           and I would like to speak to you for just a  
2           moment on our thoughts and views on the issue  
3           before us.

4                   In Columbia County, it has a population of  
5           about 67,000 people, yet we have got four  
6           Representatives in Tallahassee, and I guess you  
7           could say that would be, that would be good,  
8           but at the same time, we would prefer to see  
9           Columbia County whole in a state and in the  
10          State Senate and also in the State House of  
11          Representatives.

12                   I know that U. S. 90 is a good line of  
13          demarcation for dividing the districts in half,  
14          but at the same time, it is not necessarily  
15          good for the citizens of Columbia County.

16                   Columbia County takes our politics and our  
17          politicking very seriously with a series of  
18          rallies where we invite both the Democrats and  
19          the Republicans to speak before the -- those  
20          who come, and we will have in excess of 100 to  
21          150 people come out on five or six different  
22          nights all throughout the county.

23                   And if Columbia county was all in one  
24          State Senate seat, then we would be able to  
25          have our Representative there all of the time

1       for all of the districts, for all of the  
2       different precincts.

3             You know, the other issue that comes to  
4       mind is the excess work that multiple Senate  
5       and House seats puts on the Supervisor of  
6       Election's Office, particularly when it comes  
7       to tabulating the votes.

8             It delays the announcement of the final  
9       results, but it also just puts additional work  
10      on the Supervisor as far as training poll  
11      workers and educating the public.

12            It is very often in Columbia County that  
13      we have voters who are disappointed because for  
14      one reason or the other they show up at the  
15      wrong poll, and they try to vote in the wrong  
16      district. If everybody was in the same  
17      district, that problem would not exist.

18            And the other issue -- okay, I thank you  
19      very much. To summarize, I could say we would  
20      like it say that we would like to see the State  
21      districts and the Senate seats all contiguous.

22            CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much.  
23      Next, Alex Patton, followed by Robert Hoffer  
24      from the American Postal Workers Union, and  
25      behind Mr. Hoffer, Kathy Kidder, another

1 representative of League of Women Voters.

2 Mr. Patton.

3 MR. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My  
4 name is Alex Patton, I have been following the  
5 redistricting debates since 1990, when I worked  
6 on my very first campaign and I do not envy the  
7 complex process that all of you are going  
8 through.

9 In fact, I am starting to question who  
10 each one of you individually made angry so that  
11 you drew this short straw. However, we welcome  
12 you to Gainesville and we are glad that you are  
13 allowing us to have our input into this very  
14 valuable process.

15 I am afraid that this process may be even  
16 made more difficult with the Fair Districts  
17 Amendments that were passed last year.

18 Obviously, fair districts are something  
19 that sound like a really good thing. However,  
20 and again, who wouldn't want these districts to  
21 be drawn fairly? But at the end of the day I  
22 just don't understand the language used in the  
23 Amendment and exactly what they are trying to  
24 intend to do.

25 For example, the law says these districts

1       may not be drawn with the intent to favor or  
2       disfavor the incumbent or political party.  
3       That language in itself is problematic.

4               It is like saying something is pink or  
5       unpink. Now, I am a pretty bright guy. I went  
6       to the University of Florida, and I don't know  
7       what in the hell that means. So, again, I wish  
8       you well. These laws, themselves, make  
9       absolutely no sense to me, and I think that  
10      that is the kind of confusion that these types  
11      of rules and these types of amendments that are  
12      passed that are feel good amendments that are  
13      going to certainly lead me to not envy the task  
14      that all of you are undertaking.

15             So I do thank you all very much for your  
16      patience and your ability to listen to all of  
17      us, and my only hope is, is that I wish you the  
18      best of luck in drawing these maps.

19             However, I want you to pay particular  
20      attention to protect our right to equally  
21      proportional districts and there are strong  
22      against made by minority participation in the  
23      districts in the way that they are drawn, and  
24      also something that respects the Voting Rights  
25      Act of 1965. Thank you all very much, and I

1 wish you well.

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, sir. Robert  
3 Hoffer, and following Mr. Hoffer, Kathy Kidder  
4 and then Laurie Newsom.

5 Mr. Hoffer, thank you for being here on  
6 behalf of the Postal Workers Union. We look  
7 forward to anything you might have to share  
8 with us.

9 MR. HOFFER: Well, I appreciate the  
10 opportunity to address the gathering here, and  
11 I was going to go on a tirade about how this is  
12 costing a lot of money and there is no maps.

13 So what are we talking about, but although  
14 it is an expensive exercise in public  
15 interaction with their Legislators, I won't get  
16 into that.

17 I do appreciate the difficulty that you  
18 are having. I know that maps are being drawn.  
19 I mean, that anybody that sits here and thinks  
20 that there aren't maps being drawn is pretty  
21 naive.

22 And the previous speaker was talking about  
23 how contiguous and just wants to be fair. I  
24 know that as an objective person, when I look  
25 at some of these districts, they look awfully

1 strange, and as an objective person, they don't  
2 seem right.

3 It just seems like they have been drawn up  
4 with a particular purpose in mind, and I won't  
5 get into that, but we felt like there is  
6 something needed to be done, that it just had  
7 gotten out of hand, and that is why the  
8 Amendments passed, and overwhelmingly.

9 So for our Legislature to be fighting it  
10 and be hiring a legal team to be fighting it is  
11 unconstitutional, you know, it is kind of hard  
12 to swallow by most people.

13 The speaker did say something about how  
14 you could contact these people by e-mail or  
15 Snail Mail. Sir, Snail Mail goes pretty dang  
16 fast compared to the Legislature and the postal  
17 service is very secure.

18 As far as voting, I would like for  
19 everyone to consider that vote by mail would  
20 reduce the cost of a lot of -- the cost  
21 incurred by the Supervisors of Elections and it  
22 would make it where even people that are in  
23 these big huge areas, it would make it easier  
24 for them to get their votes cast and counted.

25 The mail is secure, it is inexpensive,



1           hopefully we will still be around for years  
2           more to come and deliver your ballots by mail.  
3           Thank you for my opportunity --

4           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, and you get  
5           the prize for the best one liner of the night  
6           so far. And you are right, maps are being  
7           drawn, there is about a dozen of them on the  
8           websites now. Thank you, Mr. Hoffer.

9           Kathy Kidder, also from the League of  
10          Women Voters, followed by Laurie Newsom and  
11          then Nicholas Wilson and Ron Gonzalez, if you  
12          will be ready as well. Ms. Kidder, thank you  
13          so much for being here.

14          MS. KIDDER: Thank you. I am here to say  
15          on behalf of the League that voters are  
16          ill-served by the timeline you have set for  
17          redistricting. The Legislature plans to adopt  
18          redistricting maps in March, at the end of the  
19          legislative session.

20          That is too late. Potential candidates  
21          won't know the boundaries of the new districts  
22          in time to effectively campaign and voters will  
23          hardly have a chance to get to know the  
24          candidates before fall elections.

25          One could think that this whole process is

1        simply designed to protect incumbents. Is  
2        there an alternative? Of course. Other states  
3        are already well into redistricting. Some have  
4        completed it. Florida needs to get moving.

5            It is not an easy process and it takes  
6        time. You have repeatedly said that the  
7        Constitution prevents you from acting on  
8        redistricting until the 2012 legislative  
9        session.

10           Let's be very clear. You can do  
11        everything but vote on the final plans right  
12        now and through this year. Why can't you  
13        advance the time table so that the Legislature  
14        votes on redistricting in early January, staff  
15        and committees could be drawing maps right now  
16        as the hearings continue.

17           Perhaps that is occurring. Maps can  
18        certainly be prepared and released soon after  
19        the final hearing on September 1st. That  
20        allows four months for citizen input, committee  
21        work and legislative study to discuss and  
22        refine the proposals so the lawmakers can vote  
23        on them in the very first week of the January  
24        session.

25           An extra two months will allow for the

1        litigation that is certain to come and for  
2        court and Justice Department review. I was  
3        appalled as I listened to yesterday's hearing  
4        to hear the suggestion that the Court speed up  
5        their process rather than taking the full time  
6        allotted for their review.

7                You have the power to speed up your  
8        process. The League wholeheartedly supports  
9        the Supervisors of Election who have been  
10       appearing regularly at these hearings to tell  
11       you that conducting effective fair elections  
12       under this timeline is going to be problematic.

13               Adopting a realistic, a redistricting plan  
14       in January is realistic, very possible, and  
15       eliminates the difficulties that Supervisors,  
16       voters and candidates will have under your  
17       plan.

18               Why can't you revise the redistricting  
19       timeline so that Legislators can approve the  
20       plan in the first week of the 2012 session?  
21       The League of Women Voters urges you to make  
22       your redistricting plans available soon, to  
23       solicit citizen input on these maps and to  
24       advance the date for adopting new districts.  
25       Thank you.

1           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Kidder.  
2           And again, factually, just so you will know,  
3           Ms. Kidder, there is nothing that prevents any  
4           member of the Legislature from offering a map  
5           today or from votes being taken as early as  
6           January. So you are exactly right.

7           Next is Laurie Newsom and then Nicholas  
8           Wilson, and then Bud -- I am sorry, Rod  
9           Gonzalez. Ms. Newsom, thank you for being  
10          here, and you are recognized.

11          MS. NEWSOM: Thank you, I am Laurie  
12          Newsom. A proud member of the Alachua County  
13          Republican Executive Committee, and as such  
14          have been intensely involved in this whole  
15          process.

16          I will be brief because Mr. Alex Patton  
17          voiced one of my concerns, which is the  
18          ambiguousness of the language of the two  
19          amendments, and I hope that that is dealt with  
20          fairly, because I am concerned that the  
21          intention of the Amendments will be distorted  
22          and actually cause possibly the opposite of  
23          what the intent was meant to be.

24          I also can be brief because former Mayor  
25          Jean Calderwood summed up my feelings

1 completely when it comes to the redistricting.

2 I am very concerned that the rural concerns  
3 will be set aside and not attended to properly  
4 in the redistricting process.

5 I am very concerned and interested in the  
6 benefit of our rural areas, the citizens  
7 involved and the lands involved. So I would  
8 hope that this would be something that would be  
9 taken with grave concern and great sincerity  
10 when you do apply your expertise, and thank you  
11 very much.

12 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
13 Ms. Newsom. And next is Nicholas Wilson and  
14 then Rod Gonzalez, and then I am sorry, Manny,  
15 it could be Lucoff, at 5000 Southwest 25th  
16 Boulevard. Your -- would you please be on  
17 deck. Nicholas Wilson, thank you for coming.

18 MR. WILSON: Good evening, I am Nicholas  
19 Wilson, I was born and raised here in Alachua  
20 County. I just want to thank all of you for  
21 taking the time tonight and the time that you  
22 have continued to take by coming out and  
23 listening to your community members and their  
24 concerns.

25 The website that you have designed for us

1 is very informative, and the tools are very  
2 helpful in allowing us to understand the  
3 process.

4 It is frustrating though to hear of those  
5 who are trying to slow and hinder your efforts  
6 through to the Amendments passed last year and  
7 I hope that when it is time to draw the new  
8 districts that logic and common sense are used  
9 and all of those involved will help instead of  
10 hinder and allow the redistricting to move  
11 quickly and smoothly.

12 I also want to say that I agree with  
13 Ms. Calderwood and Mr. Patton in what they  
14 said. So I don't really have much more to add  
15 there. Thank you very much.

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Wilson.  
17 Rod Gonzalez, you are up, and followed by Mr.,  
18 I think it is Lucoff, and then Kathleen  
19 Shiverick, I believe. Mr. Gonzalez, thank you  
20 for coming tonight.

21 MR. GONZALEZ: Mr. Chairman, Senators,  
22 Representatives, my name is Rod Gonzalez. I  
23 appreciate you all being here today.

24 Call me sinical, I guess, but politics  
25 being what they are, I can only assume that

1       those who started this whole process marketed  
2       Amendment V and VI to the public who voted for  
3       it, have defended it in court and are defending  
4       it currently, must have had an image, a map  
5       already drawn out.

6                You don't spend millions of dollars trying  
7       to push this without already having something  
8       in mind and kind of already knowing what the  
9       outcome would be if you get it.

10               I mean, remember, this is politics,  
11       nothing is left to chance. So I would only ask  
12       that they already share those maps with the  
13       public and with the committee.

14               These Amendments potentially mean a large  
15       change to the state laws which are going to  
16       cost us millions of dollars beyond what the  
17       census would normally require we do every ten  
18       years.

19               So I would ask that once again, those who  
20       really were for this and pushed it initially  
21       kind of perform a civic duty, save us time,  
22       effort, money and litigation and share these  
23       potential maps with us, the public and  
24       yourself.

25               A lot of the individuals who are against

1           this are Democrats and Republicans, so  
2           bipartisan. Thank you.

3           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
4           And next is, is it Manny Lucoff? Mr. Lucoff,  
5           thank you for your testimony tonight, and you  
6           are recognized before the committee.

7           MR. LUCOFF: Thank you for coming. Thank  
8           you for getting it right. When one goes into  
9           public service and wants to pursue political  
10          office, one wonders what is the reason behind  
11          why you are there where you are sitting now.

12          Is it because you are primarily interested  
13          in serving the general public, or is it because  
14          you have other motives? I am a little sinical  
15          about this, and because there is such a large  
16          outpour of members of this Legislature who are  
17          fighting the fair districting, one wonders what  
18          your motives are, to protect your seat and not  
19          serve the public.

20          I perceive this exercise as a kabuki  
21          dance, that we could save a great deal of money  
22          by doing away with this public relations effort  
23          to tell the public we are going to listen to  
24          you. What a joke.

25          If one follows the news, reads the papers,



1       listens to the people who are in public office,  
2       there is not much doubt as to what it is you  
3       are up to. The majority party would love to  
4       kill fair districts.

5             They are interested in redistricting, not  
6       fair districting. Thank you very much.

7             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you for your  
8       testimony. Kathleen Shiverick, and after  
9       Kathleen is Terry Martin-Back, and then Judy  
10      Brumfield.

11            Ms. Shiverick, thank you for being here  
12      tonight. We look forward to your comments.

13            MS. SHIVERICK: Yes, and thank you for  
14      providing us with the opportunity to have  
15      public input into this.

16            I have to confess, I was a little  
17      skeptical coming here this evening, but  
18      actually the statements for the bipartisan  
19      impact of gerrymandering, it is really a  
20      statement to the problems that we experience  
21      locally here in Alachua County, and an  
22      additional statement, the bipartisan letter  
23      from Marion County.

24            There is no doubt that the redistricting  
25      which took place ten years ago instituted in

1       Alachua County significant gerrymandering.

2               There are little slices of Gainesville  
3       that go westward into very large multiple  
4       county, very rural area, and it dilutes, it  
5       dilutes out the voice of the cities within  
6       Alachua County, as well as the University of  
7       Florida which is a major economic enterprise.

8               So we would ask you to please consider  
9       providing maps as soon as possible so that the  
10      legal process that will need to take place next  
11      spring will be done in a timely manner so that  
12      fair elections can then take place in the 2012  
13      election cycle. Thank you very much.

14              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you so much for  
15      your testimony. Terry Martin-Back and then  
16      Judy Brumfield, and then Tamara Fleischaker, I  
17      believe, and I apologize if I have  
18      mispronounced that name.

19              MS. MARTIN-BACK: Thank you, Mr. Chair,  
20      and Representatives here. Unlike some of the  
21      folks here, I actually went on and did some  
22      homework looking at the districts, and I was  
23      trying to give an idea or an example of how we  
24      could draw, especially Congressional District 6  
25      where we can combine Marion County, Alachua

1 County and Columbia County.

2 But one thing I did notice is, is that  
3 Marion County is in the central Florida  
4 district, and Alachua County is in the north  
5 central Florida district.

6 I would like to see a plan where we can  
7 conceive to have the people of Alachua County,  
8 Columbia County and the counties that  
9 represented in that north central Florida  
10 district. That way when we want to see our  
11 Representative, we don't have to drive to  
12 Orlando or we don't have to drive to  
13 Jacksonville.

14 I also would like to, I beg you to please,  
15 do not, do not create districts like Florida's  
16 Third Congressional District. How can you  
17 possibly conceive that somebody on the north  
18 side of 16th Avenue has something different  
19 from the guy across the street on 16th Avenue.

20 Please, I am asking you to do this, please  
21 keep in mind the representation of those in  
22 Union County who only have like 17,000 people,  
23 keep them in consideration, and thank you for  
24 being here tonight.

25 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, very useful

1 testimony. Judy Brumfield and then Tamara  
2 Fleischhaker, I think and then Delena May.  
3 Ms. Brumfield, thank you for being here for  
4 your testimony.

5 MS. BRUMFIELD: Thank you very much. Judy  
6 Brumfield. Most of my comments have already  
7 been addressed. I just want to say that these  
8 Amendments, V and VI, the redistricting have,  
9 is all very confusing and I just hope that you  
10 people are not confused by it, and that the new  
11 districts that you are drawing are not in favor  
12 or disfavor of incumbents.

13 That this is not in favor of one political  
14 party or another political party, and we just  
15 want our tax dollars saved. We don't want you  
16 to spend more money.

17 We are tired of game playing. We see it  
18 enough at the local level. So please don't do  
19 this to us anymore. Thank you very much.

20 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you for your  
21 comments. And Tamara, is it Tamara or Tamara?  
22 And please help me with the last name. I  
23 apologize.

24 MS. FLEISCHHAKER: It is Tamara  
25 Fleischhaker.

1           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Tamara, I am sorry.

2           MS. FLEISCHHAKER: Thank you, it was a  
3           valiant effort. Good evening, and on behalf of  
4           the Ocala, Marion County Chamber of Commerce,  
5           our Board of Directors and members, I would  
6           like to thank you for the opportunity to speak  
7           with you this evening and present a resolution,  
8           and given the time and the number of speakers I  
9           am just going to present a few highlights from  
10          a resolution that we have submitted to the  
11          Joint Committees.

12          And under our redistricting resolution,  
13          whereas, the Marion County, it is five  
14          municipalities, is deemed a community of  
15          interest and under the current district  
16          boundaries, legislative representation at both  
17          the State and Federal levels is fractured and  
18          fragmented, and Marion County has experienced  
19          exponential growth within the past ten years,  
20          and is expected to experience additional growth  
21          of nine percent over the next decade.

22          And given that, we are the fourth largest  
23          county in the state of Florida, and given the  
24          diversity of our economic base, coupled with  
25          our strategic location in the heart of north

1       central Florida, we resolve that Marion County  
2       has a significant community of interest, should  
3       be maintained in a single district where  
4       possible.

5               S unified legislative voice is crucial to  
6       the future prosperity of Marion County, to  
7       compliment the healthy business, legislative  
8       voice, sorry, business environment and economy  
9       as well as contribute to the quality of life  
10      for all of its citizens.

11             Where possible, easily and identifiable  
12      compact, contiguous geographic boundaries  
13      should be followed, recognizing the districts  
14      must be configured so that they are relatively  
15      equal in total population according to the  
16      latest census data and applicable statutory  
17      guidelines.

18             Again, I would like to thank our Marion  
19      County legislative delegation and the other  
20      representation here from the Joint Committees  
21      and I thank you for your time.

22             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you for that very  
23      specific guidance. Delana May, please,  
24      followed by Thomas Hayes- Morrison and then Bea  
25      Byrum.

1           MS. MAY: Hi, there. I have been here for  
2           55 years, mostly in this area, and I am here  
3           today to speak on behalf of my five  
4           grandchildren who were all born in Florida, all  
5           live in Gainesville, and that is why I am not  
6           in the south of France right now.

7           I am too worried about my state and my  
8           government to leave the country and that is why  
9           I am working so hard to make this place a  
10          better Florida and a better country.

11          I have five grandchildren and that is,  
12          that is the purpose. I want to thank you all  
13          for taking the giant step of coming here  
14          tonight. Everybody that gives it some thought  
15          knows that you didn't have to.

16          A lot of people don't go to their town  
17          meetings. They, we see this all over the  
18          country. The things that go on in Washington  
19          that we are just appalled by and when they go  
20          home on break, nobody can find them. That is  
21          not the case in Florida.

22          You have all taken a giant step forward  
23          and I think that a lot of cooperation and a lot  
24          of toning it down would be in order.

25          Again, the -- my only message to you is to

1 say, thank you for coming. We know you didn't  
2 have to. This was a giant step and we  
3 appreciate it, and I appreciate it for my five  
4 grandchildren because they are probably not  
5 going to leave Florida.

6 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, we hope they  
7 won't. We appreciate it. Thomas  
8 Hayes-Morrison, and then Bea Byrum and then  
9 Drollene Brown.

10 Mr. Hayes-Morrison, thank you for coming  
11 tonight, we look forward to what you have to  
12 say.

13 MR. HAYES-MORRISON: Thank you, my name is  
14 Thomas Hayes-Morrison, and I would like to  
15 thank you all for coming and giving us an  
16 opportunity to voice our opinions.

17 And I have to share with you, I was a  
18 registered Democrat in Alachua County for 19  
19 and-a-half years, but I shifted my party  
20 affiliation in May.

21 So I realize I may show the enthusiasm of  
22 the newly converted, and if I do so, please  
23 bear with me.

24 My sense is most people don't choose who  
25 they vote for based solely on party



1       affiliation. We actually do choose our elected  
2       officials based on what we think they as  
3       individuals stand for, and we vote for  
4       individual candidates, not just party, and as a  
5       nation we voted that way for 235 years.

6               Unfortunately, that history looks as if it  
7       is being ignored and the freedom and openness  
8       of choice, that is how our electoral  
9       foundation will be severely restricted, if not  
10      entirely eliminated in Florida.

11              Amendments V and VI can be read in such a  
12      manner as to promulgate arbitrary and  
13      unfulfillable restrictions that essentially  
14      handicap severely any effort towards fair  
15      districting.

16              One of the most often Democrat affiliated  
17      groups who support Amendments V and VI,  
18      including many large ones from outside of  
19      Florida, talking about leveling the playing  
20      field, they are conceding their failure to  
21      convince our voters that their proposed  
22      policies are best for the people of our towns,  
23      cities, counties and state as a whole.

24              They claim it is not their fault they  
25      can't gain a majority, there must be something

1       inherently crooked about the current districts.  
2       They say this must be so because the majority  
3       of Florida voters are registered as Democrats.

4               This ignores the fact that the vast  
5       majority of Florida's voters consistently poll  
6       as well as vote as conservatives. Democratic  
7       registration is simply an administrative  
8       convenience for most and their party  
9       memberships nominal at best.

10              I remind you that President Obama won 20  
11       out of 40 State Senate Districts in Florida and  
12       half the state in popular vote. It doesn't  
13       sound crooked to me. Rather, it displays,  
14       rather the efficacy of having a clear and  
15       appealing message.

16              Republicans don't hold the seats they  
17       don't because things aren't fair or the playing  
18       field isn't level. The Democrat message simply  
19       doesn't generally ring true with many of our  
20       voters.

21              So rather than develop viable policies  
22       that appeal to the majority, they are taking a  
23       shot at developing a partisan quota system set  
24       by the courts disguised in a sound good, feel  
25       good package --

1           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Mr. Hayes-Morrison, just  
2           in fairness to everybody behind you, could you  
3           bring it in for a landing?

4           MR. MORRISON: Absolutely.

5           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Okay.

6           MR. HAYES-MORRISON: Actually, I think I  
7           am at a minute and 55 seconds, but okay, we  
8           will do it. Here is the landing, all right,  
9           they are taking a shot at developing a partisan  
10          quota system set by the courts, disguised in a  
11          sound good feel good package, sold by millions  
12          of dollars of false advertising to fair  
13          districts.

14          I just urge the committee to follow the  
15          rule of law. Thanks for letting me voice my  
16          opinion.

17          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Yes, sir, thank you very  
18          much. Bea Byrum and then Drollene Brown and  
19          then Hugh Calderwood. Thank you for coming.

20          MS. BROWN: Bea Byrum had to leave for a  
21          few moments and I wonder if you could put her  
22          card underneath the others. I am Drollene  
23          Brown, I am the next person.

24          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you.

25          MS. BROWN: I campaigned for the Fair

1 District Amendment, not because it was very  
2 clear. I as an editor I can tell you that any  
3 phrase that says may or may not is redundant.  
4 May implies may not.

5 So we can quibble about the wording, but  
6 58 years ago I was in the eighth grade and I  
7 had to take Civics in St. Auburns, West  
8 Virginia, and Mr. Jones, our Civics teacher,  
9 told us about gerrymandering, and as a  
10 13-year-old I thought, this is really dumb, and  
11 that is why I campaigned for the Fair District  
12 Amendments.

13 I told every -- I would go to Walmart and  
14 I would tell the clerk, vote yes on V and VI.  
15 I told my ophthalmologist, vote yes on V and  
16 VI, everywhere I went, I did, in my small way,  
17 making people aware that we want fair  
18 districts, and I think you understand what that  
19 means.

20 You know that if you draw something that  
21 looks like a dragon down the middle of the map  
22 that is not right. We just want fairness. It  
23 is not Democratic, it is not Republican, it is  
24 non partisan, let's be fair. Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much.

1       Hugh Calderwood is next, and following Hugh  
2       Calderwood, Theonia Sunquist, and then if David  
3       Nessl will be ready to come behind Theonia  
4       Sunquist.

5               So mr. Calderwood, we are really grateful  
6       that you took the time to come tonight, and you  
7       are recognized.

8               MR. CALDERWOOD: Thank you very much. I  
9       want to thank all of you for coming. I really  
10      actually want to thank that you put our local  
11      Representatives up front so that I can see some  
12      friends of mine.

13              And I also again, as we get into this, we  
14      are getting into more repeating, repeating,  
15      repeating, and I also want to repeat, I don't  
16      envy you, your job, and I apologize if you were  
17      insulted by somebody up here as to what your  
18      motives are for running for public office. I  
19      am sure Representative Chestnut did not  
20      appreciate that.

21              And again, people who know me, I always  
22      hate to follow my wife because she is much more  
23      articulate than I am, and then I always just  
24      feel crazy.

25              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You are not alone, you

1           are not the only guy.

2           MR. CALDERWOOD: And I do want to echo her  
3           feelings about the rural, the people who are,  
4           in this county is a perfect example of that we  
5           have a large urban center, primarily Democratic  
6           and then we have what we call around here, the  
7           donut, the rest of the county around that, and  
8           then there is always this argument going on  
9           between the donut and the center.

10          And as an example, we recently had a  
11          Charter Review Committee and there were those  
12          of us who wanted to have single member  
13          districts voting in the county for the -- for  
14          elected offices, but, no, they didn't want  
15          that, they wanted everybody to vote on  
16          everybody.

17          So that we in the small towns didn't  
18          really get a chance to have a Representative  
19          that represented our interests versus the urban  
20          interests. So I would encourage you to keep  
21          that in mind.

22          I certainly don't like gerrymandering like  
23          some of the districts and some of them are  
24          Democratic and some of them are Republic, but I  
25          don't like to see that, but I would like to see

1 interests put in protecting the rural voters.

2 We also see that in the state where we  
3 have high populations in South Florida and we  
4 in north Florida feel like we are not, we don't  
5 have the power to really voice our concerns  
6 when we are fighting the big population centers  
7 in south Florida. So keep all of that in mind.  
8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
10 Theonia Sunquist is next. Theonia Sunquist  
11 going once, twice, Ms. Sunquist?

12 Then David Nessler, and following Mr. Nessler,  
13 Jim Beniz, I believe it is, and then Paul Lux.  
14 Thank you for coming today.

15 MR. NESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am  
16 not here today as a Democrat or a Republican.  
17 I kind of look back, you know, through my life  
18 and I remember when the Democrats were in power  
19 in this state and I remember the pork choppers  
20 and they, then they made sure that they, to the  
21 best of their ability, they could stay in power  
22 and they did some gerrymandering, and then for  
23 the last few, and that was wrong, and for the  
24 last few decades we have had the Republicans,  
25 and they have, your predecessors, I am not

1       going to blame you, did some gerrymandering and  
2       that was wrong.

3               And as we teach our kids, two wrongs don't  
4       make a right, we need to fix it. So the way it  
5       looks to me is the adults decided to step up  
6       and step in with the Fair Districts Amendment.

7               I also note that other states, they have  
8       taken this exact same, many other states have  
9       taken this exact same verbiage in these  
10      Amendments and it has all passed Federal Court  
11      system muster and so I am kind of confused  
12      about why efforts are being made in the Federal  
13      Courts to block this when it is already passed.

14              So it seems like it is kind of a futile  
15      effort. I got to wonder if that is the reason  
16      for that is just to run out the clock before  
17      the next two-year election cycle.

18              So I would really ask you ladies and  
19      gentlemen to be, is to step up and be  
20      statesmen.

21              It is, you know, this is the way it is  
22      going to play out. We already know that from  
23      other states and other Federal Court approvals  
24      of that. So step up, it is now part of the  
25      Constitution, our State Constitution. So apply



1 both the spirit and the letter of the law.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
4 Mr. Nessler. And again, Mr. Nessler, just so we  
5 can do a little fact checking, just so you  
6 would be aware of it, the -- it was the Florida  
7 House of Representatives and the Florida  
8 Senate, these committees that filed Amendments  
9 V and VI for pre-clearance.

10 We asked the Justice Department to  
11 pre-clear them and they agreed with our  
12 recommendation and our appeal that they be  
13 pre-cleared, so thank you very much.

14 Jim Beniz, you are next, and then Paul Lux  
15 and then William Boyette.

16 MR. BENIZ: Hello. Thank you  
17 Representatives and Senators for coming here  
18 tonight and listening to us. I have lived all  
19 my life in the state of Florida, part of in  
20 Hillsborough County, the last 25 years here in  
21 Alachua County.

22 But regardless of the county you live in,  
23 we all love this state and we want to be  
24 represented fairly. We are tired of the --  
25 some of the ridiculous districts that have been

1 drawn in this state.

2 I would, regardless of party affiliation I  
3 would like to see fair districts. I would like  
4 to see everybody represented properly. I can't  
5 add a lot to what people have said tonight.

6 Mr. Patton, Ms. Calderwood have pretty  
7 well summed everything up that I had to say,  
8 but we would ask that the political games cease  
9 and we get down to the business of what the  
10 people need and want in this country, in this  
11 state.

12 We all love Florida and we want to see  
13 what is best, we want to hear you do what is  
14 best for Florida. I think this Amendment is  
15 ambiguous in its wording.

16 I think you were given a moving target to  
17 shoot at and maybe you will come up with  
18 something that the originators of the Amendment  
19 intended. It would have been nice to see  
20 something of a sort of a map of what they  
21 thought that they were going for when they --  
22 when they went after this Amendment, but we  
23 just want you to do the right thing for the  
24 people of Florida, and that is all I have got  
25 to say. Thank you.

1           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much.  
2           Appreciate your testimony. And Paul Lux,  
3           Supervisor of Elections from Okaloosa County,  
4           my home county, came all of the way to Alachua  
5           County to see me. How are you doing, Paul?

6           MR. LUX: Good evening, and thank you,  
7           Mr. Chairman, Senators, Representatives, and  
8           most notably, my two Senators, Senator Gaetz,  
9           Senator Evers and my personal Representative,  
10          Brad Drake from House District 5, and thank you  
11          for having us here today.

12          Every bit as important as the time is  
13          tonight so that everyone has a chance to speak,  
14          I am just here to re-emphasize that time is  
15          important to the Supervisors of Elections also.

16          The second speaker from the League of  
17          Women Voters alluded to the fact that our time  
18          crunch is very specific. If all of the  
19          timelines that have been published go according  
20          to schedule, we will have less than two weeks  
21          to re-precinct.

22          Now, that means, our work can't start  
23          until not only your work is done, but also the  
24          work of the Department of Justice, the work of  
25          the Court systems and their review and then we

1           can start. That gives us less than two weeks  
2           to re-precinct.

3           Now, in addition to everything else that  
4           we have to do, candidate qualifying which is  
5           that very first week of June, is very important  
6           because most candidates probably would like to  
7           know what district they are running in by the  
8           time they get around to running.

9           But much more important to me is the fact  
10          that 21 days after qualifying closes, I have to  
11          mail ballots to my overseas military voters.  
12          Federal law requires that they get them 45 days  
13          prior, and that is 21 days after qualifying  
14          ends.

15          And so all of the work that has to be done  
16          in between time and if some of the timelines  
17          aren't met, then my re-precincting is going to  
18          get pushed back after a candidate qualifying.

19          So again, I would just like to  
20          re-emphasize the need for the timeliness of  
21          this and that we get it done quickly so that we  
22          can begin our work to make sure that Florida's  
23          elections are run fairly and efficiently.

24          The other thing I would like to mention is  
25          district lines, themselves. I know Mr. Boyetx,

1       who is the Chief Deputy here in Alachua County,  
2       Supervisor of Elections and my counterpart, the  
3       Honorable Pam Carpenter will be speaking  
4       momentarily, but if you have been to Pelican  
5       Beach Condominiums down on south Okaloosa  
6       County, if you live in the condominiums to the  
7       west, you are in Congressional District 1. If  
8       you are on the wrong side of the entryway and  
9       you live in the condominiums to the east, you  
10      are in Congressional District 2, and heaven  
11      forbid, you live on the west side of the Rocky  
12      Bayou Bridge, those three streets there that  
13      are just a little tiny enclave of Congressional  
14      District2, not even all of the houses on that  
15      little peninsula.

16             So just bear those thoughts in mind as you  
17      go forward and thank you again for your time.

18             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Sure, thank you, Paul. I  
19      am in one of those three streets, as you know,  
20      I am in that little nipple of Congressional  
21      District 2, and you are exactly right, that if  
22      everyone takes all of the time that they are  
23      allotted, then there would only be two weeks  
24      left in the process. Let's hope that everyone  
25      doesn't take all of the time that they are

1       allotted, but that they do their job  
2       thoroughly, but that they do their job as soon  
3       as they can. Thanks, Paul.

4           MR. LUX: And the good news is it doesn't  
5       look like there are any drunken monkeys up  
6       there. So I know that is who they accused of  
7       drawing the lines last time and I don't see any  
8       up there, so very good, very good positive  
9       direction.

10           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You get the prize for the  
11       second best line of the night. William Boyetx,  
12       Mr. Boyetx, and you will be followed by Terry  
13       Fleming and then Dave Danvers and then Pam  
14       Carpenter.

15           MR. BOYETX: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As the  
16       Honorable Paul Lux mentioned, I am the Chief  
17       Deputy Supervisor of Elections here in Alachua  
18       County. I brought some maps with me this  
19       evening and I would love to leave them with  
20       Mr. Guthrie or another Representative of your  
21       staff. I am not sure if I have enough for all  
22       of you, but I definitely have plenty to pass  
23       around.

24           I would like to start with a little  
25       southwest corner of Alachua County, the area

1           around the City of Archer.

2           I have got this color coded by the  
3           different State House Districts, and I doubt  
4           you can even see it from how close you are to  
5           me, but if you look, there is this tiny bit of  
6           green, State House 22, blipped off from the  
7           rest of the green.

8           That is where the State House District  
9           cuts one cul-de-sac inside the city limits of  
10          Archer off from the rest of the City of Archer,  
11          putting about four houses in a different House  
12          District than the rest of the city.

13          And then we got a little V up here that  
14          cuts in and takes a couple dozen voters on the  
15          north edge of the city and puts them a third  
16          State House District. So we have a  
17          municipality with about 600 voters represented  
18          by three of our Representatives on the podium  
19          here this evening.

20          I am sure that they are well represented,  
21          but I think they might prefer to have their  
22          voice unified together.

23          Now, you will notice, the majority color  
24          is the red of State House 10. If we look at  
25          the county, you will see there is no further of

1       that red anywhere in the entire rest of our  
2       county.

3               And no disrespect to the job that I am  
4       sure that Representative Bembry does to his  
5       constituents, but we would be thrilled if he  
6       was not representing our county.

7               That small piece which represents less  
8       than 1,000 voters in our county adds just as  
9       much of a logistical overhead to every election  
10      we prepare as Representative Chestnut's portion  
11      of our county, and that is a burden on our  
12      county every election that we prepare.

13              In a primary election, I have to prepare  
14      as many as six different ballot styles for that  
15      little area, the same number of ballot styles I  
16      prepare for this area, and that is an amount of  
17      proof reading, an amount of preparation time,  
18      programming, equipment preparation, and that  
19      just adds up.

20              And drawing back from those points, as  
21      several other speakers have mentioned this  
22      evening, the State Constitution of Florida puts  
23      the Administration of Elections as a county  
24      level office.

25              For that reason we feel it would be great



1       if the county limits could be the first  
2       priority when drawing district lines, as that  
3       would coincide with the administration of the  
4       elections.

5               While the districts look great, this is  
6       what we look at when we are administering it.  
7       We don't see where the rest of these districts  
8       go. We see it at this level in each county as  
9       we prepare our elections.

10              If a county must be split, which in many  
11       cases is unavoidable, then we would ask that  
12       the next level down be respecting the  
13       communities of interest in the municipal city  
14       limits as I showed with my little demonstration  
15       there on Archer, and when a city is too big to  
16       be in one district, we ask if you could please  
17       restrict to major arteries that are easy for us  
18       to explain to the public, when they are trying  
19       to ascertain their Representative.

20              If we look here, we are on the map, it is  
21       pretty easy to see the interface between  
22       Districts 22 and 23, but 34th Street runs right  
23       here, and if I were to start at the south end  
24       of Gainesville and drive north, at the  
25       beginning I would be in State House 22. A

1        little bit further north to my west I would be  
2        in State House 23. To my east, in 22, a little  
3        bit further north, both sides I am in 23. A  
4        little further north to my west, I am in 23, to  
5        my east I am in 22. A little further north, to  
6        both sides I am in 22. A little further north  
7        to my east I am in 23. To my west I am in 22,  
8        and a little further north I am back in 23 on  
9        both sides.

10            CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I think we get the joke.

11            MR. BOYETX: So while looking at the map,  
12        you know, a bird's eye view, it doesn't look  
13        that bad. When we are communicating with our  
14        public and trying to help them understand their  
15        Representatives, it can very complicated very  
16        fast, and I don't think that that serves our  
17        public that you are elected to serve, my boss  
18        is elected to serve and that I have chosen to  
19        be in a field to serve the best possible.

20            CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much for  
21        your testimony, and could you make sure that  
22        you leave the maps that you have for one of our  
23        staff members?

24            This is exactly the kind of precision  
25        testimony that we need, to see exactly where we

1           need to make changes.

2           And next, please, Terry Fleming and  
3           following Mr. Fleming, then Dave Danvers, then  
4           Pam Carpenter.

5           MR. FLEMING: Good evening, my name is  
6           Terry Fleming. Thank you for the opportunity  
7           to speak. Thank you for being here. You know,  
8           a Supreme Court Justice famously observed that  
9           I may not be able to define pornography but I  
10          know it when I see it.

11          There is a lot in common with pornography  
12          with this districting process, starting with  
13          the fact that is so obscene. I appreciate the  
14          presentation that was just provided because it  
15          really made that point, how obscene the process  
16          can be, the results can be.

17          I do ask you to consider all of the  
18          requirements of the Fair District Amendments,  
19          compact, contiguous, communities of interest  
20          and I fully support the efforts of the fair  
21          districts folks to make this a bipartisan  
22          effort.

23          Certainly, as has been observed up here  
24          this evening, both parties are guilty of that.  
25          We see the results in the maps that we have

1       seen tonight and have been shown out in the  
2       lobby.

3               Please, take those things into  
4       consideration, communities of interest,  
5       contiguous, compact geographical boundaries and  
6       please draw districts that fairly represent the  
7       communities in this state.

8               CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Fleming,  
9       and just one fact check, communities of  
10      interest have been mentioned by a number of  
11      folks tonight.

12              Communities of interest are not in  
13      Amendments V and VI. There was an effort made  
14      by a group to actually include communities of  
15      interest as a criterion for drawing districts,  
16      and that was struck down by the Florida Supreme  
17      Court. So communities of interest are not part  
18      of Amendments V and VI, but thank you.

19              Mr. Danvers, and then Pam Carpenter and  
20      then Martin Luther King, III.

21              MR. DANVERS: I would like to thank all of  
22      you for coming. I want to, I have read a lot  
23      on the website, and I am a bit confused because  
24      a lot of this is all weighted towards outside  
25      interests suggesting how we do this thing.

1           In the explanation of the two Amendments,  
2           the Fair Amendments, they are talking about,  
3           you do this, and if we don't like it we will go  
4           to court.

5           And my main reason for standing here, I  
6           would like to see the people and their elected  
7           representatives accomplish this redistricting  
8           and not the courts. We have spent enough  
9           money.

10          No offense, lawyers, but I think we can  
11          get this done, but I would like some of the  
12          people who backed the Amendments, spent all of  
13          that money and time to step forward and help  
14          your Representatives get this accomplished.  
15          There is all I have to say.

16          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
17          And next, Pam Carpenter, who is the Alachua  
18          County Supervisor of Elections. Thank you for  
19          your service, ma'am, we look forward to your  
20          testimony.

21          MS. CARPENTER: Thank you. Good evening,  
22          and welcome to Alachua County. My staff member  
23          has made a presentation before me, and he is my  
24          detail man. I would like to cover some more  
25          general things with you.

1           Your legislative staff has worked with the  
2           election officials and the census officials to  
3           establish what we have called voting tabulation  
4           districts, VTDs, which take into consideration  
5           intact communities, traffic patterns and  
6           physical barriers.

7           Please adhere to these lines when you are  
8           redistricting and redrawing your maps. A lot  
9           of work has gone into them on the part of the  
10          Supervisors of Elections and the Census  
11          representatives.

12          The best place to draw a district line is  
13          along a county line, if it is at all possible  
14          and we ask that you divide our districts along  
15          county lines whenever that is available to you.

16          While there is much attention to Florida's  
17          meandering districts there are many more  
18          examples of our small cities being separated  
19          into three or four districts, as Will had shown  
20          you the examples previously.

21          Some of them running right through the  
22          middle of the condominiums, as Paul mentioned.  
23          The best way to avoid this, again, is to follow  
24          the PTD lines whenever possible.

25          I want to reiterate the need for this

1 process to be completed in a timely manner. We  
2 are up a -- we are up against some really hard  
3 deadlines. We have to get those ballots out 45  
4 days prior to the election. We have to have  
5 time to notify all of the voters of the change  
6 in their districts and precinct and by law that  
7 means mailing them a new card, and we have to  
8 have time to do that.

9 We have to have time to allow our voters  
10 to become familiar with the districts that they  
11 are going to be in and the candidates running  
12 from those districts. So please, move this  
13 process along as quickly as you can and vote on  
14 it as quickly as you can.

15 One of the other things is just a  
16 reminder. We as elected officials may have  
17 been elected by a majority of our voters, but  
18 once elected, we represent all of our citizens,  
19 and we all need to remember that.

20 It is not a partisan thing. It is a  
21 citizen thing. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
23 Ms. Carpenter, and now Martin Luther King, III,  
24 following Mr. King, Marcel Verrando, and then  
25 Shelia Paige. Mr. King, you are recognized.

1           MR. KING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
2           Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee. I  
3           am certainly honored to participate in this  
4           hearing this evening.

5           Very briefly and quickly, obviously I am  
6           not a citizen of the state of Florida, but my  
7           father led or was one of the leaders of the  
8           modern Civil Rights Movement as well as he and  
9           a team of many leaders worked to create the  
10          climate so that the 1965 Voting Rights Act  
11          would be passed in our nation which has been  
12          extended over and over again by the United  
13          States Congress.

14          He often said that injustice anywhere is a  
15          threat to justice everywhere. Certainly I feel  
16          this applies with special urgency to my  
17          neighboring state of Florida, where there  
18          appears to be a multi prong effort to dilute  
19          voting power of people of color, poor people,  
20          and reduce the number of African-Americans and  
21          Latino elected officials.

22          I am referring specifically to several  
23          measures. One of these would be shortening the  
24          early voting periods from 15 to seven days.  
25          Another measure forces voters to cast



1           provisional ballots instead of allowing them --

2           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Mr. King, I am delighted  
3           to hear your views on those matters, but in  
4           deference and respect to those behind you,  
5           could you keep your comments to redistricting  
6           and I would be happy to meet with you  
7           afterwards on the other matters.

8           MR. KING: Okay. Let me -- let me quickly  
9           get to the issue of redistricting which very  
10          simply, I know most importantly folks have  
11          talked about the fair district Florida issue.

12          Obviously, redistricting is important to  
13          all of us and certainly in this state and  
14          really everyone across our nation, every year  
15          we all want to make sure that all elected  
16          officials who represent each and every one of  
17          us can be elected fairly.

18          So the legislation sounds good, but I  
19          think there are concerns about it. My  
20          particular concern is that we ensure in this  
21          state and in our nation that African-Americans,  
22          Latinos and poor folk can be elected to office.

23          That is the only major issue of concern  
24          that I have. So as you draw your districts,  
25          and as you have done all of these years, you as

1 legislative members, I hope and pray that the  
2 fair scenario really is fair for all  
3 Floridians. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
5 Mr. King. Thank you for coming from Atlanta.  
6 Marcel Verrando and then Shelia Paige and then  
7 and then Khalil Quinan, I believe, from Santa  
8 Fe College. Mr. Verrando, did I get your name  
9 correctly, sir?

10 MR. VERRANDO: Yes, sir, you did.

11 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You are recognized, and  
12 we look forward to your comments.

13 MR. VERRANDO: Ladies and gentlemen of the  
14 Legislature, my name is Butch Verrando, I am a  
15 Director of Tea Party Solutions in Marion  
16 County.

17 We have a membership of roughly 1,800  
18 people that are Democrats, Republicans,  
19 Libertarians, and a number of other parties.  
20 We are a totally non partisan group.

21 I have been asked to come up here to speak  
22 as one voice for many, and our quest is to  
23 simply ask that Marion County be treated as a  
24 single entity.

25 Currently our county is cut up into

1 pieces, much like a butcher's map, and we as a  
2 group just ask you to treat us fairly and treat  
3 us as one unit. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
5 Next, Shelia Paige, Ms. Paige, are you here?  
6 Shelia Paige? Going once, twice? Three times.  
7 Then it, and I apologize, Khalil Quinan from  
8 Santa Fe College, and then Karen Paige and then  
9 Marihelen Wheeler, I think it is, and I  
10 apologize if I have messed that name up.  
11 Mr. Quinan, thank you for being here.

12 MR. QUINAN: You actually got my name  
13 right, Mr. Chair.

14 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Wonderful. That is one  
15 out of 350.

16 MR. QUINAN: Yes, sir, probably in the  
17 United States. First I would thank everyone  
18 here. I would like to specifically really  
19 quickly thank Senator Oelrich and  
20 Representative Chestnut for our transportation  
21 Bill that we recently got passed. It has been  
22 something that I have done here since I started  
23 in Santa Fe College. I am the Senate President  
24 Pro Tempore of Student Government, and so as a  
25 fellow elected official I would like to thank

1           you for that.

2           Now, touching on redistricting, one thing  
3           that I make important with my job here, it is  
4           in government is the letter of the law. We  
5           have our Constitution, we have our laws, we  
6           have our statutes.

7           We have the way that we do things outlined  
8           much like you guys do as well, and with that I  
9           would like to request that you guys follow  
10          Amendments V and VI and I know that you guys  
11          recommended it as well, and it is just as  
12          important, because it makes sense.

13          I mean, there is a lots of things that  
14          have been said about the tricky wording, but  
15          there is not a may or may not. It simply says,  
16          and maybe it is because I want to be a lawyer  
17          one day, but it simply says that you can't  
18          favor or not favor somebody.

19          It is just, you can't have a situation  
20          where somebody will be elected just because of  
21          where they are, and being somebody who wishes  
22          to be a lawyer, I wish to be a lawyer because I  
23          have a strong foundation of justice.

24          I have that strong desire for justice. I  
25          did the Lincoln/Douglas debate in high school,

1           and the criterion was always justice.

2           And so the ultimate point is that, it is  
3           to do the right thing. I am not -- I was not  
4           born in the United States. I migrated to the  
5           United States, and it is, this has been my  
6           adopted home because of this overwhelming sense  
7           of justice and righteousness in our country,  
8           and I say with grade pride, our country,  
9           because I feel like I am part of this melting  
10          pot.

11          And with such I request that you guys  
12          please stick to Amendments V and VI, please get  
13          maps out early for us to be able to criticize  
14          and scrutinize.

15          As an official I write Bills as well for  
16          our Senate and people criticize and scrutinize  
17          and find my errors, so I request the same of  
18          you. Thank you.

19          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much for  
20          your time for being here. Next we have Karen  
21          Paige. Karen Paige? And following Karen  
22          Paige, it is Marihelen Wheeler, Marihelen  
23          Wheeler. I got it right.

24          Ms. Paige, thank you for being here  
25          tonight. You are recognized.

1           MS. PAIGE: I am Karen Paige. I have  
2 lived Gainesville 1955. I first became aware  
3 of gerrymandering when I was in junior high  
4 school and high school, I really wasn't  
5 interested in politics or news much before  
6 then, and I learned about the pork choppers and  
7 who were Democrats and they were making  
8 decisions and setting up political boundaries  
9 so that they could get what they wanted and  
10 their political contributors wanted.

11           And now we have the, our recent  
12 Legislatures have done the same thing for the  
13 Republican party. Regardless of whether it is  
14 Democrats or Republicans, that is not fair, it  
15 is not representative, it is not democracy.

16           I am totally flummoxed by people who say  
17 they don't understand Fair District Amendments  
18 V and VI. To me I graduated from the  
19 University of Florida, also, they are very  
20 simple to understand.

21           We want everyone's vote to be counted  
22 equally and fairly. We want to not have our  
23 districts cherry picked so that certain people  
24 or certain parties will be elected regardless  
25 of whether it is Democrats or Republicans.

1           The idea of fair is a very simple idea.  
2           The -- this whole idea that the people  
3           supporting fair districts already have maps in  
4           mind, that is so untrue.

5           We want to have impartial committees,  
6           impartial people look at all of the needs and  
7           the outlines and what will be fair districts.  
8           Then we want Legislators that will maybe become  
9           again statesmen rather than politicians.

10          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, Ms.  
11          Paige. Marihelen Wheeler, followed by Jay  
12          Shannon, with the University of Florida College  
13          Democrats, and then Eric Brown with the  
14          University of Florida College Democrats.

15          Marihelen, thank you for being here.

16          MS. WHEELER: Thank you. I put down on  
17          there that I was a citizen. I didn't represent  
18          anybody because I was afraid if I put veteran  
19          teacher down there that I wouldn't get a chance  
20          to speak.

21          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: No, no, citizen, citizen  
22          is the, citizen is the highest post in this  
23          republic.

24          MS. WHEELER: Show I chose well. I have  
25          some concerns that I want to express first and

1           then I will go to a recommendation that I have  
2           that maybe will make this go a little faster,  
3           because --

4           CHAIRMAN GAETZ:   Please.

5           MS. WHEELER -- my concern is speed as  
6           well, that we get there done.   Being a teacher  
7           I am a little skeptical of the public forum,  
8           and I must say it is because when the House and  
9           Senate Bills came up legislating my profession  
10          that we had -- that we were told that there was  
11          teacher input to the process, and when I went  
12          with the FEA group to Tallahassee we found out  
13          that, yes, indeed, there was teacher input, but  
14          none of the recommendations were accepted.

15          So this makes me a little skeptical about  
16          a forum here with no maps and I am an art  
17          teacher, so I am very visual.   So having the  
18          maps there or having the redrawing the census,  
19          I would like to see where the demographics have  
20          shifted around.

21          CHAIRMAN GAETZ:   That is available, that  
22          is available on the website.   You can see all  
23          of that.

24          MS. WHEELER:   All right, good.   So  
25          according to what I, I watched the program on



1 Sunday about all of this, so I have a little  
2 more information about representation for so  
3 many thousand people, and I wanted to say 60 on  
4 or 600, but anyway, I am an art teacher, not a  
5 mathematician for sure.

6 Okay, but what I am concerned about, too,  
7 is the timing on this, because it is an  
8 election year, unfortunately, a national  
9 election year, and Florida doesn't have a great  
10 reputation when it comes to conspiracy theories  
11 and things like that and elections, and I would  
12 like to see this, which I know is a requirement  
13 by law and it is something we have to do,  
14 somehow interfere with that election and make  
15 it controversial again.

16 Now, the recommendation that I have, the  
17 recommendation that I have for maybe speeding  
18 this up. I would really like to have seen what  
19 our Senator Oelrich and our Representatives  
20 could have maybe had a meeting with us first to  
21 show us where those districts are and give us  
22 their opinions about, you know, how it is  
23 easier to manage or not manage.

24 Have some of us then also question those  
25 things so that we had a better opportunity or

1       sounded more educated when we came here to say,  
2       look, you know, this doesn't look right.  You  
3       see, as an art teacher, I think dragons look  
4       really cool through the map, but, you know, for  
5       -- I also taught in Levy County for ten years  
6       before I came to Gainesville to teach another  
7       20.

8               Yes, I am old, but the thing is, I know  
9       there is a big difference in cattle farmers and  
10      clammers and Town and Gown, so I would support  
11      the fair districting at all costs, but the main  
12      cost I think that is going to be for people  
13      like me is the timing where we want to make  
14      sure that our citizens have the opportunity to  
15      vote without having any impediment.

16             CHAIRMAN GAETZ:  Thank you, and you have a  
17      very good suggestion, and a number of  
18      Legislators have, I have done it in my  
19      district, have met with groups, non partisan  
20      groups as well I have met with, I happen to be  
21      a Republican, but I met with the Democratic  
22      party in my county and we went over all of this  
23      as well as with Republican groups and many  
24      Legislators are doing it, Senator Sachs in  
25      South Florida is doing it, so that is an

1           excellent suggestion.

2           MS. WHEELER: That would speed things up.

3           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Yes.

4           MS. WHEELER: And we would be able to get  
5           with our voters.

6           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much. Our  
7           teacher, good idea. Jay Shannon from the Young  
8           Democrats, College Democrats, and then Eric  
9           Brown from the College Democrats and then Helen  
10          Warren from the Audubon Society.

11          Welcome, and thank you for being here  
12          tonight.

13          MR. SHANNON: Thank you, I appreciate it.  
14          I am, as you read, I am a member of the  
15          University of Florida College Democrats and  
16          also I am also an intern with (inaudible)  
17          Florida, which means that most of you on the  
18          stage don't like me, and that is really  
19          unfortunate, but I really had to say a few  
20          things about redistricting.

21          I spent a lot of time campaigning for Fair  
22          Districts Florida. I understand that some of  
23          the language has become under scrutiny and I  
24          understand that there are members of both sides  
25          of the aisle that are coming out against it and

1           for it.

2                   But I do want to say a few things. In  
3           terms of the touchy feely support that Fair  
4           Districts sort of evokes with people like me,  
5           Democrats who I spend time with, you know, I am  
6           sorry that we have to do that, but the reason  
7           we pass legislation like that is to make sure  
8           that you guys don't make that mistake again,  
9           because it happened last year, it happened in  
10          2000, it happened in 1990.

11                  Regardless of the party you are a part of,  
12          and I am a Democrat, I admit that the choppers  
13          were terrible, but regardless of the party you  
14          are a part of, it is still happening and when  
15          we talk about minority representation, whether  
16          it is Hispanics or poors or African-Americans,  
17          poor people, you know, I don't feel like they  
18          are getting their fair shake at representation  
19          when there are people in Tallahassee passing  
20          legislation that cuts their access to voting or  
21          their access to education, or their access to  
22          community services.

23                  And, you know, the system status quo just  
24          simply doesn't work, and I get so infuriated  
25          when I am sitting in the corner of the room

1       when I hear people like Alex Patton come up and  
2       tell me that I am a touchy feely Democrat and I  
3       am supporting legislation --

4               CHAIRMAN GAETZ:  Mr. Shannon, why don't  
5       you use what little time you have left to make  
6       your point and not to make someone else's  
7       point.

8               MR. SHANNON:  Right, right, and I am sorry  
9       about that.  My point is, at the end of the day  
10      I am a person, most recently an American  
11      citizen, and I stand up for my fellow man and  
12      woman, not my fellow Democrat or Republican and  
13      I would really appreciate it if I felt the same  
14      from you on stage, and so thank you for your  
15      time.

16              CHAIRMAN GAETZ:  Thank you so much,  
17      Mr. Shannon, excellent points.  Eric Brown,  
18      also representing the College Democrats, Eric  
19      Brown, are you here?

20              A VOICE:  I think he waives in support.

21              CHAIRMAN GAETZ:  A waive in support.  Now,  
22      we in Tallahassee say that is eloquent  
23      testimony.  Helen Warren is next, Helen Warren  
24      and following Ms. Warren, Kyle Mitchell also  
25      with the College Democrats and then Alden

1       Green.  So if Alden Green will be on deck as  
2       well.

3               Ms. Warren, thank you for being here, you  
4       represent the Audubon Society, it says here.

5               MS. WARREN:  I should probably correct  
6       that, I am mostly representing just myself as a  
7       citizen.  Being President of the Audubon  
8       Chapter I don't necessarily have views that  
9       they have shared that I can say I am  
10      representing them.

11              But as a citizen of this community, that  
12      is what I would like to present, some of my  
13      ideas and thoughts and support and thanks and  
14      appreciation that you are here.  It is amazing  
15      to see this many people in one room without any  
16      babies to kiss or dinners, meals and those kind  
17      of things that usually bring a large collection  
18      of politicians into one area, and really do  
19      feel like you are here to hear the comments  
20      from the public.

21              You have already heard many of the  
22      concerns I think, I can't add anything to what  
23      the Supervisors of Elections have said with  
24      respect to the time of essence in this  
25      situation, but the consideration when I looked

1       at the lines of where the maps are for the  
2       State Districts and the Congressional  
3       Districts, having previously been from Pinellas  
4       County and seeing the way that those lines have  
5       divided the county up with several districts  
6       and then looking at the State Districts with,  
7       in particular, District 3, 7, 1 and 8, it is  
8       hard to imagine that there can be similar  
9       representation for a group of people where you  
10      have individuals living on the Georgia, Florida  
11      border in District 3, as an example, that goes  
12      all of the way down to possibly Cedar Key, and  
13      I am not quite sure where the southern border  
14      of District 3 is.

15             But I would ask for a consideration that  
16      if we want to get the public, we have a very  
17      large number of people who are disenfranchised  
18      from the political process, which is the  
19      essence of what makes this country as great as  
20      it is, and when we see districts that are  
21      established such as this, it is not hard to  
22      imagine why so many people are feeling  
23      separated from their politicians who are  
24      supposed to be representing us regardless of  
25      our party.

1           So I would ask for a consideration that  
2       the lines look along, as well as what they are  
3       saying with the county lines, but maybe the  
4       consideration that there may be some kind of  
5       compact 50-mile radius that could be considered  
6       at sometimes, and inclusion of something  
7       similar to what the Water Management Districts  
8       provide so that we can have cohesion of area  
9       community.

10           I think with the water issues that we have  
11       got going on, there are certainly many issues  
12       that surround the feelings and sentiments of  
13       the public as to whether we are getting our  
14       water privileges and environmental issues  
15       related to that.

16           So in summary, I think you have pretty  
17       well heard many of the similar things. I am  
18       now rambling, but time is of the essence, let's  
19       please get this done quickly and get  
20       communities of the county lines more  
21       coordinated.

22           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
23       Ms. Warren. Next, Kyle Mitchell from the  
24       College Democrats, Kyle Mitchell. And then  
25       following Mr. Mitchell, Alden Green, and then



1 Benetta Standly is here, an old friend that  
2 follows us from city to city from the American  
3 Civil Liberties Union. Kyle Mitchell.

4 MR. MITCHELL: Hello, thank you for your  
5 time. Senator Gaetz, you have dismissed  
6 multiple speakers' concerns about the speed of  
7 adoption of district maps by saying that the  
8 Legislature is free to adopt maps at any time.

9 If anyone in the audience believes that  
10 the leadership in the Legislature will move any  
11 faster than they are required to on this issue,  
12 that is exceedingly wishful thinking.

13 The three-fifths of Florida voters that  
14 supported Fair Districts know intrinsically  
15 that Florida is defined by its cities,  
16 counties, and natural boundaries, not community  
17 dividing lines drawn as a partisan power grab.

18 Senator Gaetz, the people asked that you  
19 and your committee reference not election  
20 results but an Atlas when drawing districts.  
21 There should be many left over to use after the  
22 Legislature's attack on public education.

23 Fair Districts is the law. Please follow  
24 it.

25 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Mitchell,

1           and next, Alden Green, and after Ms. Green, it  
2           is Ms. Standly and then John Wasser.

3           Mr. Green, thank you for being here, and  
4           you are recognized, sir.

5           MR. GREEN: Thank you. I have a couple of  
6           points to make. One is I don't think that the  
7           Fair Districts Amendment is ambiguous. I think  
8           it is, your work is cut out for you in  
9           complying with it, but I think it gives some  
10          fairly simple guidelines to how to do it.

11          You know, one of the ways that Florida is  
12          the laughing stock with some of my friends from  
13          different states who are politically inclined,  
14          I say, look at the District Map for 6, 3 and 4,  
15          I think. One of them goes from Jacksonville to  
16          Tallahassee. One of them goes from  
17          Jacksonville to Orlando, and my own District 6,  
18          it makes a sort of funny V-shape around it.

19          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And to think we have  
20          Patrick Henry to blame for all of this.

21          MR. GREEN: Well, if Patrick Henry needs  
22          to be blamed, that is fine, but I think that  
23          what has happened with, it is clear from  
24          looking at our current map that the district  
25          lines were politically drawn to protect both

1        Democrats and Republicans in the state, and I  
2        think what has happened with districts that are  
3        drawn with that as a basis, as a basis for  
4        their being drawn, we end up in a United States  
5        for Congress, for instance, of getting both  
6        Democrats and Republicans who are further to  
7        the left or to the right and it makes it  
8        difficult, it makes it much more difficult, for  
9        instance, in the current controversy about the  
10       -- about the debt ceiling.

11            It makes it much more difficult for the  
12       Congress to function for the benefits of the  
13       citizens rather than for the parochial interest  
14       of the members.

15            So I think it is important that you look  
16       at the Fair Districts, you accept it as law and  
17       not fight it and do your best to comply with  
18       it. I know it is going to be hard, but I think  
19       it is critical for the future of Florida and  
20       for the future of the country. And thank you  
21       very much.

22            CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Green.  
23       Now, Benetta Standly with the ACLU, and then  
24       John Wasser, and then Samuel Welker with Fair  
25       Districts, and then Whitney Markle with the

1 Sierra Club.

2 Ms. Standly, good to see you again.

3 MS. STANDLY: Good evening, and I will  
4 continue to follow you around and I will follow  
5 you around when you have real hearings when you  
6 show us the maps so that we can have something  
7 to comment on.

8 So I am here today to represent the  
9 63 percent of Floridians who voted in favor of  
10 Amendments V and VI, the disenfranchised, the  
11 people who are distrustful of the Florida  
12 Legislature, and the people who just simply  
13 could not make it here today.

14 I am here to hold you all accountable. I  
15 want to publicly say this entire process is a  
16 farce. It is a waste of taxpayer's money and  
17 time.

18 We, the people of Florida, truly  
19 understand that Amendments V and VI actually  
20 protect minority voting rights. They add two  
21 protections that were never in the Florida  
22 Constitution. We expect you to make sure that  
23 minorities have the opportunity to elect the  
24 candidates of their choice and not give us two  
25 or three districts around the state.

1           The new rules are something that all of  
2           Florida, most of Florida has agreed upon. We  
3           need you to follow those rules, but you are not  
4           hearing me when I say as I follow you around  
5           the state, that we don't trust that you will  
6           follow the rules.

7           I am quite frankly disappointed that many  
8           in the Florida Legislature continue to oppose  
9           and fight these new rules, and you are using my  
10          taxpayer dollars to do so. This is obviously  
11          unacceptable.

12          The entire purpose of Amendments V and VI  
13          was that voters can choose their elected  
14          officials and not the other way around. Stop  
15          wasting taxpayer money. This is an absolute  
16          insult to Florida voters.

17          We know that you have \$30 million in  
18          reserve in the House, we know you have \$8  
19          million in the Senate reserved to deal with  
20          litigation related to V and VI. Stop  
21          undermining the will of Florida voters. We  
22          have spoken. Follow our Constitution.

23          People are trying to run for office in  
24          this state, they don't know what district they  
25          reside in and they can't campaign. You need to

1       get the ball rolling, you need to do your job  
2       and stop asking us to give you a map.

3               You are required to give us the map, so  
4       show us the map.

5               CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Ms. Standly, you are  
6       getting, you are getting your act down very,  
7       very well. Good to see you again. Ms. -- John  
8       Wasser is next, and then Samuel Welker from  
9       Fair Districts and then Whitney Markle from the  
10      Sierra Club it says here. John Wasser.

11              MR. WASSER: My name is John Wasser. I am  
12      a Yankee and some of you might call me a damn  
13      Yankee. I am liberal even by Yankee standards,  
14      and I am angry.

15              I moved nine years ago to Union County  
16      where there was a guy named Alder Crenshaw who  
17      claims to represent me in Washington. He is a  
18      George W. Bush Republican. He is elected by  
19      fat cats in Jacksonville, for gosh sakes, and  
20      his district extends all of the way to Leon  
21      County.

22              At some point it is only about four miles  
23      high and it must be at least 150 or more miles  
24      wide, and the only reason for a district like  
25      that is to deny voting rights to the people in

1       this rural county out here when he gets elected  
2       by a heavily populated area in Jacksonville, to  
3       represent people in counties out here where a  
4       majority of the voters are registered  
5       Democrats.

6               That is specifically to deny the people  
7       out here their rights and I am angry. We need  
8       to do something about that, and part of the  
9       reason why so many Republicans got elected  
10      around here is because the Democrats did such a  
11      bad job of fielding candidates, not only on the  
12      state level but even locally, our --

13             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: No, no, no, let's let  
14      Mr. Wasser talk, please.

15             MR. WASSER: In 2010 we had -- we had a  
16      local candidate for State Senator, is a  
17      Democrat who has been openly vindictive towards  
18      gays and women and probably blacks as well, and  
19      I work -- done some work for temporary agencies  
20      and I have done --

21             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Mr. Wasser, Mr. Wasser,  
22      we are getting a little far afield, let's bring  
23      it in for a landing, and the landing zone is  
24      talking about redistricting.

25             MR. WASSER: Okay, I want to see the

1       redistricting, get these counties out here, a  
2       Representative that they can be proud of and I  
3       would be happy to join any lawsuit if it  
4       doesn't work right. So get it right, please.

5               CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Wasser.  
6       Next is Samuel Welker, from Fair Districts,  
7       then Whitney Markle with the Sierra Club, and  
8       then Phoebe, I think it is Papadi, or Papadi.

9               Mr. Welker, thank you for being here. We  
10       are delighted to have you here tonight.

11              MR. WELKER: Thank you, I am delighted to  
12       be here. I am not here for Fair Districts.

13              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I am sorry, it says it  
14       here.

15              MR. WELKER: I know. I really --

16              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I was just trying to be a  
17       literalist.

18              MR. WELKER: I have taught in middle  
19       school and high school for 37 years, most of my  
20       students have been literalists. So I  
21       understand that.

22              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I hope they did well.

23              MR. WELKER: My children always do well.  
24       I teach only beautiful, intelligent children.

25              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: There you go.



1           MR. WELKER: But they have changed a great  
2 deal, our children have changed a great deal in  
3 the past 37 years. One of the ways that they  
4 have changed is their faith in politics and  
5 faith in their political leaders, whereas 37  
6 years ago my students felt that government  
7 service and politicians and statesmen were  
8 honored, respected individuals.

9           It was a career that they wanted to go  
10 into. If I were to ask my students today what  
11 they felt about politicians, political leaders  
12 and people in government service, they would  
13 not for the most part be very flattering.

14          They have lost a great deal of respect in  
15 our government. I would recommend that there  
16 is no possible way that you are going to  
17 satisfy everyone. We know that in here, fair  
18 districts to me sound like fair districts.  
19 Fair means something different to other people,  
20 I suppose, but the citizens of this state voted  
21 63 percent for two amendments.

22          It seems to me it would help restore a  
23 great deal of faith in a lot of people,  
24 including my children who are not apathetic,  
25 who really do care, if in redistricting we

1 followed those Amendments and you followed  
2 those Amendments. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
4 Mr. Welker. Great testimony. Whitney Markle,  
5 it says here representing the Sierra Club, and  
6 then Phoebe, I apologize, I think it  
7 is-PAP-a-p-a-d-i, and then if Jeremiah  
8 Teddersol will be ready to speak. Ms. Markle,  
9 Mr. Markle.

10 MR. MARKLE: thank you, sir, last time a  
11 public official called me Mr. Markle, it was a  
12 Judge.

13 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Well, I am not a Judge.

14 MR. MARKLE: And it is Whitey, it is not  
15 Whitney, my momma named me that and I can't  
16 help it.

17 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Oh, it is Whitey, I am  
18 sorry, it is my bad eyes.

19 MR. MARKLE: That is okay.

20 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: My bad eyes, I apologize.

21 MR. MARKLE: My bad writing there. I am  
22 the Conservation Chair for the Suwannee St.  
23 Johns Sierra Club, and we represent 15 counties  
24 here in north central Florida. A lot like  
25 Charlie Dean's district, we are the biggest

1       Sierra Club group east of the Mississippi  
2       River.

3               So we have resources that we are  
4       concerned, our concern is conservation of  
5       resources. We have the St. Johns, the Arakawa,  
6       the Suwannee, Ichetucknee, Withlacoochee,  
7       Crystal, Homosassa and the Chassahowitzka  
8       Rivers that we have to deal with, and I would  
9       like to ask you, unlike when I ran for State  
10      Senate along with Senator Oelrich when he was  
11      running for his first term as Sheriff in  
12      Alachua County, I was running for State Senate  
13      District 5 at the time against the last great  
14      dean of the Florida Senate, George Kirkpatrick,  
15      and I don't have to tell you who won that  
16      election.

17             But I got a map from the Secretary of  
18      State the day after I qualified and it was  
19      about eight feet tall and about six feet wide,  
20      and that map cut Palatka in half, it cut Lake  
21      City in half, it cut Live Oak in half, it cut  
22      Chiefland in half, it cut Bronson in half, it  
23      cut Williston in half, and whoever has done the  
24      rearranging at this point has done a pretty  
25      good job.

1           We in Marion County would like to ask that  
2           you kind of solidify Marion County rather than  
3           having more than one Senator from Marion  
4           County, but we would like to ask that it be a  
5           continuous, like we said, compact geographical  
6           boundaries, and we would like to ask you that  
7           you represent not only all of the constituents  
8           in your districts, but also those resources  
9           that we just talked about. Thank you very  
10          much.

11           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
12          Mr. Markle. And Ms. Phoebe, I apologize, could  
13          you pronounce your last name for the committee?

14           MS. PAPADI: Sure, it is no problem. It  
15          is Papadi, Phoebe Papadi.

16           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Papadi, Ms. Papadi, thank  
17          you for being here, and we look forward to what  
18          you have to say.

19           MS. PAPADI: Thank you, good evening. So  
20          many factors to consider, and the one I feel  
21          most strongly about is the lack of partisan  
22          politics.

23           If the United States is a melting pot,  
24          then our redistricting map right now is a  
25          goulash, it is a mess, and luckily, we have an

1 opportunity to fix it.

2 As a life long staunch liberal Democrat, I  
3 would be delighted if every district turned out  
4 to have a majority of Republicans, if the lines  
5 were drawn with integrity and following the  
6 rules.

7 So I would urge you in this process to  
8 have that be your number one priority, is to  
9 have integrity and follow the rules and I think  
10 all of the rest would fall into place. Thank  
11 you so much.

12 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Papadi.  
13 Jeremiah Teddersol, Jeremiah Teddersol? Our  
14 next line up then would be Dave Schneider.  
15 Dave, we got to you, Students for a Democratic  
16 Society. Dave, are you here, and then George  
17 Papadi, I believe and then Stan McClain. Dave,  
18 I am glad we got there.

19 MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes, I am, too.

20 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I am an advocate for your  
21 right to speak.

22 MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes, yes, absolutely, and  
23 I was actually commenting to some friends, this  
24 might be the only time you will ever hear a  
25 Republican say, I am an advocate for Dave

1           Schneider, at least a lot of people know that.

2           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: For your right to speak,  
3           for your right to speak. Dave.

4           MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes, yes, I appreciate it.  
5           Thank you. You know, I think a lot of the  
6           speakers here have really gotten to the points  
7           that I wanted to emphasize, but I think I want  
8           to clarify the issue here a little bit, because  
9           we are not here just for unfair districts.

10          I think we are not here just because, you  
11          know, these districts were drawn poorly. It is  
12          because of what those districts being drawn  
13          poorly results in, which is what we saw this  
14          past legislative session where we saw unbridled  
15          attacks on working families and students.

16          I, myself, am a student at the University  
17          of Florida, Political Science and History  
18          major. My Senator is Senator Oelrich up there.  
19          Senator Oelrich, we appreciate you voting with  
20          us on a lot of the Bills pertaining to graduate  
21          students, graduate assistants, and especially  
22          the Unions, and just the attacks that were  
23          placed on people.

24          We saw this happen time and time again in  
25          this past legislative session.

1           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Mr. Schneider, as much as  
2           an advocate as I am for your right to speak,  
3           speak about redistricting.

4           MR. SCHNEIDER: Sir, sir, I am getting  
5           there, because this --

6           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Get there some time soon.

7           MR. SCHNEIDER: These two are closely  
8           intertwined, you know, because when we don't  
9           have fair districts, when we have is what one  
10          gentleman brought up, when you driver up 34th  
11          Street, a major street in Gainesville and you  
12          are moving from one district to the next, to  
13          the next, to the next, that is not -- those  
14          districts weren't drawn to be fair.

15          They weren't drawn for people like us,  
16          they were drawn from democracy, but democracy  
17          for the powerful few who end up getting  
18          reelected time and time again in Tallahassee  
19          and never represent us.

20          They are the people who brought forth  
21          these attacks time and time again on Unions,  
22          they are the ones that slashed millions and  
23          millions of dollars.

24          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: We are wondering far  
25          afield again, let's get back to redistricting,

1           redistricts.

2           MR. SCHNEIDER: But Mr. Chair, these two  
3           issues are so closely intertwined.

4           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Well, you are going to  
5           have to stick to the purpose of the hearing,  
6           because have got 20 people behind you who want  
7           to speak.

8           MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes, sir, yes, sir.

9           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: So you have got about ten  
10          seconds.

11          MR. SCHNEIDER: My point is -- my point is  
12          that we need fair districts here if we are  
13          going to reclaim democracy for working  
14          families, for students at the University of  
15          Florida and elsewhere, and for the middle class  
16          who has been under such gross attack from the  
17          Florida State Legislature for far too long, and  
18          that is why I am here tonight.

19          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you so much.  
20          George, you are up, and then following George,  
21          Stan McClain with the Marion County Board of  
22          County Commissioners, then Richard Blake, and  
23          then Carl Zalak.

24          MR. PAPADI: Yes, I ask that you  
25          demonstrate some restraint and moderation in



1       redistricting efforts. I ask that you abide by  
2       the Fair Districting Amendment, Amendments V  
3       and VI, and I argue that as we all know, the  
4       gerrymandering is a corrupting process and a  
5       conscious focused effort to consolidate power  
6       in a way that subverts our democracy.

7               I strongly disagree with the notion  
8       presented by one speaker tonight that the Fair  
9       District Amendments were merely a veiled  
10      attempt at achieving quotas. Nothing could be  
11      further from the truth.

12             The citizens who worked hard to achieve a  
13      63 percent approval of that were -- were  
14      focused on achieving or with the concern that  
15      individual voters have the same.

16             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: George, could you speak  
17      into the mike a little bit. We want to get  
18      every word.

19             MR. PAPADI: Sure. That the individual  
20      votes that -- that are placed have the same  
21      political weight that all citizens' votes have  
22      an equal power, and I thank you.

23             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very, very much  
24      for your testimony. Next is Stan McClain  
25      followed by Richard Blake and then Carl Zalak,

1           and Mr. McClain, Commissioner McClain, thank  
2           you for your service, and you are recognized.

3           COMMISSIONER MCCLAIN: Thank you, Chairman  
4           Gaetz and members of the House and the Senate.  
5           I had the, the Commission did put a letter  
6           together to present to you. However, you have  
7           already heard from three citizens from our  
8           community, one representing non partisan, one  
9           representing bipartisan and then also our own  
10          chamber of commerce.

11          We would be in agreement with pretty much  
12          anything that they have already said. What,  
13          all I that would ask at this point would be  
14          that the Commission be allowed to enter our  
15          letter into the record and present that to a  
16          clerk or whoever might be the appropriate  
17          person.

18          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Absolutely it would be,  
19          we would look forward to that information.  
20          Thank you, Commissioner.

21          COMMISSIONER MCCLAIN: Thank you.

22          THE COURT: Next is Richard Blake,  
23          Mr. Blake? Richard Blake, are you here? If  
24          not, then let's go to Carl Zalak with the  
25          Marion County Board of County Commissioners.

1           Mr. Zalak, thank you for being here,  
2           Commissioner, and thanks for your service to  
3           the community.

4           MR. ZALAK: Honorable Senators and  
5           Representatives, thank you so much for the  
6           opportunity to speak this evening. Just two  
7           thoughts on the redistricting.

8           If you would entertain, District 8 as it,  
9           Congressional District 8 as it runs from part  
10          of Marion County all of the way down to  
11          Orlando, we think with the growth and the  
12          statistics that is on your website, that we can  
13          condense some of that, bring that a little more  
14          north into Marion County, and with Marion  
15          county and The Villages together in District 8,  
16          it would be a great district for our future.

17          The second thing is, as our Senators are  
18          so split, we would just ask that you would give  
19          us a greater voice in the Senate with a  
20          consolidated or a slightly consolidated Senate  
21          District.

22          It is really interesting. I listened to  
23          the lady a little while ago, and as a matter of  
24          fact, when you guys take the time to serve and  
25          come out here and listen to all of these

1 people, for someone to call this a farce, it is  
2 pretty amazing to me.

3 I want to thank you for your service, and  
4 it was pretty funny, because last night I had a  
5 community meeting where we listened to the  
6 people and we deliberated and we brought back  
7 real results.

8 They called that a farce, too, it is  
9 amazing. Thank you so much for your service.

10 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, and  
11 Commissioner, if you have any specifics about  
12 the -- about the advice you just gave us, any  
13 particular areas that you think need to be  
14 included in particular lines, if you would give  
15 that to us, we would be very grateful.

16 COMMISSIONER MCCLAIN: Thank you so much,  
17 sir. We will get that to you.

18 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, and now John  
19 Schiffeamullon, John Schiffeamullon, please,  
20 followed by Evelyn Foxx with the Alachua County  
21 Branch of the NAACP, and then Kali Blount with  
22 the Alachua County Housing Authority and Black  
23 Nurses' Association. Mr. Schiffeamullon, did I  
24 get that correctly, sir?

25 MR. SCHIFFEAMULLON: Close enough. Ladies

1       and gentlemen, thank you for giving us this  
2       opportunity. Mr. Chairman, I would like to  
3       thank you particularly for referring to my  
4       country properly as a republic and not a  
5       democracy. That all too often gets missed.

6               Fair districts, fair means different  
7       things depending on who you ask. The  
8       Supervisor of Elections for Alachua County  
9       recently suggested that the county lines would  
10      simplify the administration of the vote.

11             People who live in the City of Gainesville  
12      would probably tell you that fair is the county  
13      of Alachua. I live in that recently mentioned  
14      city of Archer, in Precinct 11-A0, not A-1.

15             People who live in the rural districts  
16      would tell you that a district that represents  
17      the County of Alachua represents the City of  
18      Gainesville, not the rural areas.

19             So fair depends on who you ask. I looked  
20      at the -- at the Fair District Amendment and I  
21      don't think very many people would have a  
22      problem with the concept of compact, contiguous  
23      geographic borders.

24             The rub is in the details. The exceptions  
25      and I don't envy you that. The Voters Rights

1 Act of 1965 that has to be considered, the  
2 exemptions for minorities, people who speak  
3 different languages. That is not really your  
4 fault. That is ours.

5 Theodore Roosevelt once said, in fact, he  
6 said it more than once, I have no tolerance for  
7 hyphenated Americanism. A man is an American  
8 and he is nothing else, or he is no American at  
9 all. Thank you for your time.

10 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
11 I appreciate your comments. Evelyn Foxx with  
12 the NAACP and then I think it is Kali or Kali  
13 Blount, with the Housing Authority and then  
14 John Martin.

15 Ms. Foxx, thank you for being here, and we  
16 look forward to your testimony.

17 MS. FOXX: Thank you so much, Mr. Chair,  
18 and members of this Committee. I welcome you  
19 to Gainesville and Alachua County.

20 I am a little puzzled about this hearing  
21 here tonight. I was present ten years ago when  
22 we were at Key West and we had maps weeks  
23 before the hearing.

24 Our state is made up of 16 percent  
25 African-Americans, 22 percent Hispanics. My

1 challenge and my urge to you is to please be  
2 fair, and then after hearing our Chair tonight  
3 so abruptly cut off Dr. King's son, I don't  
4 know if you could really be fair.

5 Anyway, please be fair and please do the  
6 right thing. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much. I  
8 am advised as a historical fact that the  
9 earliest ever hearing that was held in  
10 Gainesville at the last cycle in 2000, after  
11 the 2000 census, was actually held in July.

12 So we are a little ahead of the game, but  
13 thank you, Ms. Foxx, and Ms. Blunt, how do I --  
14 Mr. Blunt, how do I pronounce your first name,  
15 sir?

16 MR. BLOUNT: Kali.

17 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Kali. Thank you for  
18 being here, and you are recognized. John  
19 Martin is next, and then after Mr. Martin, then  
20 Peter Johnson.

21 MR. BLOUNT: I am Kali Blount, a  
22 registered nurse and citizen planner. I live  
23 and occasionally work here in Gainesville. I  
24 work as an RN, so I can use my Master's in  
25 planning according to its academic ideas

1       without distortion by pay checks from  
2       politicals.

3               I have observed a lot as a Board member  
4       for Public Housing and Workforce Development,  
5       that is Florida Works in our areas and other  
6       work in community funding and development,  
7       poverty reduction, healthcare and affordable  
8       housing. I am going to try to talk real fast  
9       and say a whole lot.

10              So I appreciate the attention of all of  
11      you who are not busy surfing the Internet right  
12      now.

13              I have comments about the products of our  
14      pattern of representation, but first I want to  
15      Amen the call for speeding up the process, and  
16      as the Chair has responded several times, any  
17      member can offer a map or maps from the public  
18      are on the website, that is a turkey shoot.

19              We want the institution, your committee  
20      structure to produce faster, do your collective  
21      job expeditiously.

22              Now, my story, your screen says, tell us  
23      your story. So my story of experience and  
24      representation has to do with being a member of  
25      the Boards of both Housing Authorities locally



1 at different times.

2 We have an annual conference in D. C.  
3 where people, Board members and residents and  
4 Directors of Public Housing and Community  
5 Development gather in D. C. every spring to do  
6 a day on Capitol Hill.

7 We spend a month prior contacting our  
8 people, so for Gainesville that means  
9 contacting the Representatives of District 16  
10 and 3 and then we go as a Florida delegation,  
11 20 or 30 people sometimes to see each Senator  
12 together.

13 Now, all, those four contacts for us  
14 Gainesville folks have always yielded immediate  
15 response, except for one Representative who  
16 never answers us until the day before our  
17 Capitol Hill visit, which means we are already  
18 in D. C., practicing our talking points, and  
19 then with different persons, sometimes we see  
20 the esteemed person themselves, sometimes a  
21 senior aid. This particular person, as I said,  
22 never responds until the day before and we only  
23 see a junior aid or student intern ever, and  
24 that is the kind of responsiveness that I am  
25 concerned about.

1           This same person also has closed their  
2           local office in response to a visit by a local  
3           group of persons on a particular issue where  
4           they had stated their opinion and were not  
5           willing to discuss it.

6           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Mr. Blount, we are  
7           getting a little far afield. If you could --

8           MR. BLOUNT: I am talking about the  
9           results from a pattern --

10          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I am talking about  
11          redistricting and we would like you to  
12          conclude, please, because we have a whole bunch  
13          of people behind you and not too many minutes  
14          left.

15          MR. BLOUNT: Okay, so that the pattern of  
16          districting that we have has brought us,  
17          supposedly has created opportunities for  
18          minority representation. So I am talking about  
19          the topic, but it also gets us, gets us stuck  
20          with some unresponsive chaf in the bundle, and  
21          that is why I am describing that person.

22          Your thing said tell us your story. That  
23          is my story. This pattern also gets us the  
24          politics that re-enforces poverty and  
25          therefore, stunts development of individuals,

1 development of the state economy.

2 The Workforce Development folks have told  
3 you that we get objections from recruiting  
4 industries about our poor education rankings.  
5 We have existing state legislation that has  
6 said, break up economically segregated housing.  
7 That has been on the books since '85.

8 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I apologize, sir, we  
9 really have a lot of people behind you, and if  
10 you can't keep it to redistricting I will have  
11 to thank you for your testimony.

12 MR. BLOUNT: Well, if fair districts can  
13 evolve across Florida and much of this country,  
14 maybe we can involve toward eight or 12 major  
15 parties and even proportional representation  
16 and coalitions and governments that function  
17 and really respond to the people better than  
18 what we are seeing here tonight.

19 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you. Thank you  
20 very much. John Martin, you are next, and then  
21 Peter Johnson, and following Peter Johnson,  
22 Erin Murphy with the University of Florida  
23 College of Democrats.

24 Mr. Martin, thank you for being here and  
25 thanks for your patience. We look forward to

1 your testimony.

2 MR. MARTIN: Thank you, sir. I am from  
3 Hawthorne, the City of Hawthorne where I served  
4 as Mayor.

5 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thanks for your service  
6 as Mayor, sir.

7 MR. MARTIN: Currently I am not on the  
8 Commission currently. I am in House District  
9 -- I mean Congressional District 3, probably  
10 the most gerrymandered one maybe in the  
11 country.

12 I am in Senate District 14 and House  
13 District 23. My concern is actually similar to  
14 what Mayor Calderwood said earlier in Alachua,  
15 that -- that especially we haven't talked much  
16 about the Congressional Districts.

17 When you look at the Congressional  
18 Districts and you are from a very small  
19 community and I am not be-smurfing anyone who  
20 serves in that district, but I remember the  
21 first time I called their office and identified  
22 myself as the Mayor of Hawthorne, they said,  
23 well, we need to check to see what  
24 Congressional District you are in.

25 And I said, well, I have already done

1       that, but anyway, I really believe that when  
2       you look at and when you take into the small  
3       communities, you need to look not only at the  
4       geographic, but what is the natural fit for  
5       those communities, and a place like Hawthorne,  
6       I think that we deserve to be in with the rest  
7       of Alachua County or the majority of Alachua  
8       County and not Jacksonville and Orlando,  
9       because that -- I mean, pick one of the two,  
10      but trying to be between both of them is very  
11      difficult.

12             The other thing I want to say and this is  
13      kind of more on the light side, you know, be  
14      careful, as much as I respect the voters of  
15      Florida, I mean, I grew up following the  
16      Legislature around from a young kid.

17             We all, we are not only about this latest  
18      thing, but we voted to put pigs in the  
19      Constitution as well. So sometimes there are  
20      unintended consequences, and I will tell you as  
21      with someone who has followed politics in this  
22      part of the state since I can remember, that  
23      one of the unintended consequences of term  
24      limits has been that you don't have the  
25      representation for the rural areas and those

1 types of things, not that the men and women  
2 that are there now are not capable, but without  
3 the seniority that they had, it becomes a  
4 numbers game.

5 So all I am saying to that is that when  
6 you look at the vote that was taken and I  
7 respect the vote for the two Amendments, there  
8 will be unintended consequences, okay.

9 There was a time when the Democrats were  
10 running the state of Florida for the most part,  
11 they did redistricting. I am sure that they  
12 didn't mean to redistrict in such a way that a  
13 majority of Republicans came in. They came in  
14 probably under districts that Democrats had  
15 drawn for the most part.

16 So all I am saying as citizens, let's not  
17 panic. With term limits, the next time that  
18 this happens, with all due respect to you, most  
19 of you won't be sitting here.

20 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: That is right.

21 MR. MARTIN: So things will change. Let's  
22 take a deep breath, try to do what we think is  
23 in the best interest of the citizens of the  
24 state of Florida, and realize that they are,  
25 all of those who are both for or opposed to

1       these Amendments, and I will close with this,  
2       believe me, there will be consequences that are  
3       unforeseen that you won't like if you supported  
4       it or if you didn't support it, because  
5       elections have consequences. Thank you.

6               CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Mayor, we  
7       appreciate it. Peter Johnson, you are next,  
8       Peter Johnson? Is Peter Johnson here? How  
9       about Erin Murphy with the College Democrats,  
10      and then following Ms. Murphy, Reba, and I am  
11      not going to take a shot at this, Reba, you are  
12      going to have to help me. 1904 Northwest 11th  
13      Road, and then Chris Ott is next. Ms. Murphy,  
14      thank you for being here.

15             MS. MURPHY: Thank you. My name is Erin  
16      Murphy and I am the President of the UF College  
17      Democrats. Thank you all for being here this  
18      evening.

19             As a UF student I go to campus every day  
20      and go to class in one House District and that  
21      is Representative Perry's, and then I go home  
22      to my apartment in another House District,  
23      which is Representative Chestnut's.

24             I am sure you are both wonderful  
25      Representatives, but it can be confusing at

1 times because as a student and as someone who  
2 is interested in politics, there are issues  
3 that I would like to advocate on, especially as  
4 a student at a university where I am facing  
5 budget cuts to my university, hikes in tuition,  
6 cuts to my Bright Future's funding, which is  
7 the reason I am able to attend, able to attend  
8 college.

9 And I think that it is difficult, because  
10 sometimes I wonder who is really representing  
11 me. The place I live or the place I go to  
12 school. It can get, it is very confusing, and  
13 so as a constituent, where should I turn, and  
14 in going through all of this out of the blue  
15 there came Fair Districts.

16 Amendments V and VI, they are going to be  
17 on the ballot for 2010, and so, you know, I  
18 advocated passionately for those Amendments in  
19 the 2010 election, and I know that we worked  
20 very hard on our campus to get students to  
21 understand the issues and to vote and democracy  
22 ran its course and Amendments V and VI were  
23 adopted with 63 percent of the vote, and they  
24 are now a part of the Florida Constitution.

25 And things that I find disheartening is



1       when I get the feeling that you as my elected  
2       officials aren't really interested in enforcing  
3       the will of the people.  When I heard that  
4       there is a \$30 million fund in the House and an  
5       \$8 million fund in the Senate in preparation  
6       for legal battles over this, which I understand  
7       there are legal battles every time there is  
8       redistricting, but I am pretty sure this is  
9       more than the cost than it usually is, and it  
10      is in anticipation of fighting Fair Districts,  
11      I have to ask, please don't waste taxpayer  
12      dollars in fighting something that the  
13      taxpayers voted for.

14             And with that I would ask you to implement  
15      Fair Districts Florida, as the people of  
16      Florida have asked you to.

17             CHAIRMAN GAETZ:  Thank you, Ms. Murphy.  
18      And Ms. Murphy, again, not to be argumentative,  
19      but just because sometimes something gets in  
20      the blood stream and it is hard to get it out,  
21      ten years ago in the Senate and I wasn't in the  
22      Senate ten years ago, but ten years ago in the  
23      Senate the legal costs associated with  
24      redistricting, and there were I think three  
25      court challenges, were \$10 million.

1           The \$9 million that are budgeted for over  
2           a two-year period are not to fight Fair  
3           Districts, but rather to make sure that we are  
4           able to present the redistricting plans to the  
5           various courts that we have to present them to  
6           and defend them in front of those courts as  
7           well as the United States Justice Department.

8           I can tell you that in the Florida Senate  
9           there is not one penny in any line item, in any  
10          budget, to fight Fair Districts. That is just  
11          not true.

12          But thank you very much, Ms. Murphy, for  
13          your testimony. And Reba, can you help me out  
14          with that last name?

15          MS. BANDYOPADHYAY: I did it once. It is  
16          Bandyopadhyay.

17          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Do it again?

18          MS. BANDYOPADHYAY: Bandyopadhyay.

19          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Bandypadhyay.

20          MS. BANDYOPADHYAY: Yes, don't look at it,  
21          it is easier.

22          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Okay, I will just,  
23          Bandypadhyay. Thank you so much for being  
24          here, again.

25          MS. BANDYPADHYAY: I would like to thank

1       you for coming to Gainesville and to Alachua  
2       County to listen to us and giving us the  
3       opportunity to speak.

4               I agree with many other previous speakers  
5       that this would have been a much more useful  
6       exercise if we had all had maps to look at  
7       beforehand.

8               And as has been pointed out, although the  
9       previous last time you had the meetings in  
10      July, they also had maps in July for people to  
11      look at. So it is a little bit of an exercise.

12              On the other hand, I can point to one  
13      thing that concerns me, is that the legislative  
14      line for the Congressional Districts, the U. S.  
15      Congress, goes down more or less 13th Avenue,  
16      except for it carved out my neighborhood to  
17      stick it on the east side of town, even though  
18      it is on the west side.

19              What that does, it means that we have two  
20      Representatives in Congress, one of whom is  
21      described as D-Jacksonville, and the other one  
22      is described as R-Ocala. That is who has --  
23      who Gainesville has representing them in the  
24      Congress, and that is actually important  
25      because that splits, as has been talked about,

1       it splits the community of the University of  
2       Florida in two, which is actually relevant to  
3       how we get funding, not just at the state  
4       level, but also in the Federal level because we  
5       look at funding that comes from Congress  
6       regarding scientific, medical research that  
7       comes to the University of Florida and there is  
8       a big economic engine here and if we don't have  
9       a Representative in Gainesville, which I don't  
10      really think has been maybe explicitly  
11      mentioned, then it is very difficult to get  
12      those points across to our Legislators because  
13      we have to go to Ocala or we have to go to  
14      Jacksonville.

15           They have local offices but that is not  
16      the same thing as having their primary seat  
17      here in Gainesville. And so I would just like  
18      to urge that when we look at those lines in  
19      this upcoming redistricting, that it is  
20      considered that Gainesville, itself, is a city,  
21      is a community of interest, and although that  
22      exact terminology is not in the Fair Districts  
23      legislation, that we actually consider that as  
24      being a primary continuous boundary that we  
25      would like to see in one district and not in

1 two. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you,  
3 Ms. Bandyopadhyay. Now we have Michael Bowie  
4 from Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and then James  
5 Ingle and then Ron Thornton.

6 I apologize, I didn't mean to skip you,  
7 Chris Ott. I had you right on top. Thank you  
8 for being here.

9 MR. OTT: Well, thank you for being here.  
10 I want to thank you for taking, for giving up  
11 your evening. I am sure you have families and  
12 things, I know I have a son out at, from out of  
13 town.

14 It looks like he is out having fun with  
15 his friends and I am going to miss him because  
16 he is leaving in the morning, but this is an  
17 important event.

18 I was at the last redistricting when it  
19 was at the Doyle Conner Center ten years ago.  
20 At that point I wondered why it was called a  
21 hearing, because there wasn't much listening  
22 going on, there was people texting and talking  
23 and chatting, and I appreciate that you have  
24 run a fair meeting, Mr. Gaetz. I appreciate  
25 that.

1           I think what we need our districts that  
2       elect Representatives that we can access  
3       readily and we can meet them. Some of the --  
4       some of the 150-mile long districts and things  
5       we got, I know, I live in Gainesville and I  
6       work in Archer, and every election I see  
7       Mr. Bembry out there putting out his signs at  
8       the Davis Center, and, you know, I say hi and  
9       then I see him in Tallahassee, also, but it is  
10      pretty ridiculous what we got.

11           And I think just common sense, just  
12      showing those maps, that is why 63 percent of  
13      Floridians have spoken through the ballot to  
14      change the way that we redistrict things.

15           The first time the Fair Districts tried to  
16      put this on the ballot they actually didn't,  
17      they wanted to remove the redistricting from  
18      the Legislature. They wanted to have an  
19      impartial body to do the job, but the Courts  
20      threw that out because they said that it was  
21      two issues, multiple issues on a ballot, you  
22      can only have a specific one issue on a ballot.

23           You know, I am trying to look at that  
24      bumper sticker that says More Wag and Less  
25      Bark, but what I see is that as a consequence

1 of having Representatives that I don't feel  
2 really represent me, and I think this is just  
3 another gentleman put it pretty well.

4 When you draw things to favor incumbents,  
5 incumbents know they can win so they can go to  
6 Tallahassee or Washington and they can say what  
7 they want to say, and it makes our country get  
8 more and more polarized and we are now at the  
9 place where, I don't know, I am kind of fearful  
10 about, you know, our country driving off the  
11 cliff, playing chicken with the debt crisis and  
12 what-not, because we can't sit down and have a  
13 discussion about issues.

14 What we are doing now is we are picking  
15 sides, and I have neighbors and I am tired of  
16 picking sides. We are all Americans here, and  
17 I think if you watched the World Cup the other  
18 day when the Brazilian girl just dropped in the  
19 box to waste time, and the fans in the stands  
20 saw it, nobody heard her, she was faking it,  
21 and she got put on the stretcher, took up two  
22 minutes of time, Abby Wambach back said, watch  
23 the time, please, Referee. As soon as that  
24 stretcher got off the field, that girl jumped  
25 off, ran around, tried to get back in the game.

1           Floridians are watching what is going on.  
2           We don't want to be duked. And they are  
3           watching because they want this to be a fair  
4           process.

5           Where are the maps? Got maps? We should  
6           be discussing the particulars of how to make  
7           things fair. One thing that I have gotten here  
8           tonight is the folks in the rural county  
9           wanting to have a fair shake.

10          The other thing I have heard is we are  
11          going to have water issues here. We are going  
12          to have, you know, there is the old story, I  
13          got good news and bad news about water. Do you  
14          want the good news, the good news is where --

15          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I apologize, Mr. Ott, you  
16          are going to have to wind it up.

17          MR. OTT: I am wrapping it up. The good  
18          news is we are going to be drinking sewage in  
19          about 25 years. The bad news is there not  
20          going to be enough to go around.

21          So we have some serious issues, we need to  
22          start working on talking about the issues and  
23          stop picking sides.

24          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Ott, very  
25          much. Michael Bowie, Michael Bowie here? How



1       about James Ingle, James Ingle, then Ron  
2       Thornton and then Mark Werner with the  
3       Democratic Party. Mr. Ingle, thank you for  
4       coming tonight.

5               MR. INGLE: I appreciate it, sorry, I am  
6       actually a little bit under dressed than  
7       everybody else, I woke up about --

8               CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You are a citizen, we  
9       work for you, you are not under dressed. We  
10      welcome you.

11              MR. INGLE: Thank you. I woke up about  
12      4:00 this morning, drove to Crystal River,  
13      worked a ten-hour shift in a power plant, drove  
14      back and came to this meeting, so it has been  
15      kind of a full day.

16              I wanted to tell you guys how impressed  
17      and how much I like this process. That is what  
18      I wanted to do, it is not true. I feel like it  
19      is lacking a lot.

20              You know, this seems entirely backwards to  
21      me, like we are here discussing the districts  
22      and what they need to look like without a map,  
23      with a giant blank 30-foot screen behind you.

24              It seems very hard to have a legitimate  
25      conversation about it without the information

1           being out.

2           You have mentioned several times that  
3           there is nothing stopping the Legislators from  
4           putting maps out today or yesterday or the day  
5           before, but the fact that there is nothing  
6           stopping them and no maps have come out from  
7           the Legislators, it seems to make it seem to me  
8           that it is not a particular priority for the  
9           leadership in the Legislature.

10          You know, I don't want to stand up here  
11          and attack all Legislators, you know, I have  
12          been to Tallahassee, I have sat in Mr. Evers's  
13          office and Mr. Oelrich and Mr. Chestnut and  
14          they seem like decent people and they have  
15          always been honest and straight up with me and  
16          I don't want to -- what I say sound like I am  
17          attacking every single person standing up  
18          there, because I am certainly not.

19          I also know you are great people, but the  
20          Legislature as a whole, I have just not been  
21          very impressed with them on this issue.

22          You know, Florida is already kind of a  
23          laughing stock around the country for politics  
24          and now we are in a position of Florida is  
25          suing itself about fair districts.

1           So we as taxpayers get to pay both sides  
2       of a lawsuit, like we are just throwing money  
3       at lawyers, and it just seems like in a state  
4       where we talk so much about budget crisis, that  
5       seems like a bad place to be spending money  
6       right now.

7           You know, and during the last election the  
8       voters spoke, you know, and whether you agree  
9       with the Fair Districts or not, two out of  
10      three Floridians came out and said that is how  
11      they wanted their districts done, before we had  
12      a map that looked like that, and there is only  
13      one reason a map like that gets drawn. It gets  
14      drawn for political power.

15          The party in power draws that map to make  
16      sure it maintains power, and I realize that  
17      nobody standing on this stage had anything to  
18      do with drawing that map. That was before  
19      everybody's time, but at the same time,  
20      everybody on this stage has had -- been  
21      affected by how that map was drawn.

22          So, I mean, this is all of our problem and  
23      I think that the voters need to be listened to,  
24      and I worry that several of the kind of veins  
25      the Legislature went in seem to be against the

1 will of the people.

2 It seemed like voter rights were under  
3 attack and it doesn't seem like as much as  
4 being done as could be to move forward with the  
5 Fair Districts, and as I said I would love to  
6 come up here and tell you how impressed I am  
7 with this process, and I wish the process was  
8 in place so I could be impressed with. Thank  
9 you.

10 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, thank you very  
11 much for taking the time to come tonight. Now,  
12 here is where we are. We have by my clock  
13 about 14 minutes left. I have about 30 people  
14 who want to talk.

15 So we are not going to get to everybody,  
16 so here is what we can do, if we don't get to  
17 you tonight, obviously it is not because we  
18 didn't want to, we have heard, by my count,  
19 gosh, 71 speakers so far.

20 So if we didn't get to you, you can still  
21 submit your comments, they will be given to  
22 every single member of the committee and every  
23 member of the committee will have the benefit  
24 of your wisdom and there will be other hearings  
25 and other opportunities as well to speak if you

1       would like, but we are going to go as far as we  
2       can with the people who are here. We ask you  
3       to please be as brief as you can.

4             Ron Thornton? Ron Thornton? Once, twice,  
5       three times, Mike Werner, representing the  
6       Democratic Party. And then, Kim, I think it is  
7       Popejoy, and then Tommy Langford.

8             Thank you very much for being here  
9       tonight, Mr. Werner.

10            MR. WERNER: Thank you for giving me the  
11       opportunity to speak, and I would like to thank  
12       you, the Chairman, for your -- your demeanor  
13       and the respect you have given to all of the  
14       speakers and how you have made this more of an  
15       affable and non partisan type of atmosphere.

16            First of all, I would like to have a  
17       question. I didn't know before I came here and  
18       I am rather new to this redistricting process,  
19       I didn't know that there was some legal move  
20       afoot that was put into place by the  
21       Legislature to contest the legality of the Fair  
22       Districting Amendment, and I just wonder how  
23       many people on the stage now voted in favor of  
24       contesting that Amendment or whether, what is  
25       the, you know, whether they were in favor of

1           it.

2                   Is there anyone on the stage who was in  
3           favor of legally contesting the Fair  
4           Districting Amendment?

5                   CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I will tell you what we  
6           can do. As opposed to giving everybody an  
7           opportunity to explain their position, why  
8           don't we give you, why don't we give you a  
9           chance to talk afterwards with anybody you want  
10          to talk to, but I think you will find that,  
11          that there is a difference of opinion among  
12          Senators, Representatives, Republicans,  
13          Democrats. What else do you have for us  
14          tonight?

15                  MR. WERNER: Well, I would just like to  
16          mention the main reason that I am here, and  
17          that is because the gerrymandering process can,  
18          by its very nature, dilute out whole sections  
19          of the electorate and produce a result in which  
20          there is, instead of which democracy instead of  
21          being government by the majority, is government  
22          by the minority.

23                  And we have several examples of that in  
24          recent and not so recent history, starting with  
25          Samuel J. Tilden against Rutherford B. Hayes,

1       when Rutherford B. Hayes was named President,  
2       even though he had a minority of the votes,  
3       when Albert Gore got a majority of the votes of  
4       the country and George Bush was proclaimed  
5       President.

6               So I just want to make the point that you  
7       have a very large responsibility in instituting  
8       the fair districts to prevent this from  
9       happening, because I am concerned that we are  
10      moving more towards a democracy where there is  
11      government by the minority instead of  
12      government by the majority.

13             And lastly, I would like to echo the  
14      sentiment about think globally but act locally,  
15      and in that sense I think that there are, what  
16      we do here has some bearing on really around  
17      the world.

18             Right now in the Middle East there is a  
19      tremendous upsurge of sentiment for democracy  
20      and I think it is our responsibility to be a  
21      beacon of democracy and be an example that  
22      other people can follow and embrace.

23             And I think that is what we want to do and  
24      that is what the voters of Florida wanted to do  
25      with the Fair District Amendment, was to make

1           this a better democracy and that is why I would  
2           urge you to go with the Amendment and the  
3           spirit of the Amendment.

4           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
5           Next, Kim, is it Popejoy, and then Tommy  
6           Langford, and I hope we will have time for Ted  
7           Yoho. Kim?

8           MS. POPEJOY: Kim Popejoy, citizen and for  
9           those of you that are still able to listen,  
10          thank you very much for being here to listen.

11          It has been said that if you have a varied  
12          group of people it takes seven times and seven  
13          different ways and I think that you have all  
14          heard today that people want you to speed up  
15          the process and I know you have heard that at  
16          least seven times.

17          People want you to pay attention to the  
18          county lines, you have heard that at least  
19          seven times today. I think you have also heard  
20          that people need you to try and keep rural  
21          districts contiguous also, seven times.

22          So I urge you to take those particular  
23          areas of concern back to your committees and  
24          urge your staff to give us maps ASAP.

25          Secondly, I want to go to just very



1       briefly, the big picture, and it has been  
2       mentioned a couple of times, that we are much  
3       more of a polarized society today than we have  
4       been in quite some time, and some of that may  
5       be laid at the feet of how districting is done.

6               Without competitive districts, then we  
7       have less opportunity for representing the  
8       middle of the country, and if we go back to  
9       1859 and 1860, we are a very polarized country.

10              I am sure that no one at that time thought  
11       that it would explode in the way that it did.

12       I am sure that nobody thinks that the kind of  
13       polarization that we have in the country today  
14       is going to explode in anything kind of  
15       similar, but I ask you to keep that in mind  
16       that we want to make sure that we do not let  
17       the polarization that is current in our country  
18       continue to progress to the point where we are  
19       actually at each other's throats as we were in  
20       past.

21              And one of the ways that we can do that is  
22       to create competitive districts, competitive  
23       districts will give us middle of the road  
24       candidates.

25              CHAIRMAN GAETZ:   Thank you very, very much

1           for your comments. Next is Tommy Langford, and  
2           then Ted Yoho and we are going to try to get to  
3           D. J. Ferguson. Mr. Langford?

4           MR. LANGFORD: Thank you, sir, for the  
5           honor to speak to you tonight. I appreciate  
6           having the opportunity to be here.

7           Just a couple of words, I will be brief, I  
8           am here to represent Gilchrist County. I want  
9           to remind you and ask you to keep the rural  
10          counties rural as much as you can, because our  
11          wants and desires are a little bit different  
12          than the urban areas and I am sure that you  
13          understand that.

14          The other thing is, just make sure that we  
15          try to keep it as fair as we can. I know ya'll  
16          have been elected to go to Tallahassee. You  
17          got the majority votes, that is the reason you  
18          hold that seat. So I just ask that you do it  
19          right, do it fair, abide by the law.

20          I appreciate your courage for being here  
21          tonight. I know that you are in a situation  
22          where you are going to hear good things, bad  
23          things, everybody wants this, everybody wants  
24          that, and you can't please them all, but do the  
25          best you can with what you got and thank you,

1           sir.

2           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
3           Ted Yoho and then D. J. Ferguson.

4           MR. YOHO: How are ya'll doing, appreciate  
5           your time, Mr. Chairman, and the Honorable  
6           Representatives.

7           I pretty much am going to defer to what  
8           everybody said because they have covered all of  
9           my points, but just a few things.

10          Especially in regards to Ms. Kidder,  
11          especially in regards to a candidate, since I  
12          am -- I am a candidate, and it is hard to  
13          campaign without these lines drawn, and we have  
14          been told it may be even up to November. It  
15          just creates --

16          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Let me disabuse you of  
17          that. That is simply not true.

18          MR. YOHO: Well, that is good, that makes  
19          me feel better, but it causes a lot of  
20          confusion on the voter's side, too.

21          My encouragement is to be fair, equitable,  
22          expedient and use common sense as Mr. Boyetx  
23          pointed out here in the town of Archer and all  
24          of the different districts in that, and I know  
25          you will be.

1           It is hard to give an opinion and people  
2           have brought this up over and over again  
3           without seeing a map. It is kind of like going  
4           out on a blind date and your buddy said, well,  
5           what is it like, and I said well, I will tell  
6           you after we go out on the date.

7           You would expedite this or make it faster  
8           if we had the maps where we could just say  
9           these look good, and, you know, I know that is  
10          a tough thing with the demographics.

11          And so I encourage you to make it as, the  
12          maps available as soon as possible and to bring  
13          the process to a quick and equitable conclusion  
14          and I appreciate your time and your service.

15          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much. D.  
16          J. Ferguson, D. J. Ferguson? Okay, George  
17          Tedford, George Tedford? Judith Etzler, Judith  
18          Etzler, Judith Etzler. I -- is there -- are  
19          you Ms. Etzler? Please come forward. You will  
20          be our last speaker this evening.

21          First shall be last and the last shall be  
22          first. We are delighted to have your  
23          testimony.

24          MS. ETZLER: Thank you for holding this  
25          meeting. I voted for Fair Districts, and I

1       really believe in one citizen, one vote. I am  
2       getting pretty sinical about all of the ways  
3       that I am being manipulated as a citizen, I am  
4       just talking as one citizen.

5               I am a very serious citizen and I always  
6       vote and I follow issues. I follow the news on  
7       television, I follow local issues, I follow  
8       Federal and I also try to pay attention to  
9       national issues.

10              But I don't appreciate all of the  
11       political games that are being played with me.  
12       Word framing, not gerrymandering districts,  
13       there are so many things that I don't  
14       appreciate and I think it waste my time, it  
15       waste your time and it also waste our citizens'  
16       money.

17              Please, the last thing I will say is,  
18       please treat us with respect. We need your  
19       respect. We try to respect you, and also if  
20       you would treat us as intelligent citizens.

21              I am very intelligent and I am tired of  
22       being disregarded and I am tired of being, the  
23       feeling of being sinical about my government.  
24       I love my government. I am an American  
25       citizen, I always vote.

1           I come from a long family of voters and I  
2           was taught to love my country. So please allow  
3           me to keep on doing that and keep on respecting  
4           the people who make the laws and don't waste  
5           our money, thank you.

6           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Etzler.  
7           We have heard 70 -- by my reckoning, we have  
8           called 79 names and I think we have heard 75  
9           testifiers tonight.

10          We appreciate everyone's willingness to  
11          come forward. There are maps available now on  
12          the websites that have been submitted. There  
13          are likely to be more maps submitted.

14          The one thing I would like to share with  
15          you is that apparently there is some impression  
16          that somehow this committee will -- will have a  
17          map that springs fully grown from the Brow of  
18          Suske (phonetic). That is simply not the case.

19          The fact is that there will be individual  
20          maps generated by individual Legislators, just  
21          like there are individual maps being generated  
22          now by citizens and by interest groups.

23          The last time there was a public hearing  
24          in Gainesville about this matter was in July,  
25          in the last cycle. There were maps then, but I

1       will guarantee you that there will be maps long  
2       before July, and, you know, unless the creek  
3       rises, we will be long gone with this whole  
4       issue long before July.

5               So we really appreciate your willingness  
6       to come out tonight. We appreciate your  
7       kindness to the individuals who spoke, whether  
8       you agreed with them or whether you didn't  
9       agree with them, and we are delighted to get  
10      the kind of input that we could not have gotten  
11      any other way or any other place than from  
12      listening to the specifics about your  
13      neighborhoods and your communities.

14             This is not your last time to have input.  
15      This is your first time to have input, and  
16      please continue to be involved in this  
17      important process that defines our  
18      representative government.

19             With that, Representative Precourt moves  
20      we rise.

21             (Whereupon, the proceedings were  
22      concluded.)

23  
24  
25

## 1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )

3 COUNTY OF LEON )

4 I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript  
5 is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned,  
6 and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting  
7 under my direction;

8 That the foregoing pages 2 through 163  
9 represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of  
10 the tape- recording;

11 And I further certify that I am not of kin or  
12 counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the  
13 regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor  
14 am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

15 Dated this 12th day of September, 2011.

16

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

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Notary Public

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State of Florida at Large

22

Commission Expires:

23

November 13, 2014

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REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

10

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2011

11

8:00 A.M.

12

COLONY COTTAGE RECREATION CENTER

13

THE VILLAGES, FLORIDA

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

Transcribed by:

21

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

22

Court Reporter

23

24

25

1 T A P E D P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN PRECOURT: Representative  
3 Precourt, the Joint Senate House Redistricting  
4 hearing is hereby called to order. We are also  
5 pleased to be joined today by a number of other  
6 members here, Senators and Representatives  
7 alike, but first I would like Senator Alan Hays  
8 here to have an opportunity to welcome everyone  
9 and let other members introduce themselves.

10 Before we do that I am Steve Precourt,  
11 State Representative from House District 41,  
12 which includes south Lake County, parts of  
13 Orange and west Orange County, and I will be  
14 chairing today's meeting, and the -- with me  
15 today from the Chair of the Senate  
16 Redistricting Committee is Senator Gaetz who  
17 will be Co-Chairing the meeting, and with that  
18 let me turn it over to Alan to go ahead and  
19 welcome everyone.

20 SENATOR HAYS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
21 and it is my privilege to welcome all of the  
22 members from across the state to Senate  
23 District 20. You are right in the heart of  
24 God's country, and you are in, you are in House  
25 District 42, Representative Marlene O'Toole's

1 district and we certainly want to thank each of  
2 you for coming this morning to participate in  
3 democracy.

4 It is great to look out there and see  
5 Speaker Larry Cretul and Senator Carey Baker  
6 with us today also. Thank you for joining us,  
7 guys, but it is my privilege to be the Senator  
8 for this area and certainly enjoy welcoming  
9 each of you to hear some real good input today.

10 A VOICE: Good morning, and it is a great  
11 day in The Villages, is it not? I am happy to  
12 see you all here. It is like church, no one is  
13 up front, but we will pass the plate back there  
14 just the same.

15 Thank you for being here, and I am just  
16 going to turn right back -- is everyone speak,  
17 and this is Representative Passidomo from the  
18 Naples area.

19 REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: Good morning,  
20 Kathleen Passidomo, I am from Collier County, I  
21 represent the City of Naples, Marco Island,  
22 Everglades city and a lot of alligators.

23 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Good morning, I am  
24 Jim Boyd. I am from Bradenton, which is  
25 Manatee County, District 68, just south of

1 Tampa Bay on the other side of the, the other  
2 part of the state over there. Thank you.

3 REPRESENTATIVE HOOPER: Good morning,  
4 everyone, I am Ed Hooper from -- a  
5 Representative from District 50, which is the  
6 Clearwater area of Pinellas County, and I  
7 purposely took my golf clubs out of the car  
8 before I got here so I would make this meeting.

9 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Good morning,  
10 Representative Chuck Chestnut, House District  
11 23, a portion of Alachua County and a portion  
12 of Marion County.

13 REPRESENTATIVE GOODSON: Good morning,  
14 Representative Tom Goodson, representing  
15 Brevard County and Indian River County, House  
16 Seat 29.

17 SENATOR MONTFORD: I am State Senator Bill  
18 Montford, District 6. It is all or a part of  
19 11 counties, all around Tallahassee, and we are  
20 proud to say, well, I was proud to say that I  
21 have a lot of relatives move down here but the  
22 problem is they can't vote for me anymore, but  
23 take good care of them.

24 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: State Representative  
25 Peter Nehr from Pinellas County and Pasco

1 County, Palm Harbor and the East Lake area.

2 Thank you.

3 REPRESENTATIVE KAIR: Hello, everybody, my  
4 name is Martin Kair, I represent District 97 in  
5 the Florida House of representatives, which is  
6 located solely within Brevard County. Thank  
7 you so much for coming today.

8 REPRESENTATIVE CALDWELL: Good morning,  
9 Representative Matt Caldwell, District 73 down  
10 in southwest Florida, Lee County.

11 REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: Good morning, I am  
12 Representative Jim Frishe, I am the majority  
13 whip of the Florida House. I represent  
14 District 54, which is the west coast of  
15 Pinellas County, all of the beaches.

16 REPRESENTATIVE ADKINS: Hi, my name is  
17 Janet Adkins, I represent House District 12,  
18 which is in northeast Florida, Nassau, Baker,  
19 Bradford, Clay, Union and Duval Counties.

20 REPRESENTATIVE STARGEL: Hi, my name is  
21 Kelli Stargel, I am a State Representative for  
22 District 64, which is north Polk County and my  
23 grandfather actually was the Sheriff of Sumter  
24 County back in the late 1800s, so I have roots  
25 here.

1           SENATOR THRASHER: Hi, I am Senator John  
2 Thrasher, Senate District 8, which includes  
3 parts of Nassau County up in the north part of  
4 Florida, Duval County, St. Johns County,  
5 Flagler County and Volusia County, and honored  
6 to be here today.

7           CHAIRMAN PRECOURT: Senator Evers.

8           SENATOR EVERS: And I am Senator Greg  
9 Evers, I represent District 2 in the Senate,  
10 which is up in the panhandle. It is north  
11 Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton,  
12 Washington, Holmes Counties, and it is a  
13 pleasure to be here at The Villages.

14          CHAIRMAN PRECOURT: Okay, I think we got  
15 everyone. Any other members? Terrific. So,  
16 folks, you see that we have got members from  
17 all over the state of Florida that are here.

18          The sole purpose is to hear you and to  
19 hear your input from both parties as well,  
20 there is Republicans and Democrats as well up  
21 here.

22          We are trying to make this as open,  
23 transparent and inclusive a process as  
24 possible.

25          First I want to also say thanks to The

1 Villages, themselves, for allowing us to use  
2 this beautiful facility. It is great to have  
3 the opportunity to be in a place like this  
4 where everybody can come and enjoy themselves  
5 at meeting as well, and we want to thank you  
6 all for being here.

7 You, the members of the public, you are  
8 taking time out of your day to come and share  
9 your comments and recommendations with us to  
10 help us shape the Congressional Seats, State  
11 Senate Seats, as well as the Representative  
12 Seats.

13 Today's hearing is also being televised,  
14 simulcast on Florida Channel over the Internet.

15 Once again, our sole purpose is to hear  
16 from you about how you believe the legal  
17 standards governing redistricting should be  
18 applied in your community, as well as statewide  
19 so that you are represented in Washington and  
20 Tallahassee fairly, equitably and sensibly.

21 Now, our procedures today are very simple,  
22 but they are going to be very important to  
23 follow.

24 It is important that you sign in so we can  
25 create an accurate public record of all of the

1 attendees and the speakers. You may also want  
2 to as part of signing in, join our e-mail list  
3 so that we can keep you informed about the  
4 entirety of the redistricting process and all  
5 of the developments along the way, whether it  
6 be meetings, news or you get to see what other  
7 people submit as far as maps and comments on  
8 the redistricting process.

9 So if you are not signed in, please raise  
10 your hand and one of our staff who are around  
11 the room will give you an attendance card.

12 In addition, if you wish to speak today  
13 and you have not filed out an attendance card,  
14 make sure you do. They are like this. We need  
15 these to make sure that we give you the  
16 opportunity to speak.

17 Now, if you haven't filled one out and you  
18 want to fill one out later on in the meeting,  
19 because it comes to mind that you have  
20 something more or different to say, you can do  
21 that at any time as well by seeing one of our  
22 staff and they will get those cards up to me  
23 and get them in line.

24 Our job is going to be to sit here and  
25 listen though, the folks up here on the dais,



1 but before we begin, I want to recognize  
2 Senator Gaetz to explain how today's hearing  
3 will fit into the overall redistricting  
4 process. Senator Gaetz.

5 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
6 Mr. Chairman, and it is good to be here. I am  
7 Don Gaetz, I represent five coastal counties up  
8 in northwest Florida, from Panama City to  
9 Pensacola, and you stole my jeweler. Bill and  
10 Suzie Houck came down here to live and they  
11 closed their jewelry store and my wife's  
12 birthdays haven't been the same since.

13 Every ten years the Legislature is  
14 required by our Constitution to redistrict the  
15 state based on increases, decreases and  
16 movements of population. Because Florida has  
17 grown more than other states in the last decade  
18 we will move up, Florida will move up from 25  
19 to 27 members of the U.S. House of  
20 Representatives, and we get two more electoral  
21 votes for President. So we are up to 29  
22 electoral votes for President.

23 Now, because some parts of the state have  
24 increased or decreased disproportionately in  
25 population, many Senate and House Districts

1 will change either by adding or losing  
2 population.

3 When redistricting is completed,  
4 Congressional Districts have to be equal in  
5 size. They have to be equal in population and  
6 contain 696,345 people. That is a  
7 Congressional District, no matter where it is  
8 in America.

9 The 40 Senate Districts here in Florida  
10 must also be nearly equal at about 44 hundred  
11 and seventy thousand people and our 120 House  
12 Districts must also be nearly equal at about  
13 156,700 people.

14 Now, we have displays in the front of the  
15 room here and in the back of the room as well  
16 showing the current boundaries of districts in  
17 this area of the state, and also the number of  
18 persons who have to be added or subtracted from  
19 current districts in order to achieve equal  
20 representation.

21 So there are maps. We can use the current  
22 maps as a take-off point for you to tell us  
23 what is right, what is wrong, what should be  
24 changed, what should be kept, and you will be  
25 able to see how many additional people have to

1 be added or subtracted from every district.

2 But equality of representation is not the  
3 only legal requirement redistricting plans must  
4 meet. The laws and important court cases  
5 governing redistricting are explained in detail  
6 on the House and Senate websites.

7 Those websites are listed on the  
8 Redistricting 2012 brochure that was available  
9 when you came in. If you didn't get one of  
10 those brochures you can get one during the  
11 meeting, you can get one afterwards.

12 The brochure summarizes Federal and State  
13 laws and outlines topics that we hope you will  
14 discuss here at today's meeting. The brochure  
15 also details what is on our websites. The  
16 websites are packed with information about  
17 redistricting in Florida, including an  
18 explanation of laws and important court cases  
19 governing this process.

20 The Legislature can't just draw lines the  
21 way it wants to. We are obligated to follow  
22 Federal laws, State laws, Constitutional  
23 provisions, as well as be guided by important  
24 court cases that have affected redistricting.

25 The websites also deliver to your

1       fingertips important demographics information  
2       that will be used by us in drawing districts  
3       and the exact same computer software that  
4       Legislators and professional staff will use is  
5       on the website.

6               As soon as we got the information from the  
7       Bureau of the Census about Florida and the  
8       descriptors about all of us as Floridians, we  
9       put it on the website. we got our information  
10      from the Census Bureau later than most states.

11             We put it on the website, and then also  
12      the software that is used to draw the districts  
13      is on the website so that anybody can take a  
14      look at it, can draw districts that might be in  
15      your area of the state, or if you want to, you  
16      can draw the whole state.

17             Before, during and after this hearing  
18      Senate and House staff are available to show  
19      anybody the simple steps to getting on-line,  
20      building districts and submitting a plan if you  
21      want, now or in the weeks to come.

22             Recommendations from citizens or from  
23      interest groups will are made publicly  
24      available as soon as we get them. In other  
25      words, as soon as you submit an idea for how

1       you think things ought to be changed we will  
2       put it on the website so everybody can see it.

3               As soon as a Legislator submits a Bill or  
4       a map, we will put it on the website so you can  
5       see it and comment on it. In fact, some  
6       submissions, some maps are already on the  
7       website and available for you to look at.

8               The other day when we were in Jacksonville  
9       literally during the hearing there were three  
10      more maps that were placed on the website,  
11      three more proposals that were submitted. So  
12      there are some options to look at already.

13              The submission of proposed maps, whether  
14      it is for your part of the state, whether it is  
15      for your neighborhood, whether it is for the  
16      whole state, submission of maps that makes  
17      sense to you, to your community, is the single  
18      most effective form of public participation in  
19      the redistricting process.

20              Redistricting is also driven by a  
21      schedule. The schedule we are operating under  
22      is imposed by the State Constitution. We can't  
23      change it without changing the Constitution and  
24      we can't change the Constitution, only the  
25      voters can do that.

1           The Constitution does not permit the  
2           Legislature to act on state legislative maps  
3           before the second year after the census. In  
4           other words, before 2012.

5           Now, we have accelerated the process as  
6           much as we could by moving up the 2012 session  
7           of the Legislature from March, when it usually  
8           starts, to January, and by beginning our  
9           statewide hearings five months in advance of  
10          the 2012 session.

11          Now, it has been suggested by some that  
12          the Legislature ought to just draw the maps and  
13          bring them here and say here they are and then  
14          ask the public to comment and react to Feta  
15          Compli.

16          We believe that puts the answer ahead of  
17          the question. There should be no  
18          preconceptions created by politicians, but  
19          rather public testimony and your ideas should  
20          be free and unrestricted. Believe me, there  
21          will be plenty of time for all of the  
22          politicians to make all of their speeches and  
23          offer their observations, but first we want to  
24          hear from you.

25          In fact, the author and Chair Person of

1 the Fair Districts Committee that put together  
2 Amendments 5 and 6 that are now a part of our  
3 Constitution testified before the House and  
4 Senate and is on record as saying that new maps  
5 could not be drawn.

6 She wouldn't even to try new maps without  
7 public hearings first, without giving the  
8 public an opportunity to comment. Our intent  
9 is to use the recommendations made at these  
10 hearings and through input from the Internet as  
11 the basis for developing one or more options  
12 for district maps.

13 We will discuss any option in open public  
14 meetings before any votes are taken even in  
15 committee. So this isn't your last time to  
16 have input. This is your first time. Any maps  
17 that come before the House or Senate  
18 Redistricting Committees for votes will be  
19 publicly available and publicly discussed and  
20 the votes will all be taken in front of the  
21 public so that if you have criticisms or  
22 suggestions or observations you can offer them  
23 to us by Snail Mail, by telephone, by hearings  
24 such as this, or any other method of letting  
25 your views be known.

1           And then whatever the Legislature passes  
2           is submitted for judicial review to ensure that  
3           the final plans meet every legal requirement.  
4           Because our purpose today is to hear from you,  
5           all of the time between now and noon, and we  
6           will go all of the way to noon, if as long as  
7           there is public testimony, all of the time will  
8           be used to ensure that every member of the  
9           public who is here and who wishes to speak will  
10          have time to present testimony and be listened  
11          to respectfully without interruption or  
12          argument.

13          Now, after all of the citizens who are  
14          here and want to speak have their say, if there  
15          is time remaining before our scheduled  
16          adjournment, then any member of the Committee  
17          will have the opportunity to offer any  
18          observations, answer any questions, ask any  
19          questions, offer any proposals, react in any  
20          way to anything that comes up in today's  
21          meeting.

22          And, of course, any member of the  
23          Legislature may today, or at any time, propose  
24          a map or a plan and we will immediately make it  
25          available to the public.



1           Mr. Chairman, I hope this description of  
2           our schedule and our process helps set the  
3           stage for a successful hearing.

4           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: I really think  
5           so and thank you very much, Senator Gaetz, for  
6           that great introduction.

7           We have staff all around the room, and  
8           again, they are great staff, they provide us  
9           notes to make sure we don't miss anything, so  
10          we give you the important information that you  
11          need so we can have a successful meeting here  
12          in which you can participate.

13          So if you need anything, again, walk to  
14          the back of the room during the meeting, feel  
15          free to get up and mill around and talk to  
16          them, they can help you out.

17          I want to reiterate, as Senator Gaetz  
18          mentioned, we are going to adjourn promptly at  
19          12:00, but we still have three hours. That  
20          will be a good amount of time to get  
21          everybody's comments in.

22          However, we have already got over 40 cards  
23          and typically we pick up a few more in the  
24          process of people that want to speak. So if  
25          you do want it speak and if there is anybody

1       else that wants to speak as you walk in, raise  
2       your hand, and ask for a card and our staff  
3       will walk over to you and help you out with  
4       that.

5               To ensure that everybody gets the  
6       opportunity to speak we are going to divide the  
7       time equally and limit each person's testimony  
8       to three to five minutes as a courtesy to all  
9       of those behind you that wish to speak.

10              Sometimes we have to, you know, be a  
11     little bit more hard on the rules, but we are  
12     going to be as flexible as possible to make  
13     sure that you have the opportunity to say  
14     everything that you want, but if there is a  
15     great deal of additional detail, please submit  
16     something in writing, because as the Senator  
17     said, those written comments and maps in  
18     particular, a picture paints a thousand words,  
19     so that will help us interpret what you say  
20     much better.

21              Our first speaker is going to be Mr. Dan  
22     Hahnfeldt. I believe I pronounced that  
23     correctly. If you would step up to the  
24     microphone, and let me, before he starts, I am  
25     going to mention who comes next and if ya'll

1 can start lining up so that you can be prepared  
2 to speak as soon as the previous speaker is  
3 done and I introduce you we can get right to it  
4 and we don't have to wait for people to come to  
5 the microphone.

6 After Mr. Hahnfeldt will be Gail Boetty.  
7 Okay, thank you. Mr. Hahnfeldt, the floor is  
8 yours.

9 MR. HAHNFELDT: Good morning, good  
10 morning, Mr. Chairman, and Committee,  
11 distinguished members, Representatives and  
12 Senators that have come to hear us and take  
13 public input at The Villages.

14 First of all, on behalf of the 84,000  
15 Villagers and voters from District 42, State  
16 House District, I am the President of the  
17 Villages' Homeowners Association and want to  
18 thank you for taking that public input before  
19 putting pen to paper and drawing those lines.

20 It is very important to us for a number of  
21 reasons. A couple of comments about The  
22 Villages and one simple request. The Villages,  
23 one of the reasons why we are redrawing these  
24 numbers, ten years ago at the previous census  
25 we were small relative to today, retirement

1 community of about 11,000 homes and 22,000 in  
2 population.

3 Since that time and in the current census  
4 you see the result of quadrupling those roof  
5 tops and population to now 84,000 and we are  
6 still growing. We are about 75 percent to  
7 80 percent done. There will be another 25,000  
8 added by the next census and we look forward to  
9 meeting you again in another ten years when you  
10 are going to have to redraw those lines again.

11 In that time The Villages has become the  
12 world's largest retirement community and grown  
13 to a size in population where it is today, but  
14 not in area. The area has not changed  
15 markedly.

16 The circumference of The Villages is about  
17 32 square miles, 1.6 times the size of  
18 Manhattan, but it crosses boundaries of three  
19 counties, Lake, Marion and Sumter County, two  
20 cities, two water management districts and 12  
21 community development districts.

22 That poses a bit of a challenge to us from  
23 time to time in managing all of these  
24 governmental entities to serve the general  
25 interest of the population, growing to a

1 maximum within The Villages of about 109,000 in  
2 five years.

3 That growth rate is unique in this period,  
4 and I point that out because it has been very  
5 significant to and to the benefit of Florida,  
6 increasing the tax base, bringing resources to  
7 the community, to our school districts, to the  
8 general economy.

9 In fact, the last year the worst year in  
10 47 years in the United States in new home  
11 sales, The Villages was down selling maybe only  
12 about 2,500 new homes out of the 321,000 in the  
13 entire United States.

14 Now, while that is less than one percent  
15 of the entire new home sales in the entire  
16 United States, it is about two percent of the  
17 new homes in the south eastern 17 states and  
18 generated eight percent of the building permits  
19 in the entire state of Florida. So we are  
20 still growing, we are still contributing  
21 greatly to the economy.

22 My simple request. We work very hard as a  
23 community in the surrounding counties and  
24 Representatives of the governmental entities  
25 that serve work hard in this complex

1       governmental organization to serve this  
2       community of interest.

3               The request is that, as you redraw the  
4       lines, you keep us as a community of interest  
5       and not divide us up. We are best served as a  
6       community of interest. Thank you very much for  
7       taking input.

8               REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
9       much, Mr. Hahnfeldt, and in furtherance,  
10      calculating purposes, that was perfect. Right  
11      at three minutes, if everybody that we have  
12      down takes three minutes, we are going to make  
13      it. If everybody takes five minutes we are  
14      going to not have the opportunity to hear a  
15      couple of people.

16              So with that, Gail Boetty is up, followed  
17      by Fran Grossi.

18              MS. BOETTY: Yes, it is Gail Boetty.

19              REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Boetty.

20              MS. BOETTY: I am looking at this as a  
21      very good opportunity for all of you. You got  
22      up this morning, you came out here and we thank  
23      you for that. It is time to get it right this  
24      time. No more spouting off a river off to the  
25      right.

1           Lake County, when you look at District 8,  
2           you got a beautiful square there and then all  
3           of a sudden you got a line going here and a  
4           river going there. Block it out, add a few  
5           people, it is not rocket science, our children  
6           are watching you.

7           We don't want games to be played with the  
8           districts anymore. It is that simple. It is  
9           not that scary to divide the state, and we just  
10          would like you to show that to our children by  
11          making it fair.

12          Show some integrity, no more running off  
13          and grabbing certain areas that the votes look  
14          good for certain people. We see what it looks  
15          like. It is right there in the map in front of  
16          you, and we thank you for doing justice this  
17          time out. Okay.

18          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Well, thank you  
19          very much, and thank you for keeping those  
20          remarks focused on the redistricting process as  
21          well. So we have got Fran Grossi, followed by  
22          Leo Fallon.

23          MS. GROSSI: Thank you for giving us this  
24          opportunity to come and talk with you today.  
25          Ours is a government of the people. The

1 people's voice needs to be heard.

2 If you will look at our state, it is  
3 divided up into different communities, okay,  
4 different counties. I think we need to look at  
5 those counties and try to keep them together as  
6 possible, because the people of those counties  
7 have issues that are different from maybe other  
8 counties, and those voices need to be heard.

9 Okay, by dividing up those counties, by  
10 shredding them into pieces, you are shredding  
11 the voice of the people, and we are a  
12 government of the people. We need to allow the  
13 people's voices to be heard. Thank you for  
14 this opportunity.

15 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
16 much for speaking. Leo Fallon, followed by  
17 Patricia Sullivan.

18 MR. FALLON: Yes, thank you very much for  
19 coming, Senators and Representatives. I am Lee  
20 Fallon, a resident of The Villages for 11  
21 years. I have a very easy request, please keep  
22 The Villages as a complete contiguous voting  
23 district and not split as up. We are CCD and  
24 we should keep that. Thank you very much for  
25 your time.



1           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, now,  
2           that is concise. Patricia Sullivan, followed  
3           by Robert Carey.

4           MS. SULLIVAN: Good morning, my name is  
5           Patricia Sullivan. I am from Lake County, I  
6           live in Eustis. I am a mother of four and I  
7           also teach them and so I appreciate the fact  
8           that you haven't drawn maps ahead of schedule  
9           for us to come in and criticize, because I  
10          wouldn't do my children's school work for them.

11          I would give them the opportunity to take  
12          personal responsibility in looking at the  
13          fabulous website that you have created for us,  
14          and then us taking the time as we should as it  
15          is our duty as citizens to then draw maps.

16          And I have actually drawn a map, and it is  
17          loading I am told, for all three districts.  
18          And currently in Lake County, I believe that is  
19          the Congressional map, Lake County is split  
20          into four Congressional Districts.

21          As Fran eloquently stated, when we keep  
22          our counties and our communities together, then  
23          our voice is stronger and we bond together.

24          As you can see on that map, I have all of  
25          Lake County in one district, which would be my

1 request, first off, and then I have Seminole  
2 County basically because we have a lot of  
3 similarities, but also in looking at projected  
4 growth, Lake County is going -- is one of the  
5 highest counties that will grow over the next  
6 ten years. Seminole County is one of the  
7 lower.

8           So to also keep it within the right  
9 population that we desire to have in one  
10 district, and then in the bottom of Seminole  
11 County, I removed some of the voting districts  
12 there simply because as the -- as we find here  
13 in The Villages, it is one community, but it  
14 crosses some political boundaries, and in that  
15 area of Seminole County which I am familiar  
16 with in the Winter Park, Maitland area, that  
17 crosses two counties, but I took that out of  
18 that district because there will be times when  
19 we will expect you will have to cross political  
20 boundaries in an effort to keep communities  
21 together.

22           So the next map that I have that is going  
23 to, I believe that is the House, Florida House  
24 District. Again, Lake County in itself is  
25 basically split into north Lake County and

1 south Lake County, and so the House District  
2 there that I have chosen really just takes  
3 north Lake County and its communities and keeps  
4 them together in one district.

5 And then in the third map is the Senate,  
6 and I just have Lake and I have Sumter County  
7 together and there are areas in Orange County  
8 around Mt. Plymouth and near Mt. Dora that are  
9 a part of those communities, but I would not  
10 object if you wanted to just then go north and  
11 put The Villages, because -- and cross over  
12 that political boundary and I will probably  
13 redraw that map and takes parts of Orange  
14 County out and include the parts of The  
15 Villages to keep that together.

16 So again, I appreciate very much you  
17 giving us the opportunity to speak. I  
18 appreciate you giving us the opportunity to  
19 draw our own maps before you do so, and thank  
20 you for your time.

21 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
22 Ms. Sullivan, thank you very much for  
23 submitting those maps. It is very clear what  
24 your intent is there.

25 Next we have Robert Carey, followed by

1           Andy Dubois.

2                   MR. CAREY: Distinguished ladies and  
3 gentlemen, I want to thank you for offering a  
4 chance for a true Representative to democracy.  
5 Your computer program, I was cussing you  
6 yesterday.

7                   I sat down and like most men, I didn't  
8 bother to read the directions. I saw the  
9 pictures you made a presentation the other  
10 night, and I thought, well, this will be easy,  
11 you just click around here and things disappear  
12 and, well, it didn't work that way.

13                   So after about an hour and-a-half I  
14 decided to read the directions, and once I got  
15 into it, it was fun, it is almost like a game,  
16 and it is very educational.

17                   I realized that we have to keep various  
18 minorities and races and everything  
19 represented, and so I tried to do that. I came  
20 up with a plan for a Congressional District.

21                   First off, Lake County with four  
22 Congressional Districts running through it is  
23 ridiculous. Congressional District 3 is an  
24 abomination, as is District 8. So I tried to  
25 keep things together, and like I haven't gotten

1 to the House and Senate yet, but after a few  
2 hours of playing around I came up with a  
3 Congressional District plan that keeps Lake  
4 County and Sumter County together, along with  
5 Marion County.

6 Of course, The Villages is included in all  
7 of that, everything in Marion County except the  
8 far western part, and as I was playing around  
9 with it, the -- an outline of George Washington  
10 started appearing, and, on Interstate 75 is the  
11 bridge of his nose.

12 However, I couldn't get rid of his chin.  
13 I would get rid of that, but that would put me  
14 under or over and I still couldn't come up with  
15 it. So you have to use your imagination. But  
16 my request is to keep the counties together  
17 wherever possible. Let's do away with this  
18 cancerous finger here, finger there.

19 You know, as one of the previous speakers  
20 said, it is not rocket science. You know, and  
21 I do compliment you for giving us a chance for  
22 this input and for having it fun, and making it  
23 a game. I would encourage everybody to get  
24 involved with it.

25 I intend to go back and do the House and

1 Senate Districts and do some more. I came up  
2 with a plan, I will give you a couple of  
3 copies. Anyway, I do want to compliment you  
4 and let's keep it fair as far as minorities go,  
5 and let's keep it simple. Thank you.

6 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
7 much, and if one of our staff could grab that  
8 input from you right beside you, thank you very  
9 much.

10 Next we have Andy Dubois, I think I have  
11 got that right, followed by Nancy Hurlbert.

12 MR. DUBOIS: Yes, you do, Representative  
13 Precourt. My name is Andy Dubois, I want to  
14 thank you for this opportunity to -- for  
15 citizen input.

16 I am a resident of Lake County as well. I  
17 live in Howie-in-the-Hills and my request is  
18 that we keep the counties intact as much as  
19 possible as opposed to the way it is now.

20 I am becoming familiar with the District  
21 Builder Tool. I am also grateful for the  
22 opportunity and the tools that you have made  
23 available. I am looking forward to attending  
24 other meetings as well, and I am just grateful  
25 for the process that you have -- that you have

1 put forward in allowing us to have input rather  
2 than just drawing the lines.

3 And I am hoping that we can end up with  
4 some common sense in this and that we don't  
5 lose, lose track of that in this process. I  
6 want to thank you very much again for allowing  
7 me to speak.

8 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you for  
9 being here, yes. Nancy Hurlbert followed by  
10 Theodore Stratton.

11 MS. HURLBERT: Good morning, members of  
12 the Legislature. Thank you for this  
13 opportunity. My name is Nancy Hurlbert. I  
14 live in Lake County and I want to talk just  
15 briefly about two particular incidents in the  
16 drawing of the districts.

17 Lake County, as you have heard several  
18 times now, is represented by four members of  
19 Congress. In one instance, in Corinne Brown's  
20 district, which is House District, U. S. House  
21 District 3, there is one precinct in Mt. Dora  
22 that is in her district. All of the rest of  
23 Mt. Dora is in Congressman Daniel Webster.

24 And the reason, I surmise, is that this  
25 one precinct is in Corinne's district is that

1       it is a predominantly black district, and  
2       predominantly Democrat.

3               So particularly partisan picked out to be  
4       in that particular district. I would hope that  
5       we do not split cities with this redrawing and  
6       that we adhere to Amendments 5 and 6 that say  
7       that cities and counties should be compact and  
8       contiguous as much as possible.

9               In my -- I live in Leesburg, and as the  
10       State House is represented, there are four  
11       Representatives in Lake County, four. I live  
12       in the east part of Leesburg, my Representative  
13       is Larry Metz.

14              Friends of mine live in the gated  
15       community of Plantation, which is also  
16       Leesburg, and they have a different  
17       Representative, and I have another friend that  
18       lives in the city of Leesburg proper, and  
19       another Representative.

20              So here we have Leesburg that is really  
21       split up by three different Representatives.  
22       That dilutes our representation and is really  
23       unconscionable.

24              So again, adhering to Amendments 5 and 6,  
25       and I really hope that you all take seriously



1 the voice of the people when they voted  
2 63 percent for Amendments 5 and 6 that you  
3 really look at these districts and you don't  
4 split cities, you don't divide communities.

5 And when you are looking at areas like The  
6 Villages that have three different counties,  
7 even though they are in three different  
8 counties, they are still a community of  
9 interest, and as you heard from the homeowners  
10 president, it is vital that communities of  
11 interest also be kept together.

12 So in that particular case perhaps three  
13 counties can be organized around The Villages,  
14 but again, for Lake County that has less than  
15 300,000 people, to have four U.S.  
16 Representatives and four State Representatives  
17 is just unconscionable, and I hope that you  
18 seriously take into account compact and  
19 contiguous when you look at the maps. Thank  
20 you.

21 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you for  
22 being here, Ms. Hurlbert. Theodore Stratton,  
23 followed by John Wood.

24 MR. STRATTON: Yes, good morning. I have  
25 tried to figure out what law governs how you

1 people decide. It, at the end of this thing,  
2 it says that they should be geographic, where  
3 possible they should follow existing political  
4 and geographic boundaries.

5 But then you have agenda six -- Amendment  
6 6 and 7, and are the census blocks the basic  
7 building blocks for how you people design these  
8 different boundaries? I can't figure out how  
9 the law, which law applies to what, and I have  
10 no axe to grind. You guys have my sympathy.  
11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Mr. Chairman, he raises a  
13 great point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and just  
14 for information purposes, let me, let me offer  
15 a little explanation, and that is that there  
16 appears to be to the normal person some  
17 inconsistencies.

18 If you look at Amendments 5 and 6 and then  
19 you look at the Federal Court cases, and then  
20 you look at the applicable Federal and State  
21 laws and then you listen to the interpretations  
22 that individual citizens or even courts place  
23 on terms, you would get the feeling that this  
24 gentleman is exactly right.

25 And that is that there is no clear answer

1 to exactly what the building blocks should be.  
2 Last night in Daytona Beach we had strong  
3 testimony from a gentleman who said we need to  
4 use rivers and power lines and railroads as the  
5 lines that would determine where districts  
6 would be.

7 We also heard testimony last night from  
8 someone who said that we need to use economic  
9 blocks. In other words, where people shop and  
10 do their commerce, that that needs to be taken  
11 into account as defining the boundaries.

12 And then, of course, you have the  
13 testimony we have heard today where some people  
14 say county lines and then someone else says,  
15 well, except when it comes to The Villages,  
16 then it is okay to cross county lines because  
17 there is a community of interest.

18 That is why we have come here today,  
19 because we are interested in finding out how  
20 you believe these standards should be applied.

21 Now, however they are applied in the  
22 development of maps, it is likely that somebody  
23 will be unhappy and will challenge whatever  
24 comes out the other end, but what we want to do  
25 is make sure that any proposal that comes out

1       of the Legislature and does go to the courts is  
2       defensible because we have listened to you and  
3       we can hark to this hearing we had in The  
4       Villages and we will be able to quote you,  
5       because you have said keep The Villages  
6       together or draw the lines this way or that  
7       way.

8               But there is no definitive dispositive  
9       building block, instead, there are  
10      interpretations and those interpretations move  
11      back and forth depending upon what court case  
12      and what statute and what constitutional  
13      provision you look at.

14             So thank you, you have put your finger  
15      right on the problem that brings us here today.  
16      Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17             REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
18      Senator, and they did, in fact, when we got on  
19      the Redistricting Committee, the first thing we  
20      got was a textbook on reapportionment law, and  
21      half of which is referenced to other books and  
22      other law.

23             So there is a tremendous amount of  
24      information out there and lots of experts on it  
25      that we have to rely on as well. Mr. Wood,

1 followed by David VonGuten.

2 MR. WOOD: Yes, sir. I am John Wood from  
3 Lake County, and I am going to just echo what  
4 you heard so far. We would like you to keep  
5 Lake County together as far as the  
6 Congressional, Congressional District goes.

7 We want you to think about reducing Lake  
8 County's representation from four  
9 Representatives to two Representatives. We  
10 feel like that would be much more beneficial to  
11 Lake County, to the people of Lake County.

12 Also, what you heard about keeping The  
13 Villages together, I echo that. That would be  
14 separating a part from Lake County to keep The  
15 Villages together, but it would also be within  
16 the guidelines that you are supposed to be  
17 following by keeping the city boundaries --  
18 using city boundaries.

19 I understand you got a lot of boundaries  
20 that you are thinking about that people are  
21 talking about, but new district boundaries for  
22 Lake County would require your reducing some of  
23 the boundaries that go into Orange, Seminole,  
24 Volusia and Marion County, to get our  
25 population back to where we fit into the --

1           into the guidelines.

2           That is it. I did go on the computer and  
3           try to draw up the maps three different times,  
4           but I failed. So I hope next time like Bob  
5           said, maybe I will follow the directions, get  
6           the directions first. Thank you.

7           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Patricia, you need to  
8           hold a class.

9           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
10          Mr. Wood, and speaking of classes, in addition  
11          to written directions, there is some great  
12          U-Tube type videos on there about how to use  
13          the system as well.

14          So there is tremendous resources, and if  
15          you need it, these guys are available via phone  
16          and here today to work with you on the system  
17          if you want to get a personal tutorial. Again,  
18          thank you, Mr. Wood.

19          Next we have got Mr. VonGuntten, and  
20          followed by John Riedel. Please, if you need  
21          to adjust the microphone, by the way, please  
22          feel free to adjust the microphone and speak,  
23          you know, loudly into it so that we can get  
24          that on the record as well.

25          MR. VONGUNTEN: First I want to thank

1 everyone who is here on the stage. As I look  
2 at the stage, I can tell that our input is  
3 important. I expected kind of this morning to  
4 come and find maybe Representative Precourt,  
5 and he says, don't worry, I will pass along  
6 everything you have to say. We don't have to  
7 worry about that, because everyone is here to  
8 hear what we have to say, and I thank you for  
9 that.

10 You probably heard someone say that a  
11 presentation was made by Patricia Sullivan and  
12 if she can do it, we can do it, and that is  
13 true. We have done a little bit of training.

14 I am going to take some advice from Bob as  
15 well and go back and read the directions. I  
16 have gone into the system and kind of made up a  
17 map, and I am going to go back and redo it and  
18 learn to fine tune to get those numbers exactly  
19 where they need to be, and I think what is  
20 important, if I am going to do that and if I am  
21 going to encourage the folks that come to our  
22 meetings to do that, that in fact that is just  
23 not a paper exercise for us, but really that  
24 our input is going to -- that you will look at  
25 those.

1           And I understand the problems that you  
2           face, and we all do, but if, and again, I am  
3           not a youngster, so if I am going to do that, I  
4           encourage everyone here to go in and learn that  
5           system and have direct input and I just really  
6           appreciate the fact that you are listening to  
7           us and do encourage you to take a look at the  
8           maps that we do submit. Thank you very much.

9           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir,  
10          John Riedel, followed by Mark, I think it is  
11          Fisher.

12          MR. RIEDEL: Good morning, ladies and  
13          gentlemen. Thank you for the opportunity to  
14          address you all and to listen and the fact that  
15          you are listening to our ideas.

16          Basically my name, I moved here from South  
17          Florida in 1983, and I have yet to vote for a  
18          U. S. Congressional candidate from Lake County.

19          I would appreciate and also would like to  
20          reemphasize the fact that we would like to form  
21          and vote with my neighbors and the people that  
22          I correspond with on a daily basis.

23          Thank you once again for this opportunity  
24          and I appreciate all of your efforts. Thank  
25          you.



1           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
2           Mr. Riedel. Mr. Fisher, followed by William  
3           Stomp.

4           MR. FISHER: Yes, good morning. My name  
5           is Mark Fisher, I am from Mt. Dora, Florida. I  
6           have a couple of observations and some  
7           questions that I want you to leave here with.

8           First of all, during your introduction the  
9           reference was made to the fact that there is  
10          participation on the panel by Representatives  
11          of the political parties, the Republicans and  
12          the Democrats.

13          I point out that just recently it was  
14          published that the number of Independents,  
15          registered Independents in Florida have  
16          increased since 1990 from 430,000 to 2.4  
17          million.

18          The number of people who do not affiliate  
19          by choice, thereby eliminating their  
20          opportunity to participate in the primary  
21          system, should be something of great importance  
22          and of consideration by you.

23          That means there are a lot of voters out  
24          there who are qualified voters who have  
25          registered to vote, who do not choose to

1       affiliate with either of your political  
2       parties. You should pursue that.

3               REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Sir, could I get  
4       you to address your comment to the  
5       redistricting process?

6               MR. FISHER: Sure.

7               REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: And this might  
8       do it, but I just want to remind everyone that  
9       we are here to hear about redistricting. Thank  
10      you.

11              MR. FISHER: That relates to it because I  
12      think most of us are very concerned and the two  
13      Amendments that were passed by the citizens of  
14      the State of Florida related to the fact that  
15      we want you to take politics and self interest  
16      out of the redistricting process.

17              My questions are this. Who is going to  
18      vet the proposed plans to assure that they are  
19      legally sufficient? When and where is that  
20      vetting processing going to be undertaken and  
21      what public participation in that review is  
22      going to be allowed?

23              What is the process or what measures are  
24      in place to assure that viable legally  
25      qualifying submissions, regardless of their

1 source, are all given equal consideration?

2 And finally, once all of those legally  
3 sufficient plans have been determined, who is  
4 going to grade or rank those proposed  
5 districts?

6 If you get several thousand of them, it is  
7 not very logical to assume that between  
8 January 10th and March 9th of 2012, that the  
9 House and Senate are going to be able to go  
10 through all 1,000 of those plans and decide  
11 which one is going to be the one that is  
12 finally implemented and submitted for court  
13 review.

14 I will close with this comment. John  
15 Adams wrote, "There is nothing which I dread so  
16 much as a division of the republic into two  
17 great parties. Each arranged under its leader  
18 and concerting measures in opposition to each  
19 other."

20 This, in his humble apprehension, is to be  
21 dreaded as the greatest political evil under  
22 our Constitution. Leave politics out of this.  
23 We don't need people in Mt. Dora voting for  
24 somebody who ostensibly lives in Jacksonville,  
25 Florida.

1           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
2           Mr. Fisher, and again, ladies and gentlemen, we  
3           are here primarily to listen to your input at  
4           Senator Gaetz's discretion. I am going to  
5           recognize him if he would like to address any  
6           issues as we go through the meeting.

7           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Sure, and again, not in  
8           any way to do -- to be argumentative, but  
9           rather just to provide some data in answer to  
10          your questions which are excellent questions.

11          Who vets plans to make sure that they are  
12          legal? The Supreme Court of the State of  
13          Florida and the Justice Department of the  
14          United States.

15          When and where are the vetting, does the  
16          vetting occur? It occurs as soon as the plans  
17          are presented. There are also public hearings  
18          that occur along the way.

19          In other words, if any Legislator or any  
20          special interest group or any individual  
21          citizen presents a plan and then that plan  
22          takes the form of a Bill that goes before a  
23          committee, the vetting occurs in public with  
24          public hearings on that Bill in Tallahassee.

25          Those hearings would be open to the

1 public. Any member of the public can testify,  
2 but the hearings will also be available so that  
3 individuals who maybe can't come to Tallahassee  
4 can share their views.

5 But the legal vetting, in answer to your  
6 question, occurs after the plans are voted on  
7 by the Legislature and they occur by the  
8 Supreme Court and the Justice Department.

9 Are all plans given equal consideration?  
10 No. There are 3,000 Bills introduced in the  
11 Legislature every year, and thank God, only  
12 about 240 of them get passed because a lot of  
13 them are pretty stupid ideas.

14 So we can't guarantee that just because  
15 someone proposes something that it will be  
16 given equal consideration. That is the purpose  
17 of Representative government, to make sure that  
18 by your contacting your Legislators, that you  
19 can say, look, this plan as it pertains to our  
20 part of the state ought to be given more than  
21 equal consideration.

22 It ought to be given preferential  
23 consideration because we here in this community  
24 understand how we want the maps drawn to make  
25 sense in our community, but it is the

1 legislative process with open public input that  
2 creates the vetting process, and really  
3 indicates what is given consideration.

4 And then who grades or ranks the  
5 districts, and I think, sir, you make an  
6 excellent point that if we are fortunate, we  
7 will be getting a lot of input.

8 You are right, if we waited until all of  
9 the input was in before we began looking at any  
10 of it or considering it or sort of seeing how  
11 it fit with the other input we are receiving in  
12 other parts of the state, it would be very  
13 difficult to get it done.

14 That is why we have professional staff who  
15 are here. That is why we are recording these  
16 hearings. It is why instantly when we get a  
17 proposal we put it up on our website, not just  
18 for the public to see, but it is the obligation  
19 of these two committees, the House Committee  
20 and the Senate Committee to work on these plans  
21 and listen to this input as we go, so that it  
22 is not -- we don't light ourselves on fire at  
23 the very end.

24 Instead, we are working right along  
25 evaluating plans, but the final grading of the

1 work that is done has to be done by the voters,  
2 themselves.

3 The Constitution of Florida says that the  
4 Legislature is responsible for developing these  
5 plans. We have chosen to make it a much more  
6 open process than just Senators and  
7 Representatives sitting in a room listening to  
8 each other's echos, but rather to get out and  
9 listen to the people of Florida first.

10 But at the end of the day, you grade and  
11 you rank our work because you determine which  
12 of your Representatives gets reelected or which  
13 ones don't.

14 I would also make one final point just as  
15 a factual matter, and that is that hardly any  
16 of us, maybe none of us on this stage drew the  
17 maps that exist now.

18 In other words, I ran for a Senate  
19 District that somebody else drew years ago. I  
20 didn't draw a district and then run for it. I  
21 didn't draw a district that I am in now. I ran  
22 for a district that somebody else drew.

23 So there is no pride of authorship of what  
24 is. We are really interested in making changes  
25 that make sense, and Mr. Chairman, I hope that

1 provides just some factual information in  
2 answer to the gentleman's excellent questions.

3 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
4 much, Senator Gaetz. In addition, several  
5 other Representatives have arrived today. Is  
6 there anyone that wants to introduce themselves  
7 that didn't get a chance to earlier? We will  
8 take a short break from the agenda here.

9 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: Good morning, State  
10 Representative Mia Jones from Jacksonville.

11 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE: Good morning,  
12 state Representative Gwyndolen Clarke, District  
13 92, Broward County, northeast quadrant.

14 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Good morning,  
15 State Representative Dwayne Taylor from House  
16 District 27, that is Daytona Beach and Volusia  
17 County.

18 REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Good morning, John  
19 Patrick Julien, representing House District  
20 104, which is in Miami Dade County, it is a  
21 pleasure to be here.

22 REPRESENTATIVE METZ: Good morning, ladies  
23 and gentlemen. I am Larry Metz, representing  
24 House District 25, which comprises portions of  
25 Lake, Seminole and Volusia counties. Thank



1           you.

2           SENATOR LYNN:   Senator Evelyn Lynn, I  
3           represent District 7 and that is parts of Clay,  
4           Marion, Putnam and Volusia.

5           REPRESENTATIVE DRAKE:   Brad Drake, Fifth  
6           House District, panhandle of Florida.

7           SENATOR DEAN:   Good morning, my name is  
8           Charlie Dean.   I am a Senator from District 3,  
9           I am your neighbor to the west.   I am from  
10          Citrus County, I am also one of the Senators  
11          that represents the southwestern portion Marion  
12          County.

13          My Senatorial district goes from Baker  
14          County, just outside of Jacksonville, all the  
15          way to Monroe Street, the Capitol steps in Leon  
16          County, and south to Citrus, Hernando County  
17          line, 98 and 19.

18          Glad you are here this morning, and I  
19          would like to say also that as Senator Gaetz  
20          said a while ago, many of us serve in districts  
21          we had nothing to do with about who drew those  
22          lines.   If they did, they certainly didn't  
23          figure out I was going to be there.

24          REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS:   Hazelle Rogers,  
25          good morning, representing eight cities in

1 Broward County, District 94, and of course,  
2 Broward County, one of the most diverse  
3 counties in the state of Florida with over 1.8  
4 million residents. Thank you.

5 REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: Hi, I am Dennis  
6 Baxley. I represent Florida House District 24,  
7 Ocala, Marion County, and I am one of the few  
8 people up here that actually operates a  
9 business in The Villages, Hiers Baxley Funeral  
10 Service, and glad to be home.

11 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Was that a  
12 pre-commercial?

13 REPRESENTATIVE LOGAN: Representative Ana  
14 Rivas Logan, I represent parts of Miami Dade  
15 County.

16 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: So once again,  
17 to reiterate what I mentioned earlier, we have  
18 representation up here that is from all over  
19 the state. We have men, women, minorities,  
20 Republicans, Democrats, evening people and  
21 morning people, and so we will get right back  
22 to the agenda.

23 Mr. Stomp, followed by Robert Lewis.

24 MR. STOMP: Good morning, ladies and  
25 gentlemen. Chairman, thank you very much for

1       this opportunity to speak. I have to really  
2       compliment all of you Representatives and  
3       Senators for coming here and just putting up  
4       with what we have to say.

5             I have great confidence that you are going  
6       to listen to people, and you are going to use  
7       this input and I appreciate that very, very  
8       much.

9             My comment, I want to focus my comment on  
10      the fact that even though the Legislature, I  
11      mean, the people have voted for these -- these  
12      consolidated districts rather than the  
13      gerrymandering things we have, there is one  
14      exception that I see.

15            It is the gerrymandering that is set up  
16      for the minority type districts. It is time we  
17      move away from that, folks. If there is anyway  
18      we can do that it would be wonderful if we  
19      could just -- just become one nation again.  
20      That just takes and splits everything all over  
21      again.

22            If there is some way you can gently move  
23      away from that, that method of dividing our  
24      country, I would appreciate it very much.

25      Thank you very much.

1           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you for  
2           those comments. Robert Lewis, followed by  
3           Thomas Edmonston.

4           MR. LEWIS: Good morning, thank you for  
5           providing this opportunity for me to provide  
6           some comments. Almost 63 percent of Floridians  
7           who voted on the Constitutional Amendments  
8           voted to affirm Amendments 5 and 6.

9           Fair minded Floridians of all political  
10          persuasions want elections in which candidates  
11          are honestly chosen and compete on even playing  
12          fields.

13          It was time to put a stop to the practice  
14          of gerrymandering. Legislative and conditional  
15          Congressional Districts after each census. In  
16          the past, the party in political power  
17          brazeningly redrew boundaries and laid out new  
18          or changed boundaries to reflect population  
19          changes in a manner primarily designed to best  
20          assure it of victories in future elections.

21          The irregular and even illogical design of  
22          some districts attest to this deliberate  
23          manipulation which is contrary to the high  
24          principles of our democracy.

25          I hope that your reports of these public

1 meetings will emphasize that Floridians want  
2 the Amendments respected. We will be most  
3 upset and disappointed if you fail to ensure  
4 that the districts are compact, equal in  
5 population, and make use of existing city,  
6 county and geographical boundaries.

7 The Amendments prohibit drawing districts  
8 to favor or disfavor an incumbent or political  
9 party. It is your obligation to abide by the  
10 Amendments even though there will be efforts by  
11 some who try to thwart the Amendments by  
12 claiming that adherence to the Amendments would  
13 be unjust for various reasons. Thank you.

14 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
15 much for those comments. And I might add, if  
16 you have written comments that you want to  
17 submit just to make sure that your comments are  
18 accurately transcribed into the record, feel  
19 free to leave those written comments with our  
20 staff as well.

21 Mr. Edmonston, followed by Barbara Weese.

22 MR. STONE: I am Tom, I am also from Lake  
23 County. A bunch of us, a whole of people here  
24 from Lake County, obviously, and I am very  
25 pleased to be here and be able to give a chance

1 to speak and I appreciate everything ya'll do,  
2 and I know, having just recently gotten  
3 involved in the political process, I don't want  
4 to be up there with you.

5 But I have been known as a person of, not  
6 known as a person of very few words, but I am  
7 going to cut this real short because I am not  
8 going to repeat everything that my fellow Tea  
9 Party people have said, because everything is  
10 true.

11 That picture on the screen right now looks  
12 like the, one of mine, because it looks very  
13 similar. Actually, I worked on the thing. The  
14 Builder is real easy to use once you get to  
15 using it, but the trouble is I did it the first  
16 time on a laptop and I didn't have any programs  
17 in the laptop in order to print it out or even  
18 see the file, so it didn't work too well, and I  
19 had to do it a second time.

20 And really what I did, just for that map,  
21 I just start out with Lake County and took all  
22 of Sumter County, and looked at what you had  
23 left, and, you know, it had options of, when I  
24 looked at Orange County, Orange County has  
25 enough population that it has to have at least

1       three districts in it, because you could take  
2       two full districts and then a partial one.

3               So I decided that I would use the old  
4       lasso feature and I would lasso part of the top  
5       of Orange County, and then when I got into the,  
6       into the voting districts, I had a hard time  
7       finding those until I found out that you have  
8       to zoom in real quick and then they show up.

9               And so I intentionally over, over lassoed  
10       and then I just started deleting districts and  
11       I got it down to like 25, I still have 24 extra  
12       people, but that is about it, but I really just  
13       did it like everybody else has said, just to  
14       keep communities together and keep everything  
15       close-knit.

16              Everybody that pays taxes in Lake and  
17       Sumter at least got the same voting district,  
18       and sorry about Orange County, you have to be  
19       split up a little bit. Thank you very much.

20              REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.  
21       Barbara Weese, followed by Dan Eaton.

22              MR. WEESE: Good morning. I would like to  
23       say one thing and then I would like to defer to  
24       Cathy Williamson, and that is when you are out  
25       trying to help voters to find out where and

1       whom they vote for, it is very difficult if one  
2       side of the street has one Representative. I  
3       am talking U.S., now, and the other side of the  
4       street has another one.

5               Most of our voters or many of them in  
6       central Florida come from other states. They  
7       are confused and new to the Florida process,  
8       but it is even more confusing when you don't  
9       know for whom you should vote or where you  
10      should vote. So please keep that in mind when  
11      you are redistricting.

12             REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, and  
13      Ms. Williamson, if you could fill out a card if  
14      you don't, and I will put it in line, but  
15      everybody has gotten in line, I am going to  
16      take them as they come. Okay, thanks. Don  
17      Eaton, followed by Sam Green.

18             MR. EATON: Yes, Don Eaton. Thank you for  
19      being here today. We really appreciate this.  
20      I am caught sort of flatfooted. My wife put my  
21      name down, but, thank you.

22             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You are not the first  
23      guy, you are not the first guy.

24             MR. EATON: I am in good company then.  
25      Yes, we, we in The Villages really appreciate



1       you coming here, and as you gain age, you will  
2       see our really great facilities and we hope  
3       that you consider moving here, and I echo the  
4       words from our homeowners' association  
5       president.

6               He very eloquently told about The  
7       Villages, and we, I am here for the  
8       Conservative Liberty Alliance, also. We are a  
9       group that, we are a conservative group that  
10      will be out campaigning for candidates this  
11      year, and we hope that we will be in  
12      Tallahassee to see each one of you. Thank you.

13              REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.  
14      Appreciate that, Mr. Sam Green, followed by  
15      Ellen Green.

16              MR. GREEN: Good morning. Thank you very  
17      much for the opportunity to have my input on  
18      this today. Sixty-three percent of the voters  
19      in this state voted for this, that is almost  
20      two for one, and I feel that just about at  
21      every point along the way the leaders of the  
22      State House, Senate and also the Governor have  
23      fought this process, tried to delay it, tried  
24      to stop it in any way possible.

25              And that is very upsetting to me, because

1       of that, I don't really have confidence that  
2       this is going to be a nonpartisan thing, and I  
3       think it is extremely important that politics  
4       is taken out of it totally, completely, and I  
5       hope, I hope you all prove me wrong, totally.  
6       I hope, I hope I am dead wrong about it not  
7       being nonpartisan.

8               I think that it should be -- districts  
9       should be drawn up considering city, county and  
10      natural boundaries and again, totally  
11      nonpartisan. Thank you very much.

12             REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir,  
13      Ellen Green followed by Suzanne Jantz.

14             MS. GREEN: Thank you. I am very proud  
15      that my husband filled in a form for me so that  
16      I could be here today. I agree with a lot of  
17      what I have heard. I would think it is very  
18      important that the districts be contiguous so  
19      that we can talk to voters and help them with  
20      voting.

21             I have lived in the Golden Triangle area.  
22      I live in Eustis, sort of in Eustis the Golden  
23      Triangle area is Eustis, Mt. Dora and Tavares.

24             We function as a community very much as  
25      The Villages do, and it is important that we

1 all have as much as possible the same  
2 representation and we do not.

3 We do have District 57, which is Corinne  
4 Brown's district, but there are a lot of other  
5 things that divide up. Even within our city,  
6 people vote for different Congressmen or  
7 different State legislators, and it just  
8 doesn't make any sense.

9 You talk to your friends about a certain  
10 candidate and they will say, I have never heard  
11 of him or he doesn't represent me, I have this  
12 other person that I never see because this  
13 person lives so far from us, and it must be  
14 very hard for you.

15 Like Mr. Metz, for example, he has to  
16 represent a big chunk of our Golden Triangle  
17 area, but not all of it, and then he has to go  
18 over to neighboring counties, drive through the  
19 woods to get there.

20 So it doesn't benefit the voter or the  
21 candidate, either one. So please keep it  
22 contiguous and fair. Thank you.

23 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
24 ma'am. Suzanne Jantz, followed by Joanne Coen.

25 MS. JANTZ: Hello, hi, I live in Mt. Dora,

1 Lake County, and I want to thank you for  
2 participating in this process, and I especially  
3 want to thank anyone in this room who was part  
4 of the countless volunteers who worked for  
5 years to get Fair Districts on the ballot.

6 This was democracy at its best. I  
7 appreciate Mr. Fisher's comments because I am  
8 afraid this process will serve as a delay  
9 tactic for special interests opposed to change,  
10 where it is death by 1,000 cuts with endless  
11 maps submitted by people without the subject  
12 matter expertise, without the understanding of  
13 the litigation, and then the state taxpayers  
14 will be forced to defend litigation and spend  
15 badly needed taxpayer money on litigation that  
16 is pointless and groundless.

17 Will there be a deadline? Will there be a  
18 process like this where a certain number of  
19 proposed maps are then brought out to community  
20 meetings like this before something gets  
21 written in stone in Tallahassee?

22 I object to any idea that Tallahassee  
23 could make these decisions without public input  
24 of this nature, that this would have been a  
25 waste of taxpayer money to have all of you here

1 traveling throughout the state on this  
2 initiative and then drop the ball later when  
3 maps are being finalized and there is a select  
4 number of proposed maps that meet the criteria  
5 for meeting the legal issues and so on.

6 So please tell me that there is a  
7 deadline, that we will be seeing the results of  
8 this, that you will be good stewards of the  
9 taxpayer money at a time when we are being told  
10 that the state has so little money that it  
11 can't provide nursing home care to the frail  
12 elderly on Medicaid and children's health needs  
13 and other needs like unemployment being cut.

14 I want the taxpayer's money respected, but  
15 I do want to see maps and have an opportunity  
16 for input later instead of now. Thank you.

17 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
18 ma'am. Joanne Coen, followed by Richard Coen.

19 MS. COEN: Good morning. On behalf of the  
20 League of Women Voters of The Villages  
21 tri-county area, which is a nonpartisan  
22 organization, I want to thank the Committee for  
23 an opportunity to speak to you.

24 I am a Sumter County resident of The  
25 Villages. During the last election cycle, the

1       League actively supported Amendments 5 and 6  
2       which were passed by 63 percent of the voters  
3       in the November 2010, election.

4               Today voter registration shows that  
5       Florida is a politically balanced state, but  
6       the current representation in Tallahassee does  
7       not reflect the balance.

8               In the past during every reapportionment,  
9       majority party politicians in both parties have  
10      taken advantage of the opportunity to pack  
11      minority party voters into very few districts,  
12      thus reducing their influence in government.

13              Florida's population has grown and our  
14      congressional representation will increase.  
15      Drawing new political boundaries to offset  
16      population growth is a complicated process.

17              You must balance a myriad of demands from  
18      Federal laws to prevent minority voting  
19      disenfranchisement to individual ambitions of  
20      your fellow lawmakers seeking higher office.

21              As a result I recognize that your job is  
22      not easy, that the process is long and arduous  
23      and there will likely be legal challenges no  
24      matter the outcome.

25              The census data has been completed. The

1 information has been delivered to the Governor  
2 and leaders of the Legislature. Many states  
3 have already completed or almost completed the  
4 redistricting process, yet in Florida no  
5 proposed or draft maps have been drawn, thereby  
6 precluding the public from making any meaning  
7 full comments on what our Congressional  
8 Legislative Districts will look like other than  
9 our own suggestions.

10 As a result, and as I am doing today, I  
11 can only appeal to your better nature and speak  
12 in generalities. The maps referenced by Senate  
13 Gaetz in his opening comments should be made  
14 available going forward at all of the proposed  
15 hearings that are on the schedule. Thank you  
16 very much.

17 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you for  
18 those comments. And once again, if you would,  
19 we have prepared written comments like that, if  
20 you would submit it to the staff so that we can  
21 accurately get them into the record, I would  
22 appreciate that.

23 Richard Coen, followed by Linda or John  
24 and Linda Stene.

25 MR. COEN: Good morning, my name is

1 Richard Coen, and as in most points of life I  
2 follow my wife. I am Vice-President of the  
3 League of Women Voters of The Villages  
4 tri-county area. Thank you, I appreciate that.

5 Gentlemen and ladies, your own time table  
6 which is posted on the Redistricting 2012  
7 Florida Senate website shows that rather than  
8 passing district maps at the beginning of the  
9 legislative session in January 2012, district  
10 maps are slated to be passed at the end of the  
11 session on March 9th.

12 Even in the unlikely event that there is  
13 no litigation over the newly drawn maps, final  
14 rulings on the constitutionality of the new  
15 districts will not occur until shortly before  
16 the June 2012, qualifying deadline.

17 This delayed time table will only lead to  
18 voter confusion. Some potential candidates may  
19 not know their district boundaries in time to  
20 decide whether to mount a campaign.

21 It is my understanding that Bills were  
22 filed at the last session requiring the maps be  
23 drawn earlier and that these bills did not even  
24 get a hearing. Why was that?

25 You have told us that you will follow the



1 letter of the law and the will of the people on  
2 redistricting, but you say that even as the  
3 Legislature is joined in a lawsuit to fight  
4 Florida Constitutional Amendment requiring new  
5 boundaries be drawn with competition in mind,  
6 not your own job security.

7 So, yes, you have created a situation  
8 where the state is both the plaintiff and the  
9 defendant, and so, yes, at a time when lower  
10 revenues have been received and budgets have  
11 been reduced, the state is spending taxpayer  
12 money on both sides of the same question.

13 The Legislature should stop avoiding the  
14 voters' decision and remember its obligation to  
15 follow the Florida Constitution and support the  
16 new fair district standards and apply the  
17 dictate of those amendments when preparing  
18 redrawn districts as the voters wanted. I  
19 thank you for the time that you have given me  
20 to speak to you today.

21 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you again.  
22 We appreciate those comments, Mr. Coen, and  
23 once again, when you have written prepared  
24 remarks like that, if you would please submit  
25 them into the record so they can accurately be

1 reflected, I would appreciate it. John and  
2 Linda Stene, followed by Roz Odell.

3 MR. STENE: I am John Stene, and my wife  
4 has said she doesn't want to speak. Anyway,  
5 thanks for the opportunity, and we have been in  
6 The Villages for eight years.

7 Our main concern is that we have a  
8 contiguous unit, you know, for our voting  
9 block. And my mother once said years ago, the  
10 mind can only stand what the rear end can  
11 endure, so I will get down.

12 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Excellent  
13 comments. Roz Odell, followed by Patricia  
14 Hanley.

15 MS. ODELL: Hello, I am Roz Odell from  
16 Citrus County. I was beginning to think we  
17 weren't represented here, but Mr. Dean came in.

18 As you heard, when he described District  
19 5, the size and direction is rather unruly, and  
20 also, as you have heard, at the moment the  
21 public perception is that our districts are  
22 drawn with careers in mind, not the good of the  
23 people, and I would like to ask that this not  
24 happen.

25 Please remember that you are representing

1 a large group of people, both Democrat and  
2 Republican. Please make it easy for people to  
3 vote. Don't have one precinct in another  
4 district.

5 We need to be able to talk amongst ourself  
6 to decide who to vote for, and to do it where  
7 we know where we can go and not one person on  
8 one side of the street goes five miles away and  
9 the other person on the other side of the  
10 street goes 10 miles in the opposite direction.  
11 Thank you.

12 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
13 ma'am. Patricia Hanley, followed by Mike  
14 Fahey.

15 MS. HANLEY: I would like to thank you for  
16 being here and Senator Dean for being here as  
17 well. He represents an entirely wide and long  
18 district. It is very hard to campaign in his  
19 district.

20 I don't necessarily support anybody that  
21 is up there right now, but I do want to say  
22 that it has got to be, you have got to use some  
23 common sense in drawing these districts.

24 When we are in Citrus County in the middle  
25 of the state, in our district, our Senatorial

1 District goes all of the way up to the Georgia  
2 border, and all of the way over to Tallahassee,  
3 that is ridiculous, especially if you are  
4 paying for gasoline and you are trying to  
5 campaign in an area that large.

6 I know you are bound by population, but I  
7 am sure you can make some of these districts  
8 more compact and that is all I want to say.  
9 Let's be fair about things.

10 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
11 much. Mike Fahey, followed by Kathleen Weaver.

12 MR. FAHEY: Hello. My name is Mike Fahey  
13 and I am from Citrus County. I would just like  
14 to thank you for having this hearing, and also  
15 I would like to thank everyone else in this  
16 room for taking their duty as citizens and  
17 becoming well-informed people acting  
18 responsibly.

19 Actually, I would like to see more people  
20 in this room, but I have been on the website  
21 and I know that operating this computer  
22 applications and reading and writing and trying  
23 to find solutions to complex problems, these  
24 all point to a well-educated citizenry, and I  
25 would encourage you not to balance the budget

1 on the backs of our students and our teachers.

2 But the -- my point today that I would  
3 like to make about Citrus County, in looking at  
4 the map, is the Congressional District, and our  
5 Congressional District, the Fifth District, is  
6 35 percent over population, and just to be  
7 really simple, I would suggest that you just  
8 cut Citrus County loose from the Fifth  
9 District, because our geographically, we are  
10 more in with Marion County and the north  
11 central part of the state, and the marketing is  
12 incorrect.

13 In lumping us in with Tampa Bay, I never  
14 go to Tampa. I go to Marion County to do  
15 shopping and to work and so on and so forth,  
16 and that is my point. Thank you.

17 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.  
18 Kathleen Weaver followed Brian Corley, and once  
19 again, I know it is tempting to get off topic,  
20 but please keep your comments focused on  
21 redistricting, thank you. Ms. Weaver.

22 MS. WEAVER: Thank you for coming here  
23 today. We all appreciate it, I am sure. I  
24 just will reiterate the same thing that other  
25 people have said.

1           We would like the Legislature to please  
2       drop the lawsuit against the Amendments that we  
3       passed. It is a waste of our money. We would  
4       also definitely like a nonpartisan group to be  
5       choosing these, and please give us some maps  
6       that we will be able to choose from before it  
7       goes to the Legislature in Tallahassee.

8           Many of us will not be able to go to  
9       Tallahassee to present our issues at that time.  
10      Thank you.

11           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you.

12           MR. CORLEY: Good morning, Mr. Chairman  
13       and members, my name is Brian Corley. I am the  
14       Supervisor of Elections for Pasco County. You  
15       are probably asking yourself, what am I doing  
16       here.

17           My children are with my grandparents over  
18       at the pool right now. I am taking time from  
19       vacation to be here with you all this morning.

20           I also serve on the Executive Committee  
21       for the Florida State Association of  
22       Supervisors of Elections.

23           I want to thank you all first for the  
24       opportunity to provide input on the front end  
25       of this very important topic, and I sincerely

1       applaud all of you for the unprecedented level  
2       of transparency of this process.

3               I don't envy your task ahead.

4       Redistricting is not going to be fun, and for  
5       many of my colleagues, including myself, this  
6       is our first go around and my colleague sitting  
7       next to me, Dee Brown, I asked her how many she  
8       has been with, she is from Marion County, she  
9       has been through four. Pretty impressive,  
10      isn't it, and I am concerned about the stress,  
11      because I can't lose much more hair going  
12      through this.

13             I don't know if I am going to gain weight  
14      or where we are going here, but I will say  
15      this, ladies and gentlemen, I am confident that  
16      when it is all said and done, we as elections  
17      officials will continue to make Florida shine  
18      with regards to elections in 2012 and beyond.

19             I want to slightly, obviously, deviate  
20      from the topic today. I want to focus on two  
21      issues that are important to elections  
22      officials. Time and district lines.

23             Number one, time. To conduct successful  
24      elections in 2012, we as elections officials  
25      need time to complete required tasks. To

1       conduct our elections efficiently and  
2       accurately, we need time to adjust precinct  
3       lines to new districts, gain approval of those  
4       precincts by our Board of County Commissioners,  
5       and notify all voters well in advance of  
6       election day.

7               And as you are well aware, we can't  
8       re-precinct our counties until your work is  
9       done. I realize that the Florida Constitution  
10      specifies that reapportionment occur during the  
11      2012 regular session.

12             However, as was stated earlier, the  
13      earlier in the session the better. That will  
14      give us more time to do what we need to do. It  
15      is also my understanding that if the  
16      legislature, Attorney General, Supreme Court  
17      and Justice Department all complete their work  
18      on schedule, the Supervisor of Elections will  
19      have less than two weeks to adjust the records  
20      of Florida's 11 million voters and nearly  
21      300,000 in my county alone.

22             This is before the first absentee ballots  
23      must be mailed to our military and overseas  
24      voters, and this, of course, excludes any  
25      litigation.



1           Also, the calendar provided by the  
2           legislative staff indicates that final Justice  
3           Department review of new districts will likely  
4           be completed after a candidate qualifying.  
5           This has the potential of confusing candidates  
6           and delaying ballot printing.

7           The second issue I want to briefly touch  
8           upon is we ask that you represent, excuse me,  
9           in regards to district lines, that you respect  
10          communities when you draw district lines.

11          I want to thank the legislative staff for  
12          working with us in providing voting tabulation  
13          districts, which, as you all know, take into  
14          consideration intact communities, traffic  
15          patterns and physical barriers, and we would  
16          ask that you adhere to these lines wherever  
17          possible.

18          Again, thank you for the opportunity to  
19          provide some input on this important process,  
20          as the Supervisor of Elections, I speak for my  
21          colleagues when I say it is very much  
22          appreciated. Thank you very, very much.

23          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.  
24          Next we have Al Butler, followed by Mary  
25          O'Hanlon.

1           MR. BUTLER: Thank you very much. I want  
2           to welcome all of the Legislators to The  
3           Villages. My name is Al Butler. I am a  
4           resident of The Villages and Chairman of the  
5           Sumter County REC.

6           I want to reiterate a message that you  
7           have heard from others today, and it would make  
8           our political processes so much more effective  
9           if you recognize The Villages as one entity,  
10          and although we are unique and cross three  
11          counties, I hope that you will take that into  
12          consideration when you do the realignment.  
13          Thank you very much.

14          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.  
15          Mary O'Hanlon, followed by Nancy Bell.

16          MS. O'HANLON: My name is Mary O'Hanlon  
17          and I live in Clermont in District 5. I would  
18          like to tell you something about several years  
19          ago I arranged a meet the candidate event and  
20          the then Representative for District 5, three  
21          different people in his office told me that he  
22          was not our Representative, but he was, and  
23          that -- so that is no representation.

24          I would like to suggest that you follow  
25          the kiss principle, and keep it simple.

1       Districts should not cross county lines,  
2       Representatives should live within the counties  
3       that they represent. They should not cover  
4       three different counties that are so big that  
5       they don't even know the parts of the counties  
6       they represent.

7               And I really wonder why there even has to  
8       be these meetings. I think it is great. The  
9       people have an opportunity to speak. However,  
10      I think they spoke loud and clear last November  
11      about what we wanted in districts.

12             It is no secret that gerrymandering was  
13      started 200 years ago, and the benefit of it,  
14      of course, has always been to stack the  
15      districts to suit the party in office, both  
16      parties, and I think that is what really has to  
17      be focused on and eliminated.

18             We need to have districts that are  
19      contiguous and that are small enough that the  
20      people can know their Representative and  
21      vice-versa, and they should have the  
22      opportunity to go to the polls feeling that  
23      their vote is going to count.

24             I have spoken to many Democrats who don't  
25      bother voting because they feel it is a waste

1 of their time, that they can't win and  
2 certainly the last election proved that  
3 statement.

4 So my request would be, keep it simple,  
5 keep it compact and keep it fair. Thank you.

6 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you. Next  
7 we have Nancy Bell, followed by Charlene  
8 Walker. Ms. Bell.

9 MS. BELL: Good morning, ladies and  
10 gentlemen. Thank you for coming to our area to  
11 listen to us, and I think you have done that.  
12 It is worth repeating, I think, that in  
13 November of 2010, 63 percent of Florida voters  
14 approved the Constitutional Amendments for fair  
15 districting.

16 On a personal note, if you had been  
17 elected by 63 percent, I think you would be  
18 pretty happy. I think you would feel like you  
19 had a mandate, and that is what the voters in  
20 Florida feel.

21 We feel that we have a mandate for fair  
22 districts, and you wouldn't try to challenge or  
23 change the vote because the voters' votes are  
24 the wishes of the people and that is the way we  
25 feel about the Fair Districts Amendment.

1           We expect you to follow the wishes of the  
2           people on the issue of fair districts and we  
3           certainly do not expect you to spend taxpayer  
4           money to fight the fair districts.

5           The State Constitution requires that no  
6           apportionment plan or district shall be drawn  
7           with the intent to favor or disfavor a  
8           political party or an incumbent.

9           Gerrymandering, as it has already been  
10          said, is wrong, whether it is done by  
11          Republicans or Democrats or Independents or  
12          whoever, it is wrong, and it is time for the  
13          voters to be able to choose their  
14          Representatives rather than elected officials  
15          choosing their voters.

16          We talked a lot about maps this morning.  
17          One map I have seen is the one done by Columbia  
18          University law student and Juris Doctorate  
19          candidate, Nicholas Ortezt (phonetic), working  
20          under the direction of Columbia University law  
21          professor, Nate Persily, who is a redistricting  
22          expert the courts relied on to redraw lines in  
23          four states following the 2000 census.

24          His map is very interesting and it is fair  
25          with districts that are contiguous, compact and

1 with equal population, which follows  
2 traditional redistricting principles.

3 If you attempt to redistrict based on  
4 favoring one party or, in fact, if you do that,  
5 we will be a whisper away from fascism.  
6 Defined in the dictionary, as a system of  
7 government characterized by a rigid one party  
8 dictatorship and forcible suppression of the  
9 opposition.

10 The people in our democratic republic and  
11 the people of Florida will not stand for  
12 fascism. Now, I beg you to do the right thing.

13 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Ma'am, I am  
14 going to ask you keep the rhetorics --

15 MS. BELL: For the right reasons when you  
16 draw the new districts.

17 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: -- to a little  
18 bit more higher standard. And once again,  
19 ma'am, if you could, when you have written  
20 prepared remarks like that, if you could submit  
21 them to our staff so we can accurately reflect  
22 them in the record, I would appreciate it.

23 Next we have Charlene Walker, and she will  
24 be followed by Evelyn Arthur. Ms. Walker.  
25 There she is.

1 MS. WALKER: I can't follow that. I  
2 really, really just want to say and ask you to  
3 please follow the requirements listed in the  
4 Amendments, and if you do that I think we will  
5 have a fair redistricting process, and that is  
6 the important thing, especially Lake County.

7 I live in Lady Lake, Lake County and Lake  
8 County is an absolute disaster, and that has  
9 been discussed. So if we can correct those  
10 kinds of things I would appreciate it. Thank  
11 you.

12 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
13 Ms. Walker, Evelyn Arthur followed by Albert  
14 Exner.

15 MS. ARTHUR: Good morning, everyone, and  
16 thank you for being here. In November 3.1  
17 million Floridians voted and passed the  
18 redistricting standard. The fact that the  
19 Legislature has a suit or set aside money  
20 basically is saying that we are suing  
21 ourselves.

22 Sixty-three percent of us voted. We want  
23 the districts to be fair, as a lot of people  
24 have said, and I am just about convinced that  
25 it should be done by a computer.

1           It should be done by a program that has  
2       been proven before in various states. I just  
3       think that the job is just really, really, just  
4       too tremendous to be done in the time frame  
5       that is necessary for the proper folks that  
6       want to represent us be able to come forth and  
7       know who they are representing.

8           Like a lot of others, I think we just need  
9       to feel that it is going to be done fairly, and  
10      I am not sure that individuals can do that. I  
11      think a proper computer program by the person  
12      that Ms. Bell said, talked about, would be the  
13      proper way to go. Thank you for coming, and I  
14      appreciate this opportunity.

15           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
16      ma'am. Albert Exner, followed by Mike Archer.

17           MR. EXNER: I would like to start by  
18      thanking the folks on the stage being here  
19      today to listen to what the public has to say.

20           The most important thing I think that I,  
21      it occurred to me was that the likelihood of  
22      having every county and every community having  
23      just the representation that belongs to it and  
24      not sharing a legislative assistance by  
25      devoting the -- the -- the -- the various



1       opportunities to gerrymander, there is no  
2       possibility that these gentlemen on the stage  
3       can possibly arrange to have every county only  
4       represented by the folks within that county,  
5       and the -- the -- not just the county, but the  
6       individual localities.

7               I think that we all have to be realistic  
8       that that can't happen, but we can certainly  
9       work to approximate this by having, say, for  
10      example, I am from Marion County, and in Marion  
11      County we have three, I think four different  
12      Senatorial districts representing us, and by  
13      this, it occurs that there is a lack of  
14      concentrated effort, concentrated knowledge,  
15      concentrated work on the part of the folks  
16      doing the job in the Senate.

17             With this in mind I would like to suggest  
18      that we all get behind them and continue to  
19      submit ideas and I thank you very much.

20             REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.  
21      Mike Archer is next, followed by Linda Hobbs.

22             MR. ARCHER: Good morning. How are you  
23      doing? Here we are 11 years later after what  
24      many people believe, whether we agree or not,  
25      many people believe was one of the most corrupt

1 elections in modern American history, took  
2 place right here in Florida.

3 We developed widespread voter mistrust  
4 following that, year after year after year.  
5 Now, the process of redistricting is very  
6 healthy, because it allows us to try to rebuild  
7 some credibility into the political process in  
8 Florida.

9 So it is something we all want to do, but  
10 what I would like you to consider is this.  
11 Your stated goal that you said several times  
12 today is to remove politics from the process,  
13 yet as many speakers have pointed out, the  
14 Legislature, itself, is fighting the process.

15 That is just not helpful at all, fighting  
16 those Amendments is not going to build  
17 credibility.

18 Secondly, to remove politics from the  
19 process, are you legally forbidden, I mean  
20 legally forbidden from getting the services of  
21 a politically neutral redistricting expert to  
22 manage this process and see it through, through  
23 all of the vetting and all of the Supreme Court  
24 work so that the public has a full chance to  
25 see every piece of this process, as many people

1 have mentioned.

2 I want to know and I would like an answer  
3 from both a Democrat and a Republican, I would  
4 like to know, are you legally forbidden from  
5 doing that? Thank you.

6 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir,  
7 and after the meeting, everyone here will be  
8 available to meet with you at your convenience.

9 We are going to have people address issues  
10 at that time. Again, thank you for your  
11 comments.

12 MR. ARCHER: May I have an answer, please?

13 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: We are at the  
14 end of the meeting we are going to answer a  
15 whole long laundry list of comments and we are  
16 going to do it in that format.

17 MR. ARCHER: Okay, so you will answer that  
18 question later, thank you.

19 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you for  
20 your time, sir. Linda Hobbs is up next,  
21 followed by Sandy Trusso.

22 MS. HOBBS: Good morning.

23 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Good morning.

24 MS. HOBBS: My name is Linda Hobbs and I  
25 live in Sumter county and I would like to thank

1       each of you for coming here this morning. You  
2       probably got up earlier than I did. A number  
3       of you probably had to drive quite a distance.

4             This issue is one of one nation or not,  
5       divided or not. I would, for those of us who  
6       have seen the present map districting, some  
7       people have referred to it as having fingers.

8             For sure it is a strange map, and I  
9       acknowledge that you -- that you did not draw  
10      the map, but I also am aware that you may have  
11      benefited from that map, and so, and what did  
12      that strange map say?

13            And the question is, can redistricting be  
14      used for voter suppression, and that is what we  
15      are actually talking about today. And what did  
16      the vote of the 63 percent of Floridians say  
17      they wanted?

18            They want voter expression, not voter  
19      suppression. They want every vote to count,  
20      and they want every voter included. This is an  
21      incredible opportunity that each of you have  
22      now, and it is to right a wrong and it is to  
23      say that you represent all of the people in  
24      your district, not just some of them.

25            So I ask each of you to let the desire for

1 citizen representation and voter expression be  
2 the guide for this new redistricting. Our  
3 people, our country has been divided enough.  
4 We are looking to you to bring us together.  
5 Thank you.

6 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
7 much for those comments. Sandy Trusso,  
8 followed by Marguerite Cavanaugh.

9 MS. TRUSSO: Thank you for allowing our  
10 input on this redistricting process. In my  
11 opinion we need to draw the lines in compact  
12 districts that are most convenient to local  
13 voters and in districts that best serve the  
14 needs of the majority of the communities in  
15 each county.

16 This way it is much easier to know your  
17 Legislators and they, in turn, are more  
18 attentive to individual and community needs.  
19 When you spread these geographic districts out  
20 so far, it is almost impossible for a  
21 Legislator to cover the territory so as to  
22 really understand the needs of his or her  
23 constituency.

24 Marion County is one of the largest of the  
25 smaller Florida counties, and we should not be

1           so chopped up so as to render us insignificant.

2           For example, currently in Marion County we  
3           have four Senators, each of whom slices off a  
4           small piece of our county, and then in each of  
5           these small pieces, each of them is thrown into  
6           a mix of other counties, who's cultures are so  
7           varied, everything from a portion of our State  
8           Capitol, Senator Dean, college towns, to rural  
9           farm land, to ocean life styles, none of which  
10          is representative of the type of values,  
11          culture and growth that is unique to Marion  
12          County.

13          We need for our State Senators to  
14          understand and represent the needs of Marion  
15          County as their top priority.

16          Another example, one of our Congressmen is  
17          mainly in Orange County, Orlando, an area so  
18          far away and so culturally different, so as to  
19          have very little in common with our needs. We  
20          need for our Congressman to be geographically  
21          more personally assessable which also enables  
22          more accountability, especially within the  
23          Federal government.

24          People already feel that the U.S. Senate  
25          and Congress are so far away that they are out

1 of reach. Although we appreciate town  
2 meetings, it is nearly impossible to explain a  
3 specific problem in depth. While there are  
4 Congressional District offices, most of the  
5 time we have to drive to Orlando to meet with  
6 our Congressman.

7 No matter how responsive our Congressman  
8 tries to be, in a district this size, it is  
9 extremely difficult to meet with many of his  
10 constituents from further and smaller counties.

11 Therefore, it is essential to have a  
12 smaller Congressional District, exclusive to  
13 Marion County, which may or may not incorporate  
14 small pieces of other bordering communities  
15 who's communities are closer to our needs.

16 One other thing I would like to mention, I  
17 wasn't going to mention it, but since it has  
18 been brought up. Unless there is a massive  
19 education program, we know by the pregnant pig  
20 amendment that most of the voters here have not  
21 been fully informed on a lot of the ballots and  
22 so a lot of times they vote a straight yes.

23 Okay, so we aren't really sure that they  
24 have agreed with Amendments 5 and 6, and  
25 another thing is that the organization who

1       wants to define what is fair, despite the fact  
2       that they claim nonpartisan, are very much in  
3       line with a particular party, and I think that  
4       this causes discrimination against the rest of  
5       the races and the ethnicities.

6               So again, I would ask that you do it by  
7       community need and compact, compactness. Thank  
8       you.

9               REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
10       Ms. Trusso. Next we have Marguerite Cavanaugh,  
11       followed by Marsha Shearer. Ms. Cavanaugh?  
12       Has she left? Okay. Great. Marsha Shearer is  
13       next, followed by Anne Schalet.

14              MS. SHEARER: Good morning, voters,  
15       indeed, knew what they were voting for when  
16       they voted for these two referenda. How many  
17       times do we actually do it? How many times  
18       does it take?

19              The Chair indicated that building blocks  
20       were needed to look at the various issues  
21       involved in coming up with these districts.

22              It seems to me that the major building  
23       blocks are already there. First of all, common  
24       sense, and secondly, the very specific  
25       directions that were specified in the two



1       referenda. I frankly am very disappointed we  
2       don't have a map to comment on today.

3           I -- perhaps if the Legislature had not  
4       been so busy trying to avoid the  
5       implementation, perhaps we would have one.

6           There is a concern I do have, now that I  
7       got that out of my system, and that is the  
8       timeline. This has been talked about before,  
9       but there is an issue that does relate to  
10      fairness, and that is that by the time these  
11      districts are redrawn and comments are made and  
12      then the districts are redrawn again, by the  
13      time the election comes around, the candidates,  
14      particularly those who are not incumbents of  
15      either party, are going to have one heck of a  
16      time getting their views known to the public.

17          So the timeline here that the way this is  
18      going on is set right now in favor of  
19      incumbents, regardless of party, and that I  
20      feel is against the very issue that the  
21      referenda tried to address. Thank you.

22          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
23      much for those comments. Ann Schalet, followed  
24      by Sam McConnell.

25          MS. SCHALET: I only came to Florida 18

1 months ago. I feel totally incompetent to say  
2 anything more than I am in total culture shock  
3 that 63 percent of the voters could vote for  
4 something that is now being sued by the  
5 Legislature. Thank you.

6 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you. Sam  
7 McConnell followed by Alan Wichman.

8 MR. MCCONNELL: Sam McConnell from Marion  
9 County. I want to thank The Villages for  
10 hosting us. We don't get our own community of  
11 interest meeting, so I thank you for having us  
12 as guests.

13 That is part of why I wanted to talk to  
14 you. You know, I had a choice to go to  
15 Daytona, a choice to come down to The Villages  
16 and a choice to go up to Gainesville, so  
17 therein lies part of the challenge.

18 We are so splintered, we are not a  
19 community of interest in Marion County, we are  
20 a community of pot pie. We just flat out do  
21 not have that singleness of representation that  
22 we need to have to show that we are a community  
23 of interest.

24 Marion County I don't think has had a  
25 State Senate probably since the '80s, that

1       lived there. You know, I was raised with a  
2       statement that home is where the heart is.

3           I think in this redistricting it might be,  
4       the heart is where the home is, and I am really  
5       concerned that we haven't taken into effect  
6       that Marion County has got four State Senators,  
7       and they are all great State Senators, I  
8       appreciate what they have done for our county,  
9       and this is by no means a reflection upon the  
10      current elected officials, but what I am saying  
11      is that we need somebody that can stand up for  
12      Marion County and can represent Marion County  
13      and can put forth our wishes and concerns as a  
14      community of interest.

15           You know, whether you are running for  
16      political office or running the political  
17      office or running from the political office,  
18      you need to have a community of interest to  
19      stand for.

20           We don't, we don't -- our elected  
21      officials are so splintered that when we have  
22      community activities it is hard for a State  
23      Senator or a state Representative to be at some  
24      of our community activities because they are so  
25      from away.

1           It took me 48 minutes to drive here from  
2           my house and I am an aggressive driver.  
3           Daytona, if I would have went to that meeting  
4           it would have took me 75 minutes to an hour  
5           and-a-half to drive over there to that meeting.  
6           If I go up to Gainesville, it is almost an  
7           hour.

8           We are a community of interest in Marion  
9           County, ladies and gentlemen. We do represent  
10          a strong body of voters, and for you to have us  
11          splintered the way we are is not fair to Marion  
12          County.

13          I totally respect the State legislators  
14          and the State Senators that have tried to  
15          represent us, but it is time for a change and a  
16          redistricting of Marion County, and I thank The  
17          Villages in Lake County and Sumter County for  
18          having us here.

19          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.  
20          And those were great comments, and, you know,  
21          the home is where the heart is, is a great way  
22          it look at it, and those comments truly came  
23          from your heart, I could tell. Thank you.  
24          Alan Wichman, followed by Joyce Hamilton Henry.

25          MR. WICHMAN: My name is Al Wichman, I

1 live in Grand Island, which is in Lake County,  
2 and my wife and I are members of the League of  
3 Women Voters and we certainly agree with the  
4 comments that have been made by Mrs. and  
5 Mr. Coen of the Lake County board.

6 The item of time seems to be mentioned by  
7 most people. I was reading an article about  
8 the number of states that have already adopted  
9 their own redistricting, and we are falling by  
10 the wayside.

11 Somehow as I watch television I see  
12 candidates are now identifying that they wish  
13 to run for particular offices. How do they  
14 know what office they are running for? We  
15 haven't identified what the districts are.

16 So this is the biggest situation that  
17 faces people like yourselves to find out what  
18 kind of representation you are going to have to  
19 work with if you are elected.

20 Now, in addition to the 63 percent figure  
21 which most people have been applauding all  
22 meeting we see that our tax money is being  
23 spent to fight what we want, and I think  
24 63 percent majority of people that really  
25 studied, really studied these Amendments back

1 in November, the League of Women Voters, one  
2 agency that has worked diligently to get the  
3 word out to the people.

4 So the comment that people didn't know  
5 what they were voting for doesn't take any kind  
6 of credence at all. We want fairness. We want  
7 our tax money spent wisely. We want good  
8 representative districts, not the  
9 gerrymandering that we see when we look at our  
10 present map which is an absolute disgrace.  
11 Thank you.

12 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.  
13 Next we have Joyce Henry, followed by Marsha  
14 Solms. Joyce, are you here? Thank you.

15 MS. HENRY: Good morning. My name is  
16 Joyce Hamilton Henry, and I am the Director of  
17 the Mid Florida Regional Office of the ACLU  
18 which is based in Tampa, and I am here to speak  
19 on behalf of the ACLU.

20 You have two mandates to uphold. The 1965  
21 Voting Rights Act and the mandate from the  
22 63 percent of Floridians who voted for  
23 Amendments 5 and 6.

24 They both require that you draw the maps  
25 for the new House Senate and Congressional

1       Districts that are compact, contiguous and  
2       reflect the needs of communities of interest,  
3       specifically, more specifically,  
4       African-Americans and Latinos.

5               We want fair nonpartisan districts. It  
6       should not favor or disfavor any political  
7       party. We want a process that is truly, truly  
8       transparent. We believe that lawmakers should  
9       not be able to draw their own individual  
10      districts.

11             That is the essence of insider and back  
12      room deal and you also heard gerrymandering.  
13      We are deeply troubled by this very slow and  
14      what will amount to be a very expensive  
15      process.

16             You have had the data, census data for  
17      months. Our question to you is, where are the  
18      maps? We have the technology, the software,  
19      and we clearly have the intellectual capital to  
20      draw the maps. This is not rocket science.

21             Where are the maps and why is it taking so  
22      long? We are being asked to come in on a  
23      process, but we are not given the opportunity,  
24      the real opportunity to comment.

25             Citizen participation is at the heart of a

1 healthy democracy. On the surface, these  
2 hearings may seem to engage people in a  
3 democratic process, but in reality, without the  
4 maps, it is a sham, a farce, a waste of  
5 everyone's time and the taxpayer's dollar.

6 Floridians want to see the map. We want  
7 to know who our Representatives will be.  
8 Potential candidates want to know which  
9 district they should run for and we just heard  
10 from one Supervisor that Supervisor of  
11 Elections need to know also so that they could  
12 do their jobs.

13 If you are truly committed to making our  
14 democracy work fairly, vibrantly and  
15 inclusively, you need to make the map, present  
16 it to the public, tell us why you draw the  
17 districts and then invite our comments.

18 Only then can we have a real conversation,  
19 unless the goal is to keep us in the dark,  
20 confused and further delay the process. I hate  
21 to resort to a colloquial kind of term, but I  
22 will. Read our lips. Show us the maps. Thank  
23 you.

24 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you. Next  
25 we have Ms. Marsha Solms, followed by Gary



1           Davis.

2                   MS. SOLMS: My name is Marsha Solms, I  
3           live in The Villages in Sumter County. I just  
4           have two brief comments.

5                   I am in District 42, and I would like to  
6           urge that The Villages remain, remain in one  
7           State House District.

8                   My Congressional District, which is  
9           District Number 5, I would like all of The  
10          Villages to be, I would urge you to vote for  
11          all of The Villages to be represented by one  
12          Representative.

13                   REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
14          ma'am. Next we have Gary Davis, followed by  
15          Cheryl Borkowski.

16                   MR. DAVIS: Good morning, everyone, thank  
17          you for being here. I appreciate the  
18          opportunity to be part of a public forum. I am  
19          a unique Villager, I live in Sumter County here  
20          in The Villages. I came here seven years ago,  
21          moved north to come to The Villages, and I  
22          didn't come here to retire, I came here to open  
23          a business.

24                   My business partner sent me up here to  
25          establish this office. So over the last seven

1 years in building this office I have talked to  
2 literally thousands of people, not only through  
3 business, but my Rotary Club, my political  
4 party affiliation and activity, as a  
5 representative of one of our districts here in  
6 The Villages, my church and other activities.

7 We are a unique community. We have a  
8 common culture, we have common interest. We  
9 came here for the lifestyle and what this  
10 community represents, but being spread over  
11 three counties and two municipalities makes it  
12 a challenge.

13 So I would ask you to give serious  
14 consideration that when you are looking at what  
15 The Villages represents, now 83,000 and  
16 growing, expected to peak out at around 105,000  
17 residents, that you look at The Villages as one  
18 voting block, for Legislative, Congressional  
19 and Senatorial Districts.

20 And Mr. Baxley, like you, I share a target  
21 rich environment here. Thank you very much.

22 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Cheryl  
23 Borkowski, followed by Roger Kass.

24 MS. BORKOWSKI: I am Cheryl Borkowski from  
25 Sumter County. I don't speak very well in

1 public. In fact, I am shaking, and I just --

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You are doing great,  
3 ma'am, but could you speak directly into the  
4 mike, because I know all of these friends and  
5 neighbors here --

6 MS. BORKOWSKI: Okay, I don't want to  
7 sound too loud.

8 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: No, that is all right,  
9 that is all right.

10 MS. BORKOWSKI: I am just very  
11 disappointed that our Representatives have been  
12 dragging their feet. I want fair  
13 representation in the redistricting, and I have  
14 been very disappointed in public officers and  
15 people that have participated in running our  
16 government in Florida.

17 I don't feel you have to be a Harvard  
18 graduate to do what is right for the American  
19 people, and on this small little redistricting  
20 thing, I expect you people to do the right  
21 thing, and you know you can do it by computer  
22 and it is probably going to be the fairest way.  
23 Thank you.

24 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you. Next  
25 we have Roger Kass, and I don't have any other

1 cards. So if anybody else wants to speak if  
2 would you get with staff and fill out a card  
3 and get it up with me, you still have that  
4 opportunity. Mr. Kass.

5 MR. KASS: Good morning, and thank you for  
6 the opportunity. My name is Roger Kass, and I  
7 am the previous President, past, immediate past  
8 President of The Villages Homeowners'  
9 Association.

10 I happen to live in Marion County, but  
11 when I was the Homeowners' President I  
12 represented all of The Villages, and all of the  
13 residents of The Villages.

14 As has been said, we are a unique  
15 community, a community of common interest. Our  
16 interests are similar and I believe it is  
17 important that our representation reflect that.

18 I would ask that you consider the fact  
19 that we are a community of common interest and  
20 establish The Villages as part of a single  
21 congressional legislative and represented  
22 district, regardless of what county we live in,  
23 because we do live in three counties, and we do  
24 have -- and in two municipalities, and I thank  
25 you for your consideration and time. Thank

1           you.

2           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.

3           Now, I did have one lady who was not here when  
4           I called her name earlier. Has Marguerite  
5           Cavanaugh come back, last call? Okay. And  
6           then I have Catherine Williamson, would you  
7           like to speak, please step up to the -- thank  
8           you.

9           MS. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, and thank you  
10          all for coming here. The topic that this  
11          reminds me of is one of the things that we see  
12          all around the country, and that is the erosion  
13          of our population's faith and trust in their  
14          government and you guys probably experience it  
15          all of the time, but many times people become  
16          involved with government and their first  
17          involvement is from a negative point of view,  
18          because they basically have a very low level of  
19          trust.

20          And I think this is a great opportunity  
21          for you all, there is maybe in your daily work  
22          you can only feel like you can make slight very  
23          small steps towards improving that.

24          This is a big step you can make towards  
25          improving our population's faith and trust in

1 government. Anybody who looks at a current map  
2 has a -- an immediate sense that something  
3 doesn't make sense here.

4 So, of course, the first thing that  
5 everybody is looking for in redistricting is  
6 districts that make sense. I think that it is  
7 easy to understand that The Villages are a  
8 community of interest and that it makes sense  
9 that they are kept together in redistricting.

10 For the rest of us who live in Lake  
11 County, it makes -- it would make more sense to  
12 us if we were not represented by four different  
13 U.S. Congress people, four different  
14 Representatives, that if there were -- if it  
15 was more along county lines, that would make  
16 more sense to us.

17 The timeline is another area where you can  
18 effect what people's perception of what you are  
19 doing is. If this drags out to the point  
20 where it becomes clear that the votes and the  
21 late vote in the Legislature puts this in a  
22 time frame where this gets finished up the day  
23 or a week before ballots need to be put  
24 together, this will be viewed as a general  
25 public as a way that you could be -- that you

1       have caused difficulty for them, that you have  
2       not enabled them to be positively involved with  
3       government, but have made it more difficult.

4               The other thing that you can do is, it is  
5       good to see so many people from different areas  
6       up here. One of the things that I hope that  
7       people from other parts of the state are here  
8       for, is that we would like to see the people  
9       from other parts of our state be involved with  
10      drawing the lines in our state so that there is  
11      no perception at all that any of you are  
12      individually involved in drawing the districts  
13      that you represent.

14             It needs to be something that is clearly  
15      fair in how you do that. You are doing your  
16      meetings in an open way. You need to keep that  
17      going so that everything looks transparent.  
18      This is a great opportunity. We hope that you  
19      really follow through on that. Thank you.

20             REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
21      much for those kind words. I have got one  
22      additional card here from Bud Mangels, and  
23      again, anyone else that wants to speak, please  
24      see our staff. They are handing me another  
25      card right now and we will give you that

1 opportunity. Mr. Mangels.

2 MR. MANGELS: Yes, the name is Mangels.

3 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Mangels, I  
4 mangled it, sorry.

5 MR. MANGELS: That is a grand old German  
6 name and I am proud to be a first generation  
7 American, and one of the things that I find  
8 lacking in this discussion is we are talking  
9 about Republicans, Democrats, Independents,  
10 ethnic groups, but I haven't heard anybody  
11 talking about we are all Americans.

12 Secondly, I think we talk about a republic  
13 that is based upon a representative form of  
14 government, and we need neighborhoods, I heard  
15 the word compact made several times, but we  
16 need to have an opportunity to be in contact  
17 with our representatives because frankly, what  
18 you think isn't very important.

19 What is important is that you know what we  
20 think, so that when you have cast a ballot, so  
21 that when you cast a ballot, whether it is in  
22 the Federal government or the State government,  
23 it is really responding to the basis of this  
24 republic, and that is that we have somebody  
25 that is going to represent us.



1           You don't have a job. You have an  
2           assignment. You have a calling, and that  
3           calling is to represent a group of American  
4           people in a very wonderful form of government  
5           and that is one that is based upon  
6           representation of all of the people.

7           I neglected to say thank you for being  
8           here. I appreciate you willing to serve as  
9           part of that government process, and all of the  
10          people that I sit with out here today, I am  
11          thankful that they are taking part in this very  
12          precious thing that we have. Thank you.

13          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.  
14          Now I have a card from Ms. Sandra Mott.  
15          Ms. Mott. Followed by Harriet Heywood. Thank  
16          you, ma'am.

17          MS. MOTT: Good morning, and thank you all  
18          for being here and for offering us the  
19          opportunity to tell you what we think, because  
20          come next election, we are going to tell you  
21          again what we think.

22          The things that seem to be important in  
23          what I have heard here today about  
24          redistricting are that we do need our -- keep  
25          our communities of interest intact. We need to

1 keep our districts compact so that we can have  
2 ready access to our Representatives, because it  
3 is important.

4 I know you all think it is or you wouldn't  
5 be here, to know what we think. The American  
6 people are beginning to wake up and the next  
7 ten years are going to be very critical years  
8 in the future of our nation, so thank you.

9 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
10 ma'am, I appreciate those comments. Next we  
11 have Harriet Heywood, followed by Dave O'Neill.

12 MS. HEYWOOD: Thank you very much. You  
13 will excuse me for being a skeptic about the  
14 redistricting process. What I have seen is the  
15 Governor and the Legislature fight it at every  
16 turn.

17 Unfortunately, when you have districts  
18 that are drawn by Representatives, you have  
19 unrepresented citizens and that is what we have  
20 in Florida today.

21 Sixty-three percent of the voters of this  
22 state voted for fair districts, and what we  
23 want to see is our wishes carried out, and what  
24 we really are upset about is our tax dollars.

25 My tax dollars being used to fight a law

1       that I voted into effect. Ideally what we  
2       would like to have is a nonpartisan commission  
3       that is going to be voting on the maps.

4             At the very least, a computer program  
5       which is not being gerrymandered by one party  
6       or the other. I hope, I really hope that you  
7       are not going to use my tax dollars to fight a  
8       law that I voted, and I also want to add that  
9       the people of Florida are going to be watching  
10      you, and the people of the country are watching  
11      us also. So please do the right thing. Thank  
12      you.

13            REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
14      ma'am. Dave O'Neill. Mr. O'Neill. And again,  
15      this is my final card that I have. So if you  
16      want to speak, please see one of our staff  
17      quickly. Mr. O'Neill.

18            MR. O'NEILL: Okay, glad to be here,  
19      folks, and I have listened to the meetings that  
20      I have been watching on TV every day, and a  
21      point came out here that some of you people  
22      have voted to tax or to spend our taxes against  
23      the Amendments that were passed by 63 percent  
24      of the vote.

25            Now, I wonder if you, Senator Hays, since

1 I am in your district, did you vote?

2 SENATOR HAYS: Did I vote on what?

3 MR. O'NEILL: On these taxes being paid  
4 for the suit against --

5 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Okay, Senator  
6 Hays, sir, I would like you to have that  
7 conversation after the meeting here. We are  
8 here to listen to your comments though, but we  
9 are not going to engage in a debate from here.

10 MR. O'NEILL: I am asking you people a  
11 question and I want to know. Did you --

12 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: No, Alan, I am  
13 not going to recognize you.

14 MR. O'NEILL: No, I will go on to the next  
15 statement.

16 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Okay, thank you.

17 MR. O'NEILL: But at least I let you know  
18 I am here.

19 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Okay.

20 MR. O'NEILL: Okay. So now it comes down  
21 to everyone up there with a big smile on their  
22 face, and I see it in meetings, where was it,  
23 Panama City or up there in Pensacola, and  
24 Jacksonville and that, and it looks like you  
25 are laughing down at us.

1           You are really making us look like jerks  
2           for coming up here to even have the audacity to  
3           ask you super white folks, the super majority,  
4           but you are not a majority, you are a minority,  
5           and that is what this whole thing is about.

6           How could we -- how could a party that has  
7           got half the population of the Democrats which  
8           happens to be Republicans, why, how could they  
9           possibly control both Houses?

10          So it turns out that it turns out that  
11          over in Pensacola about, what was it, eight,  
12          ten years ago when they had the redistricting,  
13          they moved a black neighborhood out with 3,000  
14          votes and the guy up there won by 400, and he  
15          happened to be a Republican. And I thank you,  
16          folks.

17          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
18          much for your comments, sir. Okay. That was  
19          the -- that was the last speaker card that we  
20          had. That concludes our list of those who have  
21          asked to speak. Aha, I have got some more  
22          coming up, and then what we are going to do  
23          after we get to the end of the speakers, is we,  
24          if we don't have any written remarks that have  
25          been submitted over social media and the like,

1 we are going to then proceed to having some of  
2 our members up here answer some of the  
3 questions that have been raised today and that  
4 have been raised regularly over time, and once  
5 I get to that we are going to start with  
6 Senator Gaetz and then I have several others  
7 who have already indicated that they wish to  
8 speak. So, Heather Rabinowitz.

9 MS. RABINOWITZ: Thank you very much. I  
10 am pleased to be here. I would like to give my  
11 opinion about the fair districting. My  
12 understanding of the Constitution is that  
13 everyone in the country that is a citizen has  
14 the opportunity and the right to vote.

15 And in order to do so they need candidates  
16 of their choice, and districting is an  
17 important element of this function. If the  
18 maps for the districts are not presented early  
19 enough in the process of elections, then  
20 candidates do not have the opportunity to stand  
21 forth and get support from the people in the  
22 district that they hope to represent.

23 So my contention is that the maps for the  
24 projected districts should be issued on the  
25 early side rather than on the later side, so

1           that this American ideal can be fulfilled.

2           Thank you.

3                   REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT:   Thank you very  
4           much.   Okay, that was the final card that I  
5           have in my hand.   Anyone else, raise your hand?  
6           Okay, well, then we will go ahead and move to  
7           the members of the panel that would like to  
8           comment at this point in time.

9                   First, thank you very much for being here.  
10          We really appreciate all of the constructive  
11          input that we have gotten and I was really  
12          personally impressed with a lot of the maps  
13          that we got.   Representation Frishe, you are  
14          recognized.

15                   REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE:   Thank you,  
16          Mr. Chairman.   First of all, thank you all for  
17          coming out.   I am a firm believer in that we  
18          have a participatory system of government and  
19          it doesn't work if you don't participate.   So  
20          thank you very much for participating.

21                   There were a couple of questions raised  
22          earlier today about whether the public could  
23          intelligently submit maps and really start the  
24          process.

25                   Obviously, from the maps that have been

1 submitted today and over the last couple of  
2 days, and also from everywhere from Tallahassee  
3 to Pensacola to northeast Florida, and now The  
4 Villages, obviously you have the intelligence  
5 to do it. So those of you who don't think you  
6 can, give it a shot.

7 We are, we are here to listen to what you  
8 have to say because, as Mr. Mangels said, it is  
9 not so important what we think coming out of  
10 the box, it is important that we know what you  
11 think locally, and I think that is very  
12 important.

13 I am Vice Chairman of the House  
14 Redistricting Committee. I live in Pinellas  
15 County. I have to tell you, I have learned an  
16 immense amount about the concerns of the  
17 panhandle, of the northeast and now this area  
18 in central Florida.

19 The Villages in particular are going to  
20 have a problem because all of ya'll who  
21 supported Amendment 5 and think it is wonderful  
22 and it will solve your problems, you may have  
23 just subdivided The Villages, because the use  
24 of geographic and political boundaries were  
25 feasible according to Amendment 5 is more



1       important than the preservations of communities  
2       of interest.

3               But we are very glad to hear your input  
4       there and we are going to try to do our very  
5       best to accommodate those, but that is, you  
6       know, the way Amendment 5 is worded, we may  
7       have a problem there. So I hope you will help  
8       us and give us some suggestions on how to  
9       overcome that.

10              I thank you again for being here, freedom  
11       is a heavy lift. It takes a lot of hands to  
12       keep a country free, and I appreciate you  
13       helping do some of the lifting. Thank you for  
14       being here.

15              REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
16       Representative. Next we will go to  
17       Representative Nehr. You are recognized.

18              REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Thank you. I  
19       appreciate that. My name is Representative  
20       Nehr, and as Chairman of the Senate  
21       Redistricting Committee in Tallahassee, I took  
22       a few notes and I just want to make sure I  
23       share some of that with you.

24              And I wanted to offer some clarification  
25       regarding the redistricting timeline, because

1       there was some mention made of that a couple of  
2       times.

3               Now, what you see on the websites as far  
4       as the timeline, when action can occur is not  
5       meant to suggest that the maps will definitely  
6       pass on one day or another day or on a specific  
7       day.

8               It is simply a range of dates that final  
9       action by the Legislature, the courts and the  
10      Department of Justice can occur. As long as it  
11      is not in 2011, because our Constitution says  
12      it cannot be acted on until 2012.

13              What that means is that after committee  
14      meetings that started September, and go through  
15      December, we will be discussing that, we will  
16      be discussing the maps. We will have community  
17      meetings where there will be public input at  
18      all times for any votes are taken, that  
19      everyone is allowed to do that.

20              If we get our work done early, we can  
21      actually vote on the maps as early as the first  
22      day of session, or if there is too many actions  
23      that we need to do, if there is too many  
24      questions by the public, we can wait until  
25      later on, but that is not a definitive

1 timeline. It is just a timeline when they can  
2 occur since we have certain laws that we have  
3 to follow. So I just wanted to mention that to  
4 everyone to clarify that situation. Thank you,  
5 Mr. Chairman.

6 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
7 Representative. Next on the list, I have  
8 Representative Baxley. You are recognized.

9 REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: Thank you,  
10 Mr. Chairman. I first want to thank our  
11 Chairman for conducting these kind of meetings  
12 that have been conducted with a proper decorum  
13 and proper respect for many different opinions.

14 As you can hear, a lot of different  
15 opinions are out there. I am very proud to  
16 have all of these members in my area of the  
17 state, you know, we do have different issues  
18 here in north central Florida, and The Villages  
19 is an incredibly unique event in the  
20 demographics of Florida, and I think it is  
21 absolutely necessary that they come and see  
22 what is happening here before these maps are  
23 drawn.

24 And so I am delighted that we were able to  
25 get this tour of meetings. If we came here

1 with pre-drawn maps and telling you what we  
2 plan to do, I don't think that would have been  
3 proper.

4 You know, there is a time to listen and  
5 there is a time to speak. Please remember,  
6 this is the beginning of a process. This is  
7 the beginning of a process that you can be part  
8 of all of the way through.

9 I was one of the few people, I was a brand  
10 new freshman when we did draw the maps in 2000,  
11 and I can tell you, this has been the most  
12 transparent experience of any state that I have  
13 observed, especially knowing that we get our  
14 information from the Census much, much later  
15 than many of the states that are already  
16 drawing maps.

17 How presumptuous of us to come here and  
18 tell you, this is going to be your map. We  
19 should come and listen to you first before we  
20 draw maps, and that is exactly what is  
21 happening.

22 I want to thank you for contributing to  
23 that process and the things that you have  
24 contributed. And also knowing, and Senator  
25 Gaetz, I hope that you will explain the rules,

1       you know, when we can do what, and what our  
2       Constitution requires.

3               We all swore to keep that Constitution and  
4       I think you give the best explanation of why we  
5       are doing what we are doing in this process,  
6       but I am very proud of this participation.

7               I am very proud that these comments will  
8       be on the record and part of the decision,  
9       rather than already made the decision and just  
10      informing you of something.

11              So I, having been through this process  
12      before, I can tell you, this is a far more  
13      transparent way to conduct this process and  
14      this is only the beginning.

15              There will be open meetings at every venue  
16      for you to come and participate and comment on  
17      as we go through this process, and it is,  
18      redistricting is very important. It has to do  
19      the way, resources get allocated. It has to do  
20      with so many things, and term limits, look,  
21      most of us won't even run on these new maps.

22              Most of us, many of these people are  
23      already term limited out. They won't even be  
24      here. So in the case of Florida, eight years  
25      is all you have, so you don't even run on those

1 maps.

2 Most of us run on maps that someone else  
3 drew. You heard that, a point earlier. Term  
4 limits has done that for Florida and it will  
5 make this a more open process, because we are  
6 not just preserving our own territory, because  
7 most of us are going to go out of office.

8 So thank you for understanding that, and I  
9 appreciate the Chairman for conducting these  
10 meetings. This is a tremendous amount of  
11 effort to have this many colleagues. You see,  
12 I am the only one from Marion County and all of  
13 these folks are people that we have to have a  
14 discussion with.

15 Thankfully we have had great  
16 representation in our delegation and I thank  
17 them for their work, but I am excited about you  
18 continuing to be a part of this process and  
19 nothing will be passed that you won't have a  
20 chance to comment to. Thank you.

21 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
22 Representative Baxley. Senator Hays, you are  
23 recognized.

24 SENATOR HAYS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
25 want to thank each one of you for being here.

1       This is what democracy is all about, it is  
2       called citizen participation.

3             I am very encouraged by the crowds that we  
4       have gotten all across the state. Believe me,  
5       this is not what we call a vacation at all. So  
6       don't think the taxpayers are funding us a  
7       great vacation.

8             We were in Jacksonville on Monday, we left  
9       Jacksonville Monday night and drove to St.  
10      Augustine, and we were at a meeting at 8:00  
11      yesterday morning in St. Augustine. We left  
12      Daytona Beach last night at 9:00 to come over  
13      here for 8:00.

14            We will be in Gainesville this evening and  
15      then we are through with this particular  
16      circuit. So folks, it is not a glory tour at  
17      all.

18            Believe you me, every one of us up here  
19      just are thirsty for compact districts. My  
20      particular Senate District in which we are  
21      sitting right now is 85 miles east and west,  
22      and I feel embarrassed to be commenting on it,  
23      it is not complaining, but to be commenting on  
24      it in the presence of Senator Dean who's  
25      district goes all of the way to the Georgia

1 line, and he told you about that earlier.

2 But, you know, there are so many pine  
3 trees out there and so few people out there  
4 that we have to have that large area to meet  
5 the numbers.

6 This whole process is numbers driven. The  
7 founders of this country over 200 years ago  
8 knew, I personally I believe it was with divine  
9 wisdom that was given to those men that they  
10 designed the reapportionment process the way  
11 they did, so that every person would have equal  
12 representation and they knew it had to be  
13 adjusted periodically. That is what we are  
14 going through.

15 We want the compact districts. Every one  
16 of us up here have sworn to uphold the  
17 Constitution of this state, and we are going to  
18 honor Amendments 5 and 6.

19 To answer specifically that question of  
20 the gentlemen a while ago, no, I did not vote  
21 to spend money to fight that lawsuit. The  
22 disappointing part of this whole thing, folks,  
23 is the misinformation that is out there.

24 The Florida Legislature has not filed a  
25 lawsuit to fight Amendments 5 and 6. The



1 Amendment 6 lawsuit was filed by one Republican  
2 Congressman an one Democratic Congresswoman.  
3 The Florida House chose to go, what is the  
4 term, an intervenor. In seeking clarification,  
5 the Florida House intervened, but your tax  
6 dollars are not being used to sue you the  
7 people who voted the 63 percent.

8 Believe me, I don't know where you got  
9 your information, but it is incorrect. So, no,  
10 I did not vote to waste that money.

11 One thing I would like to address is the  
12 splintered counties. I can, I can understand  
13 that, but consider this. When you have only  
14 one Senator or only one Representative, that is  
15 only one voice that you have advocating for you  
16 in Tallahassee or in Washington.

17 I live in Lake County. We have six voices  
18 in Tallahassee for Lake County, two Senators  
19 and four members of the House represent parts  
20 of Lake County.

21 That is a far better situation for the  
22 people of Lake County than if we had only one,  
23 because if that one gets cross-wise with the  
24 leadership in Tallahassee, then Lake County's  
25 interests are not going to be well represented,

1       and, you know, it is just better when you have  
2       six people advocating for your position than it  
3       is if you have only one person.

4               So it is not something that we do  
5       intentionally. The media have led you to  
6       believe that we are up here looking out for our  
7       own self interest, and I would invite you to go  
8       to the website and try to design the districts.  
9       You will see that it is some what like handling  
10      a water balloon. If you squeeze it here, it is  
11      going to bulge out over there and back and  
12      forth like that.

13              So we are dedicated to try to get the  
14      districts as compact as we can. We appreciate  
15      ya'll being here, and we did not file a  
16      lawsuit.

17              REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Senator Gaetz,  
18      you are recognized.

19              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
20      Mr. Chairman, and someone at some point during  
21      this hearing made some comment about how the  
22      hearing had no value.

23              Well, I can tell you, I have taken page  
24      after page after page after page of notes about  
25      local issues of concern that have to do with

1       how your district lines could be or should be  
2       drawn or shouldn't be drawn.

3               Information that I as somebody who lives  
4       way up in the panhandle of Florida, never could  
5       have gotten if we were just sitting in  
6       Tallahassee with Legislators talking to each  
7       other in an echo chamber.

8               So the fact that you were here today and  
9       provided this information makes this hearing  
10      extraordinarily valuable to me as one person  
11      who will vote on proposals that will come  
12      before the Senate Reapportionment Committee.

13              The several folks who said this process  
14      ought to be nonpartisan and, in fact, one  
15      gentleman asked if we could please answer the  
16      question, are we legally forbidden to have a  
17      politically neutral person manage the  
18      redistricting process and he wanted to hear  
19      from a Republican and a Democrat.

20              I am a Republican and I would yield to any  
21      of my Democratic colleagues. First of all, I  
22      am 63 years old, and I am still looking for the  
23      first politically neutral person.

24              I haven't found anybody who is without  
25      opinions and without a point of view, but

1       secondly, the Florida Constitution requires  
2       that the Legislature, made up of elected  
3       individuals, people you can elect and un-elect,  
4       actually manage and draw, manage the  
5       redistricting process and draw the lines.

6               So I am not sure where we find these  
7       political neutrals, if they are on an island  
8       somewhere, they get no newspapers, they have no  
9       opinions, I haven't found them yet, but if we  
10      could find them we would have to I think amend  
11      the Florida Constitution because it says now  
12      that the Florida Legislature is the one that  
13      must draw these lines.

14             Now, can we rely on experts to give us  
15      advice and information? Absolutely, and we  
16      are. We have I think someone mentioned it  
17      earlier, we have had input from -- from folks  
18      at Columbia University, and even though they  
19      are Floridians by -- by citizenship, they  
20      probably don't have too many dogs in the fight  
21      here. They are looking at this as an academic  
22      exercise.

23             We have had other universities express  
24      interest and even offer maps for part of the  
25      state or for just Senate Districts or just

1 Congressional Districts, and also there are  
2 individuals who are political scientists and  
3 they do have points of view, but they are  
4 offering expert advice to us, to others, to the  
5 Fair Districts group.

6 There is all kinds of advice that we can  
7 get from people who have studied redistricting  
8 and who are experts on redistricting in this  
9 state and in other states, but it is a  
10 constitutional requirement that we draw the  
11 maps.

12 Now, if the Fair Districts folks felt that  
13 was a bad idea, then they could have and still  
14 can offer an amendment to the Constitution that  
15 would establish some other group other than  
16 people you elect to do this job.

17 There, I think, are one or two states that  
18 use an unelected group that you don't really  
19 have any accountability from or to that at  
20 least put together plans or draw districts, and  
21 if the Fair Districts folks meant to do that,  
22 they didn't, but they certainly still could.

23 But right now, sir, the laws are that we  
24 have to draw the districts and we certainly can  
25 ask for expert advice from people who do this

1 as individuals who study redistricting across  
2 the country.

3 And then someone also asked, a couple of  
4 folks said, well, gosh, in fact, I wrote the  
5 quote down, we shouldn't have quote, maps  
6 submitted by people without subject area  
7 expertise, as though we would have the subject  
8 area expertise and I want to submit the only  
9 people that would be submitting maps and that  
10 folks sitting in the chairs here today don't  
11 have that subject area expertise.

12 I think that was the implication of the  
13 comment. I couldn't disagree more. We have  
14 seen maps submitted today by people who have on  
15 the ground expertise who know where communities  
16 of interest are, who know where people go to  
17 church, go to school, go to Synagogue, where  
18 their commerce and industry is concentrated,  
19 and where they have communities of interest.

20 And by the way, the most often repeated  
21 phrase in this hearing today for describing how  
22 districts ought to be drawn is the term,  
23 communities of interest, the most often  
24 repeated phrase.

25 And as another member of the committee has

1 pointed out, sadly, sadly, the term communities  
2 of interest is not included in Amendments 5 and  
3 6.

4 There was actually an effort made by  
5 another group to have the term communities of  
6 interest included in the Constitution, but the  
7 Supreme Court of Florida said no, that that  
8 amendment to the, or proposed amendment didn't  
9 meet the ballot test.

10 And so we have contiguity, we have  
11 political boundaries, we have natural  
12 boundaries, those are all in Amendments 5 and  
13 6, but communities of interest isn't there. So  
14 there is a tension here, there is a need here  
15 to sort of sort out what will work best for  
16 you, and you have been extraordinarily helpful  
17 in telling us how to sort it out.

18 You have told us, for example, that as to  
19 The Villages, it is less important to pay  
20 attention to county lines and more important to  
21 pay attention to this community.

22 Sadly, Amendments 5 and 6 didn't take that  
23 into account, and so, you know, we do have some  
24 issues there to work through. Then there has  
25 been a great deal of conversation about the

1 timeline, and believe me, it is an issue that  
2 we share as well.

3 Let's see if, if we go back and look at  
4 the facts and just maybe if I could provide you  
5 with some data. The Bureau of the Census does  
6 not release census information to all states  
7 all at once.

8 The Bureau of the Census releases census  
9 information in tranches or groups, and we  
10 weren't the last state to receive census  
11 information, but we were one of the last, and  
12 we could not legally begin the process of  
13 redistricting until we knew where Floridians  
14 lived, because we have all moved around a lot.

15 In the last ten years a number of you  
16 moved here, and a lot more people have moved  
17 into Florida. There has been ebbs and flows of  
18 population. So we had to have that  
19 information.

20 Now, as soon as we got it, as soon as we  
21 could convert it to something that could be  
22 seen and understood, and believe me, our folks  
23 worked around the clock, they worked at night  
24 to do it, we immediately put all of that  
25 demographic information from the Bureau of the



1        Census on the House and Senate websites, and  
2        lots and lots and lots and lots of people have  
3        viewed that data and used it as the basis for  
4        their own comments or criticisms or suggestions  
5        or proposals.

6                So the census data was provided as quickly  
7        as we possibly could provide it, and then we  
8        have overlaid on the census data the software,  
9        a couple of folks talked about computer  
10       programs.

11               We overlaid the computer program that is  
12       used in redistricting on the census data and a  
13       number of you have testified today that you are  
14       using that computer program to make your own  
15       proposals.

16               Now, there is a thing about computer  
17       programs. They get programmed by people. The  
18       programs get programmed by people. So again,  
19       there is -- there is always a human element in  
20       any kind of computer program, but the program  
21       that we have provided you is the one that is  
22       being used by the courts, it would be used by  
23       the courts, it would be used by policymakers,  
24       it would be used by Legislators, and it is the  
25       same computer program that you can use.

1           So to the extent to which a computer  
2           program would be useful and it is, it is on the  
3           website, we are going to use it, there it is,  
4           and you can use it as well.

5           I think that Senator Hays commented on the  
6           lawsuits. Let me just say this. You know,  
7           when a rumor, I don't know how it is in The  
8           Villages, I can tell you in Niceville, Florida  
9           where I live, down at Doris' Cafe, if somebody  
10          saw something in the morning, no matter how  
11          outrageous it is, it gets embroidered about  
12          eight times during the day and by supper time  
13          at Doris' Cafe, we got a heck of a rumor going.

14          If I could get a quarter for every rumor  
15          that we had in Tallahassee about redistricting,  
16          we wouldn't have had a \$3.8 billion budget  
17          deficit. We could have funded it.

18          The fact is, as Senator Hays indicated,  
19          that the lawsuit that has been filed wasn't  
20          filed by the Legislature. Somebody put that in  
21          the blood stream and I guess it is in some  
22          scripts that people get sent so that they talk  
23          about it at these hearings, but the hard fact  
24          is that a Democratic member of Congress and a  
25          Republican member of Congress filed a lawsuit,

1 but the lawsuit is not related to state  
2 redistricting.

3 So the comment that was made that the  
4 Legislature is funding lawsuits to quote, keep  
5 our seats, is empirically wrong. The lawsuit  
6 that was filed by two members of Congress has  
7 only to do with the Federal districts. It has  
8 nothing to do with Legislators' seats.

9 Now, the Senate is not in an intervenor in  
10 that lawsuit. The House is, but the House  
11 intervened because there is an apparent  
12 conflict or at least some ambiguity between how  
13 the Voting Rights Act might be interpreted in  
14 terms of minority regression in districts, and  
15 Amendments 5 and 6.

16 Now, that is not a bad thing. It is just  
17 that Amendments 5 and 6 are brand new, folks,  
18 no state has ever seen a template like this,  
19 and so therefore, there is going to be some  
20 interpretation by the courts as to how our  
21 Federal and our State laws intersect.

22 That is not a bad thing. That is an  
23 inevitable thing, but the lawsuit, per se, was  
24 brought by two members of Congress.

25 Then I think the final comment that I

1       would make is back to a comment that someone  
2       made earlier who said, you know, gosh, we have  
3       got a state here where the Republicans have  
4       barely half the voters in the state classify  
5       themselves as Republicans, but how in the world  
6       do the Republicans control both Houses of the  
7       Legislature?

8               Well, let me just talk about the Senate,  
9       because I am a Senator. There are 40 Senators,  
10      28 of them are Republican. How could that be?  
11      It must be gerrymandering. But wait, did you  
12      realize, did you know, and I found out, I, you  
13      know, was kind of interesting to me, that in 20  
14      of those 40 Senate Districts, in other words,  
15      including eight where there are Republican  
16      Senators, Barrack Obama carried those Senate  
17      Districts.

18             So what we had was, we had the phenomena  
19      that we are seeing more and more in Florida,  
20      that is, there are people who will vote for a  
21      Democrat for one office, a Republican for  
22      another office, and we have a growing number of  
23      people who are Independents who don't have a  
24      party loyalty and they largely pick the person,  
25      not the party, and even among us Republicans,

1       and I defer to my Democratic colleagues for any  
2       comments they make, it is occasionally the case  
3       that Republicans will vote for a Democrat.

4               Many Republicans voted for Barack Obama  
5       for President, and it is occasionally the case  
6       that some Democrats will vote for a Republican,  
7       Republican candidates have carried in  
8       democratic areas.

9               Senator Charlie Dean is here. In Senator  
10       Dean's district, first the largest number of  
11       people of voters by far are Democrats. The  
12       second largest number are people with no party  
13       affiliation or Independents, and third are  
14       Republicans.

15              So how does Charlie Dean, a Republican,  
16       get elected? Well, he gets elected because he  
17       was a dog-gone good Sheriff, he does a good job  
18       as a Senator and so Democrats vote for Charlie  
19       Dean, not because he is a Republican, but in  
20       spite of the fact that he is a Republican.  
21       They vote for him because they want to.

22              So, friends, there is no way to create a  
23       redistricting scenario that guarantees that  
24       Democrats will vote for Democrats and  
25       Republicans will vote for Republicans and that

1 Independents will do what we tell them to.

2 There is no way to do that.

3           Instead, we have a secret ballot and no  
4 matter how you district or redistrict, people  
5 will still have the opportunity to choose their  
6 own candidates.

7           This has been an extraordinary meeting  
8 today. We have gotten a large amount of input.  
9 I want to thank you for coming out. I want to  
10 thank you for staying with the process, but  
11 remember this, this is not the end of your  
12 input. It is the beginning of your input.

13           Here is what will happen. After we do  
14 these hearings we will go back to Tallahassee  
15 and instead of starting in March, we will start  
16 as early as the Constitution allows us to, and  
17 that is in January.

18           We will start committee meetings months  
19 before we typically would. We are going to  
20 start them in September, and we can begin to  
21 consider in September, in the Senate and House  
22 Redistricting Committees, not only your ideas,  
23 but the ideas we get from other public hearings  
24 around the state.

25           We already have a number of plans that

1       have been submitted, and it is not like there  
2       is some magic plan that will suddenly emerge.  
3       Any member of this committee, Republican or  
4       Democrat, can submit a plan today.

5             Any member can submit a map today. Any  
6       member of the Legislature who is not on this  
7       committee can submit a plan or a map today or  
8       in September, but no vote will be taken in any  
9       committee beginning in September, which is way  
10      early in the process, that is not done publicly  
11      with the opportunity for public input.

12            And there may be more than one plan that  
13      advances to the House floor or the Senate floor  
14      and gets debated and discussed in public  
15      openly, and then if and after we pass a plan,  
16      we don't have to wait until March. It would  
17      drive the Supervisors of Elections crazy if we  
18      waited until the end, but if, as soon as we can  
19      get plans to the floor and debate them and vote  
20      on them in public, then we can submit those  
21      plans for a legal clearance.

22            Now, what I hope you will do, is I hope  
23      you will put the pressure not just on us to do  
24      our job thought fully but with all due speed,  
25      but also let's not, you know, the Attorney

1       General doesn't have to take every day that is  
2       allowed in statute.

3               She can move a little faster if it is  
4       possible for her to do so. She has to submit  
5       the plans for clearance to the Supreme Court.  
6       The Supreme Court doesn't have to take every  
7       single day that they are allowed. They can  
8       take your advice and they can move a little bit  
9       faster, and the Federal Justice Department in  
10      Washington or the Federal courts don't have to  
11      take every day that they are allowed. Instead,  
12      they, you know, they can move a little bit  
13      faster.

14             So it is my goal as Chairman of the Senate  
15      Reapportionment Committee that we would have  
16      proposals and maps to show you before any votes  
17      are taken as soon as we possibly can, and as we  
18      get input in these hearings, believe me,  
19      members of the House, members of the Senate,  
20      Democrats and Republicans, are studying this  
21      input.

22             I was up last night until 2:00 in the  
23      morning going through my notes from yesterday.  
24      We are not waiting until the end to begin to  
25      analyze the information that we are getting.



1           So thanks for participating. Democracy,  
2           Representative, as you said, is a bit of a  
3           heavy lift, particularly when it is a  
4           representative republic.

5           Thank you for being part of this messy  
6           process, and please, stay engaged and involved  
7           all of the way through the end. I am sorry for  
8           such a long set of comments, but the questions  
9           you asked were very, very good questions.  
10          Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
12          Senator. And -- hold that out. I have got a  
13          few more housekeeping comments to make just to  
14          finish up business here, but since Senate  
15          Dean's name was used in vein there, we are  
16          going to give him one last opportunity to  
17          comment on today's meeting. Senator Dean.

18           SENATOR DEAN: Thank you. Thank you,  
19          Chairman Gaetz, for the kind comments. You  
20          know, one of the things we have heard today  
21          about a community base of interest, and I think  
22          there is no way you can get away of the fact  
23          that charity begins at home.

24           We are concerned most about those that are  
25          closest to us. That is why it makes you want

1       to have your Representative close to you when  
2       you go to vote for him where you can talk to  
3       him and understand what is happening.

4               One of those things I want to clearly say  
5       that this meeting today is the closest to my  
6       home. I am from Citrus County, right across  
7       the county line. I am also a Senator up in  
8       Marion County, but I heard the same message  
9       where I am a Senate in Leon County that I heard  
10      the same message in Baker County when we were  
11      in Duval County.

12              We do not want the people of Florida do  
13      not want gerrymandering, period. I want to say  
14      that I share with four Congressmen, five  
15      Senators and ten House members if I counted  
16      correctly in my district.

17              So I want to assure you again, we are  
18      going to do the conscious thing, the right  
19      thing to do about doing this district plan and  
20      drawing the maps.

21              I appreciate you being here. I normally  
22      stand up and speak up and shut up and it is my  
23      time to shut up. Thank you for being here.

24              REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
25      Senator Dean. I appreciate that. And I want

1       to reiterate that I know that we -- there are  
2       other opportunities to submit comments. We are  
3       about done with the meeting and we are through  
4       the public testimony process, but we are always  
5       on a continuous basis taking information,  
6       whether it is in writing, via e-mail, via  
7       Twitter and all of these other uses that are  
8       out there right now. So I strongly encourage  
9       you, anyone else that wants to say more, even  
10      if you stood up and spoke before, get with our  
11      staff and get something in to us, preferably in  
12      writing. It has so much additional impact that  
13      way.

14             One clarification that staff has asked me  
15      to address, and it is, because it is a  
16      relatively significant issue, is the matter of  
17      the lawsuit the House is an intervenor on.

18             The conflict that is trying to be resolved  
19      there is a conflict between Amendment 6 and the  
20      U.S. Constitution as opposed to the Voting  
21      Rights Act.

22             The, and so now I will get to my closing  
23      comments. Thank you, everyone, for your  
24      contributions today. This was a great day here  
25      in The Villages. This is the kind of thing

1       that is necessary for making a democracy,  
2       representative democracy work in our state.

3           Again, you have the opportunity to provide  
4       written comments, as well as written extensions  
5       of your current comments to us, and we will  
6       post it on-line.

7           If you didn't speak now, send an e-mail,  
8       Snail Mail, to those addresses that are listed  
9       on the website. They are in the brochures that  
10      are in the back. You can pick up if you are  
11      not an electronic person.

12          All of the records from today's meeting,  
13      the video, pod-cast and transcripts will be  
14      available in the next few days, via both the  
15      Senate and the House Redistricting websites.

16          In particular, someone asked for maps to  
17      look at today. They are on our website, so if  
18      you can visit [www.floridaredistricting.org](http://www.floridaredistricting.org), and  
19      it is spelled the same way is the words sound,  
20      Florida Redistricting, dot org, click on the  
21      Plan Explorer and look at the maps that the  
22      public have submitted.

23          It is a growing list of maps at this  
24      point, as you saw today, and you have the  
25      opportunity there to look at them, to comment

1       on them, to use them, to tweak up and submit  
2       your own maps to share with others and the  
3       like.

4             If you are not an electronic person,  
5       again, talk to our staff. We will get you this  
6       information in hard copy.

7             Please, I ask you to please stay engaged  
8       in this process, because it is developing as we  
9       go along, as you can see. Continue to follow  
10      and participate as we get ready to draw those  
11      lines that are going to define how your  
12      community is going to be represented, not only  
13      in Tallahassee, but in Washington.

14            Thanks again for being here. Some of us  
15      as well as staff are going to be staying around  
16      to answer any additional questions on the side.  
17      That issue came up several times, that are,  
18      whether they deal with redistricting or those  
19      other peripheral issues or completely unrelated  
20      if you would like, and with that we stand  
21      adjourned.

22            (Whereupon, the proceedings were  
23      concluded.)

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## 1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )

3 COUNTY OF LEON )

4 I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript  
5 is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned,  
6 and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting  
7 under my direction;

8 That the foregoing pages 2 through 141  
9 represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of  
10 the tape- recording;

11 And I further certify that I am not of kin or  
12 counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the  
13 regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor  
14 am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

15 Dated this 22nd day of September, 2011.

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

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Notary Public

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State of Florida at Large

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Commission Expires:

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November 13, 2014

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REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

11

MONDAY, JULY 25, 2011

12

2:00 A.M.

13

POLK STATE COLLEGE

14

LAKELAND, FLORIDA

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Transcribed by:

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

23

Court Reporter

24

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1           T A P E D     P R O C E E D I N G S

2           SENATOR GAETZ:  If Committee members will  
3       please find their seats, and those of you who  
4       would like to testify or participate or just  
5       observe, if you will find a place to sit down,  
6       we will begin.

7           The Joint House/Senate Redistricting  
8       Hearing is called to order.  We are pleased to  
9       be joined today by so many of you from the Polk  
10      County area and from areas beyond Polk County.

11          Thanks to Polk State College and USF  
12      Polytechnic for allowing us to use this  
13      facility.  We are very grateful to them.

14          Thank you all for being here, especially  
15      members of the public who have come to share  
16      your comments and recommendations to help shape  
17      Congressional Senate and House districts for  
18      the next decade.

19          My name is Don Gaetz, I am a member of the  
20      Senate, and along with my House colleague, the  
21      Speaker Designate of the Florida House,  
22      Representative Will Weatherford, who is right  
23      here, we will be chairing today's meeting,  
24      which is being webcast statewide by the Florida  
25      Channel over the Internet.



1           So that you will know who is here and  
2       where they are from -- and we have actually had  
3       a request, you know, everybody can make  
4       requests, we have had a request that when  
5       members introduce themselves and indicate what  
6       part of the state they are from, if they would  
7       indicate their party affiliation.

8           Typically we don't do that in legislative  
9       hearings, because 90 percent of the votes we  
10      take in the Legislature are bipartisan, but in  
11      response to the request we have had, I happen  
12      to be a Republican.

13           And, Senator, why don't we start with you.

14           REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS: Good afternoon,  
15      my name is Alan Williams, State Representative  
16      from Tallahassee, Florida. I represent Leon  
17      and Gadsden Counties. I am a proud Democrat,  
18      and I am also proud to have my daughter,  
19      Adriana Williams, who is here with me as well.

20           REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: My name is Mike  
21      Horner, I represent State House District 79. I  
22      live in Kissimmee, but I represent Osceola,  
23      Orange, Okeechobee and Polk County.

24           REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: My name is Peter  
25      Nehr. I am a State Representative in north

1 Pinellas County, District 48. Thank you. And  
2 I am a Republican, thank you.

3 REPRESENTATIVE GOODSON: Good afternoon,  
4 my name Tom Goodson, I represent Brevard  
5 County, Indian River County, House State  
6 District 29, I am a Republican.

7 REPRESENTATIVE ROUSON: Darryl Rouson. I  
8 represent House District 55, which is Pinellas,  
9 Manatee, Sarasota and Hillsborough Counties in  
10 the House, and I am a Democrat.

11 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: John Legg, I  
12 represent west Pasco, and I am a Republican.

13 SENATOR JOYNER: Arthenia Joyner, I am a  
14 Democrat from Tampa. I represent Hillsborough,  
15 Pinellas and Manatee, but I was born in Polk  
16 County.

17 REPRESENTATIVE CRUZ: Good afternoon.  
18 Thank you all for taking your time coming here  
19 today. My name is Janet Cruz. I am a State  
20 Representative for District 58, which is the  
21 central part of Tampa.

22 I was actually born in Betty Reed's  
23 district, which is Ybor City, most of you  
24 probably know that district, and I am happy to  
25 be here. Thank you.

1           SENATOR SIPLIN: Good afternoon, State  
2           Senator Gary Siplin, Orlando, Florida. I  
3           represent both Osceola County and Orange  
4           County, and I am a Democrat.

5           REPRESENTATIVE CRISAFULLI: Good  
6           afternoon, Steve Crisafulli, representing House  
7           District 32, which is Brevard and east Orange  
8           County, and I am a Republican.

9           REPRESENTATIVE BURGIN: Good afternoon,  
10          State Representative Rachel Burgin. I  
11          represent District 56, which is eastern  
12          Hillsborough County and the City of Tampa, and  
13          I am a Republican.

14          REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: Ritch Workman,  
15          represent District 30, all in Brevard County,  
16          thanks. I am a Republican.

17          REPRESENTATIVE DORWORTH: I am Chris  
18          Dorworth, I am in the State House, representing  
19          District 34 from Seminole and Orange Counties.  
20          I am a Republican.

21          REPRESENTATIVE EISNAUGLE: I am Eric  
22          Eisnaugle, I represent House District 40 in  
23          Orlando. It is -- the district is all in  
24          Orange County, and I am a Republican.

25          REPRESENTATIVE GRIMSLEY: Good afternoon,

1 I am Denise Grimsley, I represent House  
2 District 77, which is Highlands, Hendry, Glades  
3 and Collier County. I am a Republican and I'm  
4 a proud graduate of Polk State College.

5 REPRESENTATIVE PLAKON: Scott Plakon,  
6 State House District 37, Orange and Seminole  
7 Counties. I am a Republican and the proud  
8 father of Jamison Plakon, who is here today.

9 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Good afternoon,  
10 Chuck Chestnut, House District 23, a portion of  
11 Alachua County and a portion of Marion County,  
12 Democrat.

13 REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: Hi, I am Dennis  
14 Baxley, Florida House, District 24, Ocala,  
15 Marion County, Republican. I am on the north  
16 side of the green swamp.

17 REPRESENTATIVE MCKEEL: And I am Seth  
18 McKeel from Lakeland, District 63 here, and I  
19 am not on the Committee, but I have a keen  
20 interest in what you are saying. So thanks for  
21 -- thanks for taking your time to be here.  
22 Excuse me, I am a Republican.

23 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Good afternoon,  
24 State Representative Mack Bernard, Democrat  
25 from West Palm Beach, Florida, and former

1 resident of Lakeland, Florida.

2 REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: John Patrick  
3 Julien, good afternoon. I am a Democrat,  
4 representing House District 104, which is in  
5 Miami-Dade County, and it is a pleasure to be  
6 here.

7 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Hello, everybody,  
8 thank you so much for coming out. My name is  
9 Martin Kiar, and I represent District 97 in the  
10 Florida House of Representatives, which is  
11 located solely within Broward County, and I am  
12 a Democrat. Thank you.

13 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Good  
14 afternoon, and thank you for being here. My  
15 name is Betty Reed. I represent District 59,  
16 which is the eastern part of Tampa/Hillsborough  
17 County, and I am a proud Democrat.

18 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Good afternoon, I  
19 am Hazelle Rogers from Broward County, one of  
20 the most diverse counties in the state of  
21 Florida, representing over 1.8 million voters,  
22 residents in Florida, I'm District 94, eight  
23 cities in central Broward County. It is good  
24 to be here, and I am a Democrat.

25 SENATOR GAETZ: But not a proud Democrat?

1           REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: A very proud  
2 Democrat.

3           REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: I am State  
4 Representative Jim Frishe. I represent the  
5 western edge of Pinellas County, all the  
6 beaches. It is a tough duty, I've worn out  
7 seven pairs of flip-flops. I am a Republican  
8 and I was raised in Winter Haven.

9           REPRESENTATIVE HOOPER: Good afternoon, my  
10 name is Ed Hooper, I am a Representative from  
11 District 50, which is about one-fourth of  
12 Pinellas County, and I am a Republican.

13          REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Good  
14 afternoon, I am State Representative Gwyndolen  
15 Clarke-Reed, representing House District 92,  
16 northeast part of Broward County.

17          REPRESENTATIVE BRODEUR: Jason Brodeur,  
18 representing District 33, which is parts of  
19 Volusia, Seminole and Orange Counties, and I am  
20 a Republican.

21          REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: Evan Jenne,  
22 District 100, that is entirely within southeast  
23 Broward County, and I am a Democrat.

24          REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Good afternoon, I  
25 am Dwayne Taylor, serving in the House of

1       Representatives in House District 27, which is  
2       Volusia County, I serve six cities in Volusia  
3       County, and I am a fiscal conservative  
4       Democrat, proudly. Thank you.

5               SENATOR GAETZ: Did we miss anybody?

6               REPRESENTATIVE STARGEL: Good afternoon, I  
7       am State Representative Kelli Stargel. I  
8       represent north Polk County and a lot of the  
9       City of Lakeland, and I am a Republican.

10              SENATOR GAETZ: Have we gotten everybody?

11              REPRESENTATIVE CAMPBELL: Good afternoon,  
12       everyone, Daphne Campbell, District 108,  
13       Democrats.

14              SENATOR GAETZ: Okay. Thank you very  
15       much. Anybody else? Okay. Just in time for  
16       your introduction. No. When you are done, we  
17       are done.

18              REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: Hi, I am  
19       Representative Passidomo from District 76,  
20       which is Collier County. I represent Naples,  
21       Marco Island, Everglades City and a bunch of  
22       alligators. Thank you. I am a Republican.

23              SENATOR GAETZ: Okay. Now you know who we  
24       are, and our sole purpose today is to hear from  
25       you, to hear from the public about how you

1 believe the legal standards governing  
2 redistricting should be applied in your  
3 community and this community, so that you are  
4 represented in Washington and in Tallahassee  
5 fairly, equitably and sensibly.

6 Our procedures today are simple, but they  
7 are important. It is important that you sign  
8 in so that we can create an accurate public  
9 record of all attendees and of all speakers.

10 Also, you may decide to join, if you wish,  
11 our e-mail lists so we can keep you informed  
12 about how the redistricting process is working.

13 If you have not signed in, please raise  
14 your hand, and we will give you an attendance  
15 card. If you wish to speak today and you  
16 haven't signed in, we want to hear from you.

17 So if you've not filled out an attendance  
18 card and you want to speak, please raise your  
19 hand, we will get you one of these cards and we  
20 would be delighted to hear from you. We don't  
21 want to miss your testimony.

22 It is the same card whether you wish to  
23 just attend and observe or whether you want to  
24 speak.

25 Before we begin, I would like to call on



1 the Speaker Designate, Representative  
2 Weatherford, to explain how today's hearing  
3 fits into the redistricting schedule and  
4 process and laws. Mr. Speaker.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
6 very much, Mr. Chairman. It is an honor to be  
7 here. Again, my name is Will Weatherford, and  
8 I didn't get a chance, I am from Pasco County.  
9 My district is Pasco and Hillsborough County,  
10 District 61, and very proud to be here today  
11 with my good friends from Polk County.

12 I am going to try to set the table,  
13 Mr. Chairman, if I could, for today's hearing,  
14 and give everyone a perspective as to what we  
15 are here to do.

16 I think you hit it in the very beginning,  
17 which is our job here is to listen today. But  
18 to give everyone a little baseline, every ten  
19 years, the Legislature is required by the  
20 Constitution to redistrict the state based off  
21 of increases, decreases and movements in our  
22 population.

23 Because Florida has grown so significantly  
24 over the last ten years, we will move from  
25 having 25 Congressional Seats in Florida to 27

1 Congressional Seats. Because parts of our  
2 state have increased and decreased  
3 disproportionately in population, many Senate  
4 and House districts will change, either adding  
5 or losing in population.

6 When redistricting is concluded,  
7 congressional districts must be equal in  
8 population and contain 696,345 people, 40  
9 Senate districts must also be nearly equal at  
10 about 470,000, and each one of our 120 House  
11 districts must be also nearly equal at 156,700  
12 people.

13 We have displays at the front of the room  
14 showing the current boundaries of districts in  
15 the area of the state and the number of persons  
16 which must be added or subtracted from the  
17 current districts to achieve that equal  
18 representation.

19 Equality of representation is not the only  
20 legal requirement that redistricting plans must  
21 meet. The laws are important, and court cases  
22 governing redistricting are explained in detail  
23 in both the House and the Senate websites.

24 Those websites are listed on the  
25 "Redistricting 2012" brochure that was

1       available to you when you came in. Our  
2       "Redistricting 2012" brochure summarizes  
3       federal and state laws, and outlines the topics  
4       that you will hear today that we hope you  
5       discuss.

6             If you did not get a copy when you came  
7       in, they are available on the tables outside of  
8       the meeting, and our staff would be happy to  
9       get you a copy if you would just raise your  
10      hand.

11            The brochure also lists House and Senate  
12      websites. The websites are packed with  
13      information about redistricting in Florida,  
14      including explanations of laws and important  
15      court cases governing redistricting. The two  
16      websites are complementary and are updated  
17      frequently.

18            If you visit both and check back often, it  
19      is a great way to stay current about what is  
20      happening in your congressional, Senate and  
21      House maps.

22            The websites also deliver at your  
23      fingertips all of the demographic information  
24      that will be used in drawing districts over the  
25      next six to nine months. The exact same

1 computer programs that Legislators and  
2 professional staff use, you will have at your  
3 fingertips.

4 Any number -- any member of the public can  
5 participate in building plans or seeing maps  
6 submitted to Legislators and to this body.

7 And, in fact, I would like to point, there are  
8 six maps in the very back of the room.

9 If you look back there, you will actually  
10 see different maps that have been drawn by  
11 citizens all over the state just in the last  
12 few weeks that have been submitted to us.

13 There are Congressional maps, Senate maps  
14 and House maps, and we hope that before you  
15 leave today, you will take time to see those.

16 Before and after this hearing, Senate and  
17 House professional staff are available to show  
18 anyone the simple steps of getting on-line,  
19 building districts and submitting a plan in the  
20 next few weeks.

21 Recommendations from citizens and groups  
22 will be made publicly available, and, in fact,  
23 many of them already are on our Web, as you  
24 know. The submission of proposed maps that  
25 makes sense for your community is the single

1       most effective way that you can communicate  
2       with this body.

3               The redistricting schedule under which we  
4       are operating is imposed by our State  
5       Constitution. The Constitution does not permit  
6       the Legislature to act on state legislative  
7       maps before the second year after the census;  
8       in other words, ladies and gentlemen, before  
9       2012.

10              We have accelerated this process as much  
11       as we possibly can by moving the session up  
12       from what is normally in March, all the way up  
13       into January in 2012.

14              It has been suggested that the Legislature  
15       should draw maps first and then ask the public  
16       for comment. We believe that puts the answer  
17       ahead of the question.

18              There should be no preconceptions created  
19       by politicians, but, rather, public testimony  
20       should be free and unrestricted. And, in fact,  
21       a member -- a principal author of Florida's  
22       redistricting standards and Chairperson of the  
23       Fairdistricts.org group, when they came and  
24       spoke before a hearing actually spoke directly  
25       to the fact that they thought in order for us

1 to draw good maps, we would have to seek public  
2 input first, and we plan to follow that  
3 recommendation.

4 Our intent is to use these 26 public  
5 hearings and our Internet sites and all the  
6 basis which we get information from you to come  
7 up with good maps in the future that will move  
8 through the committee process.

9 Throughout the process, we will continue  
10 to solicit your public comment so that the  
11 proposed maps can mature with the public  
12 involved all before we take any final vote.

13 Whatever the Legislature passes, it is  
14 then submitted for judicial review to ensure  
15 that the final plans meet each and every single  
16 legal requirement.

17 Because our purpose today is to hear from  
18 you, between now and 5:00 we will use the  
19 remainder of the time for the public who is  
20 here who wishes to speak.

21 If after every citizen has had his or her  
22 say, Mr. Chairman, and there is time before our  
23 scheduled adjournment, any member of this  
24 Committee may make any statement or any  
25 observation.

1           Of course, any member of the Legislature  
2           may today or at any time propose a map, a plan  
3           or anything else, and we will make sure it is  
4           available to you and the rest of the public.

5           Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing me to  
6           have a few moments. I hope this description of  
7           our schedule and our process helps set the  
8           stage for a successful hearing.

9           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
10          Mr. Speaker. Those are kind of the ground  
11          rules today and a little bit of upfront  
12          information.

13          I would like to point out that two members  
14          of this Committee who are Senators are not able  
15          to be here today. Senator Jack Latvala is  
16          recovering from orthopedic surgery. I spoke to  
17          him this morning. He is recovering well, but  
18          is in a great deal of pain, and his doctor  
19          wouldn't let him get up on his hip. I think he  
20          is about five days post-op.

21          Then Senator Evelyn Lynn, who is a member  
22          of this Committee, was called yesterday to a  
23          funeral in the Netherlands, a very important  
24          member of her family, somebody she cares about  
25          a great deal has died, and so Senator Lynn was

1 not able to be with us today.

2 Now, we are going to try to make it  
3 possible for everybody who wants to speak, to  
4 have a chance to speak, and if you don't get in  
5 all the things you wanted to say, or if later  
6 you think of something else that you wanted to  
7 say, you can send that information to us.

8 It will be made available to every member  
9 of the Committee. You can either e-mail it to  
10 us or you can send it to us by U.S. Postal  
11 Service. You can go on our website and you can  
12 provide additional comments there as well.

13 Now, we have well over 30 people who have  
14 already signed up to speak, and Karen Landers  
15 is number 34, and so far she is the last  
16 person.

17 I am an advocate for Karen Landers. I  
18 want to make sure she gets a chance to speak.  
19 So I would ask that you keep her in mind as you  
20 speak so that we can make sure to get to her,  
21 because I am sure she has good testimony for us  
22 today.

23 We will impose a three to four-minute rule  
24 on speakers so that we can be sure that we are  
25 fair to everybody who is behind you.



1           So if you -- if you can abide by that  
2           rule, then we can, I think, give everybody a  
3           fair chance.

4           We are going to call people in threes. So  
5           our first speaker will be Margaret Kara,  
6           representing the Solivita Democratic Club, but  
7           behind Margaret is Joyce Hamilton Henry  
8           representing the American Civil Liberties Union  
9           and Mary Jo Jarrett representing the League of  
10          Women Voters.

11          So if Ms. Kara would come first and the  
12          other two be on deck and ready to follow her,  
13          then we can make best use of time.

14          Ma'am, you are recognized, and we are  
15          delighted to have you here today.

16          MS. KARA: Thank you, sir, and thank you,  
17          everyone, for allowing us to speak. And I live  
18          in Solivita, which is a 55-and-over adult  
19          active community in Poinciana.

20          We are very kind of isolated in Polk  
21          County, because we are in a very one small area  
22          and far away from everything.

23          With all due respect, you all know the  
24          amendment that was voted for by 63 percent of  
25          the people, and you don't really -- in my

1       opinion, you don't need the public to draw maps  
2       for you.

3               The process seems as though it could go  
4       more quickly if you would present the proposed  
5       maps for discussion at this time. I understand  
6       that, as you have said, that you can't vote on  
7       anything until 2012. With that understood,  
8       could it not still be debated?

9               What I am concerned about is taking up  
10       precious time and money drawing maps according  
11       to the law and then just make them available to  
12       the public for comment then, and you can't  
13       debate them this fall, but you can debate them  
14       the very first thing in the new session.

15              The process seems to need to be completed  
16       earlier, and my concern is for the Supervisor  
17       of Elections and the timeline that they are  
18       going to have, also for our candidates that are  
19       going to be running for office, they won't know  
20       their districts until so late that they won't  
21       have the same advantage that the incumbents  
22       have of making their names known to the public.

23              Please consider the fact that more time on  
24       this -- on this step and less time is for the  
25       Supervisor of Elections.

1           Since you are coming to the public for  
2           answers, we would like to be able to interact  
3           with you and get answers to our questions also.  
4           As we are only allowed to talk, we may be  
5           operating under false premises if you don't  
6           reply to us.

7           Progress is made when ideas are exchanged  
8           in conversation as instead of lecture. Thank  
9           you very much.

10           SENATOR GAETZ: Ms. Kara, I apologize,  
11           perhaps you weren't here when the Speaker  
12           Designate indicated that after all members of  
13           the public speak.

14           If you have any questions that you would  
15           like to indicate now, we will make sure that  
16           any member, Democrat or Republican, Senate or  
17           House, can respond to any of your questions.  
18           Did you have any?

19           Okay. Thank you very much. Thanks for  
20           your testimony.

21           Joyce Hamilton Henry of the American Civil  
22           Liberties Union, followed by Mary Jo Jarrett  
23           with the League of Women Voters, followed by  
24           Paula Mims from the League of Women Voters.

25           Ms. Henry, thank you for being here. We

1 look forward to your testimony.

2 MS. HENRY: Good afternoon. I am here, as  
3 indicated, on behalf of the ACLU. I am with  
4 the Mid-Florida Regional Office of the ACLU,  
5 which is based in Tampa.

6 That office covers 20 counties, starting  
7 with Marion, extending all of the way through  
8 to Brevard and down to Hardee Counties, and I  
9 will be attending all of the hearings in my  
10 region.

11 And our position remains unchanged. We  
12 are very concerned and troubled about this  
13 process. I have indicated before that on the  
14 surface, it allows for input, but real input  
15 can be provided once we have the opportunity to  
16 see the map, to be able to comment on it.

17 We are also concerned about the timeline  
18 in which this is being done. We know that you  
19 have the data since March of this year. You  
20 have opened up processes to be able to provide  
21 input, but we are also concerned that you will  
22 not be able to really get information from the  
23 general public to be able to incorporate in the  
24 maps.

25 What has been provided to us so far are

1 maps drawn by individuals. We want the maps  
2 drawn by you, the Legislators, and the  
3 consultants that you hire to assist you in that  
4 process.

5 We are also concerned about the time --  
6 the cost in this process, the cost to this  
7 process and cost to taxpayers that you are  
8 engaging in. You have a mandate from  
9 63 percent of Floridians, and the mandate is  
10 that the maps should be drawn, that they should  
11 be compact and contiguous and look out for the  
12 interest of ethnic minorities, communities of  
13 interest.

14 We want to make sure -- we want to make  
15 sure that this process is fair and is  
16 transparent.

17 And we are also concerned, and you have  
18 heard it expressed and you will hear it  
19 expressed by others, we are also concerned  
20 about those of us who want to know who our  
21 representatives will be, those who are running  
22 for office who want to know what district they  
23 will be running for, and you have heard and  
24 will hear from Supervisors of Elections who  
25 want to know the information as well so that

1           they can do their job.

2           So we implore you to please draw the maps,  
3           make that available to us and do what  
4           Floridians -- the 63 percent of Floridians have  
5           mandated you to do, to make sure that the  
6           process is fair, inclusive and also  
7           transparent.

8           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, ma'am, very  
9           much.

10          Next, Mary Jo Jarrett with the League of  
11          Women Voters, then Paula Mims from the League  
12          of Women Voters and then Jerry Weeks from the  
13          League of Women Voters. I hope there's  
14          somebody back at the office today.

15          MS. JARRETT: Welcome to imperial Polk  
16          County, all of you, today.

17          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, ma'am.

18          MS. JARRETT: I am Mary Jo Jarrett. I am  
19          the co-President of the Polk County League of  
20          Women Voters.

21          The League of Women Voters is a  
22          non-partisan organization. We are a political  
23          organization that encourages informal and  
24          active participation in government. We work to  
25          increase understanding of public policy issues

1 through education and advocacy.

2 We are puzzled and we question why won't  
3 the Legislature prepare the maps earlier,  
4 debate them in the fall and pass them during  
5 the first week of session.

6 The problem with the present Legislature's  
7 timeline is that it is unfair to Florida  
8 voters. Florida's maps will end up being  
9 approved later than most every state in the  
10 Union.

11 As districts may not be finalized until  
12 August, the Legislature's own lawyer says this  
13 will cause massive voter confusion. We do not  
14 want to see Florida's election process become  
15 the target of late-night comedy again.

16 The problem that needs to be solved has  
17 been defined by the Legislators. The  
18 Legislators plan to wait to finalize district  
19 maps until at least the end of the session in  
20 March 2012.

21 By law, the courts and the Department of  
22 Justice have more than 90 days after passage to  
23 review the maps.

24 The Legislators are saying they can do  
25 nothing on redistricting until January, as the

1        Constitution requires them to draw the  
2        districts during the 2012 regular session.

3            If the Legislature waits to finalize the  
4        maps until the end of the session in March  
5        2012, it is highly unlikely that districts will  
6        be finalized and approved before the June 8,  
7        2012, deadline for candidates to file their  
8        paperwork.

9            The redistricting processing will include  
10       not only the drawing of new district maps based  
11       on the 2010 ten-year sentence, but  
12       implementation of Section 20 and Section 21 of  
13       the Florida Constitution, which contains  
14       standards to be followed in the process.

15           The League believes that without violating  
16       the Florida Constitution, the Legislature can  
17       do the preparatory work to speed up the  
18       process. In fact, Bills were filed last  
19       session requiring that maps be drawn earlier  
20       that didn't even get hearings.

21           The League proposes an open, transparent  
22       work flow using another timeline. We propose  
23       that the Legislature hold interim Committee  
24       meetings from September through December and  
25       use that time to present maps, allow for public



1       comment and prepare final plans to submit to  
2       the full House and Senate before the  
3       Legislature convenes in January.

4               We further propose that the Legislature  
5       could bring the maps to the floor as a first  
6       order of business, voting on them by the end of  
7       the session's first week in early January.

8               This would create a real possibility that  
9       the maps could be finalized and approved before  
10      candidate-qualifying, and allow election  
11      officials ample time to prepare by allowing  
12      double the time for review by the courts and  
13      the Department of Justice.

14              This would solve the problems created by  
15      the proposed legislative timeline of a cold  
16      start in January 2012. This would allow due  
17      process procedurally to ensure all who have the  
18      vote can participate substantially in the  
19      elections of the redrawn districts.

20              This will improve greatly the timeline for  
21      those the Legislature depends on to implement  
22      and carry out the election process, the  
23      Supervisors of Elections and their staff, and  
24      those expected to participate in the process,  
25      the registered voters and the candidates.

1           The League strongly believes that this is  
2           a viable plan for implementing redistricting in  
3           the Sunshine State. Thank you.

4           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much. Very  
5           useful suggestions, Ms. Jarrett.

6           Next, Paula Mims from the League of Women  
7           Voters, then Jerry Weeks from the League of  
8           Women Voters and then Lynn Dell.

9           Ms. Mims, thank you for being here. We  
10          sure appreciate your testimony.

11          MS. MIMS: Well, thank you so much, and  
12          good afternoon. My name is Paula Mims, and I  
13          am co-President of the League of Women Voters  
14          of Polk County.

15          We certainly welcome you and are glad to  
16          see so many faces here. We do hope you will  
17          stop and spend a little money while you are  
18          here before you head back to your various parts  
19          of the state.

20          As you are well aware, our organization is  
21          entirely nonpartisan, yet vigorously political  
22          in defending what is now our constitutional  
23          right as citizens of Florida.

24          And I ask, where are these sample maps? I  
25          did have some time to speak with Jason outside,

1       and got a nice perspective, not that I come  
2       with any ignorance to this hearing, but we  
3       would really like to see some sample maps  
4       produced by the Legislature so that we are able  
5       to comment on those maps.

6               And I was listening as well to your  
7       opening comments, and I do understand that any  
8       Legislature -- Legislator can produce a map or  
9       a plan to be considered, and we really have  
10      seen none from the Legislature, to my  
11      knowledge.

12             On the one hand, who better to set these  
13      districts than those respected Legislators  
14      running our state government who are keenly  
15      aware of the nuances of your own districts, the  
16      surrounding ones, as well as potential pitfalls  
17      of dividing certain constituencies.

18             On the other hand, it really is a little  
19      like the fox guarding the hen-house, is it not?  
20      No offense, of course. But we hope that the  
21      foxes are keen and wise and transparent.

22             We hope that the fact that the Legislature  
23      and the Governor's Office are fully controlled  
24      by one party will put an even greater  
25      responsibility on you, the golden

1 cartographers.

2 You must rise above the clear conflict of  
3 interest you have in this job, and it is clear,  
4 you must rise above the clear vested interest  
5 you have in protecting your own districts, your  
6 own reelection, your job and your potential  
7 primary opponents.

8 Where are the maps? I have to say it is a  
9 little naive to believe that none exist when  
10 there are clearly staff and equipment on hand  
11 dedicated to this process, and none of you have  
12 seen and worked on the maps that you can't  
13 produce for anyone to comment on.

14 We beseech the Legislature to provide at  
15 least some sample maps for public comment prior  
16 to the end of the statewide public hearing  
17 tour.

18 Some time ago I was involved in the  
19 reworking of attendant zones with regard to  
20 elementary schools here in Polk County. Talk  
21 about a volatile issue, not sure if you have  
22 done that before.

23 SENATOR GAETZ: Yeah. No, we've got  
24 former School Board members here.

25 MS. MIMS: Yes, in doing so --

1           SENATOR GAETZ: That is serious stuff.

2           MS. MIMS: It is serious, very serious.

3           In doing so, we met with School Board  
4           members and district employees with computer  
5           tools to help navigate the complicated task of  
6           moving neighborhoods, addressing transportation  
7           issues, and balancing racial legal  
8           requirements.

9           We had to start with the map provided by  
10          the district. We had to have a starting point  
11          drawn from their perspective and their wisdom  
12          from which to make comments, suggestions and  
13          give practical input to a job that could have  
14          just been done by a computer.

15          You are charged with making fair  
16          districts. It is not just a phrase. It is an  
17          imperative constitutional part, a new part of  
18          your job description, and you are  
19          constitutionally bound to draw districts,  
20          implying the need to produce maps and get  
21          input, which you are clearly doing, and we are  
22          impressed by the number of people coming from  
23          your committees.

24          It is not impossible. For example,  
25          California got its census data within two weeks

1 of Florida, has held input hearings, drawn  
2 sample maps, is holding more hearings and will  
3 have final maps, we believe, in August.

4 We are asking you today, as we have every  
5 day since the census data was generated, to  
6 give us a map or maps that have been produced  
7 by the Redistricting Committee and to let us  
8 work from there for the citizens.

9 SENATOR GAETZ: And, ma'am, just because  
10 of all the people behind you, could I ask if  
11 you could bring it in for a landing?

12 MS. MIMS: Absolutely. I have some  
13 perspective on this job that you have before  
14 you, because my husband was in the Legislature  
15 during the 1990 redistricting. It is a big  
16 job, and you now have a constitutional  
17 amendment requiring the equality of  
18 representation.

19 And I will also before I say my closing  
20 remarks, you all have been doing this for some  
21 time, so you are probably somewhat bored by the  
22 repetitive comments that you will hear today.

23 But I must say to you, it is as important  
24 that each citizen in this room gets to say  
25 their three minutes, and I'm sorry that you are

1       going to have to listen to it over and over  
2       again, but that is why it is a public hearing.

3               So I would ask that you are just as  
4       interested in every single person who comes up  
5       here, because we do not travel the state to say  
6       these things to you.

7               And we ask that you at the very best -- at  
8       the very least produce the maps by October,  
9       which will give you ample time to take all of  
10      the information that you have garnered, analyze  
11      it and produce maps to allow citizens to  
12      comment and work on providing the best possible  
13      opportunity for the drawing of truly fair  
14      districting. Thank you so much.

15              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you for your  
16      testimony.

17              And now Jerry Weeks from the League of  
18      Women Voters, and then Lynn Dell, please, and  
19      then Bill Landes.

20              Mr. Weeks, thank you for coming, and we  
21      are delighted to have your testimony today.

22              MR. WEEKS: And, don't worry, I won't ask  
23      you where the maps are.

24              SENATOR GAETZ: Well, they are right back  
25      there. They are right over there.

1           MR. WEEKS: My name is Jerry Weeks. I am  
2           a proud member of the League of Women Voters of  
3           Polk County, a nonpartisan organization that  
4           has been fighting for fair districts for over  
5           70 years.

6           We have had Republicans on our side, we  
7           have had Democrats on our side, but never at  
8           the same time.

9           I commend you for what you have done so  
10          far. The website is very easy to deal with, it  
11          is very informative. The hearings have been  
12          open and transparent so far. I have followed  
13          most of the hearings on the Internet, and think  
14          you are getting pretty good input on local  
15          issues.

16          You do have a public perception problem,  
17          however. Much of the testimony throughout all  
18          your meetings so far has reflected deep  
19          distress and lack of faith that the process  
20          will follow the intent of the new standards.

21          Part of that distrust is because the  
22          Legislature has fought these standards in the  
23          past and continues to fight them now.

24          My question is, why is the Legislature  
25          continuing to spend money to oppose the will of



1       their constituents as expressed when 63 percent  
2       voted for the Fair Districts standards?

3               In 2008, the Legislature fought approval  
4       of the amendments for the ballot. The Supreme  
5       Court ruled for the Fair Districts. In 2010,  
6       the Legislature again tried in court. The  
7       Supreme Court rejected that argument. Then the  
8       Legislature tried to confuse voters by placing  
9       Amendment 7 on the ballot. The Supreme Court  
10      rejected that as misleading.

11             And this year, in 2011, the Florida House  
12      joined a lawsuit filed by two Representatives  
13      asking the court to strike down the Fair  
14      District position, Amendment 6 and Florida  
15      Constitution. Secretary of State Kurt Browning  
16      is the Defendant in that case.

17             So Florida taxpayers are now both paying  
18      to sue and to defend the same lawsuit. Members  
19      deny they are spending money to avoid having to  
20      follow the Fair Districts reforms.

21             They say they didn't bring the lawsuit,  
22      they only joined it to seek clarification.  
23      They say there is no \$30 million pot of money  
24      for lawsuits.

25             Well, I did some fact-checking to find out

1        what reality is. PolitiFacts rates these  
2        denials as false. *The Orlando Sentinel* rates  
3        them as major malarkey. I have a handout that  
4        I will provide to everyone up on the Committee  
5        to find reference to those.

6                In summary, I am asking you and the  
7        Legislature first to work to uphold the  
8        constitutional provisions placed there by  
9        63 percent of the voters, and not to spend our  
10       tax money fighting it.

11               And secondly, to stop trying to get out of  
12       following the Fair Districts standards and  
13       apply them as the voters intended. Please  
14       withdraw from the lawsuit. Thank you for your  
15       efforts in these hearings and good luck.

16               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much.  
17       Thank you, Mr. Weeks. Earlier today,  
18       Mr. Weeks, I was up in the area of The  
19       Villages, and someone came out of a building  
20       and said that the Suntrust Bank had just been  
21       robbed, and I am sure *The Orlando Sentinel*  
22       headline tomorrow will be "Republicans Arrive  
23       and Bank Robbed."

24               Lynn Dell, you are next, and following  
25       Lynn, Bill Landes and then Danette May.

1           Ms. Dell, thank you for coming, and we are  
2           very grateful you took time to give us your  
3           testimony today.

4           MS. DELL: Okay. Thank you for letting me  
5           speak.

6           I do agree with everything that has been  
7           said before. I think that 2012 is much too  
8           late for districts to be redrawn and for the  
9           Election Supervisors to do what they have to  
10          do.

11          I think it will wind up in massive  
12          confusion. And to be perfectly honest with  
13          you, I can't help but wonder if this is what  
14          you want, because I really don't have much  
15          faith in what is happening in the Legislature.

16          I feel I have no representation,  
17          especially when you are spending taxpayers'  
18          money to defeat what the voters wanted. And  
19          between this and all I have seen you do with  
20          the changes to the voter requirements, which  
21          will also create confusion in another way,  
22          possibly decreasing the number of people that  
23          vote --

24          SENATOR GAETZ: Ms. Dell, could we keep it  
25          to redistricting today just because we have so

1           many people --

2           MS. DELL:   Okay, to redistricting.   I want  
3           compact districts.   And because of the way you  
4           are fighting and have been fighting the  
5           redistricting, I really have great difficulty  
6           believing that you are sincerely going to get  
7           the job done.

8           And I really would like to see the  
9           suggestions made by the League of Women Voters  
10          done, because they are very, very good.   It is  
11          very important that this be done way before  
12          2012.

13          We should have maps for the voters to see,  
14          and then you get our input, because you have  
15          much more familiarity with the districts and  
16          everything else than we do.

17          I would like to see maps.   Then I would  
18          provide additional comment.   Thank you.

19          SENATOR GAETZ:   Thank you very much,  
20          ma'am.   I appreciate your comments.

21          And we have been joined in the hearing by  
22          Senator Ronda Storms, and Senator, we asked  
23          each member of the Committee to introduce  
24          themselves and also indicate the area of the  
25          state that they represent, and there was a

1 request for an indication of party affiliation.

2 So, Senator, we will stop and defer to you.

3 SENATOR STORMS: I am Senator Storms, I  
4 represent District 10, I am a Republican.

5 SENATOR GAETZ: And District 10 is, for  
6 the record?

7 SENATOR STORMS: Hillsborough County, a  
8 little bit of Polk County, near Wabash, if you  
9 are familiar with it, and then a little bit of  
10 Pasco County where Zephyrhills is. What's a  
11 zephyr?

12 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
13 Senator Storms. Did we have somebody else?

14 REPRESENTATIVE THURSTON: Thank you. I am  
15 State Representative Perry Thurston from Ft.  
16 Lauderdale, Broward County, and I am a  
17 Democrat.

18 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
19 Representative.

20 Bill Landes, you are up, and then -- oh,  
21 somebody else. We've got them pouring in late  
22 here.

23 REPRESENTATIVE DIAZ: Yes, I am State  
24 Representative Jose Diaz from District 115 in  
25 Miami, and I am a Republican.

1           SENATOR GAETZ: Anybody else? Going once,  
2           twice. Because we want to hear from Bill  
3           Landes, and behind Mr. Landes is Danette May  
4           and then John Myrick, who says he represents  
5           the AARP.

6           Mr. Landes, thank you for coming today.

7           MR. LANDES: I want to thank you for the  
8           record. My name is Bill Landes. I live in  
9           Lake Wales. I am a member of the Florida  
10          Alliance Group.

11          First of all, I don't have a long speech.  
12          I have nothing wrote down. I come here to say  
13          thank you all for taking on this task. I know  
14          that y'all with deep hearts will do your best  
15          to make it ultimately fair to everyone.

16          We as a group throughout the state of  
17          Florida and citizens really want it to be fair.

18          My question is, is this based on the count  
19          of the census, and if so, how? Florida is  
20          unique in so many ways. We are a state of many  
21          opportunities and big in tourism, and with  
22          tourists buying houses here, coming here and  
23          buying summer houses and things like that from  
24          Canada, UK, Australia, South America and all  
25          that, are they counted in our census as voters?

1           Would somebody answer me that question,  
2           because I am being told that the census is the  
3           base of the redistricting?

4           SENATOR GAETZ: Representative Weatherford  
5           and any other members of the Committee, we are  
6           making a list of questions.

7           What we would like to do is see if we  
8           can -- because now we are up way over 40 people  
9           who want to testify. We will make a list of  
10          questions and get to them at the end. We just  
11          don't want to stand in the way of other people.

12          MR. LANDES: That is fine. I am cutting  
13          it short anyhow, because I -- I just wanted to  
14          get up here and say thank you all. I know the  
15          job at hand is hard and y'all will be diligent  
16          in it. Thank you.

17          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, and we will get  
18          to your question.

19          Next is Danette May. Danette May? And  
20          following Ms. May, John Myrick with the AARP  
21          and then Esther Kirk.

22          Ms. May, we really are grateful you took  
23          time from your day, and thanks for your  
24          testimony.

25          MS. MAY: Well, thank you very much for

1       this opportunity to speak. I am going to speak  
2       in terms of just general decision-making and  
3       the quality of the decisions that are being  
4       made and the ethics of the decisions that are  
5       being made in terms of the redistricting  
6       process.

7               Gaining power, wealth or any advantage by  
8       any means possible regardless of direct injury  
9       or collateral damage to others appears no  
10      longer to be shameless behavior. Attempting to  
11      do end runs around or circumvent the will of  
12      Florida citizens as clearly defined and  
13      expressed at the polls is shameless behavior.  
14      This is not what we have endeavored to be as  
15      Americans. It is not in keeping with the  
16      Christian beliefs that so many of you ardently  
17      profess to hold. Gaining advantage by any  
18      means possible is not what most of us were  
19      taught by our parents, nor is it what we, I  
20      will go out on a limb to say, want to teach our  
21      children.

22             The Florida Legislature is on probation.  
23      Many citizens who are members of the majority  
24      party are not happy with the product thus far.  
25      It is not clear which spark will set the



1 citizens of this state ablaze. So as you move  
2 forward with the redistricting process, know  
3 that you have already run many red flags up the  
4 flag pole with the 2011 legislative session.

5 Please think, if you can, in terms of the  
6 larger impact that your behavior and  
7 decision-making will have on our society, our  
8 state and the process of government that we  
9 hold dear in our country.

10 Thank you for your good services, and I am  
11 going to leave you with this question: Will  
12 your objectives and strategies be shameless, or  
13 will they be of unquestionable integrity?

14 Again, I thank you for this opportunity to  
15 speak. Thank you for being here.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. May. I  
17 appreciate it very much.

18 John Myrick is next from the AARP, and  
19 then Esther Kirk, and following Ms. Kirk,  
20 Maureen Siebold, if you will be on deck,  
21 please.

22 Mr. Myrick, glad to have you here today.

23 MR. MYRICK: Thank you, sir. I am John  
24 Myrick, a life-long Polk County resident, a  
25 volunteer and representing AARP, and we would

1       like to ask that as you move through this  
2       process, that you focus on a lot of things, but  
3       specifically three things: One, ensure  
4       transparency of the legislative redistricting  
5       process every single step of the way. This is  
6       a good start today. Second, ensure timeliness,  
7       and we know that is going to be difficult, of  
8       the redistricting process and ensure public  
9       input. And, finally, take steps to insulate  
10      the redistricting process from the appearance  
11      of any conflict of information.

12             We are excited about what you are doing.  
13      My granddaddy use to say, "You don't have to be  
14      Alexander Graham Bell to know when the  
15      telephone is ringing." Ladies and gentlemen,  
16      the telephone is ringing, and we are excited as  
17      can be to hear what your answer is going to be.  
18      Thank you.

19             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
20      We appreciate your being here.

21             Esther Kirk is next, and Ms. Kirk,  
22      following your testimony, we will hear from  
23      Maureen Siebold and then Sylvia  
24      Blackmon-Roberts with the Alpha Kappa Alpha  
25      Sorority.

1           Ms. Kirk, thank you for coming today and  
2           taking time from your busy schedule to be with  
3           us.

4           MS. KIRK: I am retired, but, yes, I am  
5           busy.

6           SENATOR GAETZ: Well, retired people have  
7           the busiest schedules.

8           MS. KIRK: I don't represent any  
9           particular group. I represent me. And I am  
10          just here because when I look at some of the  
11          districts, I am appalled. I live in Riverview,  
12          and my Congressional Representative is this  
13          fellow, Mr. Ross, over here, and I don't think  
14          he knows anything about my area over in  
15          Riverview, you know. You can see the map, and  
16          I am over here, a little bit of his district is  
17          here and then it kind of comes here and then  
18          here is the major portion of it. I don't want  
19          to see anymore of those. I want to see  
20          logical, compact districts so that the people  
21          who represent me know me, know my area. I know  
22          Senator Storms represents me, and I have seen  
23          her at meetings and so forth, so she does know  
24          something about our area. I want everybody  
25          that represents me to know me and my area.

1 Thank you.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
3 Ms. Kirk.

4 And next, Maureen Siebold, if you will  
5 give us your testimony, then  
6 Ms. Blackmon-Roberts and then Karen Welzel.

7 Ms. Siebold, thank you for coming today.

8 MS. SIEBOLD: I want to thank each and  
9 every one of you for taking the opportunity to  
10 come and hear we, the people. We live in a  
11 republic, and we, the people of Florida, are  
12 speaking.

13 I am representing the Florida Alliance,  
14 the Tea Party network, and I am also the  
15 founder of the Lakeland Tea Party and 9-12  
16 project, of which we have 386 members, most of  
17 whom work and were unable to come today. So I  
18 would like for you to take that into account  
19 when you hear what I have to say.

20 I will be using Henry Kelley's maps that  
21 have been drawn based solely on population.  
22 You have 47 whole counties out of 67, which  
23 means that 70 percent of Florida's counties can  
24 be represented by one Representative.

25 SENATOR GAETZ: Ma'am, I don't mean to

1 stop your flow, but the maps that you are  
2 referring to I believe are maps that are in the  
3 back --

4 MS. SIEBOLD: Yes, they are posted in the  
5 back.

6 SENATOR GAETZ: -- proposed by Mr. Kelley,  
7 who is with the Tea Party?

8 MS. SIEBOLD: Yes, he is with -- yes, with  
9 the Tea Party Network.

10 Seven counties are too large to do that  
11 due to population. So drawing as tightly as  
12 possible leaves 80 percent of the state  
13 represented by a minimum of Representatives.

14 On the existing map, the map that we are  
15 using now, only 40 counties are whole, or  
16 59 percent of the state is whole, and add in  
17 the other seven counties leaves 47 out of 67  
18 whole, or only 70 percent of the state as being  
19 compact.

20 The rest of the state is gerrymandered,  
21 gerrymandered to take into consideration  
22 parties, races. We are all -- we are all  
23 Americans. I don't care if we are green with  
24 yellow polka dots, we are all Americans first.  
25 We belong to the United States of America. And

1       using these -- I'm sorry, that was a soap box  
2       moment.

3               Using -- using Henry's maps, it would --  
4       using District 3 -- U.S. District 3 standards,  
5       we actually decrease the number of Democratic  
6       districts in the state of Florida the way we  
7       are doing it now. However, using only the  
8       population for our basis, the Democrats  
9       actually benefit. You increase the number of  
10      the Democratic majority or Democratic leaning  
11      districts, thereby reducing the number of  
12      Republican districts.

13             The way the Polk County is drawn on  
14      Mr. Henry's maps is it takes in a small portion  
15      of Hillsborough County, which is Plant City.  
16      Polk County and that Plant City therefore  
17      become one congressional district. Polk County  
18      is an agricultural county. Plant City, you  
19      know, Plant City, is agricultural. Therefore,  
20      all of our needs and all of our interests are  
21      the same. So you would lump us all in as a --  
22      you know, the -- with the same interests and  
23      needs. And so using population seems to be the  
24      fairest way to do this.

25             My main question to the committee is, does

1       the federal court have the right to affect the  
2       lives of approximately eight to ten million  
3       Floridians by something that is happening in  
4       Jacksonville? And, finally, it oversteps the  
5       bounds of the Tenth Amendment, which reserves  
6       the rights not appointed to the federal  
7       government, to the states. And since when are  
8       we, the people of Florida, ruled by the Supreme  
9       Court of the United States instead of the  
10      Constitution of the United States and the  
11      Constitution of Florida? Thank you very much.

12                SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. And,  
13      Ms. Siebold, if there are people who are  
14      interested in the maps that have been  
15      submitted, Ms. Siebold, could you stay  
16      afterwards and talk with folks if they are  
17      interested in the map that you described?  
18      Thank you.

19                Next we have Sylvia Blackmon-Roberts with  
20      the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, then Karen  
21      Welzel, I believe, and then Donna Kinsey.

22                Ms. Blackmon-Roberts, thank you for being  
23      here, and you are recognized.

24                MS. BLACKMON-ROBERTS: Thank you very  
25      much. Let me say Alpha Kappa Alpha is a

1       nonpartisan service organization. Our concerns  
2       were with the process maps, as well as the  
3       timeline, and that -- those concerns have been  
4       expressed so well by some of the other speakers  
5       that I will yield my time to hopefully at the  
6       end hear the feedback.

7               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
8       ma'am. Eloquent testimony.

9               Karen -- in politics, we have a saying  
10       that says we have reached the point of the  
11       meeting where everything has been said, but not  
12       by everybody. We say that about ourselves, not  
13       about you.

14              Karen Welzel, then Donna Kinsey and then  
15       Lori Edwards, the Polk County Supervisor of  
16       Elections.

17              Thank you very much, ma'am, for being  
18       here, and we look forward to what you have to  
19       say with us.

20              MS. WELZEL: Thank you for allowing us  
21       this time.

22              My name is Karen Welzel. I am the  
23       Chairman of the Democratic Polk County Party,  
24       and I live in the southeast side of Polk County  
25       in Winter Haven. For me, it is partisan.



1           Polk County covers approximately 2,000  
2       square miles. It is a large county  
3       geographically with over 600,000 residents.  
4       Residents here in Polk County are represented  
5       by three Congressional districts. On the north  
6       and east side, there is a small strip of the  
7       county that falls under Congressional District  
8       15. On the northwest side of Polk, a small  
9       group of residents are in CD 5. And the  
10      remainder of the county is in Congressional  
11      District 12.

12           There are five House seats representing  
13      the citizens of Polk County, two of whom are  
14      not here tonight -- today. Winter Haven alone  
15      is divided into two districts. That simply  
16      should not be. Cities should not be split. It  
17      does not provide a fair representation of the  
18      residents in our area. Districts should be  
19      compact and contiguous.

20           Additionally, I am very concerned with the  
21      timeline for drawing the new districts. This  
22      timeline is unfair to the voters who passed  
23      Amendments 5 and 6 by 63 percent of the vote,  
24      and is deliberately being drawn out to favor  
25      the incumbents. If you take until March 2012

1 to have the maps drawn, that means that  
2 Florida's maps will be approved later than  
3 almost every other state in the nation. That  
4 only gives three months for court approval.  
5 Review by the Department of Justice will take  
6 much more than three months. If this timeline  
7 is followed, maps will not be finalized before  
8 qualifying for the 2012 election closes on  
9 June 8th. That will create massive voter  
10 confusion. People who want to run for office  
11 will not know which district they will be  
12 running for. They will have little time to  
13 start their campaign, and the voters will have  
14 even less time to make an informed decision for  
15 whom they will vote. Bills were introduced in  
16 the last session to require that the maps be  
17 drawn earlier, but those bills didn't even get  
18 scheduled for hearings. Why is that?

19 And then there is the money. This  
20 Legislature has spent over a million dollars of  
21 taxpayer money to hire lawyers to fight the  
22 very amendments that the citizens voted for.  
23 This Legislature has been fighting this since  
24 2008 before the amendments were even on the  
25 ballot. They have already acknowledged that

1       there is over \$30 million ready to be spent to  
2       continue the fight against Fair Districts.  
3       They are using a lawyer from Speaker Cannon's  
4       former law firm who bills at over \$300 an hour  
5       to fight these amendments. They tried to place  
6       a misleading and misworded Amendment 7 on the  
7       ballot, but the Supreme Court said it was wrong  
8       and had it removed.

9               The Florida House has joined a lawsuit  
10       attempting to have the amendments declared  
11       unconstitutional. The Legislature is using,  
12       again, taxpayer money to attack and invalidate  
13       the very provision that we approved.

14              In addition, the Secretary of State has  
15       been named a defendant in that case. That is  
16       the same Secretary of State who headed up the  
17       opposition to Fair Districts during the  
18       campaign. So now we, the taxpayers, are again  
19       paying to sue and defend the same lawsuit. All  
20       of this money is being spent while teachers are  
21       being fired, social services for the poor and  
22       the indigent are being cut, and not a  
23       significant job has been created.

24              With all due respect, people have thanked  
25       you for allowing them to express their opinions

1       about redistricting, and that is all well and  
2       good, but I will say this: This hearing --  
3       these hearings have no purpose other than to  
4       make it appear that you are listening to the  
5       people. If you really wanted to know what we  
6       thought, you would have brought the maps with  
7       you and moved this process along in a timely  
8       manner that would benefit the citizens you  
9       purport to represent. This is a waste of time  
10      and money. Thank you.

11           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you for wasting your  
12      time and money in coming here, we appreciate  
13      it.

14           Donna Kinsey is next, then Lori Edwards,  
15      the Polk County Supervisor of Elections, and  
16      then Diana Sen with LatinoJustice.

17           Ms. Kinsey, thank you for coming.

18           MS. KINSEY: Yes. I don't represent  
19      anybody but myself.

20           SENATOR GAETZ: Good for you.

21           MS. KINSEY: And I am here mainly to  
22      express a degree of frustration that I have in  
23      not even being able to find out who my  
24      Representatives are locally.

25           Three years ago, I moved down here from

1 the state of Maryland where, you know, I was  
2 able to know who represented me, I was able to  
3 contact them, and when I came here, I don't  
4 even know where Bartow fits in the picture, I  
5 guess we don't count, at least that is how I  
6 feel about it. And it looks like it is about  
7 to happen again because of the timeline,  
8 because I did not realize until coming to this  
9 meeting how little time there is. I had the  
10 impression that -- you know, that the maps were  
11 going to be finalized long before they  
12 apparently are, and I find that very  
13 disturbing. Thank you.

14 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much. And  
15 I hope, Ms. Kinsey, that you can stay to the  
16 end of the hearing, because everybody -- this  
17 is one of the great things about this country,  
18 everybody is entitled to their opinion, but  
19 everybody is not entitled to their own set of  
20 facts. So we will hear some -- hopefully some  
21 information at the end of this hearing that  
22 will help disabuse you of maybe some of the  
23 things put in the bloodstream by, you know,  
24 folks who just have a different opinion.

25 Lori Edwards, the Polk County Supervisor

1 of Elections, thank you for your service to  
2 Polk County, and we are honored to have you  
3 here today, ma'am.

4 MS. EDWARDS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is  
5 a pleasure.

6 As you mentioned, I am the Supervisor of  
7 Elections for Polk County. I am also the  
8 Reapportionment Chair for the Florida  
9 Association of Supervisors of Elections, and as  
10 a result, I am also representing them.

11 The first point that I would like to  
12 address is time. To conduct successful  
13 elections in 2012, election officials need time  
14 to complete tasks that are required by state  
15 law. Election officials need time to adjust  
16 the precinct lines once we get the new district  
17 lines, and then gain approval of those new  
18 precincts from the Board of County  
19 Commissioners.

20 Now, if the Legislature, the Attorney  
21 General, the Supreme Court and the Justice  
22 Department all complete their work on time,  
23 election administrators will have less than two  
24 weeks to adjust the records of Florida's  
25 11 million voters. Then first absentees need

1 to be mailed.

2 The calendar that was provided by your  
3 legislative staff indicates that the final  
4 Justice Department review of new districts is  
5 likely to be complete after, after qualifying,  
6 and that, as has been mentioned a couple of  
7 times, has the potential for confusing  
8 candidates, in addition, of course, to voters.

9 I have just a list of the statutorily  
10 created tasks that we must complete during that  
11 two-week period in between when we get the  
12 final and the first ballots need to be mailed.  
13 We need to change all district lines in the  
14 state on 67 different maps. We need to align  
15 the precincts to the new districts. We then  
16 need to submit those proposed precinct changes  
17 to the Board of County Commissioners in 67  
18 counties and have them approve those new  
19 precincts. We then need to re-code every  
20 voter's address with new district information  
21 for Congressional districts, for state House  
22 districts and state Senate districts. We need  
23 to check and double-check that new voter data,  
24 because computers do much of it, but they don't  
25 do all of it. Then we need to issue new voter

1 registration cards, get those mailed, notify  
2 voters of the precinct changes, order the  
3 ballots and mail the absentee ballots all  
4 within 15 or 16 days, best-case scenario.

5 The other point I wanted to address was  
6 district lines. Please respect communities  
7 when you draw those district lines. I think  
8 you are probably well aware that your  
9 legislative staff worked with election  
10 officials, as well as the census, over the last  
11 couple of years to establish for the first time  
12 here in Florida voting tabulation districts.  
13 They take into consideration intact  
14 communities, traffic patterns, even physical  
15 barriers that people working in an office in  
16 Tallahassee probably wouldn't be aware of. So  
17 please adhere to these lines whenever possible.  
18 The truth is the best place to draw any of your  
19 lines is along a county line. So please divide  
20 districts along county lines whenever possible.

21 And, you know, there has been much  
22 attention, not just during your public hearings  
23 this go-round, but for years to Florida's  
24 meandering districts. But there's many, many  
25 more examples of small cities being separated



1       into three or four districts, small, little  
2       cities get split apart into three or four  
3       little districts, or gated communities have  
4       state Senate lines running through the middle  
5       of them. So although meandering is something  
6       to worry about, the opposite of that can cause  
7       just as clear of a problem to all concerned.  
8       The way to avoid that, there is a way to avoid  
9       that, that is what those voting tabulation  
10      districts are about. So when you start  
11      reviewing the maps that you are serious about,  
12      please ask the question, are these aligning  
13      with voting tabulation districts, that is all I  
14      ask you to ask, are the lines on county lines  
15      or are they aligning with voting tabulation  
16      districts.

17           I do have a question for your list, and my  
18      question to the committee is: If, as we  
19      expect, the lines will be finalized around  
20      June 16th, how do candidates, as well as party  
21      precinct Committee people, qualify during the  
22      qualifying period that your Legislature created  
23      between the fourth and the eighth? If the  
24      districts don't exist, how do they qualify for  
25      a district? And I am just curious, I need an

1           answer to that at some point.

2           SENATOR GAETZ: Well, Ms. Edwards, I hope  
3           you will stay, because I think, again, maybe  
4           that somebody purposefully offered a little  
5           confusing information or maybe there was  
6           confusion coming out of some source somewhere  
7           else, but there is no requirement that  
8           best-case scenario maps are drawn in March or  
9           that the process ends in June, but Speaker  
10          Weatherford, I think, can explain that in more  
11          detail.

12          But I have a favor for you. Ms. Kinsey,  
13          who spoke just ahead of you, didn't know who  
14          her State Representatives are and what voter  
15          district she lived in. Would you mind talking  
16          with her and helping her understand that,  
17          please, ma'am?

18          MS. EDWARDS: I would be happy to. I do  
19          want to remind you that the State Supreme Court  
20          has 30 days to review the plans --

21          SENATOR GAETZ: Yes.

22          MS. EDWARDS: -- the Attorney General has  
23          15 days, so that is 45 days, and then there's  
24          60 days for the U.S. Justice Department. So I  
25          think that the calendar does come out that way.

1 I have learned this, of course, from your  
2 Mr. Guthrie.

3 SENATOR GAETZ: Well, all I would suggest  
4 to you, and I don't mean to be argumentative,  
5 is that there is -- ma'am, I don't mean to be  
6 argumentative, but those -- some of those time  
7 lines can run concurrently, and just as you  
8 encourage us, rightly so, to move as quickly as  
9 possible, we certainly would encourage those  
10 review processes to move as quickly as  
11 possible. We will count on you to contact them  
12 with the same encouragement. And if you would  
13 help Ms. Kinsey, we would be grateful.

14 MS. EDWARDS: Thank you.

15 SENATOR GAETZ: Thanks for your testimony.

16 MS. EDWARDS: Pleasure to be here.

17 SENATOR GAETZ: Sure. Diana Sen, with  
18 LatinoJustice, and following Ms. Sen, Rita  
19 Wings and then Tim, I think it's Heberlein.  
20 And we have had a number of other people, and  
21 we are delighted, sign up to testify, so we are  
22 going to hold pretty tight to the three-minute  
23 rule.

24 So you are recognized. Thank you for  
25 being here.

1 MS. SEN: Thank you. Good afternoon. My  
2 name is Diana Sen, and I am senior counsel to  
3 LatinoJustice PRLDEF, formerly known as the  
4 Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund.

5 LatinoJustice is a national,  
6 not-for-profit, nonpartisan civil rights  
7 organization that has conducted legal  
8 education, advocacy and impact litigation since  
9 1972.

10 We are promoting community participation  
11 and monitoring compliance with the federal  
12 Voting Rights Act throughout legislative and  
13 Congressional redistricting in Florida. As you  
14 know, we have brought numerous lawsuits  
15 enforcing the Voting Rights Act. Most  
16 recently, we sued Volusia County in 2008 for  
17 not providing ballots in Spanish in violation  
18 of federal law. That lawsuit was settled in  
19 2010, with the county providing bilingual  
20 ballots and additional language assistance.

21 We also in 2005 represented Hispanic  
22 Kissimmee residents in a federal class action  
23 lawsuit against the Kissimmee Board of City  
24 Commissioners because their at-large election  
25 process diluted the voting strength of

1           Hispanics.

2           These lawsuits are in addition to three  
3           lawsuits filed by the Department of Justice in  
4           central Florida, one against Orange County for  
5           not having proper Spanish language assistance,  
6           and two against Osceola County, one for hostile  
7           treatment against Latinos, and another for  
8           their at-large election process.

9           In addition to these lawsuits, you have  
10          all heard from the community loud and clear  
11          that Latinos need fair representation in  
12          redistricting. The Voting Rights Act requires  
13          Florida to protect minority voters from a  
14          dilution of their voting rights.

15          While recent interpretations of the VRA  
16          question the viability of minority districts  
17          that are less than a majority, Florida is  
18          required to provide opportunities to elect  
19          districts to VRA-protected classes like  
20          Hispanics.

21          Under Section 2, the Supreme Court has  
22          said that minority dilution occurs if it is  
23          shown by, one, large and geographically compact  
24          majority districts; two, a politically cohesive  
25          group; three, racially polarized voting. And

1       once those three jingles, preconditions, are  
2       met, a totality of circumstances is viewed by  
3       the court to see if minorities' voting strength  
4       is being diluted.

5               In addition, there is Section 5 that  
6       creates federal oversight of changes to  
7       redistricting plans in parts of the country  
8       with a history of discrimination.

9               SENATOR GAETZ: And, Ms. Sen, if I could  
10      ask you to summarize just in fairness of all  
11      the people who have signed up behind you.

12              MS. SEN: Florida's Latino communities  
13      must have fair electoral opportunity. Their  
14      rights and their ability to vote should not be  
15      silenced.

16              Proportionality is a key factor in  
17      redistricting, and the United States Supreme  
18      Court in DeGrande has stated that  
19      proportionality is important in redistricting,  
20      because it links the number of  
21      majority-minority voting districts to minority  
22      members' share of the relevant population. We  
23      urge that the state's legislative redistricting  
24      maps be drawn that -- such that a proportionate  
25      percentage of the total districts can be drawn

1 for majority-minority Latino districts.

2 LatinoJustice is working with Latinos  
3 throughout the state. We are supporting the  
4 creation of a Latino-anchored, central  
5 Florida-anchored congressional district, and  
6 are proud to unveil our plan this Wednesday in  
7 Orlando.

8 We look forward to working with you all to  
9 ensure that the Voting Rights Act is followed  
10 and that Latinos are able to elect the  
11 candidate of their choice. Thank you.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, Ms.  
13 Sen.

14 And next we will hear from Rita Wings and  
15 then Tim, I think it is Heberlein, or  
16 Herberlein, I apologize, and then Sidney  
17 Rosen- -- and I'm sorry, it is my eyes, not  
18 your writing, Sidney, with the Democratic Club  
19 in Poinciana.

20 Ms. Wings.

21 MS. WINGS: Hi. My name is Rita Wings,  
22 and I represent myself and my website,  
23 coffeestraightup.com. I am here not only to  
24 reiterate what other people said about how  
25 there should have been maps for us to look at.

1       Forgive me if my assumption after watching you  
2       fight our will in court, if my assumption is  
3       that you will go out and take public testimony,  
4       then do exactly what you please come next year  
5       when there is no time to fix it. I make those  
6       assumptions because one person, one vote, is  
7       not just a Democratic ideal, it has  
8       traditionally been a Republican ideal. The  
9       Republican party should be hanging its head in  
10      shame about what it has allowed the Tea Party,  
11      which is controlled by huge corporate  
12      interests --

13             SENATOR GAETZ: Ma'am --

14             MS. WINGS: -- to do to it --

15             SENATOR GAETZ: Ma'am, let's -- let's be  
16      civil. Let's not -- let's not cast aspersions  
17      on other people who speak. Why don't you keep  
18      it to your opinion about redistricting. We  
19      really want --

20             MS. WINGS: This is my opinion about  
21      redistricting.

22             SENATOR GAETZ: Well, we don't want to  
23      hear your opinion about other people, except  
24      you can give your opinion about us. But we  
25      would very much like you to talk about



1 specifically where you believe redistricting  
2 laws and how they should be applied in this  
3 particular case in this part of the state. You  
4 are recognized for that purpose solely, ma'am.

5 MS. WINGS: And in your arrogance, you  
6 will tell us at the end where we are all wrong  
7 and put your spin on it as a fact.

8 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you for your  
9 testimony, ma'am. And now --

10 MS. WINGS: And I will continue by saying  
11 and summing up that it is extremely important  
12 that these laws that you are trying to make --  
13 this adds to our skepticism as well, that the  
14 laws you are trying to make right now will  
15 address a nonexistent problem of voter fraud by  
16 limiting --

17 SENATOR GAETZ: Now, ma'am --

18 MS. WINGS: -- people's right to vote.

19 SENATOR GAETZ: Ma'am, I am going to ask  
20 you --

21 MS. WINGS: You are not --

22 SENATOR GAETZ: Ma'am --

23 MS. WINGS: -- standing up for Republican  
24 ideals, nor for one person, one vote --

25 SENATOR GAETZ: Ma'am --

1 MS. WINGS: -- which is inherent in --

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Ma'am, we want to thank  
3 you -- we want to thank you for your testimony.

4 MS. WINGS: I will finish.

5 SENATOR GAETZ: Ma'am --

6 MS. WINGS: That is inherent in the one  
7 person, one vote ideal.

8 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
9 ma'am, for your testimony.

10 Tim Heberlein is next. And Tim, if I have  
11 mispronounced your name, it is because of my  
12 bad eyesight, not your handwriting. And then  
13 Sidney Rosenblatt, I think, or Rosenbent, and  
14 then following Sidney, Debbie Hannifan.

15 Tim, you are recognized. Thank you for  
16 being here.

17 MR. HEBERLEIN: Absolutely. It is  
18 Heberlein, actually, it happens all the time.

19 SENATOR GAETZ: It is what, please, sir?

20 MR. HEBERLEIN: Heberlein. It is probably  
21 my handwriting, but --

22 SENATOR GAETZ: No, no, it is my eyesight.

23 MR. HEBERLEIN: -- it's as German as it  
24 gets.

25 Well, I would like to thank you all for

1       being here. This is a very important part of  
2       the political process, especially  
3       redistricting. Unfortunately, it is a very  
4       politicized process as well.

5               I represent, and I apologize, I omitted it  
6       on the form, but the Florida Consumer Action  
7       Network, which is a bipartisan -- can you hear  
8       me?

9               SENATOR GAETZ: Maybe, sir, if you could  
10      speak right into the microphone, because there  
11      are a lot of folks here, and they would --  
12      everybody would like to hear your testimony.

13              MR. HEBERLEIN: How is this? Sound check.

14              SENATOR GAETZ: Much better.

15              MR. HEBERLEIN: All right.

16              SENATOR GAETZ: Much better.

17              MR. HEBERLEIN: I represent the Florida  
18      Consumer Action Network, which is a nonpartisan  
19      organization which protects the rights of  
20      consumers, and we also do voter registration,  
21      so we are very interested in this particular  
22      process.

23              But I applaud the efforts of putting  
24      together the software, the My District Builder,  
25      you are allocating a lot of resources to these

1 public hearings, but you haven't done the  
2 constitutional duty of drawing these maps. And  
3 I can't emphasize how important that is to the  
4 political process when it comes to public  
5 participation is they -- a lot of times, I  
6 personally don't even know what it is I am  
7 supposed to make public comment on. I  
8 appreciate that I think Kelley -- the  
9 gentleman, Kelley, has produced these maps --

10 SENATOR GAETZ: He's produced one of them.  
11 There are actually 12 maps that have been  
12 produced over there, and then you have the  
13 existing maps here, and you can speak to any  
14 one of them or make any specific proposal of  
15 your own, or any member of this committee can.

16 MR. HEBERLEIN: I propose that --  
17 actually, I propose that the Legislature  
18 produce the maps that is what I propose. It is  
19 not Kelley's job. It is not my job to write  
20 the software. Don't get me wrong, it is a  
21 great software, you are doing a great job, but  
22 it is not our job. You are asking for our  
23 public input. My public input came last year  
24 with Amendments 5 and 6. I actually went up to  
25 Tallahassee -- thank you.

1           SENATOR GAETZ: Let's let him speak. You  
2 are eating up his three minutes, sir.

3           MR. HEBERLEIN: I actually went to  
4 Tallahassee because I opposed Amendment 7,  
5 which was specifically put by the Legislature  
6 to confuse voters and to basically negate  
7 Amendments 5 and 6, and that was  
8 unfortunately -- unfortunate part of this  
9 politicized process.

10           So I encourage you to, again, I think  
11 another speaker had mentioned it before, but  
12 consider the fact of the -- the implications of  
13 what you are doing with this process. And I  
14 hope that, you know, come whenever these maps  
15 are produced, hopefully it is not five months  
16 before the 2012 election, that the headlines  
17 read, you know, this was a fair process, this  
18 was done appropriately. I would love to see  
19 that. And I would please beg you to do  
20 everything in your power to make sure that is  
21 what the headline reads as soon as you afford  
22 the -- produce these maps and vote on them and  
23 make it official.

24           SENATOR GAETZ: I think it will be  
25 "Republicans Arrived and Bank Robbed," but go

1 ahead.

2 MR. HEBERLEIN: Thank you.

3 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much for your  
4 testimony.

5 And, Sidney, I've got to beg your  
6 forgiveness.

7 MR. ROSENBERG: My name is Sidney  
8 Rosenberg.

9 SENATOR GAETZ: Rosenberg, I could have  
10 read that if I had been good.

11 MR. ROSENBERG: I live in Polk County.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: Go ahead.

13 MR. ROSENBERG: I represent the Democratic  
14 Club in Solivita, Florida.

15 Most of the people in this room have come  
16 up -- and I am not going to belabor the fact or  
17 repeat the requests -- the requests of the  
18 people of this state.

19 Sixty-three percent of the people wanted  
20 change. They want these maps drawn correctly.  
21 We have to have them drawn at a logical time so  
22 that I can go out and say "I have a candidate"  
23 or "I want to be a candidate." I don't see  
24 this here. I don't see a time frame that is  
25 logical, how a voter is going to know who to

1           vote for. And I am going to leave it at that,  
2           there are other people that want to speak,  
3           there is no sense in laboring over things.

4           But I am asking you, ladies and gentlemen,  
5           please stop trying to fight the amendment. The  
6           amendment was passed by the people. Thank you.

7           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. Next we will  
8           hear from Debbie Hannifan, then John Wing,  
9           representing the Bahai faith, and then Ronald  
10          Johnson.

11          Is it Ms. Hannifan, is that right?

12          MS. HANNIFAN: Yes, it is, thank you.

13          SENATOR GAETZ: You are recognized, and  
14          thanks for coming today.

15          MS. HANNIFAN: Thank you very much. Thank  
16          you to all of you for coming. I really  
17          appreciate that. I am born and raised here in  
18          Lakeland, Florida, and welcome to our city.

19          I want to, first of all, commend the  
20          Committee for the use of technology. I've  
21          recently heard on the news that we are among  
22          the leaders in the country for the technology,  
23          the website and the things that you are doing,  
24          so thank you for that and allowing the  
25          transparent process.

1           The other thing I would like to say is I  
2       train advocates across the state, grass roots  
3       organizing and coalition training for  
4       individuals who are interested in becoming  
5       engaged in the legislative process. So some of  
6       you are familiar, and thank you for your help  
7       along the years.

8           What I would like to say is we need to  
9       make sure that we keep our eye on what this is  
10      all about. It is very important that our  
11      individual citizens have the opportunity to get  
12      to know their Legislators, that they will be  
13      able to become engaged when they have  
14      individual issues, and some of the districts  
15      have made it very difficult for your average  
16      citizen to become engaged in that relationship,  
17      because they do not live anywhere near their  
18      districts, the constituency is not necessarily  
19      close to the elected official. So we would  
20      just ask that you would consider that when you  
21      are drawing your lines, and try to keep to -- I  
22      am not going to use the terms that we have  
23      heard previously, but some -- you know, to  
24      county districts, if at all possible, so that  
25      people are not having to travel great lengths



1 to get to their legislator and that they will  
2 be able to engage in that process a little bit  
3 easier.

4 Also, people who are elderly, people who  
5 have disabilities, who rely on public  
6 transportation to get to their Representative's  
7 office, should be fairly easy for that person  
8 to do before work, after work, on their lunch  
9 break, not necessarily having to take four  
10 hours out of their day to travel a good two  
11 hours, three hours, to get to an appointment.  
12 So we would ask that, too.

13 The other thing is the financial impact of  
14 that. Our Legislators or elected officials are  
15 having to travel great deals to get to maybe  
16 the areas where their constituency reside. So  
17 that is a financial consideration as well.

18 And I think that is about it. I would ask  
19 that you would consider maybe the common  
20 threads that we have heard today, not  
21 necessarily the drastic differences, but the  
22 commonality. We are still asking for you to  
23 make it a fairly swift process, to put them out  
24 so that we are able to give input, and then if  
25 there's a big variety of people who are not

1       able to come to the Committee meetings, please  
2       consider our comments during your Committee  
3       dialogue and discussion, because there are many  
4       people across the state that will not be able  
5       to come to Tallahassee in September to  
6       readdress these issues with you again. Okay,  
7       thank you.

8               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. Thank you very  
9       much.

10              Next we will hear from John Wing.

11       Mr. Wing, are you still here? Very good. And  
12       after Mr. Wing, Ronald Johnson and then Warner  
13       Squire with the Polk Democratic Party.

14              Mr. Wing.

15              MR. WING: Good afternoon. A couple of  
16       Sundays ago, our congregation was discussing an  
17       issue that some of the members wanted to  
18       contact their Congressman, and not everyone  
19       knew who their Congressman was, which is  
20       understandable, considering if they live a  
21       dozen or so miles one way, they were in a  
22       second district, if they lived a dozen or so  
23       miles the other way, they were in a third  
24       district, and I says, "Well, okay, I will check  
25       into it and let you know." Turned out to be

1 quite a bit of research, and at the end, I gave  
2 information about the three Congressmen, and I  
3 said, "As far as the lines are concerned, you  
4 are going to have to either call one of them or  
5 go on-line and find out who your Congressman  
6 really is." And I know that the state  
7 districts are more or less as convoluted as  
8 that, and it makes it difficult to know who our  
9 Representative is, and for our Representatives  
10 to understand who he is representing. So I ask  
11 you to draw the lines in reasonable fashion to  
12 assure that y'all represent us rather than make  
13 sure that you get reelected.

14 SENATOR GAETZ: Well, thank you. And,  
15 again, it is one of those inconvenient facts.  
16 None of us up here drew these lines. We ran in  
17 districts that somebody else drew.

18 Ronald Johnson is next, and following  
19 Mr. Johnson, Warner Squire with the Polk DEC  
20 and then Dena DeCamp.

21 Mr. Johnson, thank you for coming, and you  
22 recognized, sir.

23 MR. JOHNSON: Good afternoon, and thanks  
24 for coming, and thanks to all the people in the  
25 audience, we appreciate all of you guys being

1           here, too.

2           My concern is this: We want you guys to  
3           be honest and we want you guys to put forth the  
4           maps and do it the right way. The people have  
5           already spoken, 63 percent. So go about your  
6           business, create the maps, don't be so  
7           concerned about your reelection. You are going  
8           to get reelected if the people are behind you.  
9           If they want to support you, they will. Don't  
10          cut out the districts through the  
11          gerrymandering process. You know, you heard  
12          the word "contiguous," you have heard the word  
13          "gerrymandering," we all know what those words  
14          mean.

15          And, historically, I want to bring up Tom  
16          DeLay. Remember what happened in Texas years  
17          ago, what happened to Mr. Tom DeLay in his  
18          redistricting thing. Don't let that happen to  
19          you guys. Do it the right way. Represent all  
20          of us. Remember what Ms. Lori Edwards said,  
21          she gave you a lot of statistics, you know  
22          those things. Do it the right way. You guys  
23          are honorable, you guys are officials. Do it  
24          the right way. Present the maps. Have  
25          continuous, contiguous districts that looks

1 real, not a piece here, a piece there, don't  
2 worry about the demographics, about who -- who  
3 is here, who is there, Democrat, Republicans,  
4 do it the right way. Be honorable. Do the  
5 right thing for the people, and we appreciate  
6 it.

7 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

8 Warner Squire with the Polk Democratic  
9 Executive Committee, and then Dena DeCamp, and  
10 then Janell, I think it is Hedrin, although I  
11 apologize if I have mispronounced.

12 Mr. Squire, thank you for coming, and you  
13 are recognized before the Committee.

14 MR. SQUIRE: Okay. I just want to say  
15 that -- it's like I've got to come down here,  
16 adjust it, I don't want to take up my time. I  
17 am new to this whole process.

18 SENATOR GAETZ: I think the mike will come  
19 out there if you would like. There you go.

20 MR. SQUIRE: Okay. So, anyway, I am new  
21 to the whole process, and I think that this is  
22 very exciting, but at the same time, I think  
23 that the concern that I had in reading about  
24 this, following it in the paper, and a lot of  
25 people have expressed today is fairness.

1       People want to feel like the Representatives  
2       are treating the situation fairly, and at the  
3       same time, we have to recognize that we send  
4       you all to Tallahassee to win, or your  
5       campaigns, the people who back you, we want you  
6       to win. And so it is funny how at one point we  
7       are saying be fair, but to our own  
8       Representatives we are saying, stick it to  
9       them, so to say. So I am asking you to kind of  
10      hear that, but kind of let cooler heads  
11      prevail, as they are saying on TV these days,  
12      and not listen to the people who are saying use  
13      your advantage against the people who were  
14      against you. Do you follow what I am saying?  
15      Just, you know, make it fair and win in a fair  
16      way. And I am just thinking about how, you  
17      know, back when I was growing up and the Tyson  
18      fights were going on and everyone would get so  
19      excited for the Tyson fight, and it would be  
20      over in a minute or less. So I ask that, you  
21      know, when you win, just win fairly and show  
22      good sportsmanship. Thank you.

23                SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you.

24                REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Chairman,  
25      I think what he meant to say is don't bite your

1           opponent's ear.

2           SENATOR GAETZ: We will add that to the  
3           record. No ear biting.

4           Ms. DeCamp, and then following Ms. DeCamp,  
5           Janell, I apologize, Hendreu or Hedrin, and  
6           then Nancy Sweeney.

7           Ms. DeCamp, thank you for coming, and you  
8           are recognized.

9           MS. DeCAMP: Thank you so much. My name  
10          is Dena DeCamp, and I am President of the  
11          Republican Women's Club of Lakeland, and I  
12          serve on the Board of Directors for the Florida  
13          Federation of Republican Women. And I want to  
14          say, first of all, thank you all very much for  
15          being here. It says a lot for how important  
16          redistricting is to see a bipartisan panel  
17          sitting in front of us, and it means a lot to  
18          all of us that you are all here. Thank you so  
19          much.

20          We heard a lot today about how we haven't  
21          got any maps. I do want to make one comment  
22          about that. If they had brought maps, people  
23          would be standing in this microphone saying you  
24          already had your minds made up and you didn't  
25          give us a chance to give input. So I am going

1       to tell you thank you for not bringing the  
2       maps, and we can live with the other.

3               One of the things that has been brought up  
4       before and I want to reinforce is the county  
5       line rule seems to be a good one. In Polk  
6       County, a number of the members of my club have  
7       an issue with us because Senator Storms is over  
8       on the west side of the county, a little  
9       sliver, and we have Congressman Rich Nugent up  
10      on the north side of Polk County in a little  
11      bitty sliver, and we almost never get to see  
12      them, not that we don't invite them, but we  
13      tend to kind of forget about them because they  
14      have such a tiny little sliver of Polk County,  
15      and the people in their districts feel a little  
16      left out because we invite in the people that  
17      have the biggest portion of those districts.  
18      And so it would be better for these people who  
19      don't know who their Congressmen or  
20      Representatives are if we had a more defined  
21      line and it wasn't chopping up counties. The  
22      cities, I know, would be difficult, but the  
23      counties, I think, would be an important way to  
24      try and keep -- keep it easier for the  
25      constituency to know who you are. I know who



1       all my elected officials are, but then I am in  
2       politics to a certain extent and I made a point  
3       of it. But if you voted on somebody, you  
4       should know who that person is. So, you know,  
5       I just think that that is a matter of the  
6       person finding out who they are. You guys are  
7       in your constituencies, you are out in your  
8       districts all the time, even though you are  
9       part-time Legislators, and we thank you for  
10      that, we know you have another life other than  
11      those months you spend in Tallahassee, we know  
12      that the rest of the year you are out there and  
13      you are trying to meet as many people as you  
14      can, and we thank you for that. Thank you  
15      again for being here. Y'all are doing a great  
16      job.

17                SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
18      Ms. DeCamp.

19                And Janell, I apologize to you, what's  
20      your last name, ma'am?

21                MS. HENDREN: Hendren.

22                SENATOR GAETZ: Hendren, I had it right,  
23      by golly.

24                And then following Ms. Hendren, Nancy  
25      Sweeney and then Graham Moore.

1           Ms. Hendren, we are delighted you are  
2           here, and you are recognized.

3           MS. HENDREN: Thank you, Senator. My name  
4           is Janell Hendren, I am a resident of downtown  
5           Lakeland, and I first want to thank everyone  
6           that has come so far. I know you are from up  
7           in the -- up in the Panhandle area, and you are  
8           part-time Legislators, many people do not  
9           realize that. The Representatives get paid  
10          \$29,000 a year, that is it, they are part-time.  
11          Some other people have mentioned other states  
12          that have more advanced timelines on what they  
13          do. They are full-time Legislators that -- by  
14          the way, California pays their people over  
15          \$100,000 a year, so you want to talk about a  
16          waste of money.

17          Now, I want to say thank you for coming to  
18          us --

19          SENATOR GAETZ: We are not worth that.

20          MS. HENDREN: I want to say thank you very  
21          much for coming to us before you draw the maps,  
22          because we all know how the human mind works,  
23          and once your minds are made up, once the lines  
24          are drawn, it becomes very difficult to say,  
25          "No, we didn't really like this whole area,

1       let's redo this whole area." I would much  
2       rather you have a blank slate to work from and  
3       take our suggestions so that when you first  
4       draw the maps, when you first set your minds to  
5       how you want things to look, they are with our  
6       opinions in mind, and I appreciate that.

7               I think I am going to be unique and give  
8       the actual first suggestion that is Polk  
9       County-specific and say please be careful when  
10      you draw up Polk County. We have competing  
11      economic interests between south Polk County  
12      that is agriculture, east and west. And I feel  
13      sometimes that the way that these districts are  
14      currently drawn, that can be exacerbated, some  
15      people feel a viable rate between Lakeland and  
16      Winter Haven, and I would ask that the new  
17      districts not make that situation worse with  
18      the way that the districts are drawn. That is  
19      all I have to say. Thank you for your time.

20             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, ma'am.

21             Nancy Sweeney is next. Ms. Sweeney, we  
22      very much are -- appreciate your taking time to  
23      come today, then Graham Moore, and following  
24      Mr. Moore, Dr. Lydia Medrano.

25             Ms. Sweeney, you are recognized.

1 MS. SWEEZY: First of all, my name is  
2 Nancy Sweezy.

3 SENATOR GAETZ: Sweezy.

4 MS. SWEEZY: S-w-e-e-z-y.

5 SENATOR GAETZ: I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

6 MS. SWEEZY: That is okay. You are not  
7 the first person that's called me something  
8 else.

9 SENATOR GAETZ: I have been called a lot  
10 of things.

11 MS. SWEEZY: I have, too. I usually come,  
12 whatever you call me.

13 I want to thank you all for coming. I was  
14 surprised when I came here, this is the first  
15 one I have been, but every year I have been  
16 angry after the redistricting has been done,  
17 and I wanted to come and have my say.

18 I am tired of the strange districts we see  
19 through, and I would really like to see the  
20 county not tore up as bad as sometime. I once  
21 believed Polk County was divided into five  
22 districts, so -- and it was split all over the  
23 place like you wouldn't believe it. I know  
24 that sometimes you can't put our county in a  
25 district, you have to split places up, and I

1       understand that, but I would like you to really  
2       consider trying to keep as much of the  
3       population in an area together, because we do  
4       -- each county has their own special problems,  
5       and we would like you to, you know, consider  
6       that if we have one legislator, he can listen  
7       to us and our problems better than five people  
8       who are only listening to a couple thousand  
9       people in one corner, and five or six, because  
10      they are worried more about the most of the  
11      people than they are the small amounts, and I  
12      understand that, too, but I would really like  
13      to see a plan go together that the districts  
14      are tried to be drawn as fairly as you can,  
15      keeping the people together.

16           Somebody was saying that you didn't draw  
17      the districts. I have voted in districts here  
18      in Polk County that were Democrats and we put  
19      Republicans in, and I voted in districts that  
20      were Republicans, we put Democrats in, so I  
21      don't find this that -- I have known this to be  
22      a Democratic district, and I have seen  
23      Republicans go sit right in there and take the  
24      district out from underneath them, so I don't  
25      find this, you know, is anything. I have seen

1 people of different races go into areas where  
2 nobody said they would not elect a person of  
3 that race, that color, that creed, that  
4 religion, they go in there, they make an  
5 impression on the people, the people vote for  
6 them. All we want is a fair chance to vote for  
7 our people who know us. And I thank you for  
8 all that you are doing in these matters.

9 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Sweezy.

10 Graham Moore? Mr. Moore, and then  
11 Dr. Lydia Medrano and then Delma Rodriguez.

12 Mr. Moore, thank you for coming today.

13 MR. MOORE: Thank you. I would like to  
14 first say thank you to all of you. I look  
15 around this room and I see nothing but a  
16 collection of citizens and activists who care  
17 about issues that affect this state. I see our  
18 Representatives sitting both up before me and  
19 sprinkled throughout the rest of the room,  
20 citizen activists, organizers, all who care  
21 about this -- these issues, all who care about  
22 what is represented by the two flags that are  
23 behind you all, and I see that the parties,  
24 mixed up amongst everybody and how we can all  
25 sit together today. But that is today.

1           Next year when this issue is brought  
2       forward into the State Legislature, when you  
3       will be discussing this, it won't be the only  
4       thing that will be discussed. Next year we  
5       find ourselves in an election year when  
6       early-on members of the Lincoln's party will be  
7       battling amongst themselves to see who will  
8       represent themselves in the great presidential  
9       election. Next year when we see our current  
10      President fight to put forward another  
11      four-year vision for America, next year when we  
12      see races amongst our -- for our U.S. Senate  
13      seat, for our House seats, all battling, should  
14      we really infuse the idea of redistricting in  
15      that time period? Should we really battle a  
16      bear when we are fighting a lion already? And  
17      that is all I have to say.

18           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
19      Mr. Moore.

20           And now Dr. Lydia Medrano, and then  
21      following Dr. Medrano, Delma Rodriguez and then  
22      Norma Reno, please.

23           Dr. Medrano, thank you for coming and  
24      giving your time today to this process.

25           DR. MEDRANO: Thank you. My name is Lydia

1       Medrano. I am a District Director of the  
2       League of United Latin American Citizens, also  
3       known as LULAC, and LULAC is the national civil  
4       rights organization, it is the oldest Hispanic  
5       civil rights organization. My district covers  
6       Polk County and Hillsborough County. And I  
7       want to thank all of you for being here and  
8       listening to what people have to say. I want  
9       to believe that people's feedback is taken into  
10      account. But to tell you the truth, we are  
11      kind of frustrated with the county  
12      redistricting, because the community is saying  
13      one thing, and the commissioners are doing the  
14      opposite, you know.

15           But, anyways, I don't want to repeat what  
16      many people already said, but I would just want  
17      to say that in Tampa Bay, we have developed a  
18      coalition of Hispanic organizations and are  
19      determined to participate in the redistricting  
20      processes. We are receiving advice from  
21      several organizations like the LatinoJustice,  
22      New York-based civil rights organization from  
23      New York, LULAC and some local attorneys.

24           Latinos have significantly contributed to  
25      the growth of the population in the state, and



1       because of that, we have -- we are getting two  
2       new -- two additional seats. And Hillsborough  
3       County, Polk County, Pasco, Pinellas, have the  
4       combined Hispanic populations of almost  
5       541,000, and because of that, as I said before,  
6       Florida is getting two additional seats. And  
7       the reason why I am here is that we expect that  
8       at least one of those seats is going to be here  
9       in central Florida. Thank you.

10           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Doctor.

11           And next, Delma Rodriguez, also with  
12       LULAC, and then Norma Reno, also with LULAC,  
13       and then Paul Anderson from the Sierra Club.

14           Ms. Rodriguez, thank you for coming.

15           MS. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you very much. I am  
16       a native Floridian. I was born and raised in  
17       Tampa, Florida. And to be very honest with  
18       you, I am very proud of the state of Florida.  
19       One of my responsibilities is voting, and I  
20       have done that, I won't speak to that.

21           The other responsibility I think I have as  
22       a citizen is to come here and to speak to you  
23       about what is important to me, to LULAC, to the  
24       council that I am President of, which is  
25       Council 7069, and that is that you seriously

1       consider one of the two Congressional  
2       districts, the new districts, that it be part  
3       of central Florida, to include Hillsborough,  
4       Pinellas, Polk, Manatee and the other one that  
5       I can't remember at this time, but you get the  
6       picture. We feel it is very important. We  
7       have the count, we have the numbers and we ask  
8       that you give us the district. Thank you.

9               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
10       Ms. Rodriguez.

11              And next, Norma Reno with LULAC and then  
12       Paul Anderson with the Sierra Club and then C.  
13       L. Ergle.

14              MS. RENO: Good afternoon. My name is  
15       Norma Reno, and I represent LULAC and I am the  
16       Vice-President of Human Rights of Hillsborough  
17       County and also the Director of Education for  
18       the Hispanic Alliance of Tampa Bay.

19              I am here today to ask you to please  
20       enforce the criteria of redistricting, which is  
21       creating compact and contiguous districts,  
22       trying to keep political units and community  
23       within a single district and avoiding the  
24       drawing of boundaries for purposes of partisan  
25       advantage. It is the only way to avoid

1       manipulation of political boundaries,  
2       gerrymandering and discrimination against  
3       voters whose population has grown far more than  
4       others.

5             The I-4 corridor represents the largest  
6       growth of Latinos in the entire state. We  
7       would like to have a more equitable  
8       representation in the Florida Legislature.  
9       Thank you very much.

10            SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
11       ma'am.

12            And now Paul Anderson from the Sierra  
13       Club. Mr. Anderson? Thank you, Mr. Anderson,  
14       thank you for being here today. And then next  
15       C. L. -- is it Ergle? Mr. Ergle, if I  
16       mispronounced your name, I beg your pardon,  
17       sir.

18            MR. ERGLE: That is correct. A lot of  
19       people have a problem with that name. I am a  
20       member of the REC, the Republican Executive  
21       Committee, and I am here to get more organized  
22       as to what my duties are going to be as a  
23       district Committeeman in my -- and  
24       incidentally, I am 83 years old now, and I have  
25       been around in Florida all my life, so I know a

1 lot about what's been going on in this state.

2 One of the things that concerns me at this  
3 point is our government is going away from the  
4 Constitution, and that is one of the reasons  
5 why I am here is to reinvigorate our  
6 Constitution here in the state and the United  
7 States. So it is very important to me as to  
8 what my duties are going to be and how this  
9 redistricting is going to come to me in doing  
10 my job. So thank you for hearing me and --  
11 very much.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

13 Next is Ray Dimbrath and then Karen  
14 Landers and then Jerry -- I think it is Jerry  
15 Showers.

16 Mr. Dimbrath, thank you very much for  
17 being here today, and if you will come down  
18 front, we would love to hear your testimony,  
19 because it says you represent yourself, and  
20 that is fantastic.

21 MR. DIMBATH: That is correct. I have  
22 noticed -- this has been a very interesting  
23 experience, because one thing, it seems like we  
24 have a lot of what I would call special  
25 interest groups that have been speaking and a

1       lot of -- a lot of pressure groups maybe, but I  
2       just want to take the moment to thank all those  
3       who came, those that are sitting out here and  
4       those at the table up there.

5               I grew up in Miami. In 1964, I was 21,  
6       and that is when you first were able to vote,  
7       but I have always followed these things as much  
8       as possible, and I think this has been one of  
9       the most interesting and open discussions of  
10      reapportionment I have ever seen in this state,  
11      so I thank you for that.

12             Also, some people say it is hard to know  
13      who their Congressman is. Mine used to be Adam  
14      Putnam here in Polk County. Now we have Dennis  
15      Ross, so I don't think that is so hard to know.

16             And, finally, I just -- I am a registered  
17      Republican, but I wanted to thank Lori Edwards  
18      here, who is our elections supervisor in Polk  
19      County, she is Democrat, but she has done a  
20      very good job, and a few years ago, I was a  
21      poll worker -- I was a poll worker for one of  
22      the elections, and I appreciate comments like  
23      hers that were made, which I thought were very  
24      well thought up and really addressed some of  
25      the issues that are very important here. And I

1           can't help but say it seemed to contrast her  
2           and then the other person who gets up and just  
3           makes all these personal attacks on people they  
4           don't like and disagree with. So, anyhow, I am  
5           publicly thanking Lori Edwards for her job here  
6           in Polk County.

7           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, sir.  
8           Appreciate it very much.

9           Ms. Landers, you are up, and Jerry Showers  
10          and then Steve Hall.

11          Ms. Landers, we appreciate your taking  
12          your time to come before the Committee, and you  
13          are recognized.

14          MS. LANDERS: Thank you. This issue I  
15          have worked on since 2004, so it has been  
16          longer than just what was on the ballot. It  
17          has been a long, long process. We are thankful  
18          to the voters of Florida for passing it with  
19          63 percent of the vote. It was a heavy lift  
20          that we didn't really, frankly, think we could  
21          pull off, but it was done.

22          Now, I beg you to stop humiliating us  
23          nationwide, late-night TV. Give us fair,  
24          compact, contiguous districts, please.

25          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you.

1           Is it Gary or Jerry, sir?

2           MR. SHOWERS: It is Gary.

3           SENATOR GAETZ: Gary Showers, then Steve  
4 Hall and then Casey Welch with Florida Citrus  
5 Mutual.

6           Mr. Showers, thank you for coming.

7           MR. SHOWERS: And certainly, I live in the  
8 City of Bartow, Florida.

9           SENATOR GAETZ: Would you hold the  
10 microphone up so -- I know everybody would want  
11 you to hear you.

12          MR. SHOWERS: I am a citizen of Bartow,  
13 Florida. My Representative is Seth McKeel, and  
14 certainly he is not a part of this  
15 redistricting committee or the process now.  
16 And I think the overwhelming consensus of  
17 the -- most of the majority of the people here  
18 in the audience tonight is to go ahead and  
19 formulate the maps.

20          At the end of the day, certainly we can  
21 have input from the citizens, but at the end of  
22 the day, the Legislature is responsible for  
23 drawing those maps, and in order to have any  
24 intelligent input into the way those maps are  
25 drawn, then we would need to see those maps.

1       So we are going to ask that the process be  
2       expedited and give every other agency the  
3       opportunity to debate that process and to give  
4       it a rubber stamp, and that would be my  
5       comments today.

6               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
7       Mr. Showers.

8               And next we are privileged to hear from  
9       Steve Hall, then Casey Welch, and then if  
10       Victor Story will be ready to speak.

11              Mr. Hall, we are grateful that you took  
12       time to come today.

13              MR. HALL: Thank you. I appreciate the  
14       time, and I also appreciate you all coming to  
15       hear the public input about the redistricting.

16              But a lot of folks think that the  
17       redistricting, in fact, is over, because they  
18       voted for Amendment 5 and 6, and so a lot of us  
19       are here today to just tell you all do what the  
20       amendment said to do. That is why 63 percent  
21       of the voters voted for it.

22              My concern is that the districts as they  
23       stand today obviously are skewed. I remember  
24       Dave Aronberg's district down in south Florida  
25       goes all of the way from the east coast to the



1 west coast, with a lake in between. And it is  
2 unreasonable to think that the constituents of  
3 that district can go from one side of the state  
4 to the other to actually talk to their  
5 Representative without having to drive all the  
6 way up to Tallahassee. So they need to be more  
7 compact.

8 I supported Amendment 5 and 6, obviously,  
9 and I have seen other states where they are  
10 like that. It makes more sense. Our  
11 districts, as they stand right now, don't even  
12 make any sense.

13 But I am here today because one of my  
14 biggest concerns is this \$30 million that was  
15 appropriated to fight the districts that  
16 everyone actually voted for. And then, of  
17 course, on the other side, the State has an  
18 obligation to defend the fight against  
19 Amendment 5 and 6, but we passed the amendment  
20 by 63 percent, that is more than most people  
21 got in the last election, so obviously the  
22 majority of the people want it done, and I  
23 think that they've elected you all to do what  
24 they want done and I think they have spoken  
25 very loudly and we need to move on with it.

1           I disagree with anyone who doesn't think  
2       that we should have example maps here today to  
3       look at. I think that you could have brought  
4       the maps so that we could look at what the  
5       suggestion currently is in case there's any  
6       problems, or would we have any problems with  
7       the way any of the districts were drawn, then  
8       we might could say, "Oh, well, maybe this one  
9       shouldn't be that way, maybe the line should be  
10      on the county line or on the ZIP code line or  
11      some other line other than what you all may  
12      have drawn the lines as," and then you could go  
13      back and adjust them according to the input the  
14      people give here in these hearings today and  
15      throughout the state.

16           I applaud you for going around the state  
17      and getting input, but it is hard for us to  
18      look at the districts as we -- we feel they  
19      should have been drawn the way we voted, as  
20      opposed to just giving some input on something  
21      that is not even there and just saying make  
22      them simple. That is too easy. We would like  
23      to look at the districts and have input as to  
24      exactly how they are drawn.

25           But, again, I thank you all for coming. I

1 look forward to seeing you all again when you  
2 get to Orlando, because I will be at theirs --  
3 those too. Thank you.

4 SENATOR GAETZ: And, Mr. Hall, I hope you  
5 can stay to the end of the hearing, because I  
6 think some of the questions that you raised we  
7 will be able to give some factual information  
8 about that might help you.

9 MR. HALL: Okay, thank you.

10 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much.

11 Next, Casey Welch with Florida Citrus  
12 Mutual, followed by Victor Story with Florida  
13 Citrus Mutual, followed by Carl J. Strang, Jr.

14 Mr. Welch, thank you for coming.

15 MR. STORY: You are going to catch a  
16 break. Mr. Welch has yielded to me. I am  
17 Victor Story, and I am President of Florida  
18 Citrus Mutual.

19 SENATOR GAETZ: Glad to have you here,  
20 sir.

21 MR. STORY: Okay, sir. So I am here -- I  
22 am here today, I am a citrus grower from  
23 primarily the southeast part of the county. I  
24 am, as I said, President of Florida Citrus  
25 Mutual, I am also past President of the Polk

1 County Farm Bureau, and I have also served in  
2 some other elected positions in Polk County in  
3 appointed positions, and I would just like to  
4 represent the interest of the agricultural  
5 community here in the county.

6 You know, we've got a rather diverse  
7 county. We've got two population centers in  
8 Lakeland and Winter Haven, and then we also  
9 have an emerging population center to the  
10 northeast part of the county, and then the rest  
11 of the county is relatively rural, dominated by  
12 agriculture, and I would just like to encourage  
13 you as you make your deliberations that we are  
14 well-represented, I think we are  
15 well-represented now, we have five members of  
16 the House, we have three members of the Florida  
17 Senate and we have three members of the  
18 Florida -- I mean, excuse me, of Congress in  
19 Polk County, and I would encourage you not to  
20 dilute that representation, because we are  
21 large and diverse. And I would encourage you  
22 to keep the Winter Haven area, the Lakeland  
23 area and perhaps the northeast area that has  
24 emerged as a population center as distinct  
25 areas, and then the northwest side of the

1 county and the south side of our county are  
2 rural and agricultural, and I would encourage  
3 you not to dilute those by including them in  
4 other population centers.

5 Okay. I would encourage you -- as you  
6 well know, during this last recession, the ag  
7 community has kind of held the state of Florida  
8 together. We have provided jobs, we have  
9 provided economic activity, and I would  
10 encourage you very much not to dilute our  
11 influence in the State Legislature and in the  
12 United States Congress. Thank you very much.

13 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Story.

14 Carl Strang is next, and then following  
15 Mr. Strang is Andy, I think it is Crossfield,  
16 and I apologize if I mispronounce that, and  
17 then Rex Blenz.

18 Mr. Strang, thank you very much for coming  
19 today. You are recognized.

20 MR. STRANG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and  
21 thank you and your colleagues for your patience  
22 and your good humor in tolerating all of this.

23 SENATOR GAETZ: That is why we get paid  
24 the big bucks.

25 MR. STRANG: The reason I am here is that

1       if I let you all perpetuate or carry on the  
2       present ridiculous, egregious districting that  
3       we've got now, then I would kick myself for  
4       another ten years if I didn't at least stand up  
5       here today.

6               I am really impressed by the great number  
7       of people who are here today. I think it is  
8       wonderful that this many people care about  
9       government. It also scares me a little bit  
10      that there are that many people who are very  
11      unhappy with the ruling class.

12             I urge you mainly to produce a districting  
13      map that is compact and that is fair and  
14      balanced and that does not take into account  
15      ethnicity or race or any other consideration.  
16      We want to comply with the Civil Rights Act  
17      of -- the Voters Rights Act of 1965, but be  
18      fair.

19             I want to urge you to rise above your own  
20      personal interest, rise above the interest of  
21      political parties, rise above the rights of the  
22      claims of the incumbents and give us a product  
23      that is -- that is fair and equitable and  
24      passes. The state of Iowa, I understand, has  
25      done a wonderful job in their redistricting

1       efforts, and if Iowa can do it, then Florida  
2       can do it.

3               SENATOR GAETZ:   And they grow good corn  
4       there, too.

5               MR. STRANG:   That's right.

6               And, in closing, I would like to echo and  
7       parrot what Lori Edwards says:   Please be  
8       mindful of the boundaries of existing political  
9       bodies here, because what -- the status quo or  
10      districting without regard to existing  
11      political boundaries certainly confounds and  
12      requires Herculean work by the elections  
13      supervisors, but it makes things -- it confuses  
14      the voters in an awful lot of cases, and I urge  
15      you please to keep that in mind.   And here  
16      endeth the lesson, thank you.

17              SENATOR GAETZ:   Thank you very much.   I  
18      wish all epistles -- all epistle lessons were  
19      that good.

20              And next -- is it Andy Crossfield?   Did I  
21      get that right, sir?   Crossfield.   And then Rex  
22      Blenz and then Noah Bolin.

23              Mr. Crossfield, thank you for coming.

24              MR. CROSSFIELD:   Thank you for coming.   I  
25      really appreciate the great turnout from the

1       elected officials in Tallahassee.

2               I am Andy Crossfield, I am the President  
3       of the Lakeland Democratic Club, and I would  
4       like to take issue a little bit with the  
5       gentleman from Citrus Mutual. We do not have  
6       good representation here in Polk County. There  
7       are more registered Democrats here in Polk  
8       County than Republicans, yet we have no  
9       Democratic representation at all, have not for  
10      years. Well, she is an elected official, but  
11      not in Tallahassee, pardon me, from you guys  
12      who make the laws up there.

13              My point though would be especially to  
14      that, because you have seen how many people are  
15      here?

16              SENATOR GAETZ: Could we have order?  
17      Let's listen to Mr. Crossfield. He has  
18      something he would like to say. Let's listen  
19      to him.

20              MR. CROSSFIELD: You see how many people  
21      are here? I hope that the rest of the meetings  
22      that you have around the state are as well  
23      attended, because this is a very important  
24      issue. And the reason it is important -- and  
25      let me illustrate how important this is,



1       because there are still more Democrats  
2       registered in the state of Florida than  
3       Republicans, and yet Democrats only make up  
4       41 percent of the state houses, the House and  
5       the Senate, and the all-important Chairs of  
6       committees, Democrats are only five percent.  
7       Now, this is wrong. We have to have more  
8       representation. We have to have more  
9       representation by party, we have to have more  
10      equality in representation by race and we have  
11      to have more representation in policy, because  
12      there are people who live on the coast that  
13      have separate understandings and issues than  
14      the people who live in the center of the state,  
15      as is to the insurance companies -- is it  
16      Citizens Mutual or Citizens what -- there is no  
17      reason that the people in the center of the  
18      state should subsidize their insurance policies  
19      to the people who live on the coast. We are  
20      talking about -- we are talking about  
21      representation.

22                SENATOR GAETZ: Andy, Andy, Andy, we would  
23      love to hear your views about insurance, but  
24      let's keep it to redistricting right now.

25                MR. CROSSFIELD: It all boils down to

1 representation. And if this is a fair and  
2 transparent process, then we will all -- I hope  
3 that everyone here recognizes how important  
4 this is, and I will count this a success if the  
5 results from the Legislature mirror the results  
6 of the people who live in the state.

7 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
8 Mr. Crossfield. We appreciate it.

9 And next is Rex Blenz, and following Mr.  
10 Blenz is Noah Bolin and then Wayne Guest.

11 Mr. Blenz, thank you for taking time to  
12 come here today. You are recognized, sir.

13 MR. BIENZ: It is Bienz, B-i-e-n-z.

14 SENATOR GAETZ: Bienz, yes, sir.

15 MR. BIENZ: You got the L in there.

16 First let's forget about politics. I  
17 would like to address the subject of the  
18 census. The census identifies populations by  
19 population -- by census blocks, which you can  
20 use then to count the people. But it also  
21 identifies living units. Living units may or  
22 may not have people in them. You need to count  
23 those. You are working for ten years ahead.  
24 Those living units, which now say vacant,  
25 repossessed, for sale, will have people in

1       them. They need to be counted or at least  
2       considered when you draw your lines, because  
3       those are people of the future that will be  
4       there for the ten years that we are talking  
5       about.

6             I tried to follow the three Bs of public  
7       speaking: Be brief, be sincere, be seated.  
8       Thank you.

9             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. Thank you,  
10      Mr. Bienz.

11            Noah Bolin. Mr. Bolin, and then Wayne  
12      Guest with the Ft. Meade Historical Society,  
13      and then Carol Ann Sargeant.

14            Mr. Bolin, it says here you represent the  
15      redneck party.

16            MR. BOLIN: Yes, sir, that is correct.

17            SENATOR GAETZ: Let's see your neck. You  
18      are recognized. Thank you for being here.

19            MR. BOLIN: Okay. Thank you very much.

20            First of all, I would like to take a  
21      little time to remind the Legislature of one of  
22      its most important duties. That is constituent  
23      service. That means serving your electorate,  
24      not the other way around. Asking us to draw  
25      the lines and to do your jobs is a slap in the

1 face to Florida voters. I would like to ask  
2 the Legislature, rhetorically, of course, why  
3 is it that you ask us to do your jobs and to  
4 hear our voices now when you have been  
5 reluctant to do so in the past such as the cry  
6 of teachers and students when you passed the  
7 merit-pay bill.

8 Furthermore, I ask the Legislature to step  
9 up to the plate, provide us with sample maps,  
10 maps, I would like to add, that elaborate -- or  
11 maps, I would like to add, that are fair to the  
12 people of Florida, and to stop using taxpayer  
13 money to fight the will of the people for your  
14 own interests, and to move the process forward  
15 in a timely manner as it should. Thank you.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Bolin.

17 Wayne Guest with the Ft. Meade Historical  
18 Society, then Carol Ann Sargeant and then  
19 Concepcion Scharan, I think, I'm sorry if I  
20 mispronounced the last name.

21 Mr. Guest, thank you for coming, and we  
22 are grateful for your testimony today.

23 MR. GUEST: Thank you, Senator. I need  
24 more than three minutes, because I cannot  
25 introduce myself in three minutes.

1           SENATOR GAETZ: Well, you got three, so  
2           take your best shot.

3           MR. GUEST: My best shot is on  
4           redistricting is to look at the districts and  
5           look at the communities and look at the county  
6           lines, all right. If you look at the  
7           population of Polk County, for example, we've  
8           got how many people now, approaching 600,000.  
9           In this county, we've got 70,000 vets. If you  
10          look at that population alone in this county,  
11          we have a large group that's related to the  
12          military, which our closest place is MacDill  
13          Air Force Base. But if you look at the  
14          districts and the way they should be drawn, and  
15          the comments have been made earlier that if you  
16          live in Ft. Myers, you got to go slap to the  
17          east coast to see your Representative. If you  
18          look at some areas of this county where it goes  
19          from -- the state where it goes to Orlando to  
20          Jacksonville, if you look at Polk County again,  
21          how big this county is and the population and  
22          the way we should be served by the folks we  
23          send to Tallahassee, that is not happening,  
24          period.

25          All I ask for is, number one, we have Fair

1       Districts. Those districts serve the  
2       communities and the cities, and if you look at  
3       Lakeland, Winter Haven, Haines City area  
4       alone -- I am not going south in Polk County  
5       where the agriculture is, because I was born  
6       there. My grandfather was born down there in  
7       1885, so I've got some roots here, I know  
8       something about it.

9               What I see happening now at these hearings  
10       and the way it is going, and I will sum up by  
11       this, come next year, late spring, we are going  
12       to be the same way in Tallahassee that we are  
13       in Washington, DC, right now, very  
14       dysfunctional. Look what's happened to our  
15       national debt, what we're trying to do there,  
16       and all of a sudden, we are going to  
17       Tallahassee next spring, and redistricting is  
18       going to be the same way because you won't do  
19       it fair, and, therefore, I am going to send  
20       money to somebody to take it to court to make  
21       sure it is fair. It's got to be fair so that  
22       we, the people -- if you notice my shirt with  
23       the American flag on it, it says "United we  
24       stand," I mean that. I have been shot at in a  
25       foxhole more than once, and I believe we've got

1 to be together to do it, and right now we are  
2 not. And if y'all do the redistricting wrong,  
3 look at my shirt, we will not be united. Thank  
4 you for your time.

5 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you for your  
6 service. Thank you for service to our country,  
7 Mr. Guest.

8 Next, Carol Ann Sargeant, and then  
9 Concepcion, and I apologize to -- to her for  
10 mispronouncing her last name. I think it is  
11 Scharan or Shawn.

12 Ms. Sargeant, thank you for coming today.

13 MS. SARGEANT: Thank you. I just briefly  
14 would like to say please -- everyone else has  
15 said it -- be fair, be fast, let's not wait  
16 around on this.

17 I would love to see the lawsuit dropped.  
18 I think it is ridiculous when the people have  
19 voted one way for the state to -- people in the  
20 state to try to change that. I think the  
21 people have spoken, and people need to listen  
22 to what has been said.

23 I was born in this county and have lived  
24 on the west side of the county growing up and  
25 back here now, but in the meantime, I spent 35

1 years on the east side of the county. I have  
2 also been involved in many political campaigns  
3 and some independent forums for all candidates,  
4 and it has been so frustrating when you see  
5 people, I mean, all the way to the east coast,  
6 all the way to the west coast. Again, it is  
7 not fair to the people who are campaigning to  
8 have such drawn-out districts, it is not fair  
9 to the people who are being represented who  
10 cannot contact easily their Representative on  
11 particular issues if they want to go see them.

12 Again, I would urge all of you, it's been  
13 urged before, to not go with your own little  
14 agendas, but to look at what the people of the  
15 state are asking you to do, to be fair, to be  
16 contiguous and to do it soon. Thank you.

17 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
18 ma'am. Very helpful testimony.

19 And now I am going to make my apologies.  
20 Concepcion, will you help me with your last  
21 name, ma'am? I feel so badly that I can't read  
22 it. It is my eyes.

23 MS. SCHARAR: It is a German name, and I  
24 am from Cuba, so my pronunciation is Scharar.

25 SENATOR GAETZ: Scharar?



1 MS. SCHARAR: Yes, sir.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Well, you are recognized,  
3 and thank you very much for staying with us  
4 during this hearing. We're delighted to hear  
5 what you have to say.

6 MS. SCHARAR: Well, I really don't have  
7 that much to say about the subject, but I do  
8 have -- I do want to say, you know, I come from  
9 Cuba, I was born in Cuba, I am an American  
10 citizen, and I do not expect you or anybody  
11 else to give me any special areas or any  
12 special anything. All I want to do is to be a  
13 citizen and to vote as a citizen of the United  
14 States for people that are going to represent  
15 them, represent me, who don't necessarily have  
16 to be from Cuba, you know, because if they have  
17 the same values and the same beliefs that I  
18 have, that is all that I need. So when people  
19 talk about all these civil rights and all those  
20 things, I don't know what they are talking  
21 about. As long as I have my right to vote, and  
22 I have -- and I have -- I have always been  
23 treated fairly in this country, and I don't --  
24 I don't think you should have any special  
25 districts going on race or national origin or

1 anything like that. Thank you.

2 And, by the way, to Andy, you know, who  
3 was complaining that enough Democrats are in  
4 the House and the Senate, maybe the Democrats  
5 in this state are voting Republican.

6 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much for  
7 your testimony.

8 We have reached the place in our hearing  
9 where everyone who has signed up to speak has  
10 had the opportunity to speak. Is there anyone  
11 who would like to speak who's not -- who did  
12 not sign up, but now that you have heard  
13 others, you would like an opportunity to speak?  
14 This is not an opportunity for second chances  
15 if you have already spoken.

16 Would a member of the Sergeant's office or  
17 the Reapportionment Committee give this young  
18 lady a card, please? Please come forward,  
19 ma'am. You can fill the card out later. We  
20 just want to know who you are. Thank you for  
21 sitting through the hearing and thank you for  
22 taking time to come with us today and talk  
23 about this issue.

24 MS. BAILEY: Thank you, Senator. I would  
25 like to say that I, too, am from Polk County,

1           and I would like to see a district that  
2           reflects all the people in the county.

3           I am Doris Moore Bailey. I am the Chair  
4           of the National Congress of Black Women, so I  
5           speak for this organization. We just started  
6           in February with more than 110 plus members,  
7           and so today I stand because we will work with  
8           the coalition to make sure the lines are decent  
9           and the lines will represent all of us.

10          Civil rights is important to us, and I  
11          think each of you know that as well it's  
12          important to all of us, and so we can't  
13          disregard that, as was stated before, because  
14          we have had people to die for their rights.

15          So we appreciate you being here today,  
16          thank each of you for listening, and God speed  
17          to do the right thing.

18          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, ma'am. Thank  
19          you.

20          Is there anyone else who would like to  
21          speak who hasn't had the opportunity? Ma'am,  
22          would you come forward, and would a member of  
23          our staff please give this lady a card so that  
24          she may fill it out? And would you identify  
25          yourself, please, ma'am, for the Committee?

1           MS. STANLEY: I'm Zita Stanley, and I  
2 represent the computer illiterate.

3           SENATOR GAETZ: A large -- a large and  
4 influential constituency.

5           MS. STANLEY: I can send an e-mail, I can  
6 check out a book from the library, but that is  
7 it. But it seems to me that there should be  
8 computer programs that could generate on the  
9 basis of county lines and population, and  
10 relieve you of the responsibility of  
11 accusations of slander, you know, of being  
12 unfair. And I was just wondering if you have  
13 started with a computer program.

14          SENATOR GAETZ: Well, since you are the  
15 last speaker -- is there anybody else who  
16 wanted to speak? That might be a good place  
17 for answers to some of the questions that have  
18 been raised. The fact is that there are  
19 computer programs, and they -- a member of our  
20 staff -- believe me, I am pretty techno-stupid,  
21 and they got me in 15 minutes to a place where  
22 I could use the computer program to do exactly  
23 what you are talking about. But our  
24 Constitution says that at the end of the day  
25 our elected representatives have to draw the

1 maps, but they can use computer programs.  
2 Those programs are available, and if a member  
3 of our staff would please talk with this lady  
4 and show her -- do the 15 minutes if you have  
5 the time, and you, too, can draw those maps  
6 using the very ingredients you just described.

7 MS. STANLEY: Thank you.

8 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you.

9 Let's go now to the part of our hearing  
10 where we are able to have some feedback on some  
11 of the questions or questions of fact that have  
12 been raised, and let me first turn to any  
13 members of the House of Representatives who are  
14 with us today, any comments that you might wish  
15 to make, any articulation of issues, any  
16 proposals you might wish to make to this group.  
17 Yes, sir, Representative Nehr.

18 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Thank you,  
19 Mr. Chairman, and thank everybody for being  
20 here today. I know there's lots of things you  
21 could have been doing.

22 There have been some comments during the  
23 meeting on questions about other states already  
24 completing their redistricting plans, and the  
25 question was why maybe -- why hasn't Florida

1       done the same thing, and I would like to  
2       address those comments, if I could.

3               You are right, a handful of states have  
4       already completed their redistricting, because  
5       some of them have had odd-year elections, and  
6       we have even-year elections, and that makes a  
7       big difference. Or they also have very early  
8       primaries, earlier than us, and they are  
9       required, not because of expedient -- not  
10      because they wanted to, just because they had  
11      to do it out of necessity. And sometimes, I  
12      just want to explain, that it wasn't always the  
13      most open and transparent thing that was done.  
14      States like Illinois, for example, where the  
15      majority party went into a back room for a  
16      couple of days, came out with some maps and  
17      said, "Here's the maps, take them or leave  
18      them," that was not very transparent at all,  
19      did not allow any public input at all. You  
20      know, Florida has one of the most public and  
21      transparent process for redistricting in the  
22      entire United States.

23              A VOICE: (Inaudible).

24              SENATOR GAETZ: Ma'am, now, we allowed you  
25      to speak. Now, you have asked for feedback,

1       you have asked for questions to be answered.  
2       We would appreciate your kindness in showing  
3       the same respect the Committee showed to you.  
4       Ma'am, ma'am, we would like to ask you to be  
5       quiet for a moment, let the Representative  
6       speak. We will let Representatives of both  
7       parties speak, and then we will conclude our  
8       hearing.

9               Representative Nehr, you are recognized.

10              REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Thank you. The  
11       Committee meeting has decided that we will have  
12       what is called a listening tour to make sure  
13       that everybody has an opportunity to let us  
14       know how they feel that the districts should be  
15       drawn. We are going to start our committee  
16       meetings the first week in September, and as  
17       one of the Chairmen of the Senate Redistricting  
18       Committee, I can assure you that we will try to  
19       get the maps done as quickly as possible to  
20       give everybody an opportunity, not only the  
21       Legislators, but also the public, to comment on  
22       that, and we will also try to get the maps done  
23       as quickly as possible so that we can vote on  
24       them as soon as possible in the Legislature,  
25       once it starts.

1           As it has been said before, and I just  
2           want to reiterate, our Constitution does not  
3           allow us to vote or act on the maps before  
4           2012, and that is what we will do as soon as  
5           possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Representative  
7           Nehr.

8           Representative Legg, you are recognized.

9           REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Thank you, Senator,  
10          Mr. Chairman. First I just want to say thank  
11          you for letting us start this process by  
12          listening.

13          I come from west Pasco, and to be very up  
14          front, I know very little about the  
15          demographics of Polk County, you know, and I  
16          have learned a lot today. I am hearing  
17          especially individuals about how the county is  
18          unique and from the north and the east and  
19          west, how there's different populations, you  
20          know.

21          I want to say thank you for letting us  
22          start by listening first, listening, because I  
23          feel as someone from west Pasco, I need to  
24          listen to the people here in Polk County before  
25          I produce or even look at anything on a map,



1       you know, before this Committee even started,  
2       listening to people from Frostproof and Lake  
3       Wales about how their community is a little bit  
4       different than folks maybe from Bartow or from  
5       Winter Haven or Auburndale. I greatly  
6       appreciate the process of not forcing us to  
7       come with a preconceived -- some hick from west  
8       Pasco writing a map for someone in Polk County  
9       without even listening to anyone here first. I  
10      enjoy listening to the folks, and the first  
11      time I ever heard that Polk County has some  
12      unique communities that I've never heard of  
13      before, and as I am learning this from this  
14      community here, when I go back to Tallahassee  
15      and as I start to put pen to paper, I have  
16      learned a lot about how this community is  
17      different and how they have some unique  
18      representation that I didn't know before here  
19      today. So thank you for letting us listen to  
20      folks before we come with some preconceived  
21      ideas.

22                SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Representative  
23      Legg.

24                Other comments from members of the House  
25      of Representatives?

1           Comments from members of the Senate who  
2           are here? Senator Storms.

3           SENATOR STORMS: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and  
4           can I say thank you for your unflappability.  
5           You are pretty unflappable and unfeelingly  
6           polite, and I appreciate that about you.

7           I would just like to say that even this  
8           very morning, I took the opportunity to work on  
9           drawing the maps, and I -- and I listened to  
10          some of the comments that folks have made, and  
11          it seems that some -- maybe because you are not  
12          familiar with the process, that you are kind of  
13          cavalier about "Just go draw the maps, how hard  
14          is it and be fair about it." Let me just tell  
15          you, it is very difficult. The reason why we  
16          are asking you to go draw the map, at least  
17          from Senator Storm's perspective, the reason  
18          why I am asking you to go draw the map is so  
19          that you will know the difficulty of the job  
20          that you have tasked us to do.

21          It isn't as easy as you say. For  
22          instance, I was -- just, for instance, right.  
23          So if you draw a congressional district, it has  
24          to be -- we are trying to get it within plus or  
25          minus one, one person, one person, one vote.

1        So in order to do that, you can't just pick up  
2        a county. I mean, this morning when I was  
3        doing it, you can't point at the county and put  
4        that into District 1, point at the next county,  
5        put it into District 2, point at the next  
6        county, because next thing you know, you have  
7        6,000 extra people in that district. So now I  
8        got to lose 6,000 extra people. Well, how do I  
9        do that? Now I've got to go down, I can't go  
10       down to the county, I've got to change the  
11       program and go down to what are called the  
12       VTDs. Those are the voter tabulation  
13       districts. They are bigger than census blocks.  
14       So then I might be able to lose 600 people from  
15       my VTD. So I pick up two of them, but wait a  
16       minute, it took me out of a city, it took out  
17       part of a road of a city. So now we don't want  
18       to do that, because you want to keep your  
19       cities together, isn't that right? Isn't that  
20       what you have asked? And you want it to be  
21       compact. So now I go back and I say, okay,  
22       well, now, let me go down by census block. I  
23       will leave that VTD alone, because census block  
24       is drilling down even smaller, so I am going to  
25       try and put in the census block into it, and

1       now that is what I am trying to do. And then I  
2       find out that now that I am 200 short. Now  
3       I've got to add people back in.

4               When I finish this whole thing with this  
5       district, now I -- now since I have been in  
6       this small, little -- I have magnified it,  
7       right? Now I have to come back and take the  
8       zoom view and see what the thing looks like.  
9       Because why? You are going to look at it and  
10      say it is not compact, because I've had to draw  
11      it according to how the people are, right, to  
12      get the population. Now I look at it, and I go  
13      well, it's got this funky little squiggly thing  
14      over here. How do I square it up? And so I  
15      say to my staff, "Let's square that up, let's  
16      lose this little squiggly thing, get that out  
17      and make it square," and now I have to go back.

18             That doesn't even include the things that  
19      you are asking me to do about minority  
20      population districts. As I understand, 5 and  
21      6, the primary consideration is you want  
22      compactness and communities of interest. Is  
23      that about the size of it, or have I  
24      misunderstood what you have asked? Is that  
25      about the size of it? Just nod your heads or

1       shake them no. Okay. So that means that I am  
2       not starting with minority access issues. I  
3       didn't look at race, I didn't look at it, I  
4       just looked at pure population. And in order  
5       to do this with my state, I said, okay, what do  
6       I do, do I start in the middle, pick a county  
7       in the middle and go out that way with my  
8       districts? Or is it better to swap out, do one  
9       from the top of the state, one from the bottom,  
10      one from the top of the state, one from the  
11      bottom? That way I will meet in the middle,  
12      and the likelihood is less that I will have a  
13      district with 32 people in it and I've got to  
14      change the whole thing all over again. Do you  
15      understand?

16           I am telling you all this only to say that  
17      I am not coming here, you know, I am not -- I  
18      am working hard to do the thing that you have  
19      asked me to do. Nobody here is working with  
20      me. I am not working on some secret plan to  
21      overthrow the government. I haven't even  
22      looked at my own district. I have started in  
23      another part of the state, and it -- let the  
24      chips fall where they may. But as I understand  
25      it, what you are about to do is put yourself in

1       contravention to people in -- particularly in  
2       the minority communities who are very concerned  
3       about not just whether they have a voting  
4       right, not just whether or not they can vote  
5       the person that they choose to, but whether or  
6       not it matters if they have enough Senators  
7       that look like them, that speak like them. And  
8       in my district, I represent Beesville.  
9       Beesville was settled by emancipated slaves  
10      when Lincoln signed the Emancipation  
11      Proclamation. It matters to them. If they  
12      have -- if they can point to their sons and  
13      say, "There is Senator Gary Siplin, and he is a  
14      black man, and you can be a Senator, too, he  
15      looks like you," and if that does not matter to  
16      you, I am just here to tell you that people  
17      that I represent, it does matter to some of  
18      them. But I am doing what the voters asked me  
19      in 5 and 6, and I just -- you may not trust me,  
20      you may not vote for me for dog catcher, I  
21      don't know. But I will just tell you, I am  
22      here to say to you I am working as hard as I  
23      can to do what you asked me to do, and I am not  
24      trying to, you know, do anything bad here. I  
25      am just trying to do my job.

1           SENATOR GAETZ: We have made a list --  
2           Speaker Designate Weatherford has made a list  
3           of the other comments that were made so that we  
4           can at least provide some factual information.  
5           Sometimes things get put in the bloodstream.  
6           And I come from a little town called Niceville,  
7           Florida. It really is. We've got Doris' Cafe  
8           in Niceville, and if you start a rumor in  
9           Doris' Cafe, if you say something is true at  
10          breakfast time, by the end of the day,  
11          everybody in Niceville will swear to God that  
12          it is true, even if we have said that we are  
13          going to move Niceville out in the middle of  
14          the Gulf of Mexico. So sometimes things get  
15          put in the bloodstream, somebody gets an e-mail  
16          that says, "Go to the hearing and say these  
17          things," sometimes it is true, but sometimes it  
18          is not. But, Mr. Speaker, you are recognized  
19          to provide any concluding comments.

20          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
21          very much, Mr. Chairman. I just -- I want to  
22          echo a little bit of what's been said, which is  
23          the value of the feedback we've gotten today.  
24          I also am another person who did not have a  
25          great understanding of the difference of the

1       dynamics of Polk County, and I think today we  
2       have learned that, and you have a beautiful  
3       county here, it is a wonderful place and I've  
4       got some close friends here and it has been a  
5       real pleasure to learn more about it.

6               Mr. Chairman, I do want to take just a  
7       moment to walk through a few things and clear  
8       up a few inconsistencies that have come up  
9       throughout this process.

10              And I also want to say there may be people  
11       here who had a question that they didn't ask,  
12       maybe you were too shy and you didn't want to  
13       speak, or maybe a question has come up since  
14       the hearing has gotten towards the close. If  
15       you have a question that you have not had an  
16       opportunity to ask, please, on your way out,  
17       find a staff person, find me, find someone who  
18       is here, and we will try to answer that for  
19       you. You can also e-mail us. There's a  
20       tremendous amount of ways to get in touch with  
21       us. As individuals and our Committee staff, we  
22       want to make sure that is available to you.

23              So, first of all, I want to thank our  
24       Supervisor of Elections, Ms. Edwards, thank you  
25       for being here. You had some tremendous input.



1           Really, it was very helpful. Thank you.

2           We are extremely sensitive to the  
3           challenge that you talked about in regard to  
4           the timeline. We are extremely sensitive to  
5           that. One thing I would point out, and I will  
6           make sure our staff get with you as well so you  
7           can talk very directly with them, but one thing  
8           is that on-line, when they talk about the dates  
9           of when we have to pass maps, those are  
10          deadlines, but not necessarily our goals.  
11          Obviously we want to pass them in a very  
12          meaningful time frame so that we do make sure  
13          that we are not putting ourselves in a  
14          situation where we are past qualifying and  
15          putting our Supervisors of Elections in a  
16          position where you can't do your job. We want  
17          you to look good, we want to give you the  
18          resources and the ability to do your job, and  
19          everyone on this Committee is focused on doing  
20          that. And so thank you for bringing that issue  
21          up, it is a real issue, we are sensitive to it,  
22          we are doing everything we can to make sure  
23          that does not happen.

24          Also, in regard to the timeline in  
25          general, I thought -- Representative Nehr, you

1 touched on it very briefly, but there are other  
2 states who have done this faster than we have,  
3 but the reason they have done it faster and  
4 voted faster is because they didn't take the  
5 time to listen to the people. They didn't take  
6 the time to hear from the citizens of their  
7 state about what they thought in regard to how  
8 the maps should look.

9 As it was stated at the very beginning  
10 when I gave my opening comments, maps cannot be  
11 voted on, two of the three maps, the  
12 legislative maps, cannot be voted on until  
13 January of 2012, and that is with us moving  
14 session up quickly. But, again, very important  
15 for everyone to understand, we are not trying  
16 to drag this out, we are not trying to make  
17 this a long process. But what we are trying to  
18 do is take the summer to go around the state.  
19 We have a diverse state, it is a geographically  
20 unique state, and we are trying to travel the  
21 state all the way from starting in Pensacola,  
22 which we were there about a month and a half  
23 ago, finishing in the Keys, we are going to hit  
24 every pocket to hear from citizens who have  
25 different ideas, different views, and want an

1       opportunity to explain to us the dynamics of  
2       their county just like you have done for us  
3       today.

4             There's been a lot of discussion about the  
5       chicken versus the egg debate about the maps,  
6       right? Should the chicken come first or should  
7       the egg come first or vice-versa? Well, I want  
8       to give everyone a little bit of insight on  
9       that.

10            The first is I believe that it is always  
11       better to give the citizens of Florida the  
12       opportunity to start the conversation, as  
13       opposed to politicians. We start a lot of  
14       conversations first and we ask you to comment  
15       later, if at all, but this is one rare instance  
16       where we are asking you to start it for us.  
17       And I think that is a noble cause, and we are  
18       going to hold firm to that. But, also, we have  
19       some people who agree with us and who are some  
20       advocates, and in 2009, one of the principal  
21       authors of Amendments 5 and 6, which every  
22       person up here has sworn to uphold and defend,  
23       a gentleman by the name of John Mills, a former  
24       Speaker of the House, wrote that the intent of  
25       the new redistricting standards is for the

1 public to have the opportunity to comment  
2 before and after the Legislature draws initial  
3 maps. That is coming from one of the -- one of  
4 the directors and originators of Amendments 5  
5 and 6. In 2010, the Chairperson for  
6 Floridafairdistricts.org, a Ms. Ellen Freidin,  
7 told a Joint Legislative Committee that it  
8 would be impossible, ladies and gentlemen,  
9 impossible to draw compliant or appropriate  
10 maps until after the Legislature had first  
11 heard from the public. Ladies and gentlemen,  
12 these are the very people who created  
13 Amendments 5 and 6, which 63 percent of my  
14 county and our state voted for, and they agree  
15 with us in regard to listening to you first.

16 There was a question, a very good  
17 question, about the census, and I want to be  
18 very clear about this. The census is taken,  
19 obviously, every ten years, and the way it  
20 works is every ten years, or this year -- it  
21 was in 2010, it was April 2nd -- if you resided  
22 in Florida on April 2nd, you were counted. It  
23 didn't matter if you were legal, illegal,  
24 hanging out for three or four months, if you  
25 lived here on April the 2nd, you were counted.

1       That is the way -- that is a federal law about  
2       how census is done. The states don't have  
3       autonomy when they do that. So that is the way  
4       it works. Someone brought up the case about if  
5       there's a vacant home, can we count vacant  
6       homes, because people will be living there one  
7       day. I'm sorry, sir, but we can't do that.  
8       Federal law does not allow us to do that. We  
9       only count living people who are here on the  
10      day of April the 2nd. So that is very -- I  
11      wanted to make sure I clear that up.

12             There's been some comments about  
13      litigation and lawsuits, and all I am going to  
14      say about that is this: There's always  
15      litigation, there's always lawsuits. Our job,  
16      and, Mr. Chairman, I believe our creed as this  
17      Committee is not to pay attention to litigation  
18      or lawsuits, but to make sure that we uphold  
19      the law. And every single person on this  
20      Committee raises their right hand every two  
21      years to promise to protect and to defend the  
22      Constitution of the United States and of the  
23      State of Florida. Amendments 5 and 6 are on  
24      the Constitution of the State of Florida. We  
25      will protect them, we will continue to serve

1           them and we will make sure that as they are the  
2           law, we will treat them like the law and we  
3           will follow them. And I want to be very clear  
4           about that, Mr. Chairman as well.

5                       Lastly, I want to say there's always going  
6           to be people who say that the process isn't  
7           open enough, that it is not transparent enough.  
8           Well, ladies and gentlemen, 26 public hearings  
9           at a minimum, e-mail participation, Facebook  
10          participation, which we are getting a  
11          tremendous amount of feedback on, maps that  
12          have already been proposed to the Legislature,  
13          I think we have had three or four times the  
14          amount of maps proposed to the Legislature just  
15          this session already, more than we had ten  
16          years ago in its entirety, we are getting  
17          participation, we are getting people giving us  
18          feedback, and the back-end product that we come  
19          up with is going to be better because of that.  
20          At any point in time, any member of this  
21          Committee, any member of the Legislature can  
22          propose a map. There is nothing or no one  
23          stopping them from doing that. And if any  
24          member of this Committee wants to do that, they  
25          have the ability to do so, and any member of

1       our Legislature, Republican and Democrat, can  
2       do so as well.

3               But I just want to thank you for giving us  
4       the opportunity to be here to listen to you, to  
5       listen to your story, and Mr. Chairman, thank  
6       you for running a great hearing. I think  
7       everyone on this Committee knows more about  
8       central Florida, having been a part of it. So  
9       thank you very much.

10              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

11              One final comment, and that is there was a  
12       gentleman who spoke very eloquently about the  
13       fact that 42 percent -- I think he said  
14       42 percent of the population were Republicans,  
15       a larger percentage were Democrats. I would  
16       just go on and add, the fastest-growing group  
17       of voters in Florida have no party affiliation  
18       or classify themselves as Independents. So  
19       then that eloquent gentlemen, I think he was  
20       Chairman of the Democratic party, said -- well,  
21       was he not? Okay, he identified himself as an  
22       officer with the Democratic party. Perhaps he  
23       misidentified himself. In any case, he was  
24       eloquent. And what he said was -- what he said  
25       was that he wouldn't be satisfied until the

1 same proportion of Representatives and Senators  
2 were Democrats as the proportion of the  
3 population.

4 Let me just offer a fact for your  
5 consideration. There are 40 Senate districts,  
6 40 Senate districts, 28 of them are held by  
7 Republicans. So how in the world could that  
8 have happened? Well, Barack Obama in 2008  
9 carried 20 Senate districts. He carried eight  
10 districts that elected Republican Senators.  
11 Now, you can look at that through the looking  
12 glass either way. You can say maybe it was  
13 that President Obama had a better, more  
14 persuasive campaign, maybe he messaged better,  
15 because he was able to get eight districts that  
16 otherwise elect Republican Senators to vote for  
17 him for President. Or you could look at it the  
18 other way, you could say there are eight  
19 districts where a majority of the people voted  
20 for Barack Obama, but then they crossed party  
21 lines and voted for Republican Senators. Here  
22 is the message that I get out of it, and that  
23 is this: We will never be able to draw a map  
24 that forces Republicans to vote for Republicans  
25 and Democrats to vote for Democrats. And God



1 knows we will never be able to tell the  
2 Independents what to do.

3 So I think -- I think that we are back to  
4 the secret ballot. There are Democrats who  
5 will vote for Republicans, there are  
6 Republicans who will vote for Democrats,  
7 because we vote often for the person and not  
8 the party, and that is the way it ought to be.  
9 So I don't know that we will be able to satisfy  
10 that eloquent gentleman's template, but we will  
11 satisfy the requirement that we come here, we  
12 listen to your views. And this is not your  
13 last chance to participate in this process.  
14 This is only one of your early chances. As the  
15 Speaker Designate indicated, you can continue  
16 to comment on-line, you can continue to contact  
17 your Representative or Senator, and if you  
18 don't know who that is, Supervisor of Elections  
19 is here, and she can sure tell you.

20 And the other thing is that when there are  
21 maps proposed, and there are already 12  
22 proposed, some of them are in the back, when  
23 there are maps proposed, you can see them, you  
24 can evaluate them and you can offer your  
25 comments. And as the Speaker Designate

1 indicated, when we get to Tallahassee in  
2 September, preparing to vote as soon as we  
3 can -- and the first time we could vote would  
4 be January by our Constitution -- you will have  
5 the opportunity there as well to have input.  
6 And, frankly, if I have my way, we will be able  
7 to get as much public input as possible before  
8 we cast any vote in -- even at the Committee  
9 level. Every vote that is cast in any  
10 Committee will be done publicly. It will be  
11 done after there is an opportunity for people  
12 to come forward and testify either by mail, by  
13 e-mail, by phone call, by letter or in person.  
14 And that is very different than having a group  
15 of unelected people go in a back room and close  
16 the door, that is what they do in courts, and  
17 then come out and tell you what the results  
18 are.

19 So we thank you for your time, for your  
20 patriotism, for your concern, and  
21 Representative Weatherford moves we rise.

22 (Whereupon, the proceedings were  
23 concluded.)  
24  
25

## 1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )

3 COUNTY OF LEON )

4 I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript  
5 is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned,  
6 and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting  
7 under my direction;

8 That the foregoing pages 2 through 140  
9 represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of  
10 the tape-recording;

11 And I further certify that I am not of kin or  
12 counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the  
13 regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor  
14 am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

15 Dated this 10th day of November, 2011.

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

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Notary Public

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State of Florida at Large

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Commission Expires:

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November 13, 2014

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REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

11

TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2011

12

8:00 A.M.

13

HARDEE COUNTY CIVIC CENTER

14

WAUCHULA, FLORIDA

15

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Transcribed by:

22

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

23

Court Reporter

24

25

1 T A P E D P R O C E E D I N G S

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Good morning, everyone.

3 If you are here for the redistricting hearing,  
4 if you could find a place, looks like we have  
5 enough chairs for everybody and all of your  
6 friends who stayed home, and also if our  
7 members will be seated, please.

8 And before we begin our hearing this  
9 morning, I wanted to, with Speaker Designate  
10 Weatherford's permission, yield to  
11 Representative Grimsley, whose hometown we are  
12 in and who is well-known to many people here,  
13 and ask her if she would make any opening  
14 remarks. Representative.

15 REPRESENTATIVE GRIMSLEY: Thank you,  
16 Senator Gaetz, and welcome to the redistricting  
17 hearing.

18 Ten years ago we sat in this room, and I  
19 remember it was full, but it wasn't at 8:00  
20 a.m., so that may make a difference. My mom  
21 called me on the way down and she said, "Where  
22 is the meeting," and I told her, and she said  
23 "Well, your dad didn't know where it was," and  
24 I said, "I guess that means he is going to be  
25 late." So he is retired, he says he can't get

1 anywhere at 8:00 a.m.

2 But thank you very much for coming out  
3 this morning and participating in this event,  
4 it is so important. And if you will recall,  
5 ten years ago we sat in this room, and I heard  
6 resident after resident come up and testify  
7 about at the time Hardee County was paired with  
8 the coast, and Highlands County was paired more  
9 with Polk County, and everyone here was not  
10 happy with that, and at the time, the  
11 Legislature listened. I was out in the  
12 audience with you at the time, and the  
13 Legislature listened and made those changes,  
14 and I believe we will probably hear some of the  
15 same today.

16 We have already a contiguous, compact  
17 district here in both the House and the Senate,  
18 and I would appreciate all of you who are here,  
19 if you would please be so kind as to give your  
20 remarks to the panel.

21 And with that, I would like to welcome all  
22 of the members to Hardee County. On behalf of  
23 Representative Albritton, who couldn't be here  
24 today because his grandfather is ill, he would  
25 like to extend his welcome to Hardee County,

1           and we are glad that you guys are here and I  
2           hope you spend a little money while you are  
3           here, there's a lot of good restaurants and a  
4           lot of good shopping, so please feel free to  
5           contribute to our economy, and thank you again.

6                     SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, Chair  
7           Grimsley. We appreciate being in your  
8           hometown.

9                     Ladies and gentlemen, we are pleased to be  
10          here this morning, and I appreciate the Hardee  
11          County Board of County Commissioners for  
12          allowing us to use this facility. We want to  
13          thank those who were able to come here. We are  
14          having meetings in the morning, late in the  
15          morning, in the early afternoon, late in the  
16          afternoon and in the evening, all over Florida.  
17          It happened that we have an early morning  
18          meeting here this morning, but we really  
19          appreciate those brave souls who came out and  
20          have chosen to give us their opinions to help  
21          shape congressional, Senate and House districts  
22          for the next decade.

23                     My name is Don Gaetz, I am a State Senator  
24          from the Panhandle, from the central time zone.  
25          I represent a district that stretches between

1       Pensacola and Panama City, and I appreciate the  
2       chance to learn about concerns and specifics  
3       about this part of Florida, very detailed  
4       information that we have been getting in other  
5       hearings that there is no way that we could  
6       have gotten in an echo chamber in Tallahassee.  
7       And along with my colleague, Speaker Designate  
8       of the House of Representatives, Will  
9       Weatherford, who is to my right, I will be  
10      chairing today's hearing, which is being  
11      webcast statewide by The Florida Channel over  
12      the Internet.

13             And what we would like to do now so that  
14      you know who you are chatting with today, we  
15      would like to invite the members of the panel,  
16      if they would please introduce themselves and  
17      indicate what part of the state they represent.

18             Representative Nehr, can we start with  
19      you, please, sir?

20             REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Good morning, my  
21      name is Representative Peter Nehr, and I  
22      represent District 48, which is in Pinellas  
23      County on the west coast.

24             REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Good morning, I am  
25      Hazelle Rogers, State Representative for



1 District 94, representing eight cities in a  
2 county that boasts approximately 1.8 million  
3 residents, and the most diverse county in all  
4 of the state of Florida. Thank you.

5 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: That is  
6 Broward County.

7 Good morning. I am State Representative  
8 Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed, representing House  
9 District 92 in the northeast part of Broward  
10 County, representing seven cities.

11 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Good morning,  
12 State Representative Mack Bernard, District 84,  
13 West Palm Beach.

14 REPRESENTATIVE GOODSON: Good morning,  
15 Representative Tom Goodson, House Seat 29,  
16 Brevard County, Indian River County.

17 REPRESENTATIVE CALDWELL: Good morning,  
18 Representative Matt Caldwell, District 73,  
19 which is Lee County, Lehigh Acres and Ft.  
20 Myers.

21 REPRESENTATIVE ROBERSON: Good morning,  
22 State Representative Ken Roberson. I represent  
23 parts of Charlotte, Sarasota and Lee Counties.

24 REPRESENTATIVE STARGEL: Good morning,  
25 State Representative Kelli Stargel from Polk

1 County. I represent Lakeland, Kathleen, Polk  
2 City, a little bit of Davenport.

3 REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Mike Horner, House  
4 District 79, representing Osceola, Okeechobee,  
5 Orange and Polk.

6 REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: Kathleen  
7 Passidomo, State Representative, District 76 in  
8 Collier County. I represent the cities of  
9 Naples, Marco Island, Everglades City.

10 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Good morning,  
11 Chuck Chestnut, House District 23, a portion of  
12 Alachua County and a portion of Marion County.

13 REPRESENTATIVE EISNAUGLE: Good morning,  
14 Eric Eisnaugle, represent House District 40 in  
15 Orlando.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: How are you  
17 doing, Ritch Workman from Brevard County,  
18 District 30.

19 REPRESENTATIVE BRODEUR: Good morning,  
20 Jason Brodeur, I represent parts of Volusia,  
21 Orange and Seminole County, House District 33.

22 REPRESENTATIVE CRISAFULLI: Good morning,  
23 Steve Crisafulli, House District 32, which is  
24 east Orange and Brevard County.

25 REPRESENTATIVE PLAKON: Good morning,

1 Scott Plakon, House District 37, Orange and  
2 Seminole Counties.

3 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Good morning, John  
4 Legg, represent west Pasco.

5 REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: Representative Evan  
6 Jenne from District 100 -- I'm sorry, ma'am, I  
7 will speak louder. Representative Evan Jenne,  
8 District 100, from southeast Broward County.

9 REPRESENTATIVE ROUSON: Good morning,  
10 Darryl Rouson, I represent District 55, which  
11 is south Pinellas, north Manatee, north  
12 Sarasota and southern Hillsborough Counties,  
13 and we didn't say it today, we gave our party  
14 affiliations yesterday, I am a member of the  
15 party of humankind.

16 REPRESENTATIVE DIAZ: I am Jose Diaz,  
17 representing District 115 in Miami, Florida.

18 REPRESENTATIVE CAMPBELL: This is Daphne  
19 Campbell, District 108, Miami, Florida.

20 REPRESENTATIVE REED: Good morning, I am  
21 Betty Reed. I represent the eastern part of  
22 Hillsborough County, which is in Tampa.

23 REPRESENTATIVE GRIMSLEY: And I am Denise  
24 Grimsley, I represent District 77 in the House,  
25 which is Highlands, Hendry, Glades and Collier

1 Counties.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you all. This looks  
3 like, so far, the smallest hearing that we have  
4 had. This is hearing, I think, number 11. We  
5 are having 26 hearings around the state.  
6 Sometimes the room is packed, and sometimes the  
7 room is not packed. Today is a small hearing,  
8 but we have committed ourselves to being  
9 accessible throughout the state of Florida, so  
10 we are going to small towns, we are going large  
11 cities, we are going to urban areas, we are  
12 going to suburban areas, we are going to areas  
13 that sometimes don't get the opportunity to  
14 have citizens share their views with  
15 legislators at least in this large a group. So  
16 notwithstanding the fact that we don't have a  
17 huge crowd today, we still will value the input  
18 that you have given us.

19 Our sole purpose today is to hear from the  
20 public about how you believe the legal  
21 standards governing redistricting should be  
22 applied in your community. We are all aware  
23 that Amendments 5 and 6 passed. The question  
24 is, given some of the apparent areas that  
25 require clarification and that require

1 conformance with other parts of the law, we are  
2 very interested in knowing how you believe  
3 these standards should be sorted out and  
4 applied in your community so that you are  
5 represented in Washington and in Tallahassee  
6 fairly, equitably and sensibly.

7 And our procedures today are simple, but  
8 they are very important. First, it is  
9 important that you sign in. If you haven't  
10 signed in, would you please raise your hand,  
11 and one of our folks will get to you with a  
12 card. That way, we can keep track of who is  
13 here, and also it gives you an opportunity to  
14 sign up for our e-mail list so that you can  
15 keep track of the redistricting process as it  
16 moves forward. And, also, the cards that you  
17 would sign in with are cards that, if you wish,  
18 you can fill out, same card, so that you would  
19 have the opportunity to speak. So is there  
20 anybody here who has not filled out one of  
21 these cards, either just to participate by  
22 observing or because you want to speak? Young  
23 lady up in the front on the right. Anybody  
24 else? Anybody else need to fill out one of  
25 these cards?

1           We don't want to miss your testimony, so  
2           if during the hearing this morning you become  
3           inspired to speak, maybe somebody said  
4           something that inspires you to share your views  
5           or to explain some particular part of your  
6           community that you think ought to be in this  
7           congressional district or that Senate district,  
8           or that the House district ought to be drawn in  
9           a certain way in this community, if you are  
10          inspired to speak, then -- hello? Would you  
11          just raise your hand at that point, and we will  
12          get you a card and we can add you to the  
13          speaker list.

14                Before we begin, the Chair would like to  
15                recognize the Speaker Designate of the Florida  
16                House of Representatives, Representative Will  
17                Weatherford, and Representative Weatherford  
18                will explain how today's hearing fits into our  
19                schedule and into the legal processes that we  
20                are obliged to follow. Mr. Speaker.

21                REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
22                very much, Mr. Chairman. Ladies and gentlemen,  
23                it is a pleasure to be here today. Again, my  
24                name is Will Weatherford, and the district I  
25                represent is District 61, which is

1       predominantly Pasco County, but also has  
2       Hillsborough County in it, and I have the  
3       pleasure to co-Chair this joint committee with  
4       our chairman here, Mr. Gaetz. Thank you for  
5       being here.

6               I wanted to, if I could just for a few  
7       minutes, walk everybody through what we are  
8       here to do today, and Mr. Chairman, if I may,  
9       give every one a perspective as to why we are  
10      here today. I think that is -- it is very  
11      important to kind of step back for just a  
12      moment. So if you will give me a few minutes,  
13      I will walk through it with you.

14             The first is every ten years, the  
15      Legislature is forced -- I say forced --  
16      required to come by our Constitution and  
17      redistrict the state based on increases and  
18      decreases in movements that are in population.  
19      Because Florida has grown dramatically over the  
20      last ten years, we are adding two new  
21      congressional seats, going from 25  
22      congressional seats to 27.

23             When redistricting is completed,  
24      congressional districts must equal in  
25      population and contain 696,345 people. The 40

1 Senate districts must also be nearly equal at  
2 470,000 per district, and then the 120 House  
3 districts, they must be also nearly equal at  
4 156,700 people.

5 As you know, we have displays at the back  
6 of the room showing the current boundaries of  
7 the districts in the area and the number of  
8 persons which must be added or subtracted from  
9 the current districts to achieve that equal  
10 representation. You can see that in the back  
11 of the room.

12 Equality of representation is not the only  
13 legal requirement take we must follow in order  
14 to make legal plans. The laws are important,  
15 and the court cases that governing  
16 redistricting are explained in detail in the  
17 House and Senate websites. Those websites are  
18 listed on the 2012 brochure, redistricting  
19 brochure, that was available to you when you  
20 came in. Our "Redistricting 2012" brochure  
21 summarizes both federal and state laws, and it  
22 outlines the topics that we hope you will be  
23 discussing today at today's hearing.

24 Speaking of federal law, by the way, I do  
25 think it is very important to point out this



1 morning, Mr. Chairman, that this is the first  
2 meeting of five where we will be in a county  
3 covered by the Section 5 of the Voting Rights  
4 Act, those counties being Hardee, Hendry,  
5 Collier, Hillsborough and Monroe.

6 Ladies and gentlemen, if you did not get a  
7 copy of the brochure I was talking about a  
8 minute ago when you came in, they are available  
9 on the tables outside the meeting, and our  
10 staff would be more than willing to bring you a  
11 copy of that if you will just raise your hand.

12 The brochure also lists the House and  
13 Senate websites. The websites are packed with  
14 information about redistricting in Florida,  
15 including explanations of laws and important  
16 court cases governing redistricting. The two  
17 websites are complementary and are updated  
18 frequently. You can visit them both often, and  
19 you can check back as we are adding new and  
20 more relevant information of both the  
21 congressional, Senate and House Districts as  
22 they -- and you can watch them take shape.

23 The websites also deliver to your  
24 fingertips all of the demographic information  
25 that will be used in drawing districts and the

1 exact same computer programming that  
2 legislators and professional staff will utilize  
3 to actually draw the maps. Any member of the  
4 public may participate in building plans or  
5 seeing maps submitted by legislators or other  
6 citizens.

7 Before, during and after this hearing,  
8 Senate and House professional staff are  
9 available to you or anyone to allow them to  
10 show you how to utilize the simple steps of  
11 going on-line, building districts and  
12 submitting a plan in the weeks to come.

13 Recommendations from citizens and groups  
14 of citizens will be made public -- will be  
15 immediately made public. In fact, 14 public  
16 submissions of partial or complete maps, and  
17 about 70 written ideas for maps are available  
18 on the Web today. The submission of proposed  
19 maps that makes sense for your community is the  
20 single most important way that you can have  
21 public participation in the redistricting  
22 process.

23 The redistricting schedule under which we  
24 are operating is also imposed by the State  
25 Constitution. The Constitution does not allow

1       us to act on state legislative maps before the  
2       second year after the census. Ladies and  
3       gentlemen, in other words, that means in 2012.  
4       We have accelerated that process as much as we  
5       possibly can by moving the 2012 session from  
6       what normally starts in March up until January  
7       so that we can do this as quickly as possible.

8               It has been suggested that the Legislature  
9       should draw the maps first and then ask for  
10      public comment. Ladies and gentlemen, we  
11      believe that that puts the answer ahead of the  
12      question. There should be no preconceptions  
13      created by politicians or staff, but, rather,  
14      public testimony should be free and  
15      unrestricted. In fact, the principal author of  
16      Florida's new redistricting standards and the  
17      Chairperson for Fair Districts campaign are  
18      both on record in agreement that the notion  
19      that new maps should not be drawn before  
20      getting hearings and hearing directly from the  
21      public.

22             Our intent is to use the recommendations  
23      made at these 26 public hearings and through  
24      our Internet sites as the basis for developing  
25      one or more options for district maps. We will

1 discuss those options in public meetings before  
2 any single vote is taken, even in committee.  
3 In other words, what we are literally saying is  
4 if you look at those maps in the back of the  
5 room, and they are all back there, the ones  
6 that have actually been submitted to us  
7 already, those are the maps that are starting  
8 this process. Those are the maps and the  
9 suggestions that are helping us start the  
10 deliberations about what the state of Florida  
11 should look like. And it is with those public  
12 submissions and testimony from these meetings  
13 and other public input that is throughout this  
14 process that will help us and guide us to our  
15 final destination.

16 So throughout this process, we hope that  
17 you will continue to give us public comment, we  
18 hope that you will continue to be involved and  
19 we are very grateful that you are here today.

20 Mr. Chairman, I hope that this description  
21 brings a little bit more clarity on the  
22 schedule and the process here today, and we  
23 look forward to a successful hearing. Thank  
24 you.

25 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,

1 Representative Weatherford.

2 Our purpose today is now to hear from you  
3 between now and the scheduled time that our  
4 hearing would end, which is, I believe eleven  
5 o'clock, and we will take public testimony as  
6 long as there is anyone who wishes to share  
7 public testimony with us.

8 If there is time remaining, and it looks  
9 like there will be this morning, we will do  
10 what we do at every hearing, and that is we  
11 will ask any member of this panel, Democrat or  
12 Republican, House member or Senator, to comment  
13 on any of the issues that they wish to comment  
14 on that were raised during the hearing, to  
15 answer any questions that might have been  
16 posed, and then after that is concluded, then I  
17 will ask Speaker Designate Weatherford to go  
18 back through any questions that arose, any  
19 factual issues that came up, so that we can  
20 make sure we have given you the best and most  
21 up-to-date information as we conclude the  
22 hearing.

23 We have a number of folks have already  
24 signed up, and what I would like to do, if it  
25 is -- unless there is objection, is I would

1       like to call people in twos; in other words,  
2       Maureen McKenna is our first speaker this  
3       morning, but Rick Haberman with the Highlands  
4       County Democratic Party is our second speaker,  
5       so, Mr. Haberman, if you will be on deck and be  
6       ready, we will start with Ms. McKenna.

7               And, Ms. McKenna, you are recognized. We  
8       would love to hear your testimony this morning.  
9       Thank you for taking the time to come.

10              DR. McKENNA: Thank you very much. Is the  
11      microphone working?

12              SENATOR GAETZ: It is, indeed. Everybody  
13      can hear you.

14              DR. McKENNA: Thank you. Okay, thank you.

15              I am Dr. Maureen McKenna, and I am  
16      President of the Democratic Women's Club of  
17      Highlands County, and we have nine people here  
18      today from Highlands County and Denise  
19      Grimsley. So it's nice to see a familiar face  
20      in the center.

21              I am here today to read a five-stanza  
22      poem: On November 2nd, 2010, we took a big  
23      vote to end all the sin. So gerrymander you  
24      may do no more, though it will frighten you to  
25      your very core. The voters have spoken, on

1       this they were clear. Now you do what is fair,  
2       or your reputation you smear. You went to  
3       Tally with a strong direction, to draw the maps  
4       without thought to your next election. But  
5       instead of complying, you wait and wait to  
6       further delay the inevitable date, to draw the  
7       maps, the missing maps, which might well exist,  
8       but are kept under wraps. So on this merry  
9       quest we go from hearing to hearing in hopes  
10      they will show, but, alas, there are no maps to  
11      see, so I guess the joke is on the voters like  
12      me. But maybe I am wrong, so I will give one  
13      last shout to find the darn maps and remove all  
14      the doubt that these hearings are phony and for  
15      show dog and pony. By denying our viewing of  
16      maps you create, you disc Florida voters whose  
17      anger won't abate. So where are the maps, both  
18      compact and fair? I cannot find them here or  
19      there. I cannot find them near or far, I  
20      cannot find them in the car. I cannot find  
21      them at the beach, I cannot find them, so to  
22      you I beseech, where are the maps?"

23             Thank you.

24             SENATOR GAETZ: Henry Wadsworth  
25             Longfellow, eat your heart out.

1           And now we will hear from Rick Haberman  
2           with the -- also with the Highlands County  
3           Democratic Party. And after Mr. Haberman, if  
4           Joe Campbell, who is the Highlands County  
5           Supervisor of Elections, Mr. Campbell, we thank  
6           you for being here, and please be on deck, if  
7           you can.

8           Mr. Haberman, thank you for coming this  
9           morning. Do you have a poem?

10          MR. HABERMAN: I don't have a poem.

11          SENATOR GAETZ: Then please sit down. No.  
12          We are delighted to have you here.

13          MR. HABERMAN: My only question for the  
14          panel is, Amendments 5 and 6 were passed by an  
15          overwhelming majority of people of the state of  
16          Florida, we want to know why this Legislature  
17          is fighting the amendments, why so much money  
18          has been spent on lawsuits against it and is  
19          going to be spent fighting it. The people want  
20          it, and why don't you?

21          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, and  
22          we will make a list of those questions, and  
23          after the public has had a chance to speak,  
24          then we will try to get back to any points that  
25          anyone has made.



1           Mr. Campbell, are you here, sir? Thank  
2           you for your service to the people of this  
3           county, and we are delighted to see you here  
4           this morning, you are recognized.

5           MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you. Can you hear  
6           me?

7           SENATOR GAETZ: Yes, sir. And behind  
8           Mr. Campbell, and I apologize if I mispronounce  
9           this name, John Drezinski. John Drezinski  
10          after Mr. Campbell.

11          Mr. Campbell, you are recognized.

12          MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you. Joe Campbell,  
13          Supervisor of Elections of Highlands County,  
14          and what I am going to say -- first I want to  
15          say I appreciate what y'all are doing to  
16          letting us come and speak to you about  
17          redistricting. I have been through two  
18          redistricting cycles before in the election  
19          office, and I can tell you horror stories, but  
20          we don't want to go there. We want to go with  
21          the current and future.

22          And I want to tell you first off, John  
23          Guthrie needs a raise. He is doing a great  
24          job. We've worked with him for years and  
25          years. John is doing a great job.

1           But we want to talk to you -- and I am  
2           sure what I am going to say you have heard from  
3           other supervisors throughout the state in  
4           previous meetings and you are going to hear it  
5           again. I want to talk to you about time and I  
6           want to talk to you about Voting Tabulation  
7           Districts.

8           Time-wise, from what we have been told, if  
9           everybody, all the powers that be that actually  
10          decide on the finalization of these lines, if  
11          they simply meet their deadline, then we as  
12          Supervisor of Elections are only going to have  
13          two weeks to get those first ballots in the  
14          mail to the overseas voters. Two weeks in  
15          country terms ain't a lot of time. We are  
16          going to -- you know, we've got to design the  
17          ballot, get the ballot to the printer, get it  
18          back, make sure that everybody is in the right  
19          precincts, adjust our lines to go along with  
20          the new legislative lines, so it is a lot to  
21          do, and I know that you know that we've got a  
22          big job.

23          So what we are asking is simply this:  
24          Whenever you can, please speed the process up.  
25          Whenever you can, please speed the process up.

1           That is all we want.

2           Plus, I want to talk about just the Voting  
3           Tabulation Districts. I think that is a great  
4           idea. Did you come up with that, John? Census  
5           Bureau came up with it, okay, I wanted to give  
6           you the credit for it. But Voting Tabulation  
7           Districts, for those -- I am sure y'all know  
8           what they are, the public probably don't know,  
9           but those lines that we have drawn as local  
10          administrators, we know where the growth is  
11          going to be probably in our county in the  
12          future, we know what is there now, we know  
13          where -- if you are going to split us, and I  
14          would like to say please keep Highlands County  
15          in one congressional, one State Senate, one  
16          State House, that would be great, I would love  
17          y'all for that, but if you are going to split  
18          me, please go along the Voting Tabulation  
19          District lines.

20          And that is all we as supervisors  
21          throughout the state are wanting is just to  
22          remember the timelines, push the process up  
23          whenever you can, give us preliminary lines,  
24          anything we can work with ahead of the game and  
25          go along the Voting Tabulation District lines.

1           No questions? That's all I got to say.

2           Thank you.

3           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
4           Mr. Campbell, and let me just say that we have  
5           heard this message from supervisors, and John  
6           Guthrie is working with, as you probably know,  
7           the state Supervisors of Elections  
8           organization, and there is no intent to have  
9           everybody, including the courts, play it out to  
10          the last day. I think Representative  
11          Weatherford or others may speak to that at the  
12          end, but it is not as bad as some people may  
13          have led you to believe.

14          And now we will hear from John Drezinski,  
15          and I apologize if I mispronounce that name,  
16          and following John, Jerry Kingsbury, if you  
17          will be on deck.

18          Mr. Drezinski, how badly did I mess up  
19          your name?

20          MR. DREZINSKI: Senator, you could have  
21          from Warsaw, Poland. You hit it right on the  
22          button.

23          SENATOR GAETZ: All right.

24          MR. DREZINSKI: First of all, I would like  
25          to thank Joe Campbell. In my opinion, he is

1       probably the hardest-working Supervisor of  
2       Elections I have ever come across. And he  
3       stole my thunder. I agree with what he said.  
4       Keep it, you know, the way it is, one, one,  
5       one, you know. I see nothing wrong with our  
6       districts, you know. It should just stay the  
7       way it is, and that is from a Republican, and I  
8       believe Highlands County is weighted slightly  
9       in favor of the Democrats, but, you know, I  
10      still say keep it the way we are.

11           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
12      And next, Jerry Kingsbury, and following  
13      Mr. Kingsbury, Robert Gillmore, please.

14           Mr. Kingsbury, we are delighted you are  
15      here, and thanks for taking time. You are  
16      recognized.

17           MR. KINGSBURY: You're welcome, and I  
18      thank you for having this meeting and inviting  
19      the population to come in and offer our  
20      opinions.

21           I am from Lake Placid in Highlands County,  
22      and I would like to just add my support to  
23      maintaining our current District 77 as it is.  
24      It is my opinion that the current boundaries  
25      serve the needs of our local population quite

1 well. Thank you.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

3 Robert Gillmore is our next speaker, and

4 following Mr. Gillmore, Charles Grimsley.

5 Mr. Gillmore, thank you for coming, and

6 you are recognized.

7 MR. GILLMORE: Good morning, ladies and

8 gentlemen. Thank you for letting me speak

9 today.

10 I have lived in Avon Park now for 11

11 years, and I believe the current district we

12 have has suited our needs very well and should

13 be maintained as is. Thank you.

14 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much. Not

15 only is this a small hearing, but we've got

16 people who are succinct and get right to the

17 point. I appreciate that.

18 Next -- so we heard -- that was

19 Mr. Gillmore. You are Mr. Gillmore.

20 MR. GRIMSLEY: Grimsley.

21 SENATOR GAETZ: Mr. Grimsley. Now, the

22 first thing I have to ask, Mr. Grimsley, is

23 there any connection between you and

24 Representative Grimsley? Because we heard that

25 there was a Grimsley who wanted to make sure

1           that he came here and, you know, might say  
2           something that his daughter might agree with or  
3           disagree with, but is that you, sir?

4           MR. GRIMSLEY:   Yes, sir.

5           SENATOR GAETZ:   It is?

6           MR. GRIMSLEY:   That is me, yes.

7           SENATOR GAETZ:   Well, I may have to let  
8           your daughter speak after you.

9           MR. GRIMSLEY:   Well, that is okay, too.

10          SENATOR GAETZ:   Mr. Grimsley, it is great  
11          to have you here, and I know you've got to be  
12          very, very proud of Denise.  She does a great  
13          job in Tallahassee.

14          MR. GRIMSLEY:   I am very proud of her,  
15          and, no, we don't always agree, but we agree to  
16          disagree sometimes.  But she is my daughter,  
17          and I am very proud of what she is doing.

18          Ladies and gentlemen, let me say to you  
19          this morning that I am a life-long resident in  
20          Hardee County, and this is the most  
21          representation from Tallahassee that we have  
22          ever had in Hardee County, I do believe, and we  
23          welcome you to here this morning.  This is a  
24          promised land.  This is the nearest thing you  
25          will ever get to the promised land.  So you are

1 welcome to come back and move here if you want  
2 to and help us with our endeavors here.

3 But what I would like to say this morning,  
4 though, Chairman, is in the years past, Hardee  
5 County has been connected with coastal  
6 counties, and our representation has not been  
7 the best in the world. What I would like to  
8 urge this committee to consider doing today in  
9 your redistricting is to leave us with the  
10 inland counties such as Polk, Highlands,  
11 DeSoto, Glades, Hendry, those counties. Most  
12 of those counties are agriculture based. And  
13 our concerns doesn't always go with what the  
14 coastal counties' concerns are.

15 And when it comes down to voting, when we  
16 was with Manatee County, if our whole county  
17 had voted for one person, we would have not had  
18 any -- we would have not affected that election  
19 whatsoever. In other words, we do not have the  
20 population to vote head-to-head with any  
21 coastal county. Their concerns is not our  
22 concerns. And I would just like to urge this  
23 morning that in your process, that you consider  
24 keeping our counties with the agriculture  
25 counties in the heartland, in the interior part



1           of the state.

2           And I will agree with the gentleman that  
3 spoke earlier, if we can keep it by boundary  
4 lines, by county boundary lines, it would be a  
5 whole lot better than having two  
6 Representatives for one small county. You  
7 just -- you don't get much bang for your buck  
8 that way.

9           So in your consideration, that is my  
10 request this morning, that you keep us with the  
11 agriculture based counties on the interior part  
12 of the state. Thank you.

13           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
14 Mr. Grimsley.

15           Our next speaker is Russell Graylin Smith,  
16 who is a Wauchula City Commissioner. He is the  
17 last person who has signed up to speak this  
18 morning, so if there's anyone else who would  
19 like to speak who may have been inspired by  
20 what someone said or made a decision late that  
21 you would like to share your views with the  
22 House and Senate committees, please raise your  
23 hand, and we will get you one of these speaker  
24 sheets and you will have a chance to speak.

25           Mr. Smith, Commissioner Smith, thank you

1           very much for the warm hospitality that your  
2           community has showed to the House and Senate  
3           members, and thank you for your service to this  
4           community, sir.

5           COMMISSIONER SMITH: Well, it is certainly  
6           a pleasure to have all these people down here.  
7           Mr. Charles Grimsley beat us to the punch, but  
8           I would like to reiterate what he just said.

9           For a long, Hardee County has been  
10          under-represented because we have been paired  
11          with Sarasota and Manatee Counties in the  
12          congressional districts, and oftentimes even in  
13          the State House we were at one time paired with  
14          those two counties.

15          Polk County, there's two sides to it, and,  
16          of course, we are happy to have Mr. Ben  
17          Albritton as our Representative, and he  
18          represents south Polk County, which is far  
19          different than the northern half of Polk  
20          County. But Hardee, Highlands, DeSoto, are  
21          similar in population, similar in economy,  
22          similar in many other ways, and if you could  
23          take that into consideration when drawing your  
24          new district lines on all districts, we would  
25          greatly appreciate it. Thank your, sir.

1           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much. Let  
2           me make another call for anybody who would like  
3           to share their views who did not sign up to  
4           speak yet. That young lady right over there,  
5           would you please come forward, ma'am, and we  
6           will get a slip from you so that we know who  
7           you are? And was there somebody over here as  
8           well?

9           Ma'am, if you would state your name, we  
10          are delighted to have you here this morning and  
11          look forward to your testimony.

12          MS. MILLION: Thank you. I hope you will  
13          when I get through.

14          SENATOR GAETZ: Now, do you have a poem,  
15          because you came from the poetry corner over  
16          there?

17          MS. MILLION: That is right. I am Elli  
18          Million, and I am Second Vice-President of the  
19          Democratic Women's Club. And you notice the  
20          word, "women's club."

21          Now, as we are dealing with our census, we  
22          -- in our records right here this morning,  
23          there's not ever a mention about consideration  
24          of women in redistricting. Now, I know when we  
25          work with Joe Campbell, he gives us figures

1       about the women and the breakdown in Highlands  
2       County, but I just am posing the question, why  
3       is that never considered in your redistricting?  
4       Perhaps it is because Florida has not passed  
5       the Equal Rights Amendment. Maybe we are  
6       somehow or other -- you know, we don't have the  
7       force that we are supposed to have with the  
8       redistricting now and the Legislature. And I  
9       feel that somehow or other that fact has been  
10      left out in your figures. I am not certain how  
11      it would affect redistricting, but in my mind,  
12      it does. And I would hope that the Legislature  
13      or someone who is in charge of reporting  
14      statistics would consider the fact that we  
15      should have a breakdown of women, especially  
16      since we feel this year that we really had many  
17      strikes against us through the Legislature. So  
18      I bring that to your consideration, and thank  
19      you.

20                SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
21      ma'am. And John Guthrie is the gentleman over  
22      there, and Mr. Guthrie, can -- if you have a  
23      couple of minutes, he can show you how we do  
24      have data from the Census Bureau by gender, so  
25      that that data is available for you to look at,

1           and it is certainly available for us to use,  
2           but John can show you how to get to that data.  
3           But it is available.

4           Sue Birge is a member of the county  
5           commission in our county here, and we welcome  
6           you, we thank you for your service and  
7           appreciate your testimony.

8           COMMISSIONER BIRGE: Thank you. I  
9           don't --

10          SENATOR GAETZ: Excuse me, Commissioner.  
11          I believe there was a gentleman sitting right  
12          behind Senator Neal, and he would like to  
13          speak. Is that right, sir? Okay, you are  
14          next.

15          COMMISSIONER BIRGE: Thank you, Chairman.  
16          I didn't have anything to add to your agenda  
17          necessarily, but I just wanted to thank you for  
18          coming to Hardee County. I haven't seen this  
19          many Representatives since I was in  
20          Tallahassee, and thank you for coming to our  
21          county. It is a small county, but like  
22          Mr. Grimsley, it is God's country here. So  
23          thank you for coming.

24          I realize this is a small representation  
25          of us, and maybe the people do not necessarily

1 understand what is going on here, but I do want  
2 to thank you for coming, and we do want to be  
3 -- we do want to participate, we want to be  
4 involved in what is going on and wish you the  
5 best in redistricting.

6 I agree, I think it is fine just like it  
7 is. If we can help you in any way, let us  
8 know. Thank you.

9 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
10 Commissioner. And, sir, if you would come  
11 forward and identify yourself, we would be  
12 delighted to hear from you, and we thank you  
13 for taking time to come today.

14 MR. PETRO: My name is Thomas Petro, I am  
15 a private citizen here in Hardee County. My  
16 wife and family farm citrus and cattle.

17 My question is, reading the information  
18 here that it's -- the redistricting is based on  
19 the latest census and the population, here in  
20 Hardee County, I am sure as far as Polk and  
21 Hendry and some of the other counties that are  
22 involved in agriculture, we have a shifting  
23 population. Every couple of months, as migrant  
24 farm labor comes in and works, and then they  
25 leave, and they come in and then they leave.

1       And that shift in population can number a  
2       couple of thousands to a couple of hundreds.  
3       Sometimes they become a majority in the county,  
4       and then they come back to being a minority.  
5       And at the time of the census, they could have  
6       been a majority of the population here in  
7       Hardee County or Collier or Glades as they come  
8       in for the farming season and then they leave  
9       for the season.

10               Does the legislation going to account for  
11       that, that the inner counties, the central  
12       counties of Hardee, Polk, Glades, Manatee, have  
13       this shifting population of minorities, they  
14       come and they go, when they determine the  
15       redistricting?

16               SENATOR GAETZ: Representative Weatherford  
17       will remark to that. We get that question more  
18       often than you might think, and we do have an  
19       answer for that, sir.

20               MR. PETRO: Thank you very much.

21               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you for your  
22       testimony.

23               Anybody else? Any shy souls would like to  
24       come forward? Well, if not, then we have  
25       reached the point in the hearing where,

1 Chairman Weatherford, with your permission, I  
2 would like to turn to any House members who  
3 would like to offer any comments, any  
4 specifics, any proposals that they might wish  
5 to make. Any members of the House wish to  
6 speak? Yes, sir, Mr. Speaker, Speaker Baxley.  
7 We call him Speaker because he was Speaker Pro  
8 Tem team of the Florida House in a previous  
9 life, and he has come back again and now he is  
10 a Representative, but I still call him Speaker.

11 REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: Thank you,  
12 Chairman, and I appreciate your leadership  
13 again on this good day. Both of our Chairmen  
14 have been incredibly gracious.

15 First of all, I just wanted to introduce  
16 myself since I got in the building a little  
17 late. Dennis Baxley, I am from Ocala, Marion  
18 County, Florida House District 24. But I  
19 wanted to connect with you that I have some  
20 previous history. I lived here as a young  
21 child. My father was pastor of one of the  
22 community churches out here nearby, and  
23 Representative Grimsley's parents were -- when  
24 they were married, my father officiated that  
25 ceremony. So it's been a great experience to



1           come back and reconnect and see the progress,  
2           the activities that have gone on here.

3           I, too, live in an area that is more  
4           rural. Ocala, Marion County, has that mix of  
5           change, and I understand the dimension of  
6           dealing with those different issues.

7           I wanted to thank you for the time that  
8           you have spent in preparing for this meeting  
9           and coming and contribute. We always hear some  
10          things that we have heard a lot of other  
11          places, but we also hear something unique every  
12          place that we go. And so I wanted to just  
13          express my appreciation to the community and to  
14          the leadership for bringing me back to these  
15          fond memories. Thank you.

16          SENATOR GAETZ: Representative Horner.

17          REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Thank you very  
18          much. I just wanted to comment, I really  
19          appreciated the nice lady's poem, and I would  
20          encourage everyone in the audience, the best  
21          way to communicate with us is to submit maps.  
22          If you haven't gone on the website yet and seen  
23          the software they have put together, it is very  
24          easy to use. Get on [mydistrictbuilder.com](http://mydistrictbuilder.com) and  
25          put together maps.

1           What we are going to start with when we  
2           begin the process is the maps that the public  
3           submits. So when you ask, "Where are the  
4           maps," they are basically in your hands. What  
5           you create is what the Legislature is going to  
6           start with. So I would really encourage you  
7           after coming today, if you have caught the bug  
8           at all, to go back home, spend a little time,  
9           create some maps, and I can assure you that  
10          will be where we start and that will certainly  
11          be where I start in the process. Thank you.

12           SENATOR GAETZ: Any other members, any  
13          other House members? Any Senators, anybody who  
14          would like from the panel to offer any  
15          comments? I'm sorry? We have another speaker.  
16          The last shall be first, and the first shall be  
17          last.

18           Casey Welch is with Florida Citrus Mutual,  
19          and thanks, Casey, for bringing up the rear.  
20          We're anxious to --

21           MR. WELCH: Thanks. I apologize for being  
22          late. I'm coming down from Lakeland. I should  
23          have caravanned with y'all.

24           I just want to say good morning, welcome  
25          to Hardee County, the home of former Governor

1 Doyle Carlton. I just want to say thank you  
2 very much for doing this road show.

3 I hope that you have seen, starting out in  
4 the Panhandle and Pensacola and as you make  
5 your way through the heartland here and been  
6 through the coast and the population centers  
7 and as you go down through south Florida and  
8 hopefully, I guess, you're going to end up in  
9 the Keys, right, you will see the different  
10 communities of interest through this state.  
11 And I think this morning as you saw driving  
12 south through 17, I hope you saw that once you  
13 left Lakeland and the Highland City area and  
14 moved your way south through 17, that basically  
15 from Bartow on through, and if you continue  
16 from Wauchula here on down through Arcadia and  
17 make your way on -- all to Punta Gorda, the  
18 agricultural community of interest was the  
19 same. You saw cattle, citrus and phosphate  
20 mining. And those are the three main interests  
21 of this area, and Wauchula is the center of all  
22 of that. So if you step back from a map and  
23 just look, as you drive down 17, all of those  
24 communities of interest basically -- I will  
25 just go through the city names, Bartow,

1        Wauchula, Arcadia and all the surrounding  
2        areas, so eastern Hillsborough, eastern  
3        Manatee, extreme eastern Sarasota and some  
4        portion of the Charlotte County area before you  
5        get into that metropolitan area, and the  
6        surrounding counties, that is an agricultural  
7        community of interest. And representing Citrus  
8        Mutual here today, we just want to make sure  
9        that the committee understands that it is  
10       vitally important to our industry that we have  
11       representation to recognize that, that while we  
12       understand in the past it has been important to  
13       be tied to the coast in regards to having some  
14       political say, but we also want to make sure  
15       that that is not diluted from having a say as  
16       being a part of an agricultural community that  
17       is central Florida. So that is just one thing  
18       that I wanted to iterate for you this morning.

19                And, again, thank you for coming all the  
20       way down to Wauchula and taking the time to go  
21       all across the state and see first-hand these  
22       communities of interest, because I think  
23       getting away from the maps and getting away  
24       from the -- looking on the -- on the computer  
25       screens, and actually seeing these places

1 first-hand, you really get a feel of all these  
2 communities, and I just want to thank you very  
3 much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
5 Mr. Welch, and we would hope that you would  
6 have a look at some of the -- some or all of  
7 the 15 maps that have already been submitted to  
8 see if any of them meet the requirements that  
9 you described, and then get your input  
10 specifically related to the maps that are  
11 available to look at.

12 Are there any other -- John has another  
13 taker. Somebody else from the poetry corner.  
14 Would you like to come forward, ma'am? We  
15 would love to hear from you. And if you will  
16 fill out a card, that way we can have your  
17 name.

18 MS. OLDHAM: I have already filled out a  
19 card. He is looking for it.

20 SENATOR GAETZ: Okay.

21 MS. OLDHAM: I am Alice Oldham from  
22 Highlands County. I just wanted to beseech the  
23 last speaker and for all you to realize that  
24 Highlands County is also in this agricultural,  
25 and we do not want to be disassociated from

1       Hardee and the other coun- -- we still have  
2       more cattle in Highlands County than we have  
3       people. So we are definitely agriculture. We  
4       have a growing blueberry crop in our county  
5       too, so were are very definitely agriculture.

6               But if I may add one more comment to the  
7       census. Are you -- Representative Weatherford,  
8       are you going to respond to that census  
9       question? Okay, because I was privileged to  
10      work on both parts of the census, and it is  
11      very easily answered. If you are going to be  
12      answering that, I won't bother.

13             SENATOR GAETZ: Well, ma'am, if you have a  
14      comment that you would like to make --

15             MS. OLDHAM: Okay. Well, I was just going  
16      to say that since 1780, by the Constitution,  
17      the census is run according to the April 1st  
18      population only. That is the only population  
19      we could deal with, so what is in place on that  
20      date is what sets the census and the  
21      redistricting.

22             SENATOR GAETZ: Yes, ma'am. Thank you  
23      very much for that information and your  
24      testimony.

25             During the hearing, Representative Ronda

1       -- or Senator Ronda Storms came in in the back,  
2       and, Senator, I don't know if you wanted to say  
3       anything, but if -- she is the young lady in  
4       the blue in the back, and Senator Storms is a  
5       member of this committee, came in during the  
6       hearing, but she did have a chance to hear many  
7       of your testimonies.

8               Anything else that anybody would like to  
9       share with us, members of the committee? Then  
10      I will turn to our Speaker Designate, Will  
11      Weatherford, and ask him to respond to any of  
12      the factual issues that came up so that we can  
13      all leave here with the same set of facts.  
14      Mr. Speaker.

15             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
16      very much, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank again  
17      the members of the public who took the time,  
18      not just to be here, but also to offer up your  
19      suggestions. I can assure you they are being  
20      heard and they will be utilized as we go  
21      forward and actually draw maps.

22             I think every member of this committee  
23      would share my sentiments that I learned a lot  
24      about this part of the world. I don't make it  
25      down 17 all too often. I do know several of

1       the Representatives who represent this part of  
2       the world. It is a beautiful, beautiful part  
3       of Florida.

4               But some of the things I heard about, you  
5       know, preserving the core of the existing  
6       districts and keeping those certain agriculture  
7       communities together and making sure those  
8       communities of interest were protected, and,  
9       frankly, hearing from you about the difference  
10      in the coastal counties versus your counties,  
11      the differences in the communities of interest,  
12      those are the types of suggestions that really  
13      give us guidance and help us make decisions as  
14      we are going forward in this process. I just  
15      want to thank you for making sure we understood  
16      that, and I think everybody here gets that.

17             Ms. Alice, you -- Ms. Oldham, you stole my  
18      thunder. You were absolutely correct in regard  
19      to the census. We are not able to look at  
20      trends. Sir, you talked about the census.  
21      Basically, we are not able to -- we take a  
22      snapshot, and it is not perfect. Of course,  
23      the census is done only once every ten years.  
24      It is not a perfect process, but the way that  
25      they've found to do it is to take one snapshot



1 of one day, and wherever people are, no matter  
2 what part of the trend you are in, whether it  
3 is people coming in or leaving, those are the  
4 numbers we have to utilize, and so it is not  
5 perfect, but when you are counting 380 million  
6 people, it is probably the best we can do right  
7 now with the technology we have.

8 I just wanted to touch on a couple of  
9 other things. Mr. Campbell, our Supervisor of  
10 Elections, thank you for being here, sir. We  
11 are very sensitive, and I said this yesterday  
12 to Ms. Lori Edwards who spoke in Polk County,  
13 your colleague there, we are very sensitive to  
14 the timeline and we recognize the fact that it  
15 is tight.

16 One thing that I would point out to you is  
17 a lot of the dates that are being talked about,  
18 particularly on websites and -- those are the  
19 deadlines, they are not necessarily the target  
20 date we are looking for. So our goal is to go  
21 through this process, get a lot of public  
22 testimony, work it through committee, have a  
23 tremendous amount of input, and then have maps  
24 that are drafted and signed and sealed and  
25 passed with plenty of time to get through

1       qualifying. And so that is our goal, but,  
2       again, there are deadlines that exist, and we  
3       recognize the timeline is tight, and we are  
4       going to be very careful as we go forward to  
5       make sure that we do that right.

6               Also, your information on VTDs, the Voting  
7       Tabulation Districts, we are very sensitive to  
8       that as well. A lot of hard work went into  
9       that to make sure that we factor that into the  
10      census. We are sensitive to it. We will make  
11      sure that we utilize that to the greatest  
12      extent that we can.

13             There were some comments that were brought  
14      up, and we hear this everywhere we go, about  
15      both the timeline and the maps. There are some  
16      folks -- there's kind of a chicken and the egg  
17      debate taking place about the maps. Is it the  
18      Legislature's responsibility to produce maps  
19      first and tell you "Here's what we got," or is  
20      it our responsibility to come to you and ask  
21      for your guidance and your counsel and then go  
22      and draw maps based on that? And I think that  
23      this committee and the Legislature has made the  
24      decision that, for once, the Legislature is  
25      going to aim first and listen and hear from the

1 public first before we fire, and we want to  
2 hear from you, and there's a couple of reasons  
3 for that. But one of the biggest reasons is,  
4 if you go back to 2009, the principal author of  
5 Amendments 5 and 6, a gentleman by the name of  
6 John Mills, former Speaker of the House,  
7 specifically said, and I am going to read his  
8 words, but he wrote that "The intent of the new  
9 redistricting standards is for the public to  
10 have the opportunity to comment before and  
11 after the Legislature draws the maps." And in  
12 2010, the Chairperson of  
13 Floridafairdistricts.org, Ellen Freidin, told a  
14 joint committee, this body, that it would be  
15 impossible to draw compliant or appropriate  
16 maps until after the Legislature had first  
17 heard from the public. And so, ladies and  
18 gentlemen, what we would tell you is that for  
19 those who are still having the chicken and the  
20 egg debate, to us it is very clear. Not only  
21 do we feel like it is important to hear from  
22 the public first before we draw maps, but the  
23 drafters of Amendments 5 and 6, which passed  
24 with 63 percent of the vote, also stated that.

25 And in regard to Amendments 5 and 6, I

1        want to also be clear that the Legislature has  
2        every intention of upholding the Constitution,  
3        both the Federal Constitution and the Voting  
4        Rights Act, the State Constitution and the new  
5        standards that were put on in Amendments 5 and  
6        6, and all the laws and case law that exists.  
7        There is a lot of it, but my co-Chairman and I  
8        are committed to making sure that we follow the  
9        law.

10            This is one of the most, if not the most  
11        transparent redistricting process in the  
12        country. We are proud of that. There are  
13        other states, like Illinois and others, who  
14        have already passed their maps and they are  
15        already done, and they did it with almost  
16        relatively no public input at all, and we just  
17        don't think that is right.

18            So we appreciate your time today. We  
19        appreciate your patience. We appreciate your  
20        input. I look forward to working with you in  
21        the future and the members of this committee.  
22        And, Mr. Chairman, I hope that we were able to  
23        clear up a few things, and we just encourage  
24        you to work with us going forward to help us  
25        make the product on the back end, which is the

1       actual maps that come out that we vote on, the  
2       best that they can possibly be. Thank you very  
3       much.

4               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

5               This may have been for some of you your  
6       first opportunity to have input into this  
7       process, but it won't be your last. As the  
8       Speaker indicated, we will continue to take  
9       public input over the next few weeks. That  
10      doesn't mean that members of this committee  
11      aren't thinking about, "Well, gee, based on  
12      what I heard in Hardee County, I wonder, maybe  
13      this approach or that approach might be best as  
14      we draw maps." I think there are people who  
15      are on the committee who are learning a great  
16      deal. I certainly am. I have gotten page  
17      after page after page of notes that I wouldn't  
18      have otherwise gotten if I would have just been  
19      in a Tallahassee echo chamber.

20              You will have opportunities to observe  
21      this process and participate if you want.  
22      Before my votes are taken on any proposed maps  
23      in any committee, the public will have an  
24      opportunity to speak. All of those meetings  
25      will be held in the public, and the public will

1 be invited to give its input. And before any  
2 maps are considered on the floor of the Senate  
3 or the House, the public will see those maps,  
4 they will be on the Internet. There may not be  
5 one map, there may be two or three or four or  
6 five options, and when we get to the floor,  
7 there may be amendments that create additional  
8 options, and all of that will be done in the  
9 public.

10 So we hope that you will stay engaged in  
11 the process. We hope that those of you who  
12 say, "Where are the maps," will look at the  
13 maps that there are. Already we've gotten 15  
14 maps that have been proposed that are now part  
15 of the legislative process. One was proposed  
16 yesterday during the hearing that we had in  
17 Polk County. My guess is that by the end of  
18 today, we will have more maps proposed. And  
19 any member of this committee, Democrat or  
20 Republican, House member or Senator, may  
21 propose any map at any time and make comment on  
22 any maps that have been proposed.

23 If there are no other questions, no other  
24 comments from any members of the committee or  
25 the public, Representative Weatherford moves we

1           rise.

2                   (Whereupon, the proceedings were

3           concluded.)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )

3 COUNTY OF LEON )

4 I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript  
5 is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned,  
6 and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting  
7 under my direction;

8 That the foregoing pages 2 through 52 represent  
9 a true, correct, and complete transcript of the tape-  
10 recording;

11 And I further certify that I am not of kin or  
12 counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the  
13 regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor  
14 am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

15 Dated this 20th day of November, 2011.

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

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Notary Public

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State of Florida at Large

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Commission Expires:

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November 13, 2014

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REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

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TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2011

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6:00 P.M.

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WIREGRASS RANCH HIGH SCHOOL

14

WESLEY CHAPEL, FLORIDA

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Transcribed by:

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

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Court Reporter

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1 T A P E D P R O C E E D I N G S

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: If we could  
3 get everybody to find a seat, we are going to  
4 start momentarily. If we could get everyone to  
5 find their seat, please. If we could get  
6 everyone to grab their seat, please, we are  
7 ready to start. Please find a seat.

8 Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, if we could  
9 please get everyone's attention, we are going  
10 to go ahead and get started. My name is Will  
11 Weatherford, and I would like to welcome  
12 everyone to the Joint Senate/House  
13 Redistricting Hearing, and it is now called to  
14 order.

15 First of all, I want to thank everyone for  
16 taking the time to come out tonight in  
17 beautiful Wesley Chapel, and Pasco County is  
18 doing us proud tonight, and as you can see, we  
19 have brought a lot of friends from the  
20 Legislature to meet you and to hear from you,  
21 and we really appreciate your participation, so  
22 thank you for being here. We also want to  
23 thank Wiregrass High School for allowing us to  
24 use this wonderful facility.

25 And I also want you to know that I, along

1 with my colleague and co-Chairman, Senator Don  
2 Gaetz, will be chairing today's hearing. It  
3 will also be webcast live by the Florida  
4 Channel over the Internet.

5 Before we get started and start going into  
6 the public testimony, I would like to give  
7 every member of the committee a chance to very  
8 briefly introduce themselves and let you all  
9 know who they are and where they are from. We  
10 have a very diverse group here from both  
11 parties and from all over the state that have  
12 come to listen to you and to listen to the  
13 concerns of Pasco County, and so we would like  
14 to give them an opportunity.

15 But before we do that, I would like to  
16 allow Representative John Legg, who is also a  
17 Representative of Pasco County and one of the  
18 co-Chairs of our congressional committee, to  
19 speak and welcome everyone. So if you would,  
20 please, everyone recognize Representative John  
21 Legg.

22 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Thank you, Speaker  
23 Designate, Representative Weatherford. I just  
24 want to say welcome, everyone, to Pasco County.  
25 I am a little biased to this area. I think it

1 is one of the greatest places on earth. But  
2 the thing that is even better about this place  
3 is its people, and I think tonight that members  
4 of this committee will see some very passionate  
5 people who really care deeply about this state  
6 and this country who have a variety of views  
7 about the lines on how they should be drawn,  
8 and I just want to welcome members of the  
9 State, the legislative -- all over the state to  
10 this area, and also the people of this county,  
11 and you do us proud, you work hard, we all have  
12 various views and I am very proud -- proud of  
13 this group and I look forward to hearing from  
14 you guys tonight.

15 And for those of you who don't know me, my  
16 name is John Legg. I represent the west side  
17 of the county.

18 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Good evening,  
19 I am State Representative Gwyndolen  
20 Clarke-Reed, and I represent House District 92,  
21 which is the northeast portion of Broward  
22 County.

23 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Hazelle Rogers,  
24 State Representative, District 94 in Broward  
25 County that boasts 1.8 million residents, one

1 of the most diverse counties in the state of  
2 Florida. It is good to be here.

3 REPRESENTATIVE REED: Good evening, I am  
4 Betty Reed. I represent District 59 in  
5 Hillsborough County, which is Tampa.

6 REPRESENTATIVE CAMPBELL: Good evening,  
7 Representative Daphne Campbell, District 108  
8 from Miami.

9 REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: State  
10 Representative Evan Jenne, District 100 in  
11 southeast Broward, and thank you all for having  
12 us here.

13 REPRESENTATIVE CORCORAN: Representative  
14 Richard Corcoran from District 45, which is  
15 Pasco and Pinellas Counties. Thank you for  
16 being here.

17 REPRESENTATIVE STARGEL: Good evening, I  
18 am Representative Kelli Stargel from Polk  
19 County, District 64, and I love Pasco County, I  
20 actually graduated from Land O' Lakes High  
21 School.

22 REPRESENTATIVE ROUSON: Good afternoon,  
23 Darryl Rouson. I represent District 55, which  
24 is south Pinellas County, north Manatee, north  
25 Sarasota and one little precinct in

1 Hillsborough County.

2 SENATOR JOYNER: Good evening, my name is  
3 Arthenia Joyner, I am State Senator, District  
4 18, representing portions of Hillsborough,  
5 Pinellas and Manatee Counties.

6 SENATOR NORMAN: Hello, I am Senator Jim  
7 Norman, representing Senate District 12, and  
8 members that are all here today, welcome to  
9 God's country. This is my district, and thank  
10 you all for coming out, what an absolutely  
11 wonderful turn-out, and this is the kind of  
12 leadership that we told everybody that attended  
13 tonight that would be representing Pasco  
14 County, and thank you all for being here  
15 tonight.

16 SENATOR SIPLIN: Jim, they like you.  
17 State Senator Gary Siplin, Orlando,  
18 Florida, District 19, Democrat.

19 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: My name is Peter  
20 Nehr. I am a State Representative from  
21 District 48, which encompasses north Pinellas  
22 County and south Pasco.

23 REPRESENTATIVE PLAKON: Good evening, I am  
24 Scott Plakon, Florida House District 37, Orange  
25 and Seminole Counties.

1           REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: Kathleen  
2           Passidomo, Representative, District 76, from  
3           Collier County. I represent Naples, Marco  
4           Island, Everglades City, and I just want you to  
5           know I spent a good deal of money in your  
6           wonderful mall here, so I helped your -- thank  
7           you.

8           REPRESENTATIVE GOODSON: Good evening,  
9           Representative Tom Goodson. I represent House  
10          District 29, Brevard County and Indian River  
11          County.

12          REPRESENTATIVE CALDWELL: Good evening,  
13          Representative Matt Caldwell, District 73,  
14          which is Lee County, Ft. Myers, Lehigh Acres.

15          REPRESENTATIVE BURGIN: Good evening,  
16          Representative Rachel Burgin from the city of  
17          Tampa and eastern Hillsborough County, District  
18          56.

19          REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: Hello, Ritch  
20          Workman, District 30, it is Brevard County, the  
21          Space Coast.

22          REPRESENTATIVE BRODEUR: Good evening, my  
23          name is Jason Brodeur, State Representative  
24          from District 33, which I am proud to represent  
25          parts of Volusia County, Seminole County and

1           Orange County. Thank you.

2           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Steve Precourt,  
3           House District 41, from the heart of central  
4           Florida, basically Disney World and that  
5           environment.

6           REPRESENTATIVE HOOPER: I am Ed Hooper,  
7           House District 50, which is central Pinellas  
8           County.

9           REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: I am  
10          Representative Jim Frishe, and I represent the  
11          western edge of Pinellas County, all the  
12          beaches. It is a tough duty.

13          REPRESENTATIVE EISNAUGLE: Good evening,  
14          Eric Eisnaugle from Orlando, representing  
15          District 40, which is -- takes in a portion of  
16          Orange County.

17          REPRESENTATIVE DIAZ: Good evening, Jose  
18          Diaz. I am from Miami, Florida, and I  
19          represent District 115.

20          REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Good evening, John  
21          Patrick Julien, representing House District  
22          104, Miami-Dade County. It is a pleasure to be  
23          here.

24          REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Good evening,  
25          State Representative Mack Bernard, District 84,



1 West Palm Beach, Florida.

2 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Good evening,  
3 Chuck Chestnut, House District 23, a portion of  
4 Marion County and a portion of Alachua County.

5 REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: Good evening,  
6 Dennis Baxley, Florida House District 24,  
7 Ocala, Marion County.

8 REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Ocala fans.

9 Mike Horner, District 79, Osceola,  
10 Okeechobee, Orange and Polk County.

11 REPRESENTATIVE CRISAFULLI: Good evening,  
12 Steve Crisafulli, House District 32, which is  
13 Brevard and east Orange County.

14 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Good evening,  
15 everyone. My name is Dwayne Taylor. I  
16 represent House District 27, which is in  
17 Volusia County, I represent six cities there,  
18 and I am glad to be here tonight with you in  
19 Weatherford Chapel -- I mean Wesley Chapel.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: All right.  
21 Thank you very much, members. And ladies and  
22 gentlemen, if we could, please, give a round of  
23 applause. We have a lot of members came a long  
24 way to hear you speak tonight. Thank you all  
25 for being here. We are going to get moving

1       here, there's a lot to achieve and a lot of  
2       people to hear from.

3               First I want folks to know that our sole  
4       purpose here is to hear from the public about  
5       how you believe the legal standards governing  
6       redistricting should be applied in our  
7       community here so that you are represented  
8       properly both in Washington, DC, and in  
9       Tallahassee. That is fairly, equitably and  
10      sensibly, I might add.

11             Our procedures today are simple, but they  
12      are very important. It is important that you  
13      sign in so that we can create an accurate  
14      public record of all the attendees and the  
15      speakers. Also, you may opt to join our e-mail  
16      lists so that we can keep you informed of how  
17      the redistricting process is working  
18      throughout. If you have not signed in, please  
19      raise your hand, and a staff member will give  
20      you an attendance card. If you wish to speak  
21      today and you have not filled out an attendance  
22      card, please raise your hand, and we will get  
23      you a card and so we can make sure not to miss  
24      your testimony.

25             Before we begin, for a few minutes I would

1       like to recognize my co-Chair, Senator Don  
2       Gaetz, to explain today's hearing and how it  
3       fits into the redistricting process.  Senator  
4       Gaetz.

5               SENATOR GAETZ:  Thank you very much,  
6       Mr. Chairman, and let me take a point of  
7       personal privilege.  I am from the Panhandle of  
8       Florida.  I represent five counties in coastal  
9       northwest Florida.  I am from the other  
10      chamber, I am from the Senate, so I don't have  
11      a dog in the fight down here, but let me say  
12      this:  You are extraordinarily fortunate to  
13      have in your legislative delegation the next  
14      Speaker of the House of the State of Florida,  
15      the Honorable Will Weatherford.

16             Every ten years, the Legislature is  
17      required by the Constitution to redistrict the  
18      state based on increases, decreases and  
19      movements of population.  Now, because Florida  
20      has grown more than other states in the last  
21      ten years, we will move up from 25 members of  
22      the U.S. House of Representatives representing  
23      Florida to 27 members, and we get two more  
24      electoral votes in the presidential election.  
25      Because some parts of our state have increased

1       or decreased disproportionately in population,  
2       many Senate and House districts will change  
3       their boundaries, either adding or losing  
4       population, or being changed in configuration  
5       altogether.

6               When redistricting is completed,  
7       congressional districts by federal law must be  
8       equal in population, equal in population, and  
9       contain 696,345 people. That is for one  
10      congressional district, not more, not less.  
11      The 40 Senate districts, the state Senate  
12      districts, must be nearly equal at about  
13      470,000 people, and the 120 House districts  
14      must be nearly equal at about 156,700 people.

15             Now, there are displays at the front of  
16      the room -- or the back of the room here when  
17      you came in showing maps that have the current  
18      boundaries of districts in this area of the  
19      state, and also you can see over there a chart  
20      showing the number of persons that have to be  
21      added to or subtracted from current districts  
22      to achieve equal representation. And this is a  
23      part of the state that has grown substantially  
24      in population in the last ten years.

25             But equality of representation is not the

1       only legal requirement that redistricting plans  
2       have to meet. The laws and the important court  
3       cases governing redistricting are explained in  
4       detail on the House and the Senate websites.  
5       Those websites are listed in the "Redistricting  
6       2012" brochure that was available to all of  
7       you -- I see many of you have it in your  
8       hands -- it was available when you came in.  
9       Now, this "Redistricting 2012" brochure  
10      summarizes federal and state laws and outlines  
11      topics which we really need to hear from you  
12      about at today's hearing. If you did not get a  
13      copy when you came in, you can certainly get a  
14      copy on the way out, or our staff will be happy  
15      to give you a copy while you are sitting here.

16             The brochure lists the House and Senate  
17      websites, and these websites are really good,  
18      they are packed with information about  
19      redistricting in Florida, including an  
20      explanation of the laws and important court  
21      cases we have to follow governing  
22      redistricting. The two websites are  
23      complementary, they are updated frequently.  
24      Visit both, check them out often. It is a  
25      great way to stay current about how your new

1 congressional Senate and House districts are  
2 taking shape.

3 The websites also deliver to your  
4 fingertips all of the demographic information  
5 that we received from the U.S. Bureau of the  
6 Census, demographic information that will be  
7 used in drawing districts, and the exact same  
8 computer programs that legislators and  
9 professional staff will use.

10 Any member of the public can participate  
11 in building plans or in seeing plans that have  
12 already been submitted -- submitted by  
13 legislators or by citizens or interest groups.  
14 Before, during and after this hearing, House  
15 and Senate staff are available to show anybody  
16 the simple steps to getting on-line, building  
17 districts, observing the districts that are  
18 already there that you can see, and if you  
19 wish, submitting a plan of your own for this  
20 area of the state or the whole state now and in  
21 the weeks to come. And I can tell you that I  
22 am techno stupid, and it took them 15 minutes  
23 to get me familiar with these websites and how  
24 to use them, so I know you will be able to do a  
25 lot better.

1           Recommendations from citizens and groups  
2       of citizens will be made publicly available as  
3       soon as we get your input. In fact, there are  
4       already 16 maps which have been submitted. So  
5       if somebody says, "Show me the maps," there are  
6       16 maps on the website. Most of them are also  
7       depicted in charts and maps on that side of the  
8       room as you came in. I saw many of you looking  
9       at them. You can look at them as you go out as  
10      well. And we have received already about 70  
11      written ideas for maps that are available on  
12      the Web. So we have gotten -- there are 16  
13      maps already produced and available for you,  
14      and about 70 written submissions that say,  
15      "Here is how we think our community or our  
16      districts ought to be drawn." The submission  
17      of proposed maps that makes sense for this  
18      community is the single most effective form of  
19      public participation in the redistricting  
20      process.

21           Now, the redistricting schedule under  
22      which we are operating, the timeline is imposed  
23      by the State Constitution. We can't change the  
24      timeline. The Constitution does not permit the  
25      Legislature to vote on state legislative maps

1       before the second year after the census.  
2       Census was taken in 2010, so our Constitution  
3       says we can't vote before 2012. But we have  
4       accelerated the process, we have speeded it up  
5       as much as legally possible by moving up our  
6       2012 legislative session from March, when it  
7       usually begins, to January, which is the first  
8       time we can legally vote, and by beginning our  
9       statewide hearings five months in advance of  
10      the 2012 session, and beginning committee  
11      meetings in September instead of December so  
12      that we can move as quickly as we get maps  
13      submitted by legislators, by interest groups or  
14      by individual citizens.

15             Now, it's been suggested that the  
16      Legislature itself should draw maps first, and  
17      then ask the public for comment; in other  
18      words, not to ask you for your opinions, just  
19      to give you maps. We believe that puts the  
20      answer ahead of the question. We think there  
21      ought to be no preconceptions created by  
22      politicians, but, rather, public testimony  
23      should be free and unrestricted. If we came to  
24      you tonight and said, "Here are the maps that  
25      have already been put together by legislators,"



1       there would be people who would stand up and  
2       say, "How dare you not listen to the people of  
3       Florida before you picked up the pen." So  
4       Chair Weatherford and the Democrats and  
5       Republicans on the Senate and House committees  
6       have decided to listen before we draw. In  
7       fact, a principal author of Florida's new  
8       redistricting standards and the Chairperson for  
9       the Fair Districts campaign are on record with  
10      an agreement that new maps should not be drawn  
11      until after the public has an opportunity to  
12      comment.

13             Our intent is to use the recommendations  
14      made at the 26 public hearings and through our  
15      Internet sites as the basis for developing one  
16      or more options for district maps. We will  
17      discuss those options in open public meetings  
18      before any votes are taken even in committee.  
19      In other words, what we are literally saying  
20      is, if you look at the maps in the back of the  
21      room and if you go on the websites and look at  
22      the maps that are there now, those maps  
23      actually submitted to the Legislature by  
24      Florida citizens are the maps that we will  
25      begin with and begin the legislative process

1       with. We will solicit other suggestions from  
2       the public, but we think we ought to start with  
3       what communities believe themselves makes  
4       sense, and then we can improve on them, if we  
5       can. So if you want to know where we will  
6       begin our deliberations, it is with those  
7       public submissions and testimony from these  
8       meetings and other input that you will give us.  
9       Throughout the process, we will solicit  
10      additional public comment so that proposed maps  
11      can mature with the public involved, all before  
12      the Legislature approves final maps.

13           Whatever the Legislature passes is then  
14      submitted for judicial review. So we don't get  
15      to decide what we want to do all by ourselves.  
16      First we listen to you. Then we take your  
17      input, we develop maps, then we vote on them  
18      after we have had public hearings at which  
19      people can comment. And then our maps are  
20      submitted for judicial review to ensure that  
21      any plan that is approved by the Legislature  
22      meets constitutional requirements at the state  
23      level and meets legal requirements at the  
24      federal level.

25           Because, Mr. Chairman, our purpose today

1 is to hear from those who come here in your  
2 hometown to share their views, all the time  
3 between now and adjournment would be used to  
4 ensure that every member of the public who is  
5 here and wishes to speak will have some time to  
6 present testimony. If after every citizen has  
7 had his or her say, if there is time remaining,  
8 and we hope there will be, before our scheduled  
9 adjournment, then any member of the committee  
10 may make any statement, answer or ask any  
11 question, make any proposal. Any member of the  
12 Legislature, Democrat or Republican, House  
13 member or Senator, may today or at any time  
14 either propose a map or associate themselves  
15 with maps that have already been proposed, and  
16 we will make any map that any legislator  
17 proposes immediately available to the public  
18 just as you have the maps in the back of the  
19 room.

20 Mr. Chairman, Mr. Speaker, I hope this  
21 description of our schedule and process helps  
22 set the stage tonight for a successful hearing.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
24 very much, Chairman Gaetz, for that thorough  
25 explanation, and ladies and gentlemen, we are

1 going to go ahead and get started. We are  
2 going to try to adjourn right at nine o'clock,  
3 so there's over 60 individuals who signed up to  
4 speak, and what we would ask is that you be  
5 judicious with your time. We want to give  
6 everyone the opportunity to say what they have  
7 to say, but we try to ask everybody to hold it  
8 to about three minutes, if possible.

9 I am going to call out two names at a  
10 time, the speaker and then the person who is on  
11 deck.

12 Our first speaker tonight is Mr. Cliff  
13 McDuffie. Mr. McDuffie is Mayor of  
14 Zephyrhills. Mayor, you are recognized here to  
15 speak before the committee.

16 After Mr. McDuffie, we will have Mr. Wil  
17 Nickerson.

18 You are recognized, sir.

19 MAYOR McDUFFIE: Thank you, I am not used  
20 to being first.

21 My name is Cliff McDuffie. I am the Mayor  
22 of Zephyrhills, and I have lived in Pasco  
23 County for 14 years now. I came up from  
24 Hillsborough County, so I am familiar with the  
25 area.

1           I have a number of things. First I would  
2       like to say I do not envy you at all at what  
3       you are doing. I spent most of the day looking  
4       at districts on the computer, and my eyes are  
5       kind of blurry, but --

6           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: If you could,  
7       Mayor, I'm sorry, just speak up a little bit.  
8       It is kind of hard to hear.

9           MAYOR McDUFFIE: Do I need to get right on  
10      top of it? Okay.

11          I don't think that the current districts,  
12      in my opinion, adequately represent the people  
13      that y'all are supposed to serve, and I  
14      understand you do this by the numbers, so my  
15      biggest problem there is the fact that  
16      Zephyrhills is thrown in with Hillsborough and  
17      Polk County on the Senate side, the only place  
18      in Pasco County that's done that.

19          Currently we have some six House  
20      Representatives who represent Pasco as well as  
21      other counties. I don't think that they can do  
22      that adequately. The old saying is you can't  
23      serve two masters.

24          I would prefer that Pasco County be more  
25      strongly represented, and I know that we do

1       this by the numbers, but I think that we have  
2       the numbers in Pasco County now that we can  
3       hopefully, as far as the House goes anyway, cut  
4       that up so that we can have our own  
5       Representatives and not somebody else's.

6               And I hope that this particular trial  
7       doesn't morph into what we see in Washington  
8       right now. I hope that our elected legislators  
9       can put this together in an ethic way -- an  
10      ethical way, and I hope that the partisanship  
11      is not going to be an issue here and that  
12      personal politics is not going to be an issue  
13      here. But, again, I appreciate what y'all are  
14      doing and I hope that we get it done right, if  
15      that -- if you can ever do that. Thank you  
16      very much, and I thank you all for representing  
17      the State of Florida. Thank you.

18              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
19      Mayor, we appreciate your comments, sir.

20              Next up we have Mr. Wil Nickerson, and if  
21      we could, I know there is some chatter in the  
22      back, if we could take all the chatter kind of  
23      outside the room. It is already hard to hear  
24      in here, and we want to make sure that the  
25      committee and all the members of the public can

1           hear our speakers.

2                   Mr. Nickerson, you are recognized.

3                   MR. NICKERSON: Well, thank you very much.

4           I would like to thank all the esteemed  
5           legislators for coming out and hearing us, and  
6           with that, I will get right into it.

7                   I will have to agree somewhat with the  
8           last speaker, we do have quite an abundance of  
9           legislators in our county, but we also have a  
10          very diverse county, and with that, I think we  
11          have a good checks and balances with the  
12          people.

13                  We have extreme dense population on our  
14          west side, we have farm, rural and industrial  
15          on our east side, and right up the middle on  
16          the 41 corridor we got quite a mixture. So we  
17          are very diverse and we need diversity in our  
18          legislators.

19                  We also -- the one little corner, the  
20          southeast corner, mostly Crystal Springs, parts  
21          of Zephyrhills that Mayor just spoke to, we do  
22          have two Representatives in that area, which  
23          probably confuse the issue a little -- sorry,  
24          Ronda -- but, you know, it is a very miniscule  
25          in numbers compared to some of the other areas

1 of Pasco.

2 To get into some of the things on the --  
3 the, yeah, minority groups, and Pasco also is  
4 very diversified in that, instead of what I  
5 have read in a lot of the redistricting, there  
6 are needed areas that need -- minorities need  
7 representation. In Pasco County, and I have  
8 been here through in real estate back in the  
9 '80s when the minority representation was under  
10 .5 percent, now the Hispanic and blacks are  
11 representing approximately 15 percent, if I am  
12 correct on that figure. But it is a very  
13 diverse representation, again, from the east to  
14 the west, to the Wesley Chapel area, and we  
15 need to keep that diversity so that we have  
16 people looking for what they need from their  
17 representation.

18 I understand the one person, one vote  
19 premise of the whole thing of redistricting,  
20 but when you look at the last elections in  
21 Pasco County, and if I am going to read my crib  
22 sheets here, the -- 19 percent came out in the  
23 primary, 64 percent in the general, and in  
24 2000, going back the ten years that we are  
25 looking at redistricting, those numbers didn't



1 change a whole heck of a lot. A lot more  
2 people came out for the primary and --

3 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr.  
4 Nickerson, you know I love you, buddy, but you  
5 are going to have to help me out, keep it under  
6 three minutes. So if you could kind of put a  
7 bow on it for me.

8 MR. NICKERSON: Okay. You know me, I  
9 can't help myself.

10 But all things considered, I think we are  
11 doing a good job here in Pasco, we got good  
12 representation. We just need to watch that we  
13 don't ruin the balance that we do have.

14 So thank you very much. Have a great  
15 evening.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
17 very much.

18 And I apologize, I didn't give this next  
19 person a heads-up, that was my fault, but  
20 Anthony Lister, Tony Lister, is next as our  
21 speaker. Mr. Lister, you are recognized, sir,  
22 and after Mr. Lister we are going to have  
23 Mr. Ed Blommel.

24 Tony, thank you for being here, buddy.

25 MR. LISTER: I will try to hurry up. I

1 got my notes on my little iPad thing here,  
2 sorry.

3 Good evening, my name is Anthony Lister.  
4 I am a former city commissioner and Mayor of  
5 the City of San Antonio, Florida. I want to  
6 thank you all for being here this evening. I  
7 know your job is very difficult, and with that,  
8 I will get right to it.

9 I would like to speak to the differences  
10 between east and west Pasco, not disrespecting  
11 west or east Pasco, but just to draw some  
12 differences between the two. I believe, you  
13 know, in my times on the city commission that  
14 east -- east Pasco is a very rural, very  
15 agricultural type of community, and west Pasco  
16 has just really exploded, and I think we have  
17 -- because of that, we have a bunch of  
18 differences that maybe the representation, you  
19 know, should be like there are -- in east  
20 Pasco, we have a lot of, again, rural and  
21 agricultural, we have a lot of farms, we have a  
22 lot of citrus -- citrus farms, we have  
23 businesses that are not necessarily made and  
24 bought and sold, but, rather, handed down from  
25 generation to generation. And working with

1       these people, you know, on the city commission,  
2       it is just a different type of lifestyle. It  
3       is very wonderful, it is very laid back, it is  
4       very refreshed, and in an attempt to try to get  
5       like representation, the other speakers and  
6       speakers, I think, will probably, you know,  
7       outline those differences as well.

8               Another note is it is very difficult,  
9       because Pasco County is so fragmented, to be  
10      elected to, you know, Congress and -- you know,  
11      and to have representation, you know, a strong  
12      representation here in Pasco County, it is, I  
13      think, very important, and east Pasco, just  
14      trying to draw those differences.

15             So I don't know if I filled my three  
16      minutes, but I do appreciate you all coming  
17      down this evening. Thank you.

18             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
19      very much, Mr. Lister. We appreciate your  
20      comments.

21             Next up we have Mr. Ed Blommel. Followed  
22      by that, we have Steve Grossenbacher. Steve,  
23      if you could get ready to go.

24             Ed, thank you for being here, you are  
25      recognized.

1           MR. BLOMMEL: Thank you. I want to  
2           appreciate -- tell you how much I appreciate  
3           what y'all are doing, it is an awesome task  
4           that you have.

5           But I want to go back just a little bit in  
6           history. Ten years ago when we went through  
7           redistricting, afterwards it made no sense when  
8           you looked at it on paper. And I do want to  
9           say that my comments are not politically  
10          motivated. So I have friends who are in all  
11          the parties from municipalities all the way  
12          through Congress. But I am the fourth speaker,  
13          and I am already hearing a pattern being  
14          developed over the difference in the east and  
15          west of Pasco County, and even if you look at  
16          Hernando and Sumter County, and if you take  
17          into consideration communities of interest, you  
18          can see some definitely difference in those  
19          areas between east and west.

20          In the past, in dealing with a lot of  
21          folks, you would ask them who their  
22          Representative was, who their Senator was, who  
23          their congressional representative was, they  
24          weren't sure, and maybe part of that is because  
25          they didn't get involved. But if you look at

1       the maps, it was really difficult to figure out  
2       who is serving who.

3               I would encourage you to take into  
4       consideration some geographical boundaries.  
5       Look at something like either the Interstate or  
6       the Suncoast Parkway, look at the counties that  
7       I mentioned, Pasco, Hernando and Sumter, look  
8       at the difference between what we see on the  
9       east and west side and take into consideration  
10      your communities of interest. I think it will  
11      mean a lot if you do that, and I -- once again,  
12      I want to thank you and I appreciate your time  
13      and what you are doing. Thank you.

14              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
15      very much, Mr. Blommel.

16              Mr. Grossenbacher, good to see you, sir,  
17      you are up, and after that we have Ms. Jocelyn  
18      Dickman. You are recognized, sir.

19              MR. GROSSENBACHER: Hi, my name is --

20              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Please speak  
21      very close to the mike. We want to make sure  
22      everybody can hear you.

23              MR. GROSSENBACHER: It kind of rattles  
24      around.

25              My name is Steve Grossenbacher, and I live

1 at 26511 Whirlaway Terrace in Wesley Chapel,  
2 beautiful downtown Wesley Chapel, I might add,  
3 and I am a life-long Florida boy. I grew up in  
4 Hillsborough County. I left there in some  
5 dismay after a lot of things that I don't like  
6 politically in Hillsborough County, and I'm  
7 sorry, I had to say that, and I came to Pasco  
8 County in 1990. And my discussion and my  
9 comments are going to be very brief.

10 My wife asked me to speak on her behalf.  
11 She is very capable, that is my beautiful bride  
12 over there, and --

13 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: That young  
14 lady over there? How did you pull that off?

15 MR. GROSSENBACHER: To make this short, I  
16 wanted to -- to speak, and she gave me  
17 permission to do that, so I am happy about  
18 that.

19 The point I would like to make, I am very  
20 happy with my representation in Pasco County,  
21 both in the House and in the Senate, and our  
22 U.S. Representatives as well. So I don't like  
23 the fluidity that I have seen in the past,  
24 years back, where some areas, it looks like  
25 jello when you look at a map. I would like to

1           see that condensed. I like Pasco County  
2           geographically like it is.

3           So that is all I have to say, and thank  
4           you all for hearing us.

5           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
6           very much. We appreciate those comments. Next  
7           up we have Ms. Jocelyn Dickman. Followed by  
8           Ms. Dickman, we have Ronnie Deese.

9           Ms. Dickman, you are recognized. Thank  
10          you for being here.

11          MS. DICKMAN: Thank you, and thanks  
12          everyone for coming up to Wesley Chapel and  
13          Pasco County. I am used to seeing everyone on  
14          TV, so it is nice to see you all here.

15          The first thing is, I know you all are  
16          sitting up there and we all are sitting back  
17          here, but I think it is important, especially  
18          in this process, to remember that people are  
19          elected to serve the people, so we are here,  
20          but we're your bosses. So this process is  
21          being done for us, the voters, who in November  
22          did vote overwhelmingly for the Fair Districts  
23          legislation, which means we want our districts  
24          drawn, key word, fairly, and we as citizens and  
25          voters are here to say that we want to choose

1       our legislators and not have our legislators  
2       choose their constituents. And I think my  
3       friends on both sides of the aisle can agree  
4       with this, that this is a small government  
5       issue. The more government tells us what our  
6       districts are and who our elected officials are  
7       going to be, the worse it is for the people.

8               And I did note the little run -- I didn't  
9       notice that -- maps of what it might be are not  
10      here, and the maps are the old maps, and I  
11      would really wonder where the maps are of what  
12      it could be.

13             And, again, I welcome you and I thank you  
14      for having these meetings and ask you to please  
15      remember that it is about the citizens first.  
16      Thank you.

17             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
18      very much.

19             Mr. Deese, you are recognized, sir, and  
20      then following Mr. Deese, we have Ms. Vonnice  
21      Mikkelson from the Greater Zephyrhills Chamber.

22             You are recognized.

23             MR. DEESE: Thank you, and good evening.  
24      I want to thank the Florida Legislature for  
25      going into the communities of Florida and



1 listening to input from the Florida residents.  
2 I especially want to thank you tonight,  
3 Representative Weatherford and other members  
4 here, for coming into our local community.  
5 Thank you.

6 My name is Ronnie Deese, and I have lived  
7 and worked in the bay area for 40 years, and  
8 prior to that, up around Panama City, Florida.

9 Pasco County is distinct and different  
10 from Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties. While  
11 those counties are becoming national urban  
12 centers competing with each other and other  
13 major metropolitan regions in terms of jobs,  
14 art, sports and living conditions, Pasco County  
15 retains two distinct communities: A small  
16 urban west side of the county and a more rural,  
17 small charm county located on the east side of  
18 the county. You cannot compare Pasco with any  
19 of its other neighbors. East Pasco is very  
20 similar to the southern portions of Sumter  
21 County; however, as a whole, I suspect Sumter  
22 politics is increasingly dominated by The  
23 Villages.

24 Hernando County shares the most similarity  
25 to Pasco County. West Hernando has built along

1 Highway 19 and is comprised of large retirement  
2 and urban communities very similar to west  
3 Pasco.

4 East Pasco, on the other hand, with its  
5 pure rural lifestyle and Tampa commuters is  
6 very similar to east Pasco. Lake County and on  
7 the other side of Pasco County will have some  
8 rural areas adjacent to Pasco County. Lake as  
9 a whole, the other areas of Lake County and its  
10 representation is increasingly being dominated  
11 by the metropolitan lifestyle of Orlando, its  
12 tourist attractions and the commercial  
13 attractions in the I-4 corridor.

14 In my experience working for 23 years with  
15 the people of Pasco County, I find two distinct  
16 groups of people with different views. East  
17 Pasco, east Hernando, southern Sumter and west  
18 Lake County are all currently rural and/or  
19 small-town views and are comprised of a mixture  
20 of rural and Tampa working adults. The west  
21 Pasco population reflects a more urban and a  
22 retiree lifestyle. Recent studies supporting  
23 modifications to Pasco County impact fees  
24 recognize these differences, and Pasco County  
25 adopted ordinances that support the two

1 different populations and their different  
2 lifestyles.

3 Because of the diversity of Pasco from  
4 surrounding counties, and because of the two  
5 different and distinct populations living  
6 within Pasco County, in my opinion, Pasco  
7 County needs to have their own representation  
8 for these communities and not diluted with  
9 votes from non-similar populations. Two  
10 Senators, three House seats for Pasco County,  
11 the Senate seats being divided along the same  
12 line as currently separating the two lifestyles  
13 within Pasco County, perhaps the Suncoast  
14 Parkway.

15 Finally, as to our Washington  
16 congressional seats, please give consideration  
17 to the fact that the Pasco vote is so diluted  
18 by the current arrangement, it is difficult to  
19 impossible to elect someone from Pasco County  
20 to represent the Pasco County residents.

21 I thank you for your time.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
23 Mr. Deese.

24 Next up we have Vonnie Mikkelson.

25 Followed by Ms. Vonnie, we have our Supervisor

1 of Elections, Brian Corley.

2 You are recognized, Vonnice. Thank you for  
3 being here.

4 MS. MIKKELSON: Thank you, Chairman  
5 Weatherford, committee and the Florida  
6 Legislature for providing this opportunity for  
7 citizens' input in this very important process.

8 I am Vonnice Mikkelson, Executive Director  
9 of the Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce,  
10 and on behalf of the more than 400 businesses  
11 and community organizations served by the  
12 Zephyrhills Chamber, I would like to present a  
13 couple of our ideas.

14 I would, after hearing the last speaker,  
15 in all due respect, would like to disagree with  
16 the fact that the east side of Pasco is rural.  
17 I actually live in central Pasco in Land O'  
18 Lakes, and I have worked for the Greater  
19 Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce for the last  
20 year and a half. I have been pleasantly  
21 surprised on a daily basis of the activity and  
22 the potential for growth in this side of the  
23 county, and I think it is part of my job to  
24 make sure that residents, visitors,  
25 Congressmen, Congresswomen and Representatives

1 of our great county and our great area know  
2 this and continue to look forward and  
3 appreciate at least our perceptions and our  
4 ideas to change these perceptions.

5 During the last year and a half as  
6 Executive Director, I have come to understand  
7 some of the interesting dynamics of this area.  
8 As economic and business development has been  
9 discussed with local businesses, business  
10 owners, government staff, elected officials, it  
11 has become and more evident that we must think  
12 collectively and regionally.

13 It is obvious that we are a smaller part  
14 of the Tampa Bay/west central Florida economic  
15 region; however, over the past several years,  
16 as growth has occurred in this region, the  
17 central east Pasco area has become a more  
18 significant player in the region for growth.  
19 Based on the evolving submarket region,  
20 business owners believe it to be imperative to  
21 have representation on both the state and  
22 national level that understands the  
23 significance of this growth region.

24 We are centrally located in the state of  
25 Florida to all regions. We have the ability to

1 capitalize on a variety of logistics from two  
2 Interstates, rail, port access, air expansion  
3 possibilities and the availability of land.

4 We are enthusiastic about our future, but  
5 we can better utilize these resources with  
6 Representatives that will work with our local  
7 communities as a whole and understand these  
8 attributes to develop them to the highest level  
9 possible. In today's climate, many entities --

10 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Ms. Vonnice, I  
11 am going to need you to wrap it for me.

12 MS. MIKKELSON: I will be wrapping it up,  
13 thank you.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

15 MS. MIKKELSON: We are looking forward --  
16 we are -- and many entities are looking to  
17 forward-thinking leaders, not only at the local  
18 government, that would represent the state and  
19 national levels. We need local representation  
20 to assist us in bettering our possibilities in  
21 a very competitive market. While east Pasco is  
22 a relevant submarket of central Florida and  
23 Tampa Bay, we share many commonalities with our  
24 partner communities of central and east Pasco.  
25 Those would be Zephyrhills, Crystal Springs,

1 Wesley Chapel, Dade City and so forth. We --  
2 however the lines are drawn, we are asking for  
3 representation that makes sense, and sensible  
4 representation.

5 I would like to invite everybody to the  
6 greater Zephyrhills area, the best-kept secret  
7 in Pasco County --

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: All right.

9 MS. MIKKELSON: -- and thank you again for  
10 your time.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
12 very much, Ms. Vonnice, we appreciate your  
13 comments.

14 Next up we have our wonderful Supervisor  
15 of Elections, Brian Corley, and after Brian,  
16 Ralph Grant. All right.

17 MR. CORLEY: Thank you Mr. Chairman, good  
18 evening. Welcome, members of the Legislature,  
19 welcome to the best county in Florida. Nice to  
20 have y'all here.

21 I want to first thank you all for the  
22 opportunity to provide input on the front end  
23 of this very important topic, and I want to go  
24 on record to applaud all of you for this  
25 unprecedented level of transparency of the

1 process to date. The posting of  
2 citizen-submitted district maps and comments  
3 on-line and these meetings are to be commended.

4 As has already been stated, I don't envy  
5 the daunting task that lies ahead for all of  
6 you. However, I will say this: I am confident  
7 when it is all said and done, my fellow  
8 supervisors and I with my great staff will  
9 continue to make Florida shine with elections  
10 administration.

11 My comments are in a slightly different  
12 light from the other speakers, Mr. Chairman. I  
13 want to briefly focus on two issues that are  
14 very important to my colleagues and I. First,  
15 the issue of time. To conduct successful  
16 elections in 2012, we as elections officials  
17 need time to complete required tasks, time to  
18 adjust precinct lines to new districts, gain  
19 approval of those precincts by the Board of  
20 County Commissioners and notify all voters, all  
21 11 million plus, and nearly 300,000 in Pasco  
22 alone, well in advance of election day. And as  
23 you all are well aware, we can't re-precinct  
24 our counties until your work is done.

25 As such, I would respectfully ask that you



1        approve the new maps as early as possible in  
2        the 2012 session. The earlier in the session  
3        you all approve the plans, the more it will  
4        help us with our required tasks. We have a  
5        very short window of time to do our part, to  
6        get ourselves, and more importantly, the voters  
7        ready in time for election day.

8                The second issue I would like to address  
9        is district lines. In short, please respect  
10       communities when you draw district lines. I  
11       would like to thank the legislative staff, and  
12       particularly Mr. John Guthrie, who has been a  
13       great resource and has provided training for my  
14       colleagues and I. For many of our supervisors,  
15       including myself, this is our first go-round  
16       with redistricting, and it is not a lot of fun  
17       so far and I can only imagine what it is like  
18       for you all. Also, by allowing us to provide  
19       our county voting tabulation districts data,  
20       which is a step in the right direction, as it  
21       takes into consideration the following: Intact  
22       communities, traffic patterns, physical  
23       barriers. Ladies and gentlemen, please adhere  
24       to these lines wherever possible. Ideally, we  
25       would ask that you draw a district line along a

1 county line whenever possible.

2 Again, thank you for the opportunity to  
3 provide some input on this very important  
4 process. As an elections administrator, it is  
5 very much appreciated. Thank you all very  
6 much.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
8 very much, Mr. Corley, and thank you very much  
9 for your service to the state and to our  
10 community.

11 Next up we have Ralph Grant. After  
12 Mr. Grant, we have Milton Chojnowski. Ralph, I  
13 saw you earlier. He may have stepped out for a  
14 moment. How about Milton Chojnowski, is Milton  
15 here? I hope I said your last name right  
16 there, sir. If not, you can correct -- okay,  
17 good.

18 Mr. Chojnowski, thank you for being here,  
19 and we will try to get back to Ralph. You are  
20 recognized, sir.

21 MR. CHOJNOWSKI: My comments are really an  
22 approach that you should take, I think, to get  
23 started. I would suggest that you look at this  
24 whole process by way of the computer. Let the  
25 computer by the various restraints you want to

1 put in it, east and west, rural, city wide,  
2 whatever, and let that make the first cut, and  
3 then after you do that, without getting into  
4 too many side bars, I think you would be able  
5 then to make some modifications to that and not  
6 get into gerrymandering and all the rest of the  
7 stuff. That is all I have to say. Thank you.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
9 very much, sir. Brevity gets bonus points.  
10 Good job.

11 Okay. I don't see Ralph here. Ralph  
12 Grant, is he back? If not, we are going to  
13 move on to Ms. Rachel O'Connor. Rachel, you  
14 are recognized, and after Rachel, we will have  
15 Fern Williams.

16 Rachel, thank you for being here.

17 MS. O'CONNOR: Hi. My name is Rachel  
18 O'Connor. I have been a resident of Pasco  
19 County for over 18 years, and I currently live  
20 in Wesley Chapel. So, first of all, I would  
21 like to thank you guys for taking the time to  
22 get the input of the public, and second of all,  
23 for entering into this public discourse without  
24 pre-drawn maps, because I think that is  
25 emblematic of your openness and willing to

1 consider and use the input of the public.

2           What I would like to say is when you are  
3 drawing the new redistricting -- the new  
4 districts is I think that Pasco County has  
5 benefited greatly from having multiple  
6 representation. As the people before me have  
7 said, Pasco is very diverse, with the west side  
8 being very urban, and the central and east side  
9 still being agricultural based, even though it  
10 is growing, and I would like the Board to  
11 consider when drawing these new districts that  
12 we should probably look at moving the --  
13 looking north, drawing districts north, because  
14 the counties north of us are also designed in  
15 the same way, with the west coast being the  
16 most populated and the east sides of the county  
17 being very agricultural based, and I think they  
18 would be best represented in that way, so thank  
19 you.

20           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
21 very much, Rachel.

22           I see that Ralph is here, but you know  
23 what, I believe that ladies always go first, so  
24 we are going to let Fern -- come on, Ms. Fern,  
25 you go first, and then after that, we will have

1           Ralph Grant.

2                   Thank you very much for being here, Fern  
3           Williams.

4                   MS. WILLIAMS:   Good evening.   Thank you  
5           for the time.   My name is Fern Williams and I  
6           live here in Pasco County now.   I have been a  
7           Florida resident and a voting resident for 50  
8           years, and I have seen a lot of changes.   I  
9           have seen gerrymandering, both sides of the  
10          aisle.

11                  I brought a couple of maps that I got off  
12          your website, and these are examples of what  
13          the districts look like now.   This is Florida  
14          Senate 27, and it goes from the -- from the  
15          Atlantic Ocean in Palm Beach County all the way  
16          to the Gulf, and I just don't see that anybody  
17          can adequately represent that area.   It  
18          certainly is diverse.   This is -- this is in  
19          Orange County, and this is two districts, 9 and  
20          19, and as you can see, they are interesting.

21                  The Fair District amendment is voted, was  
22          bipartisan, it was voted by 63 percent of the  
23          voters, and some of it says that the lines  
24          cannot be drawn to favor a party or an  
25          incumbent, and they must be contiguous,

1 compact, adhere to existing local boundaries,  
2 and these obviously don't. I just hope that  
3 you take that into consideration, and we will  
4 have better districts and better  
5 Representatives for all of us. Thank you.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
7 very much, Ms. Williams. We appreciate those  
8 comments.

9 Next up we have Mr. Ralph Grant, and then  
10 after Ralph, we have Justin Cracchiolo. You  
11 are recognized, sir.

12 MR. GRANT: Are you taking questions as  
13 well, or just comments?

14 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I'm sorry,  
15 sir?

16 MR. GRANT: Are you taking questions as  
17 well, or just comments?

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You can ask  
19 questions, yes, sir. In fact, what we will do,  
20 and I probably didn't state that at the  
21 beginning, if you have specific questions, as  
22 opposed to getting in a back and forth, if you  
23 state them, at the very end, we will try to  
24 answer every single question that is asked  
25 today.

1           MR. GRANT: My specific point is primarily  
2           the Senate Districts with Pasco County, they  
3           seem to be pretty well distributed right now,  
4           with only one being down only seven percent in  
5           population. Are you looking at population  
6           growth within the districts? Because the next  
7           time you do, are you looking to look at the  
8           growth within each district before you start  
9           the redistricting, before you start redrawing  
10          the lines? If not, I would like to see if --  
11          since we are so well represented as far as the  
12          Senate is within the Pasco County, to keep  
13          those districts as close as possible to what we  
14          already have. Can you answer that as far as  
15          looking at potential growth within those areas,  
16          or --

17          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes, we will  
18          get to that answer, and, in fact, with regard  
19          to the growth specifically, I will go ahead and  
20          do that. In the back, there is a chart, and  
21          John Guthrie is here and can walk you through  
22          it, it actually explains the deviation and who  
23          is over-populated and who is under-populated.

24          MR. GRANT: Right, I understand that, but  
25          as far as how far out are you looking at

1 growth?

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: How are we  
3 looking -- I'm sorry.

4 MR. GRANT: How far out are you looking at  
5 the growth?

6 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: We just look  
7 at -- based on the census from 2010.

8 MR. GRANT: Okay. That is it. That is my  
9 question.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay. Thank  
11 you very much, you got it.

12 Next up we have Justin Cracchiolo, and  
13 after that we have Jim Cracchiolo. I'm sorry,  
14 Justina. I said Justin.

15 Ms. Cracchiolo, how are you doing today?

16 MS. CRACCHIOLO: Good. How are you doing?

17 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you for  
18 being here.

19 MS. CRACCHIOLO: My name is Justina  
20 Cracchiolo, and I live in Wesley Chapel,  
21 Florida, and I have lived in the community for  
22 31 years in east Pasco.

23 I want to thank the committee for allowing  
24 the citizens to make a contribution with the  
25 redistricting process. Truly an educated



1 citizen can understand the decisions that  
2 ultimately become law. In fact, the My  
3 District Builder software on the  
4 floridaredistricting.org website has become the  
5 hottest new game in my house.

6 This evening I would like to specifically  
7 address the community of Wesley Chapel,  
8 Zephyrhills and Dade City in east Pasco County,  
9 because the needs of these east Pasco  
10 communities are very different from those of  
11 our neighbors to the west of the Veterans  
12 Expressway.

13 In the course of drawing up my own maps, I  
14 believe that the communities of interest and  
15 compact geographic areas causes -- offer  
16 compelling standards to apply to the east Pasco  
17 County when drawing up the boundaries for our  
18 district. It is my hope that you will keep the  
19 communities of Zephyrhills, Wesley Chapel and  
20 Dade City together and not split them up.  
21 These communities are contiguous and are within  
22 10 miles' drive from one to the other. I have  
23 raised four children in this district.

24 My children were born in Dade City,  
25 educated in San Antonio, Zephyrhills and Wesley

1 Chapel. Whether volunteering in the community,  
2 at church, the PTA or school advisory council,  
3 I have come to recognize that my fellow  
4 citizens in Zephyrhills, Dade City and Wesley  
5 Chapel share common interests and goals for  
6 their families, neighbors and communities. I  
7 hope that the committee will consider my  
8 testimony this evening and to the best of their  
9 abilities decide to keep Zephyrhills, Dade City  
10 and Wesley Chapel communities together in one  
11 district.

12 Thank you again for allowing me to express  
13 my opinion on redistricting. I am proud to  
14 live in a state that is giving the voters a say  
15 in picking their lawmakers, rather than the  
16 lawmakers picking their voters. Good evening  
17 and God bless.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
19 very much, Ms. Cracchiolo, we appreciate that.

20 And now that we have heard from your boss,  
21 Mr. Cracchiolo, you are now able to speak, so  
22 you are recognized, sir. And after  
23 Mr. Cracchiolo, we have Steve Van Gorden.

24 MR. CRACCHIOLO: That is a hard act to  
25 follow. I didn't know we were going to put

1           that in line like that.

2           I want to thank the Legislature as well  
3           for coming tonight. Welcome, everybody, to  
4           Pasco County, great to have you here.

5           My first step in Pasco County was in 1973.  
6           The first impression was memorable. It was  
7           like a glimpse into the wild, wild west. There  
8           were cowboys and cattle and Indian history, and  
9           it was all surrounded by this little seasonal  
10          midwestern retirement community called  
11          Zephyrhills. Highway 54 was sparsely inhabited  
12          with isolated dots of populations along the  
13          way, Saddlebrook was just getting started, and  
14          Bruce B. Downs was known as the road to nowhere  
15          basically. Pasco County was completely  
16          polarized really east and west as well, and  
17          there was very little in between.

18          Moving here after getting married took  
19          quite a bit of convincing, I might add. After  
20          all, east Pasco was not quite the midwest urban  
21          upbringing my wife was accompanied to. Feeling  
22          pioneerish, we made the commitment and raised  
23          our four children here in Pasco. Zephyrhills,  
24          Dade City and Wesley Chapel, although somewhat  
25          geographically isolated, became the communities

1       we were involved with, always driving long  
2       distances, it seemed, from school to stores to  
3       events and so forth.

4               Since these early days of isolated  
5       population dots along Highway 54, growth has  
6       connected the dots and the picture has changed  
7       rather dramatically. With the growth over the  
8       past ten years, these communities of  
9       Zephyrhills, Dade City and Wesley Chapel have  
10      now established a true sense of community.

11             During this redistricting process may this  
12      sense of community that has been created over  
13      the past couple of decades be preserved by a  
14      redistricting plan that will enhance our  
15      community by maintaining the current boundaries  
16      rather than carving up our community we have  
17      all worked so hard to create.

18             Thanks again for coming. We really  
19      appreciate you being here.

20             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
21      very much.

22             Next up we have Mr. Steve Van Gorden.  
23      Following Mr. Gorden, we have Ms. Doris Tosen,  
24      I hope I say that right, Tosen.

25             Steve, thanks for being here.

1           MR. VAN GORDEN: Thank you, Representative  
2           Weatherford, and thank you, legislative  
3           redistricting committee. It is great to see  
4           you guys out here to Wesley Chapel area and  
5           taking your time and listening to the citizens.

6           I am going to be very brief with my  
7           comments. I echo a lot which was already  
8           previously stated. I am a current principal of  
9           Zephyrhills High School. I was very privileged  
10          also to be the principal of Hudson Middle  
11          school. And there's been a lot already tonight  
12          talked about east versus west, and there are  
13          distinct differences. There's also very  
14          distinct differences between Wesley Chapel --  
15          Wesley Chapel, Land O' Lakes, the New Tampa  
16          area, and then also the Dade City community,  
17          San An, Zephyrhills, Crystal Springs and  
18          Trilby.

19          I would like to see you when you go ahead  
20          and start drawing these plans look at three  
21          state House districts for Pasco County, one in  
22          eastern Pasco, one in central Pasco and then  
23          one on the west side. I would like to see us  
24          look at two state Senate districts, with the  
25          Suncoast Parkway being the dividing line. And

1 I would also like to see us have one  
2 Representative for the U.S. Congress, and have  
3 it a solely Pasco County seat to give Pasco  
4 County what they deserve.

5 So with that, I -- as my colleagues  
6 stated -- as my colleagues stated earlier, and  
7 fellow citizens, I think you have a daunting  
8 task, but I am confident in each one of your  
9 leadership's ability to do what is best for all  
10 the citizens of Florida, but particularly the  
11 citizens of east Pasco County. So thank you  
12 and God bless each one of you.

13 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
14 Steve.

15 Next up we have Ms. Doris Tosen, and after  
16 Ms. Tosen, we have Kim Irvine. Is Doris here?  
17 There she is. I hope I didn't mess up your  
18 name too bad; if I did, I apologize.

19 MS. ROSEN: I believe you meant to say  
20 Rosen instead of Posen.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I'm sorry.  
22 It is misspelled, that is our fault, but,  
23 Ms. Rosen, thank you very much for being here.  
24 You are recognized.

25 MS. ROSEN: Okay. I am adaptable.

1           This is my third redistricting event and  
2           the second time I have spoken in front of this  
3           august body.

4           I want to tell you now that we have  
5           Amendments 5 and 6 which were voted by  
6           63 percent of the voters. The people have  
7           spoken. We want fair and reasonable districts.  
8           We don't want them to favor either party. I  
9           was here in 1990 when it favored the Democrats,  
10          I was here in 2000 when it favored the  
11          Republicans, and it is time to get it right and  
12          not favor any political party. It should be  
13          fair and equitable.

14          There are no survivorship rights to  
15          districts. There are no survivorship rights to  
16          districts. No politician is entitled to grow  
17          into a district. He has to earn it. We need  
18          action and not words, we need the maps, we need  
19          to get started and we need to move now. Thank  
20          you.

21                 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

22                 Next up we have Ms. Kim Irvine. After  
23                 Kim, we have Jim Mathieu.

24                 Ms. Irvine, thank you for being here, you  
25                 are recognized.

1           MS. IRVINE: Thank you very much, and  
2           thank you for taking the time to listen to us.  
3           I really -- the public, we do appreciate you  
4           taking the time and we appreciate the  
5           opportunity to speak.

6           First of all, I am not unhappy with the  
7           way the representation has gone at this point.  
8           I do realize we are diverse, but I think our  
9           government should be gender blind. I think it  
10          should be race blind. We are all people. We  
11          are all Americans. You should serve all of us  
12          equally. Color shouldn't play into it. Gender  
13          shouldn't play into it. Party shouldn't play  
14          into it. We need representation from our  
15          legislators that represent us all as Pasco  
16          County residents.

17          I have been here over 18 years, I love  
18          Pasco County, and I am thrilled to be here and  
19          I trust that you will all make the effort  
20          required to make sure that this is a fair  
21          process and will represent the people of Pasco  
22          County to the best of your ability. Thank you  
23          again.

24          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
25          Ms. Irvine.



1           Next up we have Jim Mathieu, followed by  
2           Ilene Miller. And I just want to make a quite  
3           point. We've got about 50 people still to go,  
4           we've got two hours left, so you can run the  
5           math. If we can keep it at two to three  
6           minutes, that would be great. The last couple  
7           of speakers have been wonderful. We just want  
8           to give everybody the opportunity.

9           Mr. Mathieu, thank you very much for being  
10          here, sir.

11          MR. MATHIEU: James Mathieu, I will be  
12          brief in light of that comment. Thank you for  
13          letting me speak, Representatives, Senators,  
14          and thank you for this open process. It is  
15          very impressive.

16          I am an attorney. I have been here in  
17          Pasco County now for seven years. I have been  
18          a city attorney in the city on the west side, I  
19          have also been a city manager. I feel that I  
20          have a pretty good feel for the wants, needs  
21          and concerns of the people of Pasco County, and  
22          my observation after seven years is that Pasco  
23          County needs three separate legislative  
24          districts at the Representative level and at  
25          least two State Senators.

1           The western side of the county is  
2           predominated by U.S. 19, which is a major  
3           artery. It is somewhat of a retired area,  
4           people with retirees, people do not commute  
5           into Tampa, it is too far. It has one of the  
6           highest crime levels. Just a quick check of  
7           the sheriff's office will see that. It has  
8           riparian water rights, it has access, it has  
9           marinas. This is one type of -- one part of  
10          the county.

11          When you go to the middle of the county,  
12          it is, in my opinion, a bedroom community.  
13          Many of the developments, as I call them, of  
14          this area here are sandwiched between the  
15          Suncoast and 75. That is what created these  
16          communities. They have zoning issues, they  
17          have commuter issues, they have transportation  
18          issues. These are distinct, different issues  
19          from those on the west side.

20          On the east side of the county, Sans --  
21          Dade City, it is an agrarian area. They have  
22          many different needs, wants and desires and  
23          concerns.

24          And if you cannot statistically and  
25          mathematically get three and two, then I think

1       if you are going to look one way or the other,  
2       you have to push us to the north and hook up  
3       with Hernando County as opposed to Tampa, which  
4       has much different needs than we do. Thank you  
5       very much in allowing me to speak.

6               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
7       very much, Jim. We appreciate that.

8               We have Ms. Ilene Miller, and after  
9       Ms. Miller, we have Sandy Graves.

10              You are recognized. Thank you for being  
11       here.

12              MS. MILLER: Hello. My name is Lavonne  
13       Miller, but anyhow --

14              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I apologize.

15              MS. MILLER: No, no, it's fine.

16              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: It is my  
17       eyes, I can assure you.

18              MS. MILLER: I signed "Ilene L."

19              But I have been a resident of Pasco County  
20       for thirty some years. I moved here when I was  
21       ten. But, anyway, I would love to see our  
22       county where we have a Representative that only  
23       represents us here in Pasco County. I don't  
24       know -- I don't know how -- I haven't looked at  
25       the maps, I didn't know there were maps. They

1       are on -- and I will look at those tomorrow and  
2       probably then make some comments to you all.  
3       But what I would like to see is I would love to  
4       see equitable, true Representatives of the  
5       people here in Pasco County.

6               I realize that all of you have traveled to  
7       be here tonight. I don't know what that is  
8       costing you all, but some of that probably  
9       would have been better off staying in the  
10      budget and doing something else with it,  
11      education, one thing and another.

12             But, anyway, just look carefully, make  
13      certain that the -- that the districts are  
14      equitable and that we have true representation  
15      just for Pasco County.

16             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
17      very much.

18             Next up we have Sandy Graves. Following  
19      Ms. Graves, we have Jarrod Scharber.

20             You are recognized.

21             MS. GRAVES: Hi, my name is Sandy Graves.  
22      I live at 21946 Shamu Drive in Land O' Lakes,  
23      Florida. I am a native Floridian, a native  
24      laker and a native Pasco resident. I was  
25      probably here when Mr. Cracchiolo came and saw

1       the cowgirls and cowboys. I was probably one  
2       of them.

3               But, anyway, I want to thank the  
4       delegation for allowing me to offer my two  
5       cents' worth on redistricting, and because I  
6       realize that the new amendments to our  
7       Constitution will most likely end in  
8       litigation, and I do not have the wherewithal  
9       to litigate, hopefully my two cents will be  
10      worth something now.

11             I am here for the representation of my one  
12      vote because I feel the founding fathers were  
13      quite specific that the vote be heard and  
14      counted, a vote that represents me and my life  
15      according to my community and what affects me.  
16      Though there may be some here tonight that seek  
17      to have that vote superseded by special  
18      interests that do not have my vote or the best  
19      interests of Pasco citizens in mind, I ask that  
20      you look beyond their voices and consider some  
21      very unique issues that face Pasco and the  
22      people that live here, and why we need our  
23      representation to have teeth and not to be  
24      diluted by special interests or voters not  
25      concerned with what face us daily.

1           Some Pasco-specific issues are insurance.  
2           After 15 years with Liberty Mutual, I was  
3           dropped and given reasons of sinkholes. Now I  
4           am the proud owner of Citizens Insurance,  
5           because of no choice of my own, though I  
6           thought I lived in a country of free trade and  
7           competition.

8           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Sandy, I love  
9           you, but we got to keep it on redistricting.

10          MS. GRAVES: Okay, I am just going to pass  
11          on, but basically Pasco has a lot of issues  
12          that affect her, and we have neighbors to  
13          either side that conflict with us sometimes.  
14          So what I would like to ask is that you not  
15          dilute our vote by having us with Hillsborough  
16          or Pinellas so much, because we need to be  
17          considered with what our issues are. We have  
18          economic issues here that don't necessarily --  
19          which conflicts with Hillsborough, sometimes in  
20          Pinellas we have the water issue, and we have  
21          the insurance issues. So I just ask that you  
22          -- and I was getting to that point, but most of  
23          all I want to thank you for being here and  
24          listening to me, and though I think there is a  
25          difference between east and west Pasco, there

1           is also a difference between our neighbors,  
2           Hillsborough and Pinellas, so I want you to  
3           consider that when you are thinking about us  
4           and our representation. I also want to pray  
5           for your discernment and your wisdom and your  
6           mental health. Thank you very much.

7           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you for  
8           your prayers, Sandy, we appreciate that. We  
9           all appreciate that.

10           Next up we have Mr. Scharber, followed  
11           by -- I want to say this right, William  
12           Peterseim I believe is how it is -- I believe  
13           is how it is spelled.

14           Jarrod, you are up. Thanks for being  
15           here.

16           MR. SCHARBER: Thank you. First I want to  
17           thank Representative Weatherford again and the  
18           remainder of the committee members for taking  
19           the time to get some input from the public this  
20           evening. It certainly means a lot to all of us  
21           that you would take the time to listen to what  
22           we have to say before acting on such an  
23           important issue.

24           As stated, my name is Jarrod Scharber. I  
25           am not here as a representative of any group or

1 organization. I am here tonight representing  
2 Jarrod Scharber, and by extension, my family.  
3 I am a fourth-generation resident of Pasco  
4 County, and other than a brief period when I  
5 left to pursue my education, I've resided in  
6 the San Antonio and Dade City area my entire  
7 life.

8 As you all know, as Will certainly knows,  
9 there have been significant changes in our  
10 county, especially this portion of our county,  
11 over the past ten years, and there have been  
12 developments in the patterns of growth such  
13 that even an outsider could examine a map, take  
14 a look at where the growth corridors are, what  
15 goes on on the west side of the county, what  
16 goes on on the east side of the county, and  
17 make an analysis of what we need in terms of  
18 our representation moving forward both at the  
19 state and the national level.

20 Much of what I was going to say is going  
21 to dovetail with what you've already heard.  
22 The western side of our county is largely made  
23 up of smaller urban centers, New Port Richey,  
24 Hudson, Holiday, things -- getting on up in  
25 Hernando, Weeki Wachee, Spring Hill. Those



1 communities, while they have their own  
2 interests that are very important and specific  
3 to them, they don't necessarily always align  
4 with what we have in terms of our goals, our  
5 needs and what we see as our future challenges  
6 here on the east side of the county.

7 When you are making an analysis of what  
8 our Representatives are going to be, I think it  
9 is important that you make the distinction  
10 between the types of communities and then the  
11 types of people who actually reside in those  
12 communities. Drawing district lines somewhere  
13 near the center of the county, whether it is  
14 U.S. 41, whether it is Suncoast Parkway, making  
15 a distinction between the west side of the  
16 county, the east side of the county, and  
17 certainly I think there should be no question  
18 that we need to have ourselves separate and  
19 distinct from the northern portions of  
20 Hillsborough County. Grouping this east side  
21 of the county in with southern  
22 Hernando/southern Sumter Counties I think is  
23 going to give us what we all want, elected  
24 officials, the one we send to Tallahassee and  
25 the ones we send to Washington, are going to be

1           there to represent our interests, and that is  
2           exactly what we are electing them to do is  
3           represent our interests, not the interests of  
4           north Tampa, not the interests of New Port  
5           Richey, but the interests of east Pasco. And,  
6           again, I think that -- again, some of my  
7           thunder has been stolen this evening, but three  
8           districts in the House, two districts for the  
9           Senate, and trying to keep as much of east  
10          Pasco independent of some of these other  
11          competing interests as possible, that is going  
12          to serve everybody's best interests. Thanks  
13          again.

14                 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
15          very much.

16                 Next up we have Mr. Peterseim, I believe,  
17          I hope I said that right, followed by James D.  
18          Porter, who I know -- I believe is Don Porter.  
19          I hope I have that right.

20                 MR. PETERSEIM: That is correct. How are  
21          you?

22                 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You're up.

23                 MR. PETERSEIM: I am a -- my name is Bill  
24          Peterseim. I am a certified financial planner,  
25          economist, political analyst and 20th century

1       historian, and I broadcast daily into 38  
2       nations on five continents about what is going  
3       on in this country.

4               I thank you for being here because, quite  
5       frankly, I don't think any time in the history  
6       of our nation until the past four and a half  
7       years have we had such a feeling of total  
8       disconnect between the electorate and the  
9       elected officials across this nation as a  
10      disconnect between what we want, what we  
11      believe in, and what the Legislatures are  
12      voting. So I would remind you, it is a  
13      republican form of government, and I thank you  
14      for that.

15             I also thank you for the moment of levity  
16      when we said there would be no political issues  
17      involved in gerrymandering redistricting. It  
18      was a good moment of levity.

19             And I do have one question that I really  
20      would like clarified, because it really wasn't  
21      that clear on the ballot in November, and I am  
22      sure I am not alone on that, but there was a  
23      specific proposal that was voted on and  
24      approved that had direct influence on the  
25      redistricting process, and I am sure you know

1       what I mean. If you would, please, take a  
2       moment to explain that and clarify it for all  
3       the voters. Thank you.

4               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes, sir.  
5       Thank you very much, and Mr. Peterseim, we will  
6       make sure and do that. We addressed it in the  
7       very opening of our comments about Amendments 5  
8       and 6, but I can assure you my colleague,  
9       Chairman Gaetz, at the very end will make sure  
10      that he goes through it one more time to  
11      explain its impact on the process and how we  
12      plan to follow it.

13             J. D. Porter, you are recognized here. In  
14      fact, I will take a moment of privilege. We  
15      are actually sitting on land that was donated  
16      by the Porter family to allow Wiregrass to be  
17      built. It is an honor to have you here, and  
18      thank you all for your kindness in unofficially  
19      hosting us tonight.

20             MR. PORTER: First of all, thank all of  
21      y'all for coming out this evening. I really  
22      appreciate it. As stated, my name is J. D.  
23      Porter. I work for a small family business  
24      here called Wiregrass Ranch. We happen to be  
25      sitting on one of the pieces of property that I

1       grew up on. It has been in our family for  
2       going on 80 years.

3               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Speak a  
4       little closer to the mike, if you could, J. D.

5               MR. PORTER: Sorry about that.

6               This piece of property has been in our  
7       family for around 80 years, and I think it is  
8       important for everybody to know and everybody  
9       to understand and recognize that Pasco itself  
10      has been kind of in the background for an  
11      extended period of time. We have been here  
12      through that.

13              It is coming into the forefront now, and  
14      it is important to the representation that  
15      where we are seeing and one of the important  
16      facts that was not mentioned is during the  
17      growth boom, Pasco County was the second  
18      fastest-growing county in the state. That kind  
19      of growth everybody in this room felt and  
20      everybody in this room saw. It is something  
21      when those kind of people and when we get that  
22      kind of density that you are seeing, whether it  
23      is at the Shops at Wiregrass, the community  
24      college that is coming up down the road, one  
25      of the -- the best high school, in my opinion,

1 in the county that we are sitting in right now,  
2 you are seeing growth that is taking place  
3 during a depressed market. We need to make  
4 sure that our representation is basically  
5 correct and dead-on for the type of  
6 constituents that are in the areas.

7 A lot of people said west Pasco is a lot  
8 different than east. I agree with that, but we  
9 are in central Pasco. Where we are at now, you  
10 are seeing in a lot of the things that we have  
11 done and a lot of the things that we feel and  
12 that we have seen in the past, we came from a  
13 ranching background, we came from a setup where  
14 we still run cattle, we still have citrus  
15 trees, but we are also seeing a lot of smart  
16 growth and we are trying to do the right thing.  
17 We are trying to protect the land and do things  
18 that benefit the community.

19 I think a lot of the other communities  
20 like Dade City, like Zephyrhills, like San  
21 Antonio, they are going to feed off growth, and  
22 we share a lot of the same community  
23 backgrounds and values that have been here  
24 forever, and a lot of the people that have  
25 stand up all have made good points, but there

1 is a distinctive difference between the west  
2 side and when you get on the other side of the  
3 Suncoast, maybe even 41, but I think the  
4 Suncoast is a good place to put that, a lot  
5 different dynamics and a lot different  
6 demographics there than what there is here.  
7 There is a way -- if we are going to go anyway,  
8 I think that we should go north and extend  
9 districts northward, because they are going to  
10 benefit off the growth and the change that we  
11 are seeing, even during a downtime.

12 When you are looking at areas and when you  
13 look at certain things, I like looking at the  
14 past as being a historic example of what is  
15 going on. This is very similar to a setup like  
16 in Atlanta where you have Buckhead growing to  
17 the north. That is a very good layout, that it  
18 changed over time, and because of districts and  
19 because of representation at the state level,  
20 they were able to be successful, and I think  
21 that is very important for all of y'all to take  
22 into consideration. Thank you.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
24 very much, J. D. We appreciate that.

25 I apologize to the next speaker, I don't

1 think I gave you a heads-up, but Mike Pheneger,  
2 President of the ACLU of Florida. Mike, are  
3 you here, sir? I'm sorry that I did not give  
4 you a heads-up on that. After Mr. Pheneger, we  
5 have Georgiana Jones.

6 Mr. Pheneger, thank you very much for  
7 being here, sir.

8 MR. PHENEGER: Yeah, actually, we are a  
9 lot of things. I happen to be the President of  
10 the ACLU of Florida. I am also a retired Army  
11 colonel. I think elections are extremely  
12 important. In 30 years in the Army, I managed  
13 to vote each one of those 30 years, 15 of them  
14 overseas from such unlikely places as Korea,  
15 three years in Vietnam, Panama, Germany and  
16 Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. I also managed to  
17 spend the afternoon in church with Senator  
18 Joyner and Representative Reed this afternoon.

19 Here -- the purpose of my appearance  
20 tonight is to talk about Amendments 5 and 6,  
21 which got almost no notice during your  
22 introduction and no comment on what they all  
23 mean. Now, I support Amendments 5 and 6, and  
24 have since the outset. I actually am involved  
25 in supporting the suit to oppose the suit



1       against Amendment 6, but I am doing it with my  
2       money, not the taxpayers' money. I understand  
3       that the House of Representatives is doing it  
4       with about \$300,000 worth of taxpayer money,  
5       according to the recent issue in *The New York*  
6       *Times*.

7               So I think what we need to do is to focus  
8       the Legislature on implementing the will of the  
9       people in terms of Amendments 5 and 6, which,  
10      to remind, have several things. They say that  
11      you can't draw a district to favor or disfavor  
12      an incumbent or a party. Districts should be  
13      contiguous, they should be compact, they should  
14      be roughly equal in population, they should use  
15      existing city, county and natural boundaries,  
16      and most of the time right now, if you look at  
17      our district maps today, they don't do that,  
18      and finally they should preserve the ability of  
19      minorities, both language and racial, to vote  
20      for Representatives of their choice.

21              Someone here earlier talked about the  
22      possibility of litigation, but, frankly, if you  
23      all fulfill your constitutional mandate in 5  
24      and 6, you won't have to worry too much about  
25      litigation, because you will have basically a

1 fireproof solution to the problem.

2 I think it is important for you all to  
3 develop maps, simply because the Constitution  
4 requires that in 2012, you actually vote on new  
5 districts. It would be nice for us to see what  
6 you are considering before you do it so we can  
7 kind of advise your deliberations while you are  
8 doing that in the legislative session early  
9 next year.

10 And, finally, I would like to recommend  
11 that in contrast to people that we have in  
12 Washington nowadays, I wish you all would  
13 refrain from taking any pledges before you  
14 arrive there, because it is going to be hard  
15 enough to draw these districts, and if you have  
16 pledged yourself into a solution before you  
17 have a chance to deliberate and debate, it is  
18 not going to work very well. Thank you.

19 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
20 sir. Thank you, Mr. Pheneger, and thank you  
21 for your service to our country. We are very  
22 grateful for that.

23 Next up we have Ms. Georgiana Jones, and  
24 followed by Ms. Jones, we have Steve Graves.  
25 Thank you for being here, ma'am.

1           MS. JONES: I want to tell you that I am  
2           very pleased to see you all here today to  
3           listen to all of us. I must say in confessing  
4           that I have been in Tallahassee during sessions  
5           during the past three years, and in the past  
6           two years when we spoke as educators and others  
7           working in public service, I don't feel that  
8           there was listening.

9           I do want to say, as so many others have  
10          spoken before me, that it is very important  
11          that you understand that we speak and you are  
12          working for us. We have already voted for  
13          Amendments 5 and 6, and you have heard before  
14          me exactly what that means and what your task  
15          is for us.

16          I am very concerned, and this is my last  
17          statement, that there seems to be another check  
18          place that if you fairly redistrict, there are  
19          new voter laws in place that will pull people  
20          out of lines and ask for certain important  
21          pieces of identification to prove themselves by  
22          names, addresses, changes. I do not believe  
23          that we are on the road to fairness and justice  
24          in Florida, and I want you to know that we are  
25          not going to go backwards. We are moving

1 forwards, and I hope that you will take into  
2 consideration that you have been given a task  
3 by us.

4 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
5 very much, Ms. Jones.

6 Next up we have Steve Graves, and after  
7 Mr. Graves, we have Bill Bunting.

8 Steve, you are recognized, sir.

9 MR. GRAVES: Yes, thank you,  
10 Representative Weatherford. I would like to  
11 thank all the panel for being here and coming  
12 to Pasco County and listening to the voters and  
13 what we have to say.

14 My name is Steve Graves. I have lived in  
15 Pasco County for approximately 16 years in the  
16 Land O' Lakes area.

17 Just concerning the State Senate seat,  
18 based upon the current amendment, each Senate  
19 seat is supposed to have approximately 470  
20 voters. Pasco has right now 464. I believe  
21 that Pasco County should have at least one, or  
22 only one Senate seat. However, if whenever the  
23 grand scheme comes together you see that Pasco  
24 has to be divided, I don't think that it should  
25 be any more than two. Currently we have three,

1           and I think that is one too many.

2           For the State House, under the amendments,  
3           it's 157,000 -- 157,000 citizens per seat.  
4           Again, with the 464,000 citizens in Pasco  
5           County, that equals to about three state seats.  
6           That is what I think that the current number  
7           should be. As of right now, it is six.

8           For the congressional seat, it is 696,000  
9           citizens, with 464. Currently we have two  
10          congressional seats. I think we should keep  
11          that.

12          If there should be any type of divisions  
13          that should be made, I agree with a lot of the  
14          other past speakers about taking a look at  
15          either 41, the Suncoast, as being maybe the  
16          line of demarcation, and from there, take a  
17          look at the west side and plus the central and  
18          east together.

19          Again, I want to thank all of you for  
20          being here and thank you so much for this time.

21          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
22          very much.

23          Next up we have Bill Bunting, and after  
24          Bill, we have Ken Blankenship.

25          Bill, thank you for being here, sir.

1           MR. BUNTING: Well, thank all of you for  
2           being here. You guys are doing a great job.  
3           Now you will hear from me, and we will see how  
4           great it is going to be.

5           Okay. One, I am going to be more specific  
6           on the growth. First of all, I am a Pasco  
7           resident for 23 years. I am on the  
8           Governmental Affairs Board of Directors for  
9           West Pasco Chamber with 1,400 businesses, and I  
10          am on the Advisory Board of Directors for the  
11          Salvation Army, so I am involved in my county.

12          One, we would like to see Richard  
13          Corcoran's seat move up out of Pinellas.  
14          Pinellas is going to lose their growth, they  
15          have to give up ground, so there is no  
16          question. Representative Corcoran has  
17          represented Pasco very well, and we think he  
18          should be a full Pasco legislator, just like  
19          John Legg and hopefully Will Weatherford will  
20          be out of Hillsborough and be a full  
21          legislator, too.

22          The second part is extremely important,  
23          and that is Congressman Bilirakis' district,  
24          District 9. He represents three counties. It  
25          would be -- behoove us if we could get

1       Mr. Bilirakis out of Hillsborough County and up  
2       into east Pasco so he would only have two  
3       counties to represent, it would be easier  
4       access for all of the people to get in, and he  
5       also is a great legislator.

6               And on the Senate seats that you are  
7       hearing here, they are going to be contested in  
8       Pasco, we have three precincts from a State  
9       Representative whose name escapes me from  
10      Hernando County, if we could push him back into  
11      Hernando County, that would solidify what we  
12      have to do.

13              And we think it is important that these  
14      legislators come here, Mr. Weatherford is here  
15      and John Legg is here and Mr. Corcoran is here.  
16      Crime is an issue on the west side of Pasco  
17      County, and the more we have legislators that  
18      are directly involved in their own county and  
19      they can work with our sheriff, we will be  
20      better served. And I look forward to seeing  
21      y'all on television when you have to redistrict  
22      Corrine Brown's district. Thank you.

23              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
24      very much, Bill. We appreciate that, sir.

25              Next up we have Ken Blankenship, and after

1 Mr. Blankenship, we have Nick Bliesner.

2 Mr. Blankenship, are you here, sir? There he  
3 is. Mr. Blankenship had the misfortune of  
4 having to teach many of my brothers and sisters  
5 in Land O' Lakes High School. Thanks for  
6 bearing with us then and we appreciate you  
7 being here tonight, sir.

8 MR. BLANKENSHIP: I think I even got to  
9 teach you one day as a sub.

10 I am Kenny Blankenship. I am from Land O'  
11 Lakes, Florida, I am a teacher in Pasco County,  
12 and I have lived here since there was one house  
13 in Lake Padgett Estates. There was no Trinity,  
14 there was no Wesley Chapel when I moved.

15 This -- you can answer something for me.  
16 I am a bit confused. You and Mr. Legg must be  
17 playing tag team with the chairmanship. I got  
18 a letter stating Mr. Legg was going to be the  
19 Chairman, so -- but no problem. I always enjoy  
20 when you are Chair, too.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: He is a  
22 Chair, he is a co-Chair.

23 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Co-Chair, okay.

24 To me, not having maps to comment on is  
25 kind of confusing. I am a visual person, I



1       like to see things that I make comments on.  
2       And I think -- I think it would have probably  
3       been a little bit more prudent to have maps  
4       drawn as other states have already done and  
5       then take public comment on those maps and make  
6       adjustments according to the public's desires  
7       as you went along.

8               Will you be holding public hearings once  
9       the maps are completed is one question that I  
10      have. I would encourage you to complete the  
11      maps -- the drawing of the maps and the  
12      preliminary hearings that you are going to be  
13      conducting that begin in September so that you  
14      can vote on them during the first week of the  
15      legislative session. I think waiting and  
16      pushing it out to the last possible minute  
17      would be confusing for voters and those who may  
18      desire to run for office. I would like to know  
19      which district I am going to be voting in well  
20      in advance of any deadline to either register  
21      to vote in or to run for office should I so  
22      desire.

23             My desire is that you draw the maps  
24      according to Amendments 5 and 6 that were  
25      ratified by the people of Florida so that they

1       are equitable, that they are fair and that they  
2       are contiguous. I hope that you will -- also  
3       hope that you will withdraw from the lawsuit  
4       that you entered into and that you would save  
5       that \$30 million that you had set aside and  
6       follow the Florida Constitution and the will of  
7       the people in Florida. And thank you very  
8       much, and thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for  
9       being here.

10               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
11       Mr. Blankenship. You brought up several  
12       questions there, and I believe our co-Chairman,  
13       Senator Gaetz, will make sure and try to  
14       address each and every one of those questions,  
15       so thank you very much for that.

16               Nick, you are up, sir, and after Nick, we  
17       have -- I believe it is Maurice Massey. Thank  
18       you for being here today.

19               MR. BLIESNER: Thank you, Chairman  
20       Weatherford, Chairman Gaetz. I am actually --  
21       lived for the last ten years on Indian Rocks  
22       Beach, the beautiful pristine coast, the Gulf  
23       Coast. There was no oil, I checked before I  
24       left, but I -- the last four years, I have been  
25       a resident of Pasco County, attending St. Leo

1 University. I am only 23 years old. I think  
2 that is relevant, because it is a travesty that  
3 there aren't more students, more younger people  
4 my age involved in this process. And having  
5 been in Pasco for the last four years, I have  
6 noticed that it is -- it is a wonderful  
7 community and it is a -- truly it is a  
8 different community than the one that I grew up  
9 in back in Pinellas, and it definitely  
10 encompasses that melting pot that -- you know,  
11 culture that the state prides itself on, and I  
12 think that the biggest issue that we face is  
13 trying to encompass all of that into one, you  
14 know, area, and having one district, two  
15 districts, even three I don't think is enough  
16 to represent the wonderful aspects of Pasco  
17 County.

18 But I think the other important thing,  
19 too, is that we as residents and citizens of  
20 the state of Florida, and you as the Board,  
21 might -- we all might misunderstood, and I was  
22 a history major at St. Leo, so I came across  
23 this quote by James Madison that I think was  
24 extremely relevant, and it says, "A dependence  
25 on the people is no doubt the primary control

1           on government, but experience has taught  
2           mankind the necessity of auxilliary  
3           precautions." While, yes, we have the right to  
4           express our opinions and we have the right and  
5           the honor of electing you all, we also need to  
6           know that we do need the help of you all.

7           So thank you for your time, and I know  
8           that you all will make the right decisions.

9           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
10          Nick.

11          Next up we have Maurice Massey. Is  
12          Maurice here? All right. We will put him on  
13          the side, we will keep moving.

14          Matt Edwards, I saw Matt was here earlier.  
15          Is Mr. Edwards here? Okay, we will keep going.

16          Next up, Lutfi Jadallah. Mr. Jadallah,  
17          sir, I'm sorry if I mispronounced that. It is  
18          good to see you again. Thank you for being  
19          here, you are recognized.

20          MR. JADALLAH: Yes, sir. My name is Lutfi  
21          Jadallah. I have been a Wesley Chapel resident  
22          since '97. I want to thank you for being here.  
23          Welcome to Wesley Chapel.

24          You know, I am glad I am involved in this  
25          thing, because I think we want to move forward.

1 I believe Amendment 5 and 6 says that you have  
2 to follow contiguous, follow city lines,  
3 counties, and where it's feasible, be feasible.  
4 Right now we have Representative in -- for  
5 Pasco that is part of Hillsborough or Polk  
6 County, and even though I respect the other  
7 counties, but we want to have a Representative  
8 for the Pasco County.

9 Also I want to ask you all -- I believe  
10 that you all are adults and mature, and I would  
11 truly, truly appreciate that you will behave  
12 that way in Tallahassee. I have been a  
13 Republican since I was old enough to vote, so I  
14 understand, but also we want to quit this us  
15 and them, us and them. I think we should be  
16 we.

17 So please keep in mind Amendment 5 and 6,  
18 and keep in mind the people who put you there.  
19 Thank you very much.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
21 sir.

22 And I apologize, next up we have David  
23 Kulscar, or Kulcsar. Did I say it right? I'm  
24 sorry, David. You are up, sir, and after that,  
25 we will have Mr. Gary Willner.

1           MR. KULCSAR: Thank you for coming  
2           tonight. A lot of people that spoke tonight  
3           are acting like it is a turf war between east  
4           Pasco and west Pasco, whatever. We are not  
5           Europe, and I think we should act that we are  
6           not like going to be having wars over this.

7           I see you right there, Mr. Weatherford, I  
8           see you there, Mr. Norman, I see you there, Mr.  
9           Gaetz. I know what each of your districts look  
10          like. For example, Mr. Norman, you used to  
11          represent in the County Commission of  
12          Hillsborough County, north Tampa --

13          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Speak into  
14          the mike a little bit. It is kind of hard to  
15          hear you.

16          MR. KULCSAR: Sorry. And you represent  
17          districts that are very much areas. For  
18          example, Mr. Gaetz, your district is on the  
19          coast in Pensacola, and you are probably not  
20          going to be drawn into the areas of north  
21          Escambia and north Santa Rosa, because they are  
22          just too -- just different from where you are.

23          Mr. Weatherford, you represent Wesley  
24          Chapel and the eastern part of this county.  
25          These areas, they may have been scorned by the

1 people that voted for 5 and 6 about how they  
2 are drawn for gerrymandering purposes, but I  
3 think one thing is this: These districts can  
4 be drawn fairly without much changing of the  
5 status quo. For example, Mr. Norman, how often  
6 have you gone up and down U.S. 41 and not even  
7 notice the difference between Lutz and Land O'  
8 Lakes? There's not much difference, is there?

9 So I think we should at least be  
10 acknowledging about the way some areas are.  
11 Some areas can't be drawn from another one.  
12 For example, Mr. Rouson's district, his  
13 district goes from Tampa to St. Petersburg to  
14 Bradenton and Sarasota. Now, his district is a  
15 little more complicated than most, but the  
16 think of the contiguousness of 5 and 6 asking  
17 for it. It says here in the pamphlet you gave  
18 us that the districts have to be contiguous,  
19 and a district is contiguous if all of its  
20 territory is interrupted. And I think we need  
21 to look into this more often because, well, we  
22 have bridges in Florida, whatnot, but it is  
23 kind of wrong to see a Representative  
24 representing just a part of a city for  
25 political purposes or whatever purposes, to get

1       the numbers up in a certain demographic, simply  
2       out of political expediency. And I think that  
3       perhaps by drawing your districts in a fair  
4       way, at least think of like where the core of  
5       the district would be, whether it be a House  
6       district, a Senate district or congressional  
7       district, that at least adheres to a bit of  
8       compactness. And I think by doing that, it can  
9       easily be achieved, voters can be happy, you  
10      can be happy, of course, you will at least have  
11      shorter places to drive when you have  
12      constituent services, and we can at least have  
13      some parity when it comes to our congressional  
14      districts, State House districts and State  
15      Senate districts. And I think that should be a  
16      standard that we should try and strive for, and  
17      for -- and it is probably the best for Florida  
18      anyway. So thank you.

19                REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
20      very much. Great comments.

21                Next up we have Mr. Gary Willner, and  
22      after Mr. Willner, we have Mr. Charles Waller.

23                MR. WILLNER: Good evening, Gary Willner,  
24      I live in Trinity.

25                First of all, I hope you all have tough



1 skin, because when this is over I figure six  
2 million people are going to love you, six  
3 million people are going to be angry at you,  
4 and the six million that don't know what is  
5 going on won't care.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: The question  
7 is which one of those are you going to be?

8 MR. WILLNER: I am hearing two schools of  
9 thought tonight. One is to sort of try and  
10 keep counties together. I am not of that  
11 school at all. What I would hope you would do  
12 is consider areas of interest together. For  
13 example, the coastal areas of Citrus, Hernando  
14 and Pasco have a great deal in common. They  
15 have issues around the Gulf, they have issues  
16 in restoring beaches, they have issues in how  
17 do you get away from a hurricane, which are  
18 considerably different than the inland issues  
19 of Citrus, Hernando and Pasco. Now, I am not  
20 an expert on Hillsborough County, but I've got  
21 to think that the people in Tampa have  
22 different issues than the area where they grow  
23 the strawberries. They are day and night. So  
24 I would hope you would sort of not get hung up  
25 on the counties, but keep in mind that the

1 areas of interest that people have.

2 Frankly, I am kind of happy that there's  
3 three Senators in Pasco. I think that is three  
4 votes we have in the Legislature. I am not  
5 bothered by the fact that we have six, and I am  
6 delighted that we are -- the next Speaker and a  
7 future Speaker. I kind of like that. I love  
8 my Congressman, and I hope I am -- I always  
9 joke on Congressman Bilirakis -- I am the last  
10 house in Congressman Bilirakis' district, and  
11 when you are done, I would be very happy if I  
12 am still the last house in Congressman  
13 Bilirakis' district.

14 Thank you for what you are doing, but  
15 please try and keep the common interests  
16 together, more than county lines, because  
17 there's a lot of different interests and issues  
18 that can take place in the same county. Thank  
19 you for being here tonight.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
21 very much. We appreciate those comments,  
22 Mr. Willner.

23 Next up we have Mr. Waller, and following  
24 Mr. Waller, we have Peter Hanzel.

25 Thank you for being here, sir.

1           MR. WALLER: I realize the acoustics here  
2           are not the best. I hope they are better up  
3           there than they are back here.

4           I am Charles Waller. I would just like to  
5           let you know that my children are  
6           seventh-generation cattle ranchers here in  
7           Pasco County, Florida. We are -- I've been an  
8           attorney here in Pasco County for 41 years, I  
9           served 12 years as city attorney, City of  
10          Zephyrhills, I have been appointed by three  
11          different Governors to the Tampa Bay Regional  
12          Planning Council, so I have an interest in my  
13          community.

14          What you might not know, and I am not  
15          going to throw stones, but about 35 years ago  
16          it went on a referendum here to actually  
17          separate west Pasco from east Pasco. Thank  
18          goodness it was defeated, but we do -- we do  
19          have a diverse interest. And when I come to  
20          you, I like to come with a solution. I don't  
21          know if it is permissible to give a document,  
22          Mr. Weatherford, or not, but if I can, I would  
23          like to pass this around, because you need to  
24          do some research, and I've come here to help  
25          you, I have done the research for you. And

1 we've got communities here of like interest.

2           There is nothing wrong with the people in  
3 New Port Richey and Hudson. We have -- in  
4 addition to living in Dade City, we have a  
5 weekend home over there, but we speak a  
6 different language. Over there, they talk  
7 about arts and crafts. Over here, we talk  
8 about rodeos and county fairs. Someone said  
9 this is not rural. I don't want to see rural  
10 then. I still take in chickens and eggs for  
11 making wills and doing divorces. But we need a  
12 Representative who can talk our language, and I  
13 say "ours." We have in northeast Pasco a huge  
14 minority population who help us out and work in  
15 our businesses and in our agricultural  
16 business. They need representation.

17           So I've got a solution for you, and that  
18 is simply take the Parkway, make that the  
19 dividing line. That area over there has  
20 similar interests up and down that coast, and  
21 if you will take that Parkway and come forward  
22 then through the rest of central and east  
23 Pasco, come up through Sumter County and  
24 Hernando County, we speak the same language.  
25 We are farmers, we are ranchers, we are chicken

1 farmers, we are cattle farmers, we own groves,  
2 and we need someone who can look out for our  
3 interests. And in the past, you know, we have  
4 had great representation, but it is not easy  
5 trying to balance the interests of New Port  
6 Richey and Dade City, and we need someone who  
7 has an agricultural interest who can speak for  
8 us.

9 And thank you for coming. I wish this  
10 meeting were in Dade City, because in Dade  
11 City, we have never seen this many suits and  
12 ties in one place ever. And I know our  
13 hospitality here in Pasco County, and I feel  
14 assured that Representative Weatherford is  
15 going to invite all of you over to his house  
16 for dinner when this is over with, but if it is  
17 permissible to hand something --

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes.

19 MR. WALLER: And maybe you can pass this  
20 around so --

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Counselor, we  
22 will make sure everybody gets a copy of that.

23 MR. WALLER: And that will solve the whole  
24 constitutional issue that we have here of  
25 community interest. Thank you for your time.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
2           Mr. Waller. We appreciate that.

3           All right. Next up we have Mr. Peter  
4           Hanzel, and after that, we have -- I believe it  
5           is J. Arnigale, Sr. I hope I said that right.

6           Peter, thanks for being here, sir, you are  
7           recognized.

8           MR. HANZEL: I want to thank all of you  
9           for coming out and listening to us tonight  
10          before you produced any maps, and I would like  
11          to say something to my friends over here to the  
12          right. I don't know what it is, whether it is  
13          optical illusion or not, but you all seem so  
14          far away, so I hope you all listen to my  
15          comments tonight, please, I need you, I need  
16          your help. I do need you all.

17          I am here as an individual citizen, and my  
18          concerns are -- and I am going to start with my  
19          third concern and move my way up to my top  
20          concern. My third concern deals with District  
21          12. We already heard one remark tonight, how  
22          it should include Zephyrhills, which is  
23          currently in District 10, and I agree that it  
24          should be moved into District 12. And to make  
25          it fair and balanced, I would say let's take

1       that area that is represented currently in  
2       District 12 and remove the areas of  
3       Hillsborough into another district. That is  
4       basically the New Tampa area.

5             The second request I have deals with one  
6       of my favorite districts, House District 61. I  
7       think that district does need to lose some  
8       individuals. I don't mean lose them like in  
9       lost. I mean reduce the number of people  
10      there. I want to make myself clear on that. I  
11      think the line needs to move east to Land O'  
12      Lakes and delete that portion that currently is  
13      in Hillsborough County.

14            And I apologize, I made a mistake earlier.  
15      This area is in the New Tampa area that deals  
16      in Hillsborough. The other area that was in  
17      Senate District 12 was basically Citrus Park  
18      and Northdale area and some other communities  
19      over in that area. I apologize for that  
20      mistake.

21            But I also agree, and it was mentioned  
22      earlier, that the Crystal Springs area should  
23      move into District 61. It is a very small area  
24      and it is currently in House District 62.

25            Now, my other concern is this: I sit on a

1 community development district board, and, you  
2 know, I don't have to say this, but that was  
3 created by Florida Statute 190. And they are  
4 basically -- I call them amoebas, but they are  
5 very small governmental districts. And what I  
6 would like to ask, and I need your help on this  
7 one here, is to make sure that wherever you  
8 draw those lines at for these larger districts,  
9 the more important districts -- and you see  
10 where I am going, don't you -- I am going to  
11 make sure that when you do draw those lines,  
12 that there is no line that would separate or  
13 divide those CDD districts.

14 And, again, I want to take the opportunity  
15 to thank all of you for being here, and thank  
16 you all over there to my right for listening to  
17 me. Don't forget, help me out on this issue,  
18 please. Thank you.

19 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
20 Peter. We appreciate that, sir.

21 Next, I don't know if I said the name  
22 right, and I apologize, I am sure it's just my  
23 eyes, J. Arnigale, Sr., from 2595 Southern Bell  
24 Drive. I see somebody -- no? Okay, we will  
25 put him off to the side for just a minute.



1           Next we've got Paul Waltenberg, Watenberg,  
2           or Wartenberg, I'm sorry. Paul? Is Paul here?

3           Okay. Next up we have Sheada Madani  
4           Practico. Sheada?

5           All right. Greg Lenners, I saw Greg  
6           earlier. I don't know if he is still here.  
7           Greg Lenners, is Greg here? Greg runs the mall  
8           that Kathleen spent all her money at earlier  
9           today. I don't see him here either.

10          Okay. Gary Worthley. Is Gary here?  
11          Okay, he says he is not speaking, he is just  
12          happy to be here. All right, we are happy to  
13          have you.

14          Karen Hanzel, I know Karen is here. Is  
15          Ms. Hanzel here? There she is. All right.  
16          After Ms. Hanzel, we will have Emily Barsch.

17          Ms. Hanzel, thank you very much for being  
18          here. We are excited to have you. You are  
19          recognized, ma'am.

20          MS. HANZEL: Thank you. I am Karen  
21          Hanzel. I live in Wesley Chapel. I have been  
22          there for 11 years.

23          When possible, I would like to see the  
24          Senate and House districts be drawn into one  
25          county. For as an example, I think Pasco

1 District 61 should be exclusively represented  
2 in central and east Pasco. The portion of  
3 Hillsborough County which is now included in  
4 61, which is south of Wesley Chapel, I believe  
5 should be removed from that district.

6 Basically what I am saying is try to keep the  
7 State Representatives in one county, rather  
8 than spread out.

9 Thank you, and I really commend all of you  
10 for being here. Thanks a lot for listening.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
12 very much. We appreciate that.

13 Next up we have Ms. Emily Barsch.  
14 Following Ms. Barsch, we have John Russell.

15 Emily, thank you for being here.

16 MS. BARSCH: Good evening, and thank you  
17 all for coming. We really appreciate it.

18 I am a native Floridian, growing up in the  
19 metropolitan area of Jacksonville, probably  
20 only one of 20 people that ever lived in Two  
21 Egg, Florida, and also I have lived in the  
22 Marion County area and now in Pasco County.

23 Having been in such diverse areas of  
24 Florida, rural opposed to metropolitan, I think  
25 it is extremely important to keep that in mind

1       when redistricting Florida. As many have said  
2       before me, it is very imperative that we  
3       remember that there is a diverse group in this  
4       county, and we need to make sure that people  
5       are represented according to their diversity.

6               We appreciate the fact that you will  
7       listen to us and not to groups that are -- that  
8       have ulterior motives, and we trust that you  
9       will do what is best for this county and what  
10      is best for the people of this county. The  
11      special interest groups do not always have our  
12      best interest at heart, so we know that you  
13      will listen to we, the people. Thank you very  
14      much for being here, and we certainly  
15      appreciate it.

16             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
17      very much, Emily, we appreciate that.

18             Next up we have Mr. John Russell.  
19      Following Mr. Russell, we have Hugh Townsend.

20             Mr. Russell, you are recognized, sir.

21             MR. RUSSELL: Thank you very much. Of  
22      course, we appreciate everyone being here. I  
23      think some of you have driven some distance to  
24      be here.

25             I would like to say how I would have done

1       this. No one has said this. I think we have  
2       some people who have gone to business school  
3       here, run some businesses, and quite frankly,  
4       the parameters that are outlined in Amendments  
5       5 and 6 are quite precise. So rather than have  
6       this quite discombobulated effort of people  
7       drawing up their own districts and -- I mean,  
8       in reality, if people -- if a thousand people  
9       drew districts, which wouldn't be an outrageous  
10      number, you are on the Internet, what are you  
11      going to do with those? The idea is to draw  
12      fair districts. The parameters are quite  
13      strict. So you draw the fair districts, you  
14      come here with pro forma designs, which  
15      Mr. Chojnowski said earlier in this program,  
16      and you put it on a computer like they have  
17      done in Hillsborough County to redo the county  
18      commission districts, and then your task is  
19      greatly simplified.

20           But, of course, we know this is political,  
21      it is inherently political. And the bottom  
22      line is, we know how -- those of us who have  
23      run for office know how things work. With one  
24      single variable being the great arbiter between  
25      who gets elected, that being money, no one

1 knows better than Mr. Weatherford with \$927,000  
2 for a \$30,000 --

3 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Russell,  
4 we would like you to keep the focus of the  
5 conversation on redistricting.

6 MR. RUSSELL: It is focused totally on  
7 redistricting, Will, totally.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Please do.

9 MR. RUSSELL: This is our political  
10 system, which is sadly broken. And this is one  
11 effort that the public of all political  
12 persuasions have decided, they have had their  
13 vote, they have had their vote counted, and it  
14 is counted greatly in the majority to have the  
15 districts fairly apportioned. It is your job,  
16 because you work for us, as people have said,  
17 but we know that, when we are in politics, we  
18 understand that these people here don't get  
19 great sums of money nearing a million dollars  
20 or whatever to do the will of the people. It  
21 is to do the will of the powers that be.

22 And so, quite frankly, I am going to hand  
23 you this, and the guy's name is Dan Hardy. You  
24 know, if you truly were interested in doing  
25 this properly, you would give Dan a call. I

1       talked with Dan, and Dan ran this thing, it is  
2       about being objective. There's nothing  
3       subjective about doing this.

4               So I could go on and on about how broken  
5       the political system is. Most people  
6       understand it. It is money that is the  
7       problem. But we have the people here who,  
8       because of the money, they are mostly  
9       appointed, you are appointed by virtue of the  
10      amount of money that you receive from the  
11      powers that be. Same with the judiciary where  
12      this is going to go.

13             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Russell,  
14      I think it is time to wrap up, sir.

15             MR. RUSSELL: Hold on one second, I am  
16      almost done. Let me make my conclusion here,  
17      Will.

18             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay.

19             MR. RUSSELL: The judiciary likewise is  
20      appointed in the same way, so we know this is  
21      going to the courts --

22             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Russell,  
23      I think we get your point. We really  
24      appreciate your comments tonight.

25             MR. RUSSELL: Will, I know. Just let me

1 complete my sentence.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: If you keep  
3 it on redistricting, I will let you finish.

4 MR. RUSSELL: The bottom line is --

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Russell,  
6 I will give you 15 seconds to wrap it up.

7 MR. RUSSELL: Exactly.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: There you go.

9 MR. RUSSELL: Shouldn't have been  
10 interrupted in the first place.

11 The judiciary will see fit, and you are  
12 going to run this thing through using our tax  
13 dollars against us. I thank you very much.  
14 This is a dog and pony show. It is a fig leaf  
15 over what will be the end result. Thank you  
16 very much.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
18 very much, sir.

19 All right. Moving on, we are now going to  
20 hear from Mr. Hugh Townsend. Hugh, thank you  
21 for being here, sir. After Mr. Townsend, we  
22 are going to hear from Tom Hanlon.

23 You are recognized.

24 MR. TOWNSEND: Well, first of all, good  
25 evening and thank you all for coming out, both

1       our elected officials and our residents here.  
2       My empathy to you. Having been on the Board of  
3       Planning and Zoning, I have faced that same  
4       type of interesting exchange.

5               But on a much brighter note, I came down  
6       here to Pasco County in '93, and for almost the  
7       entire time I have been the President of my  
8       homeowners' association. We, however, in our  
9       association, are split between two  
10      congressional districts. If at all possible --  
11      again, to reiterate -- to keep homeowner  
12      associations and major communities intact with  
13      representation from one congressional district  
14      would be the first thing I would like to see,  
15      if possible.

16             Secondly, I serve on the parish council of  
17      St. George Greek Orthodox Church. I am very  
18      active in the Greek community, despite the  
19      name, and I would like to see an ethnic  
20      community that we have established in this  
21      greater west Pasco area and northern Pinellas  
22      of Hellenic Americans continue to be  
23      represented as they are currently with an  
24      excellent congressional district that can  
25      address the needs of not just the general



1       populi, but that of the specific Greek  
2       community.

3               So I would like to see our congressional  
4       district that is currently occupied by  
5       Congressman Bilirakis to stay for the most part  
6       intact and able to represent the Greek  
7       communities that range from our church here in  
8       Pasco County on the southwest side all the way  
9       down through Clearwater.

10              I also am fortunate to serve as co-Chair  
11      of the Juvenile Justice Board and on the  
12      Juvenile Justice Council, because the Sixth  
13      Judicial Circuit, as some of you are aware, is  
14      all of Pasco and Pinellas, so in that respect,  
15      moving on to a Representative seat, I would  
16      like to see the existing Representative seat  
17      continue to represent both this area. The fact  
18      that we have three Representatives representing  
19      Pasco actually makes a great deal of sense.  
20      You have heard in great length about the  
21      patrician families and the agriculture to the  
22      east, which is true. We also have a growing  
23      population of young, upward professionals  
24      moving from north Tampa, and, of course, we  
25      have the Hellenic community that I like to

1 represent, as well as the New York community  
2 that's moved down and taken over the west side  
3 of Pasco. So having three different State  
4 Representatives would be essential to maintain  
5 a homogenous representation for those  
6 communities. If --

7 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Hugh, I am  
8 going to have to ask you to wrap it up.

9 MR. TOWNSEND: Lastly --

10 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay.

11 MR. TOWNSEND: -- if we can get one Senate  
12 seat representing all of Pasco, that would be a  
13 wonderful conclusion to a good process every  
14 ten years that we serve here. Thank you all  
15 very much.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
17 very much.

18 Next up we have Tom Hanlon, and after Tom,  
19 we have Randy Hixson.

20 Tom, thanks for being here, sir. You are  
21 recognized.

22 MR. HANLON: My name is Tom Hanlon. Thank  
23 you --

24 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: If you would  
25 get real close to that mike. There you go.

1           MR. HANLON: My name is Tom Hanlon. I  
2           appreciate you giving me the opportunity to  
3           talk to you. We on the east side are happy to  
4           give you the flavors we do on this side, and  
5           they never will match that on the west side,  
6           and you have to take that into account. We are  
7           a rural company -- I mean part of the county.  
8           We are happy to give you that, give you the  
9           beauty. And just don't take -- what we need is  
10          a Representative to represent our interests.  
11          You know, the County -- the County just made  
12          the growth in central Pasco -- they don't want  
13          to have growth, and we are happy to do that,  
14          and we ask you to do the same thing and take  
15          care of our interests in east Pasco. Thank  
16          you.

17          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
18          very much, Tom, we appreciate it.

19          Ladies and gentlemen, if we could ask  
20          people in the back, if you are having a  
21          conversation, it is getting a little hard to  
22          hear in here, we would ask you to take it  
23          outside. So please give the speakers the  
24          respect that they deserve.

25          Mr. Hixson is up. After Mr. Hixson,

1 Ms. Alison Morano.

2 Randy, good to see you, sir. You are  
3 recognized.

4 MR. HIXSON: Thank you. Thank you,  
5 Representative Weatherford and members of this  
6 Legislature. I just wanted to -- my name is  
7 Randy Hixson. I am a Pasco County resident,  
8 been here 11 years, live in Seven Oaks.

9 I just want to reiterate one of my  
10 thoughts for you to take away from this  
11 meeting. It has been said a couple of times  
12 before, but I live in Seven Oaks, as you are  
13 drawing these lines, I think it is very  
14 critical and important that you don't just take  
15 a pencil and draw through communities, that you  
16 use community boundaries as a boundary so we  
17 can keep communities together as they are CDD  
18 communities that have common -- common  
19 interests, and also to keep that community  
20 unity together. So I think it is very critical  
21 that you do that. There are some communities  
22 that are divided. I would ask that you  
23 consider putting those back together and then  
24 not dividing any future communities.

25 I thank you for your time, and God bless

1       you and I thank you for your work here. Thank  
2       you.

3               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
4       Mr. Hixson. We appreciate it, sir.

5               Next up we have Ms. Alison Morano.  
6       Alison, it is good to see you. Followed by  
7       Alison, we have Mr. Robert Nathe.

8               MS. MORANO: Hi. Good evening,  
9       Representative. Good evening, everybody. I am  
10      a resident of Wesley Chapel, and I have lived  
11      here for about 11, 12 years. I know this  
12      county pretty well. I have served on the Board  
13      of Pasco United Way, I have served on the Pasco  
14      County Long-Range Library Planning Committee, I  
15      have served on the Boards of Leadership Pasco,  
16      I have served on Leadership Tampa Bay, I have  
17      served on several other committees, including  
18      being -- serving as the Chair of the Greater  
19      Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce for three and  
20      a half years. I was here before this high  
21      school was built. I was here for the  
22      groundbreaking of Wiregrass. So I know this  
23      county pretty well.

24              One of the things I would like to disagree  
25      with that's been brought up is that Wesley

1 Chapel actually is a very diverse, growing  
2 community. I absolutely do believe that we  
3 work with New Tampa and that we -- I have an  
4 identity with Hillsborough County. I would not  
5 like to see that cut off in any way.

6 But I would like to say thank you and that  
7 I appreciate all the legislators that are here,  
8 and I appreciate that you are taking this time  
9 to listen to us.

10 I also appreciate the 63 percent of the  
11 voters that came out in 2010 to pass Amendments  
12 5 and 6, and I hope that you will all take the  
13 time to implement what we have asked for and  
14 what the voters have asked for.

15 And as far as the maps being drawn, I  
16 think that 5 and 6 pretty much lay out the  
17 makeup of what you need to do in order to draw  
18 these maps, and it may be an arduous task, but  
19 I think that the rules are there and the lines  
20 are there to be drawn and the numbers are there  
21 from the census and the demographics are there  
22 to make this a lot easier than it would have  
23 been if you are starting from scratch. And  
24 what you have asked us to do basically is start  
25 from scratch, because we -- we do not have your

1 knowledge of the census or the demographics,  
2 and we can go on the software, and maybe it is  
3 very advanced, but we believe that all of you  
4 providing us the starting point and then we can  
5 have our input is the way this process is  
6 supposed to go.

7 Now, having said that, another thing that  
8 was brought up this evening by our Supervisor  
9 of Elections from Pasco County is the matter of  
10 timing. I realize that the Legislature is  
11 going to start in January 2012, as I believe  
12 happens every time there is a redistricting  
13 process, you start in 2012. I am not sure that  
14 this year is an exception. But I think that if  
15 you don't give us maps by August -- by January  
16 when you are ready to meet, and you wait until  
17 August, as Brian Corley brought up, you put us  
18 in a very difficult position of being able to  
19 tell people who they are voting for and where  
20 they are voting. You are right on the tail of  
21 the primary, which is only two weeks later,  
22 given the date that I have been reading about,  
23 and I don't know how we get through the court  
24 process and then the Department of Justice  
25 process and then the redistricting and the

1 precinct re-draws and notifying everybody where  
2 it is they are supposed to vote in time to be  
3 able to even think about a primary. That  
4 doesn't even start with the fact that the vote  
5 by mail ballots go out so soon after you are  
6 talking about passing these maps. I just think  
7 that the timing is very bad, and I would  
8 appreciate it if you could come into the  
9 January legislative session in 2012 with maps  
10 drawn, put them on the table and let us start  
11 from there. This process of going around the  
12 state and holding these hearings is taking a  
13 very long time, and I believe that we could  
14 have maps in that process that you could be  
15 bringing with you.

16 So thank you for your time and thank you  
17 for coming out, and I hope you enjoy Wesley  
18 Chapel.

19 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
20 very much, Alison.

21 Next up we have Robert Nathe, Jr.,  
22 followed by Jeff Novotny.

23 Junior, good to see you, sir. You have  
24 the floor.

25 MR. NATHE: Thank you all. Thank



1           everybody for being here. I am  
2           fourth-generation native of Pasco County, Dade  
3           City area, and I am not very good at speaking.

4           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You are doing  
5           good.

6           MR. NATHE: Our family has been in ag, and  
7           the east side of the county is heavy -- heavily  
8           rural agriculture, and with -- the other  
9           counties is Sumter and part of Hillsborough and  
10          Hernando Counties, you have the same  
11          demographics. The west side of Pasco County is  
12          a lot different. I have seen this county  
13          change dramatically over the years, and I just  
14          bring that up. Thank you all.

15          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes, sir,  
16          thank you very much. Great comments.

17          We have Jeff Novotny up, and after  
18          Mr. Novotny, we have Robert Graydon.

19          Jeff, good to see you.

20          MR. NOVOTNY: Good to see you, too. Thank  
21          you very much for coming out and for your time  
22          and your patience to listen to all of us here  
23          tonight. My name is Jeff Novotny, I live at  
24          29725 Chapel Park Drive, Wesley Chapel. I am a  
25          business owner here in Wesley Chapel, one of

1       the few ten years ago, but our area has changed  
2       from being a pass-through zone to being an  
3       origin point for many people. It is now  
4       becoming a destination for many.

5               The boundaries between the counties  
6       somewhat get muted. Other than our children  
7       going to different schools and our taxes being  
8       collected by a different tax collector, many of  
9       the people that live here also commute down to  
10      the New Tampa area. So I think it is important  
11      that as you are drawing districts, you look at  
12      different areas and the character of the  
13      communities, the areas that you serve, the  
14      needs and the interests of the people and how  
15      they align. It is also important that you look  
16      at communities and developments and keep those  
17      common and together.

18             With that, I think if you were to look at  
19      Wesley Chapel in ten years, maybe it serves its  
20      own House district because it will be large  
21      enough. However, until that point, if you were  
22      to take Wesley Chapel and expand beyond that,  
23      there are similarities with New Tampa, so it  
24      does make sense to include New Tampa in some of  
25      the discussions there.

1           There is a big difference between this  
2           area and the western part of the county on the  
3           other side of Suncoast Parkway, so a dividing  
4           line makes sense at that point. As you expand  
5           from Wesley Chapel, the Land O' Lakes and Lutz  
6           area have a lot of similar character, as well  
7           as Zephyrhills, so that becomes kind of a  
8           contiguous zone with common interests.

9           So with that, I appreciate your time, and  
10          have a good time.

11          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
12          Jeff. We appreciate that.

13          Next up we have Mr. Robert Graydon. After  
14          Robert, we have Cliff Gill.

15          MR. GRAYDON: Hello, my name is Robert  
16          Graydon. I am actually a native Floridian,  
17          born and raised in the Panhandle of Florida,  
18          moved here in '88 and actually live in Wesley  
19          Chapel now since '93, raising my family here.  
20          It is a great place to raise your kids.

21          Like -- actually, like the previous  
22          speaker, one thing I do want to say is I am  
23          generally pretty happy with the way that our  
24          district is. I do want to encourage you to  
25          definitely keep in mind the types of

1 communities in the area. Obviously, western  
2 Pasco is definitely different than central  
3 Pasco, but we are also considerable different  
4 than the rural farming areas. This area is  
5 growing like crazy. It wasn't too long ago  
6 that we would have been in a cow pasture right  
7 here. I have seen all of that change since I  
8 have been here. When I first moved here in  
9 '93, again, Bruce B. Downs was a road to  
10 nowhere.

11 So it is definitely growing. It is a  
12 great place to be. We need representation that  
13 recognizes that it is a growth area. It is  
14 very important to us to continue that growth  
15 and to make it even more of a destination  
16 rather than just a bedroom community to Tampa.

17 That is all I have to say. Thank you.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
19 very much.

20 Next up we have Cliff Gill, and after  
21 Cliff, we have Joe Worrell. Cliff? I don't  
22 see Cliff, so we will put him to the side and  
23 allow Joe to come up.

24 Joe, good to see you, sir, and after  
25 Joe -- I apologize if I can't say this name

1 right, but Colleen Branch, maybe, or Calvin  
2 Branch, on 12718 Sugar Creek Boulevard. There  
3 we go. Sorry about that, sir. I'm sure it is  
4 my eyes.

5 Joe, you are recognized.

6 MR. WORRELL: I'm Joe Worrell. I have  
7 been a resident of Pasco County for 25 years.  
8 I am glad to see all of you here. A lot of you  
9 are from south Florida. You had a good trip  
10 up, I hope.

11 When I moved to Pasco County, I closed on  
12 my home in '87, I drove down Bruce B. Downs,  
13 581 30th Street, met one car. The sign for  
14 Wesley Chapel was at Smith Road. The rest of  
15 it was all Zephyrhills. Now they have moved it  
16 and they've got the sign up at Marsh Ridge  
17 Road.

18 What I would like to see is if we are  
19 going to have three Representatives, one for  
20 the east, one for the central, one for the  
21 west, but don't split communities, don't split  
22 neighborhoods. We have the population now for  
23 Senate seat for the entire county. We've got  
24 the people say we've got a problem with the  
25 east and the west. We already have to go to

1 New Port Richey every other week and then to  
2 Dade City the other week for county business.  
3 That's not going to change. Tom has to go both  
4 sides to cover the news for *The Tribune*. The  
5 rest of the county is used to the east and the  
6 west working together. I think we deserve one  
7 county, one Senate seat. Thank you.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
9 very much.

10 Next up we have Calvin Branch, I believe,  
11 and then after that Joel Coston, or Coston.

12 MR. BRANCH: Yes, thank you very much. I  
13 have been watching you and listening to you,  
14 and thank you for being here. And I started  
15 doing a rough count, and you are just a little  
16 bit larger than one of the last classes I ever  
17 taught, which was on the introduction to  
18 philosophy, which I taught for a quarter of a  
19 century.

20 One of the classes -- one of the books we  
21 taught in that class was a book called *Theory*  
22 *of Justice* by John Rawls. And in that, there  
23 was an interesting little experiment, and I am  
24 going to ask you for a moment, because you have  
25 been really good for the last three hours, I am

1 going to ask you for a moment just to play  
2 along with me a bit.

3 In this *Theory of Justice*, Mr. Rawls said  
4 consider yourself, and right now I am going to  
5 draw a veil of ignorance across you. You do  
6 not know what is on this side. Now, over there  
7 on that side, you are responsible for setting  
8 up a theory of justice, and you don't know what  
9 you are going to be when that veil is down.  
10 Male or female, rich or poor, whatever, you do  
11 not know. The theory was that when you have to  
12 do that, you will, in fact, set up the most  
13 perfect theory of justice you can, because you  
14 don't know what you are going to be here.

15 Now, here's where we get down to what you  
16 are doing. You have to set up a theory,  
17 redistricting. And I am going to suggest that  
18 what you do is forget for a moment whether you  
19 are a Democrat or Republican or whatever. What  
20 you should do at this point is to say, "When  
21 the veil of ignorance comes down, I don't know  
22 what I am going to be here, I don't know what  
23 community of interest I am going to be in," but  
24 you should, in fact, pay attention to all the  
25 communities of interest and then try to make

1       sure that the way you draw things up will serve  
2       those communities of interest. Thank you.

3               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
4       sir.

5               Joel, you are next, sir, and after Joel,  
6       we have James Quinlon. Thank you for being  
7       here.

8               MR. COSTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You  
9       are also my Representative, and I am very  
10      pleased.

11              I, too, am a transplant to Pasco County,  
12      originally born and raised in Tampa, Florida.  
13      We came up from Tampa 32 years ago, live in a  
14      little community in northeast Pasco called  
15      Blanton. Some of you know who -- I know you  
16      do, Will.

17              What I would like to say is in the past, I  
18      also served in the political process in Pasco  
19      County. From 1980 to 1984, I was Vice-Chairman  
20      of the Republican party. I had the opportunity  
21      to meet Governor Reagan three times before he  
22      was elected President of the United States, and  
23      supported his campaign in 1980. But I would  
24      like to say that looking at the county now,  
25      it's come a long ways, baby, and we have six



1       Representatives, three Senators and two  
2       Congress members for the county.

3               I, too, agree with Mr. Van Gorden who  
4       spoke before me, and Mr. Waller, about the  
5       content and the characteristics of east Pasco  
6       County. I hope at the end of this process we  
7       can get a consideration up for that. We are a  
8       rural community. I grew up in south Tampa,  
9       went to Plant High School, the whole business  
10      down there. Came up here a long time ago to  
11      get in the country. I would like to keep it  
12      that way like -- and others have done the same  
13      as I. We are very pleased with the life up  
14      here in Pasco, it is a wonderful place. We  
15      would like to see it continue to be that way.  
16      And let's have a haven for that lifestyle when  
17      you're drawing these districts and setting the  
18      lines.

19             And, Will, I hope you don't go away,  
20      because I know you are over -- according to the  
21      model out here, you are over the top, but I  
22      hope you stay my guy and keep doing what you  
23      are doing. And I thank every one of you for  
24      coming. I know you came from a lot of far  
25      distant places to be a part of this process.

1 And thank you, too, Ms. Storms.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
3 very much. Thank you for your kind words. We  
4 appreciate that.

5 Next we have James Quinlon, and after  
6 James, we have Joe Wicker.

7 MR. QUINLON: I will be very brief since I  
8 didn't actually sign up to speak, but in any  
9 event, I am a little disappointed that -- I  
10 understood Senator Gaetz's point about not  
11 having come here with maps and giving us the  
12 opportunity to give our input first, but I  
13 really think that you all being the  
14 professionals, it would have been more helpful  
15 if you had the maps and we reacted to them.

16 In any event, I want to thank you for  
17 being here, and I just want to point out that  
18 Amendments 5 and 6 have been approved by a vast  
19 majority, as everybody has pointed out, and I  
20 beg you, please don't subvert them with  
21 litigation, please implement them fairly and do  
22 it soon, because time is running out. Thanks.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes, sir,  
24 thank you very much. We appreciate those  
25 comments.

1 Joe Wicker, and followed by Joe, we have  
2 Jim McBride. Joe, are you here, buddy? There  
3 we go. And if we can get Jim McBride in the  
4 queue. After Jim, it is going to be Greg  
5 Armstrong. I saw Greg earlier.

6 Mr. Wicker, you are recognized, sir.  
7 Thanks for being here.

8 MR. WICKER: All right. Thank you very  
9 much. I am Joe Wicker. I am a former Army  
10 officer, and now I am in business and one of  
11 the 3.8 million new Floridians in the last --  
12 over the last ten years, and I have been here  
13 about three years now, trying to settle in and  
14 finally live somewhere for a little while.

15 So here we are in this decennial process  
16 of reapportionment, and we got organizations  
17 from all over the place coming to Florida to  
18 influence policy, and it is a difficult  
19 process, so I appreciate what you guys are  
20 going through, and, you know, it is the off  
21 season and you are here and you're touring  
22 Florida, and we appreciate that. Redistricting  
23 is always difficult, it is going to be  
24 difficult every single time.

25 And before I bring up gerrymandering,

1       which, you know, gets brought up every  
2       redistricting process, I just want to remind  
3       people that when you -- when you vote for a  
4       constitutional amendment, those have second and  
5       third order effects that are very serious, and  
6       we are going to live through some of that. You  
7       are going to get judges involved instead of  
8       your Representatives who you can more directly  
9       interact with. So we will see how that turns  
10      out.

11             But it is natural for people to have a  
12      distrust of government. I mean, were seeing  
13      that more and more now. You all are aware of  
14      that. But, you know, before the committee can  
15      really get into some of what do seem like  
16      legitimate issues, you know, having one Senate  
17      seat or two Senate seats, Pasco and the  
18      different lines, I mean, those are some  
19      legitimate concerns, but before the committee  
20      can even get into that, they have to deal with  
21      a number of other issues, which is based off of  
22      law, they have to deal with the  
23      majority-minority district, the minority  
24      crossover district, the minority coalition  
25      district, meaning that if there's two or more

1 minority groups, they can make it a  
2 majority-minority district, and then the  
3 minority influence district, and all that  
4 before they get into the compactness, the  
5 contiguity, the preservation of the counties  
6 and political subdivisions, before they can get  
7 into preservation of communities of interest,  
8 preservation of cores of prior districts and  
9 compliance with Section 2 of the Voting Rights  
10 Act, of which Hillsborough County has to  
11 receive pre-clearance, and all this has to be  
12 done within a very small deviation of the  
13 population, so it is extremely difficult.

14 So just in closing, you know, for the  
15 people, I would like to say that I am really  
16 proud that we got this much involvement, and I  
17 would ask that we realize that what we think is  
18 fair tends to be from where we sit and not from  
19 where someone else sits, and to remember that  
20 you want your Representatives to be involved in  
21 this process, you do not want the courts  
22 deciding how you get represented.

23 And for the committee, with all the  
24 back-door meetings that are going on in DC  
25 right now, I am really appreciative that you

1       are doing this out in the open so everybody can  
2       see it and we can put it on TV, there's no  
3       back-door deals at least for right now. But  
4       keep getting out in front of the people so that  
5       we can be proud of the integrity that we have  
6       in this process. Integrity was one of the key  
7       values of being a military officer, and I  
8       believe that Florida is going to be able to get  
9       through this and show that value, and I know  
10      that you will use common sense, even though  
11      common sense is not very common, and I  
12      appreciate your time. Thank you very much.

13                REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
14      very much, Mr. Wicker. We appreciate that,  
15      sir.

16                Next up we've got Mr. McBride, and after  
17      Mr. McBride, we have Mr. Armstrong.

18                You are recognized, sir.

19                MR. McBRIDE: How do you do,  
20      Mr. Weatherford?

21                REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Please speak  
22      into the mike.

23                MR. McBRIDE: Jim McBride, one of the few  
24      people that you have heard here tonight that is  
25      several generations of Floridians. In fact, I

1       have lived in the same house in excess of 50  
2       years up near the intersection of 41 and 52,  
3       and I want to tell you all it is a real  
4       pleasure for a guy with this kind of gray hair  
5       to stand out here this whole meeting and  
6       identify with each one of you behind your  
7       yellow name tag and let you know that a person  
8       that has voted every year in the military  
9       absentee in Pasco County, to thank you for  
10      being out here.

11             In America at this time, we know what is  
12      going on in Washington, there's a lot of tough  
13      things going on. You all have got some of the  
14      toughest decisions to make, and I want to tell  
15      you this: My heart and my prayer goes out with  
16      every one of you all. You've got a tough  
17      decision to make. I have the utmost confidence  
18      in every one of you all that you are going to  
19      do what is right for Pasco County and Florida,  
20      myself, my family and my grandchildren. Thank  
21      you very much for coming out here tonight.

22             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
23      Mr. McBride. And, most importantly, thank you  
24      for your prayers, sir. We greatly appreciate  
25      that.

1           Greg Armstrong, is Greg here? I saw him  
2           earlier. We are going to put him to the side.

3           Next up we've got Jason Smith. Is Jason  
4           here? Mr. Smith, welcome. After Mr. Smith,  
5           we've got Mary Hanchan, I hope I said that  
6           right, 5603 Grindstone Loop.

7           Mr. Smith, you are recognized, sir.

8           MR. SMITH: Thank you, and thank you guys  
9           for being here, I really appreciate it. My  
10          name is Jason Smith. I have lived in Pasco  
11          County since the age of two, and I am a proud  
12          resident of Pasco County and my family is  
13          growing up here.

14          I do have some comments specifically on  
15          how I would like to see the districts redrawn,  
16          but I came here skeptical. Like a lot of  
17          folks, I guess I just am not fully sure that I  
18          can trust the process, but, actually, in  
19          learning about the website and everything, I  
20          did go on and register and try to do the  
21          mapping. I found that very difficult to do, I  
22          will be honest with you. I am going to keep  
23          working with it and try to do it to where I  
24          draw lines, but I did not find that process  
25          very friendly.



1           District 9 specifically I would like to  
2           speak to, Bilirakis' district. I would like to  
3           see that actually moved out of Polk County  
4           completely. I think we go too far away from  
5           Pasco County with that. I would like to see it  
6           move into Hillsborough County somewhere, maybe  
7           go as far south as Tampa Road and then up to  
8           Gunn Highway or something, and then maybe even  
9           push it down south a little bit into St.  
10          Petersburg.

11           If it is possible, based -- and another  
12          thing I learned tonight is that you have  
13          restrictions on -- your hands are tied  
14          apparently on a lot of this as far as how you  
15          are going to redraw the lines, and I actually  
16          like that, I like that there are rules of the  
17          road and that there's more -- that the citizens  
18          have kind of tied your hands and that there's  
19          more regulation around this and I am glad for  
20          that because I think part of the skepticism  
21          that I came here with and a lot of people came  
22          here with was because in the past, things were  
23          done in back rooms, you know, in smoke-filled  
24          rooms, and I hope that if any of you are on a  
25          committee that actually does draw some lines

1       and it is not your folks that, you know, like  
2       smart people like Jason back there figuring out  
3       everything for you, if you are actually in a  
4       room and the moment comes when you are looking  
5       at drawing some lines, I hope that politics  
6       don't play a part in that. Please resist the  
7       urge. That is why 63 percent of us voted for  
8       this is because we want politics out of it. We  
9       want that to stop. And I want to urge you  
10      please keep the politics out of it, keep it  
11      clean.

12           And if it is possible, one last thing, I  
13      would like to see a Senate representative just  
14      for Pasco, if that is possible, based on -- I  
15      know you are restricted based on how many  
16      people live there, and there is a population  
17      number you have to meet, but as much as that as  
18      possible, as close to that, because three  
19      representatives all sprawled out, some in  
20      Hillsborough, some representing other areas, we  
21      have issues in Pasco that don't pertain to  
22      places like Hillsborough. They got funding,  
23      for instance, for schools, we didn't, and our  
24      schools are funded differently. Our county  
25      commissioners dictate, you know, how funding is

1       worked out. So I would like to keep us as  
2       autonomous as possible so that we can deal with  
3       our issues internally.

4               So I appreciate your time, thank you for  
5       being here and I really appreciate you doing  
6       this. Thank you.

7               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thanks very  
8       much. We appreciate it.

9               Mary -- Mary Hanchan. Is Mary here?

10              Okay, Dave Domino. Dave, are you here?

11              All right. Moving on, Suzanne Fulford.

12       Ms. Fulford? After Suzanne, we have her  
13       husband, Kevin. And while we are waiting for  
14       her to come down, after Kevin, we will have  
15       Joyce Hamilton Henry.

16              Ms. Fulford, it is good to see you. You  
17       are recognized.

18              MS. FULFORD: Hi, how are you?

19              First of all, I would like to thank you  
20       all for coming. I know that you have taken a  
21       lot of time out of your schedules to go around  
22       the state and listen to everybody, and I would  
23       like to -- I would like to thank you for the  
24       transparency and actually coming and listening  
25       to us and hearing what we have to say.

1           That being said, I am going to be short  
2           and sweet, because a lot of people have said  
3           exactly what I have been thinking, and the  
4           first thing is basically the three separate  
5           districts for Pasco County I think is  
6           important, east, central and west, because of  
7           the population, the way it is separated and the  
8           different needs of the communities. So thank  
9           you very much.

10           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
11           very much. We appreciate the brevity. We are  
12           giving bonus points at this point for that, so  
13           that was wonderful, Ms. Fulford.

14           Mr. Fulford, your boss has also gone  
15           before you, so you are now recognized to speak.

16           MR. FULFORD: Good evening. Thank you all  
17           for coming. I know this is a monumental task  
18           and a rather unenviable task as well.

19           I am Kevin Fulford, and I live and work  
20           here in Pasco County. Thank you. I just  
21           wanted to not get hit by the microphone.

22           I just want to say a couple things. I  
23           grew up in St. Petersburg, and then when I was  
24           stationed at MacDill Central Command, I lived  
25           in Valrico, but now I live and work in Pasco

1 County, and they are very different areas.

2 A couple of thoughts that I had is just to  
3 consider not splitting a city right in the  
4 middle. Hillsborough County is very different  
5 than Pasco County when we look at drawing the  
6 lines, and if you look at the makeup of the  
7 areas, urban versus rural, and the Highway 19  
8 corridor here in Pasco County versus the east  
9 side. And I just looked at the numbers real  
10 quick based on the population. It's gone from  
11 344,000 in 2000 to 464,000 now based on the  
12 2010 census. That gives us, based on the  
13 recommended numbers of representation, three  
14 Representatives and one State Senator. So the  
15 three distinct areas in Pasco County, east,  
16 central and west, would perhaps make a lot of  
17 sense, and also one Senator seat. So thank you  
18 for your consideration.

19 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
20 very much, Mr. Fulford. We appreciate that,  
21 sir.

22 Next up we have Joyce Hamilton Henry with  
23 the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida,  
24 and after Ms. Joyce, we have Hutch Brock.

25 MS. HENRY: Good evening.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Good evening.

2           MS. HENRY: My name is Joyce Hamilton  
3 Henry, and I am here to speak on behalf of the  
4 ACLU of Florida. I am the Director for the  
5 mid-Florida regional office, which represents  
6 20 counties, and so I am here and will continue  
7 to be here as long as you are meeting in my  
8 region.

9           The ACLU of Florida, as you know, is a  
10 nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. We  
11 protect and defend the American Constitution  
12 and Bill of Rights.

13           I want to speak to an area of this issue  
14 that I have not heard mentioned very often, and  
15 part of it has to do with putting this issue in  
16 context on behalf of a population of  
17 individuals that have been historically  
18 under-represented.

19           I want to speak to the Voting Rights Act.  
20 I know many of you are already familiar with  
21 it, but bear with me. I would like to review  
22 some key components of this act. It was passed  
23 in 1965, and stands as one of the most  
24 important legislative achievements of this 20th  
25 century. Signed into law shortly after the

1 murder of civil rights activists in Mississippi  
2 and the unprovoked attack against peaceful  
3 marchers across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in  
4 Selma, Alabama, the Voting Rights Act outlawed  
5 discriminatory tests like literacy tests, tests  
6 of good character, racial gerrymandering and  
7 the use of poll taxes in many southern states.

8 Coupled with intense and sustained  
9 enforcement by the federal government, the  
10 Voting Rights Act opened the door for millions  
11 of blacks for the first time to be able to  
12 participate in the political system. Over the  
13 years, amendments to the Voting Rights Act have  
14 been used to protect the voting rights of other  
15 previously disenfranchised groups such as  
16 language minorities. This act was intended to  
17 create a level playing field to ensure that  
18 under-represented and historically marginalized  
19 Americans would have an opportunity to  
20 participate fully in the Democratic process.

21 Every ten years, as you know, and we are  
22 here because of that, due to the census, we  
23 have to redraw the district lines, and for the  
24 purpose of ensuring that we franchise our  
25 growing citizenry, one person, one vote.

1           You have been hearing over the past couple  
2       of weeks from everyone, groups of individuals,  
3       their wish list as to what they want to see the  
4       maps look like. You have a mandate from  
5       63 percent of Floridians to draw the map, and  
6       you have heard this already, compact,  
7       contiguous, meet the interests of communities  
8       of interest, but also does not favor or  
9       disfavor any political group. I would like to  
10      remind you of that mandate.

11           You have heard some great suggestions from  
12      other groups, including the League of Women  
13      Voters yesterday, about the timeline, some  
14      ideas about expediting the timeline to ensure  
15      that we all not only have an opportunity to  
16      respond to the maps -- and, yes, we are still  
17      waiting to see the maps -- but we also want to  
18      make sure that when you do draw the maps, that  
19      there is sufficient time for all of us to know  
20      who our Representatives will be, for those who  
21      are running for office to know which districts  
22      they represent, and to also make sure that --  
23      and you've heard from Supervisor of Elections,  
24      that they know the parameters and timelines.

25           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Ms. Henry, I



1 am going to have to ask you to kind of wrap it  
2 up. There are several speakers, and we want to  
3 get to everybody.

4 MS. HENRY: And I will.

5 What I would like to close by saying is  
6 this: You have also been hearing a lot of  
7 distrust in government, and there is good  
8 reason for that. And you have also been  
9 hearing the importance of being fair and  
10 transparent in the process. I implore that you  
11 listen to what we, the citizens, have been  
12 saying to you. Thank you.

13 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes, ma'am,  
14 thank you very much. We appreciate that.

15 Next up we've got Hutch Brock, former  
16 Mayor of Dade City. Mayor, it is good to see  
17 you. And after Mr. Brock, we've got Ms. Annie  
18 Baker.

19 Good to see you.

20 MR. BROCK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Folks,  
21 thanks for coming to Pasco County, we  
22 appreciate your time. I know this has been an  
23 enjoyable three hours. It is very important,  
24 though, and we do appreciate your  
25 attentiveness.

1           One of the things that I have not heard  
2           for last three hours -- and by the way, I  
3           didn't get the memo to show up early and sign  
4           up early, but one of the things I have heard,  
5           or have not heard in the last three hours is  
6           that we are looking for an unfair line or we  
7           are looking for gerrymandering or we are  
8           looking for something that is going to create a  
9           problem. I think we all have a common interest  
10          that we want something that can be sustained  
11          and that will be fair.

12                I have read the literature about what it  
13                is that is going to direct and lead you all in  
14                consideration of these very difficult  
15                decisions, and what rings with me are the  
16                issues of common interests, common  
17                transportation corridors and common industry.  
18                So let's talk about that.

19                If you are looking for common  
20                transportation corridors and you are trying to  
21                suggest that east Pasco and west Pasco are  
22                common, I need you to go ride around the  
23                county. I was talking to a friend of mine who  
24                took his child up to the University of Florida  
25                to look around the campus, and it was the first

1       time he had been there, and until he was there,  
2       he didn't appreciate how broad it was and how  
3       much transportation on that campus was  
4       important. He didn't know until he went and  
5       looked. I invite you to look. I think you  
6       will see common industry runs on the spine of  
7       301. Common industry runs on the spine of U.S.  
8       19. There appears to be a divide. I sit on  
9       Boards that are spanning the county and, quite  
10      frankly, in the Tampa Bay area, and no one  
11      likes to say we are divided, but there are some  
12      natural divisions, whether it is the Parkway,  
13      whether it is 41, certainly there is a division  
14      on a perspective. So it applies to  
15      transportation corridors and it certainly  
16      applies to industry as well. If you look at  
17      the industry of the 19 spine of U.S. 19, you  
18      see a much different and dramatic picture than  
19      what you see along the 301 corridor going up  
20      into Sumter and Hernando County. I don't think  
21      anyone will deny that.

22           So we are urging you, when you consider  
23      these issues on the House side, and in  
24      particular on the State Senate side, and even  
25      when you are looking for the congressional

1 seat, that you follow these directives and you  
2 look around and you consider the differences  
3 between the east Pasco and the west Pasco side,  
4 and you give us proper and adequate  
5 representation.

6 Folks, thanks again for all of your time,  
7 and good luck with the process.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
9 Mayor. Good to see you.

10 Next up we've got Ms. Annie Baker, and I  
11 saw Ms. Baker earlier. I don't know if she is  
12 still here. If she is not here, we will keep  
13 moving. Mr. Colson, Clay Colson, I see you  
14 back there, sir, and after Mr. Colson, we've  
15 got George McDowell.

16 Clay, good to see you, sir. Thanks for  
17 being here, and you have the floor, my friend.

18 MR. COLSON: Greetings. My name is Clay  
19 Colson. I am a native Floridian and one of an  
20 endangered species.

21 I would first like to say that I am not  
22 going to come up here and tell you all how I  
23 think you should draw districts or how it  
24 should represent three parts of Pasco or any of  
25 that stuff. I believe that y'all are all here

1       because you are going to carry out the will of  
2       the people. That is your job, that is what got  
3       you elected, and to do that, you only have to  
4       do some very simple things.

5               First like to refer to our correspondence  
6       that we had, Will. You tell me in your  
7       correspondence that you wanted to make it clear  
8       that what you wanted to do was to finalize the  
9       redistricting process prior to June of 2012,  
10      and that June of 2012 is a deadline and not a  
11      goal. You are confident that the Legislature  
12      can complete this work on the redistricting  
13      plans prior to then. You also say you believe  
14      that guidance from the Florida residents can  
15      create new district maps that will represent  
16      how it is that Floridians want their  
17      communities to be represented in Tallahassee  
18      and in Washington, DC. And you point out it is  
19      important to note that Florida's redistricting  
20      timeline is in part mandated by the Florida  
21      State Constitution, cite Article III, Section  
22      16. So I looked it up and checked it out. It  
23      doesn't say you have to do it in 2012. It  
24      doesn't say you can't do it beforehand.

25              So in that vein, I would like to give you

1       a little guidance. I ask that you act swiftly.  
2       Florida has been one of the very last states to  
3       complete redistricting historically. This  
4       hurts candidates, voters and ultimately the  
5       quality of our governing. Most of the states  
6       complete their redistricting process this year.  
7       It is time to bring Florida to the front of the  
8       pack. The Legislature can speed up this  
9       timetable, and they should work hard to do  
10      exactly that.

11             Now, here is why I am not worried about  
12      how you are going to draw these maps, you see,  
13      because you are here to carry out the will of  
14      the people, and 63 percent of the voters told  
15      you what they wanted you to do. We now have a  
16      constitutional amendments, 5 and 6, which are  
17      part of the Constitution that you pointed out,  
18      and all that you have to do is follow these  
19      constitutional guidelines. That means that we  
20      shall -- that -- all that means is that  
21      districts shall be nearly equal in population  
22      as is practicable, districts shall be compact,  
23      districts shall, where feasible, utilize  
24      existing political and geographical boundaries.  
25      These standards make sense. I love the KISS

1 doctrine. I say keep it simple, stupid. It is  
2 really simple.

3 I know that some of you don't feel too  
4 much for John Russell, but he makes a very good  
5 point. Let's take the politics out of this.  
6 Hillsborough County is successfully doing their  
7 redistricting of commission seats, using a  
8 computer program where you just put in the  
9 pertinent data and you put all the data in, and  
10 the computer will draw the districts, and then  
11 there is no politics involved. It is that  
12 simple, and that is exactly what you should do.

13 Now, in closing, I would like to point out  
14 the City of St. -- or *The St. Petersburg Times*  
15 wrote an article back on the 20th of this month  
16 talking about the fact that the Legislature has  
17 spent our money fighting Amendment 6. So far  
18 to date, you spent \$350,000 of our money when  
19 63 percent of us told you what we wanted. What  
20 gives you the right to spend our money? What  
21 are you doing holding off money to do  
22 litigation? You have no right to do that. You  
23 are in violation of what people elected you to  
24 do. You are here to carry out our will. Our  
25 will is clear. Thank you for your time.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
2           Clay. Good to see you.

3           Next up we have George McDowell. After  
4           George -- good to see you, sir -- we've got  
5           Stephen Sarnoff.

6           MR. McDOWELL: I will keep this simple. I  
7           am George McDowell from Land O' Lakes, I am a  
8           Florida native.

9           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Please speak  
10          into the mike, sir.

11          MR. McDOWELL: Thank you. I appreciate  
12          your allowing this platform.

13          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: We cannot  
14          hear you, sir.

15          MR. McDOWELL: You can't hear me?

16          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: No. Get  
17          really close.

18          MR. McDOWELL: Okay.

19          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: There you go.

20          MR. McDOWELL: Basically I want my  
21          Representative to be local. I would hope that  
22          you will take the information from the latest  
23          census and draw up a plan so that when I call  
24          my Representative, that he can have empathy for  
25          my concerns because he is in the area. I live



1           in Land O' Lakes. I have nothing in common  
2           with a guy from Gulfport. I know that isn't  
3           relevant, but I think you get the picture.

4           So I am hoping that you will use due  
5           diligence in drawing up the new districts.  
6           Thank you.

7           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes, sir,  
8           thank you very much.

9           Next up we have Stephen Sarnoff.  
10          Following Mr. Sarnoff, we have David Bussey.

11          MR. SARNOFF: Good evening. As a child  
12          growing up, I learned that before I was a  
13          Floridian, a New Yorker, a Bronxite, a Jew, I  
14          was an American. Some reason today, we have  
15          the hardest the time remembering that we are  
16          all Americans.

17          The reason why I supported and voted for  
18          Amendment 5 and 6 was because about three years  
19          ago, I sat in a schoolroom in a political  
20          science seminar and demonstrated to me on a  
21          screen was how political consultants decide how  
22          to gerrymander. They have tremendous databases  
23          of who is registered and what political party,  
24          how often they vote in an election, and if I am  
25          a well-financed candidate for office, I can pay

1       one of these people to show me the perfect  
2       district that will get me elected every time.  
3       That is why I believed that we needed Amendment  
4       5 and 6, and many Floridians agreed and voted  
5       the same way.

6               One of the hardest things that I can't  
7       understand about this process was the fact that  
8       if it was not for Amendment 5 and 6, I really  
9       feel the process probably would be done by now,  
10      or would have been well underway much more than  
11      it is now. I understand that we had to go to  
12      court to uphold the will of the people, and  
13      even though I know there is some resentment or  
14      some animosity towards the judicial, thank God  
15      for the balance of power, because that is a  
16      true American democracy.

17             Yesterday Lori Edwards, Supervisor of  
18      Elections in Polk County, told this committee  
19      -- told the committee that waiting until the  
20      last deadline to approve the maps will force  
21      election officials not to have or to have  
22      barely enough time to change districts,  
23      precincts and a myriad of other things, and if  
24      the Legislature waits to the end of the  
25      session, followed by the court review and the

1 Department of Justice 90-day, they take 90 days  
2 to review, election supervisors in the state  
3 could have only two weeks before the absentee  
4 ballots have to be mailed for the August 14th  
5 primary. If that happens, then during the  
6 two-week period, we would have to change all  
7 district maps, align the precincts and  
8 boundaries with the new lines --

9 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Sarnoff,  
10 I am going to have to ask you to wrap it up.  
11 We are getting really tight on time here.

12 MR. SARNOFF: Thank you. Every court,  
13 every -- each home in each district, check and  
14 recheck voter rolls and notify the voters that  
15 he or she is in a new district, all within two  
16 weeks before the absentee ballots. That is not  
17 American democracy, that is what we call  
18 disenfranchisement, and it needs to be stopped  
19 before it starts. Thank you.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
21 sir.

22 Okay. We've got Mr. David Bussey.  
23 Mr. Bussey, good to see you, sir. After  
24 Mr. Bussey, we have Jerry Marshall Hester.

25 Good to see you, sir.

1           MR. BUSSEY: Yes, good to see you all too,  
2       Senator Storms. I will try and keep this -- I  
3       will keep this under three minutes.

4           When I came in here tonight, I really  
5       don't have a clue about what redistricting is  
6       all about. I have learned a lot out in the  
7       hallway and listening to everybody in here.

8           Kind of sounds like where I live. I live  
9       in Zephyrhills in a retirement snowbird  
10      community. I live there year-round. We have  
11      about 300 residents there and we have a  
12      homeowners' association and we are guided by  
13      condominium rules. And basically what that  
14      means is that each of us that live there can't  
15      do things the way we think it ought to be done.  
16      We have to give away some of our wants and  
17      desires for the greater good of everyone that  
18      lives there. I can't just go and plant a tree  
19      on my neighbor's property without getting  
20      permission, which I wouldn't get. Once in a  
21      while, we get some people that do some things  
22      like that, and then we have some real problems.

23           You folks have, from what I am seeing  
24      here -- God bless you, and I mean that, we need  
25      to be praying for our State Senators and

1       Representatives this coming session that they  
2       are given the wisdom they need to do what needs  
3       to be done, because if you do what we have all  
4       asked you to do, boy, it is going to take a big  
5       computer to figure that out. I have never -- I  
6       have not been in a room where I have heard so  
7       much personal agendas voiced, and rightly so, I  
8       mean, I understand your concerns. I have  
9       concerns, too. I am just praying that you will  
10      lay down your -- set aside your political  
11      agendas and do what is right for the farmer and  
12      do what is right for the businessman and do  
13      what is right for the hairdresser and do what  
14      is right for the maid, try and put it all  
15      together in a way where we all don't get what  
16      we want, but some of us don't get screwed real  
17      bad either, you know what I mean. You have a  
18      tremendous undertaking, and I pray that  
19      providence will be with you.

20                REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
21      Mr. Bussey.

22                Mr. Hester, we have been advocating for  
23      you all night, because you are our last  
24      speaker, we made it to you. So  
25      congratulations, and you are recognized for the

1 floor.

2 MR. HESTER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My  
3 name is Marshall Hester. I am a resident of  
4 Wesley Chapel. I came up here tonight just to  
5 represent myself and my family. I've got a  
6 little bit different take perhaps on what some  
7 other folks have said.

8 I believe the current structure of our  
9 representation here in Pasco County is of great  
10 benefit to me, and I prefer it not be changed,  
11 and I will tell you why. Pasco County, as is  
12 presently apportioned, is represented by six  
13 State Representatives, three State Senators and  
14 two Congressmen. This provides me and my  
15 family with many different avenues of redress,  
16 and it gives us a very powerful voice in  
17 legislative matters. Thank you.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
19 sir. Thank you for your brevity. If we had a  
20 balloon, we would give you one. That was  
21 great. Thank you very much.

22 Ladies and gentlemen, that concludes the  
23 public hearing portion of this. We have a few  
24 minutes left. What I would like to do is if  
25 there are any members on the body or in the

1       committee that would like to speak -- if we  
2       could, Mr. Chairman, we will start off with  
3       House members. Members, are there any House  
4       members who would like to take just a minute or  
5       two to speak or have something to add to the  
6       conversation? Anyone, anyone? Yes, sir,  
7       Representative Baxley. We will bring the  
8       microphone to you.

9                REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: I want to thank  
10       our Chairmen for their leadership tonight and  
11       how orderly these meetings have run and how  
12       patient people have been to hear one another.

13               One thing that I am -- I am one of the few  
14       people on this line-up that's ever been through  
15       redistricting, and what I would like to --  
16       there is a great myth out there that everybody  
17       is picking their own seat. Most of these  
18       people ran for seats that somebody else drew.  
19       I am probably the only -- is anybody else was  
20       in the process last time, ten years ago? I am  
21       it. And so they are not designing districts  
22       for themselves. They are trying to design  
23       districts that serve communities. Obviously a  
24       lot of things go into that, but term limits  
25       took care of that problem. Congressmen do not

1 draw districts. Your elected members draw that  
2 map, trying to fit together all these different  
3 parameters. I hope that gives you some  
4 consolation about the myth of self-service in  
5 this regard. Term limits has changed that  
6 dimension already. Thank you.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay. All  
8 the House members, any other House members that  
9 wish to speak? Okay, Representative Williams  
10 and Representative Corcoran.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS: Thank you,  
12 Mr. Chair. I just want to introduce myself.  
13 My name is Alan Williams. I represent Leon  
14 County, Tallahassee, Florida. I wasn't here on  
15 the front end, because I got caught up in your  
16 traffic on 75 north, and so I am hopeful that  
17 DOT will get some more funding so we can fix  
18 that process.

19 REPRESENTATIVE CORCORAN: Real fast, as  
20 one of your Pasco Representatives, I just want  
21 to say of how proud I am of all the testimony  
22 that you guys gave today. This is my fifth  
23 hearing from around the state, and I can  
24 unequivocally say that over 90 percent of the  
25 people that testified today gave us specifics



1           that we can start to work with on what the  
2           communities of interest that matter to you.  
3           That is a significant input that benefits all  
4           of us, and I just want to thank you guys for  
5           making this, for me, and I am very proud of  
6           Pasco, one of the most informative  
7           constituent-related public hearings that we  
8           have had to date. Thank you very much.

9           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: All right.  
10          Any Senators? Any Senators that would like to  
11          contribute? I'm sorry, we've got one more  
12          Representative, Representative Workman. You  
13          are recognized, sir, for very brief comments.

14          REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: Very brief. I  
15          just wanted to tell Steve -- Representative  
16          Steve Crisafulli, it is his 21st birthday  
17          today -- Representative Crisafulli, happy  
18          birthday.

19          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Happy  
20          birthday, Representative, but I don't think it  
21          is your 21st.

22          Okay. If we could, for just a moment, we  
23          are almost done, ladies and gentlemen, there  
24          were same statements that were made tonight and  
25          some questions that were raised tonight that I

1        want to make sure we have clarification on. My  
2        partner in this process, Chairman Gaetz,  
3        Senator Gaetz, is going to take just a few  
4        minutes to clarify a few of those points to  
5        make sure everybody walks out of this room with  
6        the same understanding as to where we go from  
7        here and what this process will entail here on  
8        the back end. I want to thank you again, and I  
9        will turn it over to Senator Gaetz.

10                SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
11        Let me just go briefly through some factual  
12        questions that were raised so that, as the  
13        Speaker indicated, we all have the same  
14        understanding as we leave.

15                First, there were several speakers who  
16        said 63 percent of the voters voted for fair  
17        districts, why don't you just be precise and  
18        implement fair districts. I have taken tonight  
19        nine pages of notes, and those notes show that  
20        even within this room, there is substantial  
21        disagreement or at least a little bit of  
22        tension as to what people think fair districts  
23        means and how those standards ought to be  
24        applied.

25                I will give you an example. We heard

1           tonight nine different times the term  
2           "communities of interest," that it was very  
3           important that communities that -- I believe  
4           the phrase was had common interest, had common  
5           transportation borders, had common industry,  
6           went to school together, that that ought to be  
7           the definition of an entity that then you would  
8           use as a building block for representation.  
9           Well, Amendments 5 and 6 don't talk about  
10          communities of interest. As a matter of fact,  
11          there was an effort made to add the term  
12          "communities of interest" to the Constitution,  
13          and the Supreme Court struck that down. And  
14          so, therefore, what we are left with is on the  
15          one hand, a number of people testifying  
16          persuasively about the need to maintain  
17          communities that have some integrity together,  
18          and other people persuasively testifying that  
19          it ought to be county lines that would be the  
20          determining factor, not communities of  
21          interest.

22                 I only mention this to say that there was  
23          one rather emotional young man who said that he  
24          thought that -- that what we were doing tonight  
25          and around the state wasn't very useful. I

1 think he called it a fig leaf. Well, the fact  
2 is we have to hear from people at the local  
3 level as to what they believe and how these  
4 standards ought to be interpreted in order to  
5 be faithful to the Constitution. The reason  
6 why is because the language of Amendments 5 and  
7 6 are brand-new. Taken together, altogether,  
8 these templates or mandates have never been  
9 applied to a single state before. So we can't  
10 say, "Well, let's just do it the way Indiana  
11 does it." Instead, we are charting new ground  
12 now, and we have to be careful so that we are  
13 faithful to our constitutional oaths and to the  
14 will of the voters.

15 So as somebody from the Panhandle of  
16 Florida who lives in the central time zone, I  
17 couldn't have sat in Tallahassee in an echo  
18 chamber just filled with legislators and  
19 special interest groups and figured out all of  
20 the nuances and particular concerns that all of  
21 you expressed tonight. I've got page after  
22 page about east Pasco and west Pasco and  
23 Hernando versus Tampa and all of the things  
24 that matter to you.

25 So I would simply say that Democrats and

1       Republicans, House members and Senators, all  
2       are learning from these hearings, 26 of them,  
3       to understand the local issues that will help  
4       us properly and faithfully implement Amendments  
5       5 and 6. But it isn't easy. Let me give you a  
6       sentence from Amendments 5 and 6. This wasn't  
7       quoted by the gentleman who described them.  
8       Here it is, and it is a direct quote from the  
9       Constitution, listen carefully: "No line -- no  
10      line may be drawn with the intent to either  
11      favor or disfavor any incumbent or any  
12      political party." Now, draw the first line.  
13      You can understand how there can be differences  
14      of opinion as to what all of that might mean.  
15      So that is why it is important to listen to  
16      you.

17             Questions about the timeline. Other  
18      states may have completed their redistricting  
19      already. That is true. Illinois completed it  
20      very early. They had a group of politicians,  
21      went in a closed room, came out, said, "Here  
22      are the maps, take them or leave them," and  
23      that was that, and the one political party  
24      dominated everything. We don't think that is  
25      the right way to operate.

1           Also, Florida was one of the last states  
2           to receive its census data from the U.S. Bureau  
3           of the Census. Not all states got it at the  
4           same time, it came in different tranches, and  
5           we were not the last, but we were one of the  
6           last. And you can't begin to draw any lines or  
7           even conceive of where districts might be until  
8           you know where the people live. And so that is  
9           why we are a little bit later than some states,  
10          first because we didn't believe in the back  
11          room, and secondly, because we got our census  
12          data later than many other states.

13          But the other thing is that there are some  
14          states, for example, Louisiana, who completed  
15          their redistricting earlier, and that is  
16          because they have their elections on odd  
17          numbered years, and so they completed theirs in  
18          time for odd number year elections and they  
19          were able to get their census data earlier and  
20          get their process going earlier because of that  
21          fact.

22          Contrary to what some may have thought and  
23          maybe even said tonight, final deadlines for  
24          action on maps do not prevent -- do not prevent  
25          earlier action. We can vote as soon as

1       January. Can't vote earlier than that, because  
2       of the State Constitution. If our Fair  
3       Districts friends would have wanted to change  
4       the Constitution so we could vote in September  
5       or in August, they could have done that, but  
6       they chose not to include such a change in  
7       their amendment.

8               Those are -- who are concerned that the  
9       Legislature shouldn't take all the time that it  
10      legally can I think make a good point. We  
11      would urge you to also encourage the other  
12      parties, the Federal Justice Department, the  
13      courts, the Attorney General, not to take all  
14      the time they can, but, rather, to take the  
15      time that they need, and that is what the  
16      Legislature is going to do as well. As Speaker  
17      Weatherford indicated, we can vote as early as  
18      January. We can vote as early as members of  
19      the Legislature and citizens come forward with  
20      their individual maps and suggestions.

21             There were suggestions tonight that the  
22      current maps are examples of gerrymandering.  
23      Maybe they are, but only Representative Baxley  
24      was in the Legislature when those maps were  
25      drawn, so it is all his fault. No, not really.

1       The fact is that all of the rest of us ran in  
2       districts where somebody else drew the lines.  
3       So we didn't draw lines for ourselves. We ran  
4       in districts that were drawn by others for  
5       either good or bad reasons. We are trying to  
6       correct that in this process.

7               There were several questions. Are we  
8       looking at population growth in the future as a  
9       way of articulating what kind of districts  
10      there might be? Federal law doesn't let us do  
11      that. The census is a federal function and  
12      there is a snapshot taken, and it is who lives  
13      where and how many people live there on that  
14      first day in April when the census is taken.  
15      That is the snapshot. So we can't -- we can't  
16      count future growth. That is called rotten  
17      boroughs. We can't say, "Well, some people  
18      might live there, there are some chickens there  
19      now, but some people might live there, let's  
20      count the chickens." Federal law won't let us  
21      do that. We can only count the people who are  
22      there on April 1st, counted by the federal  
23      government, they give us the numbers, those are  
24      the numbers we live with.

25              And then, you know, we had a number of



1       folks who said it is good to have Pasco County  
2       represented by several legislators, because  
3       that gives us a stronger voice in Tallahassee,  
4       and others said we want fewer legislators  
5       representing us, because that will give us a  
6       stronger voice. But you gave excellent reasons  
7       for your points of view. I took notes, others  
8       took notes. We want to take that information  
9       and use it to try to not make everybody happy,  
10      but try to make the wise decisions.

11             There are a couple of folks who said  
12      tonight, "Where are the maps?" Well, the  
13      answer is, there's a bunch of them in the back,  
14      there's a bunch of them over there. If you go  
15      to our website, you will see that there are 17  
16      maps. Any Democrat, any Republican, any  
17      Senator, any Representative, can propose any  
18      map at any time. There seems to be some sense  
19      that maybe there is a magic map that is going  
20      to suddenly emerge fully grown, sprung from the  
21      brow of Zeus, and that that is going to be the  
22      map. Well, talk to these folks afterwards,  
23      Democrats, Republicans, House members,  
24      Senators, you are going to find that there are  
25      many different opinions. I can tell you as

1 Chairman of the Senate committee, no Senate  
2 maps have been drawn, but already I am starting  
3 to like some of the maps that we are getting  
4 from the general public, because members of the  
5 general public are drawing maps without  
6 necessarily having a dog in the fight. But it  
7 is not as though there's suddenly going to be a  
8 map that will emerge and everybody will agree.  
9 There will be lively debate about all of these  
10 issues.

11 Now, someone said, "Well, what will happen  
12 if your -- will you be in the room, if any of  
13 you are in the room when the maps are drawn?"  
14 Well, the fact is, all of us are going to be in  
15 the room, and the room is going to be on  
16 television. So you are going to be able to see  
17 the debates and you will be able to also see  
18 Chairman Weatherford and me say, "Are there any  
19 members of the public who want to testify? Did  
20 we get any e-mails, did we get any information  
21 that we can share with members of the  
22 committee?" And there are 19 million auditors  
23 to this process. All of you can see every  
24 proposal before any votes are taken.

25 And then finally, Mr. Speaker, there was a

1           -- there was a suggestion that it is not us --  
2           I'm sorry, let me hit one other thing.  Someone  
3           said -- I am glad to see the number keeps  
4           moving around -- that there is \$30 million in  
5           some special fund to fight lawsuits in the  
6           House of Representatives.  Well, by golly, when  
7           I -- I am Chairman of the Appropriations  
8           Committee in the Senate.  When I was dealing  
9           with some of these guys, they didn't tell me  
10          they had \$30 million snuck away to fight  
11          lawsuits.  The fact is that that is an urban  
12          legend.  There is no \$30 million snuck away to  
13          fight lawsuits.  Instead, there is \$30 million  
14          in reserves in the House of Representatives,  
15          because we have a big state, we have a huge  
16          budget and we have a lot of things that might  
17          happen, the House has set aside money for  
18          reserves.  Now, some of those reserves will pay  
19          for heat, lights and phone, some of them pay  
20          for lawyers, some of them may pay for other  
21          operational expenses, but it is absolutely an  
22          urban legend that there is \$30 million that has  
23          been designated to fight some sort of a  
24          lawsuit.

25                 And then, finally, Mr. Speaker and

1 members, I think there was -- there was an  
2 eloquent point that was made by a gentleman who  
3 wore a shirt that had a -- I think it had a  
4 patriotic emblem on it, and he said, "It  
5 shouldn't be us versus them, it should be we,"  
6 and someone right behind him said that if you  
7 drew an imaginary line and you had a theory of  
8 justice on one side that could apply to people  
9 that were invisible as to their race, creed,  
10 color or political party on the other side, we  
11 would do well, and then he used that term,  
12 "communities of interest," which, sadly, is not  
13 in the Constitution. I would just offer this  
14 as a fact. There are Democrats and  
15 Republicans, House members and Senators, who  
16 will all have a role to play in creating the  
17 "we," and then when we are done, it will be the  
18 courts. So it will be the Legislature and the  
19 courts. And we must all come together,  
20 including the Federal Justice Department, in  
21 order for a plan to actually be implemented.  
22 So there are many, many checks and balances.

23 A gentleman said he hoped that we had  
24 thick skin, that there wasn't six million  
25 unhappy people and six million happy people,

1       though he thought it might happen. I used to  
2       work for a guy named Everett McKinley Dirksen,  
3       who was a Senator from Illinois. Dirksen said,  
4       "When everyone is equally dissatisfied, justice  
5       has been done." We hope we will do a little  
6       bit better than that.

7               We thank you. I thank you as a Panhandle  
8       Senator for making me aware of issues I never  
9       would have learned about had I not come here  
10      tonight.

11             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
12      Senator, very timely. I think everybody in  
13      Pasco now recognizes why you are going to be a  
14      great Senate President. So tremendous job in  
15      wrapping that up.

16             Ladies and gentlemen, thank you again for  
17      tonight. We appreciate your input, continue to  
18      work with us, and with that, Chairman Gaetz  
19      moves we rise.

20             (Whereupon, the proceedings were  
21      concluded.)

22  
23  
24  
25

## 1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )

3 COUNTY OF LEON )

4 I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript  
5 is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned,  
6 and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting  
7 under my direction;

8 That the foregoing pages 2 through 165  
9 represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of  
10 the tape-recording;

11 And I further certify that I am not of kin or  
12 counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the  
13 regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor  
14 am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

15 Dated this 20th day of November, 2011.

16

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

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Notary Public

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State of Florida at Large

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Commission Expires:

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November 13, 2014

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REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

11

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2011

12

BOB CARR PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

13

ORLANDO, FL

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Transcribed by:

22

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

23

Court Reporter

24

25

1 T A P E D P R O C E E D I N G S

2 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT:

3 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Good afternoon,  
4 ladies and gentlemen. Can we go ahead and take  
5 our seats, members? Would you go ahead and  
6 take your seats, please?

7 Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Joint  
8 Senate House Redistricting Committee meeting.  
9 We are now called to order, so everyone would  
10 take their seats, members as well as the  
11 general public. We appreciate you being here  
12 this afternoon.

13 First, let me go ahead and say at the  
14 outset that because we have got such a great  
15 turn out here today, well over 100, closing at  
16 150 requests, we are going to have to  
17 abbreviate some of the script here that we have  
18 got here on our side in order to allow as many  
19 of you as possible the opportunity to share  
20 your thoughts on redistricting.

21 That said, we are pleased to be joined  
22 today by several members of the Florida House  
23 and Florida Senate from throughout the state.

24 Since we do have a lot to do today we are  
25 going to have, give them the opportunity to



1       introduce themselves, everybody up here on the  
2       dais after the meeting, if we have a few  
3       minutes of extra time.

4               First of all, we want to express our  
5       thanks to the City of Orlando and Mayor Dyer in  
6       particular for his office allowing us to use  
7       this facility.

8               Thank you to all of the members of the  
9       public for being here and coming to share your  
10      comments and recommendations to help shape the  
11      Congressional Districts, the State House  
12      Districts and the State Senate Districts.

13              With that I believe the Mayor would like  
14      to use one or two minutes to introduce -- here  
15      he is, Mayor Dyer, we appreciate you being  
16      here.

17              MAYOR DYER: Thank you. Wow, this is a  
18      pretty impressive group here, and Senators and  
19      Representatives. Well, on behalf of all of  
20      those citizens that call Orlando home I want to  
21      welcome you to the city beautiful.

22              A number of you represent the city and we  
23      are proud of what you do. This is a process  
24      that happens once every ten years. I had the  
25      pleasure of participating in redistricting

1 matters twice. Once when I was running for  
2 election the very first time and then when I  
3 was leaving. I had much more interest the time  
4 I was going to run for a seat than when I was  
5 leaving to go do something else.

6 Just a little bit about the facility.  
7 This building was built in 1926, and the last  
8 major renovation was done in, about 33 years  
9 ago, but we just broke ground on a brand new  
10 Performing Arts Center which is up near City  
11 Hall, and there is some State funding in that  
12 that was allocated to UCF when Tony Jennings  
13 was President and I was the Minority Leader in  
14 the Senate. So that money has been sitting  
15 there that long and now we are finally going to  
16 be able to use it.

17 So hopefully in ten years if any of you  
18 are on the Redistricting Committee you can come  
19 back and use that fine facility instead of the  
20 Bob Carr, and then secondly, hopefully you will  
21 just be able to take the Sunrail from wherever  
22 you are and come right downtown.

23 And let me thank you guys for the  
24 legislation that you passed a couple of  
25 December's ago in special session that led to

1 clearing the path for us be able to get  
2 Sunrail.

3 The last thing I would like to mention is  
4 the City is also going through a redistricting  
5 process. We have grown significantly and  
6 population has shifted. So we will be doing  
7 our boundaries and we have a Redistricting  
8 Advisory Board that meets and I would invite  
9 the members of the public to come join us at  
10 our meetings as well and if you go to City of  
11 Orlando dot net you can get all of the  
12 information on the meetings. So thank you for  
13 coming to downtown for your meeting.

14 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, Mayor  
15 Dyer. We appreciate you being here, too, as  
16 well, and what a great job of helping to keep  
17 our comments abbreviated so that we can get to  
18 your input on this, but I will say that one  
19 redistricting process is enough at a time for  
20 me.

21 My name is Steve Precourt by the way,  
22 Representative from House District 41, just  
23 immediately west of the City of Orlando and I  
24 will be chairing today's meeting along with my  
25 colleagues that chair the Redistricting

1 Committees, themselves, Senator Don Gaetz and  
2 Representative Will Weatherford, who is Speaker  
3 Designate in the House and President Designate  
4 in the Senate.

5 This hearing is also being webcast  
6 statewide by the Florida Channel over the  
7 Internet. So welcome to all of you out there  
8 in cyber world that are listening in.

9 Our sole purpose here today is to hear  
10 from the public about how you believe the legal  
11 standards and all of the other requirements  
12 that need to be applied to redistricting should  
13 be required.

14 Now, we want to make sure that we apply  
15 them and follow the law, not only to the  
16 Congressional Districts, but to the House and  
17 Senate Districts, fairly, equitably and  
18 sensibly. That is our objective here today.

19 So we have got some procedures that we  
20 have put in place to assure that we move  
21 through that. They are fairly simple but they  
22 are very important.

23 The first one is, it is really important  
24 that we sign in, especially if you wish to  
25 speak so we can create an accurate public

1 record and give you the opportunity to get up  
2 to speak.

3 Also, please think about joining our  
4 e-mail list so we can keep you informed about  
5 how the redistricting process moves forward  
6 over the next several months. If you have not  
7 signed in, please see one of our staff. We  
8 have got a bunch of folks floating around here  
9 that can help you sign in, get more information  
10 or fill out an attendance card.

11 For the details of what we are doing here  
12 today, I am going to recognize Senator Gaetz to  
13 explain how today's hearing fits into the  
14 overall redistricting process. Senator Gaetz?

15 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
16 Mr. Chairman. Every ten years the Legislature  
17 is required by the Constitution to redistrict  
18 the state based on increases or decreases or  
19 movements of population within the state, and  
20 because Florida has grown more than other  
21 states in the last ten years, we get two more  
22 members of Congress, two more U. S.  
23 Congressmen.

24 We go up from 25 to 27, and because some  
25 parts of the state have increased or decreased

1       disproportionately in population, many State  
2       Senate and State House Districts will change,  
3       either by adding or losing population and here  
4       is the numbers that are important.

5               When redistricting is completed,  
6       Congressional Districts by Federal law must be  
7       equal in population, equal in population, and  
8       must contain 696,345 people.

9               Now, the 40 Senate Districts, there are 40  
10       Senators, the 40 Senate Districts must also be  
11       nearly equal at about 470,000 people, and our  
12       120 State House Districts must also be nearly  
13       equal at about 156,700 people.

14              The laws and the Court cases governing  
15       redistricting are explained in detail on the  
16       House and Senate websites. It is not as simple  
17       as sitting down with colored markers and  
18       drawing maps or using an arithmetic or computer  
19       program.

20              There are laws and requirements from the  
21       Federal level and the State level that must be  
22       followed and those are available so you can see  
23       them on the House and Senate website and those  
24       websites are listed on the Redistricting 2012  
25       brochure that was available to you when you

1           came in.

2                   I see a number of you have it.  If you  
3           don't have it and want it, you can get it on  
4           the way out.

5                   Now, before, during and after this  
6           hearing, Senate and House professional staff  
7           are available to show anybody the simple steps  
8           to getting online so that you can see the same  
9           data that members of the Legislature and  
10          ultimately the members of the Court will see,  
11          and you will be able to use the same computer  
12          programs and software that members of the  
13          Legislature and members of the Court would use  
14          in drawing districts.

15                  It is pretty simple to do.  I am techo  
16          stupid and it took staff about 15 minutes to  
17          teach me.  So I know you will be able to figure  
18          it out in much less time.  And then if you want  
19          to, and only if you want to, you can submit  
20          your ideas for how you believe districts ought  
21          to be drawn in your part of the state.

22                  Any recommendations from citizens, from  
23          Legislators, or from special interest groups  
24          will be made publicly available for everybody  
25          to see.

1           In fact, there have already been 17 maps  
2 drawn. There are already maps drawn of partial  
3 or complete districts around the state, and  
4 there are about six dozen written proposals for  
5 how districts ought to be drawn.

6           Some of those have come from individual  
7 citizens, some from interest groups. I have  
8 looked at some of them and some of them really  
9 show a lot of thought that have gone into them.

10           On your way into the theater you passed by  
11 some of those submissions that are on display.  
12 You can see all of them on the websites. We  
13 are finding that we are getting more  
14 submissions all of the time. We may get more  
15 today.

16           If you want to see the maps, if you want  
17 to see maps that the Legislature is  
18 considering, then look at maps that are on  
19 display in the building today and you will see  
20 the maps that we are considering now, although  
21 there are certainly going to be more maps that  
22 are going to be created by Legislators, by  
23 interest groups and by individual citizens as  
24 we go through the process.

25           If you need any assistance with reviewing



1 the maps that are outside or on the Internet,  
2 our staff at the display tables can help you  
3 with that information. They will be available  
4 to you after this hearing.

5 Now, it has been suggested by some folks  
6 that only the Legislature should draw maps,  
7 that only those sitting up here ought to draw  
8 maps and we ought to not get any input from  
9 people who are really our bosses, the public.

10 We think that puts the answer ahead of the  
11 question. There should be no preconceptions  
12 created by politicians in our view, but rather  
13 public testimony should be free and  
14 unrestricted and should come first.

15 In fact, the Chairperson for the Fair  
16 Districts campaign, Helen Freidin, testified  
17 before the House and Senate Redistricting  
18 Committees that she felt that it would be  
19 absolutely impossible to draw maps before  
20 public comment was taken and we certainly agree  
21 with Ms. Freidin with respect to that and are  
22 following that advice.

23 Now, because our purpose today is to hear  
24 from you, all of the time between now and 4:00,  
25 and then later from 6:00 until 8:00 tonight, we

1 are dividing the hearing into two to be  
2 accommodating to people who could come in the  
3 afternoon and then some who could come this  
4 evening, all of the time after these  
5 introductory comments will be used to ensure  
6 that members of the public who are here and  
7 wish to speak will have time to present their  
8 testimony.

9 If after every citizen has had his or her  
10 say, if there is any time remaining and given  
11 the large number of people who signed up, there  
12 may not be time remaining, but if there is,  
13 then any member of the Committee, Republican,  
14 Democrat, House members, Senators, can respond  
15 to any questions, can offer any opinions, or  
16 can propose any plans today other than those  
17 that have already been proposed that are on  
18 display outside.

19 Mr. Chairman, I hope this description of  
20 our schedule and process helps set the stage  
21 for a successful hearing.

22 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, Chair  
23 Gaetz, appreciate that. Okay, folks, we are  
24 going to adjourn promptly at 4:00 from this  
25 afternoon's session and then we are going to

1 have a second session from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

2 Now, there are almost 150 people signed up  
3 already to speak, and if you are just signing  
4 up now, please note that it is likely you will  
5 be heard in the 6:00 to 8:00 block tonight.

6 We want to assure that each person is  
7 given the opportunity to be heard. So we ask  
8 that you limit your comments to two minutes,  
9 and if you have some prepared remarks, please  
10 just go ahead and give them to our staff as  
11 well.

12 We have to do this as a courtesy to all of  
13 the people who want to speak. We want to hear  
14 from as many folks as possible, and of course,  
15 we will use our discretion of that if there are  
16 some key pieces of information that you are  
17 bringing to the table.

18 If you feel that your thoughts have  
19 already been conveyed you can opt to waive your  
20 time and mention that you feel just like so and  
21 so that may have already spoken and you can  
22 still submit your prepared remarks to our staff  
23 and they will definitely get in the record for  
24 being utilized in drawing the maps and  
25 throughout the entire process.

1           So with that our first speaker is going to  
2           be Michele Levy, and I am going to go ahead and  
3           name off two or three people at a time so you  
4           can be working your way down here and getting  
5           in line to speak, and we don't lose any time  
6           with people working their way to the microphone  
7           as well.

8           Following Ms. Levy will be Ann Hellmuth,  
9           and after Ann, we will have Zorida Rios-Andino.  
10          So if you three could start working your way up  
11          to the front, we will go ahead and have Ann,  
12          have Michele Levy kick off with her  
13          contribution to our redistricting hearings.

14          Ms. Levy, the floor is yours. You are  
15          recognized for two minutes.

16          MS. LEVY: Thank you. Hello, ladies and  
17          gentlemen, my name is Michele Levy, and I am  
18          the Vice-President of the Orange County League  
19          of Women Voters.

20          I am very concerned that the Legislature  
21          is holding these 26 hearings around the state  
22          in an attempt to get useful feedback and  
23          comments from the citizens, but no maps are  
24          being provided by the Legislature for citizens  
25          to comment on.

1           As it is now, this exercise is a total  
2       waste of time and money. Other states have had  
3       public hearings to allow citizens the  
4       opportunity to comment and provide feedback on  
5       the proposed maps.

6           Have Legislators drawn these maps yet, and  
7       if so, where are they, and if not, what are  
8       they waiting for? When do they plan to draw  
9       them or have they already drawn them in some  
10      back room in Tallahassee with the intent of  
11      springing them on the public during the last  
12      weeks of the session, leaving only three days  
13      for statewide public comment.

14          This timeline is going to create chaos.  
15      As it stands now these hearings have no purpose  
16      other than to make Legislators appear to be  
17      listening, but they are not giving the public  
18      an opportunity for meaningful comment on real  
19      maps.

20          Many states, including Arkansas, Colorado,  
21      Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri,  
22      Nebraska and Oklahoma have already completed or  
23      almost completed redistricting in an open and  
24      accessible process. What are we waiting for in  
25      Florida?

1           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
2           Ms. Levy, and if you could leave those prepared  
3           comments with our staff we will have them  
4           accurately reflected in the record.

5           For those of you in the audience, please  
6           note that we have got a lot of people to get  
7           to. If you clap, we are just using up the time  
8           so somebody's opportunity to speak will be  
9           limited later on.

10          So thank you for representing the League  
11          of Women Voters. Also from the League of Women  
12          Voters we have Ms. Michele Levy and if Dennis  
13          Freytes could also start working his way down  
14          here, I would appreciate that. Ms. Hellmuth.

15          MS. HELLMUTH: Thank you, yes, we are out  
16          in force today. My name is Ann Hellmuth. I am  
17          President of the League of Women Voters of  
18          Orange County.

19          My first question is to you, is why won't  
20          you show us your maps? Are you still sticking  
21          to the excuse that the Constitution requires  
22          you to draw the districts during the 2012  
23          regular session, because that is not true.

24          You may not vote on the maps before 2012,  
25          but there is not legally stopping you from

1 drawing the maps now. By drawing the proposals  
2 now you would give the public time to provide  
3 meaningful informed input and the maps would be  
4 brought to the floor as a first order of  
5 business when the Legislature convenes in  
6 January.

7 The Legislature would then be able to vote  
8 on them by the end of the first week of the  
9 session, January 13th. This would double the  
10 90-day period time of review by the Courts and  
11 the Department of Justice.

12 As it stands, it is highly unlikely that  
13 districts will finally be approved before  
14 June 8th, the filing deadline for candidates.  
15 Is it even conceivable that districts may not  
16 be finalized until August? Yes, it is.

17 The result of such a late finalization  
18 would in the words of the Legislature's own  
19 lawyer, be massive voter confusion. Is it your  
20 intention to delay the maps until the last  
21 moment to make it harder to challenge them? It  
22 seems as if it is.

23 Is it your plan to give Election  
24 Supervisors insufficient time to prepare for  
25 elections, thereby affecting absentee and

1 overseas ballots, including those to the  
2 military? It seems as if it is.

3 Is it your plan to give challengers or new  
4 candidates little if any time to mount  
5 campaigns, thus forcing voters to vote for  
6 candidates they have had little opportunity to  
7 get to know. It seems as if it is.

8 You promised a three-day public viewing  
9 period before any notes are taken on the map  
10 proposals. May I say, ladies and gentlemen,  
11 your generosity is perfect nonsense.

12 Three days to absorb the details and then  
13 give input on a compact subject like drawing  
14 maps is ridiculous. Florida's Election  
15 Supervisors and other officials have worked  
16 hard to raise the memory of the 2000 hanging  
17 chads debacle.

18 Don't set them up to fail in 2012 by  
19 resorting to back room politics. Keep faith  
20 with Florida voters.

21 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
22 ma'am. Next up we have Zoraida Rios-Andino and  
23 if Mr. Curt Levine would start working his way  
24 down here as well.

25 Just as an aside, Senator Gaetz is taking



1 notes on a lot of the questions that are being  
2 asked of us and at the end he will have a few  
3 minutes to respond in general, but we want to  
4 make sure that we move this along and give  
5 everyone the opportunity to speak,  
6 Ms. Hellmuth.

7 MS. RIOS-ANDINO: Good afternoon, my name  
8 is Zoraida Rios-Andino. I am a member of the  
9 Central Florida Redistricting Council which is  
10 a bipartisan group organized to promote fair  
11 districting within the Hispanic community of  
12 Florida.

13 I am also Vice-President of the United  
14 Front 436 which is a local community activist  
15 organization fighting for the civil rights of  
16 the Puerto Rican and Hispanic community in the  
17 many issues that our people face, such as  
18 discrimination in housing, education, and a  
19 number of other issues.

20 I belong to more organizations, but I  
21 didn't come here to talk to you about that.  
22 What I did come to talk to you about is that as  
23 a United States citizens and our people have  
24 been citizens since 1917, it is very insulting  
25 for me to see the atrocities taking place

1           because of the lack of our representation in  
2           our community.

3                 Recently my 15-year-old son lost a friend  
4           who was walking to a bus stop locally here just  
5           a few minutes away from where we are at this  
6           moment. He was walking with his 15-year-old  
7           brother to the bus stop and a reckless driver  
8           killed him.

9                 This is something that we see commonly  
10          here in our community, and the reason I am  
11          bringing this up is because -- because we don't  
12          have any representation in Congress. We don't  
13          have representation in the State Senate, the  
14          State Representative and our Orange County  
15          Commission, in our School Board.

16                The person who killed this, my son's  
17          friend only got a \$1,000 bond. He is out loose  
18          like nothing had happened. This is  
19          unacceptable.

20                We Puerto Ricans here are contributing  
21          millions of dollars in taxes and we should have  
22          representation. Taxation without  
23          representation is not acceptable.

24                Creating Puerto Rican Hispanic districts  
25          is not only fair, it is the right thing to do.

1 Thank you.

2 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
3 much. Next we have Mr. Dennis Freytes and if  
4 Sheri Morton would also start working here way  
5 down. Mr. Freytes.

6 MR. FREYTES: Hi. Thanks for selfishly  
7 serving, working for beloved Florida. We all  
8 love Florida here.

9 I am Colonel Dennis Freytes, U.S. Army  
10 retired and community servant. I served on Jeb  
11 Bush's transition team and I am here to say, we  
12 need to support the Florida Civil Rights  
13 Association and support the Central Florida  
14 Redistricting Council, because American,  
15 Hispanics, blacks and other minorities face  
16 unfair political district lines that minimize  
17 election opportunities, result in under  
18 representation at the Congress, State, County  
19 and City levels.

20 This inequality must end and it must end  
21 now. District lines must be fairly drawn to  
22 reflect the U.S. Census facts appeared in 1965  
23 Voting Rights law and other laws. In Florida  
24 we have 18.8 million population.

25 Minorities are 42 percent or about eight

1 million Americans and growing. Orange, Osceola  
2 Florida counties are now minority majority.  
3 This means why non Hispanic residents are less  
4 than 50 percent of the county population,  
5 minority, but they hold a super majority in  
6 elected positions with little or no minority  
7 representation.

8 We must advance a properly balanced  
9 representative democracy with protected  
10 individual civil rights, ensure political  
11 empowerment opportunity with little or no, for  
12 all citizens, not just for a privileged group  
13 and abide by the laws that are for fair play.

14 Government officials should listen and  
15 draw compact districts, but also proper  
16 minority access districts, don't support bail  
17 retrogression but fairly let lines fall where  
18 they may.

19 Now, what we want is to, in the  
20 redistricting and here in central Florida, we  
21 want a Congressional Seat that is a minority  
22 majority Congressional Seat, because we are a  
23 minority majority Orange County and minority  
24 majority Osceola County and we like to have  
25 Hispanics represented there no less than

1           45 percent.

2           In the Redistricting Council has a great  
3           proposal that we support. This is an American  
4           Floridian bipartisan fairness issue. Support  
5           the Central Florida Redistricting Council,  
6           citizens' proposal, support the Florida Civil  
7           Rights Association.

8           Work together for the good of all, family,  
9           community, Florida, USA, and humanity. Thank  
10          you.

11          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
12          Mr. Freytes, and please be sure to submit those  
13          prepared remarks to our staff.

14          Next we have Mr. Curt Levine and would  
15          Nancy Smith also start working her way down.  
16          Mr. Levine.

17          MR. LEVINE: Thank you, good afternoon,  
18          Mr. Chairman and members, my name is Curt  
19          Levine. I am an attorney in Orlando and I am a  
20          former House member.

21          It is my understanding that the My  
22          District Builder and the District Builder  
23          software the state is using is modeled after a  
24          national standard program called Aishwarya  
25          Cicero District Builder that I understand also

1       talking to John Guthrie earlier today, he was  
2       part of developing that original software.

3               The components of the Aishwarya Cicero  
4       District Builder program included evaluational  
5       programs that for compactness and also for  
6       spacial analysis which generated a numerical  
7       weight for compliance with fair districts'  
8       requirements, such as not favoring incumbents  
9       or a political party and containment within a  
10      geographical county and city line area.

11              In other words, the Aishwarya Cicero  
12      District Builder had an analysis tool that gave  
13      a numerical rating for districts showing the  
14      relative level of compliance with the Fair  
15      Districts Amendment.

16              It is also my understanding that the State  
17      Redistricting staff, both staffs, the House and  
18      the Senate staffs have not included that  
19      compactness and spacial analysis components  
20      that are available online through the State  
21      House and Senate websites.

22              On May 24th of this year, I contacted the  
23      Redistricting staff for an answer and received  
24      a return e-mail from the Speaker's office  
25      saying the Speaker's office had its doubts that

1       it would implement those statistical evaluation  
2       tools into the final software plans they were  
3       using.

4               I was told that the staff members could  
5       not comment to me and invited me today to  
6       attend this hearing and ask the Committee about  
7       this. So I am here, Mr. Chairman, and I have  
8       got two questions today.

9               The first is, why are the compactness and  
10       spacial analysis components which are already  
11       existing and available in the original District  
12       Builder software not contained in Florida's  
13       District Builder and My District Builder  
14       programs, and the second question, why not?

15               REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you for  
16       those comments, Mr. Levine, appreciate that.

17               Also, would Mignon Kostamo start working  
18       down. Representative Weatherford, you are  
19       recognized.

20               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
21       Mr. Chairman. I just want to take a brief  
22       minute, Representative Levine, just to make a  
23       comment in regard to that question.

24               There was a column that was written to the  
25       Sun Sentinel and you may or may not be aware

1 but the Sun Sentinel has already ran a  
2 correction to that column, and there were some  
3 facts about the My District Builder that were  
4 not accurate.

5 And basically what that is, is that there  
6 have been no compactness requirements removed  
7 from My District Builder.

8 In fact, what the Committee is going to  
9 have is a report of the eight different types  
10 of compactness. There are eight different  
11 forms of compactness that the Courts have  
12 created.

13 Every member of this Committee as a map is  
14 drawn will have the ability to look at that,  
15 but I believe there has been some confusion  
16 about the District Builder that is from  
17 Professor McDonald at George Mason and the My  
18 District Builder which is not based off of his,  
19 it is a product of the House of Representatives  
20 and the Senate which has a separate program  
21 called District Builder.

22 So the names may be the same. They are  
23 different softwares and different programs and  
24 the Sun Sentinel has already written a report  
25 that their original language in that article



1           was not accurate. So I just wanted to point  
2           that out, Mr. Chairman.

3           MR. LEVINE: Thank you for that comment,  
4           sir. It is not fair to throw that out and  
5           leave it open if it is not true.

6           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, Mr.  
7           Levine, and please see our staff and we will  
8           work this issue through.

9           Next I have Sheri Morton, and you are  
10          recognized, Ms. Morton, and if Mignon Kostamo  
11          would start working his way down here as well,  
12          I would appreciate it. Thank you. You are  
13          recognized, Ms. Morton.

14          MS. MORTON: Thank you, I am Sheri Morton  
15          and I live in Unincorporated West Osceola  
16          County, a suburb of Orlando near Kissimmee.

17          Osceola County is currently divided into  
18          three Congressional Districts with much of  
19          Osceola, including where I live in District 15.  
20          Most of the population of Congressional  
21          District 15 is from Brevard and Indian River  
22          Counties which are far away from where I live  
23          and with which Osceola shares little in common.

24          Brevard and Indian River Counties are  
25          focused on NASA. In contrast, the focus in

1       Osceola is on metropolitan Orlando, including  
2       both Osceola and Orange Counties.

3           Osceola is a majority minority county with  
4       over a quarter of a million people, high  
5       unemployment and urban problems, including  
6       transportation, gangs, grid lock on Interstate  
7       4. People in Osceola generally work in the  
8       tourism industry, including theme parks and  
9       hotels.

10           Having a Congressman from far away on the  
11       east coast who is focused on NASA, I-95 and the  
12       beaches doesn't give my community the  
13       representation we need.

14           With Osceola County broken into three  
15       Congressional Districts, the needs of Osceola's  
16       largely Hispanic population are easily ignored  
17       by central Florida's Congressmen.

18           Please follow the Fair District Amendments  
19       of Florida's Constitution and keep Osceola  
20       County intact in one Congressional District.

21           Please combine Osceola with Orange County  
22       into a Congressional District together that has  
23       similar community interests and populations.

24       Thank you.

25           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,

1 Ms. Morton. Very well said. Next we have  
2 Ms. Nancy Smith and if Jack Jordan would also  
3 start working his way down. Ms. Smith.

4 MS. SMITH: Ladies and gentlemen. Thank  
5 you for the opportunity to speak. There are  
6 many people who are not here today because they  
7 don't think it would make a difference and they  
8 may be right, but it never hurts to try.

9 I am a native Floridian and a resident of  
10 Osceola County. At the outset let me tell you  
11 how many people believe about our Fair  
12 Districts. Over 60 percent of Floridians  
13 passed the Fair Districts Amendment and we  
14 recent the attempt by some Legislators using  
15 our tax dollars to force its nullification.

16 Fair Districts -- Fair Districts must be  
17 contiguous, share some commonality and  
18 recognize existing geographic lines when  
19 possible. We have nothing in common with  
20 Okeechobee County and I want to tell you that I  
21 go up and down there all of the time, because I  
22 am a fisher person, an angler, and I have gone  
23 all over all of these counties, and I know what  
24 we have in common and where we have it.

25 We have one thing in common with

1 Okeechobee County and that is a river that runs  
2 through it. We have nothing in common with  
3 Brevard County where we are stuck with, that we  
4 never see those people, except the need for  
5 fresh water which we have to fight over, and we  
6 have little in common with Polk County because  
7 their rural lands are used for mining much more  
8 than ours.

9 Most of Osceola County has already been  
10 approved for development for the next 1,000  
11 years, so we are developed. Osceola and Orange  
12 Counties together meet the needs of the Fair  
13 Districts criteria perfectly.

14 We share the same major employers. We  
15 share the same environment and environmental  
16 concerns. We are the head waters of the  
17 Kissimmee River, Orange and Osceola. We share  
18 the same diverse populations and most of us are  
19 very, very proud of our diversity and support  
20 our diversity.

21 We share the same judicial circuit. We  
22 share transportation money and problems. We  
23 share tourism as our major industry. We share  
24 I-4 and its problems. We even are sharing the  
25 Lake Nona community in Osceola County and the

1 traffic and development that comes with that.

2 We share so much that our county lines are  
3 blurred and when I came here at 5:35 today I  
4 saw a big sign that said Embassy Suites,  
5 Orlando. It is on Osceola County land right  
6 outside Kissimmee, not close to Orlando, but  
7 that is us, we are Orlando a lot of the time.

8 We should be in the same district as  
9 Orlando if you all follow the rules. I know it  
10 may have to be divided according to numbers and  
11 I haven't had an opportunity to divide the  
12 numbers, but if we need additional population,  
13 the next most common people with us is the  
14 southwest side of Seminole County who has  
15 similar demographics.

16 If you cut off Poinciana, which I have  
17 seen proposed, or if you cut Buenaventura  
18 Lakes, both in Osceola County mainly, then you  
19 will be intentionally diluting our proud  
20 Hispanic and African-American populations that  
21 now together create almost a majority in  
22 Osceola and Orange Counties, and we don't think  
23 that is equitable or fair districting.

24 If you do that, it will be seen as the  
25 gerrymandering that will be continuing and

1           which we voted against and hopefully will be  
2           struck. Thank you.

3           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you for  
4           those comments. If you would leave that with  
5           our staff that will help us with the record.

6           Mignon Kostamo is next and if Mr. Charles  
7           Bibber would start working his way down, I  
8           would appreciate that.

9           MS. KOSTAMO: Hi, I am Mignon Kostamo. I  
10          am only here to say one thing. I hate to be a  
11          one person issue, because that is really  
12          against everything I have grown up with. Oh, I  
13          am an old Floridian, too, an old Floridian, but  
14          our issue right now is the little, what used to  
15          be City of Orlovista.

16          It has been cut in pieces, it is cut in  
17          half. Hopefully, and I am going to the meeting  
18          that they are having at 6:00, hopefully the  
19          county will keep Orlovista in one district, not  
20          split them down the middle with Perkman Road  
21          which is really high traffic.

22          We would like it in one district and that  
23          is my concern for you today. Thank you for  
24          being here. I know this is an awful job for  
25          you, but I appreciate it very much and what

1 time I have left I will give to Charlie Bibber.

2 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you.

3 MS. KOSTAMO: Thank you very much.

4 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you.

5 Mr. Bibber, you are recognized.

6 MR. BIBBER: I am going to yield my time.

7 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Okay, thank you  
8 very much. Appreciate the comments. Jack  
9 Jordan is up next and would Eddie Moorer and  
10 Emilio Perez start working their way down?  
11 Mr. Jordan, thank you.

12 MR. JORDAN: Thank you. I am a -- I am  
13 representing, here on behalf of the Board of  
14 the Central Florida Chapter of the American  
15 Civil Liberties Union and I am also -- and I am  
16 also a professional story teller, and I think  
17 in this case the story telling part may be the  
18 most germane.

19 This plot actually has a story line that,  
20 in spite of the money that was put in to oppose  
21 Amendments 5 and 6, 63 percent of Floridians  
22 saw the problems with gerrymandering,  
23 Independents, Republicans and Democrats and  
24 voted to end the practice.

25 Now, what has happened since then? Some

1       of the issues have been identified. We are  
2       here appearing at hearings with no maps to  
3       actually look at. That is pretty  
4       unprecedented.

5               There is a lawsuit that this Legislature  
6       has joined in and it is not simply to clarify  
7       the Amendments. You are seeking to strike  
8       Amendment 6, and that should not be tolerated,  
9       and any denials to the contrary are just not  
10      credible.

11             And I have another comment. There is also  
12      in Amendment 6, apparently it is well known  
13      that the districts, the purpose of these  
14      Amendments are to create fair district lines,  
15      including minority districts to achieve greater  
16      diversity.

17             It is not part of the Voting Rights Act  
18      and Corrine Brown is apparently confused. It  
19      is not a part of the Voting Rights Act that she  
20      would be guaranteed a Congressional Seat for  
21      life.

22             So I would urge the Legislature, if you  
23      really want to show good faith, is to  
24      disassociate yourself from this lawsuit, stop  
25      spending \$30 million of our money which



1           particularly in a time of budget cuts and state  
2           deficits. Thank you very much.

3           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.  
4           Next we are going to have Mr. Eddie Moorner and  
5           if Juan Cartagena and the Reverend Randolph  
6           Bracy would start working their way down,  
7           Bracy, if they would both start working their  
8           way down, I would appreciate it.

9           Eddie Moorner is up next. Mr. Moorner, are  
10          you working your way over here? Thank you,  
11          sir. Mr. Moorner will go, then Mr. Perez and  
12          then Mr. Cartagena.

13          MR. MOORER: Good evening, gentlemen. The  
14          reason why I am here is basically because I saw  
15          the redistricting information that came across  
16          my computer and I thought it would be something  
17          interesting to find out what the state is  
18          actually doing for minorities as far as  
19          redistricting is concerned with the State of  
20          Florida.

21          So many times I agree with some of the  
22          speakers that had came before me. We have a  
23          situation whereas we have a lot of minority in  
24          place in central Florida, but we don't have the  
25          representation that goes with the people that

1           we have in the area.

2           You know, another problem that I see with  
3           the problem that we have here now like the lady  
4           spoke of earlier, was the fact that, you know,  
5           these hearings are good, but really does it  
6           really make any opinion to have one now when we  
7           really don't have anything to base our  
8           redistricting on.

9           We have to wait to see what you guys got  
10          for us as far as redistricting, because you  
11          apparently are supposed to be putting two more  
12          Senators in or two more districts in, whatever  
13          the case may be.

14          It would be nice if we had a map or  
15          something to go on, something to look at that  
16          we can do something constructive with. Then if  
17          we had that then we could vote on that and come  
18          back and give our favorable opinion of what we  
19          would like to see done for our communities,  
20          because as it stands right now we don't know,  
21          you know, based on what I have been seeing out  
22          there, it is all Greek to me.

23          So it is something that we are going to  
24          have to come up with. If we put something  
25          down, you know, it might sound good to us, but

1           are we going to get what we put down or are we  
2           just going to be swept under the rug like so  
3           many other opportunities?

4           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
5           Mr. Moorer. Next we have Emilio Perez,  
6           followed by Mr. Cartagena and Reverend Bracy  
7           and then Cathy Kerns.

8           MR. PEREZ: Thank you, and hello,  
9           everyone, welcome to Orlando. My name is  
10          Emilio Perez and I am the Chairman of the  
11          Central Florida Redistricting Council.

12          We are a not for profit bipartisan  
13          organization, who's purpose is to create new  
14          districts based on the 2010 Census.

15          Can we pass this slide? I have a slide, I  
16          was hoping that you will see it, but  
17          unfortunately it is in your backs.

18          But anyways, as we all know, the 2010  
19          Census, can you pass --

20          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Yes, we have the  
21          slide up on there.

22          MR. PEREZ: All right, but they need to  
23          click it.

24          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Click it.

25          MR. PEREZ: All right. As we all know --

1           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Hopefully  
2           somebody back there has a clicker.

3           MR. PEREZ: There you go. Let's go to the  
4           next one, please, there you go. As we all  
5           know, the 2010 Census showed us that the reason  
6           of the addition of two new Congressional  
7           Districts for the State of Florida are due  
8           mostly of the growth of the Latino community.

9           We go to the next slide. Specifically,  
10          the growth of our community, central Florida,  
11          as you can see, the state population grew  
12          55 percent of the total growth of the state was  
13          the Latinos of central Florida and that is very  
14          important.

15          What we are requesting is simple. We are  
16          requesting that you consider the creation of a  
17          new Congressional District for central Florida  
18          with minority Latinos. As you all know, we are  
19          driven by our common bonds of language,  
20          culture, businesses and economic growth among  
21          many other common bonds.

22          We can go to the next slides. All of them  
23          reflect that in central Florida, only someone  
24          that understand this culture or ties will be  
25          able to properly represent us. Nobody else.

1           We, the Central Florida Redistricting  
2           Council are the voice for all Latinos. We are  
3           demanding that one of these new Congressional  
4           Districts assigned to Florida rewards the  
5           community that made it happen.

6           Let me repeat that again. One of this new  
7           Congressional Districts assigned to Florida  
8           rewards the community that made it happen. Not  
9           awarding us with a Congressional District will  
10          be like penalizing us for the growth that  
11          landed the state with two new Congressional  
12          Districts.

13          Can we go to the next slide, please. For  
14          this reason we join by many national  
15          organizations, but mostly importantly is our  
16          partnership with Latino Justice. Latino  
17          Justice is a civil right league organization  
18          who will next introduce this new Congressional  
19          District. Thank you very much.

20          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.  
21          Mr. Cartagena. And a if Nelson Pinder and  
22          Diane Rambo can start working their way down, I  
23          would appreciate it. Mr. Cartagena.

24          MR. CARTAGENA: Good afternoon, members of  
25          the Florida State Senate and House. Thank you

1           very much. My name is Juan Cartagena. I am  
2           the President and General Counsel of Latino  
3           Justice Pearl Death, formerly known as the  
4           Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund,  
5           a National Civil Rights organization that is  
6           based in New York.

7                   I am here to introduce you as Emilio Perez  
8           said, to the proposal that we want to advance  
9           and it has already been accepted and on your  
10          website and submitted according to your  
11          protocols for a Latino anchored, central  
12          Florida anchored new Congressional District.

13                  This is my fourth round of redistricting.  
14          I may not look it, gentlemen and ladies, but  
15          this is my fourth round of this redistricting,  
16          I have done it all over the country.

17                  Florida is in a unique position. The  
18          strong economic climate that you have built in  
19          this state, the improvements to your  
20          infrastructure, the public sector, the private  
21          sector improvements have made Florida a very  
22          important place and a very attractive place to  
23          live.

24                  You are very lucky. We work in  
25          communities in which we lose Congressional

1       Seats, and we have to fight to save what we  
2       have. You have the opportunity now to create  
3       new opportunities.

4               So I speak to you about the important  
5       topics of politics, demographics and political  
6       opportunity. All of it is embroiled in what we  
7       call redistricting, and it happens only once  
8       every ten years.

9               Redistricting by definition reflects  
10      demographic change and that change --

11              REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Mr. Cartagena --

12              MR. CARTAGENA: I am almost finished.  
13      Redistricting reflects demographic change and  
14      that change as you have heard from the previous  
15      speaker is pretty significant in central  
16      Florida.

17              But redistricting also requires you to  
18      comply with various laws. I will not get into  
19      those laws because that is what I specialize  
20      in, we could talk about that for hours.

21              However, the proposal that we give you for  
22      you to consider is a proposal only. It will  
23      have to be tweaked as we go, map the entire  
24      state for Congressional Districts. The  
25      preliminarily proposal would have a

1 Congressional District of 46.2 percent Latino,  
2 12.3 percent black, about 34.8 white and about  
3 4.2 percent Asian. We ask you to consider it  
4 and consider it seriously. Thank you.

5 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
6 much. We greatly appreciate that. Next we  
7 have the Reverend Randolph Bracy, and he will  
8 be followed by Cathy Kerns, and if Mr. Mike  
9 Ketchum and John Quinones could start working  
10 their way down as well. Reverend Bracy.

11 REVEREND BRACY: I am Reverend Randolph  
12 Bracy, senior Pastor and founder of the New  
13 Covenant Baptist Church of Orlando, a native  
14 Floridian, born and reared in Duval County.

15 I am a graduate of three Florida schools,  
16 the Great Bethune Cookman University, Florida  
17 A&M University, and the University of Florida.

18 So I come as one who is now 66, going on  
19 67 years. I know Florida and I love Florida.  
20 I thank God for this privilege because I am  
21 known locally as a Civil Rights activist.

22 We in Florida have the opportunity now to  
23 do something that has not been done before, and  
24 that is to respond to the very explosive growth  
25 on the I-4 corridor. This going right now in



1 the center of the I-4 corridor happens to be  
2 right here in Orlando.

3 Orlando, and I have heard about Osceola  
4 County, deserves, deserves, because of the  
5 burgeoning explosive population growth,  
6 deserves the new Congressional Seat.

7 It should be a minority, i.e.,  
8 African-American seat. I implore you, I  
9 beseech you by the mercies of God, that you do  
10 the right thing and give us a seat that has an  
11 African-American Congressman.

12 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
13 Reverend. Next we have Ms. Cathy Kerns, and  
14 she will be followed by Nelson Pinder.

15 Ms. Kerns, thank you, and you can go ahead  
16 and adjust that as well.

17 MS. KERNS: Thank you. Good afternoon,  
18 Chairman and members. My name is Cathy  
19 Williams-Kerns, and I am a resident of Orange  
20 County, Florida, and today I am honored to  
21 speak to you on behalf of AARP, a wonderful  
22 organization, a bipartisan organization  
23 dedicated to protecting seniors.

24 Transparency, timeliness and trust. These  
25 principle elements of the redistricting process

1 must be adhered to. The voters of Florida have  
2 spoken about fair districts, and we are  
3 concerned the project is going to proceed  
4 without full disclosure and public  
5 presentation.

6 This openness must be achieved before  
7 Legislators, you folks, make your decisions.  
8 The public needs the opportunity to comment and  
9 I thank you for giving us an opportunity today  
10 to do that, and to have those comments be  
11 meaningfully considered and not cast aside.

12 The timeliness of the process is crucial.  
13 The Legislator owes Florida residents and  
14 voters professionalism and timely completion of  
15 this redistricting process.

16 All procedural steps, both legislative and  
17 non legislative must be achieved in order for  
18 there to be timely qualification of 2012  
19 candidates under new districts, and for  
20 campaigns prior to voters casting their  
21 ballots.

22 We need to complete this project sooner  
23 rather than later. We ask you to insulate the  
24 process. Please avoid the appearance of  
25 conflict of interest.

1           Negative voter perceptions of conflict can  
2           only drag on and drag down the progress of this  
3           important redistricting project. We ask you to  
4           post the proposed map designs so they can be  
5           reviewed by all and do so sooner than later.

6           On a personal note, I ask you not to tear  
7           apart contiguous neighborhoods and establish  
8           communities within the district lines. Please  
9           respect the unique qualities of communities of  
10          interest.

11          Uphold fair districts and maintain your  
12          integrity in the process. I have reviewed the  
13          current citizen map proposals on file and urge  
14          you to strongly consider logic and the reason  
15          for clean contiguous district lines so that the  
16          entire state of Florida will benefit and not  
17          just a few. Thank you very much for your time  
18          and attention.

19          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
20          ma'am, appreciate that. Next we have Nelson  
21          Pinder, who will be followed by Diane Rambo and  
22          if Stephen Cullum and Timothy Murray can start  
23          working their way down as well, we would  
24          appreciate that. Sir, you have the mike.

25          MR. PINDER: Honorable ladies and

1 gentlemen, my name is the Reverend Nelson W.  
2 Pinder. I am an Episcopal Priest retired three  
3 times. The Lord never lets you retire.

4 I woke up this morning in the greatest  
5 country in the world, but in the greatest  
6 country, I woke up in the greatest state in the  
7 world, Florida, to celebrate my 79th birthday.

8 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Congratulations.

9 MR. PINDER: But I come here today to tell  
10 you that this is the time for us to speak up,  
11 to work up, and to be able to be honest among  
12 ourselves so that we can sleep at night.

13 Ladies and gentlemen, I hope that you,  
14 with this new Congressional District, don't  
15 play the game of minority against minority.

16 I don't want you to fence me out. I want  
17 you to fence me in. I want you to be able to  
18 look at this whole picture and think what is  
19 best for Florida and what is best for America.

20 This is a land of we the people, we the  
21 people, all nationalities, all races, all  
22 languages, make up this great Mosaic piece. I  
23 hope and trust that when you go back to draw  
24 your redistricting that you give us both, an  
25 Hispanic district and a black district.

1           It can be done. It can be done, because  
2           Florida has done it before and we can do it  
3           again. I know we could, because you are  
4           honorable and gentle people, with honorable and  
5           gentle ways to carry out the state of Florida.  
6           Thank you very much.

7           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
8           much, Reverend. Next we have Diane Rambo  
9           followed by Mike Ketchum and if Mable Butler  
10          and the Reverend Ohara Black can start working  
11          their way down. Madam, you have the mike.

12          MS. RAMBO: Good afternoon, my name is  
13          Diane Rambo. I live in east Orlando or east  
14          Orange County. I live in State Representative  
15          District 32. My Representative lives in  
16          Merritt Island.

17          My State Senator District is 24. My  
18          Representative, excuse me, my Senator, he lives  
19          in Melbourne. Melbourne is an hour away in  
20          another county, Brevard County.

21          Neither of these two has ever come to  
22          Union Park and had a town meeting. None of  
23          them has ever knocked on my door. None of them  
24          has ever represented me in Union Park or  
25          Hispanic east Orange County in any way that we

1           can tell.

2           Our question today is will you draw us a  
3           district that is east Orange County only? We  
4           do not need to be lumped in with Brevard County  
5           an hour away on the other side of the swamp.

6           Could you make this district follow  
7           geographic areas and like stop at the swamp at  
8           the St. Johns River?

9           And would you please give us six months to  
10          raise up time to have candidates ready for the  
11          new districts? This shouldn't effect the  
12          incumbent, Mr. Crisafulli and Mr. Altman, they  
13          can keep those districts over there, but we  
14          just want representation over here. Thank you.

15          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
16          ma'am. Okay, next we have Mr. Mike Ketchum and  
17          he will be followed by John Quinones, and if I  
18          could also have Jessica Hewkin and Chuck O'Neal  
19          start working their way down. Mr. Ketchum.

20          MR. KETCHUM: Thank you, Mr. Vice  
21          Chairman. I am Mike Ketchum and I serve as  
22          Vice-President of the Orlando Regional Chamber  
23          of Commerce.

24          While it may be my distinct pleasure to  
25          welcome you today as the Chamber of Commerce,

1       it is also an even greater pleasure for me to  
2       welcome and congratulate you on the  
3       redistricting process you have put in place  
4       which I am confident will result eventually in  
5       a fair and equitable plan.

6             You have devised a transparent open  
7       process unprecedented in our state's history  
8       that is designed to encourage and solicit  
9       important citizen input on how our political  
10      boundaries should be drawn for the next decade.

11            I want to particularly commend you on the  
12      innovative website you have created to enable  
13      Floridians to propose their redistricting  
14      recommendations for your consideration, and  
15      also in your willingness to conduct numerous  
16      public hearings throughout our state by this  
17      diverse and bipartisan committee.

18            Members, it wasn't always done this way.  
19      At your Daytona Beach hearing recently I had  
20      the chance to reminisce with Senator Thrasher  
21      about the redistricting process. We were both  
22      young Florida Senate staffers many years ago.

23            Back then there were secret maps,  
24      concocted in back room corridors, later tucked  
25      away in coat pockets or filed away in the

1 basement of the Capitol, only to reappear at  
2 the last possible moment and without any  
3 appropriate public scrutiny.

4 I must also observe that some we are  
5 hearing from on this process seem to have no  
6 problem with that process at that time and, in  
7 fact, were quite content with the previous  
8 redistricting efforts, but today it appears  
9 they want you to return to that discredited  
10 process without -- and by producing  
11 predetermined maps without the benefits of any  
12 public input so as to invite and encourage the  
13 litigation that they are seeking.

14 The reality is we have come so very far  
15 from those days long ago and you are to be  
16 congratulated for bringing the process into the  
17 sunshine.

18 You have correctly taken a common sense  
19 approach by seeking public input before the  
20 maps are drawn and not afterwards.

21 Now, with respect to the redistricting  
22 process to be undertaken and without  
23 elaborating on the population numbers and the  
24 trends before you, suffice it to say with the  
25 Orlando metropolitan area and its surrounding



1       region have enjoyed substantial and significant  
2       population growth in the last decade, which  
3       clearly must be reflected in your forthcoming  
4       recommendations and should result in an  
5       enhanced Congressional and legislative  
6       representation.

7               Additionally, the lines that are to be  
8       drawn must unquestionably reflect and adhere to  
9       represent Court decisions, requirements of the  
10      Federal Voting Rights Act, as well as recently  
11      approved Amendments to the Florida  
12      Constitution.

13              As you proceed ahead there should be no  
14      impediment to your granting a top priority in  
15      redistricting to well-established communities  
16      of interest as opposed to solely arbitrary  
17      geographical boundaries.

18              Furthermore, as there is unique  
19      opportunity and obligation in the Orlando area  
20      as well as in other areas of the state to  
21      properly recognize and protect the community  
22      interests of minority groups in the  
23      redistricting process in a manner that fully  
24      satisfies Federal, as well as State  
25      requirements.

1           Going forward, I am confident that a  
2       redistricting plan can and will be drafted that  
3       will reflect well on this Legislature and will  
4       not result in unelected Judges, who are often  
5       times not familiar with or fully appreciative  
6       of the expressed wishes of the citizenry and  
7       their duly elected representatives, imposing  
8       their wishes on Florida by judicial decree.

9           Thank you very much for the opportunity to  
10      appear today.

11           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
12      Mr. Ketchum. Next, ladies and gentlemen, if we  
13      would provide the, as a courtesy to other  
14      speakers, not have that kind of commentary on  
15      their presentations.

16           Everyone here is a citizen of the state of  
17      Florida and we want to hear from all of them.  
18      Mr. Quinones, thank you for being here.

19           MR. QUINONES: Well, thank you, and first  
20      I must commend you because your pronunciation  
21      of the Spanish last name is impeccable, and it  
22      is a great honor to be here and also to see  
23      some friends that I served in the past and  
24      believe me, I do have a new found a  
25      appreciation of the work that you do and it

1           certainly is appreciated.

2           I am John Quinones, I am a County  
3           Commissioner in Osceola County. It was really  
4           refreshing to hear from residents of Osceola  
5           who I respect, like Nancy Smith and her points  
6           are really well taken.

7           I think the commonalities between Osceola  
8           and Orange are various and I am not going to  
9           repeat them.

10          I will tell you that as you look at the  
11          intent of our founders and as you look at the  
12          great opportunity that Florida has of  
13          redistricting, I would just hope that you keep  
14          in mind the reason for the redistricting  
15          process and how we may be blessed with the  
16          opportunity to have more representation at the  
17          Federal level.

18          And that you also look at what particular  
19          groups actually helped with that increase in  
20          population and representation.

21          I certainly appreciate the work that has  
22          been done here locally by groups like the  
23          Central Florida Redistricting Council, by  
24          Nalaya, Latino Justice and others, and  
25          certainly it may not be a perfect map, but I

1           would certainly ask you to at least consider  
2           that the compact nature.

3           We just finished doing our own  
4           redistricting in Osceola and certainly that was  
5           a big consideration to make sure that it was  
6           compact.

7           So I appreciate your efforts and certainly  
8           hope that you as Abraham Lincoln told us,  
9           provide the equality of opportunities for our  
10          residents here in central Florida. Thank you.

11          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you for  
12          being here, Commissioner, great in-sights.

13          Next we have Mr. Stephen Cullum, who will  
14          be followed by Timothy Murray.

15          Mr. Cullum, you worked your way down. The  
16          microphone is yours. You will be followed,  
17          again, by Timothy Murray and then Mable Butler.

18          MR. CULLUM: Good afternoon, my name is  
19          Stephen Cullum, and I found out about this on  
20          the Internet. I read a lot of newspapers on  
21          the Internet and books and things like that.

22          I am one of the citizens that voted for  
23          Fair Districts. I believe, you know, that it  
24          would make the government more inclusive. I  
25          want to have an aggregative representation,

1 every group of people here, you know, will be  
2 represented, and also I believe that our  
3 government, both locally and even on the state  
4 and a national level is dysfunctional right now  
5 because you have two extreme groups and the  
6 reason why is because of gerrymandering in my  
7 opinion.

8 I want to have politicians that are  
9 elected from a more representation slice of  
10 society so that they can be more moderate and  
11 actually can come together and compromise and  
12 get stuff done.

13 That was my thoughts when I voted, you  
14 know, for those two Amendments and that is  
15 really what I want this body of officials to  
16 do, is to go ahead and create maps that will be  
17 inclusive and put people together.

18 And also I know a lot of minorities want  
19 to have representation, but you have to realize  
20 that, you know, what we have been doing is  
21 putting you in kind of like together in one  
22 single district and diluting your voting power.  
23 So you don't want every minority just in their  
24 own separate district.

25 You all have a lot of influence, a lot of

1       voting power, but not when they do that to you,  
2       it is actually, you know, it is actually not  
3       doing you right, and I don't like that either.  
4       That is really about all I have to say, sir.

5                REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
6       much, sir. Next we have Timothy Murray, who  
7       will be followed by Mable Butler and then the  
8       Reverend Ohara black. Mr. Murray.

9                MR. MURRAY: Hi, how are you doing today?  
10       Timothy Murray, District 8. Real quick, I just  
11       want everyone who voted for Fair Districts,  
12       could you stand up real quick?

13               That is a pretty good majority in this  
14       room and I just want to ask that during these  
15       sessions you please address the fact and tell  
16       these people why our state is, the taxpayer  
17       dollars are being used to sue themselves and  
18       defend themselves when 63 percent of the state  
19       of Florida voted for these fair districts, why  
20       are we here?

21               Real quickly, right on, people. Touching  
22       on what Diane Rambo said, like I said, I am in  
23       District 8. I would like you to draw me a  
24       district for the City of Orlando so that my  
25       Congressman doesn't have the chance to hide out

1           in Winter Garden and not come to see the people  
2           that he is supposed to represent.

3           I believe we had one Town Hall meeting  
4           kind of near Orlando downtown area, and it was  
5           at noon, you know, it was pretty far to get to.  
6           So just, you know, draw a district that is fair  
7           for these people right here. Thanks, guys.

8           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
9           Mr. Murray. Next we have Ms. Mable Butler, and  
10          she will be followed by the Reverend Ohara  
11          Black. Ms. Butler.

12          MS. BUTLER: Good afternoon, my name is  
13          Mable Butler, and I want to talk about minority  
14          access districts, if is a must.

15          In 1990, I was elected to Orange County,  
16          the Board of County Commissioners. The first  
17          black in the history of the county.

18          I was elected from a district, but I  
19          served the whole county, all of Orange County  
20          citizens, along with Osceola, Seminole, Lake  
21          and Brevard, because I was black and they had  
22          accessibility to me.

23          I did want you to know that some of those  
24          counties still don't have representation. In  
25          1992, because of minority access districts, the

1 citizens of Florida sent three blacks to  
2 Congress. The first in my lifetime, which is  
3 85 years.

4 So please, and I want you to remember, in  
5 access districts you are allowing minorities to  
6 have representation throughout the state and  
7 have an option to choose. That is the word,  
8 choose a Representative of their choice. Thank  
9 you.

10 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
11 Ms. Butler. Okay, next, we have the Reverend  
12 Ohara Black, followed by Jessica Hewkin, and  
13 Chuck O'Neal, and if Ida Escamoni, John Hoyt  
14 and Allisha Douglas can start working their way  
15 down, I would appreciate it. Mr. Black.

16 REVEREND BLACK: Good afternoon. My name  
17 is Reverend Ohara C. Black. I am the Senior  
18 Pastor at Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist  
19 Church here in Orlando. I am also a native  
20 Floridian.

21 I was born and raised in Gadsden County,  
22 amen, Representative Williams. I had the  
23 fortunate opportunity also of teaching our  
24 young people Civics, American History, American  
25 Government in Gadsden County schools.



1           One of the things I share with my Civics  
2       students is that our government is about having  
3       a voice. You have a republican form of  
4       government, not necessarily that we are  
5       Republicans, but we believe in a representative  
6       voice, and you all know that when you go to  
7       Tallahassee you do not speak for yourselves,  
8       but you speak for the people you represent.

9           And as you redraw these districts, redraw  
10      them in such a way that everyone regardless of  
11      race and so forth has a voice. We want our  
12      African-Americans to have a voice. That is all  
13      I have to say.

14           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.  
15      Next Ms. Jessica Hewkin and she will be  
16      followed by Chuck O'Neal.

17           Ms. Hewkin, are you working your way over?  
18      And Mr. O'Neal would be followed by Ida  
19      Escamoni. So Ms. Hewkin, you have the floor.

20           And folks, when you work your way down, if  
21      you could come closer to the mike so that you  
22      can get right to it as soon as we call your  
23      name, I would appreciate it. Thank your,  
24      Ms. Hewkin.

25           MS. HEWKIN: Hi, my name is Jessica

1       Hewkin, and I am a recent graduate at the  
2       University of Central Florida. When speaking  
3       to other politically active students across the  
4       country it is unbelievable to them that Florida  
5       is taking so long to draw our districts.

6               We voted for Fair Districts, and to leave  
7       us with little or no time to prep our  
8       candidates and voters inside districts is  
9       simply not there.

10              I am an intern for an organization that  
11       works to get women elected and the rights of  
12       women represented, and this incumbent  
13       protection plan that is created by this  
14       unreasonable timeline of possibly August of  
15       next year, is not what is best for women, and  
16       therefore, not what is best for Florida.

17              Please take this into consideration and  
18       please if nothing else think of the  
19       repercussions for 2012. We want fair and  
20       competitive elections, and most importantly, we  
21       want Legislators who are not afraid of that.  
22       Thank you.

23              REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
24       ma'am. Mr. Chuck O'Neal is up next, followed  
25       by Ida Escamoni. Mr. O'Neal.

1           MR. O'NEAL: Yes, my name is Chuck O'Neal.  
2           I have a question for Senator Gaetz.

3           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: We are going --  
4           please ask it, but again we are going to answer  
5           questions at the end of the meeting.

6           MR. O'NEAL: I will wait around. If, as  
7           you have said, this is a partially arithmetic  
8           process and 51 percent of the registered voters  
9           in the state are Democrat, will 51 percent of  
10          the districts be predominantly Democrat?

11          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
12          much, sir. Next we will have Ida Escamoni and  
13          she will be followed by John Hoyt, and then  
14          Allisha Douglas. And if also Kevin Cobaris and  
15          Chester Glover can start working their way  
16          down, I would appreciate it. Ma'am.

17          MS. ESCAMONI: Hello. My name is Ida  
18          Escamoni, I am a student at the University of  
19          Central Florida. I was born and raised in  
20          Orlando, Florida, in my short 21 years of life.

21          I am here to send one word to many of our  
22          Representatives and Senators in front of us,  
23          and that is shame, shame for preventing us from  
24          having our fair districts.

25          Shame from hiding these maps and shame for

1       trying to suppress the votes of students and  
2       minorities. I go to a University with 60,000  
3       students, voting age constituents, and we  
4       deserve the right to be represented. You will  
5       not split the student vote no more. Please,  
6       let students vote, thank you.

7               REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
8       ma'am. Next we will have Mr. John Hoyt, and he  
9       will be followed by Allisha Douglas, and if  
10      also Michael Ertel and Bobby Olszewski can work  
11      their way down to the front row, I would  
12      appreciate it. Mr. Hoyt.

13             MR. HOYT: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman  
14      and members of the Committee. My name is John  
15      Hoyt, and I am a resident of 7425 Barnacle  
16      Court in Winter Park, and the zip is 32792,  
17      which we will discuss a little bit in a minute.

18             First of all, I want to thank you for this  
19      opportunity to appear before this Committee and  
20      I appreciate the fact that you have been  
21      meeting all over the state and are now about  
22      half through, have about 13 more to go. Bless  
23      you.

24             I think -- I think on my registration to  
25      speak before you I indicated that I belong to

1       AARP and, in fact, I am a trained volunteer  
2       AARP advocate, but today I speak on behalf of  
3       myself and a resident living in zip code 32792.

4           Unfortunately, that doesn't tell you much,  
5       because zip code 32792 is one of those many  
6       throughout the state that crosses county lines  
7       and has split legislative district.

8           I live in Congressional District 24, which  
9       if you walk a little bit west of where I live  
10      you practically have to walk sideways in order  
11      to get through it before it opens back up  
12      again.

13          I live in State Senate District 22 and  
14      House District 34 and so on. I live in that  
15      southwest corner of Seminole County that does  
16      have a Winter Park mailing address, but it is  
17      represented by eastern Florida Congressional  
18      District and so on.

19          Different from my neighbors who I am  
20      within walking distance of the county line with  
21      the county of Orlando.

22          Hopefully redistricting will correct some  
23      of that so that populations are fairly much  
24      contingent geographically.

25          My neighborhood is probably one of the

1       most diverse in the county area with one of the  
2       lowest crime rates, too. We are very  
3       diversified with white, Latin, black,  
4       nationality of different races and religions.  
5       It is truly an American melting pot and we all  
6       get along beautifully.

7               I have seen some of the proposed  
8       redistricting efforts and the people are to be  
9       commended for taking a very difficult task of  
10      trying to suggest them.

11             I have yet to see one that fulfills  
12      redistricting that gives contingent geographic  
13      preferences, not a district that I would be in  
14      that is represented by Jacksonville. Not a  
15      district that I would be in that is represented  
16      by Flagler Beach. Not a district that I am in  
17      that as is currently represented by Melbourne  
18      and the east coast of Florida.

19             I believe that geographic contingency is  
20      important as population balance and both need  
21      to be considered along with the other factors  
22      that have been brought out here today.

23             REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Mr. Hoyt, I am  
24      going to have to ask you to finish up so that  
25      we can get to our next speakers.

1           MR. HOYT: I wanted to make a point that  
2           is frequently brought out, but if your efforts  
3           ensure transparency, ensure timeliness of the  
4           decision-making, insulate the redistricting  
5           process from the conflict of interest and you  
6           all know what I am talking about, then the  
7           redistricting efforts will be a success.

8           Put your personal feelings and political  
9           feelings aside.

10          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Mr. Hoyt, you  
11          have got about ten seconds, and then I have to  
12          move to the next speaker.

13          MR. HOYT: Do what the citizens of Florida  
14          have dictated to you. Thank you.

15          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
16          much, sir. Next we have Allisha Douglas and  
17          she will be followed by Kevin Cobaris.

18          Mr. DOUGLAS: Good afternoon, and  
19          unfortunately, I believe my wife card was  
20          pulled instead of mine. Her name is Allisha,  
21          and unfortunately she could not be here today  
22          so I will speak on her behalf.

23          But I want to thank you all for being here  
24          today and serving this need of redistricting  
25          and I want to echo the thoughts of the Florida

1       League of Women Voters where they gave the  
2       dismay towards the fact that we don't have  
3       maps.

4               I agree with not having one map, but I  
5       would like to see workable maps like every  
6       other redistricting community has had.

7               In addition to that I want to speak in  
8       regards to the often politically forgotten area  
9       of four corners Florida, which is the area of  
10      Polk, Orange, Osceola and Lake County.

11              Those districts are often thrown apart in  
12      many different ways and I would like you to  
13      consider keeping them together when you do your  
14      redistricting effort. Thank you very much,  
15      have a great day.

16              REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir,  
17      appreciate that. Next we have Kevin Cobaris,  
18      and he will be followed by Chester Glover.  
19      Kevin, are you not here, Mr. Cobaris? And if  
20      Eugene Cloud and Bruce Mount could also start  
21      working their way down, and when you come down,  
22      please come and sit in the front row closer to  
23      the microphone so we can go ahead and get to  
24      each speaker as quickly as possible. We have  
25      lots of folks. Sir.



1           MR. COBARIS: Good afternoon, ladies and  
2 gentlemen of our legislation quorum, and good  
3 afternoon to all of our constituents.

4           I stand, my name is Kevin Cobaris, Senior  
5 Pastor and founder of Empowerment Ministries  
6 Church of Orlando, Florida, in the Pine Hills  
7 area, I am proud to say.

8           I stand today as a Pastor and I represent  
9 the voice of God as it relates to ministering  
10 to my congregation and the community.

11           Contrastingly, elected officials represent  
12 the voice of their community. To lawmakers  
13 without representation, how can change take  
14 place? Be it from a spiritual or political  
15 standpoint, representation is necessary, and I  
16 stand this afternoon reiterating what has  
17 before been said, standing on the shoulders of  
18 Father Pinder and the other Pastors and others  
19 who have got up to speak on behalf of  
20 minorities.

21           And I don't stand for, to propose that we  
22 should place minority against minority, but I  
23 do stand to insist that this quorum of  
24 legislation and our elected officials would  
25 make a sensible decision to ensure that

1 minorities are represented properly, and we  
2 send you back believing in you that after  
3 hearing the voice of the constituency here  
4 today, I believe a consensus would say that the  
5 voice of the people need to be heard and we  
6 need to respect that voice even with minorities  
7 as well, and we ask you to do a fair job of  
8 making sure that that is done. Thank you.

9 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank your, sir.  
10 Next we have Chester Glover who will be  
11 followed by Michael Ertel. Chester, are you --  
12 Mr. Glover, are you here? I am going to go  
13 ahead and move on to Michael Ertel. He will be  
14 followed by Bobby Olszewski, and if Eugene  
15 Cloud and Bruce Mount could start working their  
16 way down as well. Mr. Ertel.

17 MR. ERTEL: Thank you, Senators,  
18 Representatives, thanks for having this  
19 meeting. It is a very interactive event here  
20 at the Bob Carr, which is pretty awesome  
21 instead of us just looking there.

22 I do notice that you are having an event  
23 here in Orange County, you are having one in  
24 Brevard County and you are having one in  
25 Volusia County. So please do not leave out

1 Seminole County.

2 As you leave here today, please stop by  
3 Altamonte Springs and go to the, go to the  
4 Moses in the Town Center there, in uptown  
5 Altamonte where Representative Plakon lives,  
6 maybe stay in Lake Mary in Representative  
7 Dorworth's 's district, and tomorrow morning  
8 when you wake up please go to the Townhouse  
9 Restaurant in Oviedo in Representative  
10 Brodeur's district.

11 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: All right, let's  
12 focus our comments on redistricting.

13 MR. ERTEL: I do tell my candidates in  
14 every single election that half of the  
15 candidates are going to lose, and it is kind of  
16 interesting to say that here today, because  
17 well over half of the people that are here in  
18 the audience today are going to feel when this  
19 whole process is over, as if they have lost.

20 The process may be the process, but just  
21 because it is not exactly everything we all  
22 want it doesn't mean that the process, itself,  
23 is broken.

24 No one is going to be 100 percent  
25 satisfied, and in fact, I promise you, I

1       promise you that every single one of you at  
2       some point or another in this process will be  
3       sued by some organization.

4               In our office it is our job to make sure  
5       that we can, you know, compensate for that. We  
6       have eight word mission statement in the  
7       office, the first two words are efficient  
8       elections, the last two words are voter  
9       confidence, if you want to know the middle  
10      words, go follow us at Vote Seminole on Twitter  
11      or you can print us at Facebook dot Com slash  
12      vote Seminole. I want to confirm here, get  
13      back to the point.

14             REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: You are running  
15      out of time.

16             MR. ERTEL: Our timeline does not start  
17      the day that yours finishes, and this is  
18      something that I want to assure the voters.  
19      The Supervisors of Elections in the State of  
20      Florida, our timeline will not start when your  
21      timeline ends.

22             So the first map that is drawn, we are  
23      going to get to work. We are going to start  
24      rolling up our sleeves and we are going to make  
25      it happen and then all are going to get sued

1           and there is going to be a tweak to the map and  
2           then we are going to tweak the map.

3           So please rest assured for ya'll up there  
4           that you are not going -- that our timeline  
5           doesn't start when yours ends, and when you get  
6           sued, your Supervisors of Elections in this  
7           state, all 67 of us are not going to allow the  
8           fear of the result of that lawsuit to paralyze  
9           us into inactivity.

10          We are going to start and for the voters  
11          who are watching us online or that are here  
12          behind me right now, just recognize that your  
13          Supervisors of Elections will work very hard,  
14          we are going to make it happen.

15          It is going to work, it is going to be  
16          fine, and then ya'll do your job, the courts  
17          will do their job, we will do our job, the  
18          voters will do their job and Jay Leno and Conan  
19          O'Brien can start making fun of Hollywood again  
20          next year instead of Florida elections. Thank  
21          your, Representatives.

22          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
23          Mr. Ertel. Next we have Bobby Olszewski, he  
24          will be followed by Eugene Cloud, and if Bruce  
25          Mount and Sue Jantz can start working their way

1 down.

2 MR. OLSZEWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
3 my name is Robert, Bobby Olszewski, and I am a  
4 proud resident of the city of Winter Garden and  
5 I have been a resident of southwest and west  
6 Orange Counties for over 30 years.

7 I want to thank the Legislature for coming  
8 to Orlando and listening to the citizens of  
9 Florida before designing any maps. Your action  
10 I believe is truly a testament to the  
11 Constitution.

12 As a legislative branch, is a direct  
13 connection to we the people. All Florida  
14 residents should be proud of our Legislature  
15 for this open and transparent process which  
16 allows citizens to design their own maps before  
17 submitting them online.

18 In the interest of serving the people of  
19 the State of Florida I would encourage you to  
20 consider having the cities of Winter Garden,  
21 Ocoee, Oakland and Gotha together in a single  
22 district as these communities share common  
23 bonds, interests and history.

24 I fully support the government embracing  
25 the will of the people, which is the hallmark

1 of our great democracy. However, I do have  
2 some concerns regarding the language of  
3 Amendments 5 and 6.

4 The requirement that incumbents cannot be  
5 disfavored is confusing to me. Does that mean  
6 if two incumbents in the same seat are in the  
7 same seat they can even sue for being  
8 disfavored?

9 Critical words of Amendments 5 and 6 are  
10 undefined like compact, practicable, feasible  
11 and existing political boundaries. I am not an  
12 attorney but I would think that this ambiguity  
13 would definitely lead to some great confusion  
14 and then potentially lawsuits which would be  
15 costly to the citizens of Florida.

16 Lastly I would like to ask what are  
17 exactly existing political boundaries. Are  
18 these boundaries current seats, because if  
19 those boundaries are gerrymandered then why are  
20 we using them, or are these existing political  
21 boundaries city boundaries, because a lot of  
22 times city boundaries may not be compact, which  
23 should mean new districts would not fit the  
24 vague intent of Amendments 5 and 6 either.

25 I fully support the government embracing

1       the will of the people which is the hallmark of  
2       our great democracy.  However, I think there is  
3       some logical and legal concerns regarding  
4       Amendments 5 and 6.

5               Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the  
6       Committee for taking the time to listen to the  
7       people of the great state of Florida.  Thank  
8       you.

9               REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT:  Thank your,  
10       Mr. Olszewski.  Next we have Eugene Cloud  
11       followed by Bruce Mount and then if Astrid  
12       Garcia and Tony Suarez can start working their  
13       way down as well.  Mr. Cloud.

14              MR. CLOUD:  Yes, thank you very much for  
15       being here.  I am from Orange County, and when  
16       I look at the --at the map of the Congressional  
17       Districts with U.S. Congressional Districts  
18       with respect to Orange County, I see that the  
19       county is divided into four at least and maybe  
20       five different Congressional Districts.

21              And to think that there is a logical  
22       reason why the Representative from Jacksonville  
23       has got a foot in Orange County makes no sense  
24       to me whatsoever.  So I think that kind of  
25       thing needs to be fixed.



1           The next thing is I worry about the idea  
2           of diversity and people claiming that there  
3           isn't any and I look at this group of people  
4           that are representing us. How much more  
5           diverse do we need to be. Thank you very much.

6           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.  
7           Next we have Mr. Bruce Mount, and he will be  
8           followed by Sue Jantz.

9           MR. MOUNT: Good evening. First of all,  
10          thank you all for coming for us to go through  
11          this process.

12          My name is Bruce Mount, Mayor of the  
13          historic town of Eatonville, incorporated in  
14          1887, the oldest African-American town in  
15          America.

16          We are small, with a small budget, but we  
17          have those same unfunded mandates. So it is  
18          imperative that we be represented. We have to  
19          be represented because we are very, very small,  
20          but guess what, everybody matters. Every  
21          single citizen matters.

22          So we have to be cognizant that we are  
23          represented. I echo Reverend Bracy, echo  
24          Father Pinder, but we need to be represented  
25          not only in the Senate but in the House and the

1 Congress.

2 Minorities have to be represented, because  
3 we are part of the process and we will be part  
4 of the process. Although we are small, we are  
5 very important, so remember us, the oldest  
6 African-American town in America, and we must  
7 be represented. Thank you.

8 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
9 much, Mr. Mount. Next we have Sue Jantz. She  
10 will be followed by Astrid Garcia and if Marion  
11 Cannon and Terrence Brown can start working  
12 their way down as well. Ms. Jantz.

13 MS. JANTZ: Hello, I live in Lake County.  
14 I attended The Villages meetings and I stayed  
15 right through to the end and my questions were  
16 not answered, so I was disappointed by that.

17 I am back today with those same questions  
18 again and we will see what happens. I disagree  
19 with the gentleman from the Chamber who  
20 believes that having public input into these  
21 maps is a very valuable process.

22 I think it would be more valuable for  
23 people to be able to see drafts of proposed  
24 maps, especially some that might be made by  
25 impartial third party professionals who

1 understand the legal and other implications of  
2 this process.

3 I am concerned that organized stauing and  
4 chaos serves those who don't want us to have  
5 fair elections. I am concerned about  
6 transparency and the process for the final map  
7 selection.

8 The availability of your online map  
9 program whereby any one from the public,  
10 including school children, can create maps for  
11 consideration could result in avoidable delays,  
12 and death by a thousand cuts.

13 Negative impact of delays on your our next  
14 election cycle if candidates for office can't  
15 mount effective campaigns. It would be best if  
16 districts were finalized in early January 2012,  
17 not June of 2012.

18 My questions are, when will public  
19 submission of maps end, and is that based on a  
20 date deadline, or a limit on the number of map  
21 submissions?

22 When and how will we see maps that meet  
23 the Federal and State legal requirements? Will  
24 you conduct another round of public hearings  
25 like this to allow for public comment in

1       September perhaps, to facilitate preliminary  
2       citizen reviews and comment of draft maps that  
3       can provide some valuable input?

4               Thank you to all of the volunteers who  
5       have worked for years to enhance democracy by  
6       enabling us to put an end to gerrymandered  
7       congressional and legislative boundaries that  
8       prevent neighbors from getting together and  
9       talking about different candidates and  
10      advocating for people that they feel will  
11      represent them well. Thank you.

12             REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
13      ma'am. Next we have Astrid Garcia, he will be  
14      followed by Tony Suarez. Mr. Garcia, and if  
15      Paul Spitzer and Linell Ela could start working  
16      down, we would appreciate it. Ma'am.

17             MS. GARCIA: Thank you, good afternoon, my  
18      name is Astrid Garcia, Director of State  
19      Election Policy and Redistricting for NALEO  
20      Educational Fund, the National Association of  
21      Latino Elected and Appointed Officials.

22             Thank you so much. I have heard you have  
23      had a grueling schedule, 26 hearings through  
24      the summer, so thank you for your service and  
25      for allowing the community to have input into

1           this important process.

2           The NALEO Educational Fund's mission is to  
3           facilitate full Hispanic participation in  
4           America's political process. Our members are  
5           both Republican and Democrats and we are a  
6           non-partisan, non profit organization.

7           We believe it is critical that Florida's  
8           redistricting respects the voting rights of its  
9           growing Hispanic population and that the maps  
10          drawn by this Committee reflect this growth.

11          This Committee will be drawing lines for  
12          the districts for the State House of  
13          Representatives, Senate and Congress that will  
14          determine the landscape for the state's  
15          governance for the next ten years.

16          As this Committee proceeds with this  
17          important task, we urge it to comply strictly  
18          with the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965,  
19          which protects the rights of Hispanics and  
20          other under represented groups to elect  
21          candidates of their choice.

22          As the state's second largest and fastest  
23          growing population, Florida's Hispanics must be  
24          able to elect leaders that will be accountable  
25          to the specific needs of this community.

1           We are a part of this great state and we  
2           need to be part of this important dialogue. We  
3           ask the Committee carefully, that the Committee  
4           carefully consider the significant growth of  
5           Florida's Hispanic population in central  
6           Florida specifically.

7           We note that the area encompassing Orange,  
8           Osceola and Polk grew by 30 percent in the last  
9           decade and the Hispanic community was  
10          responsible for 58 percent of the population  
11          increase in this region.

12          Therefore, we believe that this Committee  
13          should creating a Congressional District in the  
14          area which reflects this growth and provide the  
15          Hispanic community a strong voice in the  
16          electorial process.

17          We believe that all communities deserve  
18          this representation. Latino Justice has  
19          presented where it is possible for this area we  
20          ask that you consider that.

21          We also believe that this Redistricting  
22          Committee shares our vision for a redistricting  
23          process that will strengthen Florida's  
24          democracy by providing fair electoral  
25          opportunities for the state's residents.

1           We look forward to working with this  
2           Committee to achieve this important work and we  
3           thank you again for your service.

4           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
5           ma'am, appreciate that. Tony Suarez is next,  
6           followed by Marion Cannon. Mr. Suarez, thank  
7           you for being here.

8           MR. SUAREZ: Good morning, everyone, my  
9           name is Anthony Suarez, known as Tony Suarez,  
10          and I was a member of the Florida House and  
11          representing District 35 in '99 and 2000, and  
12          since then I have taken as an adjunct professor  
13          at Barry University School of Law,  
14          incidentally, teaching redistricting in the  
15          legislation class.

16          So I am very familiar with Thornburg  
17          versus Gingles that came down since then  
18          interpreting, and so we know, I know that you  
19          have got a tough job in front of you to try to  
20          balance what we are doing.

21          What I am suggesting to you is I am also a  
22          member of the Central Florida Redistricting  
23          Council which is a bipartisan, where both  
24          Republicans and Democrats and Non Party  
25          Affiliates, members in this group try to

1       propose a map which we have or you have already  
2       seen and we will propose the data for you.

3               What we are trying to do with that is to  
4       ensure the recognition that the growth, the  
5       reason why we have two additional seats is  
6       because we have this great increase and  
7       55 percent of the total increase in the  
8       population of Florida has come from the  
9       Hispanic community and in central Florida,  
10      reflects 58 percent of the growth in the  
11      population comes from the Hispanic community.

12             So what we don't want is to be placed as  
13      other speakers have said in a position of  
14      minority versus minority. We would like to see  
15      that there is a district that represent the  
16      African-American community and a district that  
17      represents the Hispanic community and these  
18      giving the opportunity for those communities to  
19      reach out to someone on the community of  
20      interest as the words are, and these are the  
21      community of interest.

22             That district which is drawn can be  
23      mapped, I mean, the La Prensa, the Spanish  
24      language newspaper, will have a route right  
25      through the entire community from Haines City



1 up to Union Park.

2 I live in Union Park, so I like the  
3 district. The -- but you also have the main  
4 streets, Semoran Boulevard runs through it, you  
5 have got business, you have got community, you  
6 have got paper.

7 My radio show which I do on a daily basis,  
8 the entire district is inside the signal of the  
9 radio show. So this is a way that people can,  
10 and I daresay that about six Hispanic or  
11 Spanish language radio stations, all of the  
12 signals concentrate on the east side of Orange  
13 County, Osceola County.

14 So I suggest to you that the community of  
15 interest is definitely there, and we of course  
16 understand this is a political issue. The  
17 Supreme Court of the United States has said it  
18 is political and you have the right to draw,  
19 use political considerations.

20 However, the '65 Civil Rights Act had  
21 given us a situation in which it imposes upon  
22 it the protection of the minority, minority  
23 communities.

24 What we don't want is have a situation and  
25 I ran as a Republican in the State Senate

1       against Senator Siplin who is here, a district  
2       that was designed, designed for minorities, a  
3       Democrat. A Democratic seat because the  
4       Republicans wanted to ensure safe districts  
5       around that Senate as a Democratic seat, but  
6       the way it was designed it was designed to be  
7       African-American heavy. In the primary, they  
8       win the primary and that is the end of it, of  
9       course, I ran as a Republican, came close but  
10      didn't have enough bananas, so to make it  
11      happen.

12           But that, we don't want that to happen  
13      again. That is why we are in a situation, we  
14      draw a district that is heavily Hispanic as we  
15      have indicated in our map which is fair, it is  
16      consistent, it is a community of interest, it  
17      is contiguous, it has no problems.

18           It does not take away from any other  
19      community. I think it is perfect and I urge  
20      you to consider it with it, thank you very  
21      much.

22           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
23      Mr. Suarez. Next we have Marion Cannon. And  
24      she will be followed by Terrance Brown and Paul  
25      Spitzer. Ms. Cannon, and if Vern Ela and Sue

1           Casterline can start working their way down, I  
2           would appreciate it. Thank your, ma'am.

3           MS. CANNON: Good afternoon, I am Marion  
4           Cannon, and I am the President of the Retired  
5           Educators of Orange County, and I have, I hope,  
6           a simple request for you.

7           Even though we are retired, we go into  
8           schools quite a lot. We mentor teachers. We  
9           mentor students, we tutor and we hear the  
10          problems of the schools today, and what we hear  
11          is teachers who haven't had raises in a long  
12          time.

13          We hear about students who have lost  
14          beloved teachers because they can't afford to  
15          stay in teaching anymore, and we have also  
16          heard about schools lacking supplies and in the  
17          case of Seminole County we heard about schools  
18          that --

19          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Ma'am, I am sure  
20          you are heading here, but --

21          MS. CANNON: I am getting there. I am  
22          getting there.

23          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you.

24          MS. CANNON: We even hear about schools  
25          closing. So the request I have for you is, the

1 money that you set aside to deal with your  
2 lawsuit, why don't you put it back into the  
3 public schools?

4 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
5 ma'am. Appreciate your time here. Terrance  
6 Brown and he will be followed by Paul Spitzer  
7 and then Linell Ela. Mr. Brown.

8 MR. BROWN: Hi, I am a member of a number  
9 of Veterans Associations here in central  
10 Florida. I am pretty much most of the time  
11 that I have left Florida in the last 40 years  
12 has been for military service which has taken  
13 me to about 17 countries.

14 I want to congratulate you all for holding  
15 these hearings, because these -- Amendment is  
16 so ambiguous and so conflicting in its criteria  
17 that it would be the same as if I had ordered  
18 one of my military units to line up  
19 alphabetically and in size order at the same  
20 time. Thank you very much.

21 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir,  
22 appreciate that. Next we have Paul Spitzer who  
23 will be followed by Linell Ela. Mr. Spitzer.

24 MR. SPITZER: Thank you, Representative  
25 Precourt, Senator Gaetz, Representative

1       Weatherford, and my Representative, Senator  
2       Simmons and Representative Nelson who  
3       disappeared and Speaker Cannon who is evidently  
4       watching from an undisclosed location.

5               I would just like to say like so many  
6       people before me, do not gerrymander. Please  
7       stop this in our redistricting here in Florida.

8               REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you.

9               MR. SPITZER: I didn't bring a plan with  
10       me, but I do have an example to use. Look at  
11       the present Congressional U. S. District map.  
12       Don't use that. Okay. Right now we are in the  
13       Florida third, which makes its way all of the  
14       way up to Jacksonville, via east Gainesville,  
15       often less than a mile wide.

16              I understand that is a minority  
17       represented district, but I just don't  
18       understand why it has to stretch from here to  
19       Jacksonville in order to accomplish that  
20       unless, of course, it is meant to put a lot of  
21       people into one district.

22              I live four blocks from here in the  
23       Florida eighth. It meanders its way up to  
24       north of Ocala, but in order for me to stay in  
25       that district and drive up there, I have to

1 drive east, south eight miles, west a few miles  
2 and then back up north.

3 It doesn't make sense, and the Florida  
4 seventh starts in Winter Park, goes all of the  
5 way up to east Jacksonville -- south  
6 Jacksonville, and I am assuming this was  
7 probably designed for the white minority  
8 district, I am not too sure.

9 You know, I have been both Democrat and  
10 Republican, I am neither now, okay. And I know  
11 that on occasions both parties have known to  
12 put politics before legislation, but this year  
13 the Republicans have truly scared me.

14 With the legislation passed increasing  
15 voting and registration restrictions for no  
16 tangible reasons and the Governors and Attorney  
17 Generals changes in rules that makes it more  
18 restrictive for felons who have done their time  
19 through --

20 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Sir, I need you  
21 to keep your comments focused on redistricting.

22 MR. SPITZER: I am sorry about that.  
23 Okay, but their rights are restricted for  
24 voting purposes. That was my point.

25 And then there is Speaker Cannon's obvious

1       displeasure of Amendments 5 and 6 going so far  
2       as to join the lawsuit against Amendment 6. I  
3       believe he intimated it is splitting the  
4       Supreme Court because of the disallowing  
5       Amendment 7, not very comforting.

6               So I please ask you, respect what the  
7       voters have asked for, abide by Amendments 5  
8       and 6. Of course, abide by guidelines required  
9       by the Voting Rights Act. Don't use that cover  
10      for any shenanigans. We deserve better than  
11      that.

12             In this January, please change the law so  
13      that the next time in ten years you will be  
14      able to show us proposed districts right now  
15      and avoid the problem with the debacle that  
16      shows up after the January legislative session.  
17      Thank you.

18             REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
19      much, sir. Next we have Linell Ela who will be  
20      followed by Vern Ela and Sue Casterline, and if  
21      Doug Head and David Montanez can start working  
22      their way down as well, I would appreciate it.

23             MR. ELA: My point has been well made sir.  
24      I cede my time to someone else.

25             REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Ms. Ela cedes

1 her time, thank you very much. Vern Ela.

2 MR. ELA: I cede as well.

3 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Similarly.

4 Thank you very much. Sue Casterline, are you  
5 down here? Okay, here she comes and then  
6 following Ms. Casterline will be Doug Head and  
7 David Montanez, and if Stephanie Porta and Mark  
8 Lainer start working their way down as well.  
9 Ms. Casterline.

10 MS. CASTERLINE: At a time, I am Sue  
11 Casterline from Orange County. At a time when  
12 the Legislature just made huge cuts to social  
13 services, schools, et cetera, I would like to  
14 express my outrage that the Legislature has  
15 been paying \$300 an hour to lawyers in-house  
16 Speaker Cannon's former firm to try to find  
17 fault with Amendments 5 and 6 passed in last  
18 election.

19 It has been estimated that a million  
20 dollars of taxpayer money has already been  
21 spent to subvert the will of the people. If  
22 you want to look for ways to redistrict to keep  
23 incumbents in power, I would like to see that  
24 you at least spend your own money rather than  
25 the taxpayers.



1           At a time when our troops are in other  
2           countries to spread democracy, quote, unquote,  
3           it is extremely disturbing to see that  
4           democracy is being subverted at home by your  
5           resistence to fair districts and the voter  
6           obstruction legislation passed in the last  
7           section of the Senate. Thank you.

8           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
9           ma'am. Next we have Douglas Head, followed by  
10          David Montanez and Stephanie Porta, and if  
11          Holmes McKoy and Ronita Sanders can start  
12          working their way down as well. Mr. Head.

13          MR. HEAD: I am glad to be here this  
14          afternoon to have this opportunity to publicly  
15          call for you to draw rationale districts which  
16          makes sense to voters.

17          Examples of the horrors of the last  
18          redistricting process ten years ago abound, but  
19          I want to point out the ridiculous districts  
20          that the Legislature carved right here in  
21          Orange County in 2001.

22          Districts were so distorted that they make  
23          easy comic relief for a painful experience.  
24          The dead dog district drawn for House -- as  
25          District 35 represented by Mr. Cannon, the crab

1 drawn for House District 36, these should be  
2 trashed.

3 The map of District 40 is really a  
4 message. It really looks like a toilet, flush  
5 it. In the Senate, it is no better.

6 For ten years central Florida has had a  
7 district which is laughingly referred to as the  
8 bunny rabbit district, two ears, four paws, a  
9 tiny body, a big rump and a big foot, it is  
10 literally looks like a bunny rabbit.

11 I don't need to show you the distortions  
12 of the Congressional Districts, but I can tell  
13 you that if you go to the intersection of  
14 Limone Avenue and New York Avenue in the middle  
15 of Winter Park, one community, you can cross  
16 the streets and enter three different  
17 districts, and walk a quarter of a mile north  
18 and you enter a fourth.

19 This gives you a community with four  
20 Congressmen and no voice. I believe that there  
21 is a rationale space in Orange County to create  
22 two State House Districts with a heavy Hispanic  
23 voice.

24 I believe there is plenty of room for two  
25 State House Districts with a heavy black voice.

1 In central Orlando there is a community of  
2 interest that is integral and cohesive.

3 I believe that in central Orange there are  
4 associated communities that deserve to be one  
5 district, not three.

6 The people around Apopka deserve a  
7 district and a voice, but they can best achieve  
8 their voice and representation by joining  
9 Winter Garden and other communities of west  
10 Orange.

11 And in east Orange, where there is much  
12 growth, the new communities need a voice and  
13 will have it if they are drawn together around  
14 Alafaya. That is another district.

15 The communities need a voice, please stop  
16 the games in the defense of incumbents and give  
17 us real districts with real candidates.

18 Orlando needs the two and-a-half Senate  
19 Districts to which we are entitled, not more.  
20 We need the eight House Districts to which we  
21 are entitled in Orange County, not pieces of 11  
22 separate districts.

23 We need to have rationale districts, three  
24 Congressional rationale districts penetrating  
25 the territory of Orange, not five. Give us

1       rationale districts, we will give the right  
2       candidates the vote.

3               REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir,  
4       and if you have some maps and exhibits as I  
5       see, if you could leave them with our staff,  
6       that would be terrific.

7               David Montanez is up next, followed by  
8       Stephanie Porta. Mr. Montanez, and -- he  
9       yields his time. Thank you very much, sir.

10              Stephanie Porta followed by Mark Lainer.  
11      Stephanie, thank you.

12              MS. PORTA: Hi, it is actually Stephanie  
13      Porta. First I would like to thank the middle  
14      class heros who fought hard for Floridians who  
15      are here today.

16              Representatives Thompson, Thurston,  
17      Steinberg, Williams, Jenne and Randolph, thank  
18      you, thank you for standing up.

19              Secondly I want to ask that the rest of  
20      you become heros to the rest of us. Almost  
21      two-thirds who voted for Fair Districts. To  
22      the members of the Florida House who voted to  
23      spend my tax dollars to attack and invalidate a  
24      provision of our State Constitution, and you  
25      call yourself constitutionalists, supported by

1 the majority.

2 All of this money is being spent while the  
3 teachers are being fired, social services are  
4 being cut, and Florida still leads the country  
5 in unemployment, and as apparently, apparently  
6 now you are stopping dollars from coming to our  
7 state to prevent child abuse. Where are your  
8 priorities?

9 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Madam, I need  
10 you to focus your comments on redistricting.

11 MS. PORTA: I am there, I am there.

12 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you.

13 MS. PORTA: Why must you fight the voters?  
14 If you don't like the voters and you don't want  
15 to listen to them, then really why are you  
16 here?

17 If the legislative majority would stop  
18 trying to get out of following the new Fair  
19 Districts standards and apply them as the  
20 voters intended there would be no need for  
21 litigation and no need for the massive amounts  
22 of taxpayer money you are ready to spend.  
23 Thanks.

24 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
25 much. Next we have Mr. Mark Lainer and he will

1 be followed by Holmes McKoy, and then if I can  
2 have Deirdre MacNab and Billy Butterfield work  
3 their way down here, I would appreciate it.  
4 Mr. Lainer.

5 MR. LAINER: Thank your, and thank you for  
6 getting my name right. It is rare. I just  
7 want to say with the very short time that it  
8 looks like there is going to be between map  
9 drawing and the elections, this really is  
10 seeming like an incumbency protection program.

11 Safe districts have been drawn -- thank  
12 you, safe districts have been drawn, extremes  
13 more likely to win primaries and elections so  
14 that we do end up with polarization.

15 We also have -- I live in the district  
16 that Corrine Brown represents that runs from  
17 Orlando to Jacksonville. I understand the need  
18 for minority representation, but I also know  
19 that there are like four safe Republican  
20 districts around that district, so that even in  
21 the state which has majority Democratic voters,  
22 that we have a super majority of Republicans in  
23 the House and the Senate which makes no sense  
24 to me whatsoever.

25 Also, also I am very concerned about the

1       vote suppression bills that have been passed,  
2       the shortening of the time of early voting, and  
3       the difficulty --

4               REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT:  Sir, I need you  
5       to focus on redistricting.

6               MR. LAINER:  I understand that, but this  
7       has to do with the redistricting.  As you  
8       redistrict, please make sure that you don't do  
9       the same thing that you have done in terms of  
10      -- in terms of suppressing voting and in terms  
11      of disenfranchising voters.

12              And I would also finally say that even  
13      though this doesn't have a lot to do with early  
14      voting, we need public financing, we need  
15      corporate money out of elections.

16              REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT:  Thank your, sir.

17              MR. LAINER:  And we need this to change  
18      now.

19              REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT:  We are going to  
20      go ahead and move on to Mr. Holmes McKoy and he  
21      will be followed, she will be followed by  
22      Ronita Sanders and Deirdre MacNab.  Ms. McKoy.

23              MR. MCKOY:  Good afternoon, everyone, my  
24      name is Alice Holmes McKoy.  I am the former  
25      Director of Special Projects and scheduling for

1       retired Congressman Diane Watson of Los  
2       Angeles.

3               I am a new resident to Orlando, and today  
4       I chose to come and speak on redistricting, as  
5       it affects minority population and  
6       representation in this community.

7               I am going to say that I believe this is  
8       one of the most significant issues of the  
9       current times and that there appears to be a  
10      campaign to take us back to a period when we  
11      were truly underserved.

12              Washington is based on seniority that  
13      allows you access to leadership, you are sought  
14      for your knowledge on the legislative process,  
15      you are able to sit on key committees that  
16      allow you to address issues that can affect  
17      your district.

18              Indeed, it takes several years to achieve  
19      enough seniority to really be effective in the  
20      position. It is very important that whomever  
21      represents the community to be seasoned and  
22      skilled with the nuances of Congress while  
23      being sensitive to important minority concerns.

24              The move toward fair representation could  
25      come at considerable cost to the community



1       which has enjoyed robust and productive  
2       constituent advocacy from events such as job  
3       fairs, housing, healthcare, with the current  
4       constituent leadership.

5               In that regard there has been an effective  
6       stellar Representative already looking out for  
7       constituents in the third district. With the  
8       possible redistricting and redrawing of the  
9       lines, which would remove Orlando from the  
10      current configuration, possibly opening the  
11      district to new and untested leadership at the  
12      Federal level on issues such as appropriations  
13      and legislative policy, it could dramatically  
14      change the landscape to one that would effect  
15      Orlando's minority population in an adverse  
16      way.

17             To this end I am hoping that Orlando's  
18      minority community would not fall victim to  
19      this new idea of disenfranchisement and  
20      retrogression as described in today's Orlando  
21      Sentinel.

22             Indeed, my home state of California in the  
23      33rd District there was one of the areas which  
24      was about to go through a similar challenge.

25      However, I am happy to report with strong

1        rebuttal from the community they were able to  
2        forestall this serious breach to the minority  
3        population living in that district.

4                In closing one of my favorite statements  
5        is that the more things change the more they  
6        remain the same. However, the change must come  
7        in a positive fashion and not at the cost of  
8        hard work and hard fought victories which have  
9        held constituents to achieve a better life in  
10       the Third District of Orlando.

11               I would like to reference today's Orlando  
12       Sentinel again, which in part references the  
13       1965 Voting Rights Act.

14               Legislators have to consider race and  
15       ethnicity as well as voting history. In three  
16       decades of redistricting litigation since the  
17       Federal Civil Rights legislation, courts have  
18       permitted -- prohibited what is called  
19       retrogression or the weakening of the ability  
20       of minority groups to elect lawmakers of their  
21       choice.

22               In short, Members of the Commission, it is  
23       important to consider the minority  
24       representation is essential as it relates to  
25       the 1965 Voting Rights Act and we cannot afford

1 to lose knowledgeable and seasoned leadership  
2 in these very difficult times for this key  
3 constituency in Orlando.

4 Thank you for allowing me the opportunity  
5 to voice my concerns on this most significant  
6 issue.

7 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
8 ma'am. Okay, folks, we only have a few more  
9 minutes left in this afternoon's session of our  
10 redistricting hearing.

11 I am going to call out a few names. I  
12 understand a couple of them may have already  
13 gone though. Ronita Sanders and she is going  
14 to be followed by Deirdre MacNab. Ms. Sanders  
15 is not here. Deirdre MacNab does not appear to  
16 be here. Okay. Great, and then she will be  
17 followed by Billy Butterfield and Robert  
18 Spooney.

19 So if you guys would come down to the  
20 front row so I know you are here, I would  
21 appreciate it. Madam.

22 MS. MACNAB: Good afternoon, and welcome  
23 to Orlando. I am the President of the League  
24 of Women Voters of Florida. Here we are --  
25 here we are at the halfway mark and as you

1 know, our organization has worked on this issue  
2 for over 70 years.

3 You have heard from our members as well as  
4 today at every spot, every stop, and we have  
5 been paying close attention to all of the  
6 hearings.

7 There have been several instances of  
8 joking and with my two minutes today I would  
9 like to share a relevant one of my own.

10 W. C. Fields was deathly sick while on  
11 vacation. His close friend came in while he  
12 was in bed waiting for the doctor and saw W. C.  
13 Fields carefully reading the Bible.

14 W. C., he says, you know you have never  
15 read the Bible in your whole life, why start  
16 now? Looking for loopholes, looking for  
17 loopholes says W. C. Fields.

18 Unfortunately, this is no laughing matter,  
19 because that is precisely what we have seen the  
20 leadership of this Committee to be doing,  
21 looking for loopholes such as fighting the  
22 Amendments in court.

23 Senator Gaetz, I have heard you several  
24 times sum up by saying to those who have spoken  
25 that while they are entitled to their own

1       opinion, they are not entitled to their own  
2       facts.

3               Regretfully and I know once again you will  
4       have the final word at today's meeting. We  
5       must take a dose of your own medicine. Our  
6       members in several other stops have clarified  
7       some of the facts regarding litigation and the  
8       constitutional timeline.

9               These jokes would be much more  
10      entertaining if there was not so much at stake  
11      and did not involve taxpayer money and the  
12      critical integrity of Florida elections.

13              We have heard at every stop Supervisors of  
14      Election expressing their concern about their  
15      ability to properly run careful and ethical  
16      elections because of the timeline that has been  
17      proposed.

18              We have begun to hear suggestions that  
19      that timeline might be changeable. I ask you  
20      today as the President of the League of Women  
21      Voters of Florida to take the responsible  
22      course of action, to move the timeline up so  
23      Florida is not last.

24              Ensure orderly elections in 2012, give  
25      voters a real chance to comment on real maps

1           and I would like to ask you since the gag order  
2           has been lifted, if all present today would be  
3           willing to please raise their hand if you would  
4           commit to moving up the timeline so there could  
5           be a vote the first week of legislative session  
6           in January, and I would like to see who among  
7           you.

8                   REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
9           Ms. MacNab, we are not going to go ahead and do  
10          that at this particular hearing. We are not  
11          here to vote. We are here to listen to you at  
12          this time. So thank you for your comments.

13                  I am going to go ahead and move on to  
14          Mr. Billy Butterfield now.

15                  MS. MACNAB: Thank you, Representative  
16          Precourt, thank you.

17                  REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Mr. Butterfield,  
18          Mr. Butterfield? Are you Mr. Butterfield? Is  
19          Mr. Billy Butterfield here? Okay,  
20          Mr. Butterfield, we are going -- next, Robert  
21          Spooney. Mr. Spoony, and then the last for  
22          this afternoon's session will then be Nelson  
23          Betancourt.

24                  I am going to make a couple of short  
25          comments, Senator Gaetz is going to make a few

1           comments and then we will stand in recess, but  
2           before we do that, Mr. Spooney.

3           MR. SPOONEY: Good afternoon, my name is  
4           the Reverend Dr. Robert M. Spooney. I am  
5           Pastor of the historic Mount Siani Missionary  
6           Baptist Church which is located in historic  
7           Paramore in part of Districts 3.

8           I am also the President of the  
9           African-American Chamber of Commerce of central  
10          Florida here in Orlando.

11          As a United States citizen, a life long  
12          Floridian and a registered voter, I believe  
13          that we are experiencing a defining moment in  
14          our state's history.

15          In this particular case if minority access  
16          for communities of interest and of color is not  
17          preserved, is not preserved, when Florida  
18          redraws the boundaries, African-Americans and  
19          Hispanics who collectively make up over  
20          two-thirds of our state's population, may be  
21          finding themselves mired in a difficult  
22          situation.

23          That being the case, I stand in complete  
24          concurrence with the statements made by Father  
25          Pinder, Reverend Ohara Black, Pastor Cabaris,

1       the Honorable Mable Butler and the new  
2       Floridian, Ms. MacKoy, by changing the policy  
3       and frame work already provided in Article III  
4       of the Florida Constitution, we are definitely  
5       dilute go the collective strength of  
6       African-Americans in our governmental process.

7             Don't allow Florida's redistricting to  
8       destroy the minority vote. Let us continue to  
9       honor the spirit and intent of the Civil Rights  
10      Act of 1965. Thank you, and God bless you.

11            REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank your, God  
12      bless you, too, Mr. Spooney. And finally, this  
13      after, for this afternoon's session, we have  
14      Nelson Betancourt, Mr. Betancourt.

15            MR. BETANCOURT: Thank you, historian  
16      Lawrence Goodwin recently stated that the  
17      economic fate of America's inherited democratic  
18      process in the sense that a majority of us have  
19      had, have always had, that we are in this thing  
20      together. It is absolutely on the line right  
21      now.

22            And the election of 2012, is going to  
23      define the meaning of the American idea. I  
24      therefore have no doubts that the current  
25      leadership in Tallahassee will use this



1        districting process to manufacture a crisis in  
2        the electoral process, in the electoral system  
3        in order to continue to undermine our  
4        democratic process as they are presently doing  
5        in Washington, D. C.

6            Even though deception eventually contains  
7        the seeds of its own destruction, at what cost  
8        in suffering and strife to the American people?  
9        And I hold in scathing contempt politicians of  
10       both parties in Tallahassee and Washington who  
11       purport to be Christians and Jews yet have no  
12       compunction about reaping havoc with the least  
13       of these, the elderly, the poor, the disabled,  
14       the strangers.

15           These -- this redistricting process should  
16       be about fairness, justice and opportunity, not  
17       a naked power grab to cause chaos and  
18       disruption in the 2012 elections. In 2012, the  
19       fate of our Democratic process and dream is  
20       absolutely on the line.

21           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
22       Mr. Betancourt. Okay, one final administrative  
23       task. I would like to recognize Ms. Daisy  
24       Lynum who represents this area, the city of  
25       Orlando. Commissioner, are you here? Hi, how

1       are you, do you want to stand up and wave to  
2       everyone.

3               She represents this area of the city of  
4       Orlando, thank you for letting us use this  
5       facility, appreciate it.

6               Okay, and thanks to all of those folks  
7       that have talked today for your contributions,  
8       making representative democracy work in our  
9       state.

10              If you have more to add we will accept  
11       written extension of your remarks and we will  
12       post these things online as well. If you  
13       didn't speak now, but have signed up you will  
14       be in line during the 6:00 to 8:00 period this  
15       afternoon and we will also take comments any  
16       other way you want to submit them. We have got  
17       all sorts of things out there, from the  
18       website, to social media and Twitter, e-mail,  
19       Snail Mail and the list goes on.

20              All of the records for today's meetings  
21       will be on video, podcast and transcripts via  
22       the Senate and House Redistricting websites, so  
23       please continues to follow us throughout this  
24       process, and with that I am going to recognize  
25       Chair Senator Gaetz for some final remarks

1 before we stand in recess.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: The kind of information  
3 that we have received here today, Mr. Chairman,  
4 particularly about neighborhoods and counties  
5 and communities has been extraordinarily  
6 helpful.

7 There is no way we could have received a  
8 lot of that information about your localities  
9 sitting in an echo chamber in Tallahassee. So  
10 thank you.

11 As a person who lives in Niceville,  
12 Florida, way up in the panhandle by Destin,  
13 somebody is waving at me from Niceville, that  
14 is good. This has been extraordinarily helpful  
15 to me and I am sure to other members as well  
16 who don't live in this area and really needed  
17 to hear your points of view.

18 We received a number of questions that  
19 have come in and we would like to just try to  
20 provide some factual information which you can  
21 use or not use as you choose.

22 Here are some questions that were, that  
23 were submitted in writing. First, these are  
24 from Susan Jantz. These questions are, am I  
25 correct that the 2010 Census indicated a need

1           for a two seat increase for the U. S. House of  
2           Representatives? Shouldn't one of those be in  
3           central Florida?

4           The answer to the first part of the  
5           question is yes. The answer to the second part  
6           of the question would appear to be yes if you  
7           look strictly at population and where the new  
8           population would be.

9           The second question is, when will public  
10          submission of maps end, and is that based on a  
11          date deadline or on a limit on the number of  
12          map submissions?

13          There is no limit on the number of  
14          submissions that can be made by special  
15          interest groups, by Legislators, by individual  
16          citizens, and there will be no deadline on the  
17          submission of maps by anyone until the last  
18          vote is cast in the Legislature.

19          Next question, when and how will we see  
20          maps that meet Federal and State requirements?

21          That is a difficult question because we  
22          don't know if a map or maps meet all State and  
23          Federal legal requirements until they are  
24          submitted to the Florida Supreme Court and then  
25          to the Justice Department or the Federal

1 Courts.

2 We don't get to draw the maps that even  
3 you may want or that we may want. We have to  
4 draw maps that then pass legal muster with the  
5 Supreme Court and the Justice Department.

6 So we won't know what maps will pass that  
7 muster until after the legal process is  
8 completed and the courts get to, in many cases,  
9 you know, set their own timelines, but our hope  
10 would be that all of those legal clearances  
11 would finish in the spring as soon as possible  
12 and we would hope that those who have urged the  
13 Legislature to move up its timeline would also  
14 encourage our Attorney General and the courts  
15 and the Justice Department not to take all of  
16 the time they need but to take the time, all of  
17 the time that they can, but rather to take only  
18 the time that they need.

19 The next question, will we conduct other  
20 public hearings to allow for public comment to  
21 facilitate preliminary citizen reviews and  
22 comments during October through December?

23 The answer to that question is yes. We do  
24 intend, Chair Weatherford and I do intend that  
25 there will be public hearings that will be held

1       on every map that comes forth to the  
2       legislative committees in the form of Bills,  
3       and Bills can be submitted by any Democrat, any  
4       Republican, any House member, any Senator,  
5       based on anything that comes from a member of  
6       the public or an interest group or developed by  
7       that Legislator and no maps will be voted on  
8       even in Committee until there has been an  
9       opportunity for public comment.

10           Now, we are holding 26 hearings around the  
11       state. Several people here say today that  
12       those hearings are not terribly useful, but, so  
13       I am not sure that we can hold another 26  
14       hearings around the state in October and  
15       November, probably because there wouldn't be  
16       time and then there would be those here that  
17       would object and say now you are holding more  
18       hearings.

19           We just want you to show us the maps that  
20       you would like to see, but I can tell you that  
21       it is our intention that no maps will be voted  
22       on even in committee until there is an  
23       opportunity for the public to comment. If you  
24       wish to comment face to face, or if you wish to  
25       comment by e-mail, by contacting your

1 Representative or Senator, and many  
2 Representatives and Senators of both parties  
3 are intending on holding their own meetings  
4 later in the process to gather even more input  
5 that can be used -- that can be used in the  
6 legislative deliberations.

7 The next issue that came up was, what  
8 about other states, aren't they completing the  
9 process sooner and why is Florida dragging  
10 behind?

11 Well, the U. S. Bureau of the Census does  
12 not release census data to all of the states at  
13 once. It releases census data in groups.

14 Now, Florida is not the last state to get  
15 our census data, but we were one of the last.  
16 So one of the reasons why some states are ahead  
17 ever us is because some states got their census  
18 data a long time before we got our census data.  
19 As soon as we got ours, we put it on the  
20 Internet and then we put the redistricting  
21 software on the Internet as soon as that was  
22 available, so that you, we and everyone could  
23 begin to see that data as fast as possible.

24 But there are some states that are ahead  
25 of Florida, even though they got their census

1 data late. Illinois is one of them. In  
2 Illinois, it happens to be a state that is  
3 dominated in the Legislature by one party. The  
4 Legislators went quite literally into the back  
5 room, developed a set of maps came out, said  
6 here they are, they went to the floor of the  
7 Legislature, cast votes in a record short  
8 period of time and that was that.

9 We have decided here in Florida that that  
10 is not a good idea, that it is better to do a  
11 heavier lift, it is a bit of a messy process,  
12 but representative government is a messy  
13 process.

14 But the other point that we would make  
15 about timing in other states is, and this is  
16 not commonly known or thought about by  
17 everybody, is that some states do off year  
18 elections, like Illinois -- I am sorry,  
19 Louisiana was one of the states mentioned.

20 Well, Louisiana does its elections on odd  
21 numbered years. So therefore they get their  
22 data and they are able to move their process  
23 along to have elections on odd number years.

24 By our Constitution we have our elections  
25 on even numbered years. So that is four



1 reasons why our process is a little different  
2 from some other states, but there is no intent  
3 to make the process anymore elongated than  
4 possible.

5 The President of the League of Women  
6 Voters who has traveled with us to other  
7 hearings, spoke eloquently today and she asked,  
8 would there be --

9 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: All right,  
10 ladies and gentlemen, if you would please take  
11 your seats, we are going to try and get going.  
12 We are going to dispense with any of the  
13 introductions and the like, for those of you  
14 who were here earlier, you have heard our  
15 introduction already.

16 For others who would like to re-listen to  
17 me speaking on the Internet, we will have it up  
18 in the next day or so, but we are here to give  
19 you all a chance to speak.

20 So we are going to go right to the cards.  
21 We have about 90 of them. We have two hours to  
22 get through this. Please keep your comments as  
23 concise and direct as possible. We are going  
24 to limit things to two or three minutes or so.

25 And first off we have Commissioner Daisy

1       Lynum. So we would love to have you come up  
2       and give us your testimony, presentation.

3               Followed by Benjamin Chavis, and Eric  
4       Gray, and for those of you who weren't here  
5       earlier, if you can come down once your name is  
6       called and sit in the front row so you can be  
7       ready to get right to the microphone as soon as  
8       we get to your name and then that will be just  
9       that many more people that will get a chance to  
10      speak.

11             Also, if Nancy Jacobson and Terry Gancarz  
12      can come down. Ms. Lynum, thank you for being  
13      here.

14             MS. LYNUM: Thank you for being in my  
15      district and good evening. I just really  
16      wanted to reiterate some of the folks who have  
17      already spoken to you ladies and gentlemen,  
18      thank you for the hard work that you do.

19             My mother and father were married in  
20      Orange County in 1935, but I was born and  
21      raised in Lake County 65 years ago, but I don't  
22      tell anybody my age too often, but I am here to  
23      look forward to a minority district.

24             I know that I am going to put the trust of  
25      this community in your hands and I really

1 anticipate a good job that you are going to do.

2 The city is in the middle of redistricting  
3 also. So I know the hard work you got to do.  
4 Just sitting would drive me batty twice a day  
5 for two hours at a time.

6 So enjoy, listen to our comments, over  
7 90 percent of what was said earlier, I ditto,  
8 particularly when it pertains to  
9 African-American districts and Hispanic  
10 districts, but particularly for the group of  
11 people who have paved the road for the state  
12 and for this country, African-Americans, thank  
13 you.

14 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, and  
15 thank you so much for what you have done for  
16 this community. You really are a local icon  
17 and thank you also for the use of this  
18 facility. It is really helping us out a lot.

19 Next, Benjamin Chavis, followed by Eric  
20 Gray.

21 MR. CHAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I am  
22 Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. As a 50-year veteran  
23 of the Civil Rights Movement and the former  
24 National Executive Director and CEO of the  
25 NAACP I am submitting this statement concerning

1 the fundamental redistricting question before  
2 the Florida State Legislature.

3 Will you protect and reaffirm the 1965  
4 Voting Rights Act that ensures the voting  
5 rights of African-Americans and Latino  
6 Americans as well as other minority voters in  
7 the State of Florida?

8 Any proposed redistricting plan or map  
9 that results in the decrease of  
10 African-American or Latino American  
11 Congressional representation from the State of  
12 Florida is a serious violation of the Federal  
13 Civil Rights law as specified by the 1965  
14 Voting Rights Act.

15 Earlier today as I listened, Mr. Chairman,  
16 many of the persons who testified asked for a  
17 map. I think there is a map. The current map.  
18 That is where you should start, because the  
19 current map was found by the United States  
20 Department of Justice to be under the Voting  
21 Rights Act.

22 So any change to the current map should  
23 build on the progress, not regress on the  
24 progress. Given the fact that Florida's  
25 African-American and Latino American

1 populations have increased according to the  
2 2010 census, there cannot be any plan, map or  
3 the slightest inference that the distinguished  
4 officials of this Florida Legislature will  
5 consider a redistricting plan that would  
6 decrease, take away, step back or regress from  
7 the current minority voter representation in  
8 the Congress of the United States.

9 I am not only speaking for myself as a  
10 registered resident of Florida, but I am also  
11 speaking on behalf of other veterans of the  
12 Civil Rights Movement, such as Congressman John  
13 Lewis, Congresswoman Corrine Brown, the  
14 Reverend Jessie Jackson and Martin Luther King,  
15 Jr., III and many others who have fought hard  
16 and sacrificed to get the Voting Rights Act  
17 established.

18 The truth is the current number of  
19 African-Americans and Latinos that are now  
20 serving in the Congress of the United States  
21 from Florida is a direct result of the Voting  
22 Rights Act of 1965.

23 We know, Mr. Chairman, as has been pointed  
24 out to this Committee before, prior to the  
25 Voting Rights Act we did not have members from

1       our minority sector in the Congress of the  
2       United States.

3               So we should build on what the progress  
4       that has been made over the last years, not use  
5       this as an opportunity. This is an opportunity  
6       in redistricting, but it is also a  
7       responsibility to follow the Federal and Civil  
8       Rights law as the law of the land is today.

9               Lastly, it is a sad commentary that this  
10       redistricting search is in a context of the  
11       whole national debate about voter suppression,  
12       and I know, Mr. Chairman, you want us to stay  
13       on redistricting.

14              The reason why this is relevant to voting  
15       suppression, because at the end of the day, if  
16       the map that you draw, the new map winds up  
17       decreasing or regressing African-American or  
18       Latino voter representation in the Congress of  
19       the United States, then that would, in fact, it  
20       is tantamount to suppressing the vote of  
21       Latinos and African-Americans.

22              We call this to your attention. Start  
23       with the map that you have. Thank you.

24              REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir,  
25       thank you. And just as a reminder, ladies and

1 gentlemen, he made a couple of excellent  
2 points.

3 One being, please stay focused on  
4 redistricting, but he made a very clear  
5 connection between the two issues. So that was  
6 good testimony.

7 Also for those of you who weren't here  
8 earlier, Senator Gaetz who is Chair of this  
9 Committee is taking notes on all of the  
10 questions that are brought up by speakers, and  
11 at the end we are going to reserve a few  
12 minutes for him to respond to those.

13 Next we have Eric Gray, who is going to be  
14 followed by Nancy Jacobson. Is Mr. Gray here?  
15 I know some people have gone home already.  
16 Okay, so we will put that aside. Nancy  
17 Jacobson, are you here?

18 Okay, Nancy will be followed by Terry  
19 Gancarz and if Kevin Gaston and Anna Eskamani  
20 could come down front, I would appreciate it.  
21 Ma'am, you have the mike.

22 MS. JACOBSON: Good evening, my name is  
23 Nancy Jacobson. I am a retired attorney and I  
24 live in house District 35. I always vote.  
25 However, I do not often have a real choice

1 among the candidates because our districts are  
2 not competitive.

3 I live in the city of Orlando,  
4 approximately half way between downtown Orlando  
5 and Winter Park, and I know that my small  
6 neighborhood is once again in the eye of the  
7 storm, and a pawn in 2011, as it was in 2001,  
8 when it was snipped off and put in Winter Park,  
9 in a Winter Park district.

10 I believe we citizens must always try to  
11 do whatever we can to be active to preserve our  
12 democracy, and in accordance with that, I  
13 worked very hard to get Amendments 5 and 6 on  
14 the ballot and to get them approved, and I am  
15 deeply disappointed but sadly not surprised  
16 that you are fighting implementation of 5 and  
17 6.

18 What is currently occurring in our  
19 nation's Capitol is the strongest possible  
20 argument against gerrymandering and in favor of  
21 fair districts. There will always be safe  
22 seats. However, there will be far fewer of  
23 them and more competitive seats if the  
24 districts are drawn according to the standards  
25 in 5 and 6.



1           So I am here today to implore you to do  
2           two things. One, please stop spending our tax  
3           dollars to fight the will of the voters on 5  
4           and 6.

5           And two, please do whatever it takes to  
6           speed up the timeline on producing and  
7           approving the maps. It is beyond the pale that  
8           they will not be done until late spring. That  
9           only serves to protect incumbents, and I am  
10          sure you wouldn't want to do that. Thank you  
11          for your time.

12                 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
13          ma'am. Next we will have Terry Gancarz,  
14          followed by Kevin Gaston. Is Terry here?  
15          Terry Gancarz, going once? Okay, great, Kevin  
16          Gaston is next. Is Kevin here?

17                 How about Anna Eskamani? Anna, thank you  
18          for being here. And if Caroline Emmons-Schramm  
19          and Randy Stephens and Elenita Brodie if they  
20          can work their way down, I would appreciate it.  
21          You have the mike, ma'am.

22                 MS. ESKAMANI: Thank you so much. My name  
23          is Anna Eskamani. I was born east Orlando and  
24          raised there as well. I am now a senior at the  
25          University of Florida and I am a proud member

1 of the League of Women Voters here in Orange  
2 County.

3 I come to you as a very concerned student.  
4 Obviously, based on the hearings that we have  
5 had in the afternoon and today, Floridians want  
6 fair districts and you had four months after  
7 the census information has been made available  
8 to us and with 26 district hearings in motion  
9 we have yet to see a legitimate maps.

10 Instead, we see our money and time being  
11 wasted and honestly I feel that many of you are  
12 practicing in the ideology of convenience, and  
13 it is extremely frustrating because here in the  
14 State of Florida we have races that really  
15 aren't that competitive, because politicians  
16 are choosing the voters rather than the voters  
17 choosing their politicians.

18 With Bills, like House Bill 1355 and  
19 Senate Bill 2086, we are seeing student votes  
20 being hurt and the voters registration being  
21 criminalized --

22 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Ma'am --

23 MS. ESKAMANI -- which is extremely  
24 frustrating. I am getting back on topic.

25 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: I ask you, to

1           remind you to keep focused on redistricting.

2           MS. ESKAMANI: Thank you, Freedom of  
3           Speech. Now, as I was saying, as a University  
4           student from the University with 56,000  
5           students I would encourage you to, one, not  
6           divide our vote into two or more districts as  
7           it is now.

8           And two, to perhaps use the money that you  
9           are wasting to actually encourage voters and  
10          give us more polling locations that you see  
11          because students shouldn't have to wait three  
12          to five hours to vote for their candidate.

13          If you are scared of voters, I would  
14          suggest you not run for office. Thank you very  
15          much.

16          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you. So,  
17          next we have Ms. Caroline Emmons-Schramm, is  
18          Caroline here? Okay, no Caroline. Randy  
19          Stephens. Oh, Caroline is here. And folks,  
20          we, as a courtesy to the 100 more people that  
21          we have to speak, the more that you applaud and  
22          I love it, but you use up other people's time.

23          MS. EMMONS-SCHRAMM: Yes, it was hard to  
24          hear my name over the applause.

25          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Caroline.

1 MS. EMMONS-SCHRAMM: Good evening, my name  
2 is Caroline Emmons-Schramm and I am a Florida  
3 citizen and a voter. I am pleased to see the  
4 number of people attending the hearing. You  
5 all are getting lots of stories.

6 I know you have been hearing a lot of  
7 comments. Often focusing on what the speakers  
8 don't want you to do. My comments tonight will  
9 focus on what we do want you to do.

10 We want you to draw the maps quickly,  
11 debate them in the fall and pass them the first  
12 week of the session. We want you to follow the  
13 spirit of the standards. Draw voting districts  
14 that do not favor or disfavor a political party  
15 or candidate.

16 Districts that utilize existing political  
17 and geographic boundaries like counties and  
18 cities and neighborhoods and are compact and  
19 contiguous, and we want districts that will  
20 continue to allow racial or language minorities  
21 the equal opportunity to participate in the  
22 political process and elect representatives of  
23 their choice.

24 But most of all, we want you to do the  
25 very best job that you can, to fulfill your

1 responsibility of drawing voting districts that  
2 will allow the voters of Florida to choose  
3 their representatives at the State and Federal  
4 level. Thank you very much.

5 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
6 much. Appreciate it. Next we have Randy  
7 Stephens and he will be followed Elenita Brodie  
8 and if Clay Selfridge and Maria Luyanda can  
9 start working their way down I would appreciate  
10 it. Mr. Stephens.

11 MR. STEPHENS: My name is Randy Stephens,  
12 and again, I am very grateful that ya'll have  
13 come to Orlando for this session.

14 As a voter, as a Florida resident, as an  
15 American citizen, I am frustrated, I am  
16 frustrated with a lot of things.

17 Part of my frustration is with you. One  
18 of my frustrations is that the Speaker of the  
19 House is not here, and he is from this area and  
20 I am embarrassed that he does not show up for  
21 this meeting, because he is primarily one of  
22 the people responsible for the challenge of  
23 Amendments 5 and 6 and he should at least have  
24 the guts to show up here.

25 I am frustrated because I grew up in the

1       America that I learned as a kid. We were a  
2       democracy, we have the best democracy in the  
3       world, but it was based on fairness.

4               We have now alienated ourselves too much  
5       from one party or another. We don't look at  
6       the issues. We don't look at the people. We  
7       look at the R or the D or the T or the I. We  
8       have got to quit looking at that.

9               You cannot draw up these plans based upon  
10       the R's and the D's. This is supposed to be  
11       fairness.

12              Now, we definitely, I do not want anything  
13       to dilute anything from the Civil Rights Act of  
14       1965. Those districts should stay and I think  
15       there is enough safeguards that we already have  
16       that once it is passed by the Legislature, then  
17       the Attorney General looks at it and it is  
18       reviewed by the U.S. Department of Justice and  
19       then it goes to the Governor.

20              So there are safeguards in there, but we  
21       mostly are just frustrated right now that we  
22       are having to go and going to spend up to \$30  
23       million to challenge what the people of this  
24       state voted for us to have for Amendments 5 and  
25       6 for this fair district and I am very upset

1           that we have got a lot of needs in this state,  
2           whether it be in education, whether it be in  
3           disabilities or whatever, that we are going to  
4           be wasting money on this.

5           You need to enact what the people wanted  
6           you to do. Thank you for your time.

7           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.  
8           Okay, next, we have Elenita Brodie and she will  
9           be followed by Clay Selfridge. Do I have  
10          Elenita Brodie, is she here?

11          No, okay, Clay Selfridge, Clay Selfridge,  
12          is Clay working his way down? No. Okay, Maria  
13          Luyanda, Maria, are you here, if you are, wave.

14          Okay, Wardell Sims, Mr. Sims has left.  
15          Jose Balasquide. He is gone. Anthony Borka,  
16          do we have an Andy Dubois? All right, Andy  
17          Dubois, and let me call a few additional names.

18          Anna Eskamani, who I think we just heard  
19          from, great, and then Alita Chappell, Nancy  
20          Rudmen, and Sylvia E-k-a-g, I think. If you  
21          all can work your way down.

22          Mr. Dubois, and you have, I believe you  
23          have several maps.

24          MR. DUBOIS: Mr. Chairman, I want to thank  
25          you, distinguished Representatives, I want to

1       thank you for having these hearings. I am a  
2       resident of Lake County, Florida. I live in  
3       Howie-in-the-Hills.

4               I have found out how to use District  
5       Builder after several attempts and I find it a  
6       very useful tool. One of my concerns is the  
7       map that I have up there now, and currently in  
8       Lake County our Congressional, we have four  
9       Congressional Representatives for Lake County,  
10      and this map here is a suggestion on possibly  
11      so how Lake County, Sumter County, and Citrus  
12      County and pieces of Orange County can have  
13      just one, one U. S. Congress Representative  
14      rather than four. And that is just a  
15      suggestion.

16             I understand after going through using the  
17      District Builder, the huge task that you, that  
18      you have in front of you, and I want to just  
19      submit this as a suggestion.

20             I have another map that I drew and I am  
21      anxious to see which one comes up. I think it  
22      will be the State Senate, there is right there.  
23      This is the State Senate.

24             Right now we have two Reps in Lake County,  
25      and this map here, although Lake County is the



1        northeast corner of Lake County will be plopped  
2        off and we will still have two Reps, but this  
3        will give a suggestion that maybe the benefits  
4        will be that Citrus, Sumter and the largest  
5        portion of Lake County can be consolidated on  
6        some contiguous boundaries, existing  
7        boundaries.

8                I have one more map for the House, and  
9        this map here takes Lake County and gives us  
10       two Reps, one for the north and one for the  
11       south, and I just wanted to submit these maps  
12       to you guys.

13               I understand the huge undertaking that you  
14       have, and hopefully this will -- this will help  
15       as a suggestion. I want to thank you very  
16       much.

17               REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Well, thank you.

18               MR. DUBOIS: That is all I have got to  
19       say.

20               REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
21       appreciate that, and I want to reiterate that  
22       that is -- this mechanism is one of the best  
23       ways of having an impact is to actually submit  
24       maps with lines on them and that is not open to  
25       the interpretation that a lot of the words are.

1           Next we have Alita Chappell, followed by  
2       Nancy Rudmen. Alita Chappell, are you here?  
3       No Alita Chappell.

4           Nancy Rudmen, there she is, okay.

5           A VOICE: She is not here today.

6           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Have you  
7       submitted a card as well? Okay, well, why  
8       don't you do that when your name is called.  
9       Sylvia, E. K., I can't quite read the last  
10      name, Glice, no. Rae Capen, Rae, C-a-p-e-n,  
11      Bill Negron, is Bill Negron here? James  
12      DeCocq, Karie Brown? Okay, great. I should  
13      have just let you go before.

14           And if Gregory Teague, Richard McCay, Jill  
15      Giese and N. Y. Nathiri can work their way  
16      down, I would appreciate it. The microphone is  
17      yours.

18           MS. TEAGUE: Well, I am super nervous to  
19      be up here, but I do want to speak my heart in  
20      this, and let me read Nancy's thing first and I  
21      am super nervous but I think I might shake.

22           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: You are doing  
23      great.

24           MS. TEAGUE: I am a voter on paper, okay,  
25      all right, so again this is Nancy. She asks

1           that you stop fighting the will of the voters.  
2           She wants for us to stop using, for you to stop  
3           using our money to fight your will and vote for  
4           fair districts.

5                    She says stop playing games, show us the  
6           maps you give us, the voters, time and  
7           meaningful chance to review and give input to  
8           the maps that will either thwart or respect our  
9           vote, and in your gerrymandered districts you  
10          don't represent anyone because you elected  
11          gerrymandering. And if you are worried you  
12          can't win a fair race you shouldn't be running  
13          at all.

14                   She works with, I think, who else knows  
15          Nancy here, she is with the League of Women  
16          Voters? So she will be speaking from that  
17          place.

18                   REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Okay.

19                   MS. TEAGUE: I personally listening to the  
20          discussions and I am really kind of speaking  
21          off the cuff from my experience with that, and  
22          it seems like there is a bit of a false  
23          dichotomy.

24                   I look at our representation and I see a  
25          lot of white faces, no offense, you are

1 beautiful people, a lot of white, white faces  
2 and I think if you respect our -- if you look  
3 at our representation of people that is not  
4 really the situation.

5 And I just would like to see, I feel that  
6 gerrymandering is the very thing that I am  
7 mostly frustrated with politics today and it is  
8 politics for politics' sake, whereas I want to  
9 see my vote count.

10 I want to see when I call my politicians  
11 that they respond, and I have to say I am very  
12 vocal and I very rarely get a response and I  
13 think that is because you don't have to care  
14 what we say, because you draw your own  
15 districts, you get to do what you want.

16 You vote yourself in when you draw it this  
17 way, and I think as a voter who, I vote  
18 Republican, I think I would love to have my  
19 Representatives care when I see something that  
20 is happening and I don't feel that I have seen  
21 that so far. So that is my statement.

22 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you. Next  
23 we have Karie Brown, Karie, got you, okay,  
24 Gregory Teague, Gregory, are you here? Richard  
25 McCay, no Richard McCay? Okay, Richard is

1 coming. And if then I could have, move up  
2 front, Jose Balasguide and N. Y. Nathiri, which  
3 I mentioned earlier, I would appreciate it.  
4 Okay. Go ahead.

5 MR. MCCAY: All right, distinguished State  
6 Representatives, not to offend you, but this is  
7 kind of a traveling circus that you are going  
8 on. So I can, you know, there is somewhat of  
9 an attitude and I do have an attitude because  
10 it is Richard Vogel McCay. So I have the  
11 distinct so I have the distinct honor of coming  
12 from an African-American information and a  
13 Cuban and Panamanian mother.

14 And what, those that didn't come to the  
15 2:00 to 4:00 session, we had two of some of the  
16 greatest central Floridians to speak, and that  
17 was the Honorable Mable Butler and the  
18 Honorable Reverend Pinder, and Reverend Pinder  
19 said that this should not be an issue putting  
20 minority against minority because in the '70s,  
21 the 60's, the '80s, it was, oh, God, here comes  
22 the blacks, what do they want now.

23 And now the attitude is, oh, God, here  
24 comes the Hispanics and Latinos, what do they  
25 need now.

1           Now, the Hispanic population deserves a  
2       Congressional seat. If we -- if you guys are  
3       so skillful as making a third Congressional  
4       District that goes all the way to Jacksonville,  
5       cuts into Gainesville, into Eatonville, into  
6       Sanford, all of the way down to Orlando, then  
7       you can come up with a Congressional District  
8       for Latinos in central Florida, because all of  
9       the Congressional Districts for Latinos cannot  
10      come from Miami-Dade and Broward County. We  
11      live also up here in central Florida as well.

12           So that is all I have to say, and to those  
13      that are clapping, I sure do hope that you all  
14      are voting, because it is nice to come out  
15      here, but you need to be going to the ballot  
16      box. Thank you very much.

17           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir,  
18      okay, Jill Giese, are you here, Jill? Okay,  
19      and in addition, if Douglas DeClue could come  
20      on down, DeClue, and Wesley Leonard. Jill.

21           MS. GIESE: First of all, I am very  
22      impressed with the pronunciation. I am Jill  
23      Giese, and I am a regular voter. I am a  
24      20-year resident of Orange County in Orlando,  
25      and I am here today because I think it is

1       absolutely critical that we have the dialogue  
2       so that you understand where the people were  
3       who voted for Amendments 5 and 6.

4               It is very clear to me by listening to all  
5       of the other people that have spoken that we  
6       are asking for the support of the overwhelming  
7       majority that voted yes to those Amendments,  
8       and what I keep hearing is frustration, and  
9       that is probably I think that is the word I  
10      wrote down first when I started thinking about  
11      what the message was that I wanted to say.

12             Because the frustration from not feeling  
13      like the way our districts are drawn makes  
14      sense is something we would really like to see  
15      go away, and it can make sense and fulfill what  
16      we voted on, and it can fulfill the needs of  
17      minorities.

18             The frustration in this process has as  
19      much to do with the fact that we are here  
20      today. It is great to have a forum, but I  
21      think this is a waste of time. I think it is a  
22      waste of money, and I really wish that rather  
23      than fighting for what we asked for, we, the  
24      voters, asked for, that you guys would get to  
25      work, put together some maps, look at them,

1 check them against what we asked for.

2 Share them with us, then get our feedback  
3 so we can move forward and have districts drawn  
4 in time so that when we can get elected  
5 officials to know where they are going to run.

6 I am really fearful that we are going to  
7 have elections upon us next year and people  
8 don't know where they are going to run, and  
9 that is what I would ask for today. Thank you.

10 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Great, thank you  
11 very much. N. Y. Nathiri, followed by Jose  
12 Balasquide.

13 MS. NATHIRI: Good evening, Mr. Chairman,  
14 and members of the Committee. The story I  
15 would like to tell is a tale of two districts,  
16 I am from Eatonville. I have a bias for  
17 Congressmen Corrine Brown, because frankly, she  
18 has given us an example of something that might  
19 seem counterintuitive to you, because our  
20 district is that off the line snaked district  
21 which runs from Jacksonville to Eatonville.

22 I want to share with you a true story.  
23 Eatonville is a little bit to the east or to  
24 the west of Winter Park, and in the '70s and  
25 '80s, we were represented by a gentleman who's



1 office was on Lee Road.

2 Now, for those of you who know Eatonville  
3 and Lee Road, you know that we could probably  
4 walk to Lee Road and to that Representative,  
5 but that Representative held us in such  
6 disregard that he may have well been in  
7 Timbuktu.

8 Counterintuitive though it is,  
9 Congresswoman Corrine Brown, who's -- who has  
10 District offices so close to us, really has  
11 served us very well. She has that district  
12 that would seem to belie the fact that distance  
13 works against good representation.

14 And so I just felt it incumbent to come  
15 forward to say that there is a different  
16 perspective perhaps that needs to be kept in  
17 mind, and that is that an energetic and  
18 concerned elected official will do everything  
19 in her power to work on behalf of her  
20 constituents no matter how much effort and  
21 energy it takes.

22 And frankly, whatever you do with the map,  
23 please keep our district in Congressman Corrine  
24 Brown's office. Thank you.

25 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you. Jose

1 Balasquide. Followed, he will be followed by  
2 Doug DeClue.

3 MR. BALASQUIDE: Thank you. First of all,  
4 I want to say good afternoon to all of the  
5 Honorable Members of the Committee and all of  
6 the respectful constituents who came today.

7 I am Jose Balasquide and Vice-President of  
8 the Democratic Hispanic Caucus of Florida. I  
9 am is a member of the committee of the Central  
10 Florida Redistricting Council at Large.

11 First of all, I want to -- I want to  
12 address one of the most important common  
13 interests, if not the most important financial  
14 and from the mental, especially the business  
15 organization in our community of interest,  
16 covering Osceola, Orange and Polk Counties  
17 areas.

18 The Hispanic or Latino community  
19 represents \$12 billion in purchasing power to  
20 our region's economy. The area is a common  
21 ground for supermarket chains like Brownells,  
22 Sedanos, Publix and financial institutions like  
23 Bank of Opalord, BB Banco and among others.

24 There are several Hispanic universities in  
25 the regions, including the large universities

1       such as Ana Mendez University Systems and  
2       Polytechnical University, Interamerican  
3       University of Florida and Technical College and  
4       soon to come, Mechanical and Technical College  
5       among others, where professionals and technical  
6       education is facilitated.

7               The Hispanic population was responsible  
8       for 58.6 of the combined population growth of  
9       Orange, Osceola and Polk Counties.    The  
10      community of interest in Orange, Osceola and  
11      Polk Counties share a common professional  
12      organizations, including the Hispanic Bar  
13      Association, the Puerto Rican Chambers of  
14      Commerce.

15             The Hispanic Chambers of Commerce among  
16      others as the second largest population group  
17      in Florida, the Hispanics will shape Florida's  
18      future and are a community that contributed to  
19      the reaches of the greatest state.

20             We have Hispanic Floridians that are  
21      engineers, teachers, elected officials and much  
22      more.  As Hispanics contribute to the  
23      prosperity and well-being of Florida, we must  
24      have a fair opportunity to choose the leaders  
25      that will govern this state.

1           We must be able to elect candidates of our  
2           choice who understand the unique opportunities  
3           and challenges facing our communities. I  
4           respectfully urge this Redistricting Committee  
5           to consider and create a Congressional District  
6           in the region of Orange, Osceola and Polk  
7           Counties in which Hispanics can elect  
8           candidates of their choice.

9           The Redistricting Committee should  
10          accomplish this by drawing a Congressional  
11          District that in the area with as close of  
12          50 percent of voting age population of Latino  
13          as possible. Thank you.

14          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.  
15          Next we have Douglas DeClue, followed by Wesley  
16          Leonard, and if George Hooper, Jose Fernandez  
17          and Jose Bosque can head on down, I would  
18          appreciate it. Thank you, sir, you are on.

19          MR. DECLUE: Yes, my name is Douglas  
20          DeClue, and I am an engineer by trade so I know  
21          numbers and computers and data, and in my spare  
22          time I have become something of a political  
23          consultant to Democrats in this area who work  
24          on campaigns, and I would really like to see  
25          this be a multi party democracy here in Florida

1       for a change, and so I brought a few maps.

2               These aren't maps for proposals. Just to  
3       let everybody see how things are now, and some  
4       numbers. What you see up here, this is  
5       Congressional Districts as they are now, and  
6       they are shaded. For, of course, my Democratic  
7       friends, it is shaded blue, various degrees of  
8       blue and pink, if you will, and you can see how  
9       there is only, all of the Democrats have been  
10      pushed into one little district. It is very  
11      dark blue and this is District 3.

12             And if we could go to the next slide, the  
13      Excel sheet there, it goes with this. You can  
14      see here, this is in Orange County. District 3  
15      is favorable to Democrats, at least in Orange  
16      County by 53 percent, and there is no need to  
17      make it 53, 54 percent in favor of one party or  
18      the other party in order to assure that a  
19      minority gets elected to office.

20             We could have both, we could have both a  
21      minority get elected to office and make these  
22      districts more competitive. There is no reason  
23      to have these gerrymandered districts.

24             Next slide, please. This is the State  
25      Senate and again, I am looking, this is our

1 famous bunny rabbit in Senate 19, okay. If you  
2 -- if we go to the numbers.

3 The next slide, please, the Senate  
4 spreadsheet, please. And again, here we see in  
5 Senate 19 in Orange County, plus 37 percent.  
6 Okay, there is no need to have plus 37 percent  
7 in order to assure that we get a minority  
8 elected to one of the Senate Districts in  
9 Orange County in Florida. We can have fair  
10 districts and we can satisfy the Civil Rights  
11 Act.

12 Next slide. This slide is a little bit  
13 more confusing because there are 12 House  
14 Districts that you might be aware of that come  
15 through Orange County, but now, this one is a  
16 bit more favorable only because there are more  
17 districts.

18 But let's go to the numbers slide, please.  
19 Again, you will see there is a few districts  
20 like 36 where I am represented by Scott  
21 Randolph and 49 where my friend, Darren Soto is  
22 in office, and 39 where Representative  
23 Geraldine Thompson, excuse me, is in office,  
24 where the Democrats have all been clustered  
25 together and the other nine districts are not

1       nearly as competitive, or in many places, they  
2       are just uncompetitive, because we have played  
3       games with the numbers and I know and you know  
4       about FRED'S and that you can use this program  
5       to manipulate the numbers and draw districts to  
6       down to households if you would like to  
7       basically skew the numbers so that you can  
8       gauge what is called pack and stack where you  
9       put tons of minorities into single districts,  
10      and thereby create a system that is not  
11      competitive, not multi party.

12             I would like to be able to have an honest  
13      debate about issues with my friend, Doug  
14      Guetsloe over there, but instead, I have got to  
15      play games with numbers, because you gentlemen  
16      and you ladies are more concerned about  
17      protecting your incumbency and protecting  
18      control by one party in this state than you are  
19      about the will of the voter, and the  
20      willingness to be accountable to the voters.

21             And I would like to see you just for once  
22      do what the voters ask and respect Amendments 5  
23      and 6.

24             REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.

25             Next we have Wesley Leonard, is Mr. Leonard

1           here, Wesley Leonard? No Wesley Leonard,  
2           George Hooper, Mr. Hooper, are you here? Jose  
3           Fernandez.

4                   Mr. Fernandez, will be followed by Jose  
5           Bosque and then Tom Hill, Paul Lilling and  
6           James Penna. Mr. Fernandez.

7                   MR. FERNANDEZ: Good evening, Honorable  
8           Legislative Redistricting Committee, elected  
9           Officers, ladies and gentlemen.

10                   My name is Jose A. Fernandez and I am the  
11           State Director for the League of the United  
12           Latin American Citizens. I am -- that is LULAC  
13           Florida, and it is one of the oldest and  
14           largest National Hispanic civil rights  
15           organization at this moment.

16                   I am here as a partner with the Central  
17           Florida Redistricting Council, Inc., and I am a  
18           Puerto Rican Hispanic and live in Orange County  
19           for the past 15 years.

20                   I retired from the government of Puerto  
21           Rico and also from the Armed Forces. I am also  
22           a veteran of the Viet Nam War.

23                   I am the President of the Democratic  
24           Hispanic Caucus of Florida, and as a concerned  
25           Puerto Rican we want to ensure that the Florida



1 Congressional Redistricting Committee respects  
2 the voting rights of the Hispanic by ensuring  
3 that the state Hispanic community has a fair  
4 opportunity to elect the candidate of its  
5 choice.

6 The Hispanic population was responsible  
7 for 58.6 percent of the combined population  
8 growth of Orange, Osceola and Polk County. The  
9 Hispanic population in Orange County, Orange,  
10 Osceola and Polk Counties grew by 103 percent  
11 from 2000 to 2010.

12 I respectfully urge the Redistricting  
13 Committee to consider creating a Congressional  
14 District in the region of Orange, Osceola and  
15 Polk County in which Hispanics can elect a  
16 candidate of their choice.

17 The Redistricting Committee should  
18 accomplish this by drawing a Congressional  
19 District in an area with a close to 50 percent  
20 Latino voting age population as possible as a  
21 group of interest.

22 As a partner with the Central Florida  
23 Redistricting Committee, Inc., I strongly  
24 recommend that the Congressional Redistricting  
25 Committee here adopt the Central Florida

1 Redistricting Council, Inc., the Congressional  
2 District recommendation map and data submitted  
3 prior.

4 We want to ensure that the Congressional  
5 District Committee adopt our accommodations for  
6 the benefit of the Puerto Rican Hispanic  
7 community group of interest. Thank you.

8 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.  
9 Okay, next we have got Jose Bosque. Is  
10 Mr. Bosque here? No? Tom Hill? He has  
11 already gone. Paul Lilling? James Penna,  
12 Mr. Penna, and following Mr. Penna will be  
13 Jimmy Perry, James Rutherford and Phillip  
14 Fettig. Mr. Penna.

15 MR. PENNA: Good afternoon, good  
16 afternoon. I am James Penna. I am from Ocala  
17 in Marion County. I would like to ask that  
18 Marion County with a population of over 300,000  
19 people not be further cut up like the  
20 proverbial chicken.

21 I am a member of the third party, neither  
22 the donkey nor the elephant own my vote. My  
23 national heritage is a Heinz 57 of all peoples  
24 in the Mediterranean basin from Carthage to  
25 Italy to France, Spain and Portugal.

1           I want to see a Florida where all of her  
2           citizens gets a fair deal. As a member of the  
3           Constitution Party I would like to see the  
4           legislation -- Legislature consider a fusion as  
5           a tool to help the voter know where the  
6           candidates stand on issues not specifically  
7           addressed by the two major parties. Thank you  
8           for your time.

9           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
10          Mr. Penna. If you could hand it to the staff  
11          right over there.

12          Mr. Perry, Rue Jimmy Perry? No. Okay,  
13          Reverend Jimmy Perry maybe. No. Okay, James  
14          Rutherford. James Rutherford. No? Phillip  
15          Fettig, Mayor Gary Bruhn, and I know he left.  
16          Unita Orr. Delores Crosley, Delores.  
17          Reverend, I think this is Reverend Randolph.  
18          He has gone. Julius Melendez? Anthony Suarez.  
19          Monty Knox, is Monty here?

20          Monty is coming on. While he is working  
21          his way up, let me call another half dozen  
22          names just to see if anybody can work their way  
23          down here.

24          Charlie Gene Salter, Jacquelyn Shields,  
25          Clint Salter, Samir Gupte and Mary Jane

1           Arrington. Mr. Knox, thank you.

2                   MR. KNOX: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, how  
3           are you doing?

4                   REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: I am doing  
5           great, thanks.

6                   MR. KNOX: We grew up four doors down from  
7           each other. I want to thank you all for  
8           coming.

9                   REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: In a different  
10          world.

11                   MR. KNOX: A very different world. I want  
12          to thank you all for coming to Orange County.  
13          I am the owner of the 99th largest nursery in  
14          America. We are located in Winter Garden.

15                   We are a very rural type of industry and a  
16          very urban county. Orange County is the number  
17          two nursery and landscape county in the state  
18          of Florida only behind Miami-Dade, another very  
19          urban county, and we, and the state of Florida  
20          is the number two state in the country when it  
21          comes to nursery and landscape.

22                   What I am up here for is that we have a  
23          voice in both Tallahassee and Washington when  
24          it comes to rural issues and agricultural  
25          issues.

1           Agriculture in the state of Florida is now  
2           the number two segment of the state economy,  
3           and we have been fairly steady in the last four  
4           years, and we need to keep our voice in  
5           Tallahassee and Washington. We have earned it.  
6           We are a significant part of this state's  
7           economy.

8           Now, agriculture is one of the reasons we  
9           have all of these very strangely shaped  
10          districts, but those strangely shaped districts  
11          are basically designed to keep that economic  
12          engine represented in both Tallahassee and  
13          Washington, and it is in the best interest to  
14          keep rural, rural issues, you know, represented  
15          in Tallahassee and kind of a catch phrase, is  
16          urban solutions for urban problems usually  
17          create major headaches for rural people. Thank  
18          you.

19          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
20          much, Monty, good seeing you. Charlie Gene  
21          Salter. Charlie Gene Salter. Okay, Jacquelyn  
22          Shields. Is Jacquelyn Shields here? No.  
23          Client Salter? Yes? Did I hear someone say  
24          Clint Salter is here? Okay, great, and he will  
25          be followed by Samir Gupte, Mary Jane

1 Arrington, Wesley Leonard, Todd Catella and Pam  
2 Powell.

3 And if ya'll could come down and sit in  
4 the front row to be prepared to come to the  
5 mike, I would appreciate it. Mr. Salter.

6 MR. SALTER: Sorry for the delay in  
7 reaching the podium. Thank you, Commissioner,  
8 for allowing me to speak today, as you have  
9 many of my neighbors, many of my friends today  
10 earlier.

11 You heard from many of the faith based  
12 community representatives of churches in our  
13 community and community based organizations,  
14 much like myself. I represent Cross Roads  
15 Community Revitalization and Development, and  
16 originally we were founded as a homeless  
17 shelter.

18 One of the first, if not the first, in  
19 central Florida, and we are located just at the  
20 perimeter of the site we are on right now.

21 And I want to actually echo some of the  
22 things and concerns that many of the  
23 constituents from our districts shared with you  
24 earlier, which is that, you know, I have heard  
25 a lot of folks in their frustrations about not

1       being able to reach their Commissioners, not  
2       being able to reach their Representatives for  
3       service, not having a response because they are  
4       so far disbursed or that their districts are so  
5       disbursed, it is so wide ranging, as they say,  
6       gerrymandering, that they don't have that in  
7       touch feeling with their Representatives.

8               And like previously mentioned by a number  
9       of folks, in particularly, in giving a  
10      district, a group of citizens numbering, in  
11      numbers upwards and in now in Orange County,  
12      upwards of 250,000 people.

13             A voice in your board, in your chambers in  
14      the State House and the Senate, as well as in  
15      Washington, D. C., it is imperative that those  
16      rights which were fought for for years that  
17      came about in the last 30 years, that they be  
18      continued and upheld by this board, by this  
19      Commission.

20             I know your recommendations are going to  
21      be ratified by the Justice Department, Attorney  
22      General and many others. I think as a  
23      Representative of community based community,  
24      many of which, as I said earlier, were voiced  
25      their opinions and their feelings, that our

1 district, the Third Congressional Seat, the  
2 Congressional District of Florida, as well as  
3 our State Senate and House of Representatives  
4 seats be in touch for the reason that the Voter  
5 Rights Act actually secured for our district an  
6 opportunity for disenfranchised people to have  
7 representation.

8 As Latino citizens, Afro Hispanic citizens  
9 of our community we share with you, that is  
10 vital, they want it, they need it. They need  
11 to have an opportunity to reach out as members  
12 of your communities have for you.

13 It doesn't seem like gerrymandering is as  
14 helpful and needed as it has been for our  
15 community, but when you look at the fact that  
16 40 years ago you could count on one hand the  
17 number of African-American voices that were  
18 heard and had reasonably and more than  
19 reasonably participated and gave great  
20 contribution to the United States of America.

21 We think that in Florida there,  
22 particularly in our county, there is 250,000  
23 people that have swelled our county in the last  
24 ten years.

25 When I grew up there was seven million



1 people in the state of Florida. Now it is  
2 upwards of 18 million. This is a great place  
3 to live. It didn't just happen to become a  
4 great place to live, but it was because of the  
5 many contributions that are reflected by this  
6 Commission, white, black, Latino, Native  
7 America, all of these people go into one pot  
8 that is called America, and I think that it  
9 would be a great disservice to undo the work,  
10 undo the Voting Rights Act impact upon the  
11 Third Congressional District in particular  
12 because of what it has meant to the voters,  
13 constituents in my district to whom I serve and  
14 community based capacity.

15 It would be a disservice to them to undo  
16 some of those things that I think are protected  
17 by some type of mandate because it helped  
18 disproportionately impacted people have  
19 representation.

20 I thank you for your time and I pray that  
21 God really blesses you with the temperament and  
22 the patience to wade through some of the  
23 things, some of the great suggestions that have  
24 been heard from all of our communities, and I  
25 think our Congresswoman as well as our State

1       Representatives have worked in a bipartisan  
2       manner here in central Florida, as a result,  
3       the recently communicated throughout the state  
4       and the Sunrail project that will bring  
5       millions and millions of dollars, thousands  
6       upon thousands of jobs, and our Congressional  
7       Representative was a part of that heart beat of  
8       that, and I think that we have to take those  
9       things into consideration and we do look  
10      forward to having active participation.

11           I have other questions, too, which for you  
12      can be answered later when you address us, is  
13      that for the community based, faith based  
14      leaders that have spoken today, will we be  
15      included as part of that, that type of  
16      communication as to what your recommendations  
17      will be as far as the redistricting, because I  
18      think that we have to have some say and some  
19      type of approval process between us, because  
20      our community is very much, very much involved  
21      and interested in what is going on here.

22           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Well, thank you,  
23      sir, we appreciate that. We will definitely  
24      answer that question.

25           MR. SALTER: I look forward to it, thank

1           you.

2           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT:   Okay, Samir  
3           Gupte, is Samir here?   Okay, great, and he will  
4           be followed by Mary Jane Arrington and Wesley  
5           Leonard.   Mr. Gupte.

6           MR. GUPTE:   Good evening, thank you for  
7           the opportunity to speak and thank you for  
8           taking the time to come listen to us.

9           My name is Samir Gupte and I am an eight  
10          year resident of Orlando, Florida, the College  
11          Park neighborhood and I am also the President  
12          of the Central Chapter of the ACLU.

13          The ACLU promotes and protects  
14          constitutional rights and liberties.   We do our  
15          work through education, supporting non-partisan  
16          legislation and when necessary, through  
17          litigation.

18          Our focus is on church, state role  
19          clarity, women's health, LGBT quality and  
20          voting rights.   It is the last platform that  
21          brings me here to speak to you today.

22          We partnered with many of the groups in  
23          the people in this room on both the ballot  
24          initiative as well as the Amendments 5 and 6  
25          that were passed by approximately 63 percent of

1 the voters during the last election.

2 So clearly the voters are asking you, our  
3 Representatives in Tallahassee, that we want  
4 change, we want something different, that we  
5 want a principle approach to redistricting that  
6 is fair, that is consistent and that is  
7 transparent.

8 I recognize that change is hard, but the  
9 voters want a different Florida. They want a  
10 different approach to politics in Florida and  
11 that is what we are asking you to do.

12 As a life long student I also understand  
13 that it is human nature to want to protect what  
14 you have achieved, what you have gained, what  
15 you have conquered, what you have acquired.

16 That goes back thousands of years in  
17 humanity, and it is human nature to want to do  
18 that. I am also a 20-year human resources  
19 professional, and I, in a lot of ways, envy  
20 your opportunity and your power to basically  
21 define your own job security by taking a  
22 scalpel of information and carving out these  
23 districts that will ensure your reelection, but  
24 I ask you to do something different.

25 We of the ACLU ask you to do something

1       different. We ask you to answer what the  
2       voters have put forth in the spirit and the  
3       letter of Amendments 5 and 6 to have districts  
4       that actually make sense.

5             If you mapped out, put all of the maps of  
6       the districts of every state in the country,  
7       Florida is in the bottom five in terms of the  
8       most gerrymandered, the most bazaar designs of  
9       the districts.

10            The only explanation that one could have  
11       is it is all politically based. We ask you to  
12       do something different. We ask you to use  
13       principles that are fair, consistent and  
14       transparent, and we ask you as you get into the  
15       process of drawing the maps and we ask you to  
16       do it soon, if I was a confrontative person I  
17       would say you are foot dragging, but I am not,  
18       but I am saying it is taking too long.

19            As you sit down to draw the maps, ask  
20       yourselves honestly in your head and your  
21       heart, is this for the public good or is this  
22       for my political party's good or is this for my  
23       personal good.

24            We ask you to follow the spirit and the  
25       letter and thank you for your time.

1           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank your, sir.  
2           Okay, next, we have Mary Jane Arrington, and  
3           she will be followed by Wesley Leonard, and if  
4           the following folks can make their way down to  
5           the front row, Denise Diaz, Linda Stewart,  
6           Michael Sheils, Rosalyn Anderson-White and  
7           Melinda McCurry.

8           MS. ARRINGTON: I am Mary Jane Arrington.  
9           I am Supervisor of Elections at Osceola County  
10          and I would like to address the process  
11          tonight, mainly the timeline.

12          I am not super human nor are any of my  
13          fellow supervisors, and the projected timeline  
14          really does not give us much time once these  
15          districts are adopted and approved.

16          It is about two weeks, and that really  
17          isn't enough time for us to accurately draw new  
18          precinct lines, notify the voters, mail  
19          ballots, and in sometimes we are probably going  
20          to have to find new voting locations.

21          So if possible I would love for ya'll to  
22          expedite, compress this process wherever you  
23          can so we will have more time to notify our  
24          voters.

25          Come election day if they are confused

1       they are not going to be mad at you, they are  
2       going to be mad at me.

3               Also, your redistricting legislative staff  
4       and the census staff have drawn VTD's. Please  
5       use them. They take into effect communities of  
6       common interest, traffic patterns, natural and  
7       physical barriers, and they also provide for  
8       compactness, and a compact district is an  
9       efficient district when it comes to operating  
10      an election. It saves money.

11             I appreciate the work you are doing. None  
12      of us are going to be happy with everything you  
13      do, but try, let it be super human since I  
14      can't be. Thank you, and I appreciate your  
15      time.

16             REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank your,  
17      Ms. Arrington. Okay, next, we have Wesley  
18      Leonard and he will be followed by Todd  
19      Catella.

20             MR. LEONARD: Mr. Chairman and other  
21      elected officials from all across this state.  
22      I am Wesley T. Leonard, Senior Minister of the  
23      Southside Church of Christ here in Orlando,  
24      Florida, a native Floridian from Tallahassee,  
25      Florida, Leon County, and -- amen.

1           I also represent the Florida Civil Rights  
2       Association where I am currently serving as  
3       Chairman of Religious Affairs.

4           As our state now approaches almost  
5       19 million in population and 42 percent of that  
6       population in the recent census revealing that  
7       are minorities, it is our position that it is  
8       unconscionable, immoral and unfair for the new  
9       districts to be drawn and not reflect a  
10      minority position where we have more elected  
11      officials.

12          It is the position of the Florida Civil  
13      Rights Association that those two Congressional  
14      Seats should reflect the new census data that  
15      we just received. That our minorities should  
16      be represented in those seats.

17          We believe as it is constitutionally true  
18      that taxation without representation is  
19      charity, and we all are law abiding, tax  
20      paying, church going, law abiding citizens of  
21      this state, and we ask that you be fair in your  
22      drawing of these lines, that they reflect the  
23      new census.

24          And it is our position at the Florida  
25      Civil Rights Association not only is this



1       reflective of the new census, but you all get  
2       to do something that is rarely been able to  
3       have been done in politics, which is you can  
4       have the trifecta of good policy, good  
5       principle and good politics at the same time.

6             It is good principle because it is moral  
7       to do the right according to the minorities in  
8       this state. It is good policy because it is  
9       the right thing to do and it is about politics  
10      for now and in the future many votes will lie  
11      in our community.

12            So on behalf of myself as a representative  
13      of the Florida Civil Rights Association, and as  
14      a husband and as a Pastor, as a loyal citizen  
15      of this state we ask you to do what is right.

16            We ask you to do what is fair, we ask you  
17      to do what is principle. We ask you to do what  
18      is good policy and what is good politics. God  
19      bless you, thank you.

20            REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank your, God  
21      bless you, too. Todd Catella who will be  
22      followed by Pam Powell. Mr. Catella, good to  
23      see you.

24            MR. CATELLA: Thank you, sir, Todd  
25      Catella, I live in Orlando. I have lived in

1 Orlando since 1966, when my folks moved here  
2 from Vermont after the announcement of Disney,  
3 and you asked for my story.

4 I am going to give you a little bit of my  
5 political story. In 1980, was my first  
6 election. As a Conservative I voted for Ronald  
7 Reagan, proudly.

8 I have followed throughout the years as a  
9 Republican, many of you, straight Republican as  
10 many Democrats are straight democrats, and I  
11 have the value of conservatism. I have the  
12 value of fairness, I have the value of equal  
13 rights. I do have also a value of protecting  
14 our ecology.

15 If I pass a piece of paper on the street,  
16 I pick it up and I put it where it should be.  
17 I don't just walk by it if I at all can, and I  
18 might even be walking with somebody of  
19 importance and I will stop and I will pick up  
20 that piece of paper and I will do what I need  
21 to do, because that is good citizenship.

22 Now, there is amiss -- well, let me back  
23 up just a hair. I was never politically active  
24 in any way, ever, other than --

25 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Mr. Catella, I

1       need you to get to the redistricting part. I  
2       know you are.

3               MR. CATELLA: I am. This is important.  
4       This is important.

5               REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Okay.

6               MR. CATELLA: Two years ago, a little over  
7       two years ago I was throwing things at the TV  
8       as the conversations were going on, and was at  
9       the first Tea Party at Lake Eola, all right,  
10      because I felt I needed to take action.

11              My -- the Republican Party that I knew was  
12      not representing me anymore at all, and I felt  
13      I needed to take hold of that again. So I  
14      became active and I was very active, and there  
15      was a Congressional Democrat that I wasn't  
16      happy with and I worked against him, because he  
17      was way out there.

18              Now, I said all of that to say that there  
19      is a current conversation of Hispanic  
20      representation. I want you to know that I  
21      believe in fairness. I believe that the  
22      Hispanic people in this area, even though they  
23      are a Democrat, have the right to try and solve  
24      their own problems, okay.

25              So if it is at all possible to get a

1 Congressional District that represents them,  
2 that they can solve their problems with, please  
3 do so.

4 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you. Next  
5 we have Pam Powell. Pam, are you here? Great,  
6 and she will be followed by Denise Diaz and  
7 then Linda Stewart, and if --

8 REVEREND POWELL: Good evening, everyone.

9 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you.

10 REVEREND POWELL: I am the Reverend Pam  
11 Powell. I am here today to just perhaps give  
12 you some of my thoughts regarding the  
13 redistricting.

14 When I thought about the whole plan and  
15 the Voting Rights Acts of 1965, I was reminded  
16 that the word redistrict spells what it is all  
17 about anyway and I wanted to just kind of  
18 re-enforce and speak a word regarding that,  
19 because it is very important for our society  
20 and I just want to take the word redistrict and  
21 remind you and us that the R, it is about our  
22 right to be counted.

23 The E is about equal representation of our  
24 African-America and minority communities as  
25 well.

1           The D is Dr. King's dream that the  
2           diversities of our communities would always be  
3           represented fairly.

4           The I, it is time for us to be in-tensed  
5           rather than tensed and participate in the  
6           process of voting.

7           The S, we must stand for the Voting Rights  
8           Act of 1965, because if we don't stand for  
9           something we will fall for anything.

10          The I is as I look at the district, it  
11          talks about the fact that together we stand and  
12          divided we fall.

13          The R is resurrection time. It is time  
14          for us to look up, hook up, so we can go up to  
15          the next level.

16          And I, when we look at that, we must  
17          insist on fairness for all of our voters.

18          C, I think about Congresswoman Corrine  
19          Brown, someone who has always fought a  
20          courageous fight, someone who has never quit  
21          and we need her in our district. I don't know  
22          whether we can clap for her, but we should clap  
23          for Congresswoman Corrine Brown and the work  
24          that she has provided in this community.

25          And last, but not least, the T in

1 district, it is not time to take a giant leap  
2 backwards. As our foremothers and forefathers  
3 have fought a great fight, and when we look  
4 hard we must tell the world that we are not  
5 looking back, turning back, backing back,  
6 falling back, crawling back, we are pressing on  
7 the upward way and new heights we should be  
8 gaining every day, still praying as we are  
9 onward bound, Lord plant our feet on higher  
10 ground. We need to be fair with redistricting.  
11 Thank you so much and have a good evening.

12 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you.  
13 Denise Diaz with be our next presenter. Is  
14 Ms. Denise Diaz here? Linda Stewart? Is Linda  
15 here? Michael Sheils? Rosalyn Anderson-White.  
16 Melinda McCurry. Holly Winsman, Andrew Bell?  
17 A. C. Janney, Amy Ritter, Reverend Leroy  
18 Powell, Amy? We got a couple of them coming?  
19 Okay.

20 REVEREND POWELL: Good evening.

21 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Reverend Powell.

22 REVEREND POWELL: Mr. Chairman, to all of  
23 you who are present tonight, I stand as one who  
24 has come through the struggle, come through the  
25 fight for equality and for civil rights.

1           I stand as one who had been born  
2           injustices from the day that I knew myself up  
3           until the Civil Rights Acts and the Civil  
4           Rights Movement and all of the gains that we  
5           have made, and I stand today to appeal to the  
6           could common decency of those in charge of  
7           making this decision, that you would just be  
8           fair and think about if you were a victim of  
9           racism and inequality or a victim of poverty or  
10          struggling to live and to have a decent quality  
11          of life, that you would put yourself, that you  
12          would empathize with those who are affected  
13          negatively by the decisions that we make.

14          And I feel that if you would honestly and  
15          earnestly do that, that you would make the  
16          right choice. So again, I appeal to all of you  
17          who are in control of the process to do the  
18          right thing. God bless you, God be praised and  
19          heaven continue to smile upon you.

20          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir,  
21          blessings to you as well. Amy Ritter. While  
22          Amy is working her way over here, Carmen  
23          Torres, Mayor Ken Bradley, Lynn Veitch and  
24          Louise Turner. Ms. Ritter.

25          MR. RITTER: Hi. I just have two really

1       quick questions that I am expecting to be  
2       answered since you are going to be answering  
3       questions at the end of this testimonial  
4       session.

5               But question one, is there a private non  
6       government entity that is holding the maps that  
7       the legislative leadership has drafted already  
8       and to be clear, I don't mean people or groups  
9       that have gone on the website, the District  
10      Builder online, but actual special interest  
11      groups that are holding already drawn maps?

12             Question two is, is there any other  
13      entity, public or private besides the state of  
14      Florida, that has contributed financially in  
15      the States's lawsuit against Amendments 5 and  
16      6. So two easy questions that I expect to be  
17      answered. So thank you.

18             REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you.  
19      Carmen Torres, is Carmen Torres Here? And she  
20      will be followed by Mayor Ken Bradley and Lynn  
21      Veitch. Ms. Torres.

22             MR. TORRES: Mr. Chair, thank you for the  
23      opportunity to come before this committee. My  
24      name is Carmen Torres and I have been a  
25      resident of Orlando for 18 years.



1           We all know that historically incumbents  
2       control the process. It occurs in both  
3       parties, Democrats and Republicans alike. For  
4       now Republicans rule in the Florida Legislature  
5       and actually seek to preserve and expand GOP  
6       representation through gerrymandering.

7           You may not be aware of this, but the  
8       Speaker of the House and leadership has pulled  
9       the wool over your eyes, Senate Chair.

10          I am personally offended as are most folks  
11       in this room that this Legislature has set  
12       aside \$30 million, and yes, I heard earlier  
13       that this was not so.

14          You plan to spend \$30 million taken from  
15       schools, from the medically needy, from working  
16       families of this state to fight against the  
17       will of the people.

18          The people of this state voted for Fair  
19       Districts Amendments 5 and 6 by an overwhelming  
20       majority of 63 percent of the vote and we  
21       expect that our votes be honored.

22          I appeal to this body, please honor our  
23       votes, draw compact contiguous districts  
24       representative of our communities. I ask that  
25       you respect the growth of the Hispanic

1 community and take into consideration  
2 communities of interest between Osceola and  
3 Orange Counties when considering the newly  
4 created Congressional District.

5 I ask that you do this in a timely manner  
6 and not three months before an election cycle.  
7 Thank you very much.

8 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you.  
9 Okay, Mayor Ken Bradley. I believe he left.  
10 Mayor Bradley? No? Lynn Veitch, Lynn Veitch,  
11 Louise Turner? Louise Turner here? Ernie  
12 Langda, Daniel Fisher, Oliver Finnigan?

13 We have a Daniel Fisher? Okay, and then I  
14 am going to call out a half dozen other names  
15 while he is working his way down here.

16 Oliver Finnigan, Charles Jackson, John  
17 Farah, Patricia Graves and David Tropf.

18 If ya'll could start working your way down  
19 to the front if you are here so we can get more  
20 folks to speak. I still have a pretty good  
21 sized stack of folks that would like to speak.  
22 Mr. Fisher.

23 MR. FISHER: Hi. All right, well, as I  
24 have been waiting, I have been here since 2:00.  
25 I have heard a lot of people speak and express

1       their discontent with the political fear that  
2       is going on right about now, and so I can rant  
3       about two or three minutes on this, but they  
4       have already exposed the fraud of the process  
5       this is.

6               So I am going to go and tell a story like  
7       your projection wants me to tell. So I am an  
8       Independent from Ormond Beach, Florida. I was  
9       raised by a single mother. She had two jobs  
10      and she went to college while doing so.

11             I was able to make it through this process  
12      and these hard times because she was promised  
13      to me how special and how powerful democracy is  
14      and how powerful education is, and so I always  
15      had that in the back of my mind.

16             I always knew if I had democracy and  
17      education I would be able to overcome these  
18      struggles. Today those premises are in doubt.

19             With our spending \$30 million today wasted  
20      on this process, \$30 million can pay for about  
21      680 teachers, about 25,000 students, that is  
22      25,000 dreams that we are destroying today.  
23      That is 25,000 layers of hope that we are  
24      ripping away due to political greed and power  
25      grabbing.

1           I implore you to stand with the will of  
2           the people. Shame on anybody who stands in the  
3           way of the will of the people.

4           Shame on all of you who try and silence  
5           the majority, 63 percent to be exact, and shame  
6           on all of you who oppose this process. Thank  
7           you.

8           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you. Next  
9           we have Oliver Finnigan, Mr. Finnigan here?  
10          Oliver Finnigan, I don't see him. Charlie  
11          Jackson. Is there a Charlie Jackson? John  
12          Farah, Mr. Farah, Patricia Graves.

13          While Ms. Graves is heading over here,  
14          David Tropf, Peter Lee, Kelli McNair-Lee,  
15          Kenneth Dwyer and Fedorah Philppeaux. Ma'am,  
16          you have the mike.

17          MS. GRAVES: Ladies and gentlemen, good  
18          evening, thank you for coming to Orlando. I am  
19          the President of the Seminole County League of  
20          Women Voters and a resident of northwest  
21          Seminole County for 20 years.

22          I am here today to encourage you to speed  
23          up your timeline of drawing districts so that  
24          you can vote on them in January of 2012.

25          I know that the Florida Constitution

1 mandates that the vote can be no earlier than  
2 that, but we have five full months until then  
3 where much can be done to make an early January  
4 vote doable.

5 As an aside, this is a side bar, I also  
6 know that the process includes the Justice  
7 Department and others. So it would be  
8 beneficial if that reach information of those  
9 entities and people were posted on your  
10 redistricting websites so citizens could hurry  
11 them along after we are finished with hurrying  
12 you along.

13 Back on point, keeping your current  
14 timeline will reap havoc on the 2012 elections,  
15 making Florida once again the laughing stock of  
16 our country.

17 Your current timeline also provides scant  
18 time for candidates to file and for citizens to  
19 learn about their candidates so they can make  
20 an informed vote.

21 Most importantly, under your current  
22 timeline, the absentee ballots, especially for  
23 our service people overseas, may not make the  
24 deadline effectively disenfranchising the very  
25 mean and women who are fighting for democracy.

1 Please don't take that chance.

2 Second point, any monies you have set  
3 aside and are using to pay for the litigation  
4 for both striking down and defending Amendment  
5 6 should be sent, should be sent and used for  
6 more worthy causes, such as schools, services,  
7 job creation.

8 Seminole County schools could really use  
9 the help. Lawyers and their firms already have  
10 jobs, so stop financing them. So please  
11 respect our vote from last November. Please  
12 respect the votes that will be cast in 2012,  
13 and get to work in Tallahassee.

14 Work in the sunshine, work with citizen  
15 input in good faith. Most importantly, let's  
16 get to work now.

17 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you.  
18 Okay, next we have David Tropf. David, are you  
19 here? David Tropf? No? Peter Lee, and Peter  
20 will be followed by Kelli McNair-Lee. Mr. Lee.

21 MR. LEE: Thank you for having this  
22 hearing. I really do appreciate it. I have  
23 been relatively disgusted from what I have  
24 heard.

25 I have been a central Florida resident for

1       about ten years. I lived in Miami-Dade before  
2       that. I have lived in Pine Hills area and my  
3       neighbors have always been my neighbors.

4             I have Hispanics living right next to me.  
5       I have a black couple lives two doors down. I  
6       have got college kids that live across the  
7       street from me. That is my community.

8             Apparently I am hearing that the  
9       African-Americans in my community are not  
10      really part of my community. The Hispanics  
11      that come over and play dominoes with us, they  
12      are not really part of my community.

13            You know, is this not the United States of  
14      America, the melting pot? Now, we are pretty  
15      much all here because, okay, yes, it has gotten  
16      a little political, so fine, let's redraw  
17      districts, we have to anyway.

18            We are going to get two more  
19      Representative seats, which that is a good  
20      thing. Let's have the Post Office do it. They  
21      don't care about who is, you know, what  
22      politician they are putting mail into. They  
23      don't care about what color that person's, you  
24      know, the residents of the house are.

25            So, you know, for those who want to make

1           this about identity politics, you should be  
2           ashamed of yourselves.

3           I live in District 24. In 2008, we had a  
4           Democrat in office. In 2010, we have a  
5           Republican in office. It is the same people.  
6           If you want to change who is elected in office,  
7           guess what, you have to get up and you have to  
8           do something, you have to knock on doors and  
9           you have to make a difference. That is the way  
10          it is done in America.

11          We can't make you guys do our work for us.  
12          Thank you very much.

13          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
14          Mr. Lee. Kelli McNair-Lee. Are you here?  
15          Kelli. She will be followed by Kenneth Dwyer  
16          and Fedorah Philppeaux.

17          MS. LEE: Hi. That is my husband. I am  
18          very proud of him. I live in east Orange  
19          County and I bought the house 16 years ago. My  
20          neighbor, Alma, a Puerto Rican woman, I would  
21          give her a kidney if she needed it.

22          She takes care of me after I have surgery.  
23          She came to my wedding. Her Cuban boyfriend, I  
24          would bleed for either one of them.

25          My black neighbors, the white guy across



1 the street and half the UCF population that the  
2 party, parks and vomits in my yard, I don't  
3 care if they have to stand there for four hours  
4 waiting to vote. I am a little fed up with it,  
5 quite frankly.

6 France Cabru wrote a book called Stolen  
7 History. It gives more factual history of our  
8 nation and how strong we have been in civil  
9 rights and we need to honor that history, and I  
10 look at you and I am very proud of the  
11 different colors of faces and the women, that  
12 just really, I was a women's studies major, I  
13 am sorry, minor in college. I couldn't even  
14 put it on my resume when I graduated in 1986,  
15 because I couldn't get a job up in D. C. with  
16 it.

17 So I want to encourage you to end  
18 segregation once and for all. Stop the  
19 identity politics. We are Americans. Make it  
20 about being an American and not a separate  
21 American.

22 Let us work on issues. Senator Siplin, I  
23 actually want to thank you for that baggy pants  
24 thing, because I am a public school teacher,  
25 honey, and let me tell you, I am tired of

1           seeing their underwear, okay. Thank you.

2           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: All right, let's  
3           focus on redistricting here.

4           MS. LEE: It is on redistricting.  
5           Representative Republicans is what we are. So  
6           it is like the squirrel thing out of one of  
7           those movies recently, squirrel.

8           All right, redistricting. I don't want it  
9           to be a racial thing. I want it to be a  
10          contiguous area thing. I want it to represent  
11          my neighborhood in east Orange County, my area.

12          You can take the students out as far as I  
13          am concerned, but my area. That is what I  
14          want it to be. I don't want to be voting  
15          against my neighbors just because we are  
16          different colors. We are Americans. Let's  
17          remember that, please. Thank you.

18          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you.  
19          Great testimony. Kenneth Dwyer, Mr. Dwyer. Is  
20          Kenneth Dwyer here? Fedorah Philppeaux. She  
21          is, Fedorah, okay, great, you are next and then  
22          let me call out a couple more names, Susanne  
23          Carrion, Kevin Gustafson, William Breazeale,  
24          Clinton Salter and Reginald McGill, if you can  
25          come forward. Fedorah.

1 MS. PHILIPPEAUX: Thank you. Good  
2 evening, my name is Fedorah Philppeaux and I am  
3 currently a student at the University of  
4 Central Florida.

5 I simply want to discuss my views on this  
6 issue which have been important to me from the  
7 minute I stepped on to campus as a freshman in  
8 2008.

9 The rally and cry behind Fair Districts  
10 was that we wanted our voices to be heard and  
11 we wanted to be represented by Legislators who  
12 actually lived somewhere near us instead of  
13 over a bridge or across a lake or across 15  
14 counties or on the other side of the swamp.

15 We wanted transparency and we wanted  
16 actual representation rather than listening to  
17 more lies about how we would be represented  
18 fairly or more lies about why we aren't being  
19 shown maps, but overall the point was to have a  
20 greater voice in the voter inclusion, not voter  
21 suppression.

22 So I am here to ask you today to keep that  
23 into account as you redraw your districts. I  
24 am in District 24 and as I am at UCF, we have  
25 been separated into two State House Districts,

1           33 and 35.

2           But again, splitting up the youth vote and  
3           splitting up the University vote would not be  
4           the way to follow the voter inclusion.

5           So I ask I tonight that if you truly care  
6           about anything that is being said, then I ask  
7           you to demonstrate the fairness as the title of  
8           the Amendments called for and to heed the  
9           requests of the 63 percent of your constituents  
10          who have voted for compact maps.

11          And ideally, if you would, please get  
12          these maps done on time so that we can have  
13          some candidates out there who will actually  
14          represent us rather than figuratively  
15          representing us.

16          I ask you tonight to bear in mind that we  
17          want voter expression, not voter suppression.  
18          Thank you.

19          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you.  
20          Susanne Carrion, Susan or Susanne Carrion.  
21          Okay, Kevin Gustafson, William Breazeale? No?  
22          Clinton Salter? I think he spoke, yes.  
23          Reginald McGill, and Elizabeth Buckley will  
24          follow that and Barbara Young. Mr. McGill.

25          MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, and members of

1       the Committee. I am Reginald B. McGill, a  
2       product of Orange County for over half of a  
3       century. I am concerned, committed contributor  
4       of this community, and this is, in order for me  
5       to tell my story I have to tell my struggle and  
6       I understand I only have two minutes.

7               The point that I want to raise is, this is  
8       the third time that I have been through this  
9       process. In 1990, with the census, I Chaired  
10      one of our subcommittees. In 2000, I actually  
11      was the Chair of our Orange County Orlando  
12      Complete Count Committee, and then just last  
13      year I was, I Chaired two of our committees.

14             I say all of that to say that I have been  
15      active, actively involved in this community. I  
16      want to raise two things I just now heard.

17             The one thing that I do understand that  
18      you are mandated to do that you must divide 27  
19      districts in the state of Florida. In order to  
20      do that when we look at the panhandle, you will  
21      have to, because by doing this, the numbers in  
22      the districts have to be about the same, around  
23      600,000 people.

24             The only way that you are going to do that  
25      in the panhandle, you will have to pull

1       several, several counties together to come up  
2       with those numbers.

3               I hear so much conversation about District  
4       3, but I would venture to say that most of the  
5       people who have voiced concerns about District  
6       3 don't live in District 3 like I do.

7               So when I see the district up in the  
8       panhandle that goes from Panama City all of the  
9       way to Lake City, and then I see another  
10      district that goes from West Palm Beach all the  
11      way down to Key West, there has not been a  
12      whole lot of conversation about those  
13      districts. It is about service and  
14      representation.

15              For several years I was privileged to  
16      serve as the Human Relations individual, I had  
17      over-site for the Human Relations operation.  
18      So there is no way that I can say that I want  
19      African-American districts without also wanting  
20      Hispanic districts, because the numbers in this  
21      region demands that if we are going to be fair.

22              And so as I get ready to take my seat I  
23      would ask that you not take steps back. I have  
24      been fortunate to live in this community where  
25      I had -- where I, my delegation, the

1 Congressional Delegation had no  
2 African-Americans and no Hispanics.

3 I have been fortunate to live in a time  
4 where we have four African-Americans and three  
5 Hispanics. And as I take my seat, I live in a  
6 county where we have an African-American  
7 Sheriff, not because he is black, but because  
8 he is qualified, but unfortunately he is the  
9 very first that we have ever had county-wide in  
10 this county.

11 So I say we have extreme talent throughout  
12 this country and when I look at the diversity  
13 of even this committee I recognize that many of  
14 you sit here because of minority districts and  
15 I applaud that.

16 As I take my seat, the last thing I really  
17 want to say to you is, I live about 10 minutes,  
18 really about 15 minutes from where I grew up,  
19 but on about another 15 minutes on the other  
20 side, there are homes that are 1.5 to five  
21 million dollars.

22 Other than good human beings, that is  
23 about all that we really have in common, and so  
24 when we talk about communities of interest,  
25 let's be honest. It is not about who is next

1 to you. It is about the issues that you are  
2 concerned about that make what our community  
3 is.

4 And so I understand that you have a  
5 tremendous mandate, but I would ask you as we  
6 move forward and progress not let us -- and we  
7 stand on the shoulders of those who have  
8 sacrificed to get us to this point, let us  
9 think about our children and our children's  
10 children so that we will be reflective,  
11 realizing that Orlando has been voted the  
12 number, the vacation capital of this whole  
13 world, which means that people from all over  
14 this world come to Orlando.

15 We want to make sure that we have a  
16 representation on all levels from Congressional  
17 to our city that reflects our community.

18 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
19 Mr. McGill. Appreciate it. Okay, next we have  
20 Elizabeth Buckley, and is Elizabeth here?  
21 Barbara Young? Is Barbara here? Jackie Colon?  
22 Jackie Colon? Jim Callahan? Mr. Callahan, are  
23 you here? Okay.

24 While he is working down here, Charlie  
25 Williams, Mary Yasgur, Doug Guetsloe, David



1 Rucker, Bobby Beagles, and the other thing,  
2 folks, I want everyone to keep in mind, we have  
3 got about 20 minutes or so of testimony time  
4 left.

5 We have probably got about 45 cards or so,  
6 so if somebody has already said it, please be  
7 very brief and concise. Mr. Callahan, go  
8 ahead.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, thank you,  
10 Mr. Chairman. I live in downtown Orlando a few  
11 blocks from here. Before that I lived in  
12 Maitland, and at that time --

13 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Go ahead.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: At that time that was a  
15 piece of Congressional District 3, and I was  
16 very ably represented by Congresswoman Corrine  
17 Brown and her staff, Anita Saunders and Reggie  
18 McGill and Chester Glover.

19 In terms of the House -- we have a  
20 different situation with respect to the House,  
21 the Florida House districts, the smaller  
22 districts and the larger districts, because of  
23 the way the numbers fall out in Orange County.

24 The Congressional District is just under  
25 700,000 people. We have about 1.2 million

1 people here in Orange County, so you won't be  
2 able to fit two Congressional Districts in  
3 there, but there is enough room for one.

4 The city of Orlando's population is just  
5 under 240,000. So if the Amendment is binding  
6 and that is a political district we have to  
7 obey, that could cause some problems with the  
8 larger districts, the Congressional District  
9 and the Senate District.

10 There could be a conflict between do we  
11 obey those boundaries, those political  
12 boundaries as suggested by the Amendments or do  
13 we obey the Voting Rights Act where the  
14 demographic groups are.

15 There is always competing interests in  
16 redistricting. I have been involved in the  
17 process two previous cycles. I helped do the  
18 Public Records Act to get the FRED software  
19 released.

20 I want to second the comments made by my  
21 friend, Doug Head this afternoon. There is the  
22 possibility of two African-American districts  
23 and two Hispanic districts, House Districts,  
24 State House Districts here in Orange County.

25 The African-American districts, one would

1 be in, centered in the city of Orlando and the  
2 other would be in the unincorporated area of  
3 Pine Hills, possibly taking in Eatonville.

4 And on the east side there is a  
5 possibility of two Hispanics districts. If you  
6 look at the census designated places, there is  
7 a large census designated place in the northern  
8 part of the county. I believe it is Azalea  
9 Park and there is a large Hispanic census  
10 designated place, neither of these are  
11 Incorporated, Meadow Woods and each of those  
12 could be a component of a House District.

13 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Can I ask you to  
14 go ahead and make your final points, because I  
15 have got a lot of people to go to and if  
16 somebody has already said it, it is on the  
17 record.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, I wanted it to be a  
19 bit more specific then.

20 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Please get with  
21 our staff to submit very detailed stuff and it  
22 will be on the record and we will consider it.

23 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay, thank you very much.

24 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.

25 Next, Charlie Williams. And again, several

1       Representatives have asked me to bring other  
2       people up. I have got to take them in the  
3       order that they have come in.

4               So the more concise you can be the more  
5       people can speak. Charlie.

6               MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Chairman  
7       Precourt, good to see you. My name is Charlie  
8       Williams. I am a Florida native and a resident  
9       of Winter Park here in Orange County. My  
10       Representative in the Florida House is Speaker  
11       Cannon, although I don't see him on the dais or  
12       in the audience, I am sure he may be watching  
13       via the Florida Channel tonight and I have some  
14       concerns I would like to express with the  
15       Speaker and members of the House.

16               Like many of you today, I have been  
17       watching the 13 days of hearings conducted by  
18       our Redistricting Chairs and Co-Chairs. To  
19       quote FSU Professor Lance deHaven-Smith,  
20       Amendments 5 and 6 are the most significant  
21       reforms in Florida since the 1968 revisions to  
22       the Florida Constitution.

23               As I have watched these hearings I have  
24       one question that has been asked many times, in  
25       which I don't think we have been answered

1 truthfully. Why is the legislature continuing  
2 to spend taxpayer dollars to oppose the will of  
3 the people as expressed when 63 percent have  
4 voted for fair districts standards?

5 And Senator Gaetz, I have been watching  
6 you wrap up during each panel discussion and I  
7 have been paying attention, but what I have  
8 been hearing in the House participation with  
9 the lawsuit filed by Diaz Balart and Brown  
10 against Amendment 6 which is congressional  
11 reapportionment is that it was orchestrated by  
12 the House to clarify Amendment 6 and not to  
13 challenge its constitutionality.

14 From reading the Court filings which I  
15 have brought today, this is simply not true.  
16 To the Florida Senate's credit, it declined to  
17 join the Balart/Brown lawsuit and it has no  
18 intention to do so according to President  
19 Haridopolos.

20 President Haridopolos said the voters  
21 spoke, we want to respect the voters, end of  
22 quote. This is how it should be. Thank you to  
23 the Senate members that are here today for  
24 following his lead.

25 I have with me three of the Court

1 documents that have been filed by the House of  
2 Representatives, using attorneys from Orlando  
3 law firm, Gray, Harris, Gray Robinson,  
4 Attorneys George Meros and Alan Windsor.

5 I have looked at the document that  
6 contained the House complaint and the  
7 intervention. The House's motion to intervene  
8 and the Motion for Summary Judgment filed by  
9 all Plaintiffs, including the House.

10 Let me just read and underscore a few  
11 points from the complaint to intervene.

12 Whereas the Florida House of  
13 Representatives respectfully request the Court  
14 to --

15 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Charlie, if that  
16 is actually in the record, it would be much  
17 easier if we would just submit it to staff.

18 MR. WILLIAMS: I will continue, but wrap  
19 up.

20 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: But again, we  
21 have a whole bunch of folks that I need to get  
22 to.

23 MR. WILLIAMS: For the Senator because I  
24 know this is a part of his wrap up. The other  
25 language in the House Motion to Intervene, the

1 House has a considerable interest in  
2 establishing the unconstitutionality of the  
3 Amendment.

4 To cut to the chase, there is never a  
5 mention of clarification. It is about the  
6 unconstitutionality of Amendment 6. So here is  
7 the question.

8 There is nothing for the courts to  
9 clarify. Speaker Cannon, you are my  
10 Representative, I ask you to stop wasting  
11 taxpayer dollars on this pursuit.

12 And I thank Senator Storms, Margolis,  
13 Siplin, Gardner and others who are here for not  
14 entertaining this pursuit. The fact is, and it  
15 has been in the media, you all read about it.

16 We spent in the House close to a million  
17 dollars engaging the services of firms like  
18 Gray Robinson, Lathum & Watkins and Miguel  
19 DeGrande to fight redistricting and challenge  
20 Amendment 6.

21 This is not leadership on the part of this  
22 Legislature. This is fiscal irresponsibility  
23 and misplaced stewardship of the taxpayers of  
24 Florida.

25 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,

1 Charlie. We are now going to have to move on  
2 to the next speakers now.

3 MR. WILLIAMS: When I saw the voters  
4 accept Amendments 5 and 6 I thought we were all  
5 in. So my message tonight to the Speaker, my  
6 Representative and members of the House, this  
7 is not acceptable. This must stop. Let's move  
8 forward.

9 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
10 Charlie. Next we have Mary Yasgur. Is Mary  
11 here? Doug Guetsloe, is Mr. Guetsloe still  
12 here? Yes, he is, and while he works down he  
13 will be followed by David Rucker, Bobby  
14 Beagles, Elmo Dunn, Zulayka Costillo and Victor  
15 Sanchez. Mr. Guetsloe.

16 MR. GUETSLOE: Mr. Chairman, Legislators,  
17 I am Doug Guetsloe, I am Chairman of a group  
18 called Acts Attacks, many of you are familiar  
19 with it.

20 We have been fighting taxpayer issues  
21 since 1982, so I come to you not only as a  
22 leader of anti tax organization that has had 17  
23 successful victories helping to save taxpayers  
24 47.5 billion dollars, but also as a citizen,  
25 and I want to thank all of you for being here



1       today, because free speech has been under  
2       attack in this community lately, even as late  
3       as yesterday when a man was sent to jail for  
4       passing out campaign leaflets, but that is  
5       another issue.

6               The fact that you all are here, I was also  
7       struck by the fact you are in a theatrical  
8       area. And most of the theaters really come  
9       from behind me, among the people, and quite  
10      frankly, I think that is refreshing to see the  
11      expression that we have had of the different  
12      view points and things of that nature and I  
13      want to commend all of you for being as patient  
14      as you have, because I know what it is like to  
15      be, you know, be vilified and attacked on a  
16      different, a different level.

17             But the one thing that has also struck me  
18      about the redistricting process is that the  
19      only way for there not to be fair districts in  
20      the state of Florida is for the folks behind me  
21      and their neighbors to not become activists and  
22      to not become involved.

23             If they will not become a statistic or an  
24      R or a D or a number, then there will be fair  
25      districts throughout the state of Florida,

1       because it is up to the people to make those  
2       kind of decisions, and quite frankly, some of  
3       the attacks on you all I will  
4       uncharacteristically defend all of you  
5       collectively and I know for some of you that  
6       will be unusual, but you all are the people.

7               You represent the people of the state of  
8       Florida. You all were elected to represent the  
9       people, and that is one thing that some of the  
10      discussion of the percentages here in  
11      63 percent and you are not representing the  
12      people, you are the people, and I commend you  
13      all for coming.

14             But getting right to the point, the other  
15      800-pound gorilla in the room which no one  
16      really wants to address is partisanship. When  
17      I got, when the first campaign I ever ran was  
18      in 1972, for a guy named Curt Keiser and some  
19      of you Legislators probably know Curt as a  
20      lobbyist now.

21             I ran his campaign and we were in Young  
22      Republicans together and he won, he beat an  
23      incumbent, got elected in 1972. He went to  
24      Tallahassee and to hear some of the Democrats  
25      talk about it, it was somewhat humorous.

1           His office was a broom closet, literally a  
2 broom closet in the Old Capitol, and none of  
3 you I don't think were around. I know some of  
4 the guys that worked in the Sergeant's Office  
5 are still there, but I came up there to  
6 Tallahassee, worked in the Senate in 1975, and,  
7 oh, Senator Margolis, of course, was there.  
8 Yes, you are back.

9           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Doug, get to the  
10 point on redistricting.

11           MR. GUETSLOE: The bottom line, yes, we  
12 will get to the point, is that partisanship is  
13 part of the process. So I have created, I  
14 spent a great deal of time creating a map for  
15 you.

16           I have taken every street and every person  
17 and this is what I recommend you do to save  
18 everyone a lot of trouble, is we have got good  
19 representation in Congressman Webster, Mica,  
20 Adams, Posey, and you take their districts and  
21 create a nice big district right in the middle  
22 and regardless of race, creed, color or  
23 national origin, put every Democrat you can  
24 find in that district. This is, this is our  
25 new -- this is my district map.

1 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Okay.

2 MR. GUETSLOE: I knew they would love it.  
3 But this is my official map. We are going to  
4 submit that. But anyway, I think you all are  
5 doing a great job and I appreciate you all  
6 being here.

7 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, Doug.  
8 David Rucker is up next. Mr. Rucker, are you  
9 here? I am going to start moving fast, so if  
10 you are here, yell. Bobby Beagles, are you  
11 here? All right, Bobby is here, and Elmo Dunn,  
12 Zulayka Costillo, Victor Sanchez, Nadia  
13 Douglas, come on down. Mr. Beagles.

14 MR. BEAGLES: Thank you, Steve. You know,  
15 it is a pleasure to stand here tonight and see  
16 so many friendly faces. I am a resident of  
17 Orange County since 1942, which will soon be 70  
18 years.

19 I can tell you that we have the best  
20 elected officials in central Florida that we  
21 have ever had. I can pick up the phone and  
22 call my Representative who is in Brevard County  
23 on the Senate side, or I can pick up the phone  
24 and call Andy Gardner, or I can pick up the  
25 phone and call Gary Siplin.

1           The same way with the House. I can get  
2           the information I want when I want it and we  
3           appreciate that, but being in the agricultural  
4           community and being in the agriculture since  
5           1956, my family started a cow/calf operation in  
6           east Orange County.

7           Today we have a fight every way we look  
8           trying to stay in business. We have good  
9           representation. We have good elected  
10          officials, and my good Representative,  
11          Mr. Steve Precourt, excuse me, Jason Brodeur,  
12          who took over Sandy Adams's seat, then we sent  
13          Sandy to Washington along with Dan Webster.

14          I had an opportunity to visit both of  
15          them. My heart goes out to them. My heart  
16          goes out to ya'll for having to listen to what  
17          you have to listen to.

18          It is a shame that you have to put up with  
19          what you have to put up with. For the amount  
20          of pay that you get, it is a shame that the  
21          voters in the state of Florida treat you the  
22          way they treat you.

23          It isn't very fair, and let me say, I have  
24          come to the solution if ya'll would pass a Bill  
25          in Tallahassee that we would not develop no

1 more wetlands and put houses in it, we could  
2 stop some of this.

3 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Redistricting,  
4 focus on redistricting.

5 MR. BEAGLES: But our district has been  
6 cut out to help the agricultural and  
7 representative, the agricultural. We are the  
8 number two commodity in this state. For years  
9 we was number one.

10 After 911 we bounced back to number one in  
11 the state. Please, look at these districts,  
12 keep us together because the only way we are  
13 going to be strong is to have good  
14 Representative in Tallahassee and good  
15 Representative in Washington, and I urge you to  
16 get this done as soon as possible.

17 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you.

18 MR. BEAGLES: Because where we can hit the  
19 campaign trail and see that we get the people  
20 we need in those positions. Thank you.

21 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
22 Mr. Beagles. Elmo Dunn. Is Mr. Dunn here?  
23 Okay, we are within the last couple of people  
24 that we are going to have time to speak. So  
25 please come down quickly. Mr. Dunn.

1           MR. DUNN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, ladies and  
2 gentlemen, my name is Elmo Dunn, and to repeat  
3 what has been said briefly, it is appalling to  
4 me that the Florida Legislature is wasting  
5 hundreds of thousands of dollars holding  
6 hearings for Fair Districts when the people  
7 have clearly spoken.

8           The Florida Legislature defies all logic  
9 when they continue to fight the cause of fair  
10 districts by wasting millions of taxpayer  
11 dollars fighting it when they cannot even  
12 properly fund public schools.

13          The Legislature fighting Fair Districts is  
14 a disgrace to the people of Florida. The  
15 people are fed up, so it is time to act. Thank  
16 you.

17          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, Mr.  
18 Dunn. Zulayka Costillo, Ms. Costillo, are you  
19 here? No, Victor Sanchez, Mr. Sanchez? Then  
20 Naudia Douglas.

21          MR. SANCHEZ: Yes, good evening, my name  
22 is Victor Sanchez. I represent the Legal  
23 Counsel for Latin American Advancement here in  
24 central Florida.

25          I live in Seminole County and I would like

1 to ask to everybody that is here tonight and  
2 voted for Fair Districts to stand up, please.  
3 Everybody that vote for Fair Districts, please  
4 stand up, okay.

5 Let's show this Committee that we want  
6 fair districts done right away. Thank you.

7 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you.  
8 Larry Davis. Are you here? Mr. Davis, come on  
9 forward.

10 MR. DAVIS: I will make this very quick.

11 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: You are  
12 recognized.

13 MR. DAVIS: Honorable elected officers and  
14 officials, distinguished Legislators and  
15 Mr. Chairman, of course, thank you for coming  
16 by here.

17 I appreciate you coming to our district  
18 and hearing what we have to say. I come from  
19 Oviedo in Seminole County, and our district was  
20 carved up so that a Former Speaker of the House  
21 could run for Congress.

22 I have firsthand experience with  
23 gerrymandering. I wish that you would speed up  
24 this process. This is going to take a very  
25 lengthy thing, lengthy amount of time.



1           You have had the census information for  
2           four months, with hearings through September,  
3           like what you are doing now. March 9th, you  
4           are supposed to have a special convening with  
5           this and vote on it in the Legislature.

6           The Attorney General has two weeks to  
7           consider this, the Supreme Court has another  
8           month, the Justice Department has 60 days, the  
9           Governor has 15 days, Federal government has  
10          60-day review. The public has three days to  
11          look at your maps.

12          I am an architect, I design houses. I  
13          can't design houses with words. It has to be  
14          done visually. You have to see, show us the  
15          maps.

16          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you.  
17          Thank you, sir.

18          MR. DAVIS: Folks, let's be honest. You  
19          have had this information for four months from  
20          the census. Every one of you has a map. You  
21          go home with a map of Florida to see what your  
22          district is going to look like.

23          We don't get to see what you are thinking,  
24          and we would appreciate if you respect the  
25          Sunshine Law and show us the maps.

1           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank your, sir.  
2       Appreciate it.

3           MR. DAVIS: Thank you.

4           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Next we have  
5       Rebecca Dumes, Rebecca Dumes, Dan Fanelli, is  
6       Mr. Fanelli here? Come on down. And  
7       Mr. Fanelli, and then he is going to be,  
8       whoever comes after Mr. Fanelli will be the  
9       last speaker for the night. Are you Rebecca?

10          MS. DUMES: Yes. I am Rebecca.

11          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Okay, go ahead.

12          MS. DUMES: Hi, my name is Becky Dumes and  
13       I am a proud public school teacher in Seminole  
14       County. I would like to start off with three  
15       questions.

16                Do you believe that the majority rules?  
17       Do you believe the State Constitution is the  
18       highest law of the state? And do you believe  
19       that our government is for the people and by  
20       the people?

21                Last November 63 percent of the voters  
22       expressed their wishes by voting in favor of  
23       Fair Districts. This delay is an insult to the  
24       voting citizens of Florida. That was nine  
25       months ago.

1           As a teacher, if I waited nine months to  
2       return a call to a parent, send home a report  
3       card, have a parent/teacher conference or did  
4       not turn in the paperwork to my administrator,  
5       I would lose my job.

6           There always seems to be a delay when the  
7       request of the people of the state does not  
8       agree with the personal and political agenda of  
9       our Legislature.

10          The \$30 million that is being spent on  
11       these meetings could have kept my school,  
12       Longwood Elementary open, that closed because  
13       of budget cuts.

14          Let's meet the wishes of the citizens of  
15       Florida and let's get this done fairly, now.

16          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you.  
17       Mr. Dan Fanelli.

18          MR. FANELLI: Chairman and  
19       Representatives, it is honor to get to speak to  
20       you. I feel it is important for the people to  
21       have a forum like this, and I think you are  
22       doing a great job.

23          I do believe that it is important for you  
24       to understand, and I believe you do, you have  
25       been elected by the people to do what is right,

1       to do what is fair. That you have a litany  
2       test that you -- is it the right thing to do.

3               Now, we know that good government is going  
4       to be close together, that there are going to  
5       be in areas where the Representative can get to  
6       the people and the people can get to the  
7       Representative.

8               So let's have compact areas that makes  
9       sense geographically, that makes sense where  
10      agriculture is in certain areas and cities are  
11      in other districts like that.

12              You are not going to get everybody to be  
13      pleased, okay, but for those that say I have a  
14      great Representative and I love that  
15      Representative and I want them to serve me,  
16      because I might say, they are a great  
17      Representative, go out, support them.

18              I know Representatives that ran for office  
19      and they have people come, I ran for office, I  
20      had people coming from Volusia County to  
21      support me. If you believe in that  
22      Representative, support them and they will get  
23      elected.

24              So help the Representatives that are good,  
25      that do the right thing to be elected and if

1       you will concentrate on using the leadership  
2       that you have to get this job done and get it  
3       done quickly and fairly so that we can get  
4       behind the next group of people that are going  
5       to run for office. I thank you very much.

6               REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
7       Mr. Fanelli.

8               Ladies and gentlemen, this concludes the  
9       time that we have for public testimony today.  
10      Thank you for your contributions in making  
11      representative democracy work in our state.

12              If you did not get a chance to speak or  
13      have more to add we will accept a written  
14      extension of your remarks. Post it online, you  
15      can e-mail us or Snail Mail or use social media  
16      to reach us. There is a great deal of  
17      information available on our websites and the  
18      like.

19              All of the records from today's meeting,  
20      video, podcast and other transcripts will be  
21      available in the coming days on our Senate and  
22      House Redistricting websites.

23              Before we close I am going to recognize  
24      Senator Gaetz to address a number of the  
25      questions that were raised today. Senator

1 Gaetz.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
3 Mr. Chairman. I tried to make notes of the  
4 factual questions that were asked. Some of the  
5 questions of course were rhetorical.

6 We will try to get to them, but we will  
7 certainly get to the factual questions. And I  
8 wrote them in the order that they came tonight.  
9 I will try to get to all of the ones that we  
10 have time for.

11 The first question was, will you protect  
12 and reaffirm the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and  
13 that came from Benjamin Chavis who is, of  
14 course, a respected leader of the Civil Rights  
15 Movement in this country, and the answer is  
16 yes, we have to.

17 We have all taken an oath to preserve,  
18 protect and defend the Constitution of the  
19 United States and of the State of Florida and  
20 the laws of the United States and the State of  
21 Florida.

22 Mr. Chavis pointed out in his testimony  
23 the potential and I emphasize the word  
24 potential, tension between current maps, he  
25 said, and I quote him, build on existing maps.

1       There is a potential tension between that and  
2       the request of others who were here tonight who  
3       gave very eloquent and moving testimony that we  
4       ought to dramatically change the maps.

5               So, yes, we would certainly have to and  
6       need to uphold the Voting Rights Act of 1965,  
7       but there has been, if you have listened  
8       carefully and I know you have, some tension  
9       between those who believe that we ought to, we  
10      ought to remain or build on existing maps and  
11      those who believe that the maps ought to be  
12      remarkably different, and I would just ask you  
13      to bear in mind that it is probably not quite  
14      as easy as the bumper stickers might suggest in  
15      order to implement all of these laws and court  
16      cases in a fair and legal fashion.

17             Secondly, a question was asked, could we  
18      speed up the timeline. And I think the quote  
19      from this individual was, you won't be done  
20      until late spring.

21             Well, the fact is that we wouldn't be done  
22      until late spring only if all of the parties,  
23      the Legislature, the Attorney General and the  
24      Courts and the Federal government take all of  
25      the time that they can take legally instead of

1 taking the time that they need to take.

2 If you were hear earlier today you heard  
3 that Speaker Designate Weatherford who Chairs  
4 the House Redistricting Committee and I both  
5 indicated that from the very beginning of this  
6 process we have urged a speeded up approach.

7 That is why the Legislature is not meeting  
8 at its usual time in March, we are meeting in  
9 January, the first time we can legally vote.  
10 Not according to us, but according to the State  
11 Constitution. And we are having committee  
12 meetings so that we can sort out maps that  
13 might be suggested by interest groups, by  
14 individuals, by Legislators as early as  
15 September, instead of December, so that we can  
16 move as quickly as possible.

17 So it is our intent to move more quickly  
18 than perhaps some people may have suggested.  
19 And we would urge you to let the Attorney  
20 General, the Federal Justice Department and the  
21 Supreme Court know that you want deliberative  
22 process, but you also want a process that moves  
23 as quickly as necessary, and if you go to the  
24 website, somebody asked the question, how do we  
25 -- how do we know what the timelines are. How



1 do we know what the milestones are as to where  
2 and by whom maps have to be approved.

3 That is on the website and the website  
4 that the Senate has, the House has a very good  
5 one, too, the Senate website is  
6 flsenate.gov/redistricting, you will see who  
7 has to approve what, and how much time they can  
8 take. They certainly don't need to take all of  
9 that time.

10 And then there was someone who said you  
11 have yet to see legitimate maps. You know, the  
12 Central Florida Redistricting Council presented  
13 a map which I consider to be a legitimate map.  
14 Andy Dubois presented maps today and how could  
15 someone say that the only maps that would be  
16 legitimate would be those hatched in  
17 Tallahassee.

18 Maps that are developed by citizens, by  
19 interest groups are also legitimate maps.  
20 Mr. DeClue who represented himself as a  
21 Democratic consultant pointed out problems with  
22 existing maps and referenced how those problems  
23 could be solved perhaps. Very legitimate  
24 comments.

25 There are 20 maps that have already been

1 suggested and posted and I am just one Senator,  
2 but I can tell you that I am already seeing  
3 some very, very useful aspects to some of those  
4 proposals that I hope would be included in  
5 options that are finally presented to the  
6 Legislature.

7 I think citizens are legitimate, you know,  
8 I think they are legitimate to make  
9 presentations as well as politicians.

10 And then certainly there were a number of  
11 folks who said draw the maps quickly. I have  
12 tried to reflect on the fact that we have moved  
13 up the session as fast as we legally could and  
14 there is absolutely no prohibition to  
15 discussing maps sooner than January, and  
16 beginning to try to narrow down those features  
17 of maps which seem to make sense.

18 That is why we posted 17 maps already on  
19 our website. That is why three more were  
20 recommended today and will be studied by  
21 Democrats, Republicans, House members and  
22 Senators.

23 It is not as though there is some magic  
24 map. I know there may be some people who  
25 believe there is, that there is some magic map

1           that will spring fully grown from the brow of  
2           Zeus.

3           The fact is that the maps that ultimately  
4           get to the floor of the House and the Senate  
5           may be drawn in a lot of ways from the maps  
6           that have been presented now and it will be  
7           presented in the other hearings we will have.

8           Mr. Chairman, there was then an individual  
9           who said how frustrated he was. He said, you  
10          know, we are not looking at issues or people,  
11          we are only looking at Republicans and  
12          Democrats.

13          There is a fact here that needs to be just  
14          introduced into the blood stream, and that is  
15          that earlier today we had former State  
16          Representative Quinones, now County  
17          Commissioner Quinones who was here.

18          His district is a Democratic district  
19          numerically, but he is a Republican but he got  
20          elected. So Democrats vote for Republicans in  
21          Democratic districts, just like there are 40  
22          Senate Districts, 28 of them are held by  
23          Republicans, but eight of those 28 districts  
24          were carried by President Obama.

25          So in eight Republican Senate districts,

1       Republicans voted for President Obama. It is  
2       the person and not the party that is mattering  
3       more and more in Florida, and the fastest  
4       growing group of voters are neither Democrats  
5       nor Republicans, but Independents and Non Party  
6       Affiliated individuals and we are never going  
7       to be able to get party parity and guarantee  
8       that we will have, you know, the same number of  
9       districts that are Democrat or Republican as we  
10      have Democrats and Republicans, because we have  
11      a secret ballot and Republicans vote for  
12      Barrack Obama.

13             They did in the last he section and  
14      Democrats voted for Representative Quinones and  
15      other Republicans.

16             Amendments 5 and 6 ought to be  
17      implemented, a number of people have said. As  
18      is obvious by the four hours of great testimony  
19      that we heard today, Amendments 5 and 6 are not  
20      a candy jar where you can reach in and everyone  
21      can get exactly what they want.

22             There are folks who say that Amendments 5  
23      and 6 ought to guarantee a Puerto Rican seat or  
24      ought to guarantee an African-American  
25      Congressional Seat, and then you heard eloquent

1 testimony from a husband and wife team who  
2 said, nonsense, you know, it ought to be, we  
3 ought to be viewed as Americans and we ought  
4 not to be divided up for redistricting purposes  
5 along racial lines.

6 So the only thing I would say is,  
7 Amendments 5 and 6 are not simple to, they are  
8 not simple bumper stickers. They are moral  
9 imperatives that have to be worked through  
10 because not everybody will be happy. Fairness  
11 will often be in the eyes of the beholder.

12 And then, Mr. Chairman, a question was  
13 asked, will community based and faith based  
14 leaders be included in ongoing communications  
15 about redistricting and the answer is,  
16 absolutely.

17 But as you saw tonight and today, there  
18 are frankly some differences of opinion among  
19 community leaders and faith based leaders about  
20 how we ought to go forward.

21 So we as Legislators would encourage you  
22 to have more dialogue among the communities so  
23 that it will be easier to get to we the people  
24 instead of just we, one group against another.

25 But the answer to the question factually

1           is, yes, we have added every single person who  
2           has come here today to our communications  
3           network and we will be communicating directly  
4           with the leaders of the faith based communities  
5           and the ethnic communities and every other  
6           group that was represented today to let them  
7           know how the process is proceeding, share with  
8           them every single map that is being suggested.

9                   And then there was a comment made by  
10           someone who said that we have the opportunity  
11           to define our own job security. Well, I wish  
12           that were the case. First of all, let me say  
13           that most of us, I think all.

14                   (Whereupon, the proceedings were  
15           concluded.)

16                               C E R T I F I C A T E

17   STATE OF FLORIDA     )

18   COUNTY OF LEON     )

19                   I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript  
20           is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned,  
21           and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting  
22           under my direction;

23                   That the foregoing pages 2 through 216  
24           represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of  
25           the tape-recording;

1           And I further certify that I am not of kin or  
2   counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the  
3   regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor  
4   am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

5           Dated this 11th day of October, 2011.

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

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Notary Public

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State of Florida at Large

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Commission Expires:

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November 13, 2014

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REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

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THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2011

11

BREVARD COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBER

12

MELBOURNE, FL

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Transcribed by:

21

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

22

Court Reporter

23

24

25



1 T A P E D P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Ladies and gentlemen, if  
3 you would be kind enough to find a seat if you  
4 would like to participate in our hearing this  
5 morning, and I would ask members of the House  
6 and Senators who are here for the hearing to  
7 please take their seats as quickly as possible  
8 so that we can get started.

9 The Joint Senate House Redistricting  
10 hearing is called to order. We are pleased  
11 today to be joined by members of the House of  
12 Representatives and the Senate from across the  
13 state of Florida who are here to listen to you  
14 and we will give them a chance to very briefly  
15 introduce themselves and indicate where in  
16 Florida they live and where they represent so  
17 you will know that -- you will know who you are  
18 talking about.

19 Thanks to the Brevard County Commission  
20 for allowing us to use this facility this  
21 morning and thank you for being here, all of  
22 you, especially those who have come to testify  
23 and provide insights about the redistricting  
24 process and how you believe the legal  
25 standards, Federal and State, ought to be

1 applied in this community and in this part of  
2 Florida to help shape Congressional Senate and  
3 House Districts for the next decade.

4 My name is Don Gaetz. I am a member of  
5 the Senate. I Chair the Senate Reapportionment  
6 Committee, and along with my House colleague,  
7 Representative Rich Workman, who is to my left  
8 and many of you know Rich because he is from  
9 this neck of the woods, I will be Chairing  
10 today's hearing which is being webcast  
11 statewide by the Florida Channel over the  
12 Internet.

13 We are pleased to be joined this morning  
14 by the President of the Florida Senate,  
15 President Mike Haridopolos, who represents this  
16 area in the Florida Senate.

17 President Haridopolos has laid out for us  
18 an interactive public and transparent process  
19 for reapportionment and redistricting. We are  
20 here today at his direction and the fact that  
21 we have interactive websites, the fact that we  
22 are involving the public in this process more  
23 than any other state in the Union is because  
24 Senator Haridopolos as President has directed  
25 us to do so.

1           Mr. President, thank you for letting us be  
2           on the Space Coast and it is an honor to  
3           recognize you, sir.

4           PRESIDENT HARIDOPOLIS: Well, good  
5           morning, and thank you for coming out in such  
6           large numbers. We are looking forward to  
7           hearing from you, not just today, but  
8           throughout the process.

9           As Senator Gaetz has described quite well,  
10          we are making this the most open transparent  
11          process in state history. You will literally  
12          have the opportunity to draw your own maps.

13          I believe already 17 have been produced,  
14          over 70 different suggestions of how we draw  
15          lines have been produced, and we are going to  
16          follow the road map that is I believe served  
17          this state well on prior issues.

18          As you know, with the property tax  
19          reduction that we made in 2008, we went across  
20          the state and listened to people before we drew  
21          the legislation, because the idea is we want to  
22          have a bottom up, not a top down solution to  
23          all problems, and so I think today is symbolic  
24          of that very effort.

25          Wherever you might stand in this

1 particular issue, what is most important is  
2 that we listen to your ideas, because  
3 ultimately the maps that are produced are going  
4 to be representative of what we have heard  
5 throughout the state and the testimony that the  
6 good citizens of not only this area, but across  
7 the state of Florida have given to us.

8 And so we look forward to your remarks and  
9 I think this is one of 26 meetings across the  
10 state of Florida and they will continue as we  
11 continue to make this, again, a very open and  
12 transparent process using all of the technology  
13 at our fingertips literally, in which you can  
14 produce your ideas.

15 And we are hopeful that anyone who has an  
16 idea today to present a map, we would be happy  
17 to accept it, and after hearing all of the  
18 testimony, that you might do the same, but  
19 let's be clear on two things.

20 If you draw a perfect square or a perfect  
21 circle, there is still going to be a line drawn  
22 where one person on one side of that street is  
23 going to be on the opposite district of the  
24 other person on the other side of the street,  
25 because there are going to be lines at the end

1 of the day and we are looking forward to your  
2 input in that process.

3 So I want to thank you for coming out on a  
4 beautiful Florida morning and we look forward  
5 to your testimony over today and we hope again,  
6 today, it does not end today, that you continue  
7 to give your input throughout the process and I  
8 am just grateful for all the good work of both  
9 the Republicans and the Democrats here in the  
10 room who are participating in this process,  
11 especially the Representatives who give so much  
12 of their time to this effort.

13 So Chairman Gaetz, good luck to you in the  
14 meeting and we look forward to hearing from the  
15 folks here in Brevard County.

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. President.  
17 Let's take a moment to let you know who is here  
18 from the Legislature so you will know who you  
19 are talking to, and why don't we begin with  
20 you, Representative.

21 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Thank you, Senator.  
22 My name is Peter Nehr. I am a State  
23 Representative from District 48 in Pinellas  
24 County. With your indulgence, I have one quick  
25 thing. This young lady would like to say

1           hello.

2           A VOICE: Hi, thank you for being here.  
3           My name is Jillian. Good job. Do a good job.

4           REPRESENTATIVE NUNEZ: Well, that is a  
5           difficult act to follow, but good morning, my  
6           name is Jeanette Nunez, I am State  
7           Representative for House District 112, which  
8           consists of portions of Miami-Dade, Broward and  
9           Collier County. Thank you.

10          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Good morning, I  
11          am Representative Steve Precourt, House  
12          District 41, which is west Orange County and  
13          parts of Lake and Osceola County.

14          REPRESENTATIVE BRODEUR: Good morning, I  
15          am Representative Jason Brodeur. I am from  
16          District 33 which represents parts of Volusia,  
17          Orange and Seminole Counties.

18          REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Good morning, my  
19          name is John Legg. I represent west Pasco,  
20          House District 46.

21          REPRESENTATIVE EISNAUGLE: Good morning,  
22          Eric Eisnaugle, representing House District 40  
23          in Orlando and Orange County.

24          REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: Good morning, I am  
25          Representative Jim Frishe. I represent the

1 western edge of Pinellas County, most of the  
2 beaches, and I am very happy to be here today.

3 REPRESENTATIVE REED: Good morning, my  
4 name is Betty Reed. I represent District 59  
5 which is in Hillsborough County, Tampa,  
6 Florida.

7 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Good morning, I  
8 am Chuck Chestnut, House District 23, a portion  
9 of Marion County and a portion of Alachua  
10 County.

11 REPRESENTATIVE TOBIA: John Tobia District  
12 31, Brevard County.

13 REPRESENTATIVE PLAKON: Scott Plakon,  
14 Florida House District 37, Orange and Seminole  
15 Counties.

16 REPRESENTATIVE DIAZ: Good morning, I am  
17 Jose Diaz, I represent District 115 in  
18 Miami-Dade County, Florida.

19 REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Good morning,  
20 everyone, John Patrick Julien, representing  
21 House District 104, which is in Miami-Dade  
22 County. It is a pleasure to be here.

23 REPRESENTATIVE ROUSON: Good morning,  
24 Darryl Rouson, I represent District 55, which  
25 is south Pinellas, north Manatee, Sarasota and

1 the southern most tip of Hillsborough County,  
2 and I want to thank Cocoa's finest for giving  
3 me a ride to the hearing this morning when my  
4 car caught a flat 27 miles out.

5 SENATOR ALTMAN: Thad Altman, State  
6 Senator, District 24, which we are in the heart  
7 of. It is a great honor to represent this  
8 community.

9 I have traveled the state, been to a lot  
10 of the meetings across the state, but this is  
11 actually the best looking crowd I have seen in  
12 the entire state of Florida.

13 As you know, I spent many hours of my life  
14 in this room serving you as a County  
15 Commissioner, and I would like to say  
16 something, building on what President  
17 Haridopolos said.

18 You know, some of the comments we have had  
19 in past is people asking us why aren't we  
20 producing maps, and I think it is appropriate  
21 that I am sitting here in this room, coming  
22 from local government, sort of becomes a part  
23 of your DNA, that before you take any action,  
24 whether it is a zoning item, a budget item, a  
25 contract, you always got public input first.



1           That is sort of the way it becomes a part  
2           of your essence when you come from that bottom  
3           up local government level and I am really  
4           enjoying this process.

5           I am excited about hearing from my  
6           constituents when they can go to Map Builder  
7           and build their own maps. We are doing the  
8           same and it is really, I really commend our  
9           leadership, Senator Haridopolos and Senator  
10          Gaetz and Representative Weatherford in putting  
11          this series of public hearings.

12          It is unprecedented. I would venture to  
13          guess no one in the country has ever had such  
14          public input and public involvement in a  
15          redistricting process.

16          It is a great honor to be here and thank  
17          you for taking the time to come out this  
18          morning.

19          REPRESENTATIVE CAMPBELL: Good morning,  
20          Representative Daphne Campbell, District 108  
21          from Miami-Dade County.

22          REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Good morning,  
23          Hazelle Rogers, State Representative, District  
24          94, representing eight cities in central  
25          Broward County, one of the most diverse

1 counties in Broward County with approximately  
2 1.8 million residents. It is good to be here  
3 this morning.

4 SENATOR MARGOLIS: Good morning, my name  
5 is Senator Gwen Margolis. I represent District  
6 35 in Miami-Dade County, and south Broward  
7 County and delighted to be here and listen to  
8 you today.

9 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Good morning,  
10 they put the two Gwens together. I am State  
11 Representative Gwen Clarke-Reed, representing  
12 House District 92 which is northeast Broward  
13 County, representing seven cities.

14 SENATOR SIPLIN: Good morning, Gary Siplin  
15 State Senator, Walt Disney World.

16 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Good morning,  
17 State Representative Mack Bernard, West Palm  
18 Beach, Florida, District 84.

19 REPRESENTATIVE CRISAFULL: Good morning,  
20 Steve Crisafuli, House District 32, central and  
21 north Brevard and east Orange County.

22 REPRESENTATIVE GOODSON: Good morning, Tom  
23 Goodson, House District 29 from Mims, Florida,  
24 to the St. Lucie County line. I have told  
25 everyone here today that I have been to about

1 every meeting, except two.

2 I have told them how wonderful you are  
3 going to act and how courteous you are going to  
4 be. So please don't let me down. Thank you.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: Good morning, I  
6 am Rich Workman, your State Representative,  
7 District 30 in Brevard, welcome.

8 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
9 members and Senators for introducing  
10 yourselves.

11 Let me go over our procedures for today so  
12 everybody knows how they can participate. It  
13 is important that you sign in. We ask you to  
14 sign in so that we can maintain an accurate  
15 public record of all attendees, and also all  
16 speakers, and that will allow us to put you on  
17 our mailing lists and our e-mail lists so we  
18 can keep you informed about the redistricting  
19 process as it moves rapidly forward into  
20 committee meetings in September, and into the  
21 session that President Haridopolos has arranged  
22 for us to call earlier than usual to take  
23 actions on these maps as quickly as we can.

24 If you have not signed in we ask you to  
25 raise your hand and a member of our team will

1       get to you so that you can sign a card. There  
2       is a young lady and a gentleman down here,  
3       another young lady. So if you will keep your  
4       hands up, I apologize, another young lady over  
5       there, we will ask our staff if they would get  
6       to you and give you a card.

7               It is the same card, if you just want to  
8       participate by observing or if you want to  
9       speak. So please, please fill out that card.  
10      Right over here, John, if you wouldn't mind.

11             Before we begin the Chair will recognize  
12      Representative Rich Workman to explain how  
13      today's hearing fits into the redistricting  
14      process and schedule so that you will have a  
15      sense of where we are in the process now and  
16      what happens next. Representative.

17             REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: Thank you,  
18      Chairman. Every ten years the Legislature is  
19      required by our Constitution to redistrict the  
20      state based on increases and decreases in  
21      movements of population.

22             Because Florida has grown more than any  
23      other, most other states in the last ten years  
24      we will move up from 25 to 27 members of the  
25      U.S. House of Representatives.

1           Because some parts of our state have  
2           increased or increased disproportionately in  
3           population, many State and House Districts will  
4           change either adding or losing population.

5           When redistricting is completed,  
6           Congressional Districts must be equal in  
7           population and contain 696,345 people. Those  
8           40 Senate Districts must also be nearly equal  
9           at about 470,000 people and our 120 House  
10          Districts must be nearly equal at about  
11          156,700.

12          We have displays in the front of the room  
13          showing the current boundaries of districts in  
14          this area of the state and a number of -- and  
15          the number of persons which must be added or  
16          subtracted from those current districts to  
17          achieve equal representation.

18          Equality of representation isn't the only  
19          legal requirement the redistricting plans must  
20          meet. The laws and important court cases  
21          governing redistricting are explained in detail  
22          in the House and Senate websites.

23          Those websites are listed on the  
24          Redistricting 2012 brochure that was available  
25          to you when you came in. If you did not get

1           one, please make sure you do. Our  
2           Redistricting 2012 brochure summarizes both  
3           Federal and State laws and outlines topics we  
4           hope you will discuss here at today's hearing.

5           If you did not get a copy when you came  
6           in, as I said, please make sure you get one  
7           even now so that you can review it while we  
8           give public testimony.

9           The brochure also lists the House and  
10          Senate websites. The websites are packed with  
11          information about redistricting in Florida,  
12          including explanations of laws and important  
13          court cases governing redistricting.

14          The two websites are complimentary and are  
15          updated frequently. Visit both and check back  
16          often. It is a great way to stay connected  
17          about how your new Congressional State Senate  
18          and State House Districts are taking shape.

19          The websites also deliver to your  
20          fingertips all of the demographic information  
21          that we will use to redraw districts and the  
22          exact come computer programs that we as  
23          Legislators and professional staff will use.

24          Any member of the public can participate  
25          in building plans or seeing maps submitted by

1       Legislators or other citizens. Before, during  
2       and after this hearing Senate and House  
3       professional staff are available to show anyone  
4       the simple steps to getting done on-line.  
5       Building districts and submitting a plan now or  
6       in the weeks to come.

7               Senator Gaetz has said at every one of  
8       these meetings that he is not very computer  
9       smart, and it took him 15 minutes to learn how  
10      to draw these districts. So I guess I can say  
11      if he can do it, so can you.

12             Recommendations from citizens and groups  
13      of citizens will be made publicly available.  
14      In fact, 17 public submissions of partial or  
15      complete maps and approximately seven written  
16      seven -- 70 written ideas for maps are  
17      available on the website and after this week I  
18      am sure that number is going to drastically  
19      increase.

20             The submission of proposed maps that makes  
21      sense for your community is the single most  
22      effective form of public participation in the  
23      redistricting process.

24             The redistricting schedule under which we  
25      are operating is imposed by the State

1        Constitution. The Constitution does not permit  
2        the Legislature to act on State Legislative  
3        maps before the second year after the census.

4            In other words, before 2012. We  
5        accelerated the process as much as possible by  
6        moving up the 2012 legislative session from  
7        March to January, and by beginning our  
8        statewide hearings five months in advance of  
9        the 2012 legislative session.

10           It has been suggested that the Legislature  
11        should draw maps first and then ask for public  
12        comment. We believe that puts the answer ahead  
13        of the question.

14           There should be no preconceptions created  
15        by politicians, but rather public testimony  
16        should be free and unrestricted. In fact, a  
17        principle author of Florida's New Redistricting  
18        Standards and the Chairperson for Florida Fair  
19        Districts campaign is on record and in  
20        agreement with the notion that the maps should  
21        not be drawn until after public testimony has  
22        been completed.

23           Our intent is to use the recommendations  
24        made at the 26 public hearings and through our  
25        Internet websites as the basis for developing



1           one or more options for district maps.

2           We will discuss those options in open  
3           public meetings before any votes are taken,  
4           even in a committee.

5           In other words, what we are literally  
6           saying is, if you look at those maps in the  
7           back of the room, the ones actually submitted  
8           by Legislature by Florida residences to the  
9           Legislature by Florida residences.

10          We are literally starting the legislative  
11          process with those maps and other suggestions  
12          from you, the public. So if you want to know  
13          where we will begin our deliberations, it is  
14          with those public submissions, your public  
15          submissions, testimony from these meetings and  
16          other public input.

17          Throughout the process, last page, by the  
18          way, throughout the process we will solicit  
19          additional public comment so that proposed maps  
20          can mature with the public involvement, all  
21          before the Legislature approves its final maps.

22          Whatever the Legislature passes, when it  
23          then is submitted for judicial review to ensure  
24          that the final plans meet every legal  
25          requirement.

1           Because our purpose today is to hear from  
2           you, and not me reading and reading, all of the  
3           time between now and 1:00 will be used to hear  
4           you and your concerns from the public.

5           All that wish to speak will have time to  
6           present testimony and to be listened to  
7           respectfully without interruption or argument.

8           If after every citizen has had his or her  
9           say, there is time remaining before our  
10          scheduled adjournment, any member of the  
11          Committee may make any statement or offer any  
12          observation.

13          Of course, any member of the Legislature  
14          may today or at any time propose a map or plan  
15          and we will make it available to the public.

16          Mr. Chairman, I hope this description of  
17          our schedule and process helps set the stage  
18          for a successful hearing, and welcome to  
19          Brevard, Chairman.

20          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much. Is  
21          Libby Duncan here? She is outside? Well,  
22          there is overflow seating across the hallway.  
23          So if you have not been able to find a seat and  
24          you would like to sit, there is some overflow  
25          seating and you can see and hear what is going

1 on.

2 The reason I asked about Libby Duncan is  
3 because she is the 57th person who signed up to  
4 speak, and I am an advocate for Libby Duncan.  
5 I want to make sure she gets to speak, and so I  
6 hope everybody will be an advocate for Libby,  
7 and therefore, as we call your names to come  
8 forward, please come forward as soon as you  
9 good.

10 I will call about three names at a time.  
11 If you would like you can line up behind the  
12 microphone there and then in order to be fair  
13 to all of those who have signed up so we can  
14 hear from everybody I would like to ask if you  
15 would please hold your remarks to three  
16 minutes.

17 Hopefully we will be able to get through  
18 everyone who wants to speak, because the last  
19 person who signed up is just as important as  
20 the first person who signed up.

21 With that said, our first speaker will be  
22 Alan Bergman. Then Ben Campione, and then  
23 David Kearns.

24 And so, Alan Bergman, if you would make  
25 your way it the microphone, and Mr. Campione,

1           and Mr. Kearns, if you would be on deck,  
2           please.

3           And Mr. Bergman, we are delighted you are  
4           here this morning and your recognized before  
5           the Committee.

6           MR. BERGMAN: Thank you. I appreciate the  
7           opportunity to speak before the Committee, and  
8           it is a pleasure to see so many people have  
9           come out to this because I really feel this is  
10          an important event.

11          Good morning. I would like to thank the  
12          Committee for taking the time to listen to my  
13          thoughts on redistricting.

14          My name is Alan Bergman. I have resided  
15          in Indialantic for ten years now. Our existing  
16          districts have been blessed with large  
17          population growth. Now we require  
18          redistricting on all levels of government.

19          This is done not only to meet the present  
20          needs, but also as an eye to the future and  
21          enabling continued growth and perceived needs.

22          I came across an amusing situation where a  
23          gentleman owned a business which was straddling  
24          two counties. Consequently he collected  
25          different amounts of sales tax depending on

1           which side of the store the purchase was made.

2           You can guess on which side of the store  
3           the floor boards were more worn. My key point  
4           is I would urge you not to draw district lines  
5           inspired simply by geographical boundaries, but  
6           more important is the concept of community.

7           That is communities matter, Floridians  
8           matter. I would where possible set district  
9           boundaries to allow communities with similar  
10          vocations, ideologies and beliefs to address  
11          the same legislative responsibility.

12          They would best know the needs of their  
13          constituents. Florida is a diverse state with  
14          industry ranging from agriculture to space  
15          travel, from fishing to drilling for oil.

16          We have the oldest and yet the newest  
17          technologies from the simplest to the most  
18          complex. We must consider the unique needs of  
19          these industries and the people who work in  
20          these industries when drawing boundary lines.

21          I would not negate other considerations  
22          that are involved in this process, but due to  
23          today's constraints of time I would just  
24          emphasize this priority because I believe  
25          commerce is the life blood of our nation, state

1           and county. I would thank you very much for  
2           this consideration.

3           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, Mr.  
4           Bergman, we appreciate your testimony. Next,  
5           Ben Campione, please, and then following  
6           Mr. Campione, David Kearns, and following Mr.  
7           Kearns, Doreen Archer, if you will be on deck,  
8           please.

9           Mr. Campione, thanks for being here this  
10          morning. We are looking forward to hearing  
11          from you.

12          REPRESENTATIVE CAMPBELL: My name is Ben  
13          Campione, and I would like to thank the  
14          Committee for allowing the citizens such as  
15          myself to address redistricting concerns.

16          I reside in House District 29, currently  
17          represented by Tom Goodson. District 29 runs  
18          from north Brevard where it contains parts of  
19          at Titisville, Cocoa, Port St. John and  
20          Rockledge. Then runs down the west portion of  
21          unincorporated and relatively unpopulated  
22          Brevard County to south Palm Bay where it  
23          includes Grant and Micco in south Brevard  
24          County.

25          It continues into Indian River County as

1 Representative Goodson mentioned where it  
2 includes Fellsmere and parts of west Vero. The  
3 north and south areas of this district are  
4 50 miles apart and separated by the relatively  
5 large population centers of Melbourne and Palm  
6 Bay.

7 If one was to look at a map of the  
8 district which is right there, they would  
9 wonder why in the world the map was drawn this  
10 way.

11 While I will focus on District 29, there  
12 are certainly other districts in Florida that  
13 are drawn similarly.

14 First, it is exceedingly difficult for a  
15 Representative to properly represent  
16 constituents when their district is literally  
17 all over the map.

18 Certainly there are common problems that  
19 need to be addressed statewide, but the large  
20 distances in population distributions of a  
21 District like 29 place much greater burden of  
22 on a Representative to properly represent the  
23 people that reside there.

24 Additionally, we know that there are many  
25 concerns of the residents, for example, in the

1 Titusville, Cocoa area, that are different from  
2 Grant and Fellsmere.

3 For the sake of brevity I won't cite all  
4 of the differences, but they are real. It can  
5 become very difficult for a person to be tuned  
6 in to all that is going on in his or her  
7 district.

8 Clearly it is better for constituents to  
9 have a Representative who can focus on an area  
10 that have more interests in common rather than  
11 less.

12 Additionally, one problem Florida  
13 Representative and the taxpayer is that in  
14 District 29, a Representative must keep two  
15 offices, one in the north area and one in the  
16 south area to provide proper constituent  
17 access. This is unnecessary and a significant  
18 increase in cost to the taxpayer.

19 Secondly I would like to point out that a  
20 large portion of District 29 is rural, as is  
21 much of Florida. The only real population  
22 centers are at one end of the district, up in  
23 Titusville, which is at a significant distance  
24 from a large portion of the rest of the  
25 district.



1           This creates a situation where the  
2           interests of those far away population centers  
3           can significantly outweigh the interest of the  
4           rural areas.

5           While I realize that it may not be  
6           possible to create districts that don't include  
7           some population centers, those that are  
8           included should be relatively contiguous to  
9           their adjacent rural surroundings.

10          Finally, it is exceedingly difficult for a  
11          person to run as a candidate for a state office  
12          in a poorly designed district. For example, in  
13          District 29 a candidate that lives in  
14          Titusville must not only do all of the  
15          necessary functions to effectively compete in  
16          his or her local area, but he has to do the  
17          same thing, he or she has to do the same thing  
18          many miles away.

19          This increases the time, the cost and  
20          other burdens on a candidate, but the most  
21          problematic of which is becoming knowledgeable  
22          about the concerns of his or her constituents,  
23          who, as I already noted, may not even share  
24          common interests.

25          It could also discourage good potential

1 candidates from running in such a district as  
2 they should not have to bear these additional  
3 burdens simply because they were unfortunate  
4 enough to live in a poorly designed district.

5 In summary, I believe my concerns  
6 highlight the need for creating districts that  
7 are contiguous and where citizens share common  
8 interests. This helps elected representatives  
9 who better understand the concerns of the  
10 constituents and can take that with them when  
11 they go to Tallahassee.

12 It also allows for a better and fair  
13 environment under which interested candidates  
14 can run for office.

15 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Campione,  
16 and if any members of the public are here have  
17 remarks that would go on for longer than three  
18 minutes, you are welcome to submit them.

19 We will make them part of the record.  
20 They will be on the website for everybody in  
21 Florida to see and for the Senators and  
22 Representatives to study.

23 David Kearns is next and then Doreen  
24 Archer from the League of Women Voters and then  
25 William Rettinger is next and then Eddie

1 Freeman.

2 Mr. Kearns, thank you for coming this  
3 morning, and you are recognized.

4 MR. KEARNS: Good morning, my name is  
5 David Kearns. I reside in Brevard County. Let  
6 me just get a show of hands. I didn't hear  
7 party affiliations from anybody.

8 If everybody could, Republican, could you  
9 raise your hands? Democrat? So I think maybe  
10 we have a problem with the districts as they  
11 are currently drawn.

12 We have more, we definitely have more  
13 Republicans than Democrats up here.  
14 Representative Workman, I really appreciate you  
15 talking this morning, talking about the  
16 demographics and so forth.

17 I can drive in and out of my district for  
18 House Representative Workman, I can drive in  
19 and out on the southbound lane of 95 three  
20 times, three times. I can go in and out of his  
21 district, so I think we probably have a  
22 problem.

23 A staffer outside tells me that you can't  
24 draw the proposed map because the Federal  
25 Census data wasn't available until the last

1 minute. Blaming the Federal government again,  
2 okay, but you have the demographic info  
3 available on your website.

4 So you could begin a proposed map and you  
5 have a ten-year period between these episodes  
6 that you have to draw the map, and it has not  
7 been drawn.

8 So, you know, I have been watching the  
9 progress of these meetings and I can say I am a  
10 little disappointed. I think we have three  
11 things that represent bad faith.

12 First of all, looking up what is a  
13 partisan commission, what is a nonpartisan  
14 commission on Google, I discovered that there  
15 is something called partisan commission when  
16 most of the commissions, members, at least  
17 three quarters are one party as opposed to  
18 another.

19 So I think we might have a partisan  
20 commission here. I don't know, and, you know,  
21 the great examples of partisan commissions in  
22 history are called juntas, you know, and juntas  
23 are a real problem, and juntas get power and do  
24 you know how many times a junta has given up  
25 power in the history of the United States of

1 America, in the history of the world? Never.

2 A junta has never willingly given up  
3 power, never, probably never established rules  
4 in order to go ahead and rend up power, with  
5 the exception of the Constitution of the United  
6 States that planned to keep juntas out of power  
7 and to have equal representation for all  
8 citizens of the United States of America.

9 So I think what you have here is you have  
10 a timeline, you have a bit of a gag order and  
11 you have a war chest, okay. You have a  
12 timeline for releasing your committee findings  
13 that leaves precious little time or no little  
14 time from meaningful input. Making this a  
15 little bit of a joke, call it a junta joke, a  
16 joke --

17 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I would love to hear  
18 about Paul Pot, Cambodia is a wonderful place  
19 to hear about, but we have got a whole bunch of  
20 people now, 70 people who would like to speak  
21 behind you.

22 MR. KEARNS: Okay, I will get to the  
23 rules, I am sorry, I will go back.

24 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: We will give you ten  
25 seconds to wrap it up.

1 MR. KEARNS: Ten seconds?

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And you can submit  
3 further comments.

4 MR. KEARNS: Well, you see, the rules are  
5 important and I have seen you guys kind of  
6 stepping over the rules in voting for each  
7 other.

8 In Tallahassee, there is videos, you guys  
9 voting for each other up there. I can point to  
10 some people, but I am not going to, you know, I  
11 have a problem.

12 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Sir, could you keep it to  
13 redistricting, remember, the 70 of your  
14 neighbors and friends who want to speak.

15 MR. KEARNS: Okay, I think they would like  
16 to hear this, you know, I think right now you  
17 have, you have --

18 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Sir, thank you very much.  
19 Thank you for your testimony.

20 MR. KEARNS: You have a situation in the  
21 state of Florida --

22 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Next we will have Doreen  
23 Archer from the --

24 MR. KEARNS: -- where a junta --

25 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: -- League of Women

1 Voters.

2 MR. KEARNS: -- controlled by the  
3 (inaudible) brothers is taking over public  
4 education in the state of Florida.

5 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Sir, we are going to  
6 thank you.

7 MR. KEARNS: And these people right here  
8 are responsible for it. Mike Haridopolos got  
9 paid \$850 per page for a book that nobody can  
10 read.

11 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, thank you,  
12 sir, we appreciate your comments. Now, you can  
13 -- you can clap and expostulate all you want.  
14 This is America, everybody is entitled to an a  
15 opinion and a picket sign, but however, just  
16 understand that the time that you take, whether  
17 you are applauding or showing disfavor takes  
18 time away from your friends and neighbors who  
19 wish to speak.

20 Ms. Archer, you are with the League of  
21 Women Voters. We are delighted to hear you  
22 today and you are recognized before the  
23 Committee.

24 MS. ARCHER: Thank you very much. As you  
25 say, I am a member of the League of Women

1 Voters of the Space Coast and I am a  
2 constituent of Senator Altman and  
3 Representative Workman.

4 I just have a simple question, and maybe  
5 somebody will give me the answer. Why does the  
6 Legislature continue to spend taxpayer money to  
7 oppose the will of the constituents as  
8 expressed by 63 percent of the voters who voted  
9 for the fair district standards?

10 They held over 30 hours of committee  
11 meetings in 2009 and 2010, trying to find fault  
12 with the Amendments, using lawyers from Speaker  
13 Cannon's law firm at \$300 an hour and then  
14 tried to confuse voters by trying to place  
15 Amendment 7 on the ballot.

16 They then tried in court again  
17 unsuccessfully to have Amendments 5 and 6  
18 stricken from the ballot, costing more tax  
19 money and legal fees.

20 The Florida House signed on to join a  
21 lawsuit that was filed by Representatives  
22 Corrine Brown and Diaz-Balart, which asks the  
23 Court to strike Amendment 6 from the  
24 Constitution, and this is interesting, the  
25 Secretary of State because he is charged with



1       implementing Amendment 6 is a Defendant in that  
2       case.

3               So Florida taxpayers are now paying to  
4       both sue and defend the same lawsuit. The  
5       Legislators say they only joined the lawsuit to  
6       seek clarification of the reforms, not to  
7       invalidate Amendment 6, but the lawsuit  
8       contains no request for clarification.

9               It ask just to invalidate the Amendment  
10       and to hold it unconstitutional. If the  
11       Legislature would stop trying to get out of  
12       following the fair district standards and apply  
13       them as the voters intended there would be no  
14       need for litigation and no need to spend the  
15       taxpayers' money.

16              It is obvious that the Legislature does  
17       not want to comply with the standards and have  
18       set aside more funds for court battles to fight  
19       what is now part of the Florida Constitution.  
20       Thank you.

21              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
22       ma'am. William Rettinger is next, and  
23       following William Rettinger we have Eddie  
24       Freeman and then Peter, and I apologize, Peter,  
25       if I guess this wrong, Fusscas, and then Joyce

1       Hamilton Henry with the American Civil  
2       Liberties Union.

3               Mr. Rettinger, thank you for being here.  
4       We look forward to your testimony.

5               MR. RETTINGER:   And thank you for hearing  
6       us all today, Senator.   My name is William  
7       Rettinger and I am a constituent of both  
8       Representative Workman and Senate President  
9       Haridopolos.   I have spoken to both of them  
10      many times, but the fact of the matter is, this  
11      is and will and always has been a dog and pony  
12      show.

13              Sorry, folks, but I have gone through  
14      redistricting with Florida Legislators four  
15      times now.

16              Never have I gone to a hearing where there  
17      weren't maps for us to look at and give our  
18      input on and then ya'll come back with the  
19      finished product.

20              I have heard some staff say to us, well,  
21      that is putting the horse -- the cart before  
22      the horse.   No, it is not.   You are required to  
23      do the maps.   It is your job, not ours.   Our  
24      job as citizens were to go vote.   We did.  
25      Sixty-three percent of us voted for fair

1 districts. That is the will of the people,  
2 whether you are a Republican, Democrat,  
3 Independent, NPA, no matter what you are.  
4 Sixty-three percent of the voters spoke.

5 You should be listening to that, not  
6 fighting it in court, not spending taxpayer  
7 dollars to be both Defendant and Plaintiff in a  
8 court case, not wasting tax dollars that we can  
9 ill afford to waste when we have needs in  
10 education and everything else.

11 Do the redistricting maps, let us see what  
12 you draw and then let us give input. That is  
13 how it has always been. That is how it should  
14 be. Gerrymandering should be ended. It  
15 doesn't matter whether it is a Democratic  
16 Legislature doing it or, Republican Legislature  
17 doing it, it does not matter. It is wrong.

18 Districts that go from one end of this  
19 county down to another county are ridiculous.  
20 Other speakers have spoke. It is the truth. I  
21 feel for that Representative that has to follow  
22 through with all of those constituents. He  
23 cannot represent them all equally and it is not  
24 fair.

25 The 14th Amendment to the Constitution of

1 the United States gives --

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Sir, could I ask you to  
3 wrap up?

4 MR. RETTINGER: Yes, sir. Gives us equal  
5 representation. Do it. Give us the maps, let  
6 us do input and give us fair districts like we  
7 voted for. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, sir. And  
9 next, Eddie Freeman, and following Mr. Freeman,  
10 Peter Fusscas, and then Joyce Hamilton Henry  
11 and then Vicki, I think it is Impoco, and if  
12 you could line up that way we could use the  
13 time to hear from each one of you.

14 Mr. Freeman, thank you for being here and  
15 we look forward to any testimony you have.

16 MR. FREEMAN: Thank you, sir. I  
17 appreciate it very much and I will stay within  
18 my time.

19 Honorable Senators and Honorable  
20 Representatives, right now, right now American  
21 men and women are fighting to defend our  
22 freedom and democracy. What will you purchase  
23 with their sacrifice?

24 Ten years ago the Legislature bought  
25 districts that bent and stretched like a snake

1 through parts of six, seven, eight counties, in  
2 our democracy with representatives who cannot  
3 live in their communities.

4 A vote to gerrymander is a vote to  
5 dishonor the sacrifice of over one million men  
6 and women who gave their lives for our liberty  
7 and democracy.

8 Gerrymandering only works with ignorance  
9 and I can promise you this. If this  
10 Legislature votes to gerrymander again, I will  
11 visit every veteran Senator and organization in  
12 central Florida to let them know who to file  
13 their sacrifice in defiance of our democracy.

14 As you venture forth, may God bless you  
15 and God bless our democracy.

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very, very  
17 much. Good testimony. Peter Fusscas is next  
18 and then Joyce Hamilton Henry and then Vicki  
19 Impoco, and then following Vicki, Phil, and I  
20 apologize, Phil, I think it is Koechlein. Mine  
21 gets butchered, too.

22 Mr. Fusscas with the Brevard Citizens  
23 Coalition, welcome, and thank you for your  
24 testimony.

25 MR. FUSSCAS: Thank you very much, and it

1 is a pleasure to be here today addressing the  
2 junta. Sounds to me like sour grapes. They  
3 with like to be the new junta, but I am here to  
4 represent a stretch we call it the outer banks,  
5 Melbourne Beach, Indialantic and we call south  
6 beaches.

7 We would like to preserve the three  
8 principles which you were espousing, and  
9 correctly so, the issue of compactness,  
10 continuity and the preservation of shared  
11 interests.

12 Now, compactness does not mean geographic  
13 shapes, but the ability of citizens to relate  
14 to each other and their Representatives, and  
15 continuity has been defined as one where a  
16 person can go from any point within the  
17 district to any other point, and it is these  
18 three principles that I am here to discuss.

19 When the Spaniard, Ponce de Leon, landed  
20 in 1513 on Melbourne Beach, it was historic.  
21 From that point we have built a very strong  
22 community in the ocean side and the beaches.

23 We send our children to school together.  
24 Our gardens clubs decorate the community  
25 together. We share our parks and beaches. We

1       celebrate home day, which I think is close to  
2       95 years. The original bridge on 192, the  
3       causeway, was built by members of our  
4       community, and the south beaches, we soon will  
5       be sharing the same Post Office, because I  
6       understand one is going to be closed, or at  
7       least it is recommended, and the two municipal  
8       offices are less than a mile away. We have a  
9       shared community and I wouldn't like to see  
10      that broken up anymore than it is.

11           Now, my Representative in Precinct 154 is  
12      Debbie Mayfield, a very charming and able State  
13      Representative, but, and that is House District  
14      80. We would like to, in all due respect, we  
15      would like to be considered to be a part of  
16      another district because of our shared  
17      interests.

18           And so if you would just give us some  
19      consideration in regards to the ocean side, it  
20      would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

21           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir,  
22      and Representative Mayfield did come in. There  
23      she is. Thank you very much, Representative,  
24      for being here.

25           Next we will hear from Joyce Hamilton

1 Henry with the ACLU, and following her, Vicki  
2 Impoco and then Phil, who's name I butchered  
3 and I am sorry, Phil.

4 Ms. Hamilton Henry, thank you very much  
5 for being here.

6 MS. HAMILTON HENRY: Good morning, I am  
7 the Director for the Mid Florida Regional  
8 Office of the ACLU. The ACLU protects and  
9 defend the U.S. Constitution and Bill of  
10 Rights.

11 You have heard, already heard from  
12 hundreds of Floridians who demand that the  
13 process be fair, transparent and that you act  
14 with integrity.

15 You have heard from me and numerous others  
16 that is critically important that district  
17 lines are drawn in full compliance with  
18 Amendments 5 and 6. These Amendments establish  
19 rules in the Florida Constitution to stop  
20 politicians from designing districts to favor  
21 themselves.

22 We implore you to draw maps and complete  
23 this lengthy and expensive process.

24 Sixty-three percent of Floridians have already  
25 told you what we want.



1           Over the past weeks, hundreds of  
2           Floridians have reinforced that mandate and the  
3           main date is to be fair, expeditious,  
4           transparent, act with integrity, and protect  
5           our democracy.

6           Citizen participation is at the heart of a  
7           healthy democracy. Too many citizens have  
8           already been rendered, been disenfranchised and  
9           rendered voiceless.

10          We want to make sure that our democracy  
11          works fairly, vibrantly and inclusively and we  
12          will continue to provide input in this process  
13          and we will continue to monitor this for the  
14          remaining months.

15          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Henry. It  
16          is good to see you again. Vicki Impoco and  
17          then Phil with the AARP, and then Lori Scott,  
18          the Brevard County Supervisor of Elections.

19          Ms. Impoco, did I get your name right,  
20          ma'am?

21          MS. IMPOCO: Yes, you did.

22          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Well, it is nice to see  
23          you, and thank you for being here. You are  
24          recognized.

25          MS. IMPOCO: Thank you. Yes, my name is

1        Vicki Impoco. I am the Vice-President of the  
2        Brevard Chapter of the National Organization  
3        for Women and the Vice-president Of the Space  
4        Coast Progressive Alliance.

5                Floridians overwhelmingly approved fair  
6        districts to end gerrymandering. We want  
7        districts that are set along geographic rather  
8        than political boundaries.

9                Many states have already completed their  
10        redistricting process. Other states have  
11        provided proposed legislative maps at their  
12        public hearings to allow citizens the  
13        opportunity to comment on actual proposed maps.

14                It is your job and your responsibility as  
15        elected representatives to present maps to  
16        constituents, not the other way around.

17                Voters have requested over and over at  
18        public district meetings to see your concept of  
19        the fair district. Once again, where are the  
20        maps?

21                The redistricting timeline which ends  
22        later than almost every other state in the  
23        nation discourages potential candidates from  
24        engaging in what is supposed to be a democratic  
25        process.

1           This timeline protects incumbents because  
2 challengers will have insufficient time to  
3 mount campaigns. State lawmakers have filed a  
4 lawsuit specifically designed to overturn the  
5 Amendment voters just approved.

6           Taxpayer money is not only funding this  
7 lawsuit, but also paying Florida Secretary of  
8 State Kirk Browning's office to defend the  
9 standards. This is an outrageous waste of  
10 taxpayer money at a time when funding for  
11 critical services for millions of Floridians  
12 are being cut.

13           State Senate President Haridopolos assured  
14 us this process would be open and in the  
15 sunshine. If this is the case, why has my  
16 Representative John Tobia been unable to tell  
17 me how much this lawsuit is costing taxpayers.

18           Your position on the Amendments allegedly  
19 negatively impacts minority voters, and it is  
20 disputed by the very people you claim to be  
21 trying to protect. The Florida Conference of  
22 Black State Legislators, Democracy Ahora and  
23 the NAACP have all endorsed fair districts.

24           Voters should question whether your  
25 lawsuit actually stems from a desire to promote

1 democratic ideals or to thwart them.

2 State Representative Will Weatherford and  
3 State Don Gaetz were members of groups created  
4 to defeat Amendments 5 and 6. That means that  
5 the two Legislators most responsible for making  
6 sure that the Legislature follows the  
7 redistricting rules laid out in Amendments 5  
8 and 6 were both members of a group explicitly  
9 created to defeat those rules.

10 Florida leads the nation in the number of  
11 Federally convicted public officials, yet you  
12 fail to pass a single ethics reform law. This  
13 failure along with your fair district foot  
14 dragging demonstrates your complete lack of  
15 interest in doing anything to restore the  
16 confidence of Floridians in our government.

17 As our Representatives you took an oath to  
18 uphold and obey the State Constitution.  
19 Amendments 5 and 6 are now a part of the State  
20 Constitution. You must immediately end the  
21 lawsuits, road blocks and delays. Stop  
22 spending taxpayer money to manipulate the  
23 system to protect your political careers.

24 Florida is not a kingdom and you must  
25 uphold the entire Constitution, not just the

1 laws and amendments you approve of, and would  
2 everyone that voted for 5 and 6 and would like  
3 to see maps, please stand up.

4 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
5 Ms. Impoco.

6 MS. IMPOCO: Thank you very much.

7 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: We appreciate your  
8 testimony today. Next, Phil, I am going to  
9 apologize to you. How do we pronounce your  
10 last name?

11 MR. KOECHEIN: That is all right, it is  
12 Phil Koechein. Only my parents and my siblings  
13 understand it.

14 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Well, Phil,  
15 notwithstanding that we are delighted to have  
16 you here today representing AARP, and then Lori  
17 Scott, our Supervisor of Elections from Brevard  
18 County, if you will be on deck, Ms. Scott, and  
19 then Georgia Phillips.

20 Thank you very much, sir, for being here  
21 and your are recognized.

22 MR. KOECHLEIN: My name is Phil Koechlein.  
23 I live here in Brevard, and I am fortunate to  
24 represent AARP for Brevard, northern Indian  
25 River and Osceola Counties.

1           I want to thank you all for having shown  
2           up today, and so on, but the way districts are  
3           now drawn I don't think even Matel or Hasbro  
4           would ever develop a puzzle piece that looks  
5           like this. It is just that has happened over  
6           the years.

7           It is very, very difficult for any one up  
8           there to be able to go ahead and follow what  
9           people need or their thoughts are. I don't  
10          understand really how Representative Goodson or  
11          Representative Crisafuli can possibly do it in  
12          their territory, because anywhere from the  
13          state, in Goodson's case from Titusville all of  
14          the way down to west Vero, or from, and in the  
15          other case all of the way from Port Canaveral  
16          all of the way over, Alafia, did I say that one  
17          right?

18          A VOICE: Alafia.

19          MR. KOECHLEIN: Alafia. Sorry, I was  
20          close, but the thought pattern is so far  
21          removed and I don't understand why they don't  
22          even get a ticket from the FAA for flying too  
23          low when they try to get from one end of their  
24          counties to the other, very difficult.

25          If you would as much as possible look at

1       trying to hold together not just the  
2       communities, but the neighborhoods. Try to  
3       draw the lines as much as possible as you can  
4       so that the neighborhood or the homeowners'  
5       associations or whatever stay contiguous within  
6       themselves. It would be very, very helpful  
7       that way.

8               It also helps because trying to hold that  
9       thought pattern over these people and so on so  
10      you can possibly represent them is very, very  
11      important.

12             It allows you to go ahead and to know  
13      better what their need and be able to handle  
14      and help to them.

15             You would much be able to represent the  
16      people if you would be elected along those  
17      lines and try to help it on that basis. I  
18      would like in conclusion then to mention three  
19      things.

20             Go ahead and vote the way we passed that  
21      amendment, very, very important. That is why  
22      we felt very strongly about it. We wanted it  
23      not it be set along party lines, but along  
24      community lines.

25             Return that 30 million or whatever the

1       number was, rather than fighting the issue,  
2       turn it back and put it back into the  
3       Legislature and the funds, but I prefer if you  
4       could, of course, being AARP, that it be help  
5       for medical for the seniors, okay.

6               CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I will let you have that  
7       short commercial there.

8               MR. KOECHLEIN: Yes.

9               CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And could you wrap up,  
10      please, sir.

11              MR. KOECHLEIN: I will, and please review  
12      our proposals and give it enough time that at  
13      the very end that we have time to be able to  
14      look at it and say, have a say to respond to  
15      it.

16              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very, very much  
17      for your testimony today. And Ms. Scott, thank  
18      you for being here, and thank you for your  
19      service to the people of Brevard County. You  
20      are recognized.

21              MS. SCOTT: Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman  
22      and members. I feel like I should be  
23      presenting in a Bill, I have got the Sergeant's  
24      office in here.

25              I wanted to welcome you to Brevard County



1 on behalf of Brevard's 360,000 voters. We are  
2 the eighth largest county in the state of  
3 Florida.

4 We are unique in that we have a big  
5 geographic footprint as my delegation members  
6 sitting there know, which is for my office, it  
7 creates issues of just servicing our voters.

8 We have seven delegation members, five  
9 single member County Commission districts, five  
10 single member School Board districts, 16  
11 municipalities and five special tax districts.

12 So as you can imagine when those lines are  
13 drawn, it is very unique and can create little  
14 niches of precincts.

15 I know that a lot of my fellow Supervisors  
16 have come and spoken to you about timelines and  
17 I just want -- and I am not going to repeat  
18 that. I am just going to say, thank you for  
19 the service that you do. Traveling around the  
20 state as a veteran of the working in the  
21 Legislature, I know that the job before you is  
22 very daunting and we have a big state and a lot  
23 of voters, and thank you for the service that  
24 you do, and anything that my office can do to  
25 be of assistance if we can, I appreciate it

1           very much. Thank you and enjoy your day in  
2           Brevard.

3           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Scott,  
4           thank you for being here. Georgia Phillips is  
5           next, and followed by Barbara Knick, and then  
6           David Bradford.

7           So if those individuals will come forward  
8           so that we can hear from them.

9           Ms. Phillips, thank you very much. It  
10          says you are from the city of Rockledge and  
11          that must mean that are you representing the  
12          City today?

13          MS. PHILLIPS: Well, we have three here  
14          from the City, we have Councilman Dick Blake  
15          and myself and we are going to let our  
16          Chairman, Councilwoman Colleen Stuart to do the  
17          talking in interest of your time.

18          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Okay, that is very good.  
19          And your name again, ma'am?

20          MS. STUART: My name is Colleen Stuart,  
21          and I am Chairman of the Rockledge City  
22          Council.

23          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you.

24          MS. STUART: You will find my card  
25          somewhere down on that list so when you get to

1           it you can skip over it.

2           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Well, thank you for being  
3           here and representing those other individuals  
4           who have ceded their time.

5           MS. STUART: Thank you. I would like to  
6           read a letter from the Mayor of Rockledge on  
7           behalf of all of the Council members offering  
8           our input as a council.

9           "On behalf of the Rockledge City Council,  
10          please accept our appreciation for the work  
11          being done to reapportion House and Senate  
12          Districts based on the 2010 census data.

13          We as an elected body are aware of the  
14          task ahead of you and the ramifications for all  
15          of the citizens of the state of Florida.

16          The Rockledge City Council would like to  
17          go on record with the committee with regard to  
18          the concept of nesting or establishing a Senate  
19          District and carrying three House Districts  
20          from each nest or Senate District.

21          This would appear to be the simplest and  
22          most representative manner in which to approach  
23          reapportionment. The City of Rockledge is  
24          currently in three House Districts and we have  
25          no objection to continuing to be in a multiple

1 House Districts if that is feasible and  
2 practical.

3 We are also open to being in two Senate  
4 Districts if that also is necessary for proper  
5 division of the population.

6 Thank you for your service and we wish you  
7 the best in completion of this critical task  
8 for our state and please call upon us if we can  
9 be of any assistance." Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Madam  
11 Chairman. Appreciate your being here. Barbara  
12 Knick is next and then David Bradford and  
13 Richard Ware.

14 Ms. Knick, thank you for being with us  
15 today and we look forward to your testimony.

16 MS. KNICK: Thank you. This is quite a  
17 show you are putting on.

18 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I like Representative  
19 Workman a lot, I like to hang with him, but I  
20 would much rather be at home with my wife,  
21 Vicki, so, you know, keep that in mind as well.

22 MS. KNICK: Well, that is not what you  
23 took the job for.

24 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: That is right. That is  
25 why they pay me the big bucks.

1           MS. KNICK: That is right. I just want to  
2           say, it is not about party politics. It is  
3           about one country established by our founders  
4           who gave us the Constitution as the law of the  
5           land.

6           If we follow the Constitution and put our  
7           country back above party politics we can get  
8           back to a country of prosperity. You were  
9           elected to represent the people.

10          I ask that you put aside personal  
11          ambitions and do the job we elected you to do  
12          and establish districts for the benefit of the  
13          people. Thank you.

14          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
15          ma'am. And next, David Bradford from Brevard  
16          Community College. Mr. Bradford, thank you for  
17          being here, and I understand that you may have  
18          maps to present, is that correct, sir?

19          DR. BRADFORD: Yes, I will leave them with  
20          you.

21          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Very good, thank you for  
22          that.

23          DR. BRADFORD: Thank you. I am  
24          Dr. Bradford, I teach political science at the  
25          Brevard Community College, Cocoa campus. The

1       founding fathers, and I am speaking, by the  
2       way, for my 32 political science students.  
3       Some of them are here and they have done all of  
4       this work on drawing this map.

5               CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Could we just take a  
6       second since they submitted maps, if your  
7       students are here could they please stand?

8               DR. BRADFORD: They could be across the  
9       hall.

10              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Okay.

11              DR. BRADFORD: Some of them are in  
12       classes.

13              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Some of them are in  
14       class. That is good. Go ahead, sir.

15              DR. BRADFORD: The founding fathers of the  
16       United States of America defined the purpose of  
17       the Federal government when they created the  
18       Constitution and Preamble.

19              They were very concerned with limiting the  
20       power of the new government while promoting  
21       individual freedoms and providing the welfare  
22       for the citizens. So their wisdom and their  
23       effort created this new government and country  
24       that has endured now for over 200 years.

25              So Congressional representatives, and by

1       the way, these maps we have drawn are based on,  
2       we are looking at the Federal law, we are  
3       looking at Congressional delegations, not  
4       State.

5               We want, or the voice of the government,  
6       we wanted to ensure that Congressional  
7       Districts continue to be the voice of a  
8       grouping of people who will be represented in  
9       Washington. We now know that Speaker Tip  
10      O'Neil was right.

11             All politicians are local and the most  
12      effective voice is that well-designed  
13      Congressional District.

14             Now, my 32 students took it upon  
15      themselves in the last six and-a-half weeks to  
16      design the Congressional Districts by doing the  
17      work of laying it out by looking at the law.  
18      We did look at the Ortiz study.

19             The problem with the Ortiz study is that  
20      it does build these specialized districts of  
21      minorities and not spread out throughout the  
22      county well.

23             So we didn't -- we wanted to really look,  
24      examine this and so we looked at the concepts  
25      of boundaries, natural boundaries, river

1 boundaries, road boundaries. We looked at the  
2 districts, the laws and the Court's intent.

3 One thing that we ask that you look at  
4 when you get back into Tallahassee and you  
5 start designing these Congressional Districts,  
6 is that the Voting Rights Act in 1965, while  
7 important at that time, should not be allowed  
8 to create districts within districts, because  
9 we believe redistricting should be done with  
10 what we have drawn and we respectfully submit  
11 it to the committee today.

12 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
13 Dr. Bradford, and we really appreciate the  
14 submission, and any further testimony that any  
15 of you or your students have, we would be  
16 delighted to take.

17 DR. BRADFORD: By the way, I made sure  
18 that all of my students are registered to vote,  
19 so this is the future of Florida.

20 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: All right, all right,  
21 great. Thank you, Dr. Bradford, and now, from,  
22 we would like to hear from Richard Ware,  
23 following Mr. Ware, Peter Koch, and then  
24 Colleen Stuart. Is the City of Rockledge going  
25 to speak some more or is Ms. Stuart -- that was



1       you. That is right, Madam Chair, I apologize,  
2       then Josiah Gattle.

3             Mr. Ware, thank you for coming and giving  
4       your time today. You are recognized.

5             MR. WARE: Thank you, and thank the other  
6       members for coming out and listening to us  
7       today.

8             This is not my first time in a  
9       redistricting meeting. In '91, I lived in  
10      Orlando. I was unfortunate to live in what  
11      became U. S. House District 3 due to  
12      gerrymandering. In 2001, I lived in Volusia  
13      County, lived in an area that created a new  
14      House District in, and at that time we were  
15      able to point out the problems with the maps  
16      and say, you are proposing to do this but you  
17      are leaving six precincts in the entire county  
18      into someone's district from another county and  
19      they were able to go back and redo some of  
20      those things to eliminate some of the  
21      gerrymandering problems that they had and some  
22      are just bad drawings in some cases.

23             This is the first time I have come to one  
24      of these meetings and not had at least five or  
25      six proposed maps from the Legislature, itself,

1       that we could say, well, this is a good idea  
2       and this is a bad idea, why don't you take this  
3       from this map and move it over here.

4               What I would ask is this body, once you  
5       come up with your maps, come back out with them  
6       and present them to the public and then get  
7       public input to refine those maps, because  
8       without that we are not going to be able to  
9       progress and correct what we see as problems  
10      that are undoubtedly going to happen, and if  
11      you do that you may be able to save some money  
12      in terms of lawsuits.

13             Obviously we have had and still have  
14      districts within this state that are  
15      gerrymandered, such as U. S. House District 3  
16      which runs from Jacksonville all of the way  
17      down to the south part of Orlando and into  
18      Orange County.

19             When it was originally drawn it started  
20      all of the way over by Ocala and when it went  
21      into the court system, that was cut down, but  
22      still it was gerrymandered to represent a  
23      minority population, which whether you feel  
24      that that is correct or not, people in  
25      Jacksonville and people in Orlando are not

1 properly represented by one person trying to  
2 cover that entire area.

3 Here in Brevard County, I am a citizen of  
4 Titusville and we have House District 29, House  
5 District 32, both of which are very expansive,  
6 they represent a lot of people but they  
7 represent people at opposite ends of interest.

8 When you are talking about people that  
9 live by the airport in Orlando versus people  
10 that live in Merritt Island, you are talking  
11 about two very diverse groups of people that  
12 have very different concerns and desires from  
13 the folks that represent them in government.

14 The same thing with folks in House  
15 District 29 in Titusville versus the folks in  
16 Vero Beach.

17 Then again you have House District 80,  
18 which is represented by Ms. Mayfield down in  
19 the south end of Brevard County, but most of  
20 her district is actually in another county. So  
21 she represents only a small portion of that.

22 If we could try and move that into someone  
23 who lives in Brevard County and has interests  
24 there in that area, that would make more sense  
25 in terms of representing the actual communities

1           that we have here today. That is all I have.

2           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Ware.

3           Very good suggestions. Peter Koch, and then

4           Josiah Gattle and then Joseph Pishgar.

5           Mr. Koch, thank you very much for being  
6           here, we appreciate it.

7           MR. KOCH: I am Peter Koch.

8           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I apologize.

9           MR. KOCH: Well, that is incorrect also,  
10          but it is for convenience's sake.

11          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: If you say it, it is  
12          correct.

13          MR. KOCH: Okay.

14          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: If I say it, it is wrong.

15          MR. KOCH: I registered to vote on 17  
16          August, 1954, at 3:00 in the afternoon. In  
17          those days, you recall, you had to be 21 to  
18          register. I have not missed an election since  
19          then, whether State, Federal or local.

20          Enough about me. Every ten years we  
21          create a monster in this country. You guys are  
22          fully aware of this monster. It is called a  
23          gerrymander.

24          Some of you are going to feed this monster  
25          for your own political advantage and interest.

1 Others of you are going to fight this monster  
2 because you got something like this that  
3 supports you.

4 This is called the United States  
5 Constitution and its various amendments. The  
6 14th Amendment particularly is your shield.  
7 This is the Holy Grail of democracy, the U. S.  
8 Constitution.

9 Some of you don't pay attention to this  
10 because all you are interested in is political  
11 advantage. We have got to get rid of political  
12 advantage and use the Constitution to its  
13 fullest extent, and believe me, if we catch you  
14 clowns doing this, we are going to bring the  
15 Constitution to bear upon you, and believe me,  
16 as was pointed out before, the state of Florida  
17 leads with the population of Federal elected  
18 officials in various jails.

19 We can make -- we can get you there, too,  
20 if necessary, and don't think I am -- this is  
21 not a joke. This is the -- this is the big  
22 problem with you people.

23 You think this whole thing is a joke. I  
24 come from a place where this was never a joke.  
25 I am not a native born American. I lived for

1 the rations and for 12 years, and believe me,  
2 this is important.

3 You guys, you guys have never experienced  
4 that. You live fat, dumb and happy on your  
5 salaries which can't be attached. It is time  
6 you guys woke up.

7 Wake up, America, this is the  
8 Constitution. This is the Holy Grail, and if  
9 you are going to fight it, you are going to  
10 lose.

11 The Holy Grail always wins, and you -- you  
12 guys, you know who I am talking about. You are  
13 the guys, who your offenders are, you know who  
14 you are. And believe me, you may be here  
15 today, maybe even tomorrow, but next week, next  
16 month, next year, you are out of here, and once  
17 you are out, you stay out. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, I think.  
19 Next, Josiah Gattle and then following Josiah  
20 Gattle, Joseph Pishgar, if you will be on deck,  
21 please, and next, Harry Goode.

22 Mr. Gattle, thank you for coming today and  
23 we look forward to what you might have to say.

24 MR. GATTLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
25 registered to vote about two years ago right

1 after the 2008 election, and I am relatively  
2 new at this, but I was thinking as I was  
3 thinking about the districts and what unites  
4 people.

5 In this hard economy it is economic  
6 issues. It is about what they earn their  
7 living from, and in this county we have three  
8 major economic drives, tourism, space and  
9 agriculture, and I believe that the districts  
10 should be drawn in such a way that all three of  
11 these interests are represented by each of our  
12 Representatives, so that they can represent the  
13 whole interest of the counties.

14 Now, whether it is Orlando with tourism  
15 based, and also agriculture, but incorporating  
16 all of the economic interests in each  
17 representative district, that way we can fully  
18 represent each and every individual, because  
19 they are across party lines.

20 Economic interests are what drive your  
21 livelihood, what drive how you get to your  
22 beliefs, and what is valuable to you.

23 I thank you from balancing these interests  
24 and for these open meetings and the opportunity  
25 to give you input. Thank you very much,

1 Mr. Chairman.

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Gattle.

3 Next, Joseph Pishgar with the Space Coast  
4 Progressive Alliance and then Harry Goode with  
5 the City of Melbourne and then Jack  
6 Schluckebier, Schluckebier.

7 Mr. Schluckebier, did I get that right,  
8 Schluckebier waives his time and then David  
9 Gunter.

10 So Mr. Pishgar with the Space Coast  
11 Progressive Alliance, we are delighted you are  
12 here and we look forward to what you may have  
13 to say.

14 MR. PISHGAR: I will submit this  
15 afterwards by the way, in writing as well.

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you.

17 MR. PISHGAR: My name is Joe Pishgar and I  
18 live in west Melbourne. I am represented by  
19 State Representative John Tobia, and State  
20 Senator Mike Haridopolos.

21 On behalf of the citizens of Brevard  
22 County and the Space Coast Progressive Alliance  
23 I would like to nominate the Florida State  
24 Legislature for a Tony award in the category of  
25 political theater.



1           In the past few weeks you have provided  
2       considerable value and entertainment by hosting  
3       a series of sham meetings to request feedback  
4       on a process that has not yet begun.

5           While states as contentious as California  
6       and as bureaucratic as Massachusetts have  
7       somehow managed to generate first and second  
8       drafts already of their redistricting maps,  
9       you have languished and agonized over how  
10      transparent you are by providing the public  
11      with a piece of software that each hard core  
12      geeks and nerds find daunting, clumsy and  
13      altogether pointless.

14          These proceedings are a farce, part of a  
15      blatant delay that many consider the incumbent  
16      protection program. Many other states have  
17      already completed their redistricting, South  
18      Carolina, Michigan, Iowa, Missouri, Indiana and  
19      Texas, Minnesota is nearly done. Oklahoma has  
20      been done for some time now.

21          Can you honestly expect us to believe that  
22      our redistricting should naturally proceed at a  
23      slower pace than Oklahoma's. Is the state  
24      where humans have been blasted into orbit for  
25      the past half a century somehow technologically

1 inferior to Oklahoma?

2 Is there a special redistricting buffalo  
3 that we can borrow on loan from Oklahoma at  
4 some point to help speed things along?

5 What precisely are these hearings for? I  
6 mean, apart from the massive waste of taxpayer  
7 dollars as each of you chalk up expenses  
8 attending these to your office accounts. You  
9 want our feedback. On what exactly?

10 Fair districts passed with 63 percent of  
11 the vote. You have given us nothing to provide  
12 feedback on. Yes, on the surface, the thing is  
13 transparent, but there is no substance behind  
14 the glass to speak of.

15 You have had census data for months now.  
16 Is there no one in Tallahassee with Google  
17 Maps, Microsoft office, and a wide format  
18 printer, and asking us to draw the maps for you  
19 is even further a stretch, and a contemptible  
20 attempt to crowd source blame for the incumbent  
21 favoring maps you will end up producing on your  
22 incumbent favoring timeline.

23 You will pick the map that best suits the  
24 preservation of the incumbents and point to the  
25 adorable little Aunt Betty sitting on her front

1 porch with a glass of lemonade and a book and  
2 My District Builder loaded up --

3 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: As much as I want to hear  
4 more about Aunt Betty, because --

5 MR. PISHGAR: I will wrap it up. I will  
6 wrap it up.

7 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Just because we have now  
8 about ten more people who want to speak in  
9 deference to them if you could summarize.

10 MR. PISHGAR: Have I occupied my three  
11 minutes already?

12 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You have just got a  
13 little bit of time, so if you could summarize.

14 MR. PISHGAR: You will point to Aunt Betty  
15 and you will say, it wasn't us, it was Aunt  
16 Betty, but by that point in time candidate  
17 qualifying will be opponents, candidates who do  
18 not have the incumbent's inside track on  
19 districts will not even know what their  
20 districts look like.

21 How long will candidates have to wait  
22 until they know what their districts look like,  
23 a month, a day, will they even get to know  
24 before qualifying?

25 This is to say nothing of the havoc this

1 is going to reap now on the Supervisor of  
2 Election's Office.

3 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Mr. Pishgar, I am going  
4 to ask you to summarize, please and just take  
5 about ten seconds.

6 MS. PISHGAR: Sure. We demand the  
7 expeditious drawing of fair nonpartisan  
8 election districts. We demand that you put a  
9 stop to these fake hearings, these pointless  
10 futile practices of naval gazing that you have  
11 seen fit to expend our tax dollars on and focus  
12 maybe, I don't know, on something more  
13 important, like jobs.

14 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Pishgar.

15 MR. PISHGAR: Thank you for your time.

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Harry Goode is next with  
17 the City of Melbourne, and then following  
18 Mr. Harry Goode with the City of Melbourne and  
19 then David Gunter and then Ernest Wohlbold.

20 Mr. Goode, thank you very much for being  
21 here and look forward to your testimony.

22 MR. GOODE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, it is  
23 a pleasure to be here. My City Manager is also  
24 here, as you mentioned, he has waived his time  
25 unless there is any questions.

1           I just have a few points and I will try to  
2           be brief. First, again, thank you for  
3           undertaking these 26 hearings around the state  
4           and bringing one of them to the Melbourne area.

5           Having sat in your chair as 14 years as a  
6           former Legislator, I can assure you that I am  
7           not here to criticize this process or question  
8           your motivation. I especially applaud the  
9           direction your protocol to make this a  
10          listening and not a speaking tour. I know it  
11          takes discipline.

12          Second, most cities would probably  
13          consider that having a city represented in the  
14          Legislature or Congress should be cohesive to  
15          the city boundaries as possible.

16          I would also agree, the idea for smaller  
17          cities, but not for cities greater than 40,000  
18          or 50. Take Melbourne, for example, which is  
19          nearly 80.

20          Right now, for as long as I can remember  
21          we have had at least two Representatives and  
22          two Senators. I would like to keep it that  
23          way. We must prefer it that way. And we could  
24          ask that you do your best to keep it that way.

25          It is the closest thing that we can get to

1 represented coverage that we had before Florida  
2 moved to single member districts. We now have  
3 in my opinion what is very important.

4 Third, as you think about references I  
5 have just stated, I would combine them with  
6 your constitutional duty to neither favor nor  
7 disfavor any political party, and as most of  
8 you know, I was in the process, I have been a  
9 Democrat and I have been a Republican and now I  
10 am an Independent, so I have been around the  
11 horn and some days it is 14 to three R and the  
12 next day 14 to three D, it can change.

13 Therefore, you may want to consider doing  
14 something like these cities, such as Melbourne,  
15 by our City Charter, have to do, since we also  
16 redistrict every ten years. Consider though we  
17 are not partisan by charter, as most cities are  
18 not.

19 If you disregard partisanship and consider  
20 the constitutional rules, also provide that you  
21 cannot disfavor one another as incumbent  
22 Legislators, you really should not have a hard  
23 time doing as we do. Just drawing the district  
24 map with roughly equal population groups and  
25 keeping cohesive communities is an important

1 objective.

2 I would ask that you consider our city's  
3 unique request because you may not hear it put  
4 quite the way as you listen elsewhere on your  
5 tour. It is worth repeating, we in Melbourne  
6 welcome and desire as many State  
7 Representatives and State Senators as you will  
8 give us, as you can afford.

9 Similarly, if you want to carve our city  
10 up and give us tiny slices of three  
11 Congressional Seats, we will take that, too.

12 Once again, on behalf of the citizens  
13 thank you for taking the time to do this and  
14 being such good listeners, and as they say in  
15 the universal Melbourne language, good day.

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you. Thank you  
17 very much. Mr. Gunter is next.

18 MR. GUNTER: Yes.

19 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And then Mr. Wohlbold and  
20 then William Whitehead with the Brevard Chapter  
21 of the ACLU. Mr. Gunter.

22 MR. GUNTER: Members of the Legislature,  
23 I thank you for this opportunity. I am here  
24 representing only myself. I will try and be  
25 very brief and run through this quickly.

1           First, everyone needs to be attentive to  
2           the fact that this community voted for fair  
3           districts just like the rest of the state did.  
4           Granted, the results otherwise were not  
5           anyone's surprise that they were sort of  
6           dominated by one party, but this community went  
7           for fair districts overwhelmingly.

8           Second, the notion of the Legislature  
9           paying to oppose fair districts at this point  
10          is repugnant to our democracy. It is  
11          absolutely ridiculous to have you taking our  
12          money, fighting the will of the people and now  
13          trying to resist what we voted for as a  
14          majority. If you want to take up a collection  
15          among yourselves to oppose it, we welcome that.

16          Finally, I want to address each of the  
17          maps very briefly. With regard to the  
18          Congressional delegation, we obviously know it  
19          doesn't make any sense for the Space Coast to  
20          also be in with Polk County. I don't know why  
21          that happened, but it makes no sense at all.

22          What really makes sense is for the Space  
23          Coast to have a Representative who represents  
24          this entire community. So I think we should  
25          have, the size of Brevard County is almost big



1           enough from its own Congressional District.

2           I think we should have one district and  
3           have the overload go wherever the maps  
4           otherwise dictate as we have to fill in around  
5           us, but I think we should be united with one  
6           member of Congress.

7           With regard to the Senate, it is not too  
8           difficult. We are only allowed two Senate  
9           seats, basically. We have more or less drawn  
10          horizontally which is an appropriate means in  
11          this county, and the only question becomes from  
12          a fairness standpoint, is it fair to everyone  
13          around us if we have two Representatives in the  
14          Senate.

15          We have two fine Representatives in the  
16          Senate and we are very well represented, but  
17          there is not much to do there because like I  
18          said, it is relatively simple, just how we  
19          divide it east, west.

20          The House unfortunately is indicative of  
21          gerrymandering. We have now taken all of these  
22          communities and with all deference to Mayor  
23          Goode, it makes no sense to take Palm Bay and  
24          minority populations in Cocoa and so forth and  
25          to split them into ribbons vertically where we

1           now divide it all up.

2                   In fact, if we take, I know we are trying  
3           to avoid in this process supposedly showing  
4           where Legislators live, but I went on the  
5           computer and looked it all up, and basically  
6           every Legislator in this community lives in the  
7           central corridor of the county more or less.

8                   There is no one from up in the Titusville  
9           in the northern part of the county. They don't  
10          have representation, and remarkably, Palm Bay  
11          is almost big enough to have its own House  
12          District. There is no one from Palm Bay.

13                  Certainly Palm Bay should be represented  
14          by a member of the House. Likewise, Melbourne,  
15          which is the second biggest community, there is  
16          no one who lives in Melbourne. So, again, that  
17          particular part of the county, it is my belief  
18          that there is not a single member of the  
19          delegation who lives south of the Pinetta  
20          Causeway on the mainland.

21                  So that entire pocket of people is not  
22          represented by any one who resides within their  
23          community. We all know as residents here that  
24          commonly because of the unique geography of our  
25          county, we refer to south county, central

1 county and northern county. I think that the  
2 House Districts need to sort of reflect that,  
3 and again, when we draw lines they need to be  
4 horizontal coming across, you know,  
5 thoroughfares there.

6 The only question that may be unique is,  
7 again, the beach side communities may have  
8 enough common interests that it makes sense on  
9 the beach side to run up the beach and then  
10 down Merritt Island or something like to sort  
11 of keep them -- they have the unique issues  
12 with regard to things like insurance coverage  
13 and protection from storms and so forth. They  
14 may be better represented by someone who  
15 represents those, but I thank you for your time  
16 and I thank you for your consideration, and I  
17 look forward to seeing the fruits of the  
18 process.

19 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Gunter,  
20 very helpful testimony. Earnest Wohlbold, did  
21 I get that correct, sir?

22 MR. WOHLBOLD: Yes, you did.

23 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And then following  
24 Mr. Wohlbold, William Whitehead, and then  
25 Dwayne Lyndgren.

1           Mr. Wohlbold, thank you for being here,  
2           and you are recognized.

3           MR. WOHLBOLD: Thank you. My main concern  
4           about this whole process is it is going to drag  
5           out so long that our representatives aren't  
6           going to have a chance to choose an office to  
7           run for. They will not know where they are  
8           running.

9           This seems to me to be an incumbent  
10          protection act the way you are working this.  
11          Thank you.

12          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you. And I might  
13          say, if we have time, we want to hear from the  
14          public, but if every member of the public has  
15          time within the time limits we have, we have  
16          made notes and we are going to get back to a  
17          number of the questions about timelines and  
18          other factual questions, not to get into a  
19          debate with people who may have different  
20          points of view, but rather just to provide some  
21          factual information that might provide some  
22          either reassurance or even cause greater  
23          concern.

24          Mr. Whitehead with the Brevard Chapter of  
25          the ACLU. Thank you very much for being here,

1           and we are anxious to hear your testimony.

2           MR. WHITEHEAD: Welcome, Legislators and  
3           concerned citizens. I am Bill Whitehead, I am  
4           a Board member of the Brevard Chapter of the  
5           ACLU.

6           Your appearance today at this hearing  
7           would suggest to some that you are earnestly  
8           seeking positive input from the citizenry, but  
9           most of you supported the passage of voter  
10          suppression laws and most of you supported the  
11          expenditure thus far of about a million dollars  
12          to fight the Fair Districts Amendments.

13          So a skeptic might conclude that you are  
14          conducting sham hearings in order to delay the  
15          creation of new districts and to make it  
16          difficult for challengers to compete against  
17          incumbents.

18          After all, you have had the census data  
19          for over four months and you are responsible  
20          for the creation of the new districts, not us.  
21          So why are you asking us to push the process.

22          Sixty-three percent of Florida voters  
23          voted for the creation of fair districts, and  
24          in the 2012 campaign coming up we want to make  
25          sure that we have fair contests or challenges

1 to be able to compete against incumbents, and  
2 certainly your delaying tactics are going to  
3 make it very difficult for challengers to be  
4 recognized by the public and to compete fairly  
5 against incumbents.

6 We want an end to redistricting delays, an  
7 end to the waste of taxpayer's money. After  
8 all, you have set aside something like \$30  
9 million for continuing to fight fair districts,  
10 and we want you to cease these self-serving  
11 tactics. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
13 Dwayne Lyndgren is next, and then followed,  
14 following Mr. Lyndgren we would like to hear  
15 from Mr. Stuart Gorin, and then Liz, I think it  
16 is Schillo, so if they will be on deck, please.

17 Mr. Lyndgren, thank you for coming and you  
18 are recognized before the Committee.

19 MR. LYNDGREN: Dwayne Lyndgren, Satellite  
20 Beach. I appreciate you all being here. I  
21 didn't realize that I should have come with  
22 prepared insults, but I will try to do better  
23 if I can make --

24 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: That is all right, you  
25 can get copies outside.

1           MR. LYNDGREN: I probably observed that if  
2           you had some maps here there would be an equal  
3           number of people here to tell you that this is  
4           a sham because you guys have already made up  
5           your minds of what you are going to do. So if  
6           I were you I wouldn't worry about it. You guys  
7           are doing a great job.

8           I think there was adequate warnings went  
9           out about what the, what Amendment 5 would do  
10          in the redistricting process, and what I would  
11          suggest is that you do that the way the  
12          Constitution says it, and then there are  
13          Federal laws that require you to make  
14          exceptions to what the Florida Constitution  
15          says, then do that second.

16          And on our own county, I notice that we  
17          have got, as you know, we have got five  
18          Representatives, including Representative  
19          Mayfield, we got two Congressmen, we got two  
20          Senators. That mix has served us very well.

21          Our representative, our legislative  
22          delegation works very well together. The, you  
23          can tell that by, and I have had meetings with  
24          all of them. I can tell that they get  
25          together. I would love very much to be able to

1 keep what we have got as far as total  
2 representation. I do realize that we have got  
3 some districts that are over populated.

4 I think Senate District 24 is about  
5 54,000, and the Congressional District by  
6 117,000 over. But when you look at our  
7 districts you will find that both of those  
8 districts, if you -- there is a lot of western  
9 movement out there.

10 I mean, District 15 goes all of the way --  
11 Congressional District 15 goes all the way to  
12 Polk County. So I would urge that you kind of  
13 carve off the western portions of those  
14 districts to see if we can't get to the numbers  
15 we are looking for there, because our real, I  
16 believe our real interest is more Brevard  
17 County, Indian River County than it is Brevard  
18 County, Polk County.

19 So I would really urge you to try to keep  
20 it as much together as we can in Brevard and  
21 Indian River County, and I really, I ask you to  
22 continue to do what you are doing. I think you  
23 guys are going to do a great job. I am looking  
24 forward to see how it comes out. Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, and thank you



1           for your service to our country, sir.

2           MR. LYNDGREN: I appreciate -- I didn't see  
3           anything about the Constitution, I didn't bring  
4           a copy of the Constitution although I did spend  
5           32 years of my life in the Army defending it,  
6           but I noticed there must be some Glen Beck  
7           people in the people in the crowd because they  
8           are bringing their constitutions with them and  
9           I appreciate that.

10          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You bet. There are  
11          several of us who do that. Stuart Gorin is  
12          next and following Mr. Gorin, Liz Schillo, and  
13          then Molly Tasker with the League of Women  
14          Voters.

15          Mr. Gorin, thank you for coming and we  
16          look forward to what you might have to share  
17          with us.

18          MR. GORIN: Thank your, good morning. My  
19          name the Stuart Gorin, I live in Viera. I am  
20          aware that Florida will be gaining new, two new  
21          Congressional Districts and that one of them  
22          may very well be incorporated in the central  
23          part of the state.

24          With that in mind I strongly believe that  
25          all of our county of Brevard should be in the

1 same Congressional District. It is a  
2 completely diversified county, economically,  
3 socially and ethnically and our Federal  
4 Legislators should be able to represent all  
5 Brevardians.

6 For a population parity, of course, this  
7 district could include all or part of a  
8 neighboring county as well.

9 At the state level I live in a legislative  
10 district that runs as a thin snake through two  
11 counties, forcing our Legislator to travel long  
12 distances to serve constituents.

13 I would like to see my district redrawn  
14 horizontally rather than vertically, keeping  
15 part of Brevard as one contiguous sector for  
16 our Legislator to serve. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
18 Next we will hear from Liz Schillo, I believe  
19 it is, and because we have had a number of  
20 people who have come in a little bit late and  
21 have asked to also be able to testify, we want  
22 to hear from them.

23 So I, you know, with respect to those who  
24 may be coming behind issues please try to limit  
25 your comments and then if you have extended

1        comments, we will take them for the record and  
2        distribute them to all members of the  
3        Committee.

4            Ms. Schillo, you are recognized. Thanks  
5        from being here.

6            MS. SCHILLO: I am Liz Schillo, and I am  
7        from Merritt Island here in Brevard County, and  
8        I just want to thank you for holding these  
9        hearings across the state and taking the public  
10       comments before you draw the district lines.

11           When you draw the district lines here in  
12       Brevard I would like to ask if you keep Merritt  
13       Island and Cape Canaveral, as well as Cocoa  
14       Beach areas together in the State House, Senate  
15       and Congressional districts.

16           These areas represent a coastal community  
17       of interest that we need to keep together to  
18       the greatest possible extent. Coastal areas  
19       like these have unique concerns like tourism  
20       and property insurance that need representation  
21       in the Legislature.

22           I think you should also split Brevard into  
23       north central and south sections in terms of  
24       State House seats and last year we all know  
25       Amendments 5 and 6 were passed to make the

1 district lines more fair.

2 After reading the Orlando Sentinel article  
3 this morning about your meeting yesterday and  
4 then going on-line and rereading the  
5 Amendments, it seems that the Amendments say  
6 that the districts didn't have to be compact,  
7 if they are minority districts.

8 To me this sounds like there are two  
9 standards of districting, one for minority  
10 seats and one for non minority seats. Is this  
11 true? Do minority seats have to be compact  
12 according to Amendments 5 and 6? If they don't  
13 issues then I think the seats surrounding  
14 minority districts won't be compact either  
15 because they have to fill in the borders of the  
16 non compact minority seats.

17 Isn't that what we have now? I am really  
18 hoping this committee can shed some light on  
19 this issue for me. In this case I must say I  
20 am a little disappointed because this is not  
21 what I thought when they were passed last fall.  
22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
24 ma'am. Next, Molly Tasker from the League of  
25 Women Voters, and then Katherine Smith, if you

1 will be on deck, and then William Joseph.

2 Ms. Tasker, thank you for coming today.

3 You are recognized.

4 MS. TASKER: Thank you. Good morning, I  
5 am Molly Tasker and I live in Melbourne,  
6 Florida, and I would like to say that I am a  
7 constituent on this issue of each and every one  
8 of you are that are sitting up there today.

9 I am part of the 63 percent of the Florida  
10 voters that want fair redistricting. I have to  
11 take my glasses off to read.

12 We directed, gave instructions, gave input  
13 to our Legislators that we want redistricting  
14 equal in population, compact and utilizing the  
15 existing geographic and political bounds to the  
16 extent possible.

17 We expected in response to that for our  
18 Legislators to come up with ideas and to come  
19 up with possible redistricting plans. That has  
20 not yet happened.

21 Our Legislature has said there is nothing  
22 you can do, the Constitution requires you to  
23 draw the districts during the 2012 session.

24 However, the Legislature will hold interim  
25 committee meetings from September through

1 December, you could use that time to present  
2 maps, you certainly are allowing some public  
3 comment but not on any of your proposals, and  
4 prepare final plans to submit to the full House  
5 and Senate before the Legislature convenes.

6 The Legislature could then bring the maps  
7 to the floor as a first order of business,  
8 voting on them by the end of session's first  
9 week, January the 13th. This would perhaps  
10 allow potential candidates to plan a little  
11 better and so forth.

12 Additionally, I think that you should  
13 perhaps utilize the staff that this committee  
14 has, if you as individual Representatives and  
15 State Senators don't want to do it, utilize  
16 your staff and have them go in and prepare some  
17 possible redistricting maps.

18 You shouldn't depend on the public to do  
19 your job. You should do it and we should have  
20 that done as soon as possible and put on your  
21 websites these potential redistricting plans.

22 Then we could, we, the public, those of  
23 us, the 63 percent that wanted redistricting  
24 could then comment on those potential  
25 possibilities.

1           I know we can comment and you put on the  
2       website what private institutions and private  
3       individuals have put forth, but I believe that  
4       is insufficient. I believe that you are  
5       dodging your job. We need to move along with  
6       it.

7           Without maps to comment on, the public  
8       does not have a real opportunity for meaningful  
9       comment on real maps. I know you have promised  
10      that you will have a two or three day comment  
11      period before any votes are taken on any  
12      proposal, but honestly, how can citizens  
13      hundreds of miles from Tallahassee review,  
14      analyze and comment on complicated statewide  
15      maps in two or three days.

16          So I encourage you to do this as soon as  
17      possible and to make it available to the  
18      general public as soon as possible and  
19      certainly probably we should all enlist the aid  
20      of the media in this to publicize the maps and  
21      so forth.

22          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Could I ask you to wrap  
23      up, Ms. Tasker, because we have a lot of  
24      people?

25          MS. TASKER: Yes, in fact, I am done, but

1 I do want to remind you that we, all of us, are  
2 the constituents of you, all of you, on this  
3 issue. So please be responsive.

4 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
5 Ms. Tasker. Next is Katherine Smith, Katherine  
6 Smith is next and then following Ms. Smith,  
7 William Joseph, and then Debra Gileco.

8 Katherine Smith, thank you for being here  
9 and I are recognized. You can move that down  
10 anyway you want to.

11 MS. SMITH: Yes. Thank you for being here  
12 today.

13 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Of course.

14 MS. SMITH: And listening to our ideas and  
15 concerns, and I will be very brief. As a  
16 citizen I am very interested in this process  
17 because I want to make sure that I am fairly  
18 represented for the next decade at both the  
19 State and Federal levels.

20 I have a few concerns I want to raise  
21 today. I don't think I mentioned, I am from  
22 Canaveral Groves here in Brevard County.

23 First of all, I dislike gerrymandering as  
24 much as anyone, but as I was reading Amendments  
25 5 and 6 which are now in the State



1           Constitution, I was becoming confused as to how  
2           they are going to be carried out when key words  
3           in the Amendments are not defined.

4           For example, what does the phrase,  
5           existing political boundaries mean? Are those  
6           boundaries the current legislative and  
7           Congressional seats? If Amendments 5 and 6  
8           were meant to end gerrymandering, then how can  
9           we use existing seats as political boundaries?

10           Are existing boundaries city boundaries?  
11           Has anyone looked at how city boundaries look  
12           lately? Melbourne, for example, is all over  
13           the place. Which brings me to another  
14           question.

15           What does it mean for a district it be  
16           drawn in a compact manner? Is there one  
17           standard scientific definition for compactness?  
18           Sometimes districts may be more compact if they  
19           are in one county and other times they may be  
20           more compact if they are drawn to include  
21           portions of several counties.

22           Won't this lack of definition potentially  
23           lead to lawsuits over how new maps are drawn?  
24           I think it could. I only raise these questions  
25           because I want to make sure my family and I are

1 fairly represented when new maps are drawn.

2 I think you have a very difficult task  
3 ahead of you that will be confusing and  
4 difficult to accomplish. Thank you again for  
5 your time.

6 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
7 Ms. Smith, and now William Joseph is next and  
8 then following Mr. Joseph, Debra Gileco, please  
9 be on deck, and then Maureen, I think it is  
10 Rupe.

11 Mr. Joseph, thank you for coming and you  
12 are recognized, sir.

13 MR. JOSEPH: I have lived in Brevard  
14 County with my wife and family for 40 years,  
15 and I have seen our Legislatures get  
16 progressively worse, and all I want to say  
17 today is, you have gotten the message, fair  
18 districts, present them to us, we will give you  
19 our input. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
21 Mr. Joseph. Debra Gileco is next and then will  
22 Maureen Rupe please be on deck, followed by  
23 Frank Montelione.

24 Ms. Gileco, thank you for coming? Is it  
25 Gileco?

1 MS. GILECO: Yes, it is Gileco.

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you.

3 MS. GILECO: I would just like to speak to  
4 you this morning on a subject that is very near  
5 and dear to my ear, and yes, I said ear.

6 During the last election cycle I  
7 personally spent time on the telephone. I  
8 spoke with over 2,500 people in regards to the  
9 Fair District Amendments.

10 So needless to say after the election was  
11 over with and the Amendments were passed, I  
12 felt like maybe I had done some good. I am  
13 sitting here now wondering, why did I do that?  
14 We are not being listened to.

15 But you know what, I am really not  
16 discouraged. I am a very tenacious woman, so  
17 when it is time for the next election cycle to  
18 roll around, I am going to make 5,000 calls and  
19 I am going to talk to people about this process  
20 and what we are doing right now, about the time  
21 that is being wasted, the money that is being  
22 wasted.

23 All I am asking for you to do is what the  
24 voters voted for. I just, I do not understand  
25 this process. I was at the event yesterday in

1 Orlando, and the common theme from all of the  
2 people here in the audience is the same, and I  
3 know that you have to be getting a little tired  
4 of hearing the same thing over and over and  
5 over again.

6 So please, listen to what we want. Make  
7 fair districts. That is all we are asking.  
8 Thank you very much.

9 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank your, Ms. Greek co,  
10 thanks for your public service in getting  
11 people out to vote.

12 Maureen Rupe and then Frank Montelione,  
13 and then Kathleen, I believe it is Dove. Is it  
14 Rupe, ma'am?

15 MS. RUPE: Yes.

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you for coming.

17 MS. RUPE: Maureen Rupe. I live in Port  
18 St. John. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.  
19 I am not unfamiliar with redistricting. I was  
20 on the county redistricting ten years ago and I  
21 am currently on the -- for this year's  
22 redistricting, but some of your process has me  
23 really concerned.

24 For start, I don't like meetings at 10:00  
25 a.m. when most of the work is disenfranchised

1 from it, but I believe your use of the  
2 software, I don't know how it can be feasibly  
3 used.

4 What if you have thousands or even  
5 millions of suggestions and maps? Do you have  
6 the resources to be considerate of every one  
7 that submits?

8 In addition, the software was developed  
9 for the people to submit their proposals. What  
10 about the people that cannot afford computers  
11 or do not understand using computers? I  
12 believe the redistricting timeline is  
13 unrealistic.

14 The last public meeting is on  
15 September the 1st, 2011 in Hendry County. The  
16 final districts don't have to be in place until  
17 June 2012. Once you past the final map in  
18 March, the map requires court preclearance and  
19 a Department of Justice review.

20 If the final maps are not ready until  
21 June, how can anyone really campaign if you  
22 don't know what district you have to campaign  
23 in?

24 Why when we are in dire straits  
25 financially, and more importantly, the people

1        have given you directions loud and clear at the  
2        ballot box, are you spending tax dollars to  
3        overturn the vote of the people and spend  
4        unnecessary money on this paid tour of the  
5        state, especially when the majority of people  
6        are telling you at these meetings to do your  
7        job and show us the maps.

8                I am looking for a reconfiguration of  
9        District 29. District 29 is a poster child to  
10       gerrymandering. It stretches from Mims in  
11       north Brevard to St. Lucie County. I was  
12       surprised there weren't a bit of Key West in  
13       it, it was so silly.

14               It is a -- it is a vertical misshape in  
15       configuration that served to give a seat to  
16       Representative Tom Feeney and everybody knows  
17       that.

18               This district is an example of why the  
19       people brought Amendment 5 and 6 to the ballot.  
20       I am asking you to follow the law, put aside  
21       your personal interests and do what is best for  
22       Florida. Thank you.

23               CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Rupe.  
24       Mr. Montelione, we have to impose a little  
25       tighter time frame.

1           MR. MONTELIONE:   Sure.

2           CHAIRMAN GAETZ:   We have had a number of  
3           additional people.   So now, just in respect to  
4           the people behind you, we are going to have to  
5           ask that comments verbally be limited to two  
6           minutes, but if you have additional comments  
7           that you want to present in writing, we will  
8           take all of them and make all of them available  
9           publically.

10          So with that said, Mr. Montelione, you are  
11          recognized for two minutes.

12          MR. MONTELIONE:   I would like first to say  
13          thank you to the Representatives, the Senators,  
14          Mr. President, Mr. Chairman, thank you for  
15          being here in Brevard and for doing a good job  
16          that you are doing.

17          I keep hearing words like 63 percent,  
18          words like input and feedback, and I don't, I  
19          was not one of the 63 percent, because my  
20          belief is that if the Constitutional Amendment  
21          is so confusing that you don't know what it  
22          actually says, then don't vote for it, and  
23          there was so many things in that Amendment that  
24          were not defined that, you know, to me it was  
25          not worth voting for.

1           As far as maps go, I was -- I was up as a  
2       volunteer to help draw those maps the last time  
3       and it was more confusing then than it is now.  
4       At least you are looking for input, not  
5       feedback, but input, in order to draw these  
6       maps.

7           The last time it was only the  
8       Representatives and the Senators that were  
9       drawing the maps. If you happen to be in  
10      Tallahassee you can give your input, but at  
11      that time it was only, it was input and you  
12      went and drew the maps and drew the lines.

13          As far as District 29, let me defend  
14      District 29 a little bit. The only things that  
15      lived in District 29 ten years ago were cows  
16      and pigs. There were a few places like  
17      Titusville and down in the south that did, but  
18      most of the people who lived in District 29  
19      were agriculturally based and that is why that  
20      district was drawn the way it was, to keep that  
21      group together.

22          I would like to see a map drawn for our  
23      county, for Brevard County, north, south,  
24      central and the beaches, because we all have  
25      different and separate interests and I think it



1       would work out best that way and I would like  
2       to thank both the Republicans and the Democrat  
3       Representatives and Senators that are here  
4       today. Thank you.

5               CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, sir. Next we  
6       will hear from Karen Dove and then Ann Ford,  
7       and then Steven Lindsley, and then Spence  
8       Guerin, and we would ask you to hold to two  
9       minutes if you can. Submit your written  
10      comments, we will certainly take them into  
11      account. You are recognized.

12             MS. DOVE: Okay, I just wanted to say, my  
13      name is Karen Dove and I am from Palm Bay and I  
14      did want to thank you all for holding these  
15      forums before deciding on the lines on the maps  
16      in accordance with the redistricting because of  
17      the census.

18             But I have to say, I kind of, everybody  
19      says that politics is local and I just couldn't  
20      help but thinking, I kept going back to, oh, I  
21      am watching the whole debate thing, where is  
22      Obama's plan, why do you already have one and  
23      it is the same thing, you complain when you  
24      have one, you complain when you don't.

25             I don't think you are ever going to make

1       everybody happy here. So I do appreciate you  
2       allowing us to have our input and I certainly  
3       agree with, it is best if we have areas of  
4       people that have common interests and I do  
5       think that the north, central, south and beach  
6       is a good idea.

7               I know that sometimes that is probably not  
8       practical, but I do think that that would be  
9       the best thing for Brevard. I have kind of  
10      tossed around back and forth whether I liked  
11      the idea that it was split between, you know,  
12      two people, but I am like, well, then you have  
13      two people, you know, working for you, so,  
14      maybe one is better. I don't know, but then  
15      again, you are the guys that were paid to do it  
16      and I am sure you are getting big, big bucks,  
17      right?

18             I have lived here for 25 years and I know  
19      that Brevard is a large county and I certainly  
20      believe it would be nice if we only had one  
21      Representative, as I said, but I am sure that  
22      two somehow gives us a little bit more clout if  
23      one doesn't think the way I do, maybe I can get  
24      one of them to at least listen to me.

25             We are unique with our space capabilities

1           and I think that that is imperative that we  
2           have as many people working to that as  
3           possible.

4           Tourism, of course, is the life blood of  
5           Florida, being we don't have an income tax, and  
6           I would clearly like to keep it that way.

7           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And Ms. Dove, could I ask  
8           you to summarize very quickly, please?

9           MS. DOVE: And so I just want to say,  
10          thanks for doing this and I am sure you are  
11          going to do a good job and I am going to keep  
12          my eye on-line and I appreciate what you are  
13          doing.

14          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
15          ma'am, for your testimony. Next is Ann Ford  
16          and following Ms. Ford, Steven Lindsley and  
17          then Spence Guerin.

18          Ms. Ford, thank you for being here. You  
19          are recognized.

20          REPRESENTATIVE FORD: Good morning, I am  
21          Ann Ford. I live in Port St. John. I have  
22          been a Brevard County resident for over 30  
23          years.

24          First of all, I would really like to thank  
25          you all for making the time to gather citizen

1       input before you begin redrawing the district  
2       lines.

3               District 29 where I live is probably one  
4       of the most distorted districts in the state of  
5       Florida. It really needs work, it is over 80  
6       miles long, some places it is about a mile  
7       wide.

8               If we were still rural, that might make  
9       sense, but we have some high concentrations of  
10      populations. So I would like to see a district  
11      that is smaller and more compact.

12              I welcome the opportunity to play on-line  
13      and I do have the map that I may consider  
14      submitting that.

15              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Please do submit it.

16              MS. FORD: I would like to talk about  
17      Amendments 5 and 6. I was very glad that they  
18      were passed. I believe that they are going to  
19      give you some additional guidance in the task  
20      before you, but I have some concerns about  
21      them.

22              Some of the key language I don't think has  
23      been defined clearly, words like compact, words  
24      like existing political boundaries, existing  
25      geographical boundaries.

1           In other words, like practicable,  
2           feasible. Have these words been defined in  
3           this application? If they have, how so, and by  
4           who?

5           One final comment on the Amendments. If I  
6           understand it right, a district will not have  
7           to be compact if it is in direct conflict with  
8           the Voting Rights Act. So will some districts  
9           be compact, other districts won't?

10          Again, the concerns that I have, while I  
11          think the intentions are good, is there is some  
12          vagueness, there is some exemptions and  
13          loopholes that I think may prevent the best  
14          possible outcome for District 29.

15          Clearly you have a very challenging task  
16          before you that I don't envy, but I am here  
17          simply today to ask you to do your very best  
18          for District 29 and all of Florida. Thank you.

19          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
20          ma'am. We appreciate it. Steve Lindsley is  
21          our next speaker and following Steve, Spence  
22          Guerin and then if Juanita Baker will be  
23          prepared to come forward.

24          Mr. Lindsley, thank you for taking your  
25          time today. We look forward to your testimony.

1           MR. LINDSLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I  
2       appreciate all of your time and it is nice to  
3       see so many Legislators out here. I know it is  
4       a thankless job. You don't get paid near  
5       enough as far as I am concerned, but thanks for  
6       taking the time to receive our input.

7           I think this is the right way to go,  
8       taking our input before you get to the maps. I  
9       did try the tool and I did find it difficult to  
10      use, but I am reinspired, I will try it again  
11      and I am glad to have the opportunity to have  
12      that input.

13          I would agree with those of us around that  
14      have said that we need to have compact  
15      districts. What we have now are these three  
16      headed monsters and I don't think we need to  
17      have those. They need to be compact. I don't  
18      think they need to be necessarily drawn  
19      arbitrary based on the attitude and longitude,  
20      but they need to be compact and they should not  
21      take any sort of, you know, demographic into  
22      account.

23          You shouldn't group them based on  
24      minorities. You should just, you know, base  
25      them on community. Let's see, sorry, I didn't

1       have prepared remarks but I heard -- anyway, I  
2       think compact is the key. Compact is much  
3       better than being driven off of any kind of  
4       demographic. I am an unapologetic  
5       conservative.

6               I don't have anything to worry about as  
7       far as having a compact district. Conservatism  
8       is a winning argument. I think we can, we  
9       don't have to be afraid of having three headed  
10      -- we don't need three headed monsters to be  
11      able to win the argument, and I am ready for  
12      compactness. Thanks.

13             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
14      Sir, we appreciate your testimony. Spence  
15      Guerin is next, and then Juanita Baker, if you  
16      will be on deck, followed by Jim Tulley. Did I  
17      get that right, Mr. Guerin?

18             MR. GUERIN: My name is Spence Guerin. It  
19      is nice to have citizen input. Who can argue  
20      with that? I have heard a lot about  
21      transparency. I kind of question this  
22      transparency.

23             I saw the hearings at The Village. No  
24      Legislator at those hearings, despite the  
25      questions from the audience, no Legislator,

1 including yourself, Senator Gaetz, was  
2 forthcoming about the amount of money the  
3 Legislature has spent and continues to spend, I  
4 presume, on the lawsuit having to do with  
5 Amendment 6.

6 According to the St. Petersburg Times, the  
7 Legislature has spent about half of the  
8 \$700,000 already spent on redistricting, about  
9 half of that has been spent on Amendment 6  
10 lawsuit, according to the St. Peter Times, who  
11 got that information from a spokesman for the  
12 Florida House of Representatives.

13 I heard people ask Senator Hays if he had  
14 voted for it, and with cleaver answers that  
15 actually were not transparent, they are were  
16 avoiding answering the question which the  
17 people wanted to know, are you spending money  
18 on fighting this lawsuit, and actually, on  
19 fighting this Amendment 6, and actually the  
20 answer is yes, you have spent half of \$700,000  
21 on that lawsuit, and no Legislator at that  
22 hearing had the whatever it takes to stand up  
23 and say simply, I am sorry to say, yes, we  
24 have.

25 And yourself, too, Senator Gaetz, didn't



1       admit that, and I think that just contributes  
2       to continued citizen distrust in our  
3       Legislature.

4             If you had maps here for us to review,  
5       like are being produced by citizens, then we  
6       would be able to comment on them and that is a  
7       really, it needs to be done.

8             To have citizen input is great, but we  
9       need the maps to comment on bottom line. Thank  
10      you.

11            CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Guerin,  
12      and again, if we, if we have time after  
13      everyone has had a chance to speak, albeit  
14      briefly, we will try to get back to some of the  
15      questions that have been raised, factual  
16      questions.

17            Ms. Baker, Juanita Baker is next, followed  
18      by Jim Tulley, followed by Elizabeth Nall.  
19      Ms. Baker, you are recognized.

20            MS. BAKER: Yes. I am Juanita Baker from  
21      Indian River County. It is a distance up here,  
22      but my Representatives live even further up  
23      north.

24            Sorry, I have to put on my glasses. The  
25      eyes of the nation are really upon Florida.

1       This is a historic opportunity to shine, to  
2       raise Florida as an example to others to strive  
3       to live up to the ideals of our country  
4       liberty, justice, equality for all.

5             The people of Florida have spoken, not  
6       just Democrats, not just Republicans, but  
7       everyone.    The great majority of people want a  
8       fair system to be devised so that everyone's  
9       vote counts.

10            I am afraid that I want that, too.  I want  
11       there to be a chance that the district in which  
12       I vote will be someone who will represent my  
13       interests.  I need to be able to be nearer my  
14       Representative to be able to talk to them.

15            You do have a very difficult job ahead.  
16       And thus, it is a danger of being accused of  
17       being unfair, which may cost dearly in the  
18       future elections.

19            You will gain much admiration if instead  
20       you can raise, rise above the party and devise  
21       a map that is rationale, logical and based on  
22       areas where everyone is fairly represented.

23            Now, you may, your map and website really  
24       demonstrates the tedious, the difficult of this  
25       task.  It is really overwhelming for anyone,

1           and I am very computer literate and it is very  
2           frustrating to work with that map.

3           You also, you all have that are involved  
4           really have a choice to strive for your best,  
5           your highest ideals, or resort to being  
6           pressured again.

7           I appreciate this kind of input, but, you  
8           know, there is a better way, there is a better  
9           way to make this process to draw lines that are  
10          fair for everyone.

11          California has a process of having a  
12          committee. I don't believe that. I think you  
13          need experts. We base our decisions on science  
14          these days. We want to do the best by what is  
15          logical and rational.

16          Well, the political science students took  
17          six weeks. I would imagine that it would be  
18          best to have you take \$500,000, I am sure you  
19          could get many scientists willing to spend  
20          three months to make a good map that is  
21          demographically representative of people.

22          We have a wonderful state here with many  
23          diverse people. We need to have each of those  
24          groups representatives so that they have a fair  
25          chance that their vote really counts. You can

1       have this committee of scientists, social  
2       scientists know the population. We have  
3       population scientists, we have geographers --

4               CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Ma'am.

5               MR. BAKER: We could get together and have  
6       a great group of experts that are nonpartisan  
7       to make this map drawing process. Then you can  
8       have the input from every citizen, too, both  
9       processes you need citizen input. Thank you.

10              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
11       ma'am. We appreciate your testimony. Jim  
12       Tulley and Elizabeth Nall, and I don't mean in  
13       any way to be overly firm, but I am going to  
14       have to interrupt you when you hit two minutes,  
15       because we have a bunch of people who still  
16       want their voices heard. Mr. Tulley, you are  
17       recognized.

18              MR. TULLEY: Good afternoon, my name is  
19       Jim Tulley. I am the Mayor of Titusville, but  
20       I am not here speaking for that constituency, I  
21       am here for myself.

22              I find gerrymandering completely  
23       offensive. I am an unabashed Conservative but  
24       I want to see people elected on the strength of  
25       their ideas, not because lines are drawn in a

1 particular way.

2 You just have to look around the room and  
3 see what we have right now. I want to see our  
4 elected leaders elected on the strength of  
5 their ideas, on their ability to lead and build  
6 consensus and certainly most important on the  
7 content of their character.

8 I have been playing around with My  
9 District Builder for a couple of weeks now and  
10 I have learned three things.

11 Number one, you don't have an easy task.  
12 Number two, compact districts can be built, I  
13 have done it. And number three, on this notion  
14 that either a county or a city ought to be in  
15 the same district, there is two sides to that  
16 argument.

17 If you put a city or a county all in one  
18 district, that district only gets one vote. If  
19 you divide it up into multiple districts, then  
20 it may get more than one vote, but those votes  
21 are diluted by the other interests that are  
22 incorporated into those numerous districts.

23 Either way you do it is going to be viewed  
24 as unfair by somebody. So the bottom line,  
25 wherever you draw lines you are going to be

1 criticized.

2 And so I what would propose to you is that  
3 you inject a certain amount of scientific  
4 randomness into the process. Seriously, that  
5 you draw compact contiguous districts that are  
6 somewhat random and don't force you to make  
7 decisions that result in things like this or  
8 have resulted in things like this in the past.

9 You are at a historic moment in time. Our  
10 democracy has been the life of the world for  
11 200 years. It started out imperfectly and we  
12 have made gradual steps to better it.

13 You are at a rare moment in time where you  
14 can make another historic step. You can help  
15 us get past this notion that race, ethnicity,  
16 religion, national origin are important for  
17 voting districts. They are not, we have got to  
18 get past that, otherwise, why don't we build,  
19 why don't we build districts based on gender or  
20 age.

21 It is all ridiculous. Inject some  
22 randomness into it. Stephen Covey says we  
23 should begin with the end in mind. Well, the  
24 end is easy.

25 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And the end has been

1 arrived at. Thank you for very much,  
2 Mr. Mayor.

3 MR. TULLEY: Okay, thank you, do the right  
4 thing.

5 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Elizabeth Nall is  
6 recognized next, and following Ms. Nall,  
7 Richard Smith, and after Mr. Smith, Judy  
8 Strahan.

9 Ms. Nall, thank you for coming today and  
10 you are recognized.

11 MS. NALL: Hello. I am a public school  
12 teacher and the reason I mention that is  
13 because this is the last meeting I will be able  
14 to attend.

15 I think you should think, take into  
16 consideration proposals to have these in the  
17 evening if you can so that more people could  
18 attend them.

19 On the onset, this looks beautiful. You  
20 know, an open air forum, but I think really it  
21 is disingenuous because you don't have the  
22 maps.

23 Basically when you get the maps, then is  
24 when we are going to have the most important  
25 input. We need to have the maps. Once you get

1 the maps up there, then all of these people who  
2 are here speaking could tell you what is wrong  
3 with that.

4 Are you going to have all of these  
5 meetings after we get the maps? I don't think  
6 so, because I don't think your calendar allows  
7 for it.

8 We need the maps now and we need to get  
9 rid of this ridiculous lawsuit and those of you  
10 who are involved in the lawsuit should come  
11 forward and tell us who you are. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Nall. And  
13 Richard Smith, with the Brevard Federation of  
14 Teachers, then Judith Strahan and then Milly  
15 Krause.

16 Mr. Smith, thank you for coming today.

17 MR. SMITH: Hi, guys. Time means  
18 everything. I have an Aunt Jean who is pretty  
19 much a cleaning freak. I was having breakfast  
20 one time at her house, I had a bite or two  
21 eggs, dropped my napkin, this literally  
22 happened, I bent over to get the napkin, she  
23 already had my plate scraped and she was  
24 washing it in the sink. I didn't get a fair  
25 shot at that breakfast.



1           I can't read into your hearts what you are  
2           as people. That is not for me to do and I  
3           can't do it. I am not going to try to do it.  
4           So motivation is not something I want to  
5           ascribe to you. However, actions are something  
6           I can see.

7           I teach physics, I understand about data  
8           and behaviors, and I understand that there is  
9           difficulties with the precincts. I understand  
10          that and I understand that some time in early  
11          November this could be done.

12          It will be obvious to all of us citizens  
13          that if these maps are drawn early November,  
14          and then acted on in January, so the maximum  
15          amount of time can be provided to people to run  
16          for these districts, then you will have done  
17          your job.

18          I am thinking about that young man that  
19          stood up here and talked about the sacrifice of  
20          people who fought for freedom. I hope you will  
21          think about that, too. Timing is everything.  
22          Thank you.

23          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
24          Mr. Smith. Excellent points. Judith Strahan  
25          is next, and then Milly Krause.

1           Ms. Strahan, are you still here, ma'am?

2           All right, we will pass her.

3           Milly Krause, Ms. Krause, thank you for  
4           coming today, and then Earnestine Aaron and  
5           then after Ms. Aaron, Kathleen Jaskolski,  
6           Jaskolski, I believe.

7           Ms. Krause, thank you. You are  
8           recognized.

9           MS. KRAUSE: Yes, good morning. I am from  
10          Cocoa Beach, and I just want to be brief. I  
11          wanted to mention, when I was in high school,  
12          this is something 40 years ago, I remember  
13          discussing gerrymandering and for some reason  
14          up until, you know, maybe 20 years ago I was  
15          thinking it was illegal, and I am just amazed  
16          at this time and place in history that we still  
17          have gerrymandering.

18          And I would like to say maybe it is not  
19          illegal as far as the law, but it should be  
20          illegal ethically and we should really be  
21          working to preserve our democracy and we are  
22          not when we continue such practices.

23          I know among my friends we have talked, we  
24          are really concerned about our democracy. We  
25          don't feel like we are being represented.

1       There is many things that have happened, but  
2       that is not the purpose of what I am here for  
3       right now.

4             The other thing is I wanted to say that I  
5       really do believe in geographically compact  
6       districts, and I don't see any question with  
7       that, compact means compact.

8             It is altogether, and I have a friend who  
9       lives in Cocoa Beach, four streets from me.  
10       She is not in my District 30. I have a friend  
11       in Palm Beach who is in my district. A friend  
12       in Melbourne who is not. That is not  
13       geographically compact and that does not bring  
14       people together.

15            And then my final point I wanted to  
16       mention was about the ability to do and create  
17       fair districts. We have laws and some of those  
18       laws are helpful and some of them do appear to  
19       hamper us and I wanted to reiterate not on the  
20       same tune exactly, but with the Mayor of  
21       Titusville said.

22            There are some, you know, we are not doing  
23       it on age. We are not doing it on this and  
24       that, but we do have some discriminatory  
25       problems, and I would like to try to look at

1       those road blocks and see how we can look at  
2       those road blocks and still create fair  
3       districts. Thank you very much for your time.

4               CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Krause.  
5       Now, Earnestine Aaron, Ms. Aaron? We will pass  
6       Ms. Aaron. In that case, Kathleen Jaskolski.  
7       She left.

8               All right, Valerie Brant-Wilson with Alpha  
9       Kappa Alpha. Is that you, ma'am? Okay, we  
10      look forward to your testimony in a moment.

11              Mary Greene, if you will be on deck,  
12      please, and then Ken Greene, if you will be  
13      prepared after Mary Greene.

14              Ms. Brant-Wilson, thanks for coming today.  
15      You are recognized.

16              MS. BRANT-WILSON: Good afternoon. I want  
17      to thank all of you for being here and I also  
18      want to thank Florida Channel because with  
19      Florida Channel I was able to actually hear a  
20      lot of the public hearings and the same things  
21      are being generated.

22              My questions are, and first, Alpha Kappa  
23      Alpha does not, is a nonpartisan organization  
24      which means that we only look at policies. We  
25      did not push one way or another, which your

1 lines should be drawn.

2           However, as a private citizen, I vote in  
3 Brevard County. I also would like to think  
4 about not just you, the people, the will of the  
5 people who are saying that they want it to be  
6 common with agriculture, common with the Space  
7 Coast, common with whatever geographical, the  
8 beach area.

9           We as African-Americans, me personally, I  
10 want representation that looks like me as well  
11 up there, and I do, I am a little nervous.

12           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You are doing fine.

13           MS. BRANT-WILSON: But I do want the young  
14 gentleman who stated about economics, here in  
15 the Space Coast we know that our jobs are  
16 diminishing. So therefore, we want  
17 representation who is going to actually push  
18 for economics and that is going to generate.

19           We also know that this is a tourist area.  
20 We want that as well, and I work in Indian  
21 River County, which means that I commute. So  
22 therefore I have the pulse of both communities,  
23 and I am like some of the Representatives here  
24 who have to travel and have to listen to  
25 everybody, but some of my concerns are, well,

1           when you get back to Tallahassee --

2                   CHAIRMAN GAETZ:   Ma'am, could we ask you  
3           to bring it in for a landing because we have a  
4           lot of people behind you?

5                   MS. BRANT-WILSON:   My concerns are, I have  
6           two questions.   When you start your timeline,  
7           when you open up in January, will the public  
8           still have input to help formalize the lines  
9           that are going to be drawn?

10                   Two, at what point are you going to cut  
11           off public input so that you can do your job so  
12           that we can quickly get it done?

13                   And then thirdly, I would like to see that  
14           we as the public get a chance to review what  
15           you have.

16                   CHAIRMAN GAETZ:   Thank you, ma'am, very,  
17           very much.   Next is Mary Greene and then  
18           following Mary Greene, Ken Greene, and  
19           following Mr. Greene, Bob, I think it is Wille,  
20           Bob Will or Wille.

21                   Ms. Greene, thank you all for being here.

22                   MS. GREENE:   Thank you all for being here,  
23           my name is Mary Greene, I am a resident of Palm  
24           Bay.   I have lived here in Florida for about 22  
25           years.

1           I have some concerns like many other  
2       people have already mentioned about this whole  
3       process. I have gone on-line to try and look  
4       at the maps and to try and work with them. I  
5       am not a computer geek, so it was not an easy  
6       process at all for the average citizen to be  
7       able to come up with a map to present to you.

8           My also -- one of my other concerns is the  
9       fact that that is your job, not mine. I am not  
10      getting paid for that. I happen to be  
11      disabled. I volunteer a lot throughout my  
12      community.

13           I expect you to do the job that you are  
14      getting paid to do and so far I haven't seen  
15      that happen. I have been following this  
16      process on-line and in the newspaper as you  
17      have traveled throughout the state. By now I  
18      would think you have probably been presented  
19      with some maps that citizens and organizations  
20      have given you, that you probably could have  
21      had some suggestions up here already from  
22      people who have already come up with these  
23      maps, but they are not here.

24           So we have been presented with nothing.

25           This is your job, not our job as citizens and I

1       resent that you are throwing it back into our  
2       laps and expecting us to do the job you are  
3       being paid for. Thank you.

4               CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
5       Ms. Greene. And Ken Greene is next. Ken, we  
6       just heard from your boss.

7               MR. GREENE: You know it. Do you want to  
8       argue with her?

9               CHAIRMAN GAETZ: No, sir, boss.

10              MR. GREENE: I haven't won a battle yet, I  
11       have been married 30 years. I am still waiting  
12       for my first victory.

13              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Well, so have I and I  
14       have learned it is better to be happy than  
15       right.

16              MR. GREENE: I will remember that there.

17              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You are recognized, sir.

18              MR. GREENE: Okay, thank you.

19       Representatives, thank you for taking your  
20       time, I know you all have busy schedules. I am  
21       here as Ken Greene, not as an elected official  
22       from the City of Palm Bay. So what I am  
23       expressing now is my personal views.

24              I was at a meeting where there were some  
25       elected officials from Tallahassee and they



1       made a general statement, and I generally give  
2       people the benefit of the doubt until you prove  
3       otherwise.

4               When this person got up and spoke, he, I  
5       will name the agenda, and I will stop right  
6       there, made a comment that the Democratic party  
7       has \$43 million in their till to fight this  
8       issue.

9               I was giving him the benefit of the doubt  
10      until he opened that statement or made that  
11      statement. In my mind, you are, your job is,  
12      and I know a smaller portion of it, is to  
13      gather the facts, make an informed decision and  
14      represent the people of your district.

15              Anything else is above and beyond. And in  
16      my mind, when I hear an elected official who is  
17      going to be making a decision on it and tells  
18      me information I don't even know about, nor did  
19      I really want to know about, but when you fight  
20      the system with our own money on the tax  
21      dollars and you have a bottomless pit, because  
22      it is our tax dollars, I have a problem with  
23      that.

24              I know the job is difficult. I know you  
25      make 51 percent of the people happy and

1       49 percent you make unhappy, but you have been  
2       given a mandate of 63 percent of the people  
3       which tells me the writing is on the wall.

4               One individual just said it before, you  
5       have the opportunity to go down in history in  
6       the state of Florida as doing it right, and I  
7       implore you as a citizen, please do it right.  
8       Thank you.

9               CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much. Bob  
10       Wille, or Wille is next and then Carolyn, I  
11       think it is Norton, 1365 west Island Club, and  
12       then John, and I apologize, it is my eyes,  
13       John, not your writing, okay, you know who you  
14       are.

15              Bob, you are recognized, thanks for coming  
16       today.

17              MR. WILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I  
18       would like to introduce myself as Bob Wille, I  
19       am a resident of Titusville. Tom Goodson is my  
20       Representative, Thad Altman is my Senator.

21              I have been a resident here in Brevard  
22       County for 30 years. I live in Titusville but  
23       I commute to Melbourne. I was an elected  
24       official in the south part of the county, so I  
25       feel a sense of being a resident of all of

1       Brevard County and over these past 30 years,  
2       and I got the sense that these meetings were  
3       for the purpose of you to glean information  
4       from us so that you could do your job and  
5       create these maps and that is what I am here  
6       and prepared to do.

7               I don't take lightly your investment and  
8       your time and energy to come from all parts of  
9       the state and very busy schedules to come here  
10      and I appreciate it. So I will leave it at  
11      that.

12             I start, you know, with communities of  
13      interest. Being in Representative Goodson's  
14      District 29, it has been referred to a number  
15      of times here today, and so from that  
16      standpoint I am going to reference what I  
17      believe is, at least in Titusville where I  
18      reside, there is probably more of a community  
19      of interest to the west than to the south. So,  
20      you know, I will preface my comments from that.

21             Economic, transportation, educational and  
22      social connections, we have state routes from  
23      Brevard County of 46, 50, 192, as well as the  
24      beach line that connect us east, west. We have  
25      synergies between Port Canaveral, Orlando

1 International Airport, and the Space Center.

2 We have a new medical city in Lake Nona  
3 that is closer to Titusville than where I  
4 commute to work in Melbourne. So I offer that  
5 as testimony in this discussion in drawing your  
6 lines.

7 We have a close association with the  
8 University of Central Florida and our Brevard  
9 Community College here. Brevard's beaches --

10 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And, Bob, I am going to  
11 have ask you to summarize if you can because of  
12 the large number of people behind you.

13 MR. WILLE: And I appreciate that and I  
14 will. So having made those comments I just  
15 would like to identify that we have more of an  
16 interest to the west and I would like you to  
17 consider that when drawing those lines, okay.

18 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
19 Mr. Wille, I appreciate your testimony.  
20 Carolyn, is it Norton?

21 MS. NORTON: Yes, it is.

22 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And following Ms. Norton,  
23 John, you are going to have to help me with  
24 your name when you get up here, and a second,  
25 John Schantzen, please be on deck. Ms. Norton,

1           thanks for coming.

2           MS. NORTON:   Good afternoon, I live in  
3           Vero Beach and Indian River County, and I met  
4           with a number of people today to car pool and  
5           we met in front of Nike, and in the words of  
6           Nike, we are asking you to please do the right  
7           thing.

8           I am a transplant and I have been here  
9           about 11 years.   I am proud to be an American  
10          and I am proud to live in a democracy.

11          Unfortunately, in the time that I have  
12          lived here I have seen the people running this  
13          state do some things that at times have been  
14          ridiculous, incompetent and unfortunately,  
15          unethical.

16          My friends back up north sometimes send me  
17          e-mails and say, Carolyn, please come back, you  
18          have got to get out of there.   I want to be --

19          CHAIRMAN GAETZ:   Don't leave, Carolyn, we  
20          want you to stay.

21          MS. NORTON:   I don't want to leave.

22          CHAIRMAN GAETZ:   It will get better.

23          MS. NORTON:   I love it here and I am  
24          asking you to follow the will of the people,  
25          they voted overwhelmingly in support of these

1       Amendments, make me proud to be a Floridian, do  
2       the right thing.

3               CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you so much for  
4       your testimony. John, I apologize, how do I  
5       pronounce your last time?

6               MR. TITKANICH: Titkanich, everybody  
7       butchers it.

8               CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Titkanich, I should have  
9       known that.

10              MR. TITKANICH: I forget it on days.

11              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Now, thank you so much  
12       for being here, you are recognized.

13              MR. TITKANICH: Well, actually, we would  
14       like to thank you for coming here to Brevard  
15       County to listen to us. I commend you for  
16       taking that opportunity to solicit public input  
17       prior to letting the computer technocrats and  
18       the GIS technicians go behind the closed doors  
19       and start drawing the lines.

20              You certainly have a heavy responsibility  
21       to ensure fair representation and I don't think  
22       I or anybody really should be commenting or  
23       condemning your efforts until the results of  
24       those maps are out, you know.

25              I mean, you have a process set up. It is

1 providing public input, that is foundational to  
2 local government, get public input first and  
3 then put policy out or put, you know, what you  
4 are proposing out. So I think you are doing  
5 the right thing.

6 With that being said I would like -- I  
7 would hope that you would recognize that the  
8 population shift to central Florida and  
9 certainly hope you strive to ensure fair and  
10 equitable representation for our region.

11 You know, take into account the  
12 communities and the uniqueness that our  
13 community, Brevard County. I echo what  
14 Rockledge said in terms of, you know, I like  
15 the idea, Senator, three districts or three  
16 Representatives, or Mayor Goode, the more the  
17 better. I mean, we are being, you know, it  
18 gives us better representation.

19 Finally, just exercise that same faith,  
20 the extraordinary faith that our founders did  
21 when they set up this form of government and  
22 they put this system of democracy that we have  
23 in place.

24 I have faith in you, I know, I work for  
25 the City of Cocoa, we are looking forward to

1       what you have to do. We enjoy working with you  
2       and we again appreciate your time to come here  
3       and listen to the people first. Thank you so  
4       much.

5               CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, sir. We  
6       appreciate your testimony. John Schantzen is  
7       next and then Slullz, I think it is Phupps and  
8       then Jerel Banks, please be on deck.

9               Mr. Schantzen, did I pronounce your name  
10      right, sir?

11              MR. SCHANTZEN: Yes, you did. Thank you,  
12      Senator.

13              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You are recognized.

14              MR. SCHANTZEN: Okay, thank you. I  
15      appreciate you being here. I am a voter in the  
16      districts represented by Senator Haridopolos  
17      and Senator Crisafuli, and I dare Senator  
18      Crisafuli to drive from one end of the district  
19      to the other without crossing another district.

20              He can't, because he can't go through the  
21      Space Center to get there. If he could go all  
22      the way up and then back down then he could  
23      probably get to his Orlando and Orange County  
24      district.

25              Similarly, with my Congressional District,



1       they gerrymandered my Congressional District so  
2       that Tom Feeney could have a seat in Congress.  
3       That is wrong.

4             You are all sworn to uphold the  
5       Constitution of the State of Florida. I trust  
6       you have the same feeling about the  
7       Constitution of the United States.

8             Remember your religious roots when you  
9       take that oath and do what is right and not go  
10      in there with an R or a D in front of your  
11      name, but go in there blindly, representing the  
12      people who elected you, representing the  
13      63 percent of the population that changed our  
14      Constitution, the one you are sworn to uphold,  
15      and let's do it in a manner that is expeditious  
16      so that anybody who seeks to run for office  
17      which our democracy encourages has the  
18      opportunity to know where they are running.

19            Let's not wait until the last week of the  
20      Legislature like we do with the budget and so  
21      nobody knows what is happening. Let's get it  
22      out, get it done early so that people when they  
23      have to qualify, are knowing what they are  
24      qualifying in, okay. Thank you.

25            CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

1 Shirley, I think it is Shirley Plupps, did I  
2 get that right, ma'am?

3 MS. PLUPPS: You sure did.

4 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And following Ms. Plupps,  
5 Jerel Banks and then Renie Parsons, or Renie  
6 Parsons.

7 Ms. Plupps, thank you for coming today and  
8 we are anxious to hear from you.

9 MS. PLUPPS: Okay. I am representing the  
10 North Brevard Republican Club and the Space  
11 Coast Republican Winners Club and I would like  
12 to echo the previous comments of speakers.

13 The importance of keeping districts  
14 geographically together cannot be over  
15 estimated. My District, number 29, again, is  
16 represented by Tom Goodson, and runs from Mims,  
17 south to St. Lucie County. It looks like a  
18 Rorschach blot.

19 This makes representation of the varied  
20 interests of diverse populations a very  
21 difficult task. It is also expensive, because  
22 extra district offices must be established to  
23 serve the electorate.

24 So let's make an effort to draw lines that  
25 will serve the contiguous population. I know

1       you have heard this many times today before,  
2       but constant dripping, where is the stone?  
3       This is another drip dropping on you. Thank  
4       you.

5               CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you. Jerel Banks  
6       and after Ms. Banks, I then it is Renie or  
7       Renie Parsons and then John Schmidt.

8               Mr. Banks, thank you for being here.

9               MR. BANKS: And good morning to everyone,  
10       I am a little nervous.

11              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You are doing good.

12              MR. BANKS: And I am thinking about  
13       running for office and I can't run for office  
14       being nervous, but anyway.

15              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You should see us.

16              MR. BANKS: But anyway, I really would  
17       like to thank you for coming out and I am in  
18       Senator -- who? I am in Senator Altman's  
19       district, yes, and also -- huh, and also I am  
20       in Representative Goodson's district, also, but  
21       I would just like to say that you really need  
22       to get this done so if people do decide to run  
23       for office, they will have a chance to know  
24       exactly who to go to, if they decide to raise  
25       funds, because you may raise funds thinking it

1 is going to be one way and it is not.

2 So I would really appreciate it if you  
3 hurried it along and also if you are the ones  
4 that are supposed to be making the maps, make  
5 the maps and then bring it to the people,  
6 because, you know, then we can have a voice  
7 about it. So that is all I have to say. Thank  
8 you.

9 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
10 Mr. Banks, you did very well. And then, I  
11 apologize.

12 MS. PARSONS: Renie.

13 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Renie, Renie Parsons, and  
14 then John Schmitt and then, boy, I am going to  
15 have a hard time with this, somebody at 160-C  
16 something Trail, and I apologize to that lady  
17 or gentlemen.

18 Ms. Parsons, you are recognized.

19 MS. PARSONS: Thank you so much. I will  
20 try not to repeat what has already been said.  
21 I am Renie Parsons from Vero Beach, Florida,  
22 and I was one of 63 percent of Indian River  
23 County residents who voted in support of  
24 Amendments 5 and 6.

25 That is really important for you to know,

1           because Indian River County is not exactly a  
2           Baskin of Democratic party or populism.  
3           Sixty-three percent of Indian River County  
4           support Amendments 5 and 6. So I don't feel I  
5           should have to be here today supporting or  
6           defending Amendments 5 and 6, but here we are.

7           The voters have already spoken and you  
8           really don't need our feedback because we don't  
9           have the demographic information. We don't  
10          have the necessary data that it is going to  
11          take to put those maps together, and we expect  
12          you folks to do the job.

13          It is a big job. You have a lot of  
14          responsibility because as the Washington Post  
15          has said, Florida is the number one state to  
16          watch with regard to redistricting, because of  
17          the 2012 election, and we all know what that  
18          means.

19          So the fate of the country really is in  
20          your hands. I don't think that is overly  
21          dramatic to say that. And it is nice to have a  
22          public hearing, but it is really unnecessary,  
23          because we really need you folks to move along  
24          and do your job, but where are the maps?

25          Well, we know where the maps are.

1       Apparently I have read that some State  
2       legislative -- Legislator was adopted to  
3       withhold the maps. Well, that doesn't sound  
4       very democratic to me. That doesn't sound,  
5       that doesn't sound like a good basis for the  
6       start of this process, so that worries me.

7               And I guess I would just like to add that  
8       it is up to you to do the maps with a credible  
9       job, that have credibility with them, that have  
10      integrity and aren't going to be challenged.

11             I am concerned that we are taking this  
12      time now when there is a very unrealistic  
13      timeline for you folks in January, to put those  
14      maps together. Will those maps be finalized by  
15      March 15th?

16             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Ma'am, I apologize. Can  
17      you summarize? You are over time.

18             MS. PARSONS: We would like those maps to  
19      be done so that they follow the legally  
20      mandated timeline and that there is not a delay  
21      at the other end.

22             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, ma'am.

23             MS. PARSONS: Thank you.

24             CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much for  
25      your comments. John Schmitt, Mr. Schmitt? And

1       now I apologize, someone from 160 something  
2       Trail, 32963. I know your phone number. Is  
3       that you, anybody? I am very sorry if we  
4       missed you up. Dianne, M-a-r-c-u-r, I think,  
5       from Cape Canaveral, and then following Dianne,  
6       Joanne Muncey, and then Libby Duncan and then  
7       Tim Franta or Franta.

8             Dianne, I apologize, is it Marcur?

9             MS. MARCUM: It is Diane Marcum.

10            CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Marcum. I am sorry, it  
11       is my eyes, not your writing.

12            MS. MARCUM: No, it is any writing.

13            CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You are recognized.

14            MS. MARCUM: And I live in Cape Canaveral,  
15       and I would just echo everything everybody said  
16       and I was -- I can't say it any better than the  
17       person that had the water dripping on the  
18       stone.

19            We say it but it, 63 percent of the people  
20       said it, you have your marching orders, for  
21       whatever reason you don't seem to want to  
22       follow them, or if you are going to follow  
23       them, that is great, but that is what we all  
24       seem to be telling you to do.

25            I personally would not want one dollar of

1 my dollar, of my money or any of our money  
2 funding a lawsuit against us. That is such a  
3 waste of taxpayer dollars.

4 In a session you just came out of where  
5 you did away with a lot of other things that  
6 didn't seem very important. So I would ask you  
7 respectfully to please pull back that lawsuit,  
8 because that just seems ridiculous.

9 If I were going to define success for my  
10 opinion, I would look at the map and I would  
11 see chunks instead of snakes. That word keeps  
12 coming up and it is so obvious from everybody's  
13 perspective that there is no reason to have a  
14 snake unless someone is trying to get something  
15 that is outside the logical drawing of the  
16 maps.

17 So I wouldn't want to see any of those. I  
18 think Brevard County, if I am not mistaken, our  
19 population is about equal to the Congressional  
20 District, and about equal to four of your  
21 House, Florida House Districts, and a little  
22 less than two Florida Senate Districts.

23 Excuse the cliché, but it doesn't get, it  
24 isn't rocket science, we are the easiest county  
25 you can deal with, I think, because of our



1           population, we have made it real easy for you.

2           I would like to see Brevard County all one  
3           Congressional District for the most part  
4           because I think we have all of the same common  
5           interests around tourism, technology, space and  
6           echo tourism and environmental issues. So that  
7           would be my suggestion.

8           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, thank you very  
9           much for your testimony. Joanne Muncey.

10          MS. MUNCEY: Yes, good morning, and thank  
11          you for being here, and I am Joanne Muncey from  
12          Cape Canaveral, Florida, and I just want to say  
13          that I really believe that you are all  
14          intelligent enough to take on this challenge.

15          What I am depending on is that you are  
16          going to be fair and creative in keeping  
17          community interests intact, and hopefully  
18          having the common sense to keep neighborhoods  
19          intact and not divided along a street line.  
20          Thank you.

21          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
22          ma'am. Next is Libby Duncan and following  
23          Ms. Duncan, Tim Franta or Franta, and then John  
24          Duncan.

25          Okay, Tim, thank you very much for being

1           here and you are recognized. Is it Franta or  
2           Franta?

3           MR. FRANTA: Franta.

4           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Franta, okay. You are  
5           recognized and we look forward to your  
6           testimony.

7           MR. FRANTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
8           Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I  
9           just wanted to, I will be real quick. I will  
10          submit my testimony, but two things I would  
11          like to say.

12          One, I would like to concur with Bob  
13          Wille, if you do north and south versus east  
14          and west, you can draw districts that have no  
15          higher education, no water sources, no garbage  
16          dumps, no manufacturing.

17          If you do east, west, you get very uniform  
18          districts that have diversity in business and  
19          education, but if you did north and south you  
20          can have really limited districts. So I  
21          encourage east and west, we have far more  
22          similarities than north and south.

23          I would like to disagree with the previous  
24          speaker. We desperately need two Congress  
25          people and let me tell you why.

1           We need someone on the Appropriations  
2           Committee and we need someone on the  
3           Substantive Committee. We have three large  
4           Federal installations in the district and we  
5           have had one seat flip over three times in the  
6           last three elections.

7           So we have no seniority in one seat and  
8           the other seat if you are on a Substantive  
9           Committee you can't be on Appropriations. So  
10          we desperately need two Congressional Seats in  
11          the Space Coast. It is absolutely necessary.

12          And since most of you aren't from here I  
13          would like to point out that we did have some  
14          unity, both the ACLU and a lot of the  
15          Republicans said north, south, central and  
16          beach. So there was some community, I just  
17          wanted to make that observation, so thank you.

18          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: The lion shall lie down  
19          with the lamb. Patricia Farley Crutcher, I  
20          believe, with the Democratic Club, are you  
21          coming, ma'am? And then following her, Lee  
22          Newell and then Jan Siren, and I am sorry,  
23          ma'am, I didn't give you a heads up soon  
24          enough.

25          Thank you for coming and you are

1           recognized.

2           MS. CRUTCHER: Thank you very much for  
3           doing this. First, I would like to say that I  
4           have been a resident in Brevard County over 40  
5           years. I registered when I was 18 and I  
6           haven't missed an election either.

7           I have been a public school teacher for  
8           over 20 years, and the subject that I teach is  
9           American Government. Every year I teach over  
10          300 students what gerrymandering is, why it is  
11          wrong and their textbook says it is  
12          unconstitutional.

13          Now, then I give them a map of the Florida  
14          districts, and with crayons my high school  
15          students can pick out areas that certainly  
16          don't look right. Over around Pinellas County,  
17          around Tampa Bay, around Lake Okeechobee, you  
18          have got districts that start on one side of  
19          the state and go all of the way to the other  
20          with a very thin line.

21          And in Brevard County, our own county, we  
22          have got the north end of the county going a  
23          big loop around to the bottom end of the  
24          county. That doesn't look right either.

25          Now, I am going to ask you to please do

1       what the voters ask and make us some fair  
2       districts. I worked very hard on the fair  
3       districts issue. It is very important to the  
4       voters in this area.

5               Please draw us some maps. That is your  
6       responsibility, bring us some maps, present us  
7       with the maps, do your jobs and let me be proud  
8       of the state of Florida with my students,  
9       please.

10              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And Ms. Crutcher, before  
11       you leave, just a quick, since you are a  
12       history teacher, I learned something I didn't  
13       know and a lot of things I didn't know at the  
14       Gainesville hearing, but we had a teacher at  
15       the Gainesville hearing say that it wasn't  
16       Governor Eldridge Gary from Massachusetts after  
17       whom gerrymandering is named that did it the  
18       first time, that it was Patrick Henry trying to  
19       crowd out James Madison. Is that true?

20              MS. CRUTCHER: That I am not aware of. I  
21       thought it was Eldridge Gary, that is why my  
22       book says. Thank you.

23              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Well, dog-gone, Patrick  
24       Henry, he is starting to get a bad wrap here.  
25       Lee Newell and following Lee Newell, Jan Siren

1           and then Alice Kreitz or Kreitz.

2           Mr. Newell, thank you for coming, and you  
3           are recognized, sir.

4           MR. NEWELL: Thank you for hearing me  
5           today. I live in Micco, Florida, Micco is as  
6           far south in Brevard County as you can go. We  
7           are so far south in Brevard County that we have  
8           an Indian River County zip code and area code  
9           which, of course, makes us part of the infamous  
10          District 29.

11          One thing we do have in common with Mims  
12          at the far north end of Brevard County, is that  
13          we are a rural area and we have lots of senior  
14          citizens. So I have some suggestions for  
15          improving your process.

16          Many of the people I know have dial up  
17          access to the Internet which makes your whole  
18          Internet function really impossible for them to  
19          use. So I think you need to reach out to the  
20          larger community that does not have the  
21          Internet access or does not have the broadband  
22          access to the internet.

23          So you need to find a way to get your  
24          information out and solicit from them, how to  
25          engage the media, I don't know, perhaps you can

1 get Caylee Anthony involved.

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I think she is busy.

3 MR. NEWELL: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank God.

5 MR. NEWELL: And to speed up the process.

6 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: She is not babysitting.

7 MR. NEWELL: Yes. To speed up the process  
8 so that we have an opportunity to comment on  
9 what the Legislature comes up with as far as  
10 new district lines and so that we can avoid the  
11 thing that really concerns me is that right at  
12 the bottom of this on your page you have got  
13 for qualifying for elections, June 4th, through  
14 June 8th, four days to qualify for elections.  
15 I think that is obscene. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You are welcome. Now,  
17 Jan Siren, please, and then following  
18 Mr. Siren, Alex Kreitz, I am sorry, Alice  
19 Kreitz or Kreitz, and then Ken Greene, please  
20 be ready. Thank you, sir, for coming and you  
21 are recognized.

22 MR. SIREN: Thank you all for coming here  
23 to hear our input. I appreciate this very  
24 much. I don't -- I did not come here with  
25 prepared remarks and it is just as well because

1       given the limitation of time I would have had  
2       to throw them away by now.

3               So what I am going to read to you is  
4       pretty much written in the last few minutes. I  
5       will try to be brief. I take polite exception  
6       to Mr. Tulley's earlier remarks about  
7       randomness in this process.

8               I believe the whole process should be  
9       deliberate. The District Builder tool does not  
10      fully facilitate that. It specifically  
11      excludes voter registration information,  
12      supposedly to avoid even the appearance of  
13      political bias.

14              In other words, you can't bring Republican  
15      versus Democrat versus Independent into the  
16      District Builder tool and I wondered why not.

17              I would expect that after all of these  
18      submissions that various people will make of  
19      maps, party insiders will take the maps and  
20      apply them to other software that includes the  
21      registration information that the public has no  
22      access to and those insiders will maximize the  
23      benefits to incumbents of both parties.

24              I say the voter registration information  
25      should have been made available in that, in the



1 software so that citizens could see the  
2 political impacts of the maps.

3 I would, and finally in conclusion, ten  
4 years from now when we are back here, the  
5 process will be very different. Thank you very  
6 much.

7 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, sir, and next,  
8 Alice, is it Kreitz or Kreitz?

9 MR. KREITZ: Kreitz.

10 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Kreitz.

11 MR. KREITZ: It is Kreitz in German.

12 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Yes, ma'am.

13 MR. KRIETZ: And I would like to put in a  
14 plug for my favorite newspaper which is the  
15 local newspaper, Hometown News, because this  
16 Friday they are printing a letter of mine, 800  
17 and some words about the Constitution.

18 So I was pleased to see the Constitution  
19 be brought here today. Well, that only ties in  
20 with those that spoke before me regarding the  
21 Constitution.

22 I came here as a private citizen. Having  
23 worked for two U. S. Senators I have read a lot  
24 of Bills in the past but that was during the  
25 Reagan years before lawyers wrote most of the

1 Bills and amendments and things like that, and  
2 I think that most of the people that voted for  
3 the Amendments 5 and 6 to the Florida  
4 Constitution, you know, probably didn't have  
5 the scope of understanding that many of us need  
6 on definitions.

7 And I actually came here today just to  
8 find out the definition of some of the words in  
9 Amendments 5 and 6, because I sat at home on my  
10 computer and read the words and they just  
11 jumped out at me. What does this really mean?

12 And I think most of us that voted, you  
13 know, for the fair districts probably didn't  
14 take the time to define every single word.

15 So I am just wondering if somehow in all  
16 of your work you could put together the  
17 definition, the best to your ability, of  
18 compact and practicability and feasible, well,  
19 you know, and some of these are really, you  
20 know, they are just confusing words, and then  
21 existing political boundaries, even that is  
22 confusing.

23 I mean, to me it reminds me of what the  
24 definition of is, is, you know, and I did not  
25 have sex with that woman, and that sort of

1           thing. It just, it just somehow doesn't make a  
2           lot of sense when you start reading these  
3           things and wondering, and I come from a state  
4           that had a lot of gerrymandering.

5           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Ma'am, I have to ask you  
6           to wrap up.

7           MS. KREITZ: Okay, so I just don't like  
8           gerrymandering either.

9           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Tank you very much. I  
10          appreciate your testimony. Next is Ken Greene,  
11          Mr. Greene? We did hear from him, okay. Then  
12          Frances Speegle with the Democratic Executive  
13          Committee. Is Frances Speegle here? Very  
14          good, and while you are making your way to the  
15          microphone, Ms. Speegle, please next, Matthew  
16          Susin or Susin, S-u-s-i-n, Susin, I am sorry,  
17          and then Chris Curdis please be prepared to  
18          testify.

19          Ms. Speegle, thank you very much for  
20          coming, and we are grateful you took the time  
21          today to be with us. You are recognized,  
22          ma'am.

23          MR. SPEEGLE: My name is Frances Speegle,  
24          I live in Palm Bay. I have been a citizen of  
25          Florida for 43 years and things keep getting

1 worse.

2 All of you should be ashamed of  
3 yourselves, especially you, Senator  
4 Haridopolos, even with all of your efforts to  
5 stop us, fair districts passed by 63 percent of  
6 the vote. A good many of those voters being  
7 from your party.

8 I worked hard to get that done, now  
9 instead all of you are -- as you now instead of  
10 all of you doing as you should and getting the  
11 maps drawn, I have to watch the lawsuits, these  
12 delaying tactics, this dog and pony show that  
13 we, the taxpayers are paying for.

14 We should be here today looking at maps,  
15 discussing if the lines have been drawn  
16 properly. No maps. Where are the maps?

17 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
18 Ms. Speegle, and next, Matthew Susin, Susin,  
19 Matthew Susin. Not here, Chris Curdis followed  
20 by Mary Nail and Courtney Roberts. Chris  
21 Curdis?

22 Mary Nail? Thank you very much for your  
23 testimony today, we look forward to hearing  
24 from you.

25 MS. NAIL: Thank you, gentlemen, and

1        ladies. As far as my elected officials are  
2        concerned, I actually elected you to represent  
3        me and to do the job that was put forth in the  
4        ballot initiative resulting in Amendments 5 and  
5        6. You see, I don't really like this citizen  
6        legislation idea.

7                I like representative government more than  
8        that and I would like to have you all, yes,  
9        indeed, do the work, but you are providing  
10       ample input for people to come here and present  
11       your ideas and also on-line.

12               If somebody is having trouble with  
13       broadband versus dial up you can go to your  
14       public library, they have broadband, okay. So  
15       there is access for everybody. Anything else  
16       is an excuse.

17               The talking points, people are saying they  
18       don't understand the tools that you have  
19       provided, the Internet tools. That they want  
20       to be involved to the bitter end, that you are  
21       spending too much money, and that they want to  
22       know the definition of words.

23               This audience is clearly representing  
24       those who put forth the ballot initiative. I  
25       did not vote for this, because I believe in

1       representative government.

2               You know, what they are really saying is,  
3       they don't want to provide you with any maps  
4       because they want you to provide maps because  
5       they want to hang you on your map provisions in  
6       the next election and say, look what you did,  
7       look at these awful maps. So therefore, let's  
8       defeat these people.

9               No, I am glad that you are allowing the  
10       public to have input and put forth their maps  
11       because there is the process. The people and  
12       the representatives and you ultimately decide.  
13       So I don't want people that look like me  
14       representing me. I want people that are  
15       qualified, that love the Constitution of the  
16       United States of America, that will carry it  
17       out and I say, bully, bully, buggedy, buggedy,  
18       keep it up, love everything that you are doing  
19       and I support you 100 percent. Thank you.

20              CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, Ms.  
21       Nail. Courtney Roberts is next, and following  
22       Courtney Roberts, Mary Hillberg.

23              MS. ROBERTS: I had withdrawn my request  
24       to speak today originally but I resubmitted it  
25       because you guys are getting blasted for --

1           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: What is your name, sir,  
2           please?

3           MS. ROBERTS: Courtney Roberts.

4           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Okay.

5           MR. ROBERTS: R-o-b-e-r-t-s.

6           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Got it. Take your best  
7           shot, two minutes.

8           MS. ROBERTS: You guys are getting blasted  
9           for trying to do something that I think that we  
10          need to have more of, which is open government.  
11          I am very proud of my Legislature. I am very  
12          proud of the delegation from Brevard County  
13          that has gone forth this year and done a very  
14          tough job in the last session of trying to take  
15          care of our economy, our state economy in tough  
16          times. I am very proud of that.

17          The big contention in these hearings that  
18          I have been watching since the first one up in  
19          Jacksonville is the interpretation of the  
20          Constitutional Amendments.

21          What is fair? And it has got to all boil  
22          down to one thing. You guys are our  
23          Representatives. We are a republic, you are  
24          going to have to make that decision. I am an  
25          engineer. I am a retired space program

1 engineer. Unlike so many that are just getting  
2 laid off, I lasted through the program until I  
3 had been worn out.

4 But my impression of the way to approach  
5 this is very mechanical. I agree with Mayor  
6 actually. Do a computer break down, make  
7 polygons throughout the whole state, then  
8 incorporate the number of people that are  
9 required to be in each district. The heck with  
10 all of this diversity and special interests and  
11 you got to take care of me so I can take care  
12 of you, do it on the actual numbers.

13 There is no way you cannot have diversity  
14 in a Congressional District in Florida. There  
15 is no possible way. How many hundred thousand  
16 are there? It is going to be diverse. The  
17 people that are saying that you can't do that  
18 without gerrymandering are saying because we  
19 have a black President, white people aren't  
20 represented in this country.

21 Now, I think you guys can do the job and I  
22 have faith in you, thank you very much.

23 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, sir. Next is  
24 Mary Hillberg, Ms. Hillberg and then Shannon  
25 Roberts and then Ernest Williams and then Jim



1           Stroud.

2           Ms. Hillberg, thank you for coming today.

3           You are recognized.

4           MS. HILLBERG: Thank you, I am Mary  
5           Hillberg and I am from Merritt Island, Florida,  
6           and I would like to thank you for having us  
7           here today and I remind you that we have all  
8           voted in a majority way to have this done, and  
9           you have a certain amount of resources to use,  
10          and I would appreciate it, I think all of us  
11          would appreciate it if you would use the  
12          remainder of those resources in a productive  
13          way to do the job that we have asked you to do.

14          I would also agree with Mayor Tulley in  
15          using a nonpartisan blind sort of approach that  
16          would initially give us some kind of a grid or  
17          some kind of an idea of what fair is, and of  
18          course, using the populations statistics that  
19          you have to use. Thank you.

20          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
21          ma'am. Next is Shannon Roberts, Ms. Roberts  
22          and then following Ms. Roberts, Ernest Williams  
23          and then Jim Stroud.

24          Shannon Roberts, you are recognized,  
25          thanks from coming.

1           MS. ROBERTS: Thank you so much. I am  
2 Shannon Roberts from Cape Canaveral, and I want  
3 to thank you very much for coming here today,  
4 although I agree with certainly a lot of the  
5 presenters that said we probably could have  
6 done this in a more timely way, just proceeded  
7 very aggressively, you know, after November  
8 2010, when we supported 5 and 6 just to move  
9 out smartly.

10           I think the elements of a successful  
11 approach would be that it is fair and obviously  
12 that is what fair districts stand for, it is  
13 professionally done and that is where I do  
14 believe that if we had three to five optional  
15 maps that were professionally prepared by the  
16 staff that we pay for up in Tallahassee, that  
17 we would have been much better off.

18           And also that it should have been customer  
19 focused, because as many have said today, a lot  
20 of the processes used with the website are not  
21 very friendly, very burdensome, even for  
22 professional people, even information  
23 technologists, and it also should be in that  
24 way customer focused and friendly for all of  
25 your residents to use.

1           It should be timely. I think a number of  
2       the persons that have spoken have talked about  
3       the delay in the process, it is going to take  
4       us out to June 2012, when I believe that  
5       Florida is second to last in the nation to have  
6       the redistricting process completed, when we  
7       really should be first in the nation if we  
8       really are making ourselves proud to be  
9       Floridians.

10           And lastly, it should be cost effective.  
11       I know this is something Representative  
12       Crisafuli talks about in terms of cost  
13       effectiveness, and if we look at the costliness  
14       of this process in terms of the different  
15       hearings that are being taken, I know that is  
16       good for the public to have involvement, but  
17       the lawsuit considered as well as the time  
18       involved in dragging this out, I think it has  
19       been a very costly process.

20           And I just would hope in closing that you  
21       would make us proud to be Floridians by making  
22       Florida a showcase for the nation about how to  
23       do it best.

24           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Roberts.  
25       Excellent testimony. Ernest Williams and

1 following Ernest Williams, Jim Stroud and then  
2 Michael Blake, the Mayor of Cocoa. Ernest  
3 Williams.

4 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, Melbourne Beach. For  
5 140 years, one party dominated Florida and drew  
6 the district lines to suit and protect that  
7 party.

8 In 1996 that changed, and another party  
9 took power. All of a sudden things were wrong.  
10 Where was the ACLU and all of these other  
11 protectors of the Constitution for 140 years?

12 Amendment 5 and 6 were passed solely to  
13 undo the election of 1996. I applaud your  
14 attempts to do this in this climate. Dozens of  
15 people have referred to the 63 votes or  
16 63 percent that passed 5 and 6.

17 Well, that is the same election that you  
18 were voted in into office, and one election  
19 does not negate the other. It is your  
20 responsibility. Use common sense and reason  
21 and good luck.

22 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, Mr.  
23 Williams. Jim Stroud, Mr. Stroud? Are you  
24 with us? Mayor Michael Blake, Mr. Mayor?

25 MAYOR BLAKE: Yes, sir.

1           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you so much for  
2           coming, and thanks for your service to the  
3           people of Cocoa.

4           MAYOR BLAKE: Thank you very much,  
5           Senator, and to all of our elected  
6           Representatives, job well done.

7           I mean, I am a school teacher first and  
8           foremost, and I understand the reason why, you  
9           know, we are seeing both ends of this double  
10          edged sword. So I think you very much for  
11          coming.

12          A few short quick points. One, I want to  
13          say thank you for your commitment. Two, so  
14          long as you do the will of the people and it is  
15          done fair and equitable, then we will stand  
16          beside you and support you. That is all I ask.

17          More so than anything else, sir, we ask  
18          that the maps be readily available, the City of  
19          Cocoa has prospered by having multi  
20          Representatives. Currently we have about three  
21          that runs through our city of Cocoa, Senator  
22          Thad Altman, my Representative Crisafuli, and  
23          also Representative Thomas Goodson.

24          So clearly beyond a shadow of a doubt  
25          there is a great number, there is power in

1 numbers. So we thank you for having that for  
2 us.

3 And in conclusion, I am a little nervous,  
4 believe it or not, can you --

5 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Mayors can't be nervous.

6 MAYOR BLAKE: Oh, yes, we can, I am human  
7 just like everyone else. Yes, sir. In  
8 conclusion, and we want something about you  
9 making history. If I may quote Dr. King, you  
10 are not history makers. History is making you  
11 all. So we thank you very much and God bless  
12 you. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
14 Mr. Mayor. We have heard or called 73 people  
15 to testify today. We have received a lot of  
16 extraordinarily helpful testimony.

17 What I would like to do now in our  
18 remaining minutes and we don't have too many  
19 left, is to ask if there are members of the  
20 Committee, Democrats, Republicans, House  
21 members, Senators, who would like to respond to  
22 any questions that were raised or make any  
23 comments or offer any specific proposals.

24 Let me start first with the members of the  
25 House of Representatives.

1           A VOICE: Thank you, Senator, if you  
2 haven't figured it out yet, I am 29, okay. But  
3 I would like to say this. If you leave here  
4 with nothing else, what you should have learned  
5 here today, that 80 people came before us.

6           Out of those 80 people, half could have  
7 been over here, half could have been over there  
8 or a quarter here or there. So that being  
9 said, you can only imagine the job we have to  
10 do, and this being the first time I am  
11 involved, it is extremely pressing to try to  
12 please everybody.

13           So that being said, please, after the  
14 meeting if you have any questions get with me  
15 and my aid, Amy, if you want some further  
16 information we will try to get to it. Please  
17 be as patient as you can with us.

18           We are going through the state, this is  
19 going to be done right. It is going to be done  
20 the right way. Thank you so much. Thank you,  
21 Representative.

22           A VOICE: Members of the House, anymore  
23 members of the House that wish to make comment?

24           A VOICE: Thank you very much. I am the  
25 Vice-Chairman of the House Reapportionment

1 District Subcommittee.

2 There are a lot of things I knew about  
3 Brevard County, growing up in Winter Haven, I  
4 came over to the beach a lot, every time I  
5 could sneak away, that is.

6 It has changed a great deal. We have  
7 learn a lot today that I wouldn't have known  
8 otherwise and to be able to do an effective  
9 job. So for those of you who brought us  
10 concrete suggestions, thank you very much.

11 There are a lot of people who stood up and  
12 said, where are the maps. Folks, some of them  
13 are out in the lobby. If you want to  
14 contribute something constructive, please go  
15 look at those and give us some suggestions  
16 because those are some of the basis that we are  
17 going to start with when we actually get right  
18 down to finalizing this.

19 That is where we are going to start. We  
20 are starting with what the people in each area  
21 want for their Representatives. So that is,  
22 and that is why we are here, so if you have got  
23 some, something to contribute, take a look at  
24 the maps out there and give us your input on  
25 what changes you think ought to be made to



1       those maps.

2               It is a very good starting point and  
3       really, I beg you to participate in that  
4       process. Freedom is a heavy lift. All you  
5       have to do is look around the world and see how  
6       hard it is to maintain freedom.

7               It takes everybody's participation. We  
8       are a part time Legislature, most of us have  
9       other jobs to try to maintain. We need your  
10      help. Freedom is a heavy lift, more hands make  
11      a lighter one.

12              REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: Representative  
13      Nehr.

14              REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Thank you,  
15      Mr. Chairman, and I just want to really quickly  
16      just let everybody know in the audience that  
17      Representative Workman over here is probably  
18      one of the hardest working Legislators for you  
19      in your district.

20              Let me tell you what, he got many people  
21      to join the Space Caucus, you know, and he had  
22      to explain it me exactly why he needed to do it  
23      but he works extremely hard.

24              And Chairman Gaetz at the beginning of the  
25      meeting told me to make sure I take a lot of

1 notes to make sure I fully understand your  
2 questions. And the notes that I took about  
3 were referencing more about the timelines that  
4 people were talking about here during the  
5 meeting.

6 And people are referencing timelines in  
7 the various legislative websites and we just  
8 want to let you know, those are deadlines,  
9 those are not goals.

10 The timing for two out of the three maps  
11 that we must draw as Senator Gaetz will tell  
12 you is dictated by the Florida Constitution,  
13 and since the Florida Constitution only allows  
14 passage of the maps after 2012, we in the  
15 Committee just wanted to make sure that we  
16 allowed input from the public during these  
17 summer months.

18 You know, committee meetings start in  
19 September. Maps will be discussed during that.  
20 I am sure we will be seeing maps and public  
21 input will also be allowed at those committee  
22 meetings before anybody makes any votes on any  
23 maps, the public will be allowed to do that.

24 Session, as you know, it starts on  
25 January 10th for two months. We will try and

1       Senator Gaetz and also Representative  
2       Weatherford who is not here, who is the Chair  
3       of the Redistricting Committee for the House,  
4       have also stated in public that we will be  
5       looking and voting on those maps as soon as  
6       possible when the Legislature starts.

7             It doesn't mean we are going to vote on  
8       them on the last day. We could easily vote on  
9       them in the first week or the second week if  
10      that happens to work out for us in committee  
11      meetings, and I think that people should know  
12      that, but again, we have deadlines but we also  
13      have goals to get them much more ahead of time.  
14      Thank you, Senator.

15            CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much. The  
16      Chair recognizes Representative Stargel.

17            REPRESENTATIVE STARGEL: Thank you, I am  
18      Representative Stargel, I represent Polk  
19      County, and this the 12th meeting that I have  
20      attended. We finished session, the date in  
21      April, we finished session in May, we started  
22      these meetings in June. I have five children.  
23      There is a lot of ways I would have liked to  
24      have spent my summer besides going to these  
25      meetings, but they are profitable.

1           Many people have said where are the maps,  
2       draw the maps. I can't begin to assume that I  
3       know what is best for your community until I  
4       have taken the time to hear what is most  
5       important to you.

6           I heard in the panhandle how some people  
7       wanted to have, add districts together and the  
8       coastal areas together, other people wanted to  
9       have vertical lines. The Villages said they  
10      wanted to stay all in one compact little area  
11      in the middle of The Villages.

12          We heard input from Wesley Chapel and the  
13      things I have heard today about considering the  
14      north, the south, the central, these have been  
15      profitable meetings, they have been beneficial.  
16      It is not a dog and pony show.

17          I am taking this information. I am taking  
18      a lot of notes and I am going to go back and  
19      then start trying to draw maps to take what you  
20      need into consideration. So thank you,  
21      Mr. Chairman, for this meeting.

22           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Representative Legg?  
23      John?

24           REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Thank you,  
25      Mr. Chairman. One thing I do want to mention

1 to those here, I know there was some discussion  
2 about the difficulty perhaps using District  
3 Builder. It is a wonderful program and I have  
4 wanted to offer to the community my  
5 professional staff who is becoming quite adept  
6 with District Builder.

7 We will offer our office resources for  
8 workshops or if you have lines that you would  
9 like to have drawn, we will offer that as a  
10 service, because we have no preconceived ideas  
11 of where those lines should be.

12 We want to hear your input. So I have  
13 Trey Holton, Carey Jansen, Rick Kindras here,  
14 all three, I know Trey is spending a lot of  
15 time really becoming adept and expert in  
16 District Builder, so do that, please, offer  
17 that.

18 And I am sitting here, I actually began  
19 the political process as an intern in Jason  
20 Steel's office in the 1981/'82 session, when  
21 they were drawing redistrict lines. So I have  
22 been doing this 30 years off and on and I can  
23 tell you, one thing that a lot of people have  
24 said, they are discontent, their unhappiness  
25 with the way the lines were drawn, even to a

1 point where we have a Constitutional amendment,  
2 with Amendments 5 and 6 and one thing that  
3 really has been in common with all of those  
4 lines that people are upset with is never  
5 before has the Legislature heard input from the  
6 public prior to drawing those lines.

7 What is different this time is we are  
8 going to get public input and we are going to  
9 let the people of Florida participate, and I  
10 think it will be quite different. So I think  
11 this is a good thing, and what is unique in  
12 this process.

13 So I am just honored to it be a part of  
14 it, and again, as I said earlier, our  
15 leadership has shown a great vision and it is  
16 exciting to travel around the state and to  
17 listen different parts and different  
18 communities and what is important to them and I  
19 want to thank the members that took the time to  
20 bring their ideas forward and to assist us in  
21 drawing the best lines possible.

22 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Other members who wish to  
23 comment or make any statements? Senator Storms  
24 and Senator Rhonda Storms joined us during the  
25 hearing the she heard the testimony and I want

1 to ask if you would like to make any comment,  
2 Senator?

3 SENATOR STORMS: Well, I am here. I have  
4 been fiddling around with the District Builder  
5 in trying to draw maps and I just want to tell  
6 you a little bit about what the experience is,  
7 and do two things.

8 For the teacher that is here, I am a high  
9 school English teacher and for the teacher that  
10 is here, I don't know where you are sitting,  
11 but let me encourage you to give District  
12 Builder, it is on-line, available to your  
13 students, give them an assignment and say for  
14 the first semester, here is your job.

15 Draw maps, divide the class into three  
16 sections. You have the State House, the State  
17 Senate and Congressional Districts and that  
18 should be their project. They will get no  
19 better experience in the political process in  
20 understanding what they can do if they do that,  
21 and I encourage teachers to take that as an  
22 opportunity and besides, it is free. It won't  
23 cost you anything. So that is a good idea, but  
24 let me just tell you this.

25 You understand that when you start with

1       the districts you have to have a certain amount  
2       of population and it is one person, one vote.  
3       So you want to have, when you get down with any  
4       districts you want to kind of land one plus one  
5       or it would be great if it would all be equal,  
6       right, the exact number of people that you need  
7       in the district, but if you can't get there,  
8       then plus one or minus one, right?

9               Now, let me tell you what my experience  
10       is. You look at the state and if you are  
11       thinking, you are like me, you are saying,  
12       okay, can I just do squares. I mean, how hard  
13       is it? Just what you want and all of the  
14       hearings that I have heard, you want compact  
15       districts and you want communities of interest,  
16       right?

17              Well, set aside for a second that  
18       communities of interest is not in the Fair  
19       Districts Amendment, but I will try and draw  
20       you your districts on compactness and  
21       communities of interest.

22              And so what you do is, I said, okay, where  
23       do I start, would I start, if I am drawing  
24       those districts would I start in the middle of  
25       the state and then what would happen with the



1 population as I got to the end of the state  
2 around the fringe.

3 So instead of starting in the middle of  
4 the state I started at the end of the state.  
5 So I started up by the panhandle and then my  
6 plan is to rotate back and forth, top of the  
7 state, bottom of the state, top of the state,  
8 and hopefully by the middle I will come up with  
9 a bunch of people left to draw districts,  
10 right.

11 So then as I looked at District Builder, I  
12 went in and I started doing what you might do,  
13 which is pick up by counties, grab this county,  
14 this county, this county until I got where I  
15 needed to be with District 1.

16 Well, that left me about 6,000 people over  
17 by doing just the counties. So now I had to  
18 stop and I had to say, okay, now, I have to  
19 lose 6,000 people. How do I lose 6,000 people.

20 Well, I do what the District Builder says,  
21 it takes you down to the VTDs, which are voter  
22 tabulation districts, and those are kind of  
23 communities of interest. So I start taking out  
24 VTDs.

25 I find myself now 200 people short for my

1 district. So now I have to add 200 people.  
2 How do I do that? I now have to drill down  
3 even further to go to the census blocks, which  
4 is what the census has provided us, and so now  
5 I can start until I get to just plus one minus  
6 one, now I have my district that I have worked  
7 so hard on now. I spent an hour on this one  
8 district.

9 And now because I am working in the census  
10 block, now I have to come out and take the  
11 larger view of the district, and what do I  
12 find. Now I see what the district looks like  
13 by numbers and I find that it is kind of funky.

14 I have got this little squiggly thing over  
15 here and I am looking at that and I am like,  
16 somebody is going to say that is not compact  
17 and I am trying to do something bad.

18 So I say to my staff and I am looking,  
19 okay, we have got to square this up. Cut this  
20 off and bring it down.

21 Now, here is where these public meetings  
22 are important, because if I go to square it up  
23 and I want to find out where I lose people in a  
24 place I know nothing about, the public hearings  
25 will tell me if you are going to take from

1        somewhere, if you are going to make a line  
2        break, break at this road, break at the  
3        Interstate, break at this toll road and keep  
4        this community together if you can do it.

5                I have not looked at minority districts.  
6        I have not looked at party affiliation. That  
7        is how I am doing it.

8                One last thing that I will tell you is  
9        this, that after you do all of that, you have  
10       got the Fair Voting Rights. You have got the  
11       Voting Rights Act that you have to apply to  
12       that.

13               We cannot infringe upon the rights of  
14       minorities. So after I do all of this  
15       compactness, what will happen with my minority  
16       access seats. I don't know the answer to that  
17       question yet, but I will tell you in my  
18       district, there are people who care whether or  
19       not people who look like them, who talk like  
20       them actually have a shot to be elected.

21               And so take is what I am working at, and I  
22       am sorry, Mr. Chair, for taking so long but I  
23       thought that that explanation was -- would be  
24       helpful to people. Thank you.

25               CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,

1       Senator Storms, we are at the end of our period  
2       of time.

3               (Whereupon, the proceedings were  
4       concluded.)

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## 1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )

3 COUNTY OF LEON )

4 I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript  
5 is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned,  
6 and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting  
7 under my direction;

8 That the foregoing pages 2 through 173  
9 represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of  
10 the tape-recording;

11 And I further certify that I am not of kin or  
12 counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the  
13 regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor  
14 am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

15 Dated this 4th day of October, 2011.

16

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

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Notary Public

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State of Florida at Large

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Commission Expires:

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November 13, 2014

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REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

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MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2011

11

6:00 P.M.

12

BLAKE LIBRARY

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STUART, FLORIDA

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Transcribed by:

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

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Court Reporter

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24

25

1 T A P E D P R O C E E D I N G S

2 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Ladies and  
3 gentlemen, if you would take your seats,  
4 please.

5 The Joint Senate/House Redistricting  
6 Hearing is now being called to order. We are  
7 very pleased today to be joined by several  
8 members of the Florida House and the Florida  
9 Senate who, as we get going I will ask to  
10 briefly introduce themselves and to tell the  
11 audience what communities they represent, and  
12 for that we will be passing the microphone  
13 around.

14 But first I want to start with  
15 Representative Will Snyder, in who's district  
16 we are, who I believe has a couple of welcoming  
17 remarks and will also lead us in the Pledge of  
18 Allegiance. Representative Snyder.

19 REPRESENTATIVE SNYDER: Thank you so much,  
20 Chairman Precourt. Senator, we are so glad to  
21 have you here.

22 Ladies and gentlemen, I am honored that  
23 you are here in the Blake Library for our  
24 redistricting committee hearing. We have had  
25 town halls before in Stuart, and I think Stuart

1       is one of the nicest places in the state of  
2       Florida to do the people's business. And we  
3       have this evening some -- a topic that is  
4       extremely important, but I think it is one that  
5       engenders some passion. It may engender some  
6       discussion and some disagreement, but I have  
7       assured my colleagues up here who have come  
8       from all over the state of Florida that they  
9       will find the people of Stuart to be very  
10      civilized, very gentlemanly, very gentle,  
11      ladylike, and this experiment in democracy,  
12      that is America, this is a perfect place for it  
13      right here in Stuart.

14               So I am sure we will all have our say  
15      tonight and we will say it agreeably and  
16      peacefully in the spirit that I am sure we are  
17      all here.

18               So with that, if you would stand with me  
19      and the flag is right behind me.

20               "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the  
21      United States of America and to the Republic  
22      for which it stands, one nation, under God,  
23      indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

24               REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
25      Representative Snyder. You folks are blessed



1 with the representation you have in this area,  
2 as we all are in the whole state of Florida, I  
3 might add.

4 I also want to add my own personal thanks  
5 to the Martin County Library System for  
6 allowing us to use this facility and to all of  
7 you, too, for being here. You have come from  
8 taking time out of your day, out of your jobs,  
9 away from your family, to provide input on this  
10 very important subject, so thank you very much.

11 My name is Steve Precourt. I am the House  
12 Committee Vice-Chair, and I will -- but I will  
13 be chairing tonight's meeting along with my  
14 colleague, Senator Don Gaetz, who is the  
15 incoming President of the Senate, and this  
16 session will also be being webcast statewide by  
17 The Florida Channel over the Internet so we can  
18 get as many people the opportunity to be heard  
19 and to see what we are discussing here tonight  
20 as possible.

21 Speaking of which, our sole purpose here  
22 tonight is to hear from you, is to hear from  
23 the public about how you believe the legal  
24 standards governing redistricting should be  
25 applied in your community, so you are

1 represented as you see fit in Washington and  
2 Tallahassee fairly, equitably and sensibly.

3 Now, in order to have a public meeting, we  
4 unfortunately do have to have some procedures,  
5 and they are fairly simple, but it is very --  
6 it is going to be very important to hear -- to  
7 follow the procedures so that we hear from  
8 everyone who wants to speak tonight.

9 It is also important that you sign in so  
10 that we can create an accurate public record of  
11 all of the attendees and speakers. So if you  
12 don't have a card, please raise your hand or  
13 see one of our staff at the back of the room  
14 and get signed in whether you wish to speak or  
15 not.

16 You may also opt to join our e-mail lists  
17 so that we can keep you informed on an ongoing  
18 basis of happenings in the redistricting  
19 process over the next few months. So, again,  
20 if you haven't signed in yet, go ahead and  
21 raise your hand and we will get you a card.

22 If you wish to speak today and you have  
23 not filled out an attendance card, you must --  
24 this is very important to reiterate that -- you  
25 must fill out an attendance card, because that

1       is how I will know to call your name and get  
2       you in line at the podium right here to speak.  
3       So I can't emphasize that enough. And it is  
4       the same attendance card whether you wish to  
5       speak or not, but if you don't wish to speak,  
6       go ahead and write that on there as well.

7               Now, before we go too much further, I want  
8       to recognize Senator Gaetz to explain in more  
9       detail how today's hearing in particular fits  
10      into the overall redistricting process.  
11      Senator Gaetz.

12             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
13      Mr. Chairman. Is this mike on? Okay, it is,  
14      is it not?

15             A VOICE: It is.

16             SENATOR GAETZ: It is. Well, I have a  
17      loud voice in any case.

18             Every ten years, the Florida Legislature  
19      is required by our Constitution to redistrict  
20      the state based on increases, decreases or  
21      movements of population within the state. And  
22      because Florida has grown more than other  
23      states in the last ten years, we will move up  
24      from 25 members of the House of Representatives  
25      in Washington to 27 members, and we move up to

1       29 electoral votes. So Florida is more  
2       important in the Presidential election, and we  
3       will have a stronger voice, a more numeric  
4       voice, in the U.S. House of Representatives.

5               Now, because some parts of our state have  
6       increased or decreased disproportionately in  
7       population, many Senate and State House  
8       districts will change by either adding or  
9       subtracting population.

10              When redistricting is completed,  
11       congressional districts, U.S. House Districts  
12       must be equal in population, and each U.S.  
13       House district has to contain 696,345 people.  
14       Now, the courts are pretty exact that those  
15       districts have to be equal, 696,345 people.  
16       The 40 Senate districts, we have 40 Senate  
17       districts in the state, must be nearly equal at  
18       about 470,000 people each, and our 120 State  
19       House districts must also be nearly equal at  
20       about 156,700 people. Those numbers are  
21       important, so as we talk about where lines  
22       ought to be drawn, you can see how many people  
23       need to be in a House district, in a Senate  
24       district or in a U.S. congressional district.

25              Now, we have displays that are in the back

1 of the room showing the current boundaries of  
2 districts in this area of the state and the  
3 numbers of persons that would have to be added  
4 or taken away from existing districts in order  
5 to achieve equal representation. But equality  
6 of representation is not the only legal  
7 requirement that redistricting plans have to  
8 meet.

9 The laws and the important court cases  
10 that govern redistricting are explained in  
11 detail on the House and Senate websites. Those  
12 websites are listed on the "Redistricting 2012"  
13 brochure which was available when you came in,  
14 and our "Redistricting 2012" brochure  
15 summarizes the federal and state laws and  
16 outlines topics that we really need your input  
17 on. If you did not get a copy when you came  
18 in, copies of that very simple but important  
19 brochure are available on the tables outside  
20 the meeting, and our staff would be happy to  
21 give you a copy.

22 The brochure shows the House and Senate  
23 websites, which are packed with information  
24 about redistricting, including explanations of  
25 laws and court cases, and the two websites are

1 complementary and are updated frequently. So  
2 we hope you will visit with them and stay tuned  
3 to them often. It is a great way to remain  
4 current about how the new congressional, Senate  
5 and State House districts are taking shape.

6 The websites -- and I can't emphasize this  
7 enough. The websites also deliver to your  
8 fingertips all of the demographic information  
9 that will be used in drawing districts and the  
10 exact same computer programs that Legislators  
11 and professional staff use.

12 As soon as we received the demographic  
13 information about Florida from the U.S. Bureau  
14 of the Census, as quickly as we could we put it  
15 on-line so everybody in Florida could see that  
16 demographic information, and then we took the  
17 computer programs that are used by  
18 policy-makers and would be used perhaps by the  
19 courts in redistricting and we put those  
20 computer programs on-line so that you can use  
21 the computer programs and the demographic  
22 information to see where districts might be  
23 developed or might be outlined in your area.

24 Before, during and after this hearing,  
25 Senate and House professional staff are

1       available to show anybody the simple steps to  
2       getting on-line and using the computer programs  
3       to build districts if you would like, so that  
4       if you want to submit a plan now or in the  
5       weeks to come, you are able to do it. And I  
6       can tell you that I am rather tech stupid, and  
7       it took the staff about 15 minutes to make me  
8       smart enough so that I was able to use the  
9       software. So I am sure for me, if it took 15,  
10      it will probably only take five or ten minutes  
11      for you.

12           Recommendations from citizens and groups  
13      of citizens will be made publicly available.  
14      So if you submit your ideas for how you think  
15      your neighborhood or your community or this  
16      part of the state or the whole state ought to  
17      be districted, we will make your ideas  
18      available to everybody else so everyone can see  
19      the input we are getting.

20           In fact, as of today, there have been 31  
21      public submissions of partial or complete  
22      district maps for congressional, Senate or  
23      House districts. There are 31 maps available  
24      now for you to look at, and 110 written  
25      proposals for maps are also available on the

1 Web. So there's 31 maps on the Web now and 110  
2 written descriptions of areas of the state that  
3 people think ought to be districted this way or  
4 that, and after this week, I am sure those  
5 numbers will increase.

6 The submission of proposals from you,  
7 proposals that make sense for your community,  
8 is the single most effective form of public  
9 participation in the redistricting process.

10 The schedule under which we are operating  
11 is imposed by our State Constitution. The  
12 Constitution does not permit the Legislature to  
13 act on state legislative maps before the second  
14 year after the census; in other words, the  
15 Constitution says that we as a Legislature  
16 can't vote on district maps before 2012. We  
17 can discuss them as we are doing today. We can  
18 hear people propose them. Members, Democrats,  
19 Republicans, House members, Senators, can make  
20 proposals of their own anytime they want, but  
21 we can't take dispositive votes until the 2012  
22 session.

23 Now, some people have suggested that the  
24 Legislature should just draw the maps first and  
25 then say this is the way it is and ask the



1 public to comment or refute what the  
2 Legislature has drawn. We believe that this  
3 puts the answer ahead of the question.  
4 Instead, we think there should be no  
5 preconceptions created by politicians, but,  
6 rather, public testimony should be free and  
7 unrestricted. We hope that is what we will  
8 have tonight.

9 In fact, the Chairperson of the Fair  
10 Districts campaign is on record, having  
11 testified before the Senate and the House, that  
12 she believes that no maps should be drawn until  
13 public testimony is taken in public hearings.

14 Our intent is to use the recommendations  
15 from the 26 public hearings that we are having  
16 around the state, I think this is hearing  
17 number 15, and the input we are getting through  
18 the Internet sites as the basis for developing  
19 several options for district maps, and we will  
20 discuss every option that comes forward in the  
21 form of a Bill in open public meetings before  
22 any votes are taken, even votes in committee.

23 In other words, what we are saying is if  
24 you look at those maps in the back of the room,  
25 if you look at the ones actually submitted to

1       the Legislature by groups of Florida residents,  
2       and there are some 21 of those already, we are  
3       starting the legislative process with the maps  
4       that have been submitted to us and the maps we  
5       have now. That is a starting point and any  
6       other suggestions from the public that we might  
7       receive. So if you want to know where we will  
8       begin our deliberations, it is with those  
9       public submissions and it is with the testimony  
10      from these meetings and other public input we  
11      will receive either through the U.S. Mail or  
12      through the Internet or through your  
13      conversations with your legislators.

14           Throughout the process, we will submit  
15      additional public -- solicit additional public  
16      comment so that proposed maps can mature with  
17      the public involved all before the Legislature  
18      finally approves any ultimate or final maps,  
19      but the Legislature doesn't get to make this  
20      decision on our own.

21           Whatever you propose, whatever we hear  
22      from the public, whatever is proposed from  
23      interest groups or within the Legislature, once  
24      it goes through the legislative process and  
25      options are voted on and decided upon, then

1       whatever the Legislature passes is submitted  
2       for judicial review to ensure that final plans  
3       meet every legal requirement. That judicial  
4       review is at the state and the federal level.

5               Because our purpose today is to hear from  
6       you, all of the rest of the time between now  
7       and our 9:00 adjournment, Mr. Chairman, would  
8       be used to ensure that every member of the  
9       public who is here and wishes to speak will  
10      have time to present testimony and be listened  
11      to respectfully.

12             If after every citizen has had her or his  
13      say, and that is our first priority, if there  
14      is time remaining before our scheduled  
15      adjournment, and I hope there will be, then any  
16      member of the Committee, Democrat, Republican,  
17      House member or Senator, may make any  
18      statement, offer any observation, answer any  
19      question or make any proposal.

20             Of course, any member of the Legislature  
21      may today or at any time submit a Bill that  
22      includes a redistricting plan, and as soon as  
23      that is submitted, we will also make that  
24      available to the public.

25             Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out

1 before I yield the Chair back that we are  
2 pleased tonight to have with us the  
3 distinguished Minority Leader of the Florida  
4 Senate, Senator Nan Rich, who is here, and I  
5 would like to just recognize her so that people  
6 here will know that the Minority Leader is with  
7 us.

8 Senator Rich, could you identify yourself?  
9 Senator Rich.

10 Mr. Chairman, I hope this description of  
11 our schedule and how we will proceed, our  
12 timeline and methodology, will help set the  
13 stage for a successful hearing.

14 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, Chair  
15 Gaetz. That was an excellent overview.

16 For the folks in the back, there are some  
17 seats up front, if you would like to come up  
18 and sit down. I know it looks like we have a  
19 little bit of an overflow here, but we do have  
20 some additional seats available at the front of  
21 the meeting room. Otherwise -- and we need you  
22 to take a seat. Otherwise, apparently the fire  
23 code doesn't permit us to let other people in  
24 the room. So please come forward and take a  
25 seat if you don't have one.

1           Now, while you are doing that, I also want  
2           to go ahead and go around and allow each of the  
3           members to briefly introduce themselves, and in  
4           particular, I want you to hear which different  
5           and various parts of the state that they come  
6           from, and I think I will start to my left over  
7           her with Senator Negron.

8           SENATOR NEGRON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
9           Good evening, everyone, and my name is Joe  
10          Negron. I represent northern Palm Beach County  
11          and the Treasure Coast in the Florida Senate,  
12          and it is great to see so many constituents  
13          from Palm Beach County, St. Lucie County,  
14          Indian River County, Okeechobee County and  
15          northern Palm Beach County here tonight. So  
16          thank you for the wonderful turnout, and we  
17          look forward to hearing from you and hearing  
18          your comments.

19          I also sit on the Reapportionment  
20          Committee, so I will be carefully taking notes  
21          on your observations and how you would like the  
22          lines to be drawn.

23          And then I would also briefly like to  
24          thank Chairman Gaetz and Chairman Weatherford  
25          for agreeing to put Stuart as one of the cities

1           where the Reapportionment Committee would meet.

2           SENATOR SIPLIN:   Good evening.   Gary  
3           Siplin, State Senator, District 19, Orlando,  
4           Florida.   It is a pleasure to be here tonight.  
5           God bless you all.

6           SENATOR BENACQUISTO:   Good evening.   My  
7           name is Lizbeth Benacquisto.   I am a State  
8           Senator for District 27.   I also serve on the  
9           Redistricting Committee.   I represent portions  
10          of western Palm Beach County, Glades County,  
11          Hendry County, Charlotte County and a big swath  
12          of Lee County.   Thank you very much for being  
13          here and having your voices heard.

14          REPRESENTATIVE MAYFIELD:   Good evening.  
15          My name is Debbie Mayfield.   I represent  
16          District 80, which is part of Brevard County,  
17          Indian River County and St. Lucie County, and I  
18          am just happy to be here to hear what the  
19          people have to say on this redistricting  
20          process.   Thank you.

21          SENATOR RICH:   I am Nan Rich, and I am a  
22          State Senator, District 34, and as you heard, I  
23          am the Democratic Minority Leader, and I  
24          represent parts of southwestern Broward County  
25          and then my district goes all the way down to

1 the southern end of Miami-Dade County, and I am  
2 really happy to be here and to listen and hear  
3 what you have to say.

4 SENATOR ALTMAN: Chad Altman, your  
5 neighbor to the north. I represent Brevard,  
6 Orange and Seminole Counties, portions of those  
7 counties, Senate District 24. It is really  
8 great to see such a good turnout here, and we  
9 really appreciate your time to be here and give  
10 us your input.

11 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Good evening,  
12 everyone. My name is Dwayne Taylor, I  
13 represent House District 27 in Volusia County.

14 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: State  
15 Representative Mack Bernard representing  
16 District 84 in West Palm Beach.

17 REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Good evening,  
18 everyone. John Patrick Julien, representing  
19 House District 104, which is in Miami-Dade  
20 County. It is a pleasure to be here.

21 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Good evening,  
22 everyone. State Representative Gwyndolen  
23 Clarke-Reed, representing House District 92,  
24 all in Broward County, Deerfield Beach, Pompano  
25 Beach, Oakland Park, Wilton Manors, a little

1 bit of Ft. Lauderdale, a little bit of north  
2 Lauderdale and Tamarac. Thank you.

3 REPRESENTATIVE CAMPBELL: Good evening,  
4 State Representative Daphne Campbell, District  
5 108 from Miami-Dade County.

6 REPRESENTATIVE GOODSON: Good evening, my  
7 name is Tom Goodson. I represent House  
8 District 29 from north Brevard County all the  
9 way to the St. Lucie County line, running about  
10 112 miles long. I serve on the Congressional  
11 Redistricting Committee. Thank you.

12 REPRESENTATIVE ROONEY: Good evening  
13 everybody, Pat Rooney, House District 83, which  
14 is just to the south, northern Palm Beach  
15 County, mainly Palm Beach Gardens and Jupiter.  
16 Welcome to everybody and look forward to  
17 tonight.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS: Thank you. I am  
19 Trudi Williams, House member from District 75,  
20 which is Lee and parts of Collier County in  
21 southwest Florida. Glad to be here. Thank  
22 you.

23 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Hello, I am  
24 Dorothy Hukill. I represent District 28, which  
25 is Volusia County, and I serve on the



1 Redistricting Committee and the Senate  
2 Redistricting Subcommittee.

3 REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Good evening. My  
4 name is Mike Horner, State House District 79,  
5 which is Okeechobee County, Orange County,  
6 Osceola County and Polk County.

7 REPRESENTATIVE YOUNG: Hello, and thank  
8 you for coming. I am State Representative Dana  
9 Young, and I represent the City of Tampa and  
10 parts of Hillsborough County in House District  
11 57. Thanks for coming.

12 REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: Thank you for  
13 coming tonight. I am Dennis Baxley, serving in  
14 the Florida House from Ocala, Marion County,  
15 District 24.

16 REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: State  
17 Representative Evan Jenne, District 100 in  
18 southeast Broward County. Thank you all for  
19 having us.

20 REPRESENTATIVE HARRELL: I am  
21 Representative Gayle Harrell representing the  
22 wonderful District 81, and I see so many of my  
23 wonderful constituents here. Thank you all for  
24 coming. We are so anxious to hear your input.  
25 And District 81 includes St. Lucie and Martin

1 Counties, and I am so pleased to see all of  
2 you. It is a standing room only, so thank you  
3 all so much. Your input is invaluable. We  
4 appreciate it.

5 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Good evening. I  
6 am Doug Holder, I represent District 70, which  
7 is all within south Sarasota County in  
8 Sarasota, and I sit on the Redistricting  
9 Committee and am one of the co-Chairs of the  
10 Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee.

11 REPRESENTATIVE SNYDER: Good evening. I  
12 am William Snyder, State Representative, I  
13 represent District 82, which is portions of  
14 north Palm Beach County, most of Stuart, you  
15 are in my district now, and parts of southern  
16 St. Lucie County.

17 And with the Chair's permission, I would  
18 like to recognize several of the elected  
19 officials. If I have missed you tonight, it is  
20 an oversight, but the Sheriff of Martin County,  
21 Robert Crowder, is here, sitting over there.  
22 Sheriff, if you will stand, we are glad you are  
23 here, and his wife, Debbie is sitting there  
24 with him. We have County Commissioner Pat  
25 Hayes from Martin County. Pat, you are sitting

1 right there. And City Commissioner Jeff  
2 Krauskopf, City of Stuart, Jeff is back there.  
3 And then we have all the way up from Tequesta,  
4 city council member Calvin Turnquest. Calvin,  
5 glad you are here. Paula Lewis, County  
6 Commission, St. Lucie County. Ms. Lewis, you  
7 are -- glad you are here. And then if I could  
8 just thank the Sergeant's office from the  
9 Senate is here, and all the way from  
10 Tallahassee also, the Sergeant's office from  
11 the House of Representatives. We are glad you  
12 are here.

13 A lot of effort that went into this  
14 tonight. And then, folks, thank you so much  
15 for coming. We are honored and dignified by  
16 your presence. Thank you so much.

17 SENATOR GAETZ: And, Mr. Chairman, my  
18 Senate district is in coastal northwest  
19 Florida, from Pensacola to the Panama City  
20 area.

21 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: And he neglected  
22 to say he is from a quaint little town called  
23 Niceville, and he is a very nice man.

24 I am Representative Steve Precourt from  
25 House District 41, which is smack-dab in the

1 middle of the state, just west of Orlando. It  
2 is parts of Orange County, Lake County and  
3 Osceola County. I am Chairman of the House  
4 Finance and Tax Committee, Vice-Chairman of the  
5 House Redistricting Committee, and also a  
6 member of the Rules and Calendar Committee.

7 One more time I would remind the folks  
8 standing in the back, don't get me cross-ways  
9 on a fire code issue, if you can. There's  
10 still a few seats up here, and apparently there  
11 is a problem letting additional people in while  
12 we have folks standing, so I would appreciate  
13 that.

14 So everyone sees, you've got a pretty  
15 impressive showing from around the state of  
16 people that are here to listen to you, and I am  
17 happy to welcome them all here today.

18 We are going to adjourn promptly at  
19 9:00 p.m. That is what we have advertised this  
20 meeting for, and we have over 60 people signed  
21 up. So doing the math, we can afford about two  
22 minutes per person to speak, but you can always  
23 submit written comments, especially if you have  
24 some prepared comments today that maybe  
25 somebody else has said effectively the same

1           thing, if you can just say I agree with  
2           so-and-so and here's my comments for the record  
3           and hand them into staff, that will get in the  
4           legal record. So you will certainly be on the  
5           record.

6                    So we are going to -- again, we are going  
7           to limit folks to about two minutes. I am  
8           using this phone as a timer up here, and it is  
9           general. Sometimes we are going to let people  
10          talk a little bit more if they are bringing  
11          brand-new information to the table, but if they  
12          are saying something that six people have  
13          already said the same thing, I am going to ask  
14          you to please expedite your remarks.

15                   So with that, if you could make sure -- I  
16          am going to call three or four names out. Come  
17          up and actually get in line at the microphone  
18          so that we can get people moving through as  
19          fast as possible.

20                   Our first speaker is going to be Stephanie  
21          Abbonizio, followed by Debbie Dent, Allen  
22          Miller and Kathy Brandon. So if y'all would  
23          start making your way up, we can get this  
24          hearing under way.

25                   So Ms. Abbonizio?

1 MS. ABBONIZIO: Yes.

2 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: The speaker is  
3 yours.

4 MS. ABBONIZIO: Good pronunciation.

5 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you.

6 MS. ABBONIZIO: Thank you for the  
7 opportunity to speak tonight. I am just an  
8 ordinary citizen of Palm Beach County, and I  
9 have lived in West Palm Beach for the last  
10 eight years. I was one of those who retired  
11 and moved to Florida.

12 I follow the hearings on television on The  
13 Florida Channel and I listen to the PR that is  
14 given by various spokespersons before the  
15 hearings begin, and I think it all sounds  
16 reasonable. Then I am jolted back to reality  
17 by what the different presenters say, and I  
18 think, uh-oh, proceed with caution.

19 We know that this redistricting is  
20 political, but asking the politician to take  
21 out politics, to take that out of the equation,  
22 is like asking a fish not to swim.

23 The committee spokesperson says every  
24 Representative can expect a change in his or  
25 her district. He also says Democrats have as

1       much say as Republicans, and to me, that means  
2       that there's equal numbers of Democrats and  
3       Republicans on the committee and subcommittees.  
4       I don't know if that is true.

5               We hear the reason that there are no maps  
6       is because there was late notification from the  
7       Census Bureau. Maybe that was so, but that was  
8       a couple months ago.

9               Others on the Committee say, "We want to  
10      hear from the people. We will not begin to  
11      undertake this arduous task until everyone who  
12      wants to say their piece gets to say it. The  
13      Committee will not begin until such time as we  
14      hear from everyone."

15              Well, arrangements -- I'm sorry --  
16      Amendments 5 and 6 were passed overwhelmingly  
17      by Florida voters, and the Legislature joined  
18      the suit against these amendments. What didn't  
19      you hear?

20              Some people think these hearings are a  
21      sham, a waste of taxpayer money, but I'm a  
22      believer. The citizens will know whether you  
23      hear what we say by your deeds, not your words.  
24      If you have a plan then before the end of the  
25      session, a plan that follows Amendments 5 and 6

1       and the Voters Rights Amendment Act of 1965, if  
2       you have a plan to give citizens an opportunity  
3       for the end of time to discuss the plan and  
4       contact their Representatives, and if you want  
5       all this early in the session, then and only  
6       then will we know if we've been heard or not  
7       heard, or maybe heard and ignored. I hope this  
8       Committee hears what the citizens of Florida  
9       have to say and act accordingly. Thank you.

10           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
11       much. Our next speaker is going to be Debbie  
12       Dent, and, folks, while it may not seem like  
13       much, that was about three and a half minutes  
14       versus two, and there will be dozens of people  
15       who don't get to speak if everyone takes that  
16       much time. So, Ms. Dent, the microphone is  
17       yours.

18           MS. DENT: Thank you. My name is Debbie  
19       Dent, and I'm the Chief Deputy for the Martin  
20       County Election. I want to welcome all the  
21       committee members to our beautiful Martin  
22       County. Supervisor of Elections Vicki Davis  
23       sends her regret that she is unable to attend.

24           Her main points are we want to urge you to  
25       finalize the redistricting process as soon as



1 possible. The current timetable allows only  
2 two weeks to update data, notify voters of  
3 changes and provide updated information. When  
4 the decision-making process is finalized, our  
5 work begins. We must educate the voters, we  
6 must lay out the ballots, we must mail overseas  
7 ballots 45 days prior to June 30th, and  
8 everything has to be done accurately.

9 In drawing district lines, please take the  
10 consideration of the city lines. The City of  
11 Stuart and Martin County has 10,000 registered  
12 voters, and they're divided in two House  
13 districts. County lines compact districts.  
14 Our voting districts are our precincts. Limit  
15 ballot size, which costs less money while  
16 confusion. And, of course, our neighborhoods  
17 that share common interests.

18 (Inaudible) which is a rural community  
19 located in the western area of Martin County  
20 with a population of approximately 6,400  
21 voters -- 6,400 residents with 2,900 registered  
22 voters, they're divided into three House  
23 districts and two congressional districts,  
24 which creates six ballot styles. They are a  
25 very small community population wise, and under

1 the current lines, they're very fragmented.  
2 They need a unified voice.

3 In 2012, the eyes of the world will be  
4 watching Florida. We have to be successful.  
5 We have a huge task ahead of us and we have no  
6 room for error. As our Secretary of State Kurt  
7 Browning reminds elections officials, failure  
8 is not an option.

9 In closing, the decisions you make should  
10 not be about what is the best for the  
11 legislators, or even what is best for the  
12 elections officials. It should be about what  
13 is best for the voters. Thank you.

14 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
15 ma'am.

16 Our next speaker will be Allen Miller, and  
17 then if Nicholas Pecoraro, Timothy Williams and  
18 Jon Taylor could come up and get in line, I  
19 would appreciate that.

20 You will notice Senator Gaetz is taking a  
21 lot of notes. He will be addressing a lot of  
22 these questions at the end.

23 Mr. Miller.

24 MR. MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My  
25 name is Allen Miller, I've lived in St. Lucie

1 County for almost 40 years, and the first thing  
2 that I want to do is let you know that this is  
3 my third shot at this process.

4 In '91, you all sent out great big gray  
5 books that gathered an incredible amount of  
6 dust. In 2001, you sent out CDs, and we all  
7 had to go buy new computers because we couldn't  
8 handle the size of the files. But we did, and  
9 both of those processes were good.

10 I want to compare that to the process that  
11 you have done this year, and I want to thank  
12 you for it. And the reason I want to thank you  
13 for it is it truly is easy to use, and I am not  
14 computer literate. It has been very simple to  
15 go on-line to find the demographic data and to  
16 figure out where we are going.

17 And the one thing I want to leave your  
18 staff with, and my notes is, I will be here in  
19 2021, and you will not be here in 2021, and I  
20 want to remind you that --

21 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank God.

22 MR. MILLER: -- 10, 20 years ago, you held  
23 this hearing in Indian River County. This  
24 year, of course, we are delighted that you are  
25 having it in Martin County. But in 2021, I

1 expect you to bring it to St. Lucie County and  
2 (inaudible).

3 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
4 much, sir.

5 MR. MILLER: But only your staff can get  
6 that. Is that me or is that -- I will back up.

7 The one problem that I have with this  
8 whole process is you can't get it over fast  
9 enough. Those of us who have to work with your  
10 product when you are done can't get started  
11 until you finish the product. And we realize  
12 that after you have heard from all of us, you  
13 are not going to be able to do what we all tell  
14 you. We also realize when you hear from each  
15 other, you are not going to be able to do what  
16 you all decide you want done. And then the  
17 dirty little secret is the court isn't going to  
18 be happy with anything that any of us have  
19 done, which is simply going to delay the  
20 timeline so badly for this election that those  
21 of us who are on the ground sharing the other  
22 supervisors' comments have a real problem with  
23 the process. So I would urge you to do this as  
24 quickly as you can, expedite it all the way  
25 along, push for it so no chance of not seeing

1 the courts.

2 The problem for me with 5 and 6 is they  
3 are so ambiguous that I don't know how you can  
4 do this job. And those are the primary points  
5 that I wanted to cover. Thank you very much.

6 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
7 much, sir.

8 Next we have Kathy Brandon. Ms. Brandon,  
9 go ahead with your two minutes.

10 MS. BRANDON: Good evening. My name is  
11 Kathy Brandon, and I am the Vice-President of  
12 the League of Women Voters, St. Lucie County.

13 Let me say that I feel that we are living  
14 in this evening. Tonight we should be speaking  
15 about maps, but instead I will plead to you to  
16 move up your timeline. The congressional maps  
17 can be drawn now. There is no reason to wait.  
18 Other states have already begun the process and  
19 are well ahead of Florida. We are in the  
20 national public eye and need to do this process  
21 well.

22 St. Lucie County is represented in Florida  
23 Congress by four House Representatives and  
24 three Senators. This is confusing to the  
25 voters. Now is the time to implement Fair

1       Districts. You must move up your timeline in  
2       order to avoid massive voter confusion in 2012  
3       and allow the public comment or input on the  
4       maps.

5             The Committee should be working on maps in  
6       September in order to have final approval when  
7       the session begins in January 2012.

8             Here is the League of Women Voters'  
9       suggestion: One, an October 3rd deadline for  
10      legislators to file all proposed redistricting  
11      plans; two, complete the committee review of  
12      the maps by the conclusion of the interim  
13      committee hearings in December of 2011; three,  
14      require any amendment be filed with sufficient  
15      notice to afford citizens an opportunity to  
16      review the various plans; and four, vote on the  
17      final plan on the floor by no later than the  
18      end of the first week of session, Friday,  
19      January 12th, 2012. This allows two months for  
20      the court and the Justice Department reviews.  
21      I am worried that after 26 hearings, we will  
22      still be in the dark as to what the House and  
23      Senate have to do with the district maps.

24             Let me close by quoting from "A Citizen's  
25      Guide to Redistricting," 2010 edition,

1 published by the Brennan Center for Justice and  
2 New York University School of Law. And I  
3 quote: "Why does redistricting matter? Our  
4 representatives in local, state and federal  
5 government set the rules by which we live. In  
6 ways large and small, they affect the taxes we  
7 pay, the food we eat, the air we breathe, the  
8 ways in which we make each other safe and more  
9 secure. The way that voters are grouped into  
10 districts has an enormous influence on who our  
11 representatives are and what policies they  
12 fight for." Thank you.

13 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
14 Ms. Brandon, appreciate it. And as you have  
15 some prepared remarks, would you please submit  
16 them to our staff so we can get that accurately  
17 reflected in the record?

18 Next we have Mr. Nicholas Pecoraro, who is  
19 also with the League of Women Voters.  
20 Mr. Pecoraro.

21 MR. PECORARO: My name is Nicholas  
22 Pecoraro, and I live at 202 River Walk, Ft.  
23 Pierce, Florida.

24 These Fair District amendments passed last  
25 November by an overwhelming majority of voters,

1       and here it is in August, eight months later,  
2       and in my opinion, the Republican-controlled  
3       Legislature is dragging its feet in  
4       implementing these constitutional amendments.  
5       Please get moving and create a map of the new  
6       districts.

7               The legislative holdup is creating  
8       uncertainty and will not allow new candidates a  
9       proper opportunity to scope out the new  
10      districts and organize a strategy to run for  
11      office.

12             Many believe that the delay in creating  
13      new districts helps those who are now in  
14      office, the incumbents. But I think the voters  
15      are starting to smarten up. If the  
16      redistricting doesn't happen on time, the  
17      voters will know that the Republican incumbents  
18      are responsible for the delay in satisfying the  
19      voice of the people.

20             We all know that a small swing vote of  
21      only three percent can change the outcome of  
22      any election. Don't let the anger of the  
23      voters turn against you. Please, let's get  
24      this done fairly, according to the Constitution  
25      and soon as possible. In my opinion, if you



1 put politics aside, you can do this in one  
2 weekend. Get it done.

3 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
4 Mr. Pecoraro.

5 Next we have Timothy Williams, and if  
6 Stephen Hinkle, Eric Miller, Al Rivett and  
7 Donna Dupuy could also get in line, I would  
8 appreciate that.

9 Mr. Williams, you have the mike.

10 MR. WILLIAMS: I am Timothy Williams, a  
11 Florida native. I teach civics and government,  
12 and when the students see maps like these, they  
13 are hard to explain, and the -- I also want to  
14 go, I was lead field researcher for the Census  
15 Bureau in (inaudible), and when I was surveying  
16 all over West Palm Beach and the Treasure Coast  
17 area, one of the things and this is positive  
18 for Port St. Lucie. I was told Washington was  
19 probably the most integrated city in the  
20 country. That, it really is.

21 I never knew -- I repeatedly ran into  
22 people in Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River,  
23 Okeechobee, who didn't know who their state Rep  
24 or state Senator, Congressman was. Why?  
25 Because of these maps, and it's ridiculous.

1 Port St. Lucie is the largest community within  
2 an hour going north, south, east -- well, not  
3 east, but west, and we head up the three areas,  
4 three different districts. St. Lucie County is  
5 cut up in three different districts. Just  
6 makes no sense.

7 Our Congressmen, for example, and some of  
8 the other people in the state office,  
9 districts from one coast to the other and then  
10 down to the end of the state. It is crazy.

11 We also want to make it easier for you.  
12 Essentially we want you to make the new maps  
13 soon so that people can decide and we will have  
14 concise districts that make sense to  
15 (inaudible).

16 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Mr. Williams,  
17 I'll have to ask you to wrap it up.

18 MR. WILLIAMS: It would mean -- I know how  
19 much it would cost to run, but right now we are  
20 making three different (inaudible) stretched  
21 all over the state, and it's just too expensive  
22 for the average person to run. So we want to  
23 make sense for better democracy.

24 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
25 appreciate it.

1           Next we have Mr. Jon Taylor. Mr. Taylor,  
2           the microphone is yours.

3           MR. TAYLOR: Thank you. Legislators, I  
4           welcome you to Stuart, and thank you for coming  
5           here to listen to the views of residents before  
6           you begin your arduous task of redrawing  
7           district boundaries for State House, State  
8           Senate and congressional districts.

9           Legislators, my testimony is going to be a  
10          lot different than the other testimony you are  
11          hearing. I am not here to complain about the  
12          process or to talk about geography. Instead, I  
13          am here to tell you and everyone in this room  
14          the truth about redistricting.

15          Redistricting in the state of Florida has  
16          been tougher by the passage of Amendments 5 and  
17          6. These so-called Fair District amendments  
18          use subjective terms such as "compact,"  
19          "practical" and "feasible," and untested  
20          concepts regarding minority voting rights.

21          The Florida League of Women Voters has on  
22          their website, which you have heard and will  
23          hear today for these maps before these hearings  
24          are completed.

25          I would like to tell this Committee the

1       League of Women Voters here today that ten  
2       years ago, the first State House map, the first  
3       State Senate map and the first congressional  
4       map submitted were submitted by none other than  
5       the League of Women Voters. And you can see  
6       this by going through the redistricting  
7       archives of the Florida Senate website.

8               I ask what is the reason for this inherent  
9       change in position from being the first to  
10      submit maps to now saying you are wrong for the  
11      legislators to seek public input. The  
12      difference is the League of Women Voters and  
13      their allies know that Amendments 5 and 6 are  
14      so subjective and impossible to fulfill that  
15      they don't want to show their hand as to what  
16      they think 5 and 6 (inaudible).

17             The reality is that there is no map that  
18      can be passed that will satisfy these people.  
19      They will complain and sue until they find a  
20      court to draw this plan and (inaudible)  
21      representatives of the people of Florida.

22             So, in closing, my advice to you is to  
23      ignore this nonsense, complete your hearings,  
24      and then do your best to draw a fair and good  
25      map for the people of Florida. Thank you.

1           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you.

2           Next we will have Stephen Hinkle, followed  
3 by Eric Miller, Al Rivett, Donna Dupuy and  
4 David Lutrin. Is Mr. Hinkle here? And, again,  
5 folks, if you can -- when I call your name out  
6 the first time, if you can come up and get in  
7 line, that will expedite the process.

8           Mr. Hinkle, you have the microphone, and,  
9 again, he is going to be followed by Eric  
10 Miller, Al Rivett, Donna Dupuy and David  
11 Lutrin. If you can come get in line, I would  
12 appreciate it.

13          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Okay. You have  
14 the mike.

15          MR. HINKLE: (Inaudible).

16          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Okay, thank you.

17          MR. HINKLE: My name is Steve Hinkle. I  
18 am from Palm Beach County. I am from Palm  
19 Beach County in a rural community (inaudible)  
20 people.

21          Regretfully for the congressional  
22 districts, Palm Beach County has four. Out of  
23 those four, three reside in Palm Beach County  
24 and one in Broward County. My congressional  
25 representative is in southwest Broward County

1           and has no idea (inaudible) with Palm Beach  
2           County.

3           So when you do this redistricting, I hope  
4           you take into the fact that Palm Beach County  
5           itself just in land mass is the third-largest  
6           county and that is a population of close to 1.4  
7           million people. It would be respectful if we  
8           could have a Representative in Congress who  
9           could actually live in Palm Beach County  
10          representing us, and not close to 80 miles  
11          away.

12          Also, when you go through and the part for  
13          the second district, again, I do not have a  
14          Senator who lives in Palm Beach County. He  
15          lives in Martin County. That is (inaudible).  
16          My little section of Palm Beach County the only  
17          person that basically does it anymore is when  
18          it comes down for the State Representative, and  
19          that is in with District 83 and (inaudible) he  
20          actually (inaudible).

21          So having all these representatives from  
22          the state and congressional and House, we want  
23          to have truly representative of Palm Beach  
24          County, and especially my community. So I hope  
25          you take into consideration (inaudible) county

1           and just have people who live in our area to  
2           represent us, because right now, this  
3           (inaudible), I live in (inaudible), I work in  
4           areas in a 12-mile area, but I have  
5           (inaudible).

6           Thank you for listening, and I hope you  
7           all have a good day.

8           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
9           much, Mr. Hinkle.

10          I have been -- it's been indicated that  
11          Mr. Eric Miller is not here. He had an  
12          emergency and had to leave. Al Rivett is next,  
13          and he will be followed by Donna Dupuy and then  
14          David Lutrin.

15          MR. RIVETT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and  
16          Senators and Representatives. Let me just say  
17          that I am grateful to have the opportunity to  
18          submit my testimony to you before you draw the  
19          lines. So I am a 22nd year resident of St.  
20          Lucie County, and nearly ten years  
21          (inaudible). I currently reside in  
22          Congressional District 23, which if you see the  
23          map, is part of (inaudible) it comes up from  
24          the south and jabs Ft. Pierce. It was the only  
25          section of the (inaudible) that really was not

1           together. And I venture to say that given your  
2           maps and (inaudible) we won't -- we will not  
3           see a congressional representative from the  
4           Treasure Coast representing my wife and our  
5           family. So I would ask you to keep that in the  
6           consideration.

7                     We would like to have a congressional  
8           district that represents a community of  
9           interest.

10                    Having said that, let me say God bless you  
11           all for the work that you have done to this  
12           point, that you are going to do. I know that  
13           it is easier said than done, this is not an  
14           easy task, and may God be willing and bless  
15           you. Thank you.

16                    REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
17           much for that, appreciate it.

18                    Ms. Donna Dupuy, and she has left --

19                    A VOICE: I am (inaudible).

20                    REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
21           much, ma'am. David Lutrin, and if Mary Jane  
22           Range, Marcia Halpern and Mona Leonard could  
23           come up, we would appreciate it.

24                    Mr. Lutrin.

25                    MR. LUTRIN: My name is David Lutrin. I



1       started (inaudible) America. (Inaudible) part  
2       of the overwhelming majority (inaudible).  
3       Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I have  
4       been a resident of Florida for close to 23  
5       years. With the exception of the 2000  
6       election, this is the worst abuse of power in  
7       this state.

8               REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: And sir, and as  
9       an aside ladies and gentlemen, we are here to  
10      hear about the redistricting process. So I am  
11      going to ask you to limit your comments to the  
12      redistricting process, and there will be other  
13      opportunities for you to speak to the other  
14      issues, the Representatives will be here after  
15      the meeting and you can pull them aside at that  
16      time.

17             MR. LUTRIN: Redistricting it's pretty  
18      obvious that what we say here at this meeting  
19      isn't really going to matter. This should have  
20      been addressed in the last legislative session.  
21      This is a stall tactic. You are in the  
22      four-corner offense. This process is going to  
23      be delayed to the very end to deliberately  
24      confuse voters, make it more difficult for  
25      candidates to challenge incumbents. It's about

1 power and abuse of power, and I'm sorry, but  
2 you should be ashamed of yourselves. You were  
3 elected to serve all of the people.

4 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir,  
5 and you have used up your two minutes of time  
6 now, so I appreciate it. Thank you.

7 MR. LUTRIN: No, I didn't.

8 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: We are going to  
9 go ahead and move to Ms. Mary Jane Range next.

10 MR. LUTRIN: In November the people  
11 overwhelmingly --

12 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Will you please  
13 remove this man from the microphone?

14 MR. LUTRIN: -- voted to change the  
15 Florida Constitution.

16 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: I have almost 70  
17 people that want to speak. We have to keep the  
18 limits -- the meetings to two minutes.

19 Ms. Range, you have the microphone.

20 MS. RANGE: My name is Mary Jane Range,  
21 AND I am a proud member of the League of Women  
22 Voters.

23 I am most concerned about the lack of  
24 clarity and the truthful information that  
25 surrounds the pending lawsuit. The Senate

1       wisely chose not to get involved in these  
2       lawsuits.  However, the House has filed  
3       documents that oppose the will of the Florida  
4       electorate who approved these amendments by  
5       63 percent.

6               In a previous listening session, it was  
7       stated that the House joined on the side of  
8       Balart/Brown for, and I quote, "clarification  
9       and not to challenge the constitutionality of  
10      the -- of Amendment 6."

11              Why then are there statements in these  
12      documents prepared by -- and I have the  
13      documents here -- by Gray Robinson, George  
14      Meros and Alan Windsor, and I might add paid  
15      for by our tax dollars, that the State -- and  
16      here I quote from the Complaint in this --  
17      called the Complaint in the intervention:  
18      "Whereas the Florida House respectfully  
19      requests that the Court -- for the Court to  
20      declare the amendment unconstitutional under  
21      the elections clause of the U.S. Constitution."  
22      That seems clear to anyone who can read that,  
23      in fact, the House is looking to overturn this  
24      amendment, which is now part of our  
25      Constitution.

1           I ask why are you continually spending our  
2           money to join this suit. And since your  
3           original answer was to obtain clarification, it  
4           seems that that was clearly untruthful.

5           Further, I ask that you rescind these  
6           documents, stop the suit and take the same  
7           approach as the Florida Senate and respect the  
8           will of the voters.

9           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
10          ma'am.

11          Next we will have Ms. Marcia Halpern, and  
12          if the following people will come to get in  
13          line: Mr. Edwin Matson, Dowling Watford and  
14          Art Argenio.

15          Ms. Halpern, you have the microphone.

16          MS. HALPERN: Hi. I am at two minutes,  
17          ten seconds. My name is Marcia Halpern from  
18          Palm Beach Gardens.

19          I remember hearing once that Helen Thomas,  
20          before she self-destructed, was asked why she  
21          had stayed at her job for so long. Her reply  
22          was permanent outrage. I don't know if this  
23          should really be attributed to her, but this  
24          sentiment is why I am here tonight.

25          Outrage is the undermining of our

1       democracy. We spend trillions of dollars  
2       spreading democracy around the world, but we  
3       are methodically destroying it all across the  
4       United States.

5             The purposeful delay in drawing maps,  
6       receiving public comment and preparing final  
7       plans for the Legislature before it convenes so  
8       that it can be voted on in the first week of  
9       the session is nothing short of voter disregard  
10      and a blatant attempt to protect incumbents.

11            Democracy demands fair and competitive  
12      elections. If you wait to the end of the  
13      session, there will be little time for new  
14      candidates to register to run and make  
15      themselves known to their districts.

16            Outrage that the Legislature is spending  
17      taxpayers' money to fight something that  
18      63 percent of the voters want. If you are so  
19      concerned about the spending of tax dollars,  
20      how do you justify \$30 million set aside for  
21      court battles? What about the tight budget and  
22      all of the so-called necessary cuts? You don't  
23      really care about the taxpayers or our money.

24            Outrage at the shame of public hearings  
25      that have no proposed maps for citizens'

1        comments. Again, another waste of taxpayer  
2        dollars in difficult financial times. When  
3        maps are finally drawn, there will not be ample  
4        time for access for meaningful citizen input.

5            Outrage at the pandering and  
6        misrepresentation concerning minority rights.  
7        The Florida House's own special counsel on  
8        redistricting said that the amendments are an  
9        enhancement of minority protections. They will  
10       provide fair and equal access for minority  
11       voters to elect candidates of their choice.

12           Outrage that you won't answer our  
13       questions. You are public servants. We pay  
14       your salaries. You owe us more than that in  
15       return. You are not doing your jobs.

16           And outrage that Florida again gets a  
17       reputation for shady deals and mismanagement of  
18       the electoral process. Thank you.

19           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you. Next  
20       we have Ms. Marcia Halpern. You have the  
21       microphone.

22           MS. HALPERN: Hi. Thank you for letting  
23       me take the time to present my feelings and the  
24       opportunity for all of us to speak. Thank you  
25       for this open, transparent meeting.

1           We, the people of the Treasure Coast, are  
2           concerned about the expense and unnecessary  
3           waste of time of litigation we cannot afford.  
4           Traditionally, minority interests are  
5           eliminated, not enhanced during such court  
6           battles. We feel the boundaries should be to a  
7           common interest, which is our Treasure Coast.  
8           Many people have spoken to that and how it is  
9           broken up and sort of the absurdity of that.  
10          If this goes to the courts, we lose input and  
11          the will of the people. Please keep the  
12          Treasure Coast together. Thank you.

13                 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you for  
14                 those comments.

15                 Next on the list I have Mona Leonard. Is  
16                 Ms. Leonard here -- oh, I'm sorry.

17                 Next, Edwin Matson. We are getting there.

18                 MR. MATSON: I'm Edwin Matson. I live in  
19                 Martin County in Stuart, Florida.

20                 Florida, after Texas, is one of the most  
21                 malapportioned states in the Union due to  
22                 blatant partisan redistricting process that  
23                 took place in 2002 under a Republican-led  
24                 Legislature bent on increasing its power. From  
25                 Florida, Texas, the Republican party has become

1       synonymous with back-room political deal-making  
2       that voters distrust.

3               Florida's redistricting process from ten  
4       years ago was so riddled with confusion and a  
5       lack of standards that led to the Fair  
6       Districts movement and a resounding rejection  
7       of the kind of partisan redistricting made  
8       famous by the Republican party in 2002.

9               Last year, Floridians demanded a change.  
10       Sixty-three percent of the people spoke in  
11       overwhelming numbers and demanded fair  
12       districts, districts where voters decide, not  
13       the politicians. The Republican Governor and  
14       Republican Legislature fought the adoption of  
15       Amendments 5 and 6 tooth and nail, but the  
16       voters prevailed, and Fair Districting is now  
17       the law.

18              While laying off thousands of teachers,  
19       the Republican Legislature leadership in the  
20       very same session appropriated over \$30 million  
21       of taxpayer money to thwart the will of the  
22       people. But we will not be thwarted.  
23       Floridians voted to eliminate overt partisan  
24       advantage and incumbent protection of the  
25       redistricting process. I beseech you, see that



1 the law of the State of Florida is followed.

2 Thank you.

3 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.

4 Next I have Dowling Watford, and if the  
5 other folks -- he will be followed by Art  
6 Argenio -- is that you? Great. And then if  
7 Robbie Chartier, Hoot Worley and Benjamin  
8 D'Avanzo could get in line, I would appreciate  
9 it.

10 Mr. Watford.

11 COUNCILMAN WATFORD: Thank you. I am  
12 Dowling Watford. I am a city councilman with  
13 the City of Okeechobee. As you know,  
14 Okeechobee is a very rural community, and so we  
15 have some special issues and some special  
16 problems.

17 It sounds like I am probably the only  
18 person in this room that is happy with the way  
19 our district is. I would just like to say that  
20 we have two State Representatives and two State  
21 Senators, and we really like that. It gives us  
22 more representation as a small community.  
23 Otherwise, we would not have -- we would only  
24 have one voice. So we appreciate having two  
25 State Representatives and two State Senators.

1           We also appreciate the way that our  
2       district is drawn in that we have two that are  
3       from the coastal area and two that are from the  
4       heartland area. In our unique position, we  
5       have a great relationship with both the  
6       heartland and the coast, so it is very  
7       important that we keep representation from both  
8       those areas.

9           The Okeechobee County Board of County  
10       Commissioners has a resolution that we  
11       presented to you shortly, and would like to say  
12       that we certainly support that and we certainly  
13       support having two Representatives for  
14       Okeechobee. Thank you.

15           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.

16           Okay. Next, Mr. Argenio, you have the  
17       microphone.

18           MR. ARGENIO: Honorable Chairman,  
19       Honorable Board, thank you for having me today.  
20       My name is Art Argenio, and I actually would  
21       like to talk about geography.

22           I recently ran for House District 80,  
23       which includes St. -- parts of St. Lucie  
24       County, Indian River County and Brevard County.  
25       I actually served in the House in District 82

1 before the last redistricting, and I -- and  
2 that is back when District 82 went all the way  
3 into Palm Beach County. I probably knocked on  
4 more doors between Palm Beach County and  
5 Melbourne Beach than any person in the history  
6 of the world, with the exception of possibly  
7 Representative Harrell, but I would contend  
8 that I knocked on more different doors than  
9 Representative Harrell. And I say all that  
10 because I do have a perspective of the  
11 geography of the area and the makeup of the  
12 area, and what I would like to see is -- and I  
13 do have many friends on the platform today.  
14 Hopeful they will still be my friends after I  
15 slice up their districts.

16 But what I would like to see is take the  
17 St. Lucie County portion of District 80,  
18 combine it with the St. Lucie County portion of  
19 District 78. Now, this really comes into fair  
20 redistricting, because those are polar opposite  
21 districts. And then what I would further like  
22 to see -- pardon me, Representative Harrell --  
23 is to continue that district into St. Lucie  
24 County south of Midway Road as far as necessary  
25 to make the new population requirements.

1           And I thank you for your time, and God  
2           bless.

3           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
4           Mr. Argenio. And this brings up a very good  
5           point. If you have some specifics on how a  
6           district should be drawn, comments are great,  
7           but a picture paints a thousand words, so if  
8           you can submit a map, even if it is a sketch on  
9           the back of a napkin, that will go a long ways  
10          towards conveying whatever it is that you are  
11          trying to say.

12          I have also been asked by staff to let  
13          everyone know that if you have a Blackberry on  
14          when you come to the microphone, please turn it  
15          off or leave it at your seat so that that will  
16          cut out some of the interference and the folks  
17          in the back can hear a little bit better.

18          Next, Robbie Chartier, you have the  
19          microphone.

20          MR. CHARTIER: Good evening, Robbie  
21          Chartier, I am representing Okeechobee County  
22          Board of County Commissioners, who did adopt a  
23          resolution that asked that you retain the  
24          inclusion of two Senate House districts and two  
25          State Senate districts that will best serve the

1 interests of Okeechobee County.

2 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
3 much.

4 Next we have Hoot Worley, and if Dwight  
5 Mattingly, Kathleen Boland and Jackie  
6 Trancynger can come and get in line, I would  
7 appreciate it.

8 Mr. Worley, go ahead.

9 MR. WORLEY: I am Mack Worley. I am  
10 currently the Chairman of the Economic Council  
11 of Okeechobee. I am sure you realize that just  
12 means I drew the short straw.

13 I want to thank you for your extraordinary  
14 effort in those most extraordinary times.  
15 Thank you for the time that you spend. I know  
16 that each one of you takes this very seriously,  
17 and we thank you for that.

18 I want to echo what Robbie and Dowling  
19 have said. We currently have representation  
20 from two Senators and two Representatives. And  
21 I am often told that Okeechobee is the center  
22 of a wheel, that all the roads leading out of  
23 Okeechobee are the spokes. I think more  
24 correctly we are probably -- if you drew a  
25 circle around Orlando and the Ridge and the

1       Treasure Coast and Palm Beach County and the  
2       Glades, all those circles would converge over  
3       Okeechobee, or overlap, and we need that  
4       diverse representation. Economically, we are  
5       tied to all of those areas. We recognize that  
6       we don't have any clout. We do have some  
7       influence because of the way the districts are  
8       drawn now, and we encourage you, we think that  
9       it is requisite that you don't put that out of  
10      balance. And thank you for this time.

11               REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
12      Mr. Worley.

13               Next we have Benjamin D'Avanzo.

14               MR. D'AVANZO: It's close, it is D'Avanzo.

15               REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you.

16               MR. D'AVANZO: Well, I trust I have your  
17      attention.

18               REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: And two minutes  
19      of it, I might add.

20               MR. D'AVANZO: In Martin County, you gave  
21      three, but we'll do two.

22               Senator Gaetz, you said back in March, and  
23      I quote, "My direction from Senate President  
24      Mike Haridopolos is to engage in the most  
25      transparent, open and interactive redistricting

1 process in America." Yet in the 2011  
2 Legislature, had an opportunity to increase the  
3 transparency of this process, you chose not to.  
4 Why do I say this? Because a Bill introduced  
5 earlier this year had the lawmakers' documents  
6 disclosed during the redistricting process was  
7 defeated. That Bill could have lifted the  
8 current exemption for disclosure, thereby  
9 increasing transparency.

10 Secondly, Senator Gaetz and Representative  
11 Weatherford here, it would be nice if you could  
12 help us understand your dual role here. You  
13 know, on one hand, you have asked us, your  
14 employer, for our feedback on the  
15 redistricting, yet on the other hand, you are  
16 simultaneously using our tax dollars to  
17 overturn the very instructions we, the people,  
18 gave you this fall. Let me explain.

19 The Florida House joined a lawsuit that  
20 seeks to overturn Amendment 6 and  
21 unconstitutional attacks on minority districts.  
22 Since Florida Department of State is defending  
23 those new standards, taxpayers, all of us, are  
24 stuck with the cost of lawyers on both sides.  
25 That kind of stinks. The House budget

1       30 million for this litigation, while the  
2       Senate set aside 9 million as its share.  
3       Representative Weatherford, although he is not  
4       here, he denied that the 30 million existed to  
5       fight -- excuse me, he denied that 30 million  
6       existed to fight the amendment, yet at a June  
7       redistricting meeting in Panama City he stated,  
8       and I quote, "Your tax dollars are not going to  
9       be spent on anything like that." Earlier this  
10      month, PolitiFact Florida ruled that your claim  
11      -- or his claim was false, with House Speaker  
12      Dean Cannon saying that the total sum of  
13      30 million had been set aside in two House  
14      accounts. Reportedly, more than one million  
15      has been spent on this litigation to defeat our  
16      vote.

17             Senator Hays also earned a false ruling  
18      from PolitiFact. He stated the House joined  
19      the lawsuit as an intervenor, seeking  
20      clarification, not to fight the lawsuit, but  
21      the House filed the motion according to --  
22      let's see here, I apologize.

23             REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: I am going to  
24      have to ask you to wrap it up.

25             MR. D'AVANZO: Sure, I will wrap it up for



1           you.

2           We demand a second -- excuse me. We  
3           demand a second round of public meetings in the  
4           fall to explain and show your mapping revisions  
5           before January to give us a chance to voice our  
6           opinion before a final vote is taken in the  
7           Legislature. Voters are to choose their  
8           Representatives, not the other way around. And  
9           I would be remiss, sir, if I didn't remind you  
10          that you work for us.

11          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.

12          Next we have Dwight Mattingly.

13          Mr. Mattingly, you have the microphone.

14          MR. MATTINGLY: Thank you for the  
15          opportunity to speak tonight. I think most of  
16          what I would have to say has been said, so let  
17          me put it this way: The citizens of Florida  
18          spoke when the Amendments 5 and 6 were passed.  
19          We asked that you take the wording that has  
20          been added to the Constitution and apply it in  
21          redistricting the districts in a fair,  
22          equitable way that has been given to you.

23          As citizens, if we want to see a bridge  
24          built, we would hire an engineer. If we wanted  
25          to see a -- buy a piece of property, we would

1 hire a surveyor to survey that. If we wanted  
2 to fly somewhere, we would want a certified  
3 pilot to guide us. You are paid by the  
4 taxpayers to hire staff that have the  
5 professional understanding, the knowledge of  
6 what the Constitution now says, and the proper  
7 configuration of the map, as well as the  
8 population, to be able to put together the fair  
9 districts.

10 To expect us as citizens, who all work  
11 jobs, if we have jobs, to take the opportunity  
12 to do what Senator Gaetz said he did in 15  
13 minutes, and that is learn the program, the  
14 question I would like to ask of Senator Gaetz  
15 is, have you drawn a map and maps? To show  
16 that we are fair, we need professional people  
17 to do this and then put the maps out for the  
18 citizens to comment on.

19 Thank you for your time.

20 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.

21 Okay. Next we are going to have Kathleen  
22 Boland, who will be followed by Jackie  
23 Trancynger, and if Joseph Russo and Roland  
24 O'Brien could come get in line, I would  
25 appreciate it.

1           Ms. Boland.

2           MS. BOLAND: Yeah, my name is Kate Boland  
3           from Martin County. As one of your employers,  
4           I would like to thank you for taking the time  
5           to come and talk to me and others and get our  
6           opinions about the redistricting issue.

7           I think the biggest problem with the  
8           redistricting, with Amendments 5 and 6, is the  
9           lack of clarity as to the meaning. I did not  
10          support them for that reason. In particular,  
11          looking at some of the advocates for these  
12          amendments and the lack of clarity, it seemed  
13          clear to me that these were going to end up in  
14          the courts. That is not where we want our  
15          decisions to be made. This should be made by  
16          the Legislature, and it should be done within  
17          the proper goals of representing the citizens  
18          effectively. So those are laudable goals, I  
19          agree with that, but I think it is totally  
20          unclear as to what is intended by these  
21          amendments.

22          For example, what does compactness mean?  
23          They talk about intent, intent and result. How  
24          are we supposed to know what is the intent of  
25          the people making these decisions? And won't

1           that be just challenged immediately? I think  
2           it will be. So I don't think the trial lawyers  
3           and others who are looking to see this thrown  
4           into the courts ought to be given that  
5           opportunity. I think we, the people, ought to  
6           have the opportunity that you are giving us now  
7           to comment on that and help to clarify it.

8                     I would like to say, I guess, when you  
9           make your decision, to keep in mind true  
10          fairness for the people of Florida who will be  
11          represented in districts that will not be  
12          incumbency protection districts, but will truly  
13          be competitive districts that will represent  
14          the interests of communities such as the  
15          Treasure Coast, and that their compactness will  
16          not be designed in a way that will favor a  
17          particular party against another party.

18                    Thank you very much for the time.

19                    REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
20          ma'am.

21                    Next we have Jackie Trancynger.

22                    MS. TRANCYNGER: My name is Jackie  
23          Trancynger.

24                    REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: You can go ahead  
25          and pull it down. You can pull it down.

1 MS. TRANCYNGER: Can it come down? I am  
2 very short.

3 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: There you go.

4 MS. TRANCYNGER: I live in Jensen Beach,  
5 and I really don't want to thank you for being  
6 here this evening, because I think -- I think  
7 these things are shams and charades.

8 Sixty-three percent of the citizens in  
9 Florida voted for the Fair District amendments,  
10 you know full well how the public feels on this  
11 issue, and yet you are spending my tax dollars  
12 to attempt to invalidate and attack your own  
13 State Constitution.

14 And I might add you are doing this at the  
15 same time that your Governor and many of you in  
16 our Legislature are casting votes to destroy  
17 our educational system, fire teachers, fire  
18 South Florida Water Management District, reduce  
19 funds for healthcare and social services for  
20 the poor, the elderly and children.

21 You have set aside \$30 million and you  
22 have already spent a million on the lawsuit.  
23 You say it is for clarification. Come on down  
24 to my lanai, we will sit in the back in Jensen  
25 Beach and I will clarify it for you, and -- and

1 I won't charge you \$300 an hour like the  
2 lawyers are charging you for the lawsuit. Do  
3 you think we don't understand why you are doing  
4 this? We are not unintelligent. We are not  
5 dumb. We know it is to protect your seats.  
6 And what the outcome will be is a trampling of  
7 my voting rights and the subverting of the will  
8 of the people of the state of Florida.

9 Will the maps be done early enough in  
10 2012? You throw us a bone by telling us to go  
11 to a website and draw our own maps. Give me a  
12 break. That is your responsibility. We all  
13 know those maps will be drawn in formally  
14 smoke-filled rooms away from public scrutiny,  
15 and maybe we will see them three days before  
16 you vote on them. I can't afford to drive to  
17 Tallahassee at that time. I am trying to live  
18 on my Social Security income and my \$187 a  
19 month supplemental health insurance that I have  
20 to pay, while, I might add, your Governor  
21 spends \$400 a year for his health plan and is  
22 now refusing federal healthcare funds for us in  
23 the state of Florida.

24 Only two words that I can safely say and  
25 retain my dignity and class here tonight are

1 disgraceful, dishonest.

2 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
3 much.

4 Mr. Joseph Russo, you have the microphone.

5 MR. RUSSO: How do I follow that?

6 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Just tilt the  
7 microphone up a little higher.

8 MR. RUSSO: There you go.

9 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: There you go.

10 MR. RUSSO: Well, hello, Representatives  
11 and Senators. My name is Joseph R. Russo. I  
12 am a life-long resident of the City of Palm  
13 Beach Gardens in northern Palm Beach County,  
14 and I am currently a student at Florida Gulf  
15 Coast University, studying in the political  
16 science program.

17 I come here today first of all to thank  
18 you. I know this process may seem very  
19 agonizing and annoying at times, but it is what  
20 makes our democracy great and it is a very big  
21 part of the transparency that we try to put  
22 forth in this state. And while there are those  
23 people that are going to be angry no matter  
24 what they do -- excuse me, what you do, you  
25 draw maps, they are going to be angry that you

1       have already done the process, you don't draw  
2       maps, they are angry that you haven't done it  
3       at all, it is that you are actually here  
4       talking to us that really matters.

5               What I am here to mention to you all today  
6       is that although there are maps that have to be  
7       made, it is not just a map. The areas that we  
8       see here today are -- are our towns, our  
9       cities, they are not just places on maps. That  
10      is why I really appreciate everyone going from  
11      town to town more so because you get to see  
12      every bit of Florida, not just a little spot on  
13      the map that says, "Stuart, Florida," but you  
14      actually get to see the people there, you  
15      actually get to see the town, you actually get  
16      to see what this place is like, so when you are  
17      going through this redistricting process, you  
18      get to see what these like areas are actually  
19      like. So when you sit down after all these  
20      many redistricting meetings are done, you can  
21      see why the Treasure Coast should probably be  
22      grouped together with currently Representative  
23      Vernie -- not that Representative Bernie, but,  
24      yes, Representative Vernie's district, and  
25      while some of the coastal areas of Florida are



1 best kept together because they are very like  
2 areas. Some of the internal areas, the inner  
3 rural and farming areas of Florida are very  
4 alike, so they should probably be kept  
5 together. That is what I really would like to  
6 stress to you all today.

7 And, again, I would like to thank you all  
8 very much, and if there is one thing I can say  
9 to you, that is to keep trucking along and that  
10 no matter what, I know you will persevere  
11 through this and provide us good representation  
12 on the state level.

13 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
14 Mr. Russo.

15 MR. RUSSO: Thank you very much.

16 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Okay. Next we  
17 have Roland O'Brien, and then if we could get  
18 Tobin Overdorf, David Glener and Mike Jones to  
19 get in line, I would appreciate it.

20 Mr. O'Brien.

21 MR. O'BRIEN: Good evening, Mr. Chairman,  
22 Representatives and committee members. I don't  
23 have a prepared speech. I am a resident of Ft.  
24 Pierce in the Treasure Coast. I am not going  
25 to talk politics. I am not going to try to

1           chastise you.

2           The Treasure Coast, as some of the  
3           previous speakers have mentioned, should as  
4           best possible with the various districts be  
5           kept together. We have a marine industry that  
6           runs north and south, we have a fishing  
7           industry that runs north and south. The Indian  
8           River ties us all together. We have the Indian  
9           River citrus district; again, pretty much comes  
10          right down through the Treasure Coast.

11          I realize it is not easy. I am in the  
12          Congressional District 16. Runs all the way  
13          from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf Coast.  
14          What, pray tell, does Port Charlotte have in  
15          common with the Treasure Coast?

16          We also don't have a lot of commonality  
17          with the people out at Okeechobee. They should  
18          be surrounded by people and districts that are  
19          best able to suit their needs.

20          We have tourism commonality here in the  
21          Treasure Coast. Someone out in the center of  
22          the state doesn't tie in with the advertising  
23          and the way that we operate here on the  
24          Treasure Coast.

25          That is all I would like to ask.

1           Respectfully, please try to keep the Treasure  
2           Coast together as best possible. Thank you.

3           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
4           Mr. O'Brien.

5           Next we have Tobin Overdorf. Tobin, are  
6           you here? He will be followed by David Glener  
7           and then Mike Jones.

8           Mr. Overdorf.

9           MR. OVERDORF: Good evening, and thank  
10          you. Again, Toby Overdorf, I am a Republican  
11          living here in Martin County, and I just want  
12          to thank you all for coming through and  
13          bringing your road show to us.

14          I would request that when you look at the  
15          redistricting, that you first look at the lines  
16          associated with the counties and located with  
17          the cities. If these municipal boundaries  
18          cannot be used due to population or things  
19          along those lines, I would request you use  
20          rivers, canals, things like that. If you cut  
21          through a street, through a neighborhood, it is  
22          just not working for me, and folks on one side  
23          of the street getting represented by somebody  
24          in one area, and another side of the street is  
25          another, it just doesn't seem to work, whereas

1       you have these fantastic boundaries within  
2       Florida known as our rivers, canals and  
3       streams.

4               Ladies and gentlemen, I also request that  
5       there are some Representatives that are --  
6       frankly have their representation through the  
7       middle of Lake Okeechobee, I believe that is a  
8       pretty famous district, and I would request  
9       that the -- there is no land that goes through  
10      the middle of Lake Okeechobee that can be  
11      represented, and I would request that that  
12      district be amended as well.

13              Finally, I would just request that y'all  
14      use some common sense when you are putting this  
15      together, and that is something that often  
16      alludes many of us when we are making  
17      decisions, but if you sit back and take a  
18      little look and use some common sense.

19              So that is what I have to say. Thank you  
20      very much, and Ms. Williams, please keep up the  
21      good work on the water quality.

22              REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
23      Mr. Overdorf.

24              Okay. Next we have David Glener, followed  
25      by Mike Jones, and if the following people

1           could get in line: Kherri Anderson, Thelma  
2           Waters, and Rose Mur -- Mur something.

3           Mr. Glener, you are next.

4           DR. GLENER: Actually, my name is David  
5           Glener.

6           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Glener.

7           DR. GLENER: I am a physician practicing  
8           in Port St. Lucie for much of the 19 years that  
9           I have lived in the Palm City, and I absolutely  
10          promise that I am not going to scold you all.  
11          Though some of you have been naughty, I won't  
12          scold you.

13          I would just like to make some specific  
14          requests, please, regarding districts, nothing  
15          in the abstract. Number one, I live in Palm  
16          City, and I feel as though I have been  
17          marginalized. I am in Ms. Harrell's districts,  
18          no complaints or disrespect, Ms. Harrell, but I  
19          really belong with Representative Snyder's  
20          district. Palm City is a bedroom community of  
21          Stuart, and I have been completely marginalized  
22          and grouped in with the majority of Port St.  
23          Lucie. Even if you read the Stuart news, there  
24          is very little comment -- there's some comment  
25          about what Ms. Harrell does, but the majority

1 of it tends to focus on Representative Snyder.

2 So if you look at the map of Palm City,  
3 you will see that the community is almost  
4 literally bisected. It doesn't go through any  
5 particular subdivision. My understanding, it  
6 goes down Martin Downs Boulevard. I would ask  
7 that you keep Palm City within the same  
8 district as you have Stuart, at least for the  
9 State House.

10 My other recommendation is -- I am quite  
11 north of 40 and I actually tried to tackle your  
12 website. I have 24 years of education and two  
13 advanced science degrees. I couldn't do it.  
14 So -- so I actually pulled out a calculator and  
15 a pencil, I went to the census data and I  
16 looked. The target number is about 700,000 for  
17 a congressional district to represent the  
18 people in the state of Florida with the added  
19 two seats coming our way. I happened to notice  
20 if you add the populations of Martin County,  
21 St. Lucie County, Indian River County and  
22 Okeechobee County, it is almost exactly 700,000  
23 people. I don't see how anyone can possibly  
24 dispute clarity or anything having to do with  
25 Amendments 5 and 6 as to whether or not these

1           are compact or logical districts.

2           The area you are sitting in right now is  
3           known as the Treasure Coast. We all know that  
4           comprises Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River  
5           County. I can tell you from my own experience  
6           living in Martin County and practicing in St.  
7           Lucie County, that I interface with Okeechobee  
8           folks on a regular basis. There is not much  
9           out there except agrarian interests, and when  
10          they need a lot of their goods and services,  
11          these folks will come into St. Lucie and Martin  
12          County, and I feel like they are truly  
13          integrated into the community.

14          One last thing before I let you all go. I  
15          hope you can't tell my political orientation,  
16          because then I will have done my job. I am  
17          just trying to help, not give you a hard time,  
18          and I would urge you to use our children to  
19          help you through this process. I only think to  
20          mention that because one of my kids' middle  
21          school teachers used to pose complex political  
22          problems to the middle schoolers, to the eighth  
23          graders, and they came up with some remarkable  
24          answers. They are not old enough to be  
25          cynical, they don't have a political agenda,

1           and once you reach the age of 12, most of us,  
2           if we are intelligent, pass from the age of  
3           concrete reasoning to abstract reasoning. They  
4           can give you some very reasonable answers and  
5           it is a good measure by which you can see if  
6           you are being fair and reasonable.

7           One last thing and then I --

8           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: I am going to  
9           have to -- you are way over the two minutes.

10          DR. GLENER: I'm sorry.

11          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: If it is quick,  
12          go.

13          DR. GLENER: But just remember, you guys  
14          are a huge committee, and a camel is a horse  
15          that was made by a committee.

16          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
17          appreciate that.

18          Mr. Mike Jones is next. Is Mr. Jones  
19          available? No Mike Jones.

20          Kherri Anderson, you are up next.

21          MS. ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and  
22          members of the Committee. My name is Kherri  
23          Anderson, and I represent the Martin County  
24          Supervisor of Elections office.

25          I just want to briefly share with you



1       about Indiantown. Indiantown has a population  
2       of 6,408 residents. 2,901 of those residents  
3       are voters to Martin County. In Martin County,  
4       Indiantown is the only location that is split  
5       with three districts. And I want to remind  
6       you, again, we are only talking about 2,901  
7       voters.

8               In first, in Congressional District 16,  
9       1,446 voters; Congressional District 23, 1,455  
10      registered voters; House District 78, 962  
11      voters; House District 81, 1,621 voters; and  
12      House District 82, 318 voters.

13             I want to just take you on a brief trip.  
14      Warfield Boulevard is the main stretch of  
15      Indiantown, and for those of you who are not  
16      familiar, Indiantown is a community that prides  
17      on being its brother's keeper. Voter A resides  
18      and lives at 12000 Southwest Warfield Boulevard  
19      and is in Congressional District 23 and House  
20      District 82, while voter B lives at 16022  
21      Southwest Warfield Boulevard and is in  
22      Congressional District 16 and House District  
23      81. And we have voter C who resides at 19200  
24      Warfield Boulevard and is in district --  
25      House -- Congressional District 23 and House

1 District 81. I ask you, how is that considered  
2 equal representation?

3 Also, on Kanner Highway, which is also in  
4 Indiantown, where they have two congressional  
5 districts and one House district. Voter B  
6 lives -- voter D lives at 13071 Southwest  
7 Kanner Highway, and is in Congressional  
8 District 23 and House District 82. And  
9 finally, voter E resides at 15000 Southwest  
10 Kanner Highway and in Congressional District 16  
11 and 82.

12 What we want to remind you is that we are  
13 only focusing on 2,901 people who are  
14 registered voters who are split in three  
15 districts. I would encourage you all as you go  
16 back to make these decisions that you remember  
17 that these residents of Indiantown deserve one  
18 representative in Congress, one representative  
19 in the State Legislature, that this is a  
20 community that works together, that strives  
21 together, and they deserve to be one community,  
22 one voice and one vote.

23 I also would like to challenge you all  
24 that as you go back to make these lines, that  
25 you consider that this should not be about you,

1 but about the representatives and voters of  
2 Indiantown, again, only 2,901 voters who are  
3 split into three districts. Thank you for your  
4 time.

5 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
6 ma'am.

7 Next we have Ms. Thelma Waters, who will  
8 be followed by Rose, and then if Denise White,  
9 Eleanor Hanley and Linda Green could come get  
10 in line, I would appreciate that.

11 Ms. Waters.

12 MS. WATERS: Yes, I am Thelma Waters, but  
13 I support the sayings of Kherri Anderson and  
14 Debbie Dent. They said it so beautifully,  
15 there is nothing I could say to make it better,  
16 other than I am a 65-year resident of  
17 Indiantown, and I have been there and I have  
18 seen it and I know it.

19 I appreciate you all coming here, and the  
20 gentleman who was talking about how you can  
21 draw the lines, but sometime I feel like I am  
22 not on the Treasure Coast, because we are in  
23 Indiantown. We are close to Okeechobee and we  
24 are in the farming community, but we want what  
25 is best for Indiantown, and I hope you think

1           about that when you do your redistricting.

2           Thank you.

3           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
4           much, ma'am. You did an excellent job of  
5           adding comments to that. Thank you.

6           Are you Rose?

7           MS. WHITE: No, I'm sorry.

8           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Is Rose here?

9           Okay. Next, Denise White.

10          MS. WHITE: Yes. Good evening, my name is  
11          Denise White. I am a voter and a homeowner in  
12          Martin County.

13          A lot of folks have already covered issues  
14          I would have discussed, but I would just like  
15          to ask you a few questions. Maybe somebody  
16          else mentioned this, too.

17          I really feel like it is a conflict of  
18          interest for y'all to be drawing your own  
19          districts. That is something that seriously  
20          needs to be revisited.

21          Also, many states, including Alabama,  
22          Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa,  
23          Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska,  
24          Nevada and Oklahoma have already completed or  
25          almost completed their redistricting. So this

1       is totally nonsensical to me that you can't  
2       have maps for us.

3               Also, in Arizona, when the Legislature  
4       redistricted, they came out with actual  
5       proposed maps. Really that would be the  
6       preferred process, propose something to the  
7       voters and then we can move this process along,  
8       because as it is now, it looks like we may not  
9       even have maps by June, and that is when  
10      candidates need to file. So, again, you are  
11      really favoring incumbents, again, primarily  
12      Republicans.

13             One thing I would also like to ask you  
14      about is, okay, when I looked up the word  
15      "gerrymandering" on-line, the examples I got  
16      were U.S. Congressional District 16, Tom  
17      Rooney's, okay. Again, people have mentioned  
18      this, but it takes in a little piece of Palm  
19      Beach County, then it is Martin County, then it  
20      shoots over -- oh, Sebring, yes, we've got a  
21      lot in common with Sebring, drops down to Port  
22      Charlotte, over to Hendry, so we got LaBelle.  
23      This is not compact. This is not contiguous.  
24      We are not communities of interest.

25             Again, I would agree with the folks who

1       have spoken earlier that the Treasure Coast,  
2       you know, what a radical concept. It doesn't  
3       take a genius to figure out compact,  
4       contiguous, the Treasure Coast, Indian River,  
5       St. Lucie, Martin County.

6               REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
7       ma'am.

8               MS. WHITE: And I would also like to look  
9       at --

10              REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: I am going to  
11       have to ask you to wrap it up. You are over  
12       the -- well over the two minutes, and then  
13       we've got Eleanor Hanley and Linda Green are  
14       next. Is Eleanor --

15              MS. WHITE: Okay. Thank you.

16              REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
17       ma'am. And your name is? Eleanor is yielding  
18       her time.

19              Linda Green is next, followed by Richard  
20       Learned, Jerry Brewer and Avron Rifkin.

21              Ms. Green.

22              MS. GREEN: Yes, I am Linda Green and I am  
23       a native Floridian, and this is my second round  
24       also talking to a committee on redistricting.

25              It is unfortunate that Congressman Rooney

1 is the poster child here, and it just speaks to  
2 what the amendments were about, that we did  
3 want representation. So I am not going to hone  
4 in on the points that Denise White just  
5 elegantly showed you with maps.

6 What I would like to plead with you is  
7 what would it cost, what would your cost be if  
8 you did fair districting? Would you lose a lot  
9 of seats, you know? And what are you gaining  
10 by having 75 percent control of our legislators  
11 and you have the Governor's seat? Are we  
12 better off? I think that maybe we need to  
13 balance out. I think that it would be good for  
14 Florida. And I guess -- you know, I don't -- I  
15 think most of you might know my political  
16 persuasion, but I don't believe that one side  
17 is always right, I just don't. And I think --  
18 and I guess I do believe in being an American  
19 and having the process and having the  
20 conversations.

21 So you guys are taking a lot of hits  
22 because people are feeling disenfranchised, it  
23 is their worst fear, that these lines are being  
24 drawn behind closed doors. They are going to  
25 be let out late and everybody is going to be

1 scrambling to try to get to their seat. I say  
2 give it up, put out maps now, don't be attached  
3 to them, get feedback, readjust them and do it  
4 in a timely process. You get to look like the  
5 good guys and you don't take all these other  
6 hits, nobody is suspicious, we get more people  
7 participating in the process and it is a  
8 win-win for Floridians. Thank you.

9 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you.

10 Okay, folks, we are a little over -- we  
11 are right about halfway through the list, and  
12 we are advocating that everybody hit their two  
13 minutes so we can get the last guy on the list,  
14 Mr. Richard Bernard, up to speak. Later on,  
15 Richard, you are number 68, we are on number  
16 37.

17 So Richard Learned, you have the mike.

18 MR. LEARNED: I promise not to take the  
19 two minutes. I have a couple of brief  
20 comments.

21 I've followed this very closely and done  
22 an awful lot of reading, and as a voter  
23 representing myself, I am very disturbed. The  
24 vast majority of this state passed two  
25 constitutional amendments. I don't consider it



1 a democracy when the Legislature, however they  
2 try to cover it over with wallpaper, is taking  
3 money that should be spent on our schools and  
4 opposing the will of the people. That is not a  
5 democracy.

6 Also, the only other point I want to say  
7 is that the proposed schedule is obviously --  
8 and this is from a lot of reading I have done  
9 -- is intended to eliminate as many voters as  
10 possible, because it is going to be impossible  
11 to get everyone able to vote, including the  
12 military overseas, with the schedule that you  
13 are keeping us on. Thank you very much.

14 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.

15 Next we've got Jerry Brewer. He will be  
16 followed by Avron Rifkin, and if Barbara  
17 Learned, Janet, and she did not put her last  
18 name down, and Adrienne Gardner would each come  
19 stand in line, I would appreciate it.

20 Mr. Brewer, you have the mike.

21 MR. BREWER: Hi, my name is Jerry Brewer.  
22 I have been a registered voter here in Martin  
23 County since 1975.

24 At our last election, 63 percent of us  
25 voted for Amendments 5 and 6 to stop the

1       gerrymandering in the state of Florida. Since  
2       then, we have learned that over \$20 million of  
3       our taxpayer money has been spent on litigation  
4       to delay this process, the process that we  
5       voted for. And why? Well, I believe that to  
6       delay the Fair District maps that we voted for  
7       is meant to favor the incumbents and  
8       disenfranchise voters.

9               I think we can all agree that failure to  
10       approve maps by January 2012 would delay final  
11       approval of the new districts until close to  
12       election day. This could cause massive voter  
13       confusion and leaving little time for  
14       candidates to qualify before overseas ballots  
15       for August primary are even mailed out.  
16       Supervisors of Elections from many counties  
17       have testified at hearings that failure to  
18       accelerate the timeline will impair their  
19       ability to conduct elections and will create  
20       havoc with absentee and military voters.

21              So my short message to you is, let's get  
22       this done so the rest -- so the community can  
23       have some more input on it. Let's get it done  
24       before January. Thank you.

25              REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.

1           Avron Rifkin. He will be followed by  
2       Barbara Learned.

3           Mr. Rifkin.

4           MR. RIFKIN: Ladies and gentlemen, I --

5           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: If you could  
6       pull that mike down a little bit for you.  
7       There you go.

8           MR. RIFKIN: I was born in 1929, moved to  
9       Florida in -- three years later.

10          We have been gerrymandered to death. I  
11       repeat that, because I only have a short period  
12       of time, we have been gerrymandered to death.  
13       There is not one person in this room that isn't  
14       in there for their own benefit. Thank you.

15          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.

16          Barbara Learned is next, and she will be  
17       followed by Janet.

18          Ms. Learned.

19          MS. LEARNED: Thank you. I am not going  
20       to take too much time, because I have noted one  
21       thing: There are virtually no people in this  
22       room who are happy with the system we currently  
23       have for districting. To some extent, it would  
24       sound quite true most of the people in this  
25       room are not very happy with the people who

1 represent them, and really don't want it to  
2 continue.

3 There's always both sides when it is time  
4 to redistrict. There are the in's and the  
5 outs, and the in's want to stay there. I can't  
6 imagine why. Serving in your job is not easy,  
7 it is not pleasant, but it sure makes you feel  
8 good when you are out in public. And I think  
9 it is time you thought about whether your  
10 constituents feel good when you come up to  
11 shake their hand and they really don't want to.

12 Do this right this time. Don't worry  
13 about keeping your job. They don't pay you  
14 enough even though you do get rich. Thank you.

15 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you.

16 Janet is next, followed by Adrienne  
17 Gardner, and if we could have Francis Chicuine,  
18 Betty Paterson and Gary Worth come get in line,  
19 I would appreciate that.

20 Janet.

21 A VOICE: Janet first?

22 MS. KRATZER: I am Janet.

23 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: I have Janet --

24 MS. KRATZER: I am Janet Kratzer.

25 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: League of Women

1           Voters.

2                   MS. KRATZER:   League of Women Voters.   I  
3           am President of the League of Women Voters of  
4           Martin County, and I wanted to emphasize  
5           tonight that the voters have spoken.   The  
6           passage of Amendments 5 and 6 was to mean that  
7           districts are to be contiguous and compact,  
8           equal as possible in population, and are drawn  
9           making use of existing city, county and  
10          geographical boundaries.

11                  There are common interests in communities.  
12          Coastline communities are prevalent in Florida.  
13          We have fishing and boating and related  
14          businesses and motels and oceanic opportunities  
15          for all ages, entertainment, restaurants, all  
16          important to attract tourists.   A resort area  
17          for many, and a livelihood for residents.  
18          Residents/voters see their diverse interests  
19          best represented with city, county,  
20          geographical boundaries being observed.

21                  Drop the legal challenge.   The amendments  
22          were to see non-political standards for  
23          redistricting.   Voters want change.   Do not let  
24          this Legislature be known for placing obstacles  
25          in the path of the voters' clear message.

1 Thank you.

2 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
3 Ms. Kratzer.

4 Next we have Adrienne Gardner, and she  
5 will be followed by Francis Chicuine.

6 Ms. Gardner.

7 MS. GARDNER: I am very impressed. This  
8 is my first time at one of these meetings. I  
9 would like to stand here and talk to you about  
10 why you don't think that changes in the voting  
11 laws would not adversely affect a large  
12 minority of people in this state, but then we  
13 would be talking about voter suppression. Oh,  
14 yeah, that is what we are talking about, isn't  
15 it? Voter suppression. That is what fair  
16 districting is all about, voter suppression.

17 Ladies and gentlemen, this is not the year  
18 2000. This is 2010. The economy is very, very  
19 bad, and unlike Europe and the Arab spring, in  
20 my opinion, the American people are very, very  
21 patient. My suggestion is that this is not the  
22 time to try it. My question is, why don't we  
23 just outsource drawing the maps to China,  
24 because the way things are going, that is what  
25 is going to happen anyway.

1           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT:   Thank you.

2           Francis Chicuine, followed by Betty Paterson.

3           MR. CHICUINE:   Hi, my name is Frank  
4           Chicuine, I leave in Stuart, and I tried to  
5           look at this objectively and I tried to come up  
6           with some ideas that might make sense, and I've  
7           heard some speakers here tonight that made a  
8           lot of sense to me in terms of what is  
9           happening in Indiantown, Ft. Pierce and in Port  
10          St. Lucie and Martin County on the  
11          representative side, and I look at it from the  
12          point of view of a hundred thirty or forty  
13          thousand people per State Representative with a  
14          population of 18 million people and 120  
15          Representatives.   And I look at Martin County,  
16          and I think we could solve that problem  
17          relatively easy, because that is about the  
18          number of people that live in Martin County.  
19          And I have a great deal of respect for both  
20          Representatives that work in Martin County, but  
21          it would seem, based on everything I have heard  
22          here tonight, that it would make a lot more  
23          sense if we took Martin County, tried to  
24          determine how many people there were in Martin  
25          County, and I think it is around 140,000, which

1 coincides with the representative level of  
2 140,000, and not confuse people.

3 Most of the people I know don't know who  
4 their Representative is. It is terrible to say  
5 that, but that is a fact. And if I travel to  
6 Ft. Pierce, the situation gets progressively  
7 worse. And, again, I don't have any disrespect  
8 for the Representative that covers part of Ft.  
9 Pierce, but he lives in Boca. And if you --  
10 any of you spent anytime in Boca, it is not Ft.  
11 Pierce. I had a granddaughter that went to  
12 college in Boca, and I spent a lot of time  
13 there, and people go to dinner there at eight,  
14 nine o'clock at night, and the restaurants  
15 close at 6:00 in Ft. Pierce. So you got a  
16 whole different variety of people that live in  
17 different parts of the Treasure Coast, if you  
18 will. So I think you ought to look at those  
19 kinds of things.

20 On the senatorial side, it is a little  
21 different. You go 450,000 people. It seems to  
22 me you ought to go east to west, but not all  
23 the way across the way you did -- or you did  
24 with Congressional 16. Again, respect for the  
25 Congressman, but it is impossible for him to



1           come here on a week's recess and cover Port  
2           Charlotte, Clewiston, the Highlands, Stuart.  
3           He has a life in addition to being in  
4           Washington and getting a recess.

5                     So it seems to me that I have heard the  
6           fact that you got to keep people on the coast,  
7           but you can't do that either. When you go to a  
8           -- it seems to me a Senator or a Congressman,  
9           you got to take in the center of the state.  
10          But I wouldn't suspect that you would want to  
11          go beyond halfway across the state, which is  
12          about 75 miles, which is a lot more reasonable  
13          than going totally across the state.

14                    So it seems pretty simple to me, and,  
15          frankly, you all look very intelligent to me,  
16          so I don't think it is very complex if you take  
17          those kind of areas and dissect them and do it  
18          on the basis that people would like to see it  
19          done. Thank you for your time.

20                    REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.

21                    Okay. Next we've got Betty Paterson, and  
22          she will be followed by Gary Worth. Then if  
23          Todd Bonlarron, Elizabeth Hall and Nathaniel  
24          Burk could come get in line, I would appreciate  
25          it.

1           Ms. Paterson.

2           MS. PATERSON: Betty Paterson, League of  
3 Women Voters of Martin County. In light of all  
4 these very insightful remarks, I have condensed  
5 what I am going to say. Thank you.

6           The current timetable for drawing maps and  
7 for voting at the end of session is likely to  
8 create chaos. Change the timetable. You can  
9 adopt a rule to expedite. The rule could  
10 provide for redrawn maps to be readied by early  
11 October, as soon as possible after this round  
12 of meetings is completed. Get the consultants  
13 and the computers going. Then change your  
14 timetable to call for the vote of the  
15 Legislature at the beginning of session early  
16 in January.

17           Some of you have indicated willingness to  
18 have the process expedited. Thank you. And  
19 just don't create chaos for the elections  
20 offices, the candidates and the voters. Thank  
21 you.

22           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
23 ma'am.

24           Okay. Next we have Mr. Gary Worth, and he  
25 will be followed by Todd Bonlarron.

1           MR. WORTH: Thank you. My name is Gary  
2           Worth, and I came to Martin County about 56  
3           years ago. When I was a young man, I must say,  
4           coming back from California, there was a time  
5           when we knew everybody. Now, hard to know  
6           anybody.

7           In any event, I was amazed and shocked by  
8           the gerrymandering of the current districts,  
9           and I would like to echo what so many have said  
10          here tonight, and I certainly hope that all of  
11          you have felt the anger that is in this room at  
12          our Representatives. But I would like to  
13          recommend that you stay contiguous, that Martin  
14          County should be one congressional district, or  
15          part of one congressional district, and that  
16          you should draw north and south and contiguous  
17          east and west and take the congressional  
18          districts and then break them up into the  
19          smaller State Senate and House districts.

20          And I would also like to say that there is  
21          a computer program, I am sure, that could do  
22          this without any politics being involved,  
23          because computers just don't think. Thank you.

24          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Okay. Next we  
25          have Todd Bonlarron, followed by Elizabeth

1 Hall.

2 MR. BONLARRON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 My name is Todd Bonlarron. I am here on behalf  
4 of the Palm Beach County Board of County  
5 Commissioners. The county commissioners in  
6 Palm Beach County have an adopted position on  
7 redistricting of both our federal and state  
8 legislative seats, and I wanted to just give  
9 you two excerpts from that position.

10 One of them is to adopt an apportionment  
11 plan that minimizes overlap of senatorial and  
12 representative districts into counties adjacent  
13 to Palm Beach County, and the other is to  
14 support the adoption of an apportionment plan  
15 in which Palm Beach County residents comprise  
16 the majority of the constituencies in the  
17 senatorial and representative districts created  
18 such that -- and this is the most important  
19 part -- no less than three Senate districts are  
20 created with a majority of their district  
21 within Palm Beach County. That is really our  
22 one ask of the Legislature during this  
23 reapportionment process.

24 Real quickly, as it relates to our  
25 comments regarding northern Palm Beach County

1       and the Treasure Coast, the constitutional  
2       amendments that you are going to be looking at  
3       require that districts be compact and follow  
4       certain political and geographical boundaries,  
5       and those must be followed. But within those  
6       legal parameters, we would ask that you would,  
7       as the Legislature, consider the principle of  
8       communities of similar interest in the northern  
9       part of Palm Beach County when applying these  
10      principles to redistricting. We believe that  
11      some of the northern municipalities of Palm  
12      Beach County share some very -- some  
13      similarities with our friends in the Treasure  
14      Coast, and we have enjoyed the representation  
15      that we have had with some of the shared  
16      representation between Martin and Palm Beach  
17      County, such as Representative Will Snyder,  
18      Senator Joe Negron, former President Ken  
19      Pruitt, Congressman Rooney. We really enjoy  
20      some of those relationships that we had in that  
21      representation.

22               So we just are here to say so long as the  
23      districts are compact and follow municipal and  
24      geographical boundaries, it is okay if there is  
25      certain overlap in some of these communities of

1 similar interests. Thank you very much.

2 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.

3 Okay. Next we have Elizabeth Hall,  
4 followed by Nathaniel Burk, and then if  
5 Frederick Thompson, Linda Spisak and Mark  
6 Flomenhoft would get in line, I would  
7 appreciate it.

8 Elizabeth Hall, you've got the mike.

9 MS. HALL: Good evening. I am Elizabeth  
10 Hall, a ten-year resident here in Stuart. I'm  
11 happy to be here.

12 I am also happy to tell you that I  
13 disapprove of the gerrymandering that I have  
14 seen here. I came from New York State, and was  
15 not as bad there as it is here.

16 I think the State of Florida deserves much  
17 of its bad reputation in that regard. Tom  
18 Rooney's 16th Congressional District is totally  
19 absurd. I feel very sorry for the young man.  
20 He cannot possibly represent us well.

21 I hope that you will look at common  
22 interests and compactness of our census for  
23 your new district lines.

24 I would like to hear before we close this  
25 evening why the Representatives here have

1       chosen to oppose those two state amendments,  
2       and give us some solid reasons why. Thank you.

3               REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you.

4               Next we have Nathaniel Burk, and he will  
5       be followed by Frederick Thompson.

6               MR. BURK: Good evening, everybody. My  
7       name is Nathaniel Burk, and I appreciate the  
8       opportunity to be here tonight.

9               I am I guess what you would call a  
10       Democratic attorney in the -- in the lines of  
11       Kennedy, kind of civil rights movement, that  
12       kind of thought. And it seems to me I have  
13       learned a lot more from listening tonight than  
14       thinking about what I was going to say.

15              The first comment that Senator Gaetz made  
16       today was interesting to me and of some  
17       concern, because he said, "I need to remind you  
18       that the equality of fair distribution isn't  
19       the only thing that is important here." And  
20       one of the questions I asked is it may not be  
21       the most -- to you the most important thing or  
22       the only thing to consider, but is it not the  
23       most important thing? And was that comment a  
24       disclaimer as to -- as to fairness?

25              You know, you mentioned that if you go on

1       the computer and you check the statutes and you  
2       look at the court cases, you can make a  
3       difference and pitch in and -- you know, I  
4       don't know about the rest of the people here,  
5       but, you know, I think there's probably a lot  
6       of people in east Stuart and Indiantown who  
7       don't have access to computers or don't know  
8       how to read a court case or shepardize it, and  
9       I think that your assumption suggests that the  
10      people who would be on this computer where they  
11      could help more are educated and sophisticated,  
12      and it is usually associated with wealth. And  
13      I suggest to you that those people may not be  
14      able to do what you think they can do, and that  
15      indeed it is your job.

16           I have been surprised in this room from  
17      what I have heard, because while -- you know --

18           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Folks, I hear  
19      some talking here, if we could keep it down,  
20      because if I can hear you, then the audience  
21      can probably hear as well. We need to give  
22      this man the respect. However, sir, you are  
23      over the two minutes. I need you to wind up  
24      your point.

25           MR. BURK: Okay. I will wind it up with a



1        rhetorical question of, what is your definition  
2        of fair? Because I have been out to  
3        Indiantown, and I have been to Port-au-Prince,  
4        Haiti, on a volunteer basis, and I have never  
5        seen two places that reminded me of the same  
6        place. And I don't think that the Republicans  
7        who are sitting here are concerned about that  
8        district. Thank you.

9                REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.

10              Next we have Frederick Thompson.

11        Mr. Thompson still here? He apparently has  
12        left.

13              Linda Spisak, followed by Mark Flomenhoft  
14        and then if Patricia Metro-Patrick, David  
15        Heaton and Marcy Pitkee could come up, I would  
16        appreciate it.

17              Ms. Spisak.

18              MS. SPISAK: Linda Spisak is my name.

19        Thank you, everyone. I appreciate the fact  
20        that we have such a wonderful audience here  
21        tonight to let our Representatives know what we  
22        are all thinking, so I thank the audience for  
23        coming tonight.

24              My concern is that I have not heard the  
25        word "compassion" at all. We need to be

1           compassionate. We need to thank about the  
2           voters. We need to think about our  
3           Representatives. If everyone would just care  
4           about each other and we had fair and equal  
5           districts that had compassion, that had  
6           concern, that took care of the voters, that  
7           took care of our Representatives, I think  
8           everyone would be a lot better off. So that is  
9           an important element that needs to be  
10          considered in this. Thank you so much.

11                 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
12          ma'am.

13                 Mark Flomenhoft. No Mark.

14                 Patricia Metro-Patrick. Patricia has  
15          gone.

16                 David Heaton? Is Mr. Heaton here? No  
17          David Heaton.

18                 Marcy Pitker, Pitkin? Is Marcy here? No.

19                 Okay. Michael Hofstee. Is Michael here?

20                 Ed Hussey. Is Mr. Ed Hussey here? Come  
21          on up. Then we will have James Harrell,  
22          Dr. Thomas Fullman and James Rich. If you all  
23          could come get in line, that will help.

24                 Let's see, Mr. Hussey, right?

25                 MR. HUSSEY: Yes.

1           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: You have the  
2 microphone.

3           MR. HUSSEY: Thank you. First of all, I  
4 want to thank all of you for being here  
5 tonight. I am sure you are not -- you have  
6 given up a lot to be here, and thank you.

7           I just want to make a suggestion, it's  
8 been said before, and you can tell by the  
9 feeling that a lot of people here don't think  
10 what you do -- what you are going to do can be  
11 judged fair because of your jobs, because of  
12 your districts, because of your status in the  
13 Legislature. So I suggest that you go to an  
14 outside firm to do the redistricting.

15          Number two that I wanted to mention is I  
16 am registered no party, I cannot vote in the  
17 primaries, and I would like to see Florida go  
18 to an open election where we don't worry too  
19 much about the radical right or the radical  
20 left, we are more concerned about the best  
21 candidate we can get. So you go to primaries,  
22 the top two people win regardless of party  
23 affiliation, and a general election decides  
24 which one is the best. Thank you for coming.

25          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,

1 Mr. Hussey.

2 James Harrell.

3 DR. HARRELL: I am Dr. James Harrell, and  
4 just to be fair to everybody here, I have been  
5 married to that lovely lady up there, Gayle  
6 Harrell, for 46 years. But I -- I am here  
7 today speaking for myself and not for y'all or  
8 anybody else in here, and certainly not for  
9 Gayle. But there are several things I wanted  
10 to mention first, and then I will go to my  
11 recommendations.

12 First I heard a civics teacher talk about,  
13 you know, three Senate and three House  
14 districts and why was that a problem, and I  
15 think you forgot to talk -- to teach the  
16 students about the Federal Voters Act which set  
17 minority districts, and that by definition is  
18 gerrymandering. You cannot get more  
19 gerrymandered than Alcee Hasting's seat that  
20 goes from the Miami area all the way up to Ft.  
21 Pierce, and that is the federal law that  
22 brought that in.

23 And I also might point out that when the  
24 Federal Voters Act went in and the first  
25 election after that was in the 1990s, and that

1 is the first time in 140 years that Republicans  
2 got control of the House and the Senate.

3 But what I want to say really was that  
4 want to keep the Treasure Coast together. When  
5 I got up here, I was going to say that I want  
6 Okeechobee to be part of the Treasure Coast,  
7 and the Treasure Coast to be together from all  
8 the way up to -- from Vero all the way down to  
9 southern Martin County. And I would want to  
10 include Okeechobee, but they elected, as I  
11 heard tonight, to have two Representatives, and  
12 to me, that is fine, but at least include them  
13 within the Treasure Coast when you do that.  
14 And no area has been redistricted worse than  
15 Indiantown. I mean, they just -- they just got  
16 it better than anybody else from that point of  
17 view. But remember the Federal Voters Act  
18 required a lot of that to happen. And our  
19 whole goal is to take the Treasure Coast, which  
20 is one big, neat area, and keep it as much  
21 together as you can, and you do have to  
22 remember the Federal Voters Act, which  
23 established minority districts, and that  
24 accounts for the gerrymandering in the worst  
25 way.

1           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
2           Mr. Harrell.

3           Next we have Thomas Fullman. Mr. Fullman.

4           MR. FULLMAN: My name is Thomas Fullman, I  
5           am from Jensen Beach, and that I also listened  
6           today with intent, it was an excellent  
7           educational program for everyone.

8           However, I came here to talk to you about  
9           your challenges and responsibility. I have  
10          listened to what they have said, and, of  
11          course, what they are saying is do the right  
12          thing. Also, they are bringing to your  
13          attention the mandate brought to you by the  
14          people of the state of Florida.

15          Now, what I am concerned about is how in  
16          the world are you going to get this done,  
17          because we -- over the last couple of weeks,  
18          the people of America has gone through such a  
19          traumatic experience of fighting among  
20          politicians that we are no longer able to  
21          handle that sort of stress, and for us, again,  
22          in the state of Florida to go through what we  
23          went through ten years ago would be an absolute  
24          shame. I am asking you to find a way like the  
25          corporations of the United States and around

1 the world now are doing what they can to put  
2 aside their advocacies, to put aside their  
3 advocacies and work together for the good of  
4 the people, and that is all I am asking you to  
5 do. Thank you.

6 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.

7 Mr. James Rich is next, and he will be  
8 followed by Tara Woodruff.

9 MR. RICH: Thank you, Chairman. Elected  
10 officials, I want to thank you for being here  
11 tonight, and more importantly, thank you for  
12 the opportunity for all of us to speak. Jim  
13 Rich, I am a citizen, resident of Port St.  
14 Lucie, have been for 25 years. For the record,  
15 I am not related to Nan Rich, although I would  
16 claim you for the family.

17 I would like to see Port St. Lucie stay  
18 intact. I am one of the few up here that's  
19 actually ran for public office last year. Part  
20 of my campaign message was fiscal  
21 responsibility and creating a business  
22 environment. I think we have done a wonderful  
23 job to transform the Treasure Coast into the  
24 Research Coast, and I would like to continue on  
25 that track, and if we are efficient in the

1 lines, I think that is going to go -- do well  
2 to further what we have done on the Treasure  
3 Coast. And, Gayle, you know all about that.

4 Anybody remember the purple thumb? Iraq.  
5 People were finally able to vote in the country  
6 of Iraq. That is the power that we have. And,  
7 unfortunately, people just simply don't come  
8 out and vote, and we need to get the message  
9 out to people and educate the people, make the  
10 balance less confusing, and that is about it.  
11 I appreciate the time very much.

12 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.

13 Next we have Tara Woodruff, and she will  
14 be followed by Linda Gore.

15 Ms. Woodruff.

16 MS. WOODRUFF: Hi, my name is Tara  
17 woodruff. I am a resident of Martin County.

18 In November, the citizens of Florida  
19 overwhelmingly passed Amendments 5 and 6. I  
20 would like to know why the Florida Legislature  
21 has already spent \$1 million of taxpayer money  
22 to pay for attorneys' fees to fight the will of  
23 the Florida electorate. Additionally,  
24 \$30 million has been set aside to pay for legal  
25 fees to fight fair districting.



1           As an illustration of this waste for this  
2       \$30 million, I have found in our budget cuts  
3       that could have been offset, and these are just  
4       a few: \$10 million for national veterans'  
5       homeless center, \$6 million in economic aid to  
6       the Florida Panhandle, nutrition centers in  
7       Dade County cuts of \$300,000, Alapata  
8       Community Center hot meals program, \$430,000;  
9       senior citizens centers' grants for \$1.4  
10      million; Glades County emergency operation cuts  
11      of \$5 million; Knowledge is Power school cuts  
12      of \$400,000; civil legal assistance cuts of \$1  
13      million; Florida Alliance of Boys and Girls  
14      Clubs cuts of \$1.7 million; statewide brain and  
15      tumor registry, \$500,000 in cuts; \$1.9 million  
16      in --

17           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Ma'am, it is an  
18      interesting way of bringing it around to  
19      redistricting, but --

20           MS. WOODRUFF: Okay, I will wrap it up.  
21      That's fair enough.

22           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: -- I do need to  
23      have you focus your comments on the  
24      redistricting process. Thank you.

25           MS. WOODRUFF: In the face of such severe

1           and heart-breaking cuts in the name of  
2           austerity, how in good conscience can any of  
3           our elected officials squander such a sum of  
4           money in order to fight the will of the people?  
5           Thank you.

6                   REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT:   Thank you very  
7           much.

8                   Okay.   Next I have Ms. Linda Gore.   Is  
9           Linda here?   Thank you for being here,  
10          appreciate it.   Charles Winn, is he here?   And  
11          he will be followed by Thelma Waters and Doug  
12          Bournique.

13                   Mr. Winn.

14                   MR. WINN:   Yeah, good evening, ladies and  
15          gentlemen.   My name is Chuck Winn.   I live in  
16          the northeastern part of the unincorporated  
17          part of Martin County.   I am here tonight  
18          because a good friend of mine, Eric Miller, who  
19          lives out in Indiantown, asked me to pinch hit.

20                   What I would like to do is outline the  
21          concept for apportioning Martin County into two  
22          state representative districts.   Before I go  
23          over describing the proposed boundaries, we  
24          recognize reality the way things are.   Number  
25          one, population drives districting.   Like the

1 Supreme Court said in the Reynolds versus Sims  
2 decision of 1964, Representative -- or  
3 legislators represent people, not trees or  
4 acres. If it would have been a Florida case,  
5 they probably would have said alligators, too.  
6 So, number one, the legislators represent  
7 people.

8 Number two, it is driven by population.  
9 The framers of the Constitution recognized back  
10 in 1789 population would change every ten  
11 years. Reality of the situation, Port St.  
12 Lucie has enough population to have their own  
13 representative district. The days of Martin  
14 County sharing a Representative with Port St.  
15 Lucie are over, as they should be. They are  
16 entitled to their own Representative.

17 What I propose for Martin County for State  
18 House district are two districts. Use the  
19 Turnpike as a western boundary; for the  
20 northern boundary, use the St. Lucie County  
21 line, go south down into Hobe Sound somewhere  
22 in the vicinity of just north of Tequesta, that  
23 would be one compact district.

24 Indiantown has rural districts in common  
25 with Okeechobee and Highlands County. Go ahead

1           and combine that into a rural district of  
2           common interest. That would make far more  
3           sense than the way we are apportioned now.  
4           But, again, like Dr. Harrell so accurately put  
5           it, we are bound by Federal Supreme Court  
6           decisions and Federal Voting Rights Acts.

7           I thank you very much for considering this  
8           concept. I have submitted the verbal  
9           descriptions of the two districts to my  
10          legislators. I will follow it up with a sketch  
11          of a map tomorrow.

12          And as far as Congressman Rooney goes, he  
13          has been doing a good job. He even spoke out  
14          against the unconstitutional military  
15          involvement in Libya, and I really appreciated  
16          that. That is good representation.

17          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.

18          Next we have Thelma Waters. Is Ms. Waters  
19          here?

20          Doug Bournique, is he here still?

21          Mark Gotz. Is Mark here? Okay. And  
22          after Mark, there will be Anthony D'Amiano and  
23          Michael Salerno.

24          Mr. Gotz.

25          MR. GOTZ: Good evening. Thank you very

1       much for coming to St. Lucie County and  
2       actually the Treasure Coast.

3               Would just like to say I don't know who  
4       appointed you to this committee, but they owe  
5       you one. I think I have read that for Senator  
6       Gaetz.

7               Today after the United States Supreme  
8       Court has wrestled with voting rights issues,  
9       no less than on ten occasions the waters are  
10      less cloudy, but no means crystal clear. Thus,  
11      it is important to remember that  
12      reapportionment remains a continuously  
13      developing area of the law, and as new  
14      decisions are issued, the law will be modified  
15      and hopefully clarified to provide more  
16      definitive guidance for the future. Those are  
17      the words of the late Attorney General, Bob  
18      Butterworth.

19              Article I, Section 2 of the U.S.  
20      Constitution establishes the standard for  
21      congressional districting. The command that  
22      the United States Representatives be chosen by  
23      the people of the several states means that as  
24      nearly as practical, one man's vote is to be  
25      worth as much as another's. The Equal

1       Protection Clause establishes the standard for  
2       state legislative districts. States must make  
3       an honest and good faith effort to construct  
4       districts in both houses of its legislature as  
5       nearly of equal population as is practical.  
6       Thus, the goal of reapportionment is political  
7       equality, which means one person, one vote.

8               The new constitutional amendments that  
9       were passed basically create a situation where  
10      they are requiring you to draw lines that need  
11      to be drawn that neither favor nor disfavor a  
12      political incumbent or a political party. I  
13      think everyone sitting up there knows that that  
14      is basically unachievable with a population of  
15      18 million people in this state and 11 million  
16      voters.

17             So I have a suggestion, and the suggestion  
18      is this: You all know that either way, you are  
19      going to court. I mean, even -- no matter what  
20      you decide, you will end up in court. So my  
21      suggestion is this: The new two congressional  
22      districts that need to be drawn need to be  
23      focused on -- and the U.S. congressional  
24      districts are what you should focus on and  
25      accomplish. I would suggest that you continue

1       using the existing districts as they are. That  
2       will expedite the process so that everybody  
3       knows who they are voting for and what their  
4       voting is going to be. And you already have a  
5       situation where the current districting maps  
6       have already been approved by the Supreme Court  
7       via ten years ago. So if the courts are going  
8       to overturn it, they will have to overturn a  
9       decision they have already made.

10             Thank you very much.

11             REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.

12             Next we have Anthony D'Amiano.

13       Mr. D'Amiano.

14             MR. D'AMIANO: Good evening. I would like  
15       to thank you for being here, but we really  
16       shouldn't even be here tonight, because the  
17       Amendments 5 and 6 were passed because the  
18       people of Florida were disgusted with the  
19       gerrymandering that had been going on in the  
20       past, okay, to the point where they made an  
21       amendment to the Constitution to stop it. So  
22       if the previous legislators had been doing  
23       their job fairly, this wouldn't be an issue  
24       tonight.

25             So when you do draw your maps, just look

1 at your old maps and realize that the people  
2 were dissatisfied with what was done in the  
3 past and don't do it again.

4 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.

5 Michael Salerno. Is Michael Salerno here?

6 Richard Bernard. Is Richard Bernard still  
7 here? No, okay.

8 And I had one, Roger -- begins with an M,  
9 Roger Messer, okay.

10 MR. MESSER: First of all, I want to thank  
11 you for being here, and I hope you have  
12 listened.

13 Ten years ago, the Florida Legislature  
14 effectively disenfranchised St. Lucie County.  
15 We have four State Representatives and we have  
16 no resident State Representatives. We have  
17 280,000 people. We have no State  
18 Representative. We have 280,000 people, and we  
19 have three State Senators, which means we have  
20 no State Senators.

21 We have three congressional districts that  
22 stretch -- one of them goes from Ft. Pierce to  
23 Liberty City. Another one goes from Port St.  
24 Lucie to Charlotte County. Another one goes  
25 from Ft. Pierce to north of Titusville. And we



1           have no Congressman.

2                   I can tell you that a school child in Ft.  
3           Pierce can get on his bicycle and ride for 15  
4           minutes in any direction and be in three House  
5           seats, he can't quite get out west to the  
6           fourth one, and three Senate seats and three  
7           congressional seats.

8                   When -- you know, politics is local. When  
9           we were fortunate enough to have a State  
10          Senator from Port St. Lucie, I was from a  
11          different party than him, but he and I were in  
12          the Little League Board of Directors together,  
13          and when I needed to go to Tallahassee to talk  
14          about an issue that was important to me and I  
15          knocked on his door, he knew who I was, we  
16          shopped at the same grocery store. Politics is  
17          local. If you gerrymander us like you did last  
18          time, the anger that will be there is amazing.

19                  There's been some talk about minority  
20          voting rights. We in St. Lucie County have a  
21          20 percent black population. Two of our  
22          constitutional officers are black, and they are  
23          great Representatives. We vote -- we elect  
24          people occasionally who are even Republicans.  
25          I can tell you that the -- that the ability is

1       what the most important thing is. And we  
2       should be able to elect our own Representative.  
3       With 280,000 people, we should probably be able  
4       to elect two. You should -- I have a map, I am  
5       color blind, but I can tell that there are  
6       lines all over this map. This is a House map  
7       of St. Lucie County. It is ridiculous. The  
8       gerrymander that was done to us ten years ago  
9       was what's wrong.

10           People talk about Indiantown. The child  
11       in northwest Ft. Pierce, the black vote in  
12       northwest Ft. Pierce has been disenfranchised,  
13       disenfranchised. Minority voting rights don't  
14       mean that you pack 80 percent Democrats in one  
15       black/Democratic district and let a person from  
16       Broward County represent everybody. It means  
17       that you make them fair so that everyone has a  
18       shot. If everyone has a shot, we can elect  
19       people like Gertrude Walker as our -- as our  
20       Supervisor of Elections in St. Lucie County, we  
21       can elect people like Joe Smith as our -- as  
22       our county clerk, and we can elect a Republican  
23       like Ken Pruitt as our property appraiser.

24           So I am just telling you don't do the job  
25       you did ten years ago, that the Legislature did

1           ten years ago. Stop the gerrymander.

2           Someone had a question about what  
3           compactness is. Compactness is not this.  
4           Compactness is take 280,000 people and draw the  
5           line down the middle and give them two House  
6           seats. Thank you.

7           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, sir.

8           Okay. That concludes the list of people  
9           that filled out a card. Did we miss anyone  
10          that filled out a card that I didn't call your  
11          name? Okay, great.

12          With that, Senator Gaetz, you are  
13          recognized for comments.

14          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
15          Mr. Chairman, and with your permission, I did  
16          take eight pages of notes to go along with the  
17          about 45 pages of notes I have taken at other  
18          hearings. This has been extraordinarily  
19          helpful to me, but before I attempt to provide  
20          some factual information, not in any way to  
21          argue with or dispute anybody's testimony on  
22          either side of these issues, but just to make  
23          sure that we all leave with the same set of  
24          facts, I am wondering, Mr. Chairman, if you  
25          would allow other members of the Committee who

1       might wish to offer any comments or ask or  
2       answer any questions to do so, and  
3       Mr. Chairman, would you be willing to begin  
4       with the House?

5                REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT:  Absolutely,  
6       Senator.  My original intent was to give you  
7       the courtesy of starting that off, but we will  
8       go with the other members of the Committee.

9                Does anyone want to be recognized for a  
10       brief comment?  Representative Baxley, you are  
11       recognized.

12               REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY:  Thank you,  
13       Mr. Chairman, and I really appreciate  
14       everyone's participation.  We do listen and we  
15       do learn a lot at these meetings and a lot of  
16       special, unique qualities of this region.  But  
17       one thing I think that would be helpful,  
18       Mr. Chairman, to share is what a difference  
19       term limits has already made on this process.  
20       Invariably we hear remarks that indicate that  
21       people feel like we are drawing our own maps,  
22       when, in fact, almost everybody here was not in  
23       the Legislature when these maps were drawn ten  
24       years ago.  Probably Gayle Harrell and I are  
25       the only ones, because we left the Legislature

1 under term limits, had a situation where the  
2 person we followed went on to do something else  
3 and we ran again. But these people are not --  
4 term limits has changed that dimension, and  
5 Congressmen don't draw maps. So the  
6 self-preservation concept has been greatly  
7 altered already by eight-year term limits, and  
8 I think sometimes people miss that dimension.  
9 And so I would like -- I would hope it would  
10 help resolve some of your cynicism to realize  
11 that these people run on maps they did not  
12 draw. Thank you.

13 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Are there any  
14 other House members that would like to comment?

15 Chair Gaetz, do you want to recognize any  
16 Senators?

17 SENATOR GAETZ: Any members of the Senate  
18 who are here wish to make any comment?

19 Leader Rich, do you seek recognition? The  
20 Chair recognizes the Democratic Leader.

21 SENATOR RICH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
22 actually will have to say that I was in the  
23 Legislature, I think Senator Negron was in the  
24 Legislature, a number of us were in the  
25 legislature, Senator Siplin, when the seats

1       were drawn last time, and I can tell you that  
2       it wasn't a transparent process at all, and I  
3       was in the House at the time and ended up with  
4       an incredibly gerrymandered district, for those  
5       of you have talked about gerrymandering, that  
6       took me up through the Everglades, from where I  
7       lived up through the Everglades into an area  
8       that really was at the northern end of Broward  
9       County. And I think that some of what happened  
10      ten years ago is what caused the people of this  
11      state to decide that they wanted to do  
12      something about the way the state was  
13      gerrymandered.

14             And I think we have heard a lot of  
15      testimony tonight, and I know that Senator  
16      Gaetz and Representative Weatherford as the  
17      Chairs are going to filter that, listen to  
18      that, and as we meet, I hope that we will be  
19      able to look at some of the things that were  
20      points that have been brought over and over and  
21      over again, and I just hope that the people  
22      here and the people across the state who really  
23      have had some of the same issues will be  
24      listened to and that we will reflect it as we  
25      move forward. The timeline has been mentioned

1 over and over and over again, the  
2 gerrymandering process and so forth.

3 So I think the people here are willing to  
4 listen, and I think we can do a better job than  
5 we did ten years ago and I don't think it is  
6 going to be easy. I think -- and I was a  
7 supporter of Amendments 5 and 6. It is not  
8 going to be easy, but I do think that we are  
9 going to end up with a product that does have  
10 the voters selecting their Representatives and  
11 Senators and congressional people rather than  
12 the other way around. So thank you.

13 SENATOR GAETZ: Mr. Chairman, thank you  
14 very much for allowing members to comment and  
15 answer any points or questions.

16 I made some notes and wanted to just make  
17 sure that we respond to a number of individuals  
18 who asked questions or who made factual  
19 statements that we would want to ensure that  
20 the facts are settled matters.

21 First of all, as Leader Rich just  
22 indicated, the timeline is a huge issue. We  
23 heard about it a great deal tonight. Let me  
24 speak on behalf of Chair Weatherford from the  
25 House of Representatives, who has said this on

1 a number of occasions, and I share his view,  
2 and that is there is absolutely no intent on  
3 the part of either the House or Senate  
4 committees to drag out any process at all. Let  
5 me be clear as to the facts.

6 The facts are that the Florida  
7 Constitution says we cannot vote until January.  
8 Now, we can discuss maps. There are 21 maps  
9 that have already been presented. What I think  
10 a number of us wish could have occurred tonight  
11 would have been someone commenting on the maps  
12 that are presented by citizens, by interest  
13 groups, by people who took this process very  
14 seriously. I will tell you that one of the  
15 maps from -- happened to be from a gentleman  
16 named Henry Kelley, I think has a lot of value,  
17 but there are other maps as well that I think  
18 need to be looked at. But it will be our  
19 intent, Chairman Weatherford's intent and my  
20 intent, to move as quickly as we can in  
21 September to have committee meetings so that we  
22 can draw together all the input that we have  
23 received, but then we need to give all of the  
24 members of our Committee an opportunity to  
25 express where they saw that input falling down,



1       how they believe that the legal standards ought  
2       to be applied.

3               I wish it were the case, as one individual  
4       said tonight, that all this could be done in a  
5       weekend. If it can be, I would encourage him  
6       to do it and send it in, because it will save  
7       us a lot of time. But we need to make sure  
8       when we begin in September, which is the first  
9       time that we can begin having committee  
10      meetings -- we have moved the committee process  
11      up by two months, we moved the session itself  
12      up by two months, as quickly as we possibly  
13      could. It will be important to make sure that  
14      Democrats and Republicans, House members and  
15      Senators, have the opportunity to present their  
16      ideas and have those ideas considered in public  
17      and voted on in public so that we can move  
18      forward.

19             There have been several comments tonight,  
20      including comments from I think one individual  
21      who represented a Supervisor of Elections  
22      office, that if every single entity in the  
23      process took all the time that they possibly  
24      were allowed legally, that we could be at the  
25      end of the session before we had maps. Let me

1 tell you as the Senate Chair, it is not my  
2 intention to do that. My hope is that we will  
3 move as quickly as we can while allowing  
4 Democrats and Republicans, House members and  
5 Senators, to present their ideas based on the  
6 input we have received from the public. But  
7 certainly there is no intent to move any slower  
8 than that.

9 But we would point out that there are  
10 other players in the process. The Attorney  
11 General has a time period when she presents  
12 what the Legislature has come up with to the  
13 Supreme Court, and we hope the Attorney General  
14 will take all the time she needs, but not all  
15 the time possibly that she might be able to  
16 take under the law. If she can get the job  
17 done sooner, we hope she will.

18 The courts have an opportunity to take an  
19 extended period of time to review the  
20 Legislature's product. We hope they will take  
21 all the time they need, but not all the time  
22 that is possibly permitted under the law. The  
23 same with the Justice Department in Washington.  
24 So we hope that your encouragement that the  
25 Legislature move as quickly as we can under the

1       Constitution would also apply and you would  
2       encourage these other players to move as soon  
3       as possible also.

4               A second comment, Mr. Chairman, and that  
5       is I think several people said that the current  
6       maps are hard to explain and that they show  
7       gerrymandering. I will say this: The Senate  
8       district that I am running in is a Senate  
9       district that was drawn by people who were in  
10      office before me, so there no pride of  
11      authorship here. I agree, many of the  
12      legislative districts and congressional  
13      districts that we have certainly could stand to  
14      be improved in terms of how they are drawn and  
15      the communities that are included, and you are  
16      pushing an open door with me as a Senator and  
17      as a member of the Senate committee, I believe  
18      that that is exactly true, and I believe that  
19      Chair Weatherford would agree with that.

20             Then there was a comment made that all of  
21      this that the Legislature is doing now, that  
22      our committee is doing now, should have been  
23      addressed in the last legislative session.  
24      Again, just so we all have the same set of  
25      facts, that is not permitted by the Florida

1       Constitution. The Florida Constitution says  
2       that we can't vote until the even-numbered year  
3       following the census, and that is 2012. So you  
4       can't begin to consider in a legislative  
5       session that which is constitutionally  
6       prohibited to consider in that session.

7               The other thing is that we received the  
8       census data -- a number of people said, well,  
9       gosh, there are other states that are further  
10      along in the process. And that is true.  
11      Florida received its data from the census, not  
12      -- we weren't the last state, but we were one  
13      of the last states to receive our census data.  
14      The Census Bureau in Washington does not give  
15      out the census data all at once to all states.  
16      They give it out in groups. And we weren't the  
17      last, but we were one of the last. So that is  
18      one consideration. And as soon as we got that  
19      data, as quickly as we possibly could, we  
20      placed it on-line, we made it available to all  
21      members of the Legislature and all members of  
22      the public.

23              Then there were those who said, well, but,  
24      gosh, there are states like Illinois that got  
25      it done. Well, Illinois is a one-party state.

1       Here is exactly what they did: They actually  
2       did have a group of legislators who did go back  
3       into a smoke-filled room, who came out with a  
4       set of maps and said to the public, "Take it or  
5       leave it," they voted on them and went home.

6               Now, our Senate President and our House  
7       Speaker said that is not the way we are going  
8       to do it. We were going to do the more painful  
9       process of making sure that we took input from  
10      groups who were on different sides of these  
11      issues to try to find out if they could help us  
12      with applying the legal standards. Now, if you  
13      think this is easy, if you think it is like  
14      falling off a log, we just could have sat in a  
15      Tallahassee echo-chamber and done it, then  
16      listen tonight to those people who came and  
17      brought very specific information about  
18      communities and neighborhoods like Indiantown,  
19      other parts of this region of the state,  
20      talking about where the fishing industries and  
21      the tourist industries were, where the citrus  
22      industries were and encouraging us to draw  
23      lines that made sense for those communities.  
24      We couldn't have done that sitting in an  
25      echo-chamber in Tallahassee only listening to

1       each other. We had to get that information  
2       from you. And as one lady pointed out tonight,  
3       she couldn't afford to go to Tallahassee. So  
4       the only way that we could get a lot of the  
5       information we have gotten is by coming and  
6       asking you for it.

7             Another comment that was made tonight is  
8       that the 2002 -- in fact, I wrote it down, it  
9       is a quote, "The 2002 redistricting process and  
10      maps in Florida were riddled with mistakes and  
11      corruption." Maybe that is the case, I wasn't  
12      in the Legislature then, but I can tell you  
13      that if the process in 2002 was riddled with  
14      mistakes and corruption, Rod Smith, the  
15      Chairman of the Democratic Party of Florida,  
16      was a Senator then, he voted for those maps.  
17      And Republicans who are in positions of  
18      authority now were in the Legislature then and  
19      voted for those maps. So it is not a matter of  
20      Republicans or Democrats as much as it is a  
21      matter of trying to apply the standards in a  
22      sensible way. And I would be the first to  
23      agree that some of the lines that were drawn  
24      and some of the districts that were configured  
25      in 2002 really make your head -- really make

1       you scratch your head.

2               And then someone said that the Senate had  
3       \$9 million set aside to fight Fair Districts --  
4       set aside for legal fees to fight Fair  
5       Districts. Let me just say John Guthrie is  
6       here, he is the staff director for the Senate  
7       Reapportionment Committee. He has gone through  
8       a lot of reapportionments, lots and lots of  
9       them. I think Governor Andrew Jackson  
10      appointed him originally. And as Senate Chair,  
11      I went to John and I said, "John, what should  
12      we budget for all of the costs," because we are  
13      obliged to take all of these -- the maps that  
14      we put together ultimately to the Supreme Court  
15      of Florida and then to the Justice Department,  
16      and as people on both sides of issues tonight  
17      pointed out, no matter what anybody does, we  
18      are going to be sued and we will have to defend  
19      those lawsuits. I went to John and said, "Ten  
20      years ago, what did the Senate spend?" And he  
21      floored me, he said, "It cost \$10 million," and  
22      that is before we had the requirements of the  
23      Fair Districts amendments, which have never,  
24      taken all together, been applied to any other  
25      state before. So it is not a matter of

1 fighting the Fair Districts amendment. The  
2 Senate hasn't spent a penny to do that.  
3 Rather, it is a matter of having the funds that  
4 are necessary to respond to the lawsuits that  
5 are inevitable, to go to the Supreme Court and  
6 work your way through the Justice Department in  
7 Washington. And I hope we spend a whole lot  
8 less than that, because I agree, the money  
9 could be spent better.

10 And then someone else said that -- they  
11 demanded a second round of public hearings.  
12 Well, that just shows that we really don't have  
13 a unanimous view here tonight, because that is  
14 inconsistent with the call that was made by the  
15 League of Women Voters to have early votes in  
16 September and October and get done with these  
17 hearings. So there are some who would like to  
18 have more hearings after Senators and  
19 Representatives have the opportunity to absorb  
20 all of the input from the hearings, and there  
21 are those who say, you know, you shouldn't be  
22 having any hearings at all. All I am  
23 suggesting is that Everett Dirksen was right  
24 when he said, "When everyone is equally  
25 dissatisfied, justice has been done."



1           Then there were several individuals who  
2       said, you know, we really ought to -- we ought  
3       to have somebody else draw these maps, we ought  
4       to have computer programs, we ought to  
5       outsource it, we ought to go get some  
6       professionals, we ought to hire some experts.  
7       The Florida Constitution, which only you can  
8       change, the Legislature can't, the Florida  
9       Constitution says that the Legislature is  
10      obliged to draw the maps. Now, we can ask for  
11      professional help, and we've got it. We can  
12      hire experts to assist us, experts who have  
13      been through these kinds of issues in other  
14      states, and we will. And we can use computer  
15      programs, and we do. In fact, the District  
16      Builder computer program is on-line, and you  
17      can see the computer program that we will be  
18      using and you can, if you wish, manipulate it  
19      yourself.

20           Then there was a suggestion that -- that  
21      we need to somehow balance out the Republicans  
22      and Democrats, that there won't be a fair  
23      redistricting unless Republicans and Democrats  
24      are balanced out. Here is the problem: I will  
25      just give you an example from Senate districts.

1       There are 40 Senate districts. Twenty-eight  
2       are currently held by Republicans, but eight of  
3       the Senate districts held by Republicans voted  
4       for President Obama. So here is what that  
5       means: It means that the Democratic candidate  
6       for President apparently had a better message  
7       and a more convincing campaign than the  
8       Republican candidate for President in eight  
9       districts that elected Republican Senators.  
10      Another way to look at it is eight districts  
11      that voted for President Obama, the Republican  
12      candidates for Senate were able to put together  
13      apparently a more convincing campaign, a better  
14      message or a message that resonated better, and  
15      elect Republican Senators.

16           Here's the thing: You can't -- with a  
17      secret ballot, we can't force Republicans to  
18      vote just for Republicans. We had a lot of  
19      Republicans in Florida vote for President  
20      Obama, as I just demonstrated. We can't force  
21      Democrats to only vote for Democrats. We had a  
22      lot of Democrats vote for Republican candidates  
23      for the Senate. And the fastest-growing group  
24      of voters in Florida are those who are  
25      independent or have no party affiliation, and

1       you can't force them how to vote, you can't  
2       tell them how to vote. So as long as we have a  
3       secret ballot, we can't guarantee that there  
4       will be some kind of formulaic or numeric  
5       result in Republicans and Democrats in those  
6       districts. It is still up to the individual  
7       voter. As I think you pointed out, sir, in  
8       your testimony, it is more these days about how  
9       voters see an individual candidate and less and  
10      less about party affiliation.

11             There was an individual who said that he  
12      was concerned, and rightly so, about making  
13      sure that our military overseas would have an  
14      opportunity to vote and cast their ballots.  
15      Again, just so that we all have the same set of  
16      facts, I joined several members of the Senate  
17      in sponsoring legislation, which passed, which  
18      provides the greater opportunity than ever  
19      before for overseas military and overseas  
20      citizens to be able to cast ballots and have  
21      more alternatives to cast ballots, and those  
22      actions were supported by our veterans'  
23      organizations. So I would say that those of  
24      you who have a proper concern for ensuring that  
25      those overseas can vote look at the other

1       legislation that was passed this year,  
2       supported by our veterans' organizations, that  
3       give our overseas servicemen and women a  
4       greater opportunity to vote than ever before.

5               The representative of the Palm Beach  
6       County Commission spoke, as several people did,  
7       about communities of interest, saying that, you  
8       know, it is fine to talk about county lines and  
9       city lines, those are important, we ought to  
10      use them, but also you've got to make sure that  
11      communities of interest are held together. I  
12      would just say this: That we tried to place  
13      into the Florida Constitution language that  
14      would recognize communities of interest as a  
15      legitimate criterion for districting, but the  
16      Florida Supreme Court threw that out. So if  
17      you look at Amendments 5 and 6, those who  
18      proposed 5 and 6 did not want to include  
19      communities of interest as a criterion for  
20      districts, so that is not in the Constitution.  
21      So there is a potential, potential tension  
22      between those of you who wanted communities of  
23      interest recognized and those who say a strict  
24      adherence to Amendments 5 and 6.

25             And then finally, there was a gentleman

1       who was a -- the self-described civil rights  
2       lawyer in the Kennedy tradition, and he was  
3       concerned, he said that he heard me say that --  
4       thought he heard me say that equality of  
5       representation wasn't the most important factor  
6       in redistricting. What I said was this, quote,  
7       "Equality of representation isn't the only  
8       legal requirement redistricting plans must  
9       meet." Then I went on to say, "The laws and  
10      important court cases that govern redistricting  
11      are explained in detail on the House and Senate  
12      websites." And those laws and court cases have  
13      to do, as Dr. Harrell indicated, with the  
14      Voting Rights Act of 1965, a primary sponsor of  
15      which was Senator Robert Kennedy.

16             Thank you very much for your time tonight.  
17      I learned a great deal. I can go back to  
18      northwest Florida and say that I know much more  
19      about how fair districts, equitable districts  
20      and sensible districts ought to be drawn  
21      because you took the time to be here tonight.  
22      So thank you.

23             REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: And thank you  
24      very much, Senator Gaetz. He always does such  
25      a great job of wrapping up the meetings with

1 all the questions, so I won't belabor the point  
2 too much further.

3 The only other thing that I had in my  
4 notes that I wanted to make sure that I noticed  
5 was the point brought up about the distance or  
6 the time traveled that people had to go to meet  
7 with their Representatives. I want you to know  
8 that we take that to heart and we will take  
9 that into account when we are redistricting.

10 Thanks to everyone who came here tonight  
11 for your contributions. If you had more to  
12 add, please go on our website or e-mail us or  
13 snail mail us, and we will get those comments  
14 in the record and post them on-line.

15 All of the records from today's meeting  
16 and video will be on the House and Senate  
17 website shortly. I can see that no one wants  
18 to stay here any longer than they have to, so  
19 with that, this meeting is adjourned.

20 (Whereupon, the proceedings were  
21 concluded.)

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## 1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )

3 COUNTY OF LEON )

4 I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript  
5 is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned,  
6 and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting  
7 under my direction;

8 That the foregoing pages 2 through 137  
9 represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of  
10 the tape-recording;

11 And I further certify that I am not of kin or  
12 counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the  
13 regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor  
14 am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

15 Dated this 27th day of December, 2011.

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

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Notary Public

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State of Florida at Large

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Commission Expires:

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November 13, 2014

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REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

11

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2011

12

10:00 A.M.

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FAU

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BOCA RATON, FLORIDA

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Transcribed by:

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

23

Court Reporter

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1 T A P E D P R O C E E D I N G S

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Ladies and gentlemen,  
3 please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance, led  
4 by your Senator, Maria Sachs.

5 SENATOR SACHS: I pledge allegiance to the  
6 flag to the flag of the United States of  
7 America and to the Republic for which it  
8 stands, one nation, under God, indivisible with  
9 liberty and justice for all.

10 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much. The  
11 Joint Senate House Committee hearing on  
12 redistricting is called to order.

13 We are very pleased to be joined today by  
14 members of the House of Representatives and  
15 members of the Senate, the House of  
16 Representatives redistricting Committee and the  
17 Senate Reapportionment Committee, and in a  
18 moment I will ask them to very briefly  
19 introduce themselves just so that you will know  
20 what part of the state they come from so that  
21 you will see who you are talking to and who you  
22 are addressing your opinions to.

23 We very much appreciate Florida Atlantic  
24 University for allowing us to use this  
25 wonderful facility today, and thank you all for

1       being here, especially members of the public  
2       who have come to share your comments and your  
3       recommendations to help shape Congressional  
4       Senate and House Districts for the next decade.

5               My name is Don Gaetz. I am a member of  
6       the Senate. I Chair the Senate Reapportionment  
7       Committee, and along with my House colleague,  
8       Representative Steve Precourt, who is  
9       Vice-Chair of the House Redistricting  
10      Committee.

11             I will be moderating today's hearing which  
12      is being webcast statewide by the Florida  
13      Channel over the Internet.

14             Our sole purpose today is to hear from you  
15      about how you believe the legal standards with  
16      which we are all familiar, at least many of us  
17      are and many of us are becoming more familiar.

18             Our purpose is to hear from you about how  
19      you believe the legal standards governing  
20      redistricting should be applied in your  
21      community so that you are represented in  
22      Washington and in Tallahassee fairly, sensibly  
23      and equitably.

24             Our procedures today are simple but they  
25      are important. It is important that you sign

1 in so that we with can create an accurate  
2 public record of all attendees and all  
3 speakers, and also you may opt to join our  
4 e-mail lists so that we can keep you informed  
5 about how the redistricting process is going  
6 forward over the next weeks.

7 If you have not signed in, please do so.  
8 If you haven't signed in, if you will raise  
9 your hand we will have a staff member come and  
10 give you a sign-in card. There is a young lady  
11 right in the front row. Anybody else who  
12 hasn't signed in, and it is the same if you  
13 wish to speak, the same card.

14 It is a sign-in for attendance or to  
15 speak. So if you will raise your hand and keep  
16 it raised, I apologize, we will have a staff  
17 member get to you just as fast as possible  
18 because we want to make sure that we have an  
19 accurate record of your attendance and we want  
20 to get to everyone today if we can who wants to  
21 speak.

22 If you wish to speak today and you have  
23 not filled out an attendance card you need to  
24 do so, so that we can be sure that we won't  
25 miss your testimony. It is the same attendance

1 card as I said whether you wish to speak or  
2 whether you wish to sit in the stands and just  
3 watch others express their opinions.

4 Before we begin today the Chair will  
5 recognize Vice-Chair, Representative Precourt,  
6 to explain how today's hearing fits into the  
7 redistricting process and schedule.  
8 Mr. Vice-Chair.

9 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
10 Mr. Chair, and what a great crowd we have here.  
11 I have a few notes that I want to go over just  
12 to make sure that we cover all of the general  
13 provisions of the process and a little  
14 background for you as well.

15 Most of you that are here understand the  
16 redistricting process, but still there are a  
17 few amongst us that a little background will  
18 help.

19 Every ten years our Legislature is  
20 required by our Constitution to redistrict the  
21 state based on increases, decreases and  
22 movements of population.

23 The redistricting is really reapportioning  
24 people so that every district has roughly the  
25 same numbers. Because Florida has grown more

1       than any other state in the past ten years we  
2       will also move up from 25 members of the U.S.  
3       Congress, the House of Representatives, to 27  
4       members, and because some parts of our state  
5       have increased or decreased disproportionately  
6       to one another in population, many of the  
7       Senate and House Districts will change, either  
8       adding population or losing population.  
9       However, we are going to keep the same numbers,  
10      40 Senate seats, 120 House seats.

11             When we are finished with our  
12      redistricting, the Congressional Districts must  
13      be equal actually in population and contain  
14      696,345 people.

15             Now, the 40 Senate Districts must also be  
16      nearly equal at about 470,000 people, and our  
17      120 House Districts must also be nearly equal  
18      at about 156,700 people.

19             There are a number of displays outside as  
20      you may have seen as you came in showing the  
21      current boundaries of the districts in this  
22      area of the state and the number of people  
23      which must be added or subtracted to from the  
24      current district sizes to achieve this equal  
25      representation.

1           Now, a point we made yesterday that was a  
2           little bit misconstrued during the meeting, but  
3           I want to make clear that everyone understands,  
4           that equality in population for that  
5           representation isn't the only legal  
6           requirement.

7           It is one of the key ones that we have to  
8           abide by, but it is not the only one. The laws  
9           and important court cases governing  
10          redistricting are explained in detail on our  
11          House and Senate websites.

12          These websites are listed on the  
13          Redistricting 2012 brochure that was available  
14          when you came in, and if you need one our staff  
15          is available in the back, you can get another  
16          one at your convenience.

17          This brochure also summarizes the Federal  
18          and State laws and outlines a number of other  
19          topics that we hope you will discuss here at  
20          today's hearing. If you didn't get a copy when  
21          you came in, raise your hand and staff will get  
22          you one.

23          The brochure also lists those House and  
24          Senate websites and there is lots of  
25          information on redistricting there, including

1       the explanation of those laws we just mentioned  
2       and those important court cases.

3             The two websites are complimentary and  
4       updated frequently. Most of the information is  
5       similar on both websites, but you may want to  
6       visit both just to see for differences in style  
7       and the like, and check back with them often as  
8       we update them.

9             It is a great way to stay current with how  
10      our redistricting process is going and how  
11      those Congressional Senate and House Districts  
12      are taking shape.

13            The websites also provide you with direct  
14      access to the demographic information that is  
15      going to be used in drawing these districts,  
16      and you have access to the exact same computer  
17      programs that your Legislators and our  
18      professional staff will be using to redraw  
19      these lines.

20            Any member of the public can participate  
21      in building plans or seeing maps submitted by  
22      Legislators or other citizens. Again, that is  
23      a tool right online for you to use to draw maps  
24      if you would like to do that.

25            Before, during and after this hearing

1       Senate and House professional staff are  
2       available to show anyone that is interested the  
3       simple steps to getting online. There are some  
4       computers outside, you can look right over  
5       their shoulders. They will show you how to  
6       build districts and submit plans and they are  
7       available via phone or the like if you need  
8       continuing ongoing help in the weeks to come.

9           All of the recommendations that we get  
10       from citizens and groups of citizens will be  
11       made publicly available. In fact, and we have  
12       got some updated statistics as of this morning  
13       right here for you.

14          As of this morning, 32 public submissions  
15       of partial or complete maps and approximately  
16       110 written ideas for maps are available on the  
17       web for you to look at right now.

18          In fact, at yesterday's meeting in Stuart  
19       a couple of Florida residents completed new  
20       maps for submission right at the tables outside  
21       the room before, during and after the meeting,  
22       and after this meeting this week I am sure  
23       those numbers will increase substantially.

24          One point we want to make very, very clear  
25       is that the submission of proposed maps that



1 makes sense for your community is the single  
2 most effective form of public participation in  
3 the redistricting process.

4 I like to use the old saying, a picture  
5 paints a thousand words. You can get up and  
6 say a lot of things about what should be where,  
7 but when you draw a line on a map, then it  
8 becomes very, very clear to everyone looking  
9 what you mean.

10 The redistricting schedule in which we are  
11 operating is imposed by the State Constitution.  
12 The Constitution does not permit our  
13 Legislature to act on any legislative maps  
14 before the second year after the census.

15 In other words, since the census was done  
16 in 2010, we can't act on those state  
17 legislative maps until 2012.

18 Now, we have accelerated the process as  
19 much as possible by moving up the 2012  
20 legislative session from when it is typically  
21 held in March and April every year, to January  
22 and February of next year, and we are  
23 beginning, we have begun our statewide hearings  
24 five months in advance of that 2012 January  
25 session.

1           Now, it has been suggested by some that  
2           the Legislature should draw maps first and then  
3           ask you and the public to comment, and we  
4           believe that that puts the answer ahead of the  
5           question.

6           There shouldn't be any preconceived  
7           notions by us, by the Legislators or  
8           politicians as to what those maps should look  
9           like, but it should start with public testimony  
10          as to what the people who are going to be  
11          represented by these maps think they should  
12          look like and it should be free and  
13          unrestricted and unbiased by our pre -- any  
14          preconceived notions that might be out there.

15          In fact, one of the principle authors of  
16          Florida's new redistricting standards and the  
17          Chairperson for Fair Districts Campaign is on  
18          record in agreement with the notion that the  
19          new maps should not be drawn until after the  
20          public has had an opportunity to comment.

21          Now, our intent is to use the  
22          recommendations made at 26 public hearings  
23          around the state and those that we receive  
24          through our Internet sites and those that we  
25          receive via mail as the basis for developing

1       one or more options for all of the district  
2       maps.

3               We will discuss these options in open  
4       public meetings before any votes are taken,  
5       even in committee. In other words, what we are  
6       literally saying is, if you look at those maps  
7       in the back of the room, the ones that are  
8       actually submitted to the Legislature by  
9       Florida residents, we are literally starting  
10      the legislative process with those maps and  
11      other suggestions from the public.

12             So if you want to know where we will begin  
13      our deliberations it is with those public  
14      submissions that are available to you right  
15      now, right here today and testimony from these  
16      meetings, including today's and other public  
17      input in many, many forms.

18             So throughout the process we will continue  
19      to solicit additional public comment so that  
20      proposed maps can mature and develop with the  
21      public involved all before the Legislature  
22      approves the final maps.

23             Whatever the Legislature passes will then  
24      be submitted for judicial review to ensure that  
25      the final plans meet every legal requirement

1           that we have, whether it is constitutional law,  
2           Florida Law, Federal law.

3           Because our purpose here today is it hear  
4           from you, the time between now and 1:00 p.m.  
5           will be used to ensure that every member of the  
6           public who is here and wishes to speak will  
7           have the time to present the testimony that  
8           they want to and be listened respectfully to  
9           without interruption or argument.

10           If after every citizen has had his or her  
11           say there is still some time remaining before  
12           our scheduled adjournment, any member of the  
13           committee may make a statement or offer any  
14           observation.

15           Of course, any member of the Legislature  
16           may today or at any time propose a map or a  
17           plan and we will make it available to the  
18           public. So those are all made public as well.

19           Mr. Chairman, I hope this description of  
20           our schedule and the process that we are going  
21           through helps to set the stage for a successful  
22           hearing today.

23           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
24           Representative Precourt. We have a large  
25           number of people who have signed up to speak

1           today. So I am going to ask our members of the  
2           House and Senate to quickly identify themselves  
3           and what part of the state they represent so  
4           that we can get right to testimony, and we will  
5           begin on my right with Senator Maria Sachs, in  
6           who's district we are delighted to meet today.

7           SENATOR SACHS: Thank you very much,  
8           Mr. Chairman, and I would like to welcome all  
9           of the members of the Committee here to my  
10          district. My name is Maria Sachs and I proudly  
11          represent parts of Palm Beach and Broward  
12          County. Thank you for being here.

13          REPRESENTATIVE BERMAN: My name is  
14          Representative Lori Berman and I would also  
15          like to welcome you to District 86 and I  
16          represent south Palm Beach County, Boynton  
17          Beach, Delray beach and Boca Raton.

18          SENATOR SOBEL: Good morning, everybody  
19          and thank you for being here. My name is  
20          Eleanor Sobel, and I represent the southern  
21          part of Broward County, Senate District 31.

22          SENATOR MARGOLIS: Thank you for being  
23          here. My name is Senator Gwen Margolis, and I  
24          represent the east side of Miami-Dade County  
25          and part of Broward County.

1           SENATOR RICH: Good morning. My name is  
2           Nan Rich, and I am -- I represent Senate  
3           District 34, parts of Broward County and all of  
4           the way down to the southern end of Miami-Dade  
5           County and I also serve as the Democratic  
6           Minority Leader.

7           REPRESENTATIVE NUNEZ: Good morning, my  
8           name is Jeanette Nunez. I represent House  
9           District 112, which consists of portions of  
10          Broward, Dade and Collier County.

11          REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: Good morning, I  
12          am Kathleen Passidomo, I represent House  
13          District 76, which is Naples, Marco Island,  
14          Everglades City.

15          REPRESENTATIVE BURGIN: Good morning,  
16          State Representative Rachel Burgin from  
17          District 56, which is Tampa and eastern  
18          Hillsborough County.

19          REPRESENTATIVE ROONEY: Hello, everyone,  
20          Pat Rooney, House District 83, which is mainly  
21          Palm Beach Gardens and Jupiter, as well as Palm  
22          Beach. Good to be here.

23          REPRESENTATIVE CLEMENS: Good morning, I  
24          am Jeff Clemens, State House District 89. That  
25          includes Lake Worth, West Palm Beach and nine

1       other municipalities in central Palm Beach  
2       County.

3               REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY:   Good morning, I am  
4       Dennis Baxley, Florida House District 24,  
5       serving Ocala, Marion County.   Thank you.

6               REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS:   Good morning,  
7       thank you for having us here.   I am Trudi  
8       Williams, and I represent District 75, which is  
9       on southwest coast, Lee and Collier Counties.

10              REPRESENTATIVE YOUNG:   Good morning, I am  
11       Representative Dana Young, and I represent the  
12       city of Tampa and parts of Hillsborough County.

13              REPRESENTATIVE FRESEN:   Good morning, Erik  
14       Fresen, representing Miami Dade County,  
15       District 111, Florida House.

16              REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD:   Good morning,  
17       Mack Bernard, State Representative District 84,  
18       representing West Palm Beach.

19              REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL:   Good morning,  
20       Dorothy Hukill, State Representative, District  
21       28, representing parts of Volusia County.

22              SENATOR BOGDANOFF:   Ellyn Bogdanoff, State  
23       Senator from District 25, which goes from Juno  
24       Beach on the coast all of the way down to Ft.  
25       Lauderdale and shoots over to Wellington.

1           SENATOR BENACQUISTO: Good morning,  
2           Lizbeth Benacquisto, representing Senate  
3           District 27, which is comprised of portions of  
4           western Palm Beach County, Lee County, Glades  
5           County, Charlotte County and Hendry County.

6           REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: My list is much  
7           shorter. State Representative Evan Jenne. I  
8           represent southeast Broward County. Basically  
9           if you are being my neighbor to the north, you  
10          probably realize, the southern 595 corridor and  
11          thank you all for being here and having us.

12          SENATOR BRAYNON: State Senator Oscar  
13          Braynon, and I represent the north central area  
14          in Miami-Dade.

15          SENATOR SMITH: Good morning, and first,  
16          Mr. Chair, I want to welcome you. Actually,  
17          you are sitting in my district, Senate District  
18          29 represents this building.

19          I represent Broward, Broward and Palm  
20          Beach County connected by the I-95 corridor.  
21          Thank you.

22          REPRESENTATIVE ABRUZZO: Good morning,  
23          Joseph Abruzzo, House District 85, it is  
24          primarily a western and central Palm Beach  
25          County district.



1           REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Good morning, my  
2           name is Dwayne Taylor. I represent House  
3           District 27 which is in Volusia County.

4           REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Good morning, Mike  
5           Horner. I represent state House District 79 in  
6           Orange, Osceola, Okeechobee and Polk County.

7           REPRESENTATIVE PAFFORD: Good morning, I  
8           am Mark Pafford, House District 88, West Palm  
9           Beach, Royal Palm Beach, Green Acres and the  
10          crossroads of Florida Haverhill.

11          REPRESENTATIVE STEINBERG: Tough act to  
12          follow. Richard Steinberg, State House  
13          District 106, northeast Miami-Dade County.

14          REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Good morning, John  
15          Patrick Julien, representing State District  
16          104, which is in Miami-Dade County, North Miami  
17          Beach, North Miami, Miami Gardens, Opa Locka,  
18          City of Miami, Unincorporated Miami-Dade and a  
19          small chunk of Hialeah. It is a pleasure to be  
20          here.

21          REPRESENTATIVE HAGER: Good morning, Bill  
22          Hager, Boca Raton, House District 87, and this  
23          great University that you are at which kicks  
24          off its inaugural home football game in mid  
25          October, is inclusive in my district.

1           My district begins at Deerfield Beach,  
2           captures the coastal communities, all of the  
3           way up to Manalapan, just south of West Palm  
4           Beach. Welcome. Thank you.

5           REPRESENTATIVE THURSTON: Good morning, I  
6           am Perry Thurston, and I represent House  
7           District 93, Ft. Lauderdale, Broward County,  
8           Florida, your neighbor to the south, and thanks  
9           for being here.

10          REPRESENTATIVE WALDMAN: Good morning, I  
11          want to first welcome the Mark Pafford fan club  
12          in the back. It is great to have you here.  
13          And, oh, some have moved into the front. My  
14          name is Jim Waldman. I am the State  
15          Representative from District 95.

16          District 95 is northwest Broward County,  
17          primarily Coconut Creek, Margate, north  
18          Lauderdale, Coral Springs, a little bit of Ft.  
19          Lauderdale and Pompano Beach, and my daughter  
20          graduated from FAU here last year. So I have a  
21          very good connection to this area also. Thank  
22          you for having us.

23          REPRESENTATIVE REED: Good morning, my  
24          name is Betty Reed. I represent District 59  
25          which is in Tampa, the eastern part of Tampa,

1           and I want to thank you for being here this  
2           morning and welcome.   Enjoy.

3                   REPRESENTATIVE PERMAN:   Good morning,  
4           Mr. Chair, fellow Legislators and neighbors.   I  
5           am Steve Perman, House District -- take that,  
6           Pafford.   I represent House District 78, which  
7           is west Boca, west Delray and west Boynton,  
8           also portions, in addition to Palm Beach  
9           County, of Martin County, Okeechobee County and  
10          St. Lucie County, including Indiantown, the  
11          city of Okeechobee and the city of Ft. Pierce.  
12          Welcome.

13                   REPRESENTATIVE REED:   Good morning, I am  
14          State Representative Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed,  
15          representing -- thank you, thank you.  
16          Representing House District 92, which is just  
17          across the Palm Beach County line starting in  
18          Deerfield Beach and going south, Oakland Park,  
19          Wilton Manors, Pompano Beach, Ft. Lauderdale, a  
20          little bit of Tamarac, a little bit of north  
21          Lauderdale.   Thank you.

22                   REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS:   Good morning, I am  
23          State Representative Hazelle Rogers from  
24          Broward County, Broward County, the House,  
25          central, Broward County representing eight

1        cities; Lauderdale Lakes, Lauderhill, north  
2        Lauderdale, Margate, Tamarac, Oakland Park,  
3        Plantation and Sunrise.

4            It is good to be here this morning, and of  
5        course, Broward County, one of the most diverse  
6        counties representing 1.8 million residents.  
7        So it is good to be here.

8            REPRESENTATIVE MORAITIS: Good morning, I  
9        am George Moraitis, I represent House District  
10       91, that is east Broward County, east Palm  
11       Beach County. I suppose if I were to say I  
12       were a Democrat I would have gotten some  
13       applause, but I am looking forward to the  
14       hearings this morning.

15           REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Good morning, I am  
16       Doug Holder. I represent south Sarasota County  
17       in the Florida House.

18           SENATOR SIPLIN: Good morning, Gary  
19       Siplin, District 19, State Senate, Orlando,  
20       Florida.

21           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Good morning, I  
22       am Steve Precourt from way up north just west  
23       of Orlando, House District 41, west Orange  
24       County, south Lake County and parts of Osceola  
25       County.

1           SENATOR GAETZ: And my district, my Senate  
2           District is coastal northwest Florida from  
3           Pensacola to Panama City, and Senator Smith, I  
4           just want to apologize to you and tell you that  
5           you and Senator Sachs will be meeting  
6           separately later to sort this out.

7           We have a large number of people who want  
8           to speak today and we want to hear from as many  
9           people as we can.

10          We will adjourn promptly at 1:00 and we  
11          have literally over 100 people who have signed  
12          up to speak.

13          Now, we can do this any number of ways,  
14          but in order to give everyone a fair chance we  
15          are going to impose a time limit. Is Bill  
16          Diamond here? Bill, are you here?

17          MR. DIAMOND: Right here.

18          SENATOR GAETZ: Bill, sit down. The  
19          reason why I asked you to stand up for a  
20          second, Bill, is because I am an advocate for  
21          you. You are the last person who signed up to  
22          speak, and I want to hear from Bill Diamond,  
23          but in order to hear from him, everybody else  
24          is going to have to be courteous and kind.

25          Now, you are welcome to applaud. You are

1 welcome to emote, you are welcome to do most  
2 anything that is legal and not unethical or  
3 fattening, but remember that any time you take  
4 is time you are taking away from people who  
5 have come here, your friends and neighbors who  
6 would like to speak.

7 So we are going to keep everybody to two  
8 minutes. That is the only way we can get  
9 through all of the individuals who signed up.

10 Now, if someone has already made your  
11 point we will give you extra credit for saying,  
12 I agree with that person and you can still  
13 submit your written comments which will be part  
14 of the record and available to all members of  
15 the committee.

16 But if you feel the need to speak, even if  
17 somebody else has made your point, we want to  
18 hear you for the time that you have available.

19 With that said I am going to call several  
20 people forward so that we can kind of keep it  
21 moving.

22 Joan Karp with the League of Women Voters  
23 will be first, followed by Thomas, I think it  
24 is Sliney, Sliney, and Tom, if you will please  
25 come forward, please, as well. And then Carol

1 Porter and then Florence Fidell.

2 And so if we could begin, please, if those  
3 individuals would come forward and we will  
4 begin with Joan Karp. You are our first  
5 testifier. We are glad to have you here this  
6 morning and you are recognized.

7 MS. KARP: Good morning, I am President of  
8 the Palm Beach County League of Women Voters.  
9 During previous hearings many testifiers have  
10 emphasized the same map criteria that we voted  
11 into the Constitution last year. There are  
12 only six more hearings after this morning's.

13 Still we are asking, in spite of what  
14 Senator Precourt said, why aren't we seeing  
15 drafts of maps at any of these hearings so that  
16 the public can make comments on the product  
17 instead of the criteria and we can judge if the  
18 listening tour was effective.

19 By the time maps are presented there will  
20 be little time for public comment. In this  
21 tight budget environment these expensive  
22 hearings shouldn't be wasted on merely  
23 listening.

24 By now many other states have released  
25 actual proposed maps for citizens' comments.

1 Arizona for one will allow 30 days of public  
2 hearings.

3 The current timeline seems to be only  
4 three days in Tallahassee for public comments  
5 after the vote. How can we, hundreds of miles  
6 from Tallahassee, analyze and comment in that  
7 length of time?

8 The software, My District Builder,  
9 provided to the public to draw their maps  
10 doesn't provide the tools necessary to draw  
11 real statewide maps that fit the criteria  
12 written into the Constitution.

13 Consequently the league is not drawing  
14 sample maps. The lack of timely maps impacts  
15 the work of the league educating the voters.  
16 How can we plan and execute candidate forms  
17 without knowing where the districts fall?

18 How can we answer questions for your  
19 constituents when they ask, who is running in  
20 their district? Our written publications need  
21 the maps as well.

22 In just one year the State Primaries will  
23 already have been held, which means that  
24 absentee ballots would have been mailed weeks  
25 before and all ballots for early voting created



1       many weeks earlier, making the work of the  
2       Supervisors' office with its limited staff  
3       extremely difficult.

4               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
5       very much, Ms. Karp. We really appreciate your  
6       testimony, and next we will have Thomas Sliney,  
7       please.

8               MR. SLINEY: Good morning, I am Tom  
9       Sliney. I am a long time resident of Boca  
10      Raton and an attorney in Boca and have been in  
11      the political process for a long time.

12              I am here to speak on District 87 which I  
13      am very familiar with. You can't see it, but  
14      here is a map. If you can see the tan part,  
15      this is District 87.

16              It is Boca Raton based. It is presently a  
17      pretty compact district. If you need to make  
18      some changes in the district I would suggest  
19      based on the compactness theory and also the  
20      county line theory, that you take one portion  
21      of the district which is in District 91 and  
22      bring that up into Boca Raton, take off the  
23      Broward County part of the district and have  
24      that go back to Broward County.

25              Also, if you need population increased and

1 I am not sure which way the district is, to  
2 have the balance of the city of Boca Raton be  
3 placed in the district and I would also suggest  
4 that you keep the coastal cities in the  
5 district. Thank you very much.

6 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
7 Very helpful testimony. Next we will hear from  
8 Carol Porter and following Ms. Porter, if  
9 Florence Fidell is here and then Steven Laine  
10 and then following Mr. Laine, Corrine Miller.

11 Carol Porter, you are recognized.

12 A VOICE: No, she is not here.

13 SENATOR GAETZ: She is not here, well, we  
14 will pass her and go next to Florence Fidell.  
15 Carol is here.

16 A VOICE: Okay.

17 SENATOR GAETZ: All right, Carol, are you  
18 here?

19 MS. PORTER: Yes.

20 SENATOR GAETZ: Carol Porter. Ms. Porter.  
21 Is Carol Porter here? Do you wish to testify?

22 MS. PORTER: Can I use this microphone,  
23 please?

24 SENATOR GAETZ: Yes, ma'am, you certainly  
25 may.

1 MS. PORTER: Okay. Just that we, the  
2 Florida voters, would like the process to go  
3 smoothly and please take all input and we would  
4 like the districts to be drawn fairly for fair  
5 representation, too, and I think that is all I  
6 can think of right now.

7 SENATOR GAETZ: That is a lot. Thank you  
8 very much, Ms. Porter. And next is Florence  
9 Fidell, and then Steven Laine, if you can be on  
10 deck.

11 MS. FIDELL: I am Florence Fidell, the  
12 United Federation of Teachers as well as a  
13 million other positions I hold, and please, I  
14 say this with all due respect, please, but your  
15 job is to carry out the will of the voters, and  
16 I am one of those 63 percent of the Florida  
17 voters actually that was more than 3,150,000  
18 Floridians who voted for fair districts.

19 Your responsibility is certainly to listen  
20 to us, but by your ploy, sorry, but by your  
21 ploy of giving us the opportunity of drawing  
22 the lines as you alluded to before, instead of  
23 presenting what you think is fair and legal, I  
24 find it unconscionable.

25 At these 26 hearings around the state we

1       would then have had an opportunity to comment  
2       and react to your plan. I, like others, have  
3       done my research, and know that you have had  
4       the necessary data to draw district lines.

5               You have had it since March, and by doing  
6       it this way it limits the time that prospective  
7       candidates can file, to speak to us and allow  
8       us to make clear decisions on who we think  
9       should represent us.

10              I will end on this comment. Do you  
11       honestly think it is fair for us, for me to  
12       give up my work day as I did today and our time  
13       and our money to prospectively travel to  
14       Tallahassee months from now when you finally  
15       present your maps? I absolutely do not.

16              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
17       Ms. Fidell. And next we have Steven Laine and  
18       then following Mr. Laine, Corrine Miller, and  
19       following Ms. Miller, Margie Walden.

20              Mr. Laine, you are recognized. Thank you  
21       for being here today.

22              MR. LAINE: Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
23       for all of your work and all of your co-workers  
24       here making this possible, and after doing 25  
25       or more of these I can see where you would get

1 a little weary of this effort but we all  
2 appreciate your service.

3 A point of personal privilege,  
4 Mr. Chairman. 1997 I was part of the second  
5 World Food Summit in Rome, Italy. The first  
6 one was in 1974, and what I suggested, I was an  
7 Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

8 We had 150 speakers that three days and  
9 what I suggested was that everybody get a  
10 microphone, get up at one time and give their  
11 three minutes and then send out a press  
12 release. It would save days and hours and so  
13 forth, so maybe this is something for the  
14 future.

15 At any rate, I am a displaced prune  
16 picker, a little bit wrinkled, a little bit  
17 nutty. That means I am from California.

18 I was in Washington in 1974, three days  
19 later the President quit. I didn't realize  
20 there was a Ford in my future, and after 37  
21 years last week, many of you will recognize the  
22 37th anniversary of Gerald Ford being made  
23 President of these United States.

24 Well, I have been active in civic groups  
25 and so forth. I won't bore you with all of

1           that, but very active with the Boca Highland  
2           Beach Condominium Association which has 62  
3           condominiums that we represent in Palm Beach  
4           County and Highland Beach, Boca Raton actually,  
5           and we have interests such as beach  
6           re-nourishment firearm issues, sea grapes  
7           challenging blocking views and all of the rest  
8           of this. So these are the things that we deal  
9           with.

10                 SENATOR GAETZ: Anything on redistricting  
11           before you finish?

12                 MR. LAINE: Yes. I am going to get to  
13           that, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate your --

14                 SENATOR GAETZ: You have five seconds.

15                 MR. LAINE: Well, the way I did this, I  
16           followed the instructions and I put this  
17           altogether in two pages for three to five  
18           minutes, and of course, we are down to two and  
19           I am exceeding my time and I apologize to you.

20                 But anybody ever heard of the Rorschach  
21           Inkblot Test, you know, a psychologist shows a  
22           patient and inkblot and asks what the patient  
23           sees in it?

24                 SENATOR GAETZ: Mr. Laine, I apologize.  
25           We have got 98 people behind you.

1           MR. LAINE: Good.

2           SENATOR GAETZ: If you could please wrap  
3 it up.

4           MR. LAINE: Yes, and every patient sees  
5 the --

6           SENATOR GAETZ: We would be happy to take  
7 your written testimony.

8           MR. LAINE: I will give it to you right  
9 now, sir. And every patient sees something  
10 different. We each look at the district and  
11 see it from our various perspectives.

12           My District 91 has special interests in  
13 the beaches of our community. Our immediate  
14 district to the north of us is analogous in  
15 many respects. It has just six or so  
16 precincts.

17           SENATOR GAETZ: Mr. Laine, I am sorry, I  
18 am going to have to ask you to conclude,  
19 because we do have so many other people, we  
20 really appreciate it.

21           Next is Corrine Miller.

22           MR. LAINE: And in conclusion I would like  
23 to thank you for all of your efforts on our  
24 behalf. Got bless you and thank you for making  
25 Florida such a beautiful place in which to

1 live.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
3 Corrine Miller. Corrine Miller and then  
4 following Ms. Miller is Margie Walden, and then  
5 Jean Craft, if you will be on deck and Tom  
6 Whatley, and there are microphones on both  
7 sides, whichever is most convenient.  
8 Ms. Miller.

9 MS. MILLER: Yes, speaker after speaker in  
10 prior hearings of this committee reminded you  
11 that over 63 percent of the voters supported  
12 Amendments 5 and 6.

13 A committee member said that voters often  
14 don't understand the Amendments on which they  
15 vote. I would like to point to a number of  
16 facts that come to that assumption.

17 A citizen sponsored amendment on  
18 redistricting has made the rounds four times in  
19 the last decade. Hundreds of thousands of  
20 people have signed on only to face  
21 disappointment as the first three attempts did  
22 not reach the ballot.

23 By the time 5 and 6 were placed on the  
24 ballot millions of Florida citizens had all had  
25 a personal civics lesson in gerrymandering.



1           I remember a Fourth of July celebration on  
2           this campus where volunteers raced to keep up  
3           with the number of voters anxious to sign a bid  
4           for fairness in our election system.

5           During the entire campaign virtually every  
6           newspaper in the state supported the effort.  
7           The coalitions members addressed civic  
8           organizations throughout the state. In Palm  
9           Beach County alone over 120 groups heard about  
10          redistricting.

11          There were public debates and explanations  
12          from groups like the Collins Center and the  
13          Brandon Center. The National media got into  
14          the act with comments even from the New York  
15          Times.

16          In the process the Legislature changed the  
17          threshold for approval to 60 percent from a  
18          simple majority. Undaunted by the higher  
19          hurdle, the public education campaign included  
20          distribution of several hundred thousand  
21          non-partisan explanations of the ballot issue  
22          that reached voters through libraries,  
23          newspaper inserts and distribution at civic  
24          meetings and events.

25          If you work with voter education for 50

1       years as I have, you learn that when people  
2       choose not to vote it is because they lack  
3       sufficient information and do not want to make  
4       a mistake.

5               SENATOR GAETZ: And Ms. Miller, we thank  
6       you. We thank you for your time.

7               MS. MILLER: I have two more sentences.

8               SENATOR GAETZ: Okay.

9               MS. MILLER: The voters who did vote have  
10       spoken with understanding and determination.  
11       They will remember those who have not heard the  
12       message.

13               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
14       Ms. Miller. And next is Margie Walden with  
15       Alliance of Delray, and then following  
16       Ms. Walden, Jean Craft and Tom Whatley, and Jim  
17       Watt, if you will be on deck, please.

18               Ms. Walden, thank you for coming, and we  
19       look forward to your testimony.

20               MS. WALDEN: Good morning, Honorable  
21       Representatives and Senators of the great state  
22       of Florida. The Alliance of Delray is a  
23       community-based organization comprised of 81  
24       condominium and homeowners associations in  
25       Delray Beach representing more than 100,000

1 residents and voters from the Everglades to the  
2 ocean.

3 We have a great concern about the  
4 following. One, that the lesion of the  
5 compactness and geo-spacial analysis from the  
6 My District Builder software.

7 Two, the lack of proposed plans and maps  
8 distributed to the public for comment prior to  
9 these public meetings.

10 Three, only allowing comments from the  
11 public on proposed maps during committee  
12 meetings that will be held in Tallahassee  
13 during session.

14 Four, utilizing taxpayer funds in a  
15 pending lawsuit to overturn Fair Districting  
16 Amendments that were approved by 63 percent of  
17 the population.

18 Five, establishing an unrealistic timeline  
19 for approval that will prevent the completion  
20 of the entire process in time for all incumbent  
21 and new candidates to declare their candidacy  
22 and for the Supervisor of Elections to prepare  
23 ballots.

24 So as we are facing extremely high  
25 unemployment and services are being cut, we are

1 counting the millions of dollars being spent on  
2 holding these meetings and suits pending on the  
3 constitutionality of these amendments. This is  
4 not good governance and the waste the is  
5 unconscionable.

6 The Alliance -- The alliance, the Alliance  
7 of Delray members will be watching very closely  
8 and we are prepared to make our voices heard  
9 through every possible channel during this  
10 entire process to ensure --

11 SENATOR GAETZ: Ms. Walden, thank you.  
12 Thank you very much.

13 MS. WALDEN -- the enactment of fair  
14 districts.

15 SENATOR GAETZ: Your testimony was very  
16 helpful. And now Jean Craft. Ms. Craft, you  
17 are next, followed by Tom Whatley and Jim Watt  
18 and then Ed Sol.

19 Ms. Craft, thank you for being here, and  
20 we look forward to anything you have to share  
21 with us.

22 MS. CRAFT: I, even though there has been  
23 other people that have said the same thing I am  
24 going to say, this would -- the voters have  
25 already spoken.

1           We want fair districts and for you to come  
2           to here and, I mean, I appreciate your service,  
3           but for you to come and to spend the money when  
4           things are so tight right now when we don't  
5           even have maps to look at, to, you know, to  
6           comment on and then when you go there and do  
7           vote on the maps, how are people going to get  
8           all of the way up to Tallahassee?

9           I mean, this is -- this should be already  
10          done. You have got the software. There is  
11          already procedures for doing it and I just  
12          don't understand, that it seems to me as though  
13          even though we have spoken clearly about fair  
14          maps, fair districts, that now we are going  
15          through this.

16          It is not our job to draw the maps. It is  
17          your job to draw the maps. That is what the  
18          Constitution says. It is our job to say  
19          whether we like it or not. Right now we are, I  
20          mean, it sounds nice that you are giving us the  
21          software, but that is not our job. It is your  
22          job to do that. Thank you.

23          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much. Very  
24          helpful testimony. And next, Tom Whatley, and  
25          then after Mr. Whatley, Jim Watt and then Ed

1 Sol, and then if Harry Raucher will be on deck.  
2 Tom Whatley.

3 MR. WHATLEY: Mr. Chair, ladies and  
4 gentlemen of the panel. Thank you for taking  
5 the time out to do this. I do have to disagree  
6 with the previous speaker that, I appreciate  
7 even Senator Sachs putting on like a little  
8 hometown meeting last week to get our input on  
9 this, and it is a tedious task that you all are  
10 going through.

11 It could be political suicide for a few of  
12 you, depending on how the maps are drawn up.  
13 So I appreciate that, but, you know, I am a  
14 native Palm Beach, one of the few people over  
15 50 years of age that is actually born in this  
16 county.

17 But I live in and probably if you look up  
18 gerrymander in the definition, you might see  
19 Senator Benacquisto has District 27, while if I  
20 walk a quarter mile left or right, I am in  
21 Senator Sachs' district.

22 I am all of the way at the very bottom,  
23 and I was a little disappointed, Senator  
24 Benacquisto, when you moved over to Ft. Myers  
25 and I actually, anything I need I actually go

1       three miles over to Congress Avenue and go see  
2       Senator Sachs.

3               So it is very gerrymandered, but you all  
4       have a tough task and I would encourage you,  
5       there is a time issue here, because many people  
6       can't run for office. They can't file and if  
7       they can't file they can't collect funds, and  
8       if they suddenly as the residents requirement  
9       they get moved out of another district, what  
10      happens is, well, you know, they have collected  
11      money, they are going to have to change up. It  
12      loses confidence in the voters.

13              So that my issue is, it is a timing, you  
14      have to get this done quick, but it is probably  
15      the most important decision that you all are  
16      going to make while your tenure in office, is  
17      this tenure, every ten years.

18              This is the most important one and many of  
19      you all are freshmen in your perspective seats,  
20      but this is going to make a difference of what  
21      happens in the state of Florida. The whole  
22      nation is watching, so keep that in mind.

23              The nation is watching what Florida is  
24      going to do after redistricting in the  
25      Constitutional Amendments and I appreciate each

1           and every one of you for the jobs that you all  
2           have done and please continue to do, contrary  
3           to what some people have said, the quorums out  
4           in the public because I think this is novel,  
5           you guys need to do this more often, thank you.

6           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
7           And next, Jim Watt, and following Mr. Watt, Ed  
8           Sol, and then Harry Raucher and then George  
9           Weiss.

10          Mr. Watt, thank you for being here, we  
11          look forward to your testimony, sir.

12          MR. WATT: Good morning, Senators and  
13          Representatives. For the record, my name is  
14          Jim Watt from Palm Beach Gardens. My remarks  
15          concern the House District in northern Palm  
16          Beach County.

17          Prior to 1982, our county's House  
18          delegation consisted of a multi membered  
19          district with six State Representatives.

20          However, in 1982, that changed to six  
21          single member districts, which we continue to  
22          have today, 30 years later. For these 30 years  
23          the north county district, currently District  
24          83, the cornerstone of that district has been  
25          the municipalities of north Palm Beach, Palm



1 Beach Gardens, Juno Beach and at certain times  
2 Lake Park.

3 Therefore, there is a consistent  
4 historical basis for that district. Also,  
5 there is a substantial community of interest,  
6 including the beaches and the area that is  
7 commonly referred to as the northern Palm  
8 Beaches. We even have our own Chamber of  
9 Commerce.

10 I urge the Legislature to continue this  
11 commitment to the northern Palm Beaches by  
12 maintaining this cornerstone of the cities in  
13 the districts, adding adjacent unincorporated  
14 areas which have a similar community interest.  
15 Thank you very much.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
17 Mr. Watt, and I would like to just mention that  
18 because everyone is being so respectful of  
19 those who have signed up behind you, if you  
20 have extended remarks, we want those notes or  
21 any kind of information that you have.

22 You can pass them to our staff members and  
23 they will be included and the record made  
24 available to all members.

25 And next we will have testimony from Ed

1 Sol and, Ed, thank you for being here.

2 MR. SOL: Thank you for inviting me. My  
3 name is Ed Sol from Delray Beach. The  
4 legislative's timeline for drawing districts is  
5 unfair to Florida voters.

6 Under the present timeline for  
7 redistricting, it is highly unlikely that the  
8 districts will be finally approved before the  
9 date candidates must sign up to run for  
10 reelection. And it is unlikely that the  
11 ballots will be finalized by the deadline for  
12 sending absentee and overseas ballots.

13 Districts may not be finalized until  
14 August. Florida's maps will be approved later  
15 than most every other state in the nation, and  
16 according to the Legislature's own attorney,  
17 this will cause massive voter confusion.

18 Voting officials will not have time to  
19 prepare for the elections. Challengers or new  
20 candidates will have little or any time to  
21 mount campaigns and voters will be voting for  
22 candidates they will have little opportunity to  
23 know. Thank you very much for the opportunity.

24 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Sol. And  
25 next is Harry Raucher and then Gregg Weiss and

1           then Karen Burke.

2           Mr. Raucher, thank you for coming today.

3           MR. RAUCHER: Thank you, thanks and good  
4 morning and thanks for the opportunity to  
5 address the Redistricting Committee.

6           I -- when I got my confirmation it came  
7 from a gentleman named, I believe Jay Ferrin  
8 who said that this would be a most open  
9 transparent and interactive redistricting ever.  
10 And I am hoping.

11           Timelines for maps should really be  
12 September, October, I think, and we should all  
13 be given a time to know what our districts will  
14 be, but if they are not publicly released until  
15 June, which is what our indications are, it  
16 will cause many anxious moments as well as we,  
17 the public, not knowing who our Legislators  
18 might be and who is running.

19           At the least they should be available at  
20 the very beginning of the next session in  
21 January. My guess is they have already been  
22 drawn or at least some lines have been drawn  
23 and I think as many will say they should be  
24 contiguous and compact.

25           My State Representative, Representative

1       Perman, I think represents either four or five  
2       counties and I think that is wrong.

3               Filings should be greatly affected as I  
4       indicated so I won't go into that and many  
5       other people have said the same thing.

6               The lawsuit that is being brought is  
7       unfair and unjust. A lot of taxpayer money is  
8       being spend to hire lawyers and pursue the  
9       lawsuit over amendments that were 63 percent of  
10      the voters in the last election voted for.

11              We were led to believe that our tax money  
12      was being spent more wisely and the creation of  
13      jobs and the economy was the most important  
14      thing in the past session.

15              I as well as most of the other citizens of  
16      Florida hope you will do the right thing and  
17      truly make this redistricting transparent, open  
18      and interactive. Thank you very much for  
19      hearing me.

20              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, sir, for your  
21      very useful testimony. Thank you.

22              Next is Gregg Weiss and then following Mr.  
23      Weiss, Karen Burke, Rick Neuhoﬀ and then Henry  
24      Kelley.

25              Mr. Weiss, thank you for coming today and

1 we look forward to your testimony.

2 MR. WEISS: Well, thank you very much.

3 Glad to be here. Gregg Weiss, for the record.

4 You asked me to tell you my story and my story  
5 is, if you have a pen, you might want to write  
6 this down.

7 I am from Precinct 2066 in Palm Beach  
8 County, and we -- my block, we have nine homes  
9 on the block and we are pulled out of our  
10 neighborhood and we are placed in a precinct a  
11 quarter of a mile away.

12 So my neighbors all vote for different  
13 people than the nine houses on my block. This  
14 is -- we are -- we are the poster children for  
15 what goes wrong sometimes in redistricting, and  
16 Mack Bernard is my Representative, no offense  
17 to you, Mack, but my neighbor across the street  
18 has Representative Clemens.

19 And we live in the city of West Palm Beach  
20 and I see we have four Representatives  
21 representing our city of 100,000 people, so we  
22 are split up.

23 So if you can fix my personal district or  
24 my personal precinct I would think that this  
25 would have been a successful event.

1           The only other things I really want to say  
2           is, if you could look and see, you know, try to  
3           put the city together so that we are, we are a  
4           community of interest, and also save our  
5           Supervisor of Elections from having to spend so  
6           much money to print up all of these different  
7           ballots as we are cut up in all of these  
8           different ways.

9           And then lastly, I also would have liked  
10          to have seen some maps, some ideas of where you  
11          thought the line should be drawn, because I  
12          think together we can come up with much better  
13          ideas when we all put our thoughts together.  
14          So thank you very much.

15          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, Mr.  
16          Weiss. That is exactly the kind of input we  
17          need.

18          Next is Karen Burke and following  
19          Ms. Burke, Rick Neuhoﬀ and then Henry Kelley,  
20          following Mr. Kelley, Allen Robbins.

21          Ms. Burke, thank you for being here.

22          MS. BURKE: Thank you. I would like to  
23          defer to Tom Sliney's plan who spoke already  
24          regarding District 87 and 91, to help identify  
25          like communities of interest and geographic

1 areas that could form the basis of a district  
2 or part of a district or identify unique  
3 attributes of a given area that the Legislature  
4 must be keenly aware of.

5 An example of this could include, but is  
6 by no means limited to keeping coastal  
7 communities in Palm Beach County together is  
8 critically important, because they comprise a  
9 community ever interest with special needs and  
10 concerns from the rest of Palm Beach County.

11 Coastal communities must be kept together  
12 because there are issues such as property  
13 insurance and tourism, require these  
14 communities to have a strong representation at  
15 the State and Federal levels. Thank you.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
17 Ms. Burke. That is very helpful testimony.  
18 Rick Neuhoff, then Henry Kelley, then if Allen  
19 Robbins will be ready and then Mark Allen  
20 Siegel. Mr. Neuhoff.

21 MR. NEUHOFF: My name is Rick Neuhoff. I  
22 am running for Palm Beach County Commission in  
23 District 5 and I have a lot -- I have a lot of  
24 respect for you as Florida's Legislators.

25 Over the years gerrymandering has been

1       used to stack partisan votes and give dominance  
2       to one party or another, but the times have  
3       changed and more than 3,150,000 Floridians have  
4       called for fair districts.

5               Technology has radically changed our  
6       election process, and because of that today's  
7       vocabulary words are geo-spacial analysis. I  
8       agree with the Delray Alliance, you can either  
9       fix My District Builder software to include  
10      geo-spacial analysis or replace it with the  
11      Esolvia Seserio software.

12             We are sick and tired of gerrymandering.  
13      Election results must represent the actual  
14      votes that we cast. It is ridiculous that  
15      Floridians are paying attorneys and law firms  
16      to argue both sides for and against the  
17      redistricting process.

18             Don't you know what side the redistricting  
19      issue we are on? We voted for Amendments 5 and  
20      6. Now it is up to you to draw the lines in a  
21      prompt fashion so that the new fairly drawn  
22      compact and contiguous non-partisan districts  
23      are in place in plenty of time for the 2012  
24      elections.

25             We want fair districts and fair elections



1       now. The last time I heard a Florida  
2       politician say they wanted to keep the voting  
3       process simple, Florida wound up with a  
4       butterfly ballot and we all know the sad ending  
5       to that story.

6               So please stop playing games with  
7       redistricting. By now you fully understand the  
8       meanings of the words compact and contiguous.  
9       What part of non-partisan districts don't you  
10      understand? I am sure you do.

11             With all due respect I agree with the  
12      League of Women Voters and the United  
13      Federation of Teachers. These meetings are  
14      theatrical and misleading, giving you the  
15      opportunity to tell us to produce our own maps  
16      for you to consider. Really? Are you serious?  
17      You can't expect us to become redistricting  
18      software experts and then present our --

19             SENATOR GAETZ: Mr. Neuhoff.

20             MR. NEUHOFF -- amateur attempts for your  
21      consideration.

22             SENATOR GAETZ: Mr. Neuhoff, all of those  
23      people, Mr. Neuhoff, all those people you want  
24      to have vote for you, they are waiting to speak  
25      and you have used up your time. Thank you very

1 much for your testimony.

2 MR. NEUHOFF: Thank you for all of the  
3 help that you are being today, sir.

4 SENATOR GAETZ: Absolutely. Now we are  
5 all going to be nice, we are all going to be  
6 nice, and let's -- no, no, no, no, no. Let's  
7 not -- let's not boo any of the people who  
8 speak. Let's instead, okay.

9 A VOICE: You, you.

10 A VOICE: You guys aren't doing a good  
11 job.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: Ladies and gentlemen,  
13 ladies and gentlemen, we have two choices. If  
14 you would like to emote, you are welcome to, it  
15 is your time. If you would like to hear your  
16 friends and neighbors' concerns and testimony,  
17 we can do that.

18 But as long as I am Chairing I am going to  
19 be helpful and try to get to the last person  
20 who signed up to speak, notwithstanding your  
21 down sign, ma'am.

22 Now, Mr. Henry Kelley, you have the  
23 testimony that you would like to bring to the  
24 Committee, we are anxious to hear you.

25 MR. KELLEY: Thank you, Senator, and I

1       would like to thank the members of the  
2       Committee for their hard work in attending all  
3       of these meetings.

4               I have attended several meetings already  
5       and I have watched a few on the Internet, and  
6       in the interest of sparking more booing, there  
7       is a recurring theme of you guys being told to  
8       do your job.

9               On behalf of the Tea Party statewide we  
10       believe that in the republic --

11              SENATOR GAETZ:  Ladies and gentlemen,  
12       please -- we are going to be -- we are going to  
13       be kind and courteous to everyone who speaks,  
14       regardless of their point of view.

15              MR. KELLEY:  The reason why I bring that  
16       up is because we believe in a republic the  
17       citizens have an obligation to participate and  
18       to tell you how we think on a given issue.

19              As such I have personally drawn two  
20       Congressional maps, a full Senate map and a  
21       full House map for your review.

22              I am here to express my disappointment in  
23       the professional groups who stand before you  
24       and complain, but haven't lifted a finger to  
25       draw their own maps to show you what they want

1           and to put their agenda on display.

2           I received no money from my Tea Party  
3           work. I drew these maps in my own spare time.  
4           It can be done by anyone with a minor bit of  
5           effort of watching the U-Tube video which is  
6           five minutes long and a few minutes of  
7           experimenting with the software.

8           In fact, there was an editorial today in  
9           the Miami Herald from the League of Women  
10          Voters and I put it to you, that time could  
11          have been better spent taking ten minutes to  
12          draw a new district.

13          However, I would like to ask the Committee  
14          to consider adding to your calendar. I know  
15          you have already had 26 meetings or will have,  
16          but I would like the opportunity to present my  
17          maps in detail at a committee hearing and I ask  
18          that you open up an opportunity for people who  
19          have done full maps to explain to you the lines  
20          that I have drawn, why I drew them and why I  
21          place them where I have and how I view, we  
22          should adhere to the Fair Districts Amendment.

23          I will point and I am afraid my eyes  
24          aren't what they used to be. The reason I drew  
25          two Congressional maps was to show the impact

1 of the minority district and how that  
2 gerrymandered district ordered by a Federal  
3 Judge affects millions of Floridians and I  
4 can't see which map is --

5 SENATOR GAETZ: Mr. Kelley, I would -- if  
6 you could bring it in for a landing.

7 MR. KELLEY: My point is that we believe  
8 in the Fair Districts Amendments as well. I  
9 have put my money where my mouth is. I would  
10 be glad to discuss what I call my good  
11 congressional map that has nine Congressional  
12 Districts and how I believe this will help the  
13 state of Florida.

14 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you.

15 MR. KELLEY: Thank you.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
17 And next we will hear from Allen Robbins and  
18 following Mr. Robbins, Mark Allen Siegel, then  
19 David Torgerson, and then Tami Donnally.

20 Mr. Robbins, thank you for being here and  
21 we are delighted to have your testimony.

22 MS. ROBBINS: My name is Allen Robbins. I  
23 am from Boynton Beach. Can you map that poster  
24 that I requested earlier from your staff to be  
25 put on screen, please, before I start?

1           SENATOR GAETZ: Of course.

2           MS. ROBBINS: Okay. That was the reason  
3 that we are all here today and if you scroll  
4 down a little further down you will see that  
5 the -- we are here to do fair districting, and  
6 I am here to talk about the software, both the  
7 House and the Senate software.

8           I found some serious problems in the  
9 software, itself, and I am going to read you  
10 what I have. I have a full document of roughly  
11 about 60 pages documenting some of the  
12 problems.

13          SENATOR GAETZ: Can you leave that with  
14 us?

15          MS. ROBBINS: Your staff already has that.

16          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, thank you.

17          MS. ROBBINS: I am just going to read a  
18 short version of what is in here.

19          SENATOR GAETZ: Please.

20          MS. ROBBINS: My District Builder and the  
21 Senate District Builder directly relate to the  
22 success of the Amendments 5 and 6. There is a  
23 national public web-based mapping project, that  
24 uses a version of District Builder that used  
25 geo-spatial formulas.

1           The other versions of the District Builder  
2       have failed to include this vital component and  
3       other versions of District Builder will not  
4       deliver compact and contiguous non-partisan  
5       district scores.

6           The Florida House has been notified of  
7       this serious problem on several occasions. The  
8       Florida State House responded by saying they  
9       would not include shell plan summary explaining  
10      we do not plan to include a compactness  
11      measuring tool.

12          The Florida House Senate's position is  
13      completely unacceptable. The words compact and  
14      -- is in the language of both Amendments 5 and  
15      6 and again we call for the state of Florida to  
16      use the version of District Builder that has  
17      geo-spatial analysis.

18          We know that no mathematical formula is  
19      likely to adequately correct for all of the  
20      geographical and social variabilities that can  
21      result in irregular district shapes.

22          However, when the authors wrote Amendments  
23      5 and 6 they clearly called for a geometric  
24      measure of compactness as part of the process.

25          When Florida State House told me that you

1 do not need Reocovia Hall Palsway Popper and  
2 Schwartzberg scores to know what makes sense  
3 for creating compact districts.

4 SENATOR GAETZ: Sir, could I ask you to  
5 conclude, please? You have gone over time.

6 MR. ROBBINS: Okay, then I will end it  
7 with this paragraph. We want fair districts  
8 drawn. Therefore, we demand that My District  
9 Builder and the Senate District Builder  
10 software either be fixed, replaced so that the  
11 mandate of the people is followed to the letter  
12 of the law to make sure that the DOJ and the  
13 Florida Supreme Court have full access to  
14 geo-spacial analysis to measure relative  
15 compactness which is a mandate.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

17 MR. ROBBINS: For the people.

18 SENATOR GAETZ: And you are going to leave  
19 your information with the staff, thank you so  
20 much. That is very helpful.

21 Next, Mark Allen Siegel with The Autobot  
22 Group, then David Torgerson, Tami Donnally, and  
23 Susan Bucher, who is the Supervisor of  
24 Elections. Mr. Siegel.

25 MR. SIEGEL: That is for Susan, not for



1 me. I served in another Legislature in another  
2 galaxy far, far away, and went through a couple  
3 of reapportionment processes and generally it  
4 is pretty disgraceful.

5 However, the state of Florida adopted the  
6 Fair District Amendments. In this county  
7 70 percent of the people voted for fair  
8 districts, which is why you have such anxiety  
9 about it not being followed.

10 There are several things which you must  
11 keep in mind. First of all, the absolute  
12 integrity of county and city boundaries. There  
13 is no excuse for crossing a county boundary  
14 more than once or for dividing a city up among  
15 four legislative districts.

16 Even the requirements of the Voting Rights  
17 Act would require no city to be divided into  
18 more than two districts.

19 So the number one thing we will be looking  
20 at is how our Palm Beach municipalities are  
21 treated. Don't cut up the cities, keep them  
22 whole. Don't make our county partners of four  
23 or five counties. Give us one or two partners  
24 and keep the districts whole.

25 Second, there have to be objective

1 standards. Mr. Robbins mentioned several of  
2 these standards. If you don't have objective  
3 standards to measure the varying and  
4 compactness and contiguity of your districts,  
5 you are intentionally flying blind. Don't do  
6 that.

7 It is not, it shouldn't be a subjective  
8 matter when someone looks at the map and say,  
9 well, geez, that looks compact. There are  
10 well-established mathematical tools to  
11 determine these things. Include them in your  
12 software. There was no harm in that.

13 Finally, the schedule that you have  
14 developed discriminates against our fighting  
15 men and women. They vote, they vote overseas.

16 As Supervisor Bucher will tell you, the  
17 schedule that is projected will make it  
18 impossible to give our soldiers, seamen and  
19 airmen the opportunity to vote in our primaries  
20 and our general elections. Thank you for your  
21 attention.

22 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, sir.  
23 Next we will hear from David Torgerson and  
24 after Mr. Torgerson, Tami Donnally, then  
25 Supervisor Bucher, and then Bill Martin.

1           Mr. Torgerson, thank you for being here,  
2           sir, and we look forward to your testimony.

3           MR. TORGERSON: I am just -- everything  
4           has been covered pretty much. I am just here  
5           and wondering why I don't have a couple of maps  
6           in my hand of what you are proposing, that I  
7           think it would be much more effective at this  
8           stage if you already had something you were  
9           proposing for us to look at and figure out what  
10          is going on. So where are the maps?

11          SENATOR GAETZ: Sir, thank you very much,  
12          and next, Tami Donnally, Ms. Donnally, thank  
13          you for being here. We look forward to any  
14          testimony you might have for us.

15          MS. DONNALLY: Thank you, good morning.  
16          My name is Tami Donnally, and I have lived in  
17          Palm Beach County since 1966. I appreciate the  
18          openness in which you are holding these  
19          hearings and I think it is very important to  
20          solicit citizen input and listen first before  
21          drawing the maps.

22          I certainly don't envy the job that you  
23          have ahead of you. I want to speak briefly  
24          about the new Constitutional redistricting  
25          requirements, Amendments 5 and 6. I have some

1 concerns that these Amendments and their  
2 potential impact on the outcome of the process.

3 I am concerned many of the key words and  
4 phrases of the Amendments are not sufficiently  
5 defined to prevent confusion. Words like  
6 compact, practical and feasible all sound easy  
7 enough to understand, but what do they actually  
8 mean?

9 Are there specific definitions of these  
10 terms? What factors determine whether or not a  
11 district meets the compactness requirements of  
12 the Amendments, for example?

13 Similarly, what is practical and feasible  
14 to one person may not appear to be so to  
15 another person. What legal definitions of  
16 these words exist to clarify their meanings?

17 What qualifies existing legal boundaries  
18 under Amendments 5 and 6? Couldn't there be  
19 many types of political boundaries that could  
20 be used to draw district lines, and, if so, how  
21 do we know which boundary lines to follow or  
22 which not to follow?

23 I would also ask that you consider the  
24 commonality issues between communities. For  
25 example, many people use Lake Worth as their

1       home city. While eastern Lake Worth  
2       communities identify with coastal issues and  
3       other coastal cities, the western Lake Worth  
4       communities have similar issues closer to those  
5       of Wellington.

6               Again, I want to say thank you very much  
7       for allowing us an opportunity to be here today  
8       and express our concerns. I appreciate your  
9       time and I hope you will be able to draw good  
10      maps for the state of Florida. Thank you  
11      again.

12             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
13      Ms. Donnally. Next, Ms. Susan Bucher,  
14      Ms. Bucher, it is good to see you again, and  
15      thank you for your service to the people of  
16      Palm Beach County.

17             MS. BUCHER: My name is Susan Bucher and I  
18      am the Supervisor of Elections in Palm Beach  
19      County, and I am here this morning to, number  
20      one, thank you for coming, but to explain to  
21      you that the time frame is not workable for the  
22      Supervisors of Elections throughout the state  
23      of Florida.

24             As everyone in this room knows, Florida is  
25      considered a swing state and a very important

1       2012 Presidential election next year. The eyes  
2       of the world will be focused on the state of  
3       Florida, and there is always special focus here  
4       in Palm Beach County on elections.

5               I have had 20 elections in my first 30  
6       months as a Supervisor of Elections and let me  
7       tell you, it is not easy to put together voting  
8       sites, over 450 of them and 790 precincts and  
9       get the ballots printed and packaged and  
10      shipped and delivered here in time to give each  
11      voter the ballot that they deserve and they  
12      should have. It all takes time.

13             We should be working on a schedule right  
14      now for what needs to be done for next year.  
15      However, we can't, because we don't have the  
16      district lines, and we can't even schedule a  
17      Presidential preference primary because the  
18      date is not set.

19             You are sending our state into a perfect  
20      storm of disaster. Take a look at your own  
21      calendar. The process shows that without  
22      lawsuits we get the information as Supervisors  
23      on June 1st. We start qualifying candidates on  
24      June 4th. That is simply impossible.

25             To conduct elections efficiently and

1       accurately, election officials need time to  
2       adjust precinct lines to new districts, gain  
3       approval of those precincts by the Board of  
4       County Commissioners and notify all of our  
5       voters well in advance of election day.

6               Even though I am considerate of the hard  
7       working non-incumbent candidates who don't know  
8       where their station campaign because they don't  
9       know where the districts will be, you are  
10      placing our voters in the worst possible  
11      position and this entire process is supposed to  
12      be for the voters.

13             SENATOR GAETZ:   And Ms. Bucher, just out  
14      of respect for your constituents, if you could  
15      submit us your remarks in writing and then  
16      conclude if you can, please, just in a few  
17      sentences.

18             MS. BUCHER:   I am your election partner.  
19      I would like to complete.

20             SENATOR GAETZ:   Ma'am, you have got about  
21      -- you have got a number of people, almost 100  
22      people behind you who would like to speak.

23             MS. BUCHER:   I understand, and they are  
24      giving me their time.   Thank you.

25             SENATOR GAETZ:   I will be happy to grant

1       you another 15 seconds, but please try to  
2       conclude.

3               MS. BUCHER:   Given your timeline, voters  
4       will have little time to get to know their  
5       candidates running in their areas.   If you  
6       follow your current timeline, something that  
7       was created by you and can be changed by you, I  
8       believe you are setting our state up for  
9       massive voter confusion in a very important  
10      election year and that is entirely unnecessary.

11              If the Legislature or the Attorney  
12      General, the Supreme Court and the Justice  
13      Department complete their work on schedule,  
14      election administrators will have less than two  
15      weeks to adjust the records for Florida's  
16      11 million plus voters before the absentee  
17      ballots must be mailed to our military  
18      overseas.

19              During the 1992 redistricting election --  
20      schedule there were 13 lawsuits and in '02,  
21      there were five.   Your own staff analysis for  
22      Amendment 7 stated that due to Amendments 5 and  
23      6 the Office of the State Administrator  
24      believes there be an impact at trial and  
25      appellate levels as they assume litigation will



1           increase.

2                   Why doesn't your calendar reflect what you  
3           know or expect to happen this year? The  
4           Supervisors have seen the long path potential  
5           and it puts us after the 2012 election. I have  
6           a copy here. You are not recreating the wheel  
7           here.

8                   The wheel of redistricting is well worn  
9           and full of case law and traditional  
10          districting principles. All that is being  
11          asked of this Committee is to follow the  
12          already established Federal and State laws.

13                  The language of Amendments 5 and 6 passed  
14          by 71.2 and 71.56 percent respectively here in  
15          Palm Beach County and over 63 percent  
16          statewide. The voice of our voters is very  
17          clear.

18                  The only thing that is being asked of this  
19          Committee is to do your job in a timely manner  
20          to ensure that there is enough time set to  
21          properly establish election standards in place  
22          for a smooth election.

23                  SENATOR GAETZ: Ms. Bucher, I apologize,  
24          but we have given you twice as much time as --

25                  MS. BUCHER: Rushing our Supervisors in

1 order --

2 SENATOR GAETZ: -- we have given your  
3 constituents.

4 MS. BUCHER: -- to accommodate some made  
5 schedule can cause errors and mistakes and we  
6 all just want Florida to have successful  
7 elections.

8 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Bucher,  
9 thank you very much. Next we will hear from  
10 Bill Martin, if Mr. Martin is here, you are  
11 recognized.

12 Following Bill Martin will be Peter  
13 Feaman, and following Mr. Feaman, Philip Ward  
14 and then John Smith. Mr. Martin.

15 MR. MARTIN: Do I get this much applause?

16 SENATOR GAETZ: If you earn it. If you  
17 earn it.

18 MR. MARTIN: I don't think I will. Thanks  
19 for coming and giving us an opportunity to  
20 listen to our comments of how we want our  
21 districts to look for the next ten years.

22 For the record, my name is Bill Martin. I  
23 have lived in Palm Beach County for 18 years.  
24 It was until recently the principle owner and  
25 CEO of Estee Microwave. I am sorry, is that

1 better?

2 A VOICE: Yes, sir.

3 MR. MARTIN: Okay, thank you. We employed  
4 135 people who live in the county, the  
5 opportunity to acquire this company is why I  
6 came to Palm Beach County originally.

7 We survived three major hurricanes and  
8 kept manufacturing. The company continues to  
9 manufacture here in Palm Beach County today and  
10 I remain active in business through my firm,  
11 Martin & Associates.

12 I would like to talk to you a bit about  
13 preserving coastal communities. I think our  
14 area has when well-served by having coastal  
15 districts that are separate from the inland  
16 areas of our county.

17 Districts going along the coast from  
18 northern Palm Beach County through Boca Raton  
19 and then south make a lot of sense because we  
20 have unique needs and interests.

21 My wife and I live in a marina just off  
22 the Intercoastal, concerns like property  
23 insurance cost, protecting ourselves and our  
24 homes from hurricane storm surges, exposure to  
25 wind and water damage, are particularly

1 important to us, we live along the coast.

2 Therefore, I think it is important that  
3 coastal communities be kept together in state  
4 legislative and Congressional Districts so that  
5 we have the opportunity to let people who  
6 understand our unique and specific concerns.

7 I would ask you to strongly consider that  
8 in drawing your districts. I think this will  
9 ensure that our coastal families will be  
10 well-represented in the years to come.

11 Again, I want to thank you for allowing me  
12 to speak today.

13 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
14 We appreciate your testimony. And next is  
15 Peter Feaman, followed by Philip ward and then  
16 John Smith and then Susan Litchfield.

17 Mr. Feaman.

18 MR. FEAMAN: Thank you, my name is Peter  
19 Feaman.

20 SENATOR GAETZ: Feaman, I apologize, sir.

21 MR. FEAMAN: That is okay. Everybody does  
22 it. I have been a resident -- I live in Boynton  
23 Beach. I have been a resident of eastern Palm  
24 Beach County for almost 30 years.

25 I am here not to complain, criticize or

1 posture. I do have some specific  
2 recommendations that may help the Committee in  
3 their deliberations in driving and creating  
4 districts.

5 However, I have seen the League of Women  
6 Voters speak here today. I have seen their  
7 website where they posted talking points for  
8 these hearings.

9 They demand you produce maps now. They  
10 criticize the process. That is posturing. It  
11 was the League of Women Voters, itself, that  
12 first publicly proposed maps when we did this  
13 ten years ago.

14 It is in the redistricting archives of the  
15 Florida Senate. I looked it up. With  
16 Amendments 5 and 6, however, this time around  
17 you must take public input first because the  
18 wording of these Amendments clearly is so  
19 difficult to comprehend, such as existing  
20 political boundaries, compactness. There is --

21 SENATOR GAETZ: Now, ladies and gentlemen.  
22 Excuse me, this is not included in your time.  
23 Ladies and gentlemen, if you interrupt a  
24 speaker, you can applaud later after somebody  
25 speaks or you can show your emotions, but while

1       someone is speaking we are going to listen and  
2       we are going to be respectful. We are  
3       Americans. Please go ahead, sir.

4               MR. FEAMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It  
5       would seem that the language in Amendments 5  
6       and 6 as a lawyer myself for over 30 years are  
7       so subjective that the League of Women Voters  
8       perhaps doesn't want to show their hand by  
9       drawing their own districts this time around.

10              They want the House and Senate to go first  
11       and then they can say, huh, got you, but, you  
12       know, in today's political climate there will  
13       be lawsuits.

14              Finally, before I get specific  
15       suggestions, it is a shame that a group once  
16       founded on principle of civic participation is  
17       not taking advantage of these public hearings  
18       by giving you specific ideas and what you can  
19       do.

20              This is a process they had no problem with  
21       10 or 20 years ago. Now, two points with  
22       regard to this area.

23              First, there is no question that in Palm  
24       Beach County there are two distinct economic  
25       communities, number one, agriculture. It

1 drivers the economy in the western half of our  
2 county, and then the beach communities and that  
3 drives the economic engine east of the Florida  
4 Turnpike, two distinct economic concerns.

5 Our maps should keep our eastern beach  
6 communities whole as they have similar economic  
7 interests.

8 Our western agricultural community should  
9 be connected to others with the same interest,  
10 and finally, because I see my time is almost  
11 up.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: It is.

13 MR. FEAMAN: And I want to be respectful  
14 of that. We also have diverse population in  
15 this county which should be pointed out which  
16 nobody has said anything yet.

17 Our African-American neighbors in Rivera  
18 Beach, Pahokee, Belle Glade and South Bay are  
19 all now represented in a minority/majority  
20 district.

21 I know that you cite Sections II and V of  
22 the Federal Voting Rights Act on your website  
23 and I would like you to keep that in  
24 consideration as well so can draw --

25 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you.

1           MR. FEAMAN -- districts that represent all  
2           Floridians and not special interest groups.  
3           Thank you very much.

4           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Feaman,  
5           appreciate it. And next we will hear from  
6           Philip Ward and then following Mr. Ward, John  
7           R. Smith and then Susan Litchfield with the  
8           League of Women Voters, and then Michael  
9           Barnett.

10          Mr. Ward, thank you for being here. We  
11          look forward to your testimony.

12          MR. WARD: Thank you, my name is Philip  
13          Ward. I have lived along the Jupiter Beach,  
14          the dog friendly Jupiter Beach since 1984, and  
15          I am a managing partner of a law firm in West  
16          Palm Beach with 35 employees.

17          I want to echo the comments of Mr. Feaman,  
18          but also the gentleman from the Tea Party. I  
19          think those were worthy comments. I also  
20          believe strongly that historically our  
21          districts have been drawn in a way that unite  
22          large coastal communities.

23          I urge the Legislature to continue this  
24          tradition because voters have grown accustomed  
25          to these districts, and most importantly, they



1           make great sense at many levels.

2                   Whether dealing with issues like  
3           insurance, tourism, transportation, emergency  
4           preparedness and more, coastal residents  
5           greatly benefit from representation from  
6           leaders who live in these areas and know these  
7           issues firsthand.

8                   Many Florida districts have been drawn  
9           with a goal of uniting distinct communities of  
10          interest, such as agricultural districts,  
11          suburban districts and inner city districts,  
12          and in our case, our unique coastal areas, both  
13          along the intercoastal and the beach side.

14                  We need and deserve the same type of  
15          representation that only be preserved through  
16          fair redistricting. Thank you again.

17                  SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
18          Mr. Ward, and next, we will hear from John R.  
19          Smith and then following Mr. Smith, Susan  
20          Litchfield with the League and then Michael  
21          Barnett and then Loretta Jacobson.

22                  Mr. Smith.

23                  MR. SMITH: Nice to see everyone. My name  
24          is John R. Smith. I own a financial services  
25          company here in the county and I am Chairman of

1 the Business Political Action Committee of Palm  
2 Beach County. I will be quick.

3 The business community here in this county  
4 is very aware that communities of interest  
5 exist in Palm Beach County.

6 We believe their interests must be  
7 recognized, must be preserved by the  
8 Legislature, and we believe this can be  
9 accomplished without violating the new  
10 standards from fair districts.

11 We have communities here that have more in  
12 common with each other than they do with other  
13 geographic or demographic interests. Your goal  
14 must be to unite distinct communities of  
15 interest, such as the large coastal community  
16 of interest, the agricultural districts in the  
17 west, and inner city or minority districts.

18 These three communities need and deserve  
19 representation which reflects their unique  
20 needs. The coastal communities especially must  
21 be considered.

22 It is important they be kept together in  
23 State Legislative and Congressional Districts  
24 so that they have the opportunity to elect  
25 people who understand their unique and specific

1 concerns. They have different concerns than  
2 the inland parts of the county.

3 Likewise, the agricultural communities in  
4 the western part are the engine that drives  
5 their local economy, as Peter Feaman said.  
6 They are the primary source of jobs.

7 They are a community of interest with a  
8 completely different economic makeup than  
9 coastal communities.

10 Joining both the agricultural communities  
11 in the west and the coastal communities into  
12 the same district would ultimately  
13 disenfranchise both in Tallahassee. The  
14 community or the county also has thriving  
15 African-American communities, such as in Rivera  
16 Beach, Pahokee, Belle Glades, South Bay, which  
17 is a third community of interest you must  
18 honor.

19 Those cities should remain in the  
20 majority/minority House District 84 that they  
21 have today. Also, African-Americans in Rivera  
22 Beach should remain in the majority/minority  
23 Senate District, 29, Chris Smith, as they are  
24 today.

25 This is necessary in order to ensure that

1           the minority citizens in these communities  
2           don't lose their voice.

3           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Smith.

4           MR. SMITH: My pleasure.

5           SENATOR GAETZ: We appreciate your  
6           testimony very much.

7           MR. SMITH: Thank you, Senator.

8           SENATOR GAETZ: And next is Susan  
9           Litchfield, also with the League of Women  
10          Voters. Thank you for coming today and we look  
11          forward to your testimony.

12          MS. LITCHFIELD: Yes, good morning. I  
13          want to thank you all for being here and I am  
14          very -- I think it is a big job you have to do,  
15          but I am going to speak just as a citizen.

16          In talking to my neighbors I am very  
17          concerned about representative government. I  
18          have been walking around for maybe three years  
19          signing petitions to get these Amendments on  
20          the ballot.

21          I live in the city of Delray, and my  
22          mother, who lives a mile and-a-half from me,  
23          has a different Representative although we have  
24          a similar interest, and the city of Delray,  
25          well, we all want good schools, we all want a

1       good ocean, we all want things for our  
2       children, transportation and whatever, and all  
3       of us do work together.

4               So I had no one in my community to show a  
5       map to and say where these lines are going to  
6       be drawn, but in representing the people that I  
7       live with, we like to be all drawn together,  
8       because that is what we are. We are citizens  
9       and we want to be represented by people that  
10      help us to make a better community. Thank you.

11             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Litchfield,  
12      very useful testimony. Next, Michael Barnett  
13      and then Loretta Jacobson, Michael Coleman, and  
14      then Shirley Herman.

15             Mr. Barnett, thank you for being here.  
16      You are recognized, sir.

17             MR. BARNETT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and  
18      members of the panel. My name is Michael  
19      Barnett, and I have been a resident of south  
20      Palm Beach County for most of the last 24  
21      years.

22             I would like to speak today with regards  
23      to the importance of ensuring that minority  
24      African-Americans in Palm Beach County have a  
25      chance to elect candidates of their choice in

1 the House, Senate and Congressional maps.

2 I know that over the last few decades this  
3 body has made great strides in the  
4 representation of racial and language  
5 minorities in the state's Legislature and  
6 Congressional Delegation and my hope today is  
7 that this progress will continue, but my fear,  
8 however, is that with the new redistricting  
9 standards before you today, that there will be  
10 a danger, a danger to the progress we have  
11 made.

12 Now that our Constitution contains a  
13 requirement for the districts to be  
14 geographically compact and to follow political  
15 boundaries where feasible, it seems quite  
16 possible that these minority districts in our  
17 county may fall victim to these new standards.

18 I hope you would understand that the  
19 minority, majority/minority districts sometimes  
20 are not compact. Take, for example, Chris  
21 Smith's Senate District 29, which stretches  
22 from Broward County all of the way in Ft.  
23 Lauderdale, to Rivera Beach up here in Palm  
24 Beach County.

25 This district is not pretty looking but it

1       does ensure that minority citizens of Rivera  
2       Beach do have the chance to elect a candidate  
3       of their choice.

4             If this particular district were to be cut  
5       in any other way the result would silence the  
6       voice of these citizens, a result which is not  
7       good for our county.

8             And I would also like to point out there  
9       are still other disparities within our House  
10      delegation, in African-American residence in  
11      neighborhoods like Lake Worth, Lantana,  
12      Boynton, Delray Beach still do not have a  
13      chance to elect a candidate of their choice in  
14      the House. So I would urge you to rectify the  
15      situation as required under Federal law.

16            In closing, my purpose again is to remind  
17      you, please, to preserve minority access  
18      districts in Palm Beach County and throughout  
19      Florida. We have come too far to see the vague  
20      new standards which are open to much  
21      interpretation, roll back the progress we have  
22      made in this state.

23            We have worked too hard for too long to  
24      allow this to happen. So I would ask you to  
25      please continue the work we have accomplished

1           together as Republicans and Democrats.

2           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

3           MR. BARRETT: Thank you.

4           SENATOR GAETZ: Appreciate it very much.

5           Next, Loretta Jacobson is recognized, and  
6           following Ms. Jacobson we will hear from Mike  
7           Coleman and then Shirley Herman from the  
8           National Organization for Women, and then  
9           Roger, I am sorry, Robert Ganger, I believe it  
10          is.

11          Ms. Jacobson, you are recognized and thank  
12          you so much for taking time out of your day.

13          MS. JACOBSON: Thank you all for  
14          listening. I am speaking as a private citizen,  
15          not as a political activist.

16          I hope you all listened when you were  
17          introducing yourselves and to the laughter at  
18          some of your districts which are geographically  
19          spread all over the map. This is not what we  
20          wanted when we voted for Fair Districts.

21          Most of the people have already addressed  
22          my concerns. Our taxpayer dollars being spent  
23          for a lawsuit that we don't want, geographic  
24          contiguous areas.

25          However, I must address the coastal



1 communities. Those of us that live in other  
2 parts of the state, not along the coast, such  
3 as west Boca where I live, we also have wind  
4 damage, water damage, all types of the same  
5 concerns.

6 We need to have a logical geographical  
7 contiguous fair districts in a timely manner,  
8 and I think you are hurting yourselves by  
9 giving the appearance of deliberate delay.

10 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much for  
11 being with us today, Ms. Jacobson. And next we  
12 will hear from Mike Coleman, then Shirley  
13 Herman, then Robert Ganger, and then Silvia  
14 Hall.

15 Mr. Coleman, thank you very much for being  
16 here.

17 MR. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for  
18 having the opportunity to speak before this  
19 group today.

20 A couple of things that I have noticed  
21 during the conversations. There are buzz  
22 words, there are people that have come in and  
23 they have discussed things and they have talked  
24 about one side having talking points and the  
25 other side obviously, they don't have talking

1 points, but they all know what a coastal  
2 communities is, and it must be just maintained  
3 and kept because it seems to be very, very  
4 important to them.

5 Obviously we are here for political  
6 reasons and that is something that we all need  
7 to consider. There are two maps that are out  
8 right now on the -- as of last night on your,  
9 on your board.

10 These maps, one of them is completely  
11 contiguous. Another is completely contiguous.  
12 They are within one voter and the maps are  
13 vastly different.

14 That is what I really wanted to talk to  
15 people about. One map shows that there is 17  
16 communities in Broward County that have been  
17 split up to achieve what zero has to be done.

18 One of the entire maps, a fellow named  
19 Sean Phillipi, put it together.

20 It has no communities torn up. It matches  
21 all of the way down to the single vote, and it  
22 is something that needs to be considered. It  
23 would have been nice to have collaboration as  
24 in ya'll bring in maps so we could see what you  
25 were thinking, but nobody did.

1           So all I see is somebody is trying to play  
2           out a game, run out the clock and get two more  
3           years in old districts and put self into the  
4           court.

5           I do appreciate the time and thank you  
6           very much.

7           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, sir. Thanks  
8           for pointing out the value of that map by  
9           Mr. Phillipi.

10          Next is Shirley Herman with the Palm Beach  
11          National Organization for Women. Then Roger, I  
12          think it is Ganger, I apologize if I  
13          mispronounced that, and then Silvia Hall and  
14          then following Ms. Hall is Margaret Mackey.

15          Shirley Herman.

16          MS. HERMAN: Hi, I am Shirley Herman from  
17          Palm Beach County, National Organization for  
18          Women.

19          I had other remarks prepared but I kept  
20          hearing coastal community and when I sit on my  
21          deck I see the intercoastal and I guess that is  
22          a coastal community.

23          But my district, one of my districts is a  
24          half mile wide and 150 miles long, but, you  
25          know, I love my coast, I love the water that I

1       am looking at, but I have more in common with  
2       my neighbors to the west in Northwood where I  
3       go to eat, or in downtown West Palm Beach where  
4       I go to play, than I have with people living on  
5       the coast 75 miles north or south of me.

6               So I am not sure that it really means the  
7       connection with people who live on the coast.  
8       I think it may have to do with other issues,  
9       and I think that contiguous, contiguous  
10      boundaries that include your neighbors who  
11      don't have the same view out their window as  
12      you is the right way to do it.

13              So that we all have a say in what happens  
14      around us in the blocks that we -- where we  
15      live.

16              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
17      Ms. Herman, very helpful. Next, Roger, Robert  
18      Ganger, did I mispronounce that?

19              MR. GANGER: Yes, sir, four times. It is  
20      Robert Ganger. I apologize, I have a frog in  
21      my throat.

22              SENATOR GAETZ: No, it is my eyesight and  
23      it is not your writing.

24              MR. GANGER: No, it is usually Granger, by  
25      the way. I am speaking on behalf of the

1 Florida Coalition for Preservation which is a  
2 local non profit corporation headquartered here  
3 in Delray Beach.

4 Our mission is to champion responsible  
5 development on Florida's barrier islands and  
6 coastal communities. And although I don't want  
7 to have a debate with the lady who just spoke,  
8 we are an A political organization, concerned  
9 primarily with preserving the fragile land and  
10 marine environment on the state shorelines, and  
11 enhancing the quality of life for millions of  
12 people who enjoy our fabulous beaches and  
13 waterways.

14 So think of us as a local organization  
15 that really is statewide in scope, and I am  
16 here today to propose that the Legislature make  
17 no major changes to Senate District 25 and  
18 House District 87 as a part of your 2012  
19 redistricting process.

20 The website says that one of the  
21 principles guiding definition of a compact  
22 district is, quote, "How the communities relate  
23 to one another in order to promote the creation  
24 of effective representational units."

25 And as a practical matter, there are close

1 to 20 individual jurisdictions, the front of  
2 the ocean in Senate District 25, and among them  
3 seven jurisdictions within House District 87.  
4 Everyone of those districts is on the  
5 shoreline.

6 Our coalition is focused primarily on a  
7 handful of these jurisdictions that basically  
8 go from Delray Beach to Lake Worth, and what we  
9 are finding is that these municipalities  
10 increasingly want to work together to deal with  
11 the shared issues that are unique to coastal  
12 communities, and particularly to the  
13 populations who are located on the barrier  
14 island and the intercoastal waterway.

15 SENATOR GAETZ: And, sir, could I ask you  
16 to conclude, please?

17 MR. GANGER: You certainly may. All I am  
18 asking you to do is to consider the coastal  
19 communities, 1,300 miles of coast line in  
20 Florida as kind of a one big district and keep  
21 the districts as close together as you can so  
22 that there is some representation at the state  
23 level on issues that we all share. Thank you.

24 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
25 Appreciate it. Andn next is Silvia Hall, and

1 following Ms. Hall will be Margaret Mackey and  
2 then Toni Rosenberg, I believe.

3 Ms. Hall, are you here?

4 MS. HALL: I am here.

5 SENATOR GAETZ: Great, thank you so much  
6 for coming and we look forward to your  
7 testimony, and who do you have with you?

8 MS. HALL: My daughter, Martha.

9 SENATOR GAETZ: Hi, Martha, how are you?

10 MS. HALL: And -- hi, I live in east Boca,  
11 and I would like to say just one thing. I do  
12 not understand why we have to divide towns or  
13 cities between like three or four different  
14 Congressional Districts. I don't get it.

15 I would like to see east Boca, west Boca  
16 just one district. I would like to see this to  
17 be redrawn according to city limits and  
18 boundaries, and for one simple reason, because,  
19 you know, if our Representatives have to  
20 represent the whole city, they have to deal  
21 with like seniors, parents with children like  
22 me, okay, who would like good schools and we  
23 don't like the educational cuts going on in  
24 Tallahassee.

25 They have to deal with minorities because

1       Boca has minorities. They have to deal with  
2       other issues, and that means common sense  
3       politics, and that is not what we have right  
4       now. Okay. That is all I would like to say.

5             I would like to keep east Boca, west Boca  
6       one district, period. That is it. It makes  
7       sense to keep the cities and towns together.

8             I live just around the corner from here,  
9       but Maria Sachs, my State Senator, is  
10      (inaudible). I mean, that is so how bad it is.

11            When it really was, it really was insane,  
12      you know, who they represent, it was  
13      ridiculous.

14            Another reason, whenever a Representative  
15      lives in Boca, like they live in Boca Raton,  
16      you can walk down to the office and say, excuse  
17      me, what is going on in Tallahassee right now.  
18      Here is my opinion.

19            When you have to drive like three times  
20      over, you never do anything, because you have  
21      to drive. It is better, it is more -- it is  
22      better democracy to have everything keep  
23      together tight, because we are a community,  
24      okay.

25            The schools are a community. The citizens



1           are a community. They are our community. One  
2           town, one district, period.

3           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, and  
4           thanks for bringing your daughter today. Next  
5           we will hear from Margaret Mackey, and then  
6           following Ms. Mackey, Toni Rosenberg and then  
7           Ken Lassiter.

8           Ms. Mackey? Ms. Mackey, are you here?  
9           Okay, we will pass Ms. -- are you Ms. Mackey?  
10          All right, next then, is it Toni Rosenberg?

11          MS. ROSENBERG: Yes.

12          SENATOR GAETZ: Ms. Rosenberg, thank you  
13          for coming and the floor is yours.

14          MS. ROSENBERG: Thank your, thank you.

15          SENATOR GAETZ: And would you step a  
16          little closer to the mike so everybody can hear  
17          you.

18          MS. ROSENBERG: Sure. Thank you. Thank  
19          you all for being here. My name is Toni  
20          Rosenberg and I live in Boca Raton which is  
21          Palm Beach County.

22          I am just here to make a short statement,  
23          stating that the Libby map violates which  
24          everyone has said the 5 and 6 Amendments  
25          because it breaks up Broward and Palm Beach

1 counties.

2 This map creates a continuous district,  
3 currently the 20th Congressional from Palm  
4 Beach County to Collier. This does not, and I  
5 repeat, does not fairly represent the people of  
6 the community within the same district and is  
7 not a fair district.

8 I am asking all of you to put your  
9 political feelings aside, come together with us  
10 as Floridians and make it a fair district for  
11 everybody.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much,  
13 Ms. Rosenberg. Next we will hear from Ken  
14 Lassiter, following Mr. Lassiter, Tom Whatley,  
15 and then Ken Reinhardt, following  
16 Mr. Reinhardt, Gloria Reinhardt.

17 Mr. Lassiter.

18 MR.LASSITER: Yes.

19 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much for  
20 being here.

21 MR. LASSITER: Good morning and thank you  
22 for this opportunity to speak to you today. My  
23 name is Ken Lassiter and I have the honor of  
24 serving as the president of the Coalition of  
25 Boyton West Residential Associations. That is

1 a non profit civic organization. It is  
2 non-partisan and we represent 94 residential  
3 communities and about 110,000 people.

4 Our area serves the area west of the city  
5 of Boynton Beach, north of the Delray line,  
6 which is Lake Worth Vintage District, L-30  
7 canal, north up to Lantana and we go as far  
8 west as the Loxahatchee National Wildlife  
9 Preserve.

10 If you look at a map it is a nice compact  
11 sensible area. However, our compact sensible  
12 area has four State Representatives, two State  
13 Senators and two Congressmen.

14 Senator Benacquisto and Representative  
15 Perman are two of our Representatives, and they  
16 have two of the worst examples of poor  
17 districting that you can find on a Florida map.

18 You are making it difficult for them to  
19 give us good representation when they have a  
20 district that covers half, all of the way  
21 across the state or cuts across wide swatches  
22 of Lake Okeechobee up into counties, two or  
23 three counties north.

24 It is very hard for them to give us a good  
25 representation. So were are asking you to

1       please consider us a community of people who  
2       are very similar, because we, half of us are  
3       family communities and half are retirement  
4       communities and give us Representatives that  
5       cover our area fairly.

6               Also I would like to say that we agree  
7       with the comments of the League of Women  
8       Voters, of the comments of Ms. Walden from the  
9       Alliance of Delray Residential Associations and  
10      the comments of our Supervisor of Elections.  
11      Thank you very much for giving us an  
12      opportunity to speak.

13             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, sir,  
14      thank you, Mr. Lassiter. Next we will have Ken  
15      Reinhardt and then Gloria Reinhardt and then  
16      Bunny Steinman and then Linda Johnson.

17             Ken Reinhardt, thank you for coming. We  
18      appreciate your being here.

19             MR. REINHARDT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman  
20      and members of the Committee. I appreciate the  
21      opportunity to express our views here and  
22      engage in this transparency.

23             I am a 20-year resident of Coral Springs,  
24      so I have been following the ins and outs of  
25      our state for that period of time and I think

1       now is an opportunity to write something that  
2       has been woefully out of wack for a long time.

3               Many people have already eloquently  
4       expressed my concerns, one of which is the  
5       timing of this process.

6               I appreciate the transparency and the  
7       opportunity for citizen input now. I am more  
8       concerned about having adequate citizen input  
9       after a final plan has been devised.

10              And I am not running for anything, but it  
11       has been, apparently there is a three-day  
12       window for citizens of Florida to respond to a  
13       final plan and that is woefully inadequate.

14              It takes time to distribute the plan out,  
15       let us see what the final plan is, provide time  
16       for review, time for you all to massage that  
17       and respond accordingly and three days very  
18       obviously won't accomplish that.

19              It is imperative that a plan is devised  
20       early in the session rather than later so that  
21       we all have an opportunity as well as the  
22       Supreme Court, the Department of Justice and  
23       everybody for adequate input.

24              I am also concerned about the transparency  
25       involved. I appreciate the opportunity here to

1           get our ideas out. The Florida Statutes  
2           apparently indicated until this becomes a Bill,  
3           that redistricting is exempted from public  
4           review.

5           It looks like it is exempted from but not  
6           prohibited. So is there an opportunity before  
7           this becomes a Bill for citizen input? This  
8           would certainly short-circuit the process and  
9           help us come together to reach a mutual agreed  
10          solution. Thank you very much for your time.

11          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
12          Mr. Reinhardt, good points, and Ms. Reinhardt,  
13          we just heard from your junior partner, and you  
14          are recognized.

15          MS. REINHARDT: And I want to dispute  
16          everything he said.

17          SENATOR GAETZ: It sounds like my house.

18          MS. REINHARDT: Actually, I am only  
19          mirroring comments made earlier today, maybe a  
20          little different spin.

21          If any of you remember your college days,  
22          and you had homework due the following morning  
23          or you had a paper due and you didn't start  
24          writing it until around 10:00 the night before,  
25          when you didn't get the grade you expected on

1           that paper you said, oh, I just didn't have  
2           enough time.

3           I might have used that excuse on occasion,  
4           but my point today is that planned  
5           procrastination for political purposes is,  
6           should not be a goal of Florida.

7           We appreciate this opportunity to speak  
8           today. We don't want to infer that this is not  
9           important that we speak ahead of time, but the  
10          earlier that you produce the finished product  
11          so we have an opportunity to assess it, to  
12          analyze it, to talk to our Representatives and  
13          our Senators.

14          This is a very important political  
15          process, and as you can see, there are very  
16          interested people in this community. So the  
17          earlier the better, and less procrastination  
18          the better, thank you.

19          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Reinhardt,  
20          thank you very much. Bunny Steinman is our  
21          next speaker, and following Ms. Steinman, Linda  
22          Johnson, with the NAACP, and then Mae Yates,  
23          and then Charles Shane, if you will be ready,  
24          please. Bunny Steinman.

25          MS. STEINMAN: I am right here.

1           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank your, Ms. Steinman,  
2           for being here. We appreciate your testimony.

3           MS. STEINMAN: Thank you for having me.  
4           Okay. I wear many hats but today I represent  
5           the Teachers Retirees in Florida. I am part of  
6           NICF and the AFT and I agree with your earlier  
7           speaker, Florence Fidell, my colleague of the  
8           UFT.

9           We the people voted overwhelmingly for  
10          Amendments 5 and 6. I heard your explanation  
11          about drawing your own maps. However, I  
12          believe it was your responsibility to have the  
13          maps drawn for us to react to, and it seems to  
14          me you have heard the suggestion over and over  
15          and over again, and I hope you will listen and  
16          act on our suggestions. Thank you.

17          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
18          Ms. Steinman. And next is Linda Johnson with  
19          the Florida State Conference of the NAACP.

20          Ms. Johnson, thank you for coming today.

21          MS. JOHNSON: Good evening, well, good  
22          afternoon now. I am one of the Vice-Presidents  
23          for the Florida State Conference of the NAACP.

24          I want to extend a thank you to the  
25          Attorney Feaman and Mr. Smith and others, the



1 Supervisor of Elections for her comments.

2 On behalf of the Florida State Conference  
3 of the NAACP we are requesting that the state  
4 of Florida should ensure, of course, that it is  
5 the tone of many, transparency, fairness and  
6 compliance with the Voters Rights Act with  
7 equal protection.

8 You should ensure one person, one vote.  
9 You should redistrict in a way that avoids  
10 minority vote dilution. You should avoid  
11 drawing district lines so that the minority  
12 population is over -- the minority population  
13 and my eyes are jumping, population is over  
14 concentrated or packed into election districts.

15 You should also be careful to avoid  
16 cracking, drawing district lines so that an  
17 area of concentrated minority population is  
18 divided and spread among several districts that  
19 are predominantly white.

20 You should be careful to avoid stacking,  
21 drawing district lines so that a large minority  
22 population concentration is included with a  
23 larger white population with the purpose or  
24 effect of depriving minority voters of a voting  
25 majority.

1           We also respectfully request that you  
2       avoid drawing plans that erode minority rights  
3       related to the status quo, that it is -- that  
4       if this is done, this would -- this could  
5       possibly stop the creation of the -- of  
6       retrogressive redistricting plans.

7           It was a lot of conversation regarding the  
8       mapping piece. I am not going to go over that,  
9       but one thing that we did note and I want to  
10      bring to your forefront.

11           SENATOR GAETZ: And if you could conclude,  
12      ma'am, I would be grateful.

13           MS. JOHNSON: Yes, that you have  
14      additional meetings to discuss those maps,  
15      because it is imperative that we have a visual  
16      of that and I agree with the comments regarding  
17      that.

18           So with that being said, because of the  
19      sake of time.

20           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you.

21           MS. JOHNSON: I want to submit to staff.

22           SENATOR GAETZ: Please.

23           MS. JOHNSON: The additional talking  
24      points so those areas could be addressed by the  
25      House and the Senate members, if you don't

1 mind.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Yes, ma'am.

3 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you for your time.

4 SENATOR GAETZ: Please do, we would  
5 appreciate your testimony. And next is Mae  
6 Yates with the Democratic Executive Committee,  
7 then Charles Shane and then, I think it is  
8 Albert Shalhoub, and I apologize, sir, if I  
9 mispronounced your name.

10 Mae Yates, are you here? Ms. Yates, thank  
11 you for coming. Could someone help Ms. Yates  
12 with the microphone, please, to make sure we  
13 all hear her? Just a moment, Ms. Yates.

14 MS. YATES: This is Mae Yates.

15 SENATOR GAETZ: There you go.

16 MS. YATES: I live in Palm Beach County,  
17 Boynton Beach and I just wanted to say that I  
18 have -- I already agree with most of the people  
19 in this audience has already said to you. So  
20 repeating it is not going to be very  
21 beneficial.

22 But I want you to really, really respect  
23 my Supervisor of Elections, Susan Bucher, and  
24 the Cobra organization, the Alliance  
25 organization, the League of Women Voters and

1       really keep these things in mind when you draw  
2       the lines and not be political.

3               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, Ms.  
4       Yates. Thank you for coming today. Charles  
5       Shane is next and then Albert, I believe it is  
6       Shalhoub, and then Patricia O'Conner with the  
7       League of Women Voters and then Pamela Goodman  
8       with the League of Women Voters.

9               Charles Shane. Yes, okay. Mr. Shane, we  
10      will pass on him. And I apologize, Albert, if  
11      if have mispronounced your name. I am sure I  
12      have, Albert Shalhoub. Sir, are you here? At  
13      351 Club Circle, Number 209? He apparently has  
14      left.

15              Patricia O'Conner with the League of Women  
16      Voters, and then following Ms. O'Conner, Pamela  
17      Goodman with the League, and then that Nazario,  
18      I am sorry, Benjamin Nazario.

19              Ms. O'Conner, you are recognized, and  
20      thank you for coming.

21              MS. O'CONNER: Thank you, good morning,  
22      Florida Legislators and staff. My name is  
23      Patricia Lynch O'Conner. I am a voting  
24      resident of Palm Beach County, the city of  
25      Boynton Beach.

1           I am only one of approximately 72 percent  
2       of the Palm Beach County voters who  
3       affirmatively said we want fair districts. We  
4       voted for 5 and 6, quote, "Standards for  
5       Legislature", and I say Legislature, not League  
6       of Women Voters, "to follow in legislative  
7       redistricting."

8           I am here with the hope a member of the  
9       House on this Committee can provide me with  
10      some clarification of the documents from the  
11      United States District Court, Southern District  
12      of Florida Litigation, Mario Diaz Balart, et.  
13      al, and the Florida House of Representatives,  
14      Plaintiff, versus the State of Florida,  
15      Defendant.

16           In intervening in the House litigation,  
17      against the constituents they represent and who  
18      overwhelmingly voted for the provisions now  
19      contained in Article III of our Florida  
20      Constitution, places the citizens of the state  
21      in the position of being both the Plaintiff and  
22      the Defendant.

23           It is truly disingenuous or perhaps  
24      dishonest for members of this body to assert  
25      that the intervention is to seek a

1 clarification. When the first paragraph of the  
2 introduction states, quote, "This section  
3 challenges the constitutionality of a recently  
4 adopted provision of the Florida Constitution",  
5 and the last paragraph states, "Accordingly,  
6 the House seeks and is entitled to a  
7 declaration that the Amendment violates the  
8 election clause of the United States  
9 Constitution."

10 Every day this action goes forward  
11 Floridians continue to incur legal fees to  
12 argue for and to argue against constitutional  
13 reapportionment.

14 Well over a million dollars has already  
15 been spent on this process, with another  
16 30 million set aside for fair districts,  
17 including litigation.

18 I ask you to withdraw the House as a party  
19 in respect of the voters of Florida and the  
20 fiscally responsible thing to do. Please put  
21 an end to the unnecessary legal fees.

22 SENATOR GAETZ: May I ask you to conclude,  
23 because you have gone over time, ma'am?

24 MS. O'CONNER: The League of Women Voters  
25 as well as the citizens of Palm Beach County

1 will follow this through. We voted for in a  
2 majority and we want to see it done.

3 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, ma'am.  
4 And next is Pamela Goodman, also with the  
5 League of Women Voters, and then Benjamin  
6 Nazario and then Clifford, I believe it is  
7 Shay, and then Karen Wilkerson.

8 Ms. Goodman, thank you for coming today  
9 and you are recognized.

10 MS. GOODMAN: Thank you, Senator, very  
11 much. It is a pleasure to see you. I have  
12 been talking to you for over 50 hours online,  
13 watching all 17 of the hearings that have  
14 progressed so far.

15 SENATOR GAETZ: I am so sorry for you.

16 MS. GOODMAN: It was a pretty much one way  
17 conversation. I am the first Vice-President of  
18 the League of Women Voters of Florida. I am  
19 the Redistricting Chair and have held that  
20 position since the Fair Districts Florida  
21 campaign began over five years ago.

22 I will keep my comments very pointed and  
23 that will be responding to you in person,  
24 Senator Gaetz, finally, for some of your  
25 comments last night at the close of the Stuart

1 hearing.

2 Senator Gaetz, you said last night that  
3 the timeline is a huge issue and that you have  
4 no intent to drag out this process. You will  
5 try, you will try to make sure that this  
6 process is as expedient as possible.

7 Well, trying isn't good enough. The only  
8 thing good enough is a commitment. You have  
9 all received the letter sent last week by the  
10 League of Women Voters, Common Cause, NAACP and  
11 Democracia.

12 I hope that you have all had a chance to  
13 review that proposed revised extremely  
14 constitutional correct timeline that was  
15 included in that letter. And please note that  
16 it is consistent with the request of all of the  
17 Supervisor of Elections in the state of  
18 Florida. I will summarize.

19 It will allow time for meaningful citizen  
20 input into the maps that will actually be  
21 considered by the Legislature. Additional  
22 public hearings after maps have been through  
23 the Committee process.

24 Secondly, it will allow for orderly  
25 preparation for elections in the new districts.



1           Thirdly, it will allow citizens to have  
2           the opportunity to get to know their candidates  
3           and allow challengers time to mount very  
4           credible campaigns.

5           Please show us the respect, the respect of  
6           a response. How many of you Legislators here  
7           today would be willing to vote to adopt a new  
8           proposed timeline, have additional public  
9           hearings after the maps, go through the  
10          committee process and take up the maps as the  
11          first order of business when the Legislature  
12          convenes in January? Can I please have a show  
13          of hands?

14          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
15          ma'am. Appreciate it. And following  
16          Ms. Goodman is Benjamin Nazario.

17          MS. GOODMAN: Senator, you said last night  
18          that these committees could have taken the easy  
19          way of doing the process in back smoked filled  
20          rooms.

21          SENATOR GAETZ: Ms. Goodman, you have gone  
22          over your time limit.

23          MS. GOODMAN: You chose this to be a  
24          painful process.

25          SENATOR GAETZ: Ms. Goodman, Ms. Goodman,

1 Ms. Goodman, your time has elapsed. Next we  
2 will hear from Benjamin Nazario. Mr. Nazario,  
3 are you here, sir?

4 Mr. Nazario, you have the floor. And  
5 following Benjamin Nazario is Clifford Shay and  
6 then Karen Wilkerson.

7 Mr. Nazario, you have the floor.

8 MR. NAZARIO: Good morning.

9 SENATOR GAETZ: Good morning, sir. Let's  
10 give Mr. Nazario our attention. He is a  
11 citizen of Florida just as everyone else who  
12 has testified.

13 MR. NAZARIO: Thank you for the  
14 opportunity to speak at this event. My name is  
15 Benjamin Nazario and I live in a developed  
16 community, Wynn Moore and the Coconut Creek.  
17 My Representative is Representative Waldman  
18 and I respect him very much.

19 My thoughts on the proposed 2011, 2011  
20 redistricting efforts are, developed community  
21 Wynn Moore should remain whole within the  
22 district and the district for the state level  
23 should remain within Broward County boundary  
24 lines and the district for the Federal level  
25 should be as compact as best as possible.

1 Thank you very much.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Nazario.

3 Next is Clifford, I believe it is Shay, is that  
4 correct, Clifford Shay? Mr. Shay, all right,  
5 we will pass you.

6 Then Karen Wilkerson, then Iris Scheibl  
7 and then Fred Scheibl, and then Maria Cole.

8 Ms. Wilkerson, thank you for coming and we  
9 are delighted to have you here today.

10 MS. WILKERSON: Thank you, I am from West  
11 Palm Beach. Fortunately, unlike previous  
12 years, your committee of the Florida  
13 Legislature has clearly defined standards which  
14 have become part of our State Constitution, and  
15 since these standards are clear I don't know  
16 why you are having these hearings.

17 You are wasting our government's money in  
18 a time of fiscal problems. Because of your  
19 designed time frame and I am using number eight  
20 here, your map that you handed out, how can we  
21 expect Election Supervisors to meet the  
22 deadlines for mailing ballots to overseas  
23 military personnel?

24 The deadline is the 21st of September,  
25 while the proposal is still being reviewed by

1 the State Supreme Court. Your timeline is  
2 unrealistic in preparing candidates to qualify.

3 The deadline is June 4th through 8th, next  
4 year, while redistricting is before the State  
5 Court.

6 Even with the speediest review, the  
7 Supervisor of Elections will have three days to  
8 qualify candidates. The primary for candidates  
9 is August 14, while the Florida Supreme Court  
10 is still reviewing your proposals, and election  
11 day is November 6th of next year.

12 This is why the Department of Justice will  
13 be reviewing the proposal. Your calendars  
14 don't even recognize the fact that many court  
15 challenges are expected, and you decided before  
16 the adoption of the maps.

17 These time frames you are operating under  
18 almost ensure the state of Florida will be  
19 facing the situation where the United States  
20 Supreme Court will question whether our votes  
21 count in the next Presidential election.

22 You must change this timeline. Be  
23 responsible and save us some money. Stop these  
24 hearings, publish the map proposals as was done  
25 ten years ago. Hold hearings on the maps

1 throughout the state and pledge yourself to  
2 vote on the issue during the first week of  
3 January.

4 Don't underestimate the residents and the  
5 voters of Florida. We do not think these  
6 hearings are offering transparency to the  
7 process.

8 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much. We  
9 appreciate your testimony.

10 MS. WILKERSON: May I just -- please stop  
11 playing with our votes.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
13 Ms. Wilkerson. Next we will hear from Iris  
14 Scheibl, is it Scheibl?

15 MS. SCHEIBL: yes.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Ms. Scheibl, thank you for  
17 coming today. We appreciate you being here and  
18 giving of your time.

19 MS. SCHEIBL: Iris Scheibl. I live in  
20 Palm Beach Gardens. I would like to echo what  
21 a lot of other people have said about the end  
22 of the timeline, that it is really far out.

23 As a citizen activist who is trying to  
24 encourage people to run for office, they don't  
25 know where they would be running for and that

1 is really an issue.

2 But I also would like to speak as a  
3 resident of a coastal community. I arrived in  
4 Florida 11 years ago on a sailboat.

5 We lived in Palm Beach County for a year  
6 in Boynton Beach and now up the county in Palm  
7 Beach Gardens. I have lived in states all  
8 across the country, inland, agrarian  
9 communities, big cities, coastal communities  
10 and I have got to say that coastal communities  
11 have more in common anywhere in the country  
12 than they would with the inland communities.

13 And we have got tourism, port issues,  
14 marine industries, environmental issues,  
15 hurricane issues, border issues and that ties  
16 into homeland security.

17 And so while a compact district may not  
18 result in a coastal community being contiguous,  
19 we really need a contiguous coastal community  
20 and I urge you to do so. Thank you.

21 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very, very much,  
22 Ms. Scheibl. And now Mr. Scheibl, having heard  
23 from the Captain of that sailboat, we will hear  
24 from you, sir.

25 MR. SCHEIBL: Yes, we actually live on

1 land now, but --

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Either way, ashore or  
3 afloat, we are glad to have you here.

4 MR. SCHEIBL: Thank you, Palm Beach  
5 Gardens as Iris said. I just wanted to make  
6 the point that a lot of the folks who have  
7 spoken very strongly in favor of the passage of  
8 the Fair Districts Amendments, kind of look at  
9 this as getting us to a blank sheet of paper  
10 where you can sit down and basically write all  
11 of the wrongs over the last 100 years.

12 I hope you don't look at it that way,  
13 because the main reason for redistricting  
14 really is to come into line with the census and  
15 there are an awful lot of districts in the  
16 state where you are already where you need to  
17 be.

18 And so I hope that you work on the margins  
19 and not try to disrupt a lot of the  
20 relationships that already exist by trying to  
21 draw the districts in a radical manner.

22 By that token I would also like to see the  
23 coastal communities considered as well as the  
24 agricultural communities as communities of  
25 interest, kept together because their interests

1       are the same, and if you do change the  
2       boundaries I hope you try to align the state  
3       boundaries with the Congressional Districts  
4       because a lot of people have a hard time  
5       keeping track of what district they are in.  
6       Thank you.

7               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very, very much,  
8       sir. Very useful testimony. Maria Cole is  
9       next and then Linda Rosenthal with the Boca  
10      Delray Democratic Club, then Todd Bonlarron  
11      representing Palm Beach County and then Lynne,  
12      and I apologize, I think it is Hubbard with the  
13      Rivera Beach Citizens Task Force.

14             Ms. Cole, thank you for being here today,  
15      and you are recognized.

16             MS. COLE: Good afternoon, I am a resident  
17      of Juno Beach and I have lived in Juno Beach  
18      for the last 14 years and I am about ready to  
19      make your day.

20             I stand in agreement with Margie Walker  
21      who spoke earlier, Mr. Robbins who spoke  
22      earlier, and I prevail upon all of you to take  
23      into consideration what our Supervisor of  
24      Elections completely and most articulately  
25      expressed to you. Thanks.



1           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much.

2           Linda Rosenthal. Is Ms. Rosenthal here?

3           Ms. Rosenthal, thank you for coming today.

4           MS. ROSENTHAL: You are welcome and I  
5           would like to thank all of you who are  
6           representing us today, all of you who serve the  
7           people of Florida, whether I agree with your  
8           policies or not, you are still serving us and I  
9           think that is really great.

10          And I would just like to say representing,  
11          I am the President of the Boca Delray  
12          democratic Club and I just want to reiterate  
13          that we feel that the issues of the timeline  
14          need to definitely be addressed and addressed  
15          immediately.

16          We also need maps and we also want the  
17          lawsuits to discontinue immediately. Thank  
18          you.

19          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
20          Ms. Rosenthal. Next is Todd Bonlarron,  
21          representing Palm Beach County. It is good to  
22          see you, Todd.

23          MR. BONLARRON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
24          Todd Bonlarron here on behalf of the Palm Beach  
25          County Board of County Commissioners. I want

1 to thank you for joining us in Palm Beach  
2 County today.

3 I really wanted to take a couple of brief  
4 moments to just really talk about a big picture  
5 issue from our Board of County Commissioners  
6 that we think is important to redistricting in  
7 our area.

8 And that is that it is our position to  
9 focus on the big picture of our current  
10 representation that we have in Palm Beach  
11 County based on the numbers.

12 We have 11 members of the State House, six  
13 members of the Senate, four members of  
14 Congress. We have kept pace with growth in the  
15 state of Florida and our main issue is that we  
16 ask for nothing more, but we ask for nothing  
17 less.

18 And most specifically, the one thing that  
19 we do ask of you is that we would like at least  
20 three of our State Senate seats to have a  
21 majority of their districts in Palm Beach  
22 County.

23 We enjoy that today. We enjoy that with  
24 the representation from Senator Sachs, from  
25 Senator Bogdanoff and Senator Benacquisto. We

1       would love to keep them as part of our  
2       delegation of our hometown base.

3               We also share great representation in the  
4       Senate from our other members and I pointed out  
5       Senator Smith also, while his district is not  
6       wholly in Palm Beach County, a majority here,  
7       his main office is located in Palm Beach County  
8       as well and we appreciate his work as well as  
9       Senator Negron's.

10              So thank you for being here and we  
11       appreciate your consideration as you continue  
12       these deliberations.

13              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, Todd.  
14       We appreciate your testimony, and Lynn, is it  
15       Lynn Hubbard? Thank you very much,  
16       Ms. Hubbard, and after you are finished with  
17       your testimony we will hear from Brittany  
18       Bruce, and then Lawrence Wanderman and then  
19       Joyce Salomon.

20              Ms. Hubbard, you are recognized. Thanks  
21       for coming.

22              MS. HUBBARD: Good afternoon, I am Lynn  
23       Hubbard, citizen of Riviera Beach,  
24       representative of the Riviera Beach Citizens  
25       Task Force, yes, a predominantly

1 African-American community.

2 It is important that Rivera Beach is not  
3 splintered into a manner where there will not  
4 be fair representation. Rivera Beach is  
5 presently the victim of rape and pillage of its  
6 resources.

7 I, too, live off the marina and in a  
8 coastal community. We need to make sure that  
9 the will of the people for fair districting is  
10 upheld.

11 As difficult as it may be, it is important  
12 that our Representatives fight to see that we  
13 have equal representation. We are not just  
14 throwing around the term of coastal community.  
15 Living inland, the coastal community that we  
16 enjoy belong to us as residents in Rivera Beach  
17 and we want to make sure that we are able to  
18 take part in our resources. Thank you.

19 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
20 Ms. Hubbard. Next, Brittany Bruce and then  
21 Lawrence Wanderman and then Joyce Salomon.  
22 Following Ms. Salomon, Mark Schneider.

23 Ms. Bruce? Are you here, Ms. Bruce? Ms.  
24 Bruce is right behind you there.

25 Ms. Bruce, thank you so much for being

1           here and you are recognized.

2                   MS. BRUCE:   Thank you for having me.

3           Every time I have heard the word fair being  
4           mentioned today it seems to be synonomous with  
5           politics.   So all politic, political biases and  
6           redundant complaints aside, I am here to bring  
7           some common sense regarding this matter to the  
8           surface.

9                   State Senate Seat House and Congressional  
10          Districts are just that.   Districts drawn meant  
11          to represent a group of constituents and their  
12          common interests.

13                  So, hello, mixing both inland and coastal  
14          areas isn't fair and obviously doesn't  
15          represent constituents with common interest.  
16          It only mixes the physical and political  
17          interest, but more importantly it combines a  
18          number of conflicting interests to the citizens  
19          residing there.

20                  Specific primary concerns we get lost in  
21          the shuffle if you draw new interest, new  
22          district lines that combine coastal and inland  
23          parts of Palm Beach County together.   It is  
24          hard to represent -- it is hard for  
25          Representatives to be experts on every issue,

1       and by lumping coastal and inland areas  
2       together, I don't believe citizens' concerns  
3       can be represented as well as they could be if  
4       you preserve coastal communities of interest.

5               State Representatives and Senators already  
6       have enough on their plate with a number of  
7       individual and specific concerns their  
8       constituents bring to the table. That is not  
9       fair to them or to me. That is not fair to  
10      anybody.

11             Anyway, having too many conflicting  
12      interests leads to nothing being accomplished,  
13      as evidenced by some existing district lines  
14      presently mixing land and coastal communities.

15             Please note that the rude interruptions  
16      and the hems and haws don't accurately  
17      represent the vast majority of concerned  
18      working citizens that aren't able to be here  
19      today.

20             The point is I want to be represented  
21      fairly and that is why I am here today, to  
22      remind you of common sense facts that have been  
23      lost. Thank you for allowing me to speak.

24             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
25      ma'am. And next is, next is Lawrence

1           Wanderman. Mr. Wanderman, thank you for coming  
2           and you are recognized before the Committee.

3           MR. WANDERMAN: Thank you for recognizing  
4           me, Mr. Chairman. I am from Coconut Creek and  
5           Winmore Village as the gentleman before.

6           And I know most of us would like to see  
7           villages or would like to see the districts all  
8           set up in a compact area according to the  
9           mathematical formula just to be sure that  
10          everything is reasonable or close together. We  
11          have -- we share common interests.

12          And the other thing that I would like to  
13          mention is the statements by the Superintendent  
14          of Elections, because we hear it in any county  
15          that it goes, to have the timeline.

16          We need that to be sufficient to allow  
17          Representatives to prepare, Senators to  
18          prepare, for everyone to be able to handle the  
19          outcome of election. Thank you.

20          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
21          We appreciate your testimony. Joyce Salomon,  
22          Ms. Salomon, thanks for coming today and giving  
23          us your time.

24          MS. SALOMON: I give in Coral Springs in  
25          Broward County. Our medium size city is

1       divided into two Congressional districts and  
2       three House Districts, 95, 96 and 97. Why?

3               With your own voices, your own words  
4       listing your gerrymandered district lines you  
5       have condemned the current situation. The only  
6       reason I can see for it is that you folks in  
7       Tallahassee are trying like hell to protect  
8       your jobs and save seats.

9               You are picking your voters, not letting  
10       us pick our Representatives, and that is not  
11       democracy.

12              And then there is the issue of the suits  
13       against Amendments 5 and 6.

14              What gave you the gall to use \$30 million  
15       of our taxpayer money to fight implementation  
16       of something that 63 percent of Floridians  
17       voted for.

18              When the budget is in free fall you choose  
19       to throw our hard earned funds into a fight  
20       where we are funding both sides. The Attorney  
21       General is by law charged with fighting against  
22       you, again, with our money. It is a disgrace.

23              Are you all so afraid of the voters that  
24       you won't let us vote in fairly drawn  
25       districts? Can't you defend your records in an



1 open forum?

2 And now we come to the timeline. I agree  
3 with the League of Women Voters representatives  
4 and I can't believe that you have not already  
5 drawn preliminary maps. That is what you are  
6 getting paid for, drawing those maps. Show us  
7 your efforts.

8 The timeline you have offered, not showing  
9 your maps until the end of the session is  
10 unworkable. Not allowing time for adequate  
11 review by the courts and the Supervisors of  
12 Elections will be hard pressed to get ballots,  
13 correct ballots out to our service men serving  
14 overseas.

15 How will candidates have time to file if  
16 they don't know what their district lines are?  
17 Again, you are in self protect mood trying to  
18 present fair opposition. The only --

19 SENATOR GAETZ: Speaking of timelines, if  
20 you could conclude, please.

21 MS. SALOMON: Yes. The only reason for  
22 your actions is that I can see is that you are  
23 afraid of us, the voters of Florida. That you  
24 fear running on your records and that you can't  
25 defend your actions and it is a disgrace.

1           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much. Next  
2           we will hear from Mark Schneider and following  
3           Mr. Schneider, Dennis Grady and following  
4           Mr. Grady, I think it is Janne Goodwin, and  
5           then if Wanda Francis will be on deck.

6           Mr. Schneider, thank you for coming today,  
7           and we appreciate your testimony.

8           MR. SCHNEIDER: Members of the Florida  
9           House and Senate, I would like to address the  
10          impact of redistricting on the representation  
11          of racial minorities and on the implementation  
12          of policies addressing the needs of minority  
13          communities.

14          In the previous Senate, not this one,  
15          three of 15 Senators from southeast Florida  
16          were black, as were four of 23 members of the  
17          House.

18          Two of the black Senators were elected  
19          from majority/minority districts, while one was  
20          elected from a majority/majority district.

21          Three of the black House members were  
22          minority/majority district representatives,  
23          while one was from a majority/majority  
24          district.

25          The ability of minority Legislators to be

1       elected from majority/majority districts argues  
2       that the redistricting process should not  
3       cluster minorities heavily in specific  
4       districts as they are currently.

5             Black minority/minority districts are  
6       comprised of an average of 60 percent black  
7       voters and blacks electorate outside these  
8       districts average around 10 percent.

9             The latter districts are commonly called  
10      bleached because of the effect of clustering  
11      minorities in specific districts.

12            The process of bleaching districts in the  
13      redistricting process may guarantee  
14      representation by minorities in the  
15      Legislature. This representation I suggest  
16      would be preserved were the bleaching reduced.

17            Further, the domination of the Legislature  
18      by highly bleached districts more or less  
19      guarantees that the legislative process ignores  
20      the needs of minority communities.

21            As a case in point, consider the failure  
22      of the current Legislature to support penal  
23      reforms that would have lessened the  
24      disproportionate impact of incarceration on  
25      minority communities, despite these reforms

1       having impeccable conservative backing from  
2       Florida Tax Watch and from the Governor's Law  
3       and Order Transition Task Force.

4               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, sir. We  
5       appreciate your testimony, and we are delighted  
6       you were here today.

7               Next is Dennis Grady.

8               MR. GRADY: Good afternoon, Senator.  
9       Welcome to you and your colleagues to Palm  
10      Beach County. I am here to really commend you  
11      and your colleagues for the process you are  
12      engaged in.

13              Far too often we concerned citizens  
14      approach our elected officials and chastise  
15      them for not listening to us first before they  
16      act.

17              In this process you are doing exactly the  
18      opposite. You are listening first and then you  
19      will go to Tallahassee and you will act. We  
20      appreciate that process.

21              It reminds me of my youth, when I spent  
22      every summer on my grandfather's farm, and far  
23      too often he reminded me -- he had to remind  
24      me, remember why God gave you two ears and one  
25      mouth, son.

1           You have learned that the wisdom of that  
2       saying and you are here to listen, not only to  
3       us here in Palm Beach County, but you started  
4       in the panhandle, you are going to finish in  
5       the Keys. You have taken time and effort to  
6       allow all citizens who are concerned to come in  
7       here, express the districts that they would  
8       like to see, the concerns they have for you to  
9       keep close at hand when you are engaged in the  
10      process.

11           Probably the most important thing that we  
12      haven't touched on is that 11 years later the  
13      population in the state of Florida is  
14      17 percent greater than when we went through  
15      this process before.

16           Florida continues to be a growth state  
17      with a growing population and as we hope in the  
18      future, a growing economy. This process is  
19      important to us. You have provided us an open  
20      transparent and citizen friendly process.

21           And now I am going to remember what  
22      Grandpa said I am going to sit back down. I am  
23      going to continue to listen and wish you well  
24      as you conclude this very important political  
25      process.

1           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
2           Mr. Grady, for your testimony. Next we will  
3           hear from, I believe it is Janne or Joanne  
4           Goodwin.

5           MS. GOODWIN: Joann Goodwin.

6           SENATOR GAETZ: Ms. Goodwin, would you  
7           please come forward?

8           MS. GOODWIN: Joann Goodwin, Pompano  
9           Beach, Florida. I would like to defer my time  
10          to Pam Goodman from the League of Women Voters.

11          SENATOR GAETZ: I am sorry, ma'am. We  
12          aren't deferring time. Instead what we are  
13          doing is taking people in the order in which  
14          they signed. If you would like to speak we  
15          would love to hear your testimony.

16          MS. GOODWIN: Oh, can you tell me where  
17          you left off?

18          SENATOR GAETZ: You are certainly welcome  
19          to do that.

20          MS. GOODWIN: Senator, you said last night  
21          these committees would have taken the easy way  
22          of doing this process in back smoke room  
23          filled, in back smoke filled rooms and you  
24          chose this painful process over that.

25          It doesn't have to be so painful, sir. It

1           can be productive. After a start tonight in  
2           Ft. Lauderdale, begin the hearing with the  
3           commitment from the Committee to adopt our  
4           proposed timeline.

5                   After 50 hours of listening, take 60  
6           seconds to announce the one decision by you and  
7           this group, will you stand and will you all got  
8           together and produce maps and present them to  
9           us so we don't have to continue with these  
10          hearings and we can actually look at maps that  
11          you are willing to produce.

12                   SENATOR GAETZ: Thank your, Ms. Goodwin,  
13          we appreciate your testimony.

14                   MS. GOODWIN: That was actually a  
15          question, will you?

16                   SENATOR GAETZ: Well, ma'am, if we have  
17          time at the end Representative Precourt and any  
18          member of the Committee can answer any  
19          question, make any statement or offer any map.

20                   MS. GOODWIN: Will you?

21                   SENATOR GAETZ: Ma'am, your time has  
22          elapsed.

23                   MS. GOODWIN: Will you commit to -- no, it  
24          hasn't. Will you commit to --

25                   SENATOR GAETZ: Ma'am.

1 MS. GOODWIN -- drawing maps and showing  
2 them to us?

3 SENATOR GAETZ: We will answer questions  
4 if we have time.

5 MS. GOODWIN: Can't you just say yes or no  
6 to that question?

7 SENATOR GAETZ: The answer to the question  
8 is your time is elapsed. I have given an  
9 answer before and I will continue to give the  
10 same answer if we have time at the end, but  
11 let's be respectful of all of these other  
12 people who want to speak.

13 Next we will hear from Wanda Francis and  
14 then Henry Salomon, although I think didn't  
15 Henry speak before and then Anthony Barbar and  
16 then Natalie Andre.

17 Ms. Francis.

18 MS. FRANCIS: Yes, my name is Wanda  
19 Francis. I live in Ft. Lauderdale, and I just  
20 want to make a comment. My district runs from  
21 south Broward all of the way to Jupiter Beach.  
22 So I think that the issues maybe are not quite  
23 the same in Broward County as it might be in  
24 Jupiter Beach.

25 I would like to second Ms. Goodwin, Pam



1       Goodwin's comments and also Joy Salomon's  
2       comments and I would like a commitment from you  
3       all to stop spending taxpayer monies so that  
4       you can fight amendments that were passed by  
5       63 percent of the Florida citizens, and please  
6       stop making Florida look and the laughing stock  
7       of this country. Thank you.

8               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
9       Ms. Francis. Next, did Henry Salomon speak  
10      before? Did he sign up twice just to make  
11      sure? I think Henry --

12             MR. SALOMON: I defer my time.

13             SENATOR GAETZ: You defer your time.  
14      Okay. Thank you very much, sir. We will hear  
15      from Anthony Barbar, if Mr. Barbar is here and  
16      then Natalie Andre and then Marie Davis and  
17      then Elinor Williams, if you can be ready.

18             Mr. Barbar, thank you for being here  
19      today, and you are recognized.

20             MR. BARBAR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
21      welcome to Boca Raton and to south Palm Beach  
22      County. Thank you for, each of you for your  
23      service to our community and for what you are  
24      doing for our state.

25             I would just like to say that I concur

1 with what Mr. Sliney and Ms. Burke said  
2 earlier. I live in Representative Hager's  
3 district, which is District 87, and I hope that  
4 as you look at that and you look at compact  
5 communities that you also consider communities  
6 that have compatible interests.

7 And thank you for all of our hard work. I  
8 know this is a thankless job, but we appreciate  
9 you doing it. Thank you.

10 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
11 We appreciate your testimony. Natalie Andre.  
12 Ms. Andre, thank you for coming and sharing  
13 your views today.

14 MS. ANDRE: Yes, good morning, maybe it is  
15 afternoon already, yes.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: It is afternoon.

17 MS. ANDRE: I am Natalie Andre. I live in  
18 Delray Beach. I have been involved in a lot in  
19 women's issues. I am a League member as well  
20 as a NOW member.

21 I have been living in Florida for 30  
22 years. My children grew up here, and I am  
23 thankful when I have grandchildren that will  
24 not be living here when I see all that is going  
25 on.

1           I agree with the League's position. I am  
2           very upset over the points that Ms. Bucher has  
3           made. I think that they should be listened to,  
4           and saying all of that I would like to talk  
5           about what I did personally.

6           Last week being underemployed, I took the  
7           time to make a map, a Congressional map just  
8           for Palm Beach County. Palm Beach County has  
9           exactly enough people if you throw in Deerfield  
10          and Parkland to have two Congressional  
11          Representatives.

12          I tried the map two ways, dividing it  
13          north and south and east and west. It made  
14          sense mostly north and south with Lake Worth  
15          being the cut off.

16          So I would like to suggest that as an  
17          idea. I have here the map, this, the current  
18          Congressional Districts are in blue and you can  
19          see, you probably can't see from where you are,  
20          all of the squiggly lines here, that is our  
21          current Congressional Districts.

22          You can't even see the inside of some of  
23          those districts, and the green and orange ones,  
24          that is Palm Beach County the way I proposed  
25          it. So that is my suggestion.

1           It is a very amateur one, but apparently  
2           you are not trying to give us any professional  
3           ones, so.

4           SENATOR GAETZ: Well, Ms. Andre, I want to  
5           just let folks know that the maps that you have  
6           submitted, and we are very grateful for that,  
7           are on the House and Senate websites.

8           So if could not see what Ms. Andre was  
9           showing you, you can go to the House or Senate  
10          websites and see her maps.

11          Next we will hear from Marie Davis, and  
12          then following Ms. Davis, from Elinor Williams  
13          and then from Ed chase. Marie Davis, thank you  
14          for coming today.

15          MS. DAVIS: Yes, you are welcome. Thank  
16          you for permitting all of us to make our  
17          opinions known whether you like it or not.

18          My name is Marie Davis. I am here as a  
19          private citizen. I reside on Singer Island and  
20          I have been in Palm Beach County since 1960.

21          First I would like to say I worked at the  
22          polls for off and on for the last 30 years and  
23          I echo the comments of Ms. Bucher. Even on a  
24          good day it is a long tired day and I was part  
25          of the pregnant Chad. So I would rather that

1 Palm Beach County not be the eye of the storm  
2 again.

3 In any event, I do have a couple of things  
4 I would like to comment on today. First, I  
5 live on Singer Island which is part of Rivera  
6 Beach which is a coastal community and I urge  
7 you to keep the coastal and beach communities  
8 together in the State and Congressional  
9 Districts.

10 As a resident of Singer Island I have far  
11 more in common with the people who have places  
12 on the intercoastal and we are more concerned  
13 with less the view and more problems such as  
14 beach erosion and hurricanes and that sort of  
15 thing.

16 I have much more in common with Palm Beach  
17 Shores than I do with the most inland areas of  
18 Palm Beach County being cow country, although I  
19 love cows, I just don't have that much in  
20 common with them, but I do eat beef.

21 You know, we have, we have problems that  
22 are unique, such as the property insurance and  
23 beach erosion and a lot of other issues, for  
24 Singer Island and Rivera Beach is the Break  
25 Water Project.

1           We have 9 million -- the State of Florida  
2       set aside \$9 million for the Beach Water  
3       Project, and we have -- we are having problems  
4       getting that money released.

5           I think it is very important that the  
6       beach and the coastal communities be adequately  
7       represented, and if we lose the ability to have  
8       coastal communities of interest represented in  
9       Tallahassee and Washington, I think that our  
10      voices will count much more now than it will be  
11      at some other time.

12           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much for  
13      your testimony and thanks for all of your years  
14      of working at the polls. That is tremendous.

15           Next, Elinor Williams and then following  
16      Ms. Williams, Ed Chase, and then Dimitry Levin,  
17      and then Ilene Gross.

18           Ms. Williams, thank you for coming today  
19      and you are recognized.

20           MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you. Well, I am just  
21      hoping in ten years when we do this again that  
22      when everybody introduces themselves, that  
23      everybody doesn't laugh like you just told a  
24      really funny joke when you told us which  
25      districts you represent or which areas you

1 represent, because they cover so many different  
2 counties.

3 And I just think it is very important for  
4 local governments to, well, for you, our  
5 Representatives, to work closely with our local  
6 governments, and you can do that when you are  
7 majority Palm Beach County or maybe even a  
8 couple of counties, but when you have -- when  
9 you have a district that majority Palm Beach  
10 County and then there is a little tad in  
11 Broward or there is, you know, there is a  
12 little bit that snakes over here and picks up a  
13 few more counties, but not even the whole  
14 county, just a part of the county, it is very  
15 hard to represent those people at.

16 And it is very hard for your local  
17 governments to work with you. We would like  
18 our local governments to be able to make sure  
19 that their legislative priorities are addressed  
20 and recognized in Tallahassee and in  
21 Washington, and I think so if you can, if you  
22 can do your best to try to keep the counties  
23 integral, especially the counties, local  
24 governments in general, but the counties in  
25 particular, I think that would be ideal.

1           And again, the timeline is very worrisome,  
2           if during this October to December timeline you  
3           could draw the maps and have them ready to vote  
4           on the first week in January, I think that  
5           would be great. Thank you.

6           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very  
7           much. That was Elinor Williams, right?

8           Next we have Ed Chase, Mr. Chase.

9           MR. CHASE: Thank you, Representative  
10          Precourt. My name is Ed Chase. I am the  
11          President and CEO of the Northern Palm Beach  
12          County Chamber of Commerce.

13          First of all, thank you for being here and  
14          listening to us first. Two things I wanted to  
15          agree with so I don't have to go on to any  
16          length about them.

17          Number one, I do agree with former State  
18          Representative Jim Watt's theory on House  
19          Districts in north Palm Beach County.

20          Secondly, I would agree with Palm Beach  
21          County's request that three Senate Districts  
22          should have the majority of their precincts in  
23          Palm Beach County.

24          The Committee encouraged testimony  
25          directed toward the desire to preserve the



1 proper placement of communities of interest in  
2 the districts.

3 I want to talk about two of our Senate  
4 Districts about that. First of all, Senate  
5 District 28, northern Palm Beach County shares  
6 that Senate District with the Treasure Coast.  
7 Actually, it is a majority Treasure Coast  
8 district that extends into northern Palm Beach  
9 County, and we feel that north Palm Beach  
10 County has been served very well by that  
11 configuration.

12 Senator Negron, Senator Pruitt before him,  
13 they have shown northern Palm Beach County  
14 great attention. We think that we share  
15 communities of interest with the Treasure Coast  
16 that involved population, economic with a focus  
17 on the life science and especially in the  
18 environment both we do share the north and  
19 south fork of the Loxahatchee River and both of  
20 our counties have worked together for the  
21 restoration of that river.

22 Secondly, on Senate District 25, it is a  
23 very long coastal district. I would encourage  
24 you to adjust this district to include more of  
25 Palm Beach County to preserve the communities

1 of interest that includes similar population.

2 Also environmental concerns because of the  
3 beach issues which those communities share as  
4 well as the Lake Worth lagoon issues. And  
5 Senator Bogdanoff, if it helps, we are very  
6 happy that you are our State Senator.

7 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
8 Mr. Chase. And next we have Dimitry Levin and  
9 then following Mr. Levin, Ilene Gross and then  
10 Cara Capp and then Pam Bergsma.

11 Is Dimitry Levin here? Dimitry Levin, we  
12 will pass then to Ilene Gross. Ms. Gross, are  
13 you here? Ms. Gross?

14 Then we will go to Cara Capp, with Clean  
15 Water Action. Ms. Capp, you are recognized.  
16 Thank you for coming.

17 MS. CAPP: Thank you, I am a little short  
18 for this mike. Hi, again, I am Cara Capp. My  
19 husband and I are new homeowners in Delray  
20 Beach with Lori Berman and today I am here on  
21 behalf of Clean Water Action.

22 We are a national non profit organization  
23 with 19,000 members and supporters here in  
24 Florida standing by us today.

25 I definitely appreciate the opportunity to

1       comment. I am especially happy to be here  
2       because I am a proud double alum of FAU,  
3       undergrad and grad, so always happy to be in  
4       owl country.

5                Though I am unhappy to say that I think my  
6       input today could surely have been more  
7       meaningful if this Legislature had prepared  
8       maps in advance of these public hearings. We  
9       want maps drafted with your experience and  
10      expertise and not based on my novice efforts  
11      with some simple online software.

12             Clean Water Action is concerned by the  
13      repercussions of not having these maps  
14      available, and of the delayed timeline for  
15      finalizing these maps, especially the fact that  
16      has been repeated over and over again, that the  
17      election managers won't have time to finalize  
18      their absentee ballots.

19             People over and over again have mentioned  
20      the brave men and women who serve overseas. I  
21      would also like to bring up the handicapped,  
22      the elderly and college students like those who  
23      study here at FAU who rely on absentee ballots.

24             We would like to ensure that each of their  
25      votes is counted equally and fairly and we are

1 asking you to make that happen by hastening  
2 your timeline for this process to make sure the  
3 maps are done in a reasonable manner.

4 Our members are also concerned with  
5 efforts by the Legislature to oppose Fair  
6 District standards voted on by an overwhelming  
7 majority of Florida's residents. Money is  
8 being spent to oppose these Amendments, while  
9 Florida's teachers, social services and public  
10 employees are forced to shoulder debilitating  
11 financial hits.

12 This Legislature should be working to  
13 uphold the standards approved by 63 percent of  
14 our voters, not spending time and effort to  
15 defend longstanding party seats.

16 To conclude, Clean Water Action is urging  
17 this Legislature to work diligently to enforce  
18 the Fair District standards that Florida's  
19 residents are asking for.

20 Please bring forward a draft map for  
21 consideration as soon as possible, a map that  
22 will evenly, fairly and logically redraw  
23 district boundaries with a blind eye to voting  
24 trends within individual communities. Thank  
25 you.

1           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, Ms.  
2           Capp. Pam Bergsma is our next speaker and  
3           following Ms. Bergsma is Sue Gardner, and then  
4           David DiCrescenzo, thank you, Senator Sachs,  
5           and then Carolyn O'Brien.

6           Pam Bergsma, thank you for coming today,  
7           and you are recognized.

8           MS. BERGSMA: Well, thank you, Chairman  
9           Gaetz and all of the Legislators, especially  
10          the ones who have traveled so far.

11          Speaking as a grandmother who for the past  
12          decade has been taking that grueling drive from  
13          South Florida all of the way to Tallahassee so  
14          that my voice could be heard, I only know how  
15          hard that drive is. So welcome to the hood.

16          Now, I was very delighted, very delighted  
17          that these meetings were taking place all  
18          across the state of Florida. But needless to  
19          say, I am very, very disappointed today and to  
20          tweak a line from an old movie, show me the  
21          map.

22          I thought I was going to be discussing  
23          your input today. My input was voting for  
24          Amendments 5 and 6. I was hoping at this point  
25          that I would see a map that I could discuss

1 with you before we get into the nitty gritty of  
2 making that the district lines, and the fact  
3 that it looks like I am now going to have to  
4 take that trip all of the way to Tallahassee to  
5 see your map, this meeting really wasted my gas  
6 and my time.

7 Speaking as a mother, a grandmother, my  
8 only child was born here in the state of  
9 Florida. I came from D. C. as a young woman to  
10 this state almost 40 years ago, and I made this  
11 my home, and in Alexandria, Virginia, where I  
12 grew up with my two wonderful parents and my  
13 other siblings, both my parents are buried in  
14 Arlington Cemetery, we used to be able to just  
15 cross the bridge in 15 minutes and make our  
16 voice heard.

17 It is hard in this state to be heard. We  
18 are long, very long, and it is a hard drive  
19 getting up there to the Capitol. So this is a  
20 wonderful thing that is being done here, but  
21 let's do it the right way.

22 I encourage all of you to go back and make  
23 that map and the rest of these meetings be able  
24 to present it so that we can get the citizens  
25 in Florida's input, and I am speaking as a very

1           concerned voter and citizen of my state.

2           I would like the rest of my nation to be  
3           proud of where I live. I would like my  
4           siblings to look down from Alexandria, Virginia  
5           at me and say gee, Pam, you are in one hell of  
6           a state.

7           So you have an opportunity to do this.  
8           You can lead, and I encourage you to do that.  
9           Thank you very much.

10           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Bergsma,  
11           and Ms. Bergsma, thank you for the service of  
12           your family members to our country. Thank you  
13           very much.

14           Sue Gardner is next and following  
15           Ms. Gardner is David DiCrescenzo, and then  
16           Carolyn O'Brien, and then I think it is Terrie  
17           Rizzo. Ms. Gardner.

18           MS. GARDNER: Yes.

19           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you for coming.

20           MS. GARDNER: Thank you. Sue Gardner. I  
21           have been a resident of west Boca for more than  
22           20 years. Going all of the way back to the  
23           beginning of these hearings I want to support  
24           what was said by the first speaker.

25           I am unaffiliated, but the woman from the

1 League of Women Voters made important points.  
2 I particularly urge this group to provide a  
3 proposed legislative map, set of maps that the  
4 voters can review in advance and provide input  
5 for the State Legislature when it goes into  
6 session in January. Thank you.

7 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, ma'am,  
8 for your being here today. And David, are you  
9 here? If not, we will go to Carolyn O'Brien  
10 and following Ms. O'Brien, to Terrie Rizzo, and  
11 then to Henry, I think it is Strouss, and then  
12 to Rachelle Lipman.

13 Ms. O'Brien.

14 MS. O'BRIEN: Hi, thank you all for doing  
15 this. I have never done anything like this  
16 before in my life, so bear with me.

17 SENATOR GAETZ: You are doing fine.

18 MS. O'BRIEN: I want you to know I am a  
19 member of the Palm Beach County --

20 SENATOR GAETZ: Ma'am, could you speak  
21 right into the microphone, please?

22 MS. O'BRIEN: I am sorry. I am a member  
23 of the Palm Beach County REC, the Boca Raton  
24 Republican Club and a Tea Party member and I  
25 just want to tell you one thing.



1           There were a million people in Palm Beach,  
2           in Washington, D. C., not 70,000. The next  
3           thing I want to say, we talk about fairness.  
4           In August of '08, they had a Town Hall meeting.  
5           Bill Nelson, Ron Klein, Alex Hastings, not one  
6           Republican was allowed.

7           SENATOR GAETZ: Ma'am, ma'am, let's try to  
8           keep our comments to redistricting. Okay.

9           MS. O'BRIEN: Okay, I live in Palm Beach  
10          County. I live one block north of Palmetto  
11          Park Road and I feel that my district was -- it  
12          was Adam Hass was my Representative, now, Bill  
13          Hager is mine.

14          I feel like Boca Raton is split right down  
15          the middle and I live east of Fourth Avenue and  
16          I would like to see all of Boca Raton and the  
17          east, eastern part of Boca all in one district,  
18          and Alan West is my Congressman and he knows  
19          how to hold a Town Hall meeting.

20          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
21          ma'am. Next is Terrie Rizzo and then following  
22          Ms. Rizzo, Henry Strouss and then we will hear  
23          from Rachelle Lipman with the Kings Point  
24          Democrat Club and then from, our next speaker  
25          will be Sean Phillippi or Phillippi.

1 Ms. Rizzo, thank you.

2 A VOICE: Terrie Rizzo had to leave. She  
3 asked me just to speak on her behalf.

4 SENATOR GAETZ: I am sorry, ma'am. We  
5 have to take people who have signed up.

6 A VOICE: Okay.

7 SENATOR GAETZ: So therefore, I beg your  
8 pardon, if you would like to speak, sign up and  
9 we will sure try to get to you.

10 Next, Henry Strouss. Henry Strouss?  
11 Rachelle Lipman from the Kings Point Democrat  
12 Club, and then Sean Phillippi and I apologize  
13 if I mispronounced that and then Morris Levine.

14 MS. LIPMAN: I am Rachelle Lipman and I  
15 agree with the Supervisor of Elections and Mark  
16 Siegel and Mr. Robbins.

17 I am a resident of Kings Point Delray  
18 Beach and our concern is that they keep  
19 District 90 the same.

20 We that live in Kings Point do not want  
21 our community split. We have the same concerns  
22 locally and statewide and they are being  
23 addressed by our current local and district  
24 Legislators.

25 I also am very, very upset that you don't

1       have the maps. I originally am from the state  
2       of Delaware. Maybe it is because it is the  
3       second smallest state in the United States and  
4       they are always accurate and they always have  
5       maps and everything else when we come to  
6       hearings, and I am very, very discouraged with  
7       this hearing that you are not, you don't have  
8       maps here.

9                SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Lipman.  
10       Well, good news, because the next testifier has  
11       maps. Sean Phillippi.

12               MR. PHILLIPPI: A map. A map.

13               SENATOR GAETZ: A map.

14               MR. PHILLIPPI: So about 36 hours ago I  
15       was the second person to submit a Congressional  
16       map that was both contiguous and complete, and  
17       I did so without breaking up a single  
18       municipality in the entire state, except for  
19       Jacksonville, which has a population greater  
20       than that of a single municipality.

21               And the thing that I would encourage the  
22       Legislators to do is to get a clarification  
23       from the Justice Department and work together  
24       to get a hard definition of majority/minority  
25       districts, because some of the feedback that I

1        got from a very nice gentleman with the House  
2        Redistricting Committee is that a district that  
3        has a total of 82 percent minority  
4        representation is not considered a  
5        majority/minority district which honestly  
6        baffled me.

7                So I would encourage Democrats,  
8        Republicans to work with the Justice Department  
9        to get one uniform standard for  
10       majority/minority districts, and just say that  
11       it is possible to go ahead and create  
12       Congressional maps without harming municipal  
13       boundaries, because I have done so and if  
14       someone like me can do so, anyone can do it.  
15       Thank you for your time.

16                SENATOR GAETZ: Amen, thank you so much.  
17       Next we will hear from Morris Levine and then  
18       David Hyde. Following Mr. Hyde, Hillary Keyes,  
19       and after Ms. Keys, Helen Goldenberg.

20                Mr. Levine, are you here, sir? Are you  
21       here, sir? Then we will pass him for the  
22       moment.

23                David Hyde, Mr. Hyde? While you are  
24       coming down, if Hillary Keyes would get on  
25       deck, as well as Helen Goldenberg and Glenn

1 Joseph.

2 Mr. Hyde, we are delighted that you are  
3 here today and look forward to your testimony.

4 MR. HYDE: Thank you very much, and it is  
5 wonderful to see everyone here to listen to us.  
6 I am a recent Floridian. I came from San  
7 Francisco. I left my suit there.

8 But I have been active in political arenas  
9 in various places, and I consider myself a  
10 Floridian, and I think as people who represent  
11 us, that you can think of both the concerns of  
12 the coastal units and the inland environment.

13 I use the beach a lot. I also don't live  
14 on the beach. I live in Boynton, and the  
15 Commissioners there represent the whole town,  
16 and I think you can, too, although we are  
17 elected as Democrats and Republicans, et  
18 cetera.

19 So I really want to encourage you to think  
20 in that direction. I want to definitely agree  
21 with the League of Women Voters and their  
22 concerns. I want to also agree with the  
23 Supervisor of Elections and their concerns, but  
24 I really want to think of us as non-partisan,  
25 and I want you to think that way.

1           I want you to put together the best  
2       possible redistricting you can possibly do in a  
3       non-partisan way and move forward fast. Thank  
4       you.

5           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, Mr.  
6       Hyde. Hillary Keyes is our next speaker, and  
7       after Ms. Keyes, then Helen Goldenberg and then  
8       Glenn Joseph.

9           Ms. Keyes, thank you for coming.

10          MS. KEYES: Hi, I am Hillary Keyes, and I  
11       am a resident of Boca Raton. I want to thank  
12       you for having this meeting, but I also am very  
13       concerned with the fact that, A, we do not have  
14       maps which would not be a problem, except for  
15       the timeline.

16          And I think it is so important that we  
17       listen to our Supervisors of Elections because  
18       they are the ones that are going to have to  
19       make this work, and if you are not listening to  
20       them and giving them enough time to do their  
21       jobs, this is not going to fly, and again, I  
22       don't want to be butterfly ballot seen.

23          I would also like to ask, the Florida  
24       House has joined the Brown lawsuit and is  
25       trying to get Federal Court to declare

1 Amendment 6 unconstitutional, even though  
2 63 percent of voters supported it.

3 Are any private funds being collected or  
4 used to found the House's position in this  
5 lawsuit?

6 SENATOR GAETZ: And time permitting we  
7 will certainly ask a House member to respond to  
8 that when we are finished. Anything else,  
9 Ms. Keyes?

10 MS. KEYES: That will do it.

11 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much. Helen  
12 Goldenberg, are you here? Ms. Goldenberg?  
13 Then we will go to Glenn Joseph from the  
14 Caribbean American Complete Count Committee.

15 MR. JOSEPH: Mr. Chairman, Legislators,  
16 good morning. Good afternoon, actually. We  
17 know what we have. We know everyone has an  
18 idea of what they want. What we don't know is  
19 what we will get.

20 This process looks transparent and  
21 inclusive, however, that was the same process  
22 seemingly in the last Legislature. Leadership  
23 party always makes the decisions and because of  
24 that we had those draconian pieces of  
25 legislation that exists today.

1           I guess because of that you will  
2           understand why we are so skeptical.    The  
3           process can be transparent, yet recommendations  
4           may not be accepted or will not be accepted.

5           We are here in support of the Voting Right  
6           Act and Amendments 5 and 6, the latest  
7           Amendments to the Florida Constitution.

8           Communities of interest might not have  
9           been included in Amendments 5 and 6.  However,  
10          if we draw compact districts without stacking  
11          and cracking we will produce districts that are  
12          fair.  Compact districts are the best way to  
13          keep naturally formed districts together.

14          Voters need to select elected officials,  
15          not the elected officials using redistricting  
16          to cherrypick who their voters are.

17          Gerrymandering districts drawn for a  
18          powerful few don't manipulate any community.  
19          Give us compact contiguous districts within  
20          counties and city boundaries and we will  
21          consider that fair.

22          We want to ensure the districts are not  
23          drawn to dilute a compact area that in the next  
24          two to five years will be a strong voting block  
25          based on the census.  We are aware that every



1       elected official took the oath of office to  
2       uphold the Constitution, 5 and 6 was passed.

3               People choose where they live. Businesses  
4       choose where to locate based on the  
5       demographics that will support goods and  
6       services. We operate primarily within Broward  
7       County and Miami-Dade County. We have our own  
8       doctors, lawyers, et cetera.

9               SENATOR GAETZ: May I ask you to see if  
10      you can conclude, sir?

11              MR. JOSEPH: Sure, sure. We want to make  
12      sure that you hear what we are saying and  
13      comply with what the law says.

14              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, sir.  
15      We appreciate your testimony. And I apologize  
16      to Annette Evans, I didn't give you any  
17      warning, but Annette Evans would be next and  
18      then Starla Brown and then Carol Osno and then  
19      Kenneth, and I apologize, it is my eyes, not  
20      your writing, Kenneth, I think it is Kenneth  
21      Sommer with the Democratic Club of Greater  
22      Boynton, on Montrose Bay Avenue.

23              So Annette Evans, thank you so much for  
24      being here and you are recognized.

25              MS. EVANS: Thank you. I want to say one

1 positive thing first, the staff for the  
2 website, they are excellent. They are  
3 professional and I appreciate what they do. I  
4 wanted to say that.

5 Otherwise, I echo so much of what has been  
6 said eloquently here by various members of the  
7 League of Women Voters, the Supervisor of  
8 Elections, Margie Walden.

9 The basic message I have is that the  
10 timeline that you have established ensures that  
11 incumbents will benefit. This means that the  
12 will of the people is not being carried out.  
13 The 63 percent who voted for Amendments 5 and  
14 6.

15 Some here have said that -- seem to think  
16 that public participation means that they all  
17 submit their own maps and they seem to think  
18 that those of us who want maps here are lazy or  
19 something, that we want the government to do  
20 things for us or something. That is not it.

21 If you understand what public  
22 participation is, usually public hearings that  
23 are held by government, they present a plan for  
24 the public to review and comment on. That is  
25 how it works.

1           And someone also said that what you hear  
2           today doesn't represent the working people who  
3           are not here. Well, plenty of the people here  
4           are retired and they worked a lot their whole  
5           lives. There is a lot of people who took off  
6           work, too.

7           Don't assume that we all here on welfare  
8           or something. I don't like that connotation.  
9           Also, the last thing I want to say is I am  
10          offended that my Representative has been absent  
11          about half of the time and when he was here he  
12          was reading, because like you said, we should  
13          have respect here for everybody, everybody that  
14          is here.

15          Lastly I want to say that partisan line  
16          drawing marginalizes moderate voters which  
17          exacerbates our fractured politics.

18          Eliminating gerrymandering is important to  
19          maintaining true democracy. Our democracy is  
20          precious, not having geographically cohesive  
21          contiguous districts disenfranchises voters.  
22          Thank you.

23                 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much,  
24                 Ms. Evans. Next we will hear from Starla Brown  
25                 and then Carol Osno and then Kenneth something,

1           and I apologize, Kenneth. Starla Brown, are  
2           you here? Starla?

3           Okay, Carol Osno, Carol, is that you?  
4           Thank you for coming and you are recognized.

5           MS. OSNO: Osno, O-s-n-o.

6           SENATOR GAETZ: Osno.

7           MS. OSNO: Thank you.

8           SENATOR GAETZ: All right, I apologize,  
9           ma'am.

10          MS. OSNO: Okay. Well, being we are at  
11          the end, so much has been said so I am going to  
12          make this very personal then for me, about me.

13          I live in Congressional District 22, and  
14          my Representatives are here. I haven't gotten  
15          much eye contact, but I think they are  
16          listening.

17          I feel categorized. I feel labeled. I  
18          don't feel like you are an American. I am seen  
19          as a Caucasian, a woman, a Jew, a person over  
20          50. I am put into a computer to figure out how  
21          to best use me, where will my vote go.

22          I feel that the candidates choose me and I  
23          do not get to choose them, and I just have to  
24          add, I find it appalling that an unemployed  
25          individual must follow frustrating and highly

1 impossible regulations to collect a maximum of  
2 \$250 a week for unemployment while Tallahassee  
3 spends millions to fight the will of the  
4 people.

5 None of you are unemployed sitting there  
6 and I don't wish it on you, but you have no  
7 idea. Governor Scott will get the numbers down  
8 because people are throwing their hands up and  
9 saying, forget it, I can't even bother, I am so  
10 frustrated, the heck with my unemployment  
11 check. Thank you.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, ma'am. And I  
13 apologize to Kenneth who lives at 10616. Do  
14 you know.

15 A VOICE: Kenneth Sommer.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Kenneth Sommer,  
17 Mr. Sommer, I am so sorry, sir, it is my eyes,  
18 not your writing if you are here. Not here,  
19 okay, then we will move on.

20 Our next speakers will be in this order,  
21 Mildred Cook, Maggie Davidson, Harold Muller,  
22 or Muller, and Kenneth Thomas.

23 Ms. Cook, thank you for coming, and you  
24 are recognized.

25 MS. COOK: Thank you. I appreciate you

1       being here and I appreciate you hearing me. I  
2       do think it is disgraceful that the Republican  
3       lead Legislature has spent, is preparing and  
4       has spent so much money fighting the will of  
5       the people.

6               A technical audit performed by the Palm  
7       Beach County Democratic Executive Committee  
8       found the My District Builder software  
9       mysteriously deleted an entire section on  
10      compactness and geospatial analysis.

11             The missing section was designed to  
12      calculate ratios of compactness and make an  
13      overall scoring of compliance with the  
14      redistricting requirements under Amendment 5.

15             The Palm Beach County DEC Chairman Allen  
16      Siegel has raised legitimate questions regarding  
17      why the Speaker's Office had ordered the  
18      removal of the compactness analysis.

19             Those questions have not been answered.  
20      Although contained in the Legislature's initial  
21      release of the My District Builder software,  
22      the compactness and geospatial analysis  
23      components were deleted by House Redistricting  
24      Committee staff soon after they appeared.

25             Splitting city and county lines and

1       grouping minorities into minority districts  
2       causing the bleaching of adjacent districts  
3       unlike compactness were characteristics to be  
4       avoided under the Fair Districts Amendments.

5               By removing the compactness and geospatial  
6       analysis from the software, new district lines  
7       drawn on party or incumbent lines are not as  
8       detectable without the geospatial analysis  
9       numerical ratings.

10              And regarding these public hearings, it  
11       would be informative to get an answer as to why  
12       the geospatial analysis section was removed by  
13       the legislation -- legislative leadership.

14              Unfortunately, the committee members have  
15       already been instructed not to comment on any  
16       aspect of the process. The Legislature's  
17       current redistricting software without the  
18       compactness statistical component flaws the  
19       process and stacks the deck in favor of the  
20       incumbent.

21              SENATOR GAETZ: Ms. Cook, you have gone  
22       quite a ways over time. Thank you very much.

23              MS. COOK: Republican leadership.

24              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, and  
25       you will get an answer to that question about,

1       about the spacial feature on the redistricting  
2       software time permitting. Next, Maggie  
3       Davidson.

4             A VOICE: I am sorry, Maggie had to leave.  
5       She sends her apologies, but if you would like,  
6       I can speak on her behalf.

7             SENATOR GAETZ: No, sadly, Maggie gets  
8       only to speak for herself.

9             Harold Muller. Please come forward,  
10       Mr. Muller, and then Kenneth Thomas and Daniel  
11       Goldstein with be our final speaker.

12            MR. MULLER: Good afternoon, my name is  
13       Harold Muller, I am not representing anybody  
14       and please excuse if you hear my stomach  
15       growling, I guess you know what I am talking  
16       about.

17            SENATOR GAETZ: If you will speak into the  
18       microphone directly, sir, then everybody can  
19       hear you.

20            MR. MULLER: Is this better?

21            SENATOR GAETZ: Yes, sir.

22            MR. MULLER: First, I want to congratulate  
23       the people who are in charge of managing the  
24       website. I think they do an excellent job.  
25       Unfortunately I cannot say the same thing for



1 the people who designed the portions of the  
2 redistricting.

3 Frankly, it looks like the basic idea of  
4 people who don't have anything better to do, to  
5 spin their wheels designing maps and providing  
6 comments, but the inside designs what they  
7 want.

8 Then at the end they dump all of this  
9 stuff in a black hole and spring the official  
10 plan on the public as late as possible. To  
11 minimize -- this minimizes in the feelings and  
12 the process by people and organizations outside  
13 the power structure.

14 How do you know who looks at the maps that  
15 have been laboriously created and all the  
16 proposals and requests? How do we know who  
17 uses the material in what way? Who -- what  
18 impact it has on the official map? You don't.

19 If the intention had been to give people a  
20 role in the process, the time plan would look  
21 more like that. On April 30th the  
22 redistricting committee would have published  
23 their initial draft and would have heavily  
24 publicized it so that people and colleagues to  
25 look at.

1           Ideally this proposal would have been  
2           created by an independent entity and not the  
3           existing district map.

4           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir,  
5           your time has elapsed and we are just about out  
6           of time. We want to get as many people in as  
7           we can. Thank you very much.

8           Next is Kenneth Thomas. Mr. Thomas? And  
9           following Mr. Thomas, Daniel Goldstein, and we  
10          will try mightly try to get Bill Diamond in,  
11          because I am an advocate for you, Bill. Fire  
12          away.

13          MR. THOMAS: Good afternoon, my name is  
14          Kenneth Thomas and I am a resident of west Boca  
15          Raton, and after being here for almost three  
16          hours there is very little left that needs to  
17          be said.

18          I think so many eloquent speakers have  
19          already covered most of the material. So I  
20          could use the time to stand here and talk about  
21          my wonderful kids, my grandkids and all of  
22          those things, but that has nothing to do with  
23          the work of redistricting that has to be done  
24          every ten years.

25          And from what I have gathered today there

1       has been, I haven't seen very much  
2       redistricting work done and I keep wondering  
3       why, because we have talked about so many  
4       different things, about what is wrong with the  
5       system, what is right with the system, but we  
6       haven't accomplished any work today.

7               And so I keep going back trying to figure  
8       out what will it take to get us to do the work  
9       of redistricting. All my life I have been  
10      taught to assume positive intent, and as I look  
11      at this wonderful group up here in front of us,  
12      I have to assume that you are really here to do  
13      the very best for the voters who voted you into  
14      office and who also voted for Amendments 5 and  
15      6.

16             So I think that maybe if I can, maybe to  
17      help get this thing back on track and get to  
18      doing some of the voting work, I think first we  
19      need to make sure that your constituents  
20      realize that you do have positive intent, that  
21      you intend to enact their will, and I think the  
22      best gesture you can do at this time is to  
23      probably drop the lawsuits against Amendments 5  
24      and 6.

25             The next thing I would ask of you is to

1 review the timelines that you have imposed upon  
2 this process, because as you have heard from  
3 Supervisor Bucher and others, this all can't be  
4 accomplished within the time that is remaining.

5 So you need to look at a process that is  
6 going to allow everything to fall in place on  
7 time. I think you would be better served and I  
8 am working hard, I am trying to keep my two  
9 minutes down.

10 SENATOR GAETZ: Four seconds.

11 MR. THOMAS: Four seconds, okay.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: As I am for Bill Diamond.

13 MR. THOMAS: Provide examples, I think  
14 Mr. Ortez provided --

15 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much for  
16 your testimony.

17 MR. THOMAS -- as well as Mr. Phillippi.

18 SENATOR GAETZ: Appreciate it, our next  
19 speaker is Daniel Goldstein. Is Mr. Goldstein  
20 here? If not, Bill Diamond, you are my man.  
21 You are my man.

22 MR. DIAMOND: Clean up hitter, right?  
23 Thank you very much, honorable members of the  
24 State Legislature. My name is Bill Diamond, I  
25 am Town Councilman in the town of Palm Beach.

1 I am speaking here on my own behalf, but I  
2 think my sentiments are shared by a good number  
3 of members of my community.

4 Very frankly, the coastal communities in  
5 Palm Beach County have an important common  
6 interest when it comes to Federal, State and  
7 County actions to replenish their severely  
8 eroded beaches.

9 For example, the town of Palm Beach has  
10 worked closely with the towns of Palm Beach  
11 Shores and the town of South Palm Beach to  
12 secure permits and reimbursement of millions of  
13 dollars spent by them on beach replenishment of  
14 our common ocean fronts.

15 Whatever is done to replenish one  
16 community's ocean front beach almost always  
17 affects another community's beach because of  
18 the literal north to south flow of ocean  
19 currents which carries precious sand down all  
20 of our ocean front communities.

21 Therefore, it is best to keep these  
22 coastal communities together as one.  
23 Governmental units so that they will continue  
24 to have more strength in petitioning the  
25 Federal, State and County governments for

1 assistance after storms, hurricanes, et cetera,  
2 which destroy their most valuable natural  
3 resources, which is our great beautiful  
4 beaches.

5 Thank you, again, for your patience, your  
6 kind necessary and this magnificent exercise in  
7 popular democracy.

8 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
9 Mr. Diamond. We do have a number of other  
10 people who signed up late. I wish that we  
11 could, we could have accommodated everyone.  
12 Some folks went a little bit overtime, but we  
13 tried to accommodate as many people as  
14 possible.

15 Senator Sachs and Senator Sobel, Senator  
16 Smith and your Representatives are all  
17 available to you if you didn't have a chance to  
18 speak to the Committee, that you can have a  
19 chance to speak with them.

20 As well, if you have information that you  
21 wanted to share, you certainly can provide it  
22 in writing. It will be part of the Committee's  
23 record and every member of the Legislature will  
24 have access to that record.

25 We do have just, I did reserve about two

1 minutes at the end because I think there was  
2 someone who mentioned that people had been  
3 instructed not to speak at every single meeting  
4 of this Committee.

5 We have had I guess 15 or 16 of them. We  
6 have had members who have spoken. There is a  
7 free will to do that. Did any members of the  
8 Committee have anything that they wished to say  
9 at this time?

10 We will start with House members. Any  
11 House members have any comments you might like  
12 to make in brief, in brief?

13 A VOICE: Thank you, thank you. I just  
14 want to let those of you out here who keep  
15 criticizing the system to understand that we,  
16 though we are the Florida Legislature, we  
17 didn't all agree with each other.

18 And I for myself want to let you know that  
19 I agree with 99 percent of the people who spoke  
20 today. I specifically agree with Supervisor  
21 Bucher, and I want you to know that many of my  
22 colleagues feel the same way.

23 We want the answers and we also want the  
24 maps, too. Thank you.

25 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,

1 Representative. Any other members of the House  
2 wish to speak? Any Senators wish to make a  
3 brief comment before we leave?

4 Senator Sachs, could you do a brief  
5 comment and then I am going to defer to  
6 Representative Precourt?

7 SENATOR SACHS: Thank you very much,  
8 Mr. Chairman. And I want everyone here, all of  
9 the Legislators, House members and Senate  
10 members to know that the people of Broward and  
11 Palm Beach County have spoken loud and clear.

12 I think everyone here has expressed  
13 exactly what they feel. I know that I am very  
14 proud to be a part of this community. You have  
15 been courteous, they have been professional but  
16 they have been vocal, and we have been  
17 passionate about what we want and what we as  
18 citizens want the Legislature to do.

19 So thank you very much, the people of  
20 Broward and Palm Beach County. We have heard  
21 you, we have heard your words, we have heard  
22 your feelings, we have heard your passion and  
23 now we need to get to work, Mr. Chairman.  
24 Thank you very much.

25 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. The Chair



1 recognizes Representative Precourt to answer a  
2 couple of factual questions that were raised by  
3 folks who deserve factual answers.

4 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, Chair  
5 Gaetz, and one misconception out there that has  
6 been perpetuated in part of this conversation  
7 is that any member of this Florida Legislature  
8 can submit a map at any time.

9 So don't get the idea that it is just the  
10 Republicans or just the House members that are  
11 sitting here and listening to you first, any of  
12 the members can submit maps at any time.

13 Now, there is a couple of other factual  
14 errors that have been brought up here. There  
15 have been a number of comments about the  
16 compactness tools being used in the My District  
17 Builder, in the District Building software,  
18 particularly from a gentleman by the name of  
19 Alan Robbins.

20 First, I want to thank him for working  
21 with our staff and communicating these issues  
22 to them and I hope that he will continue to  
23 work with them. However I do need to add that  
24 the response that the House has given on this  
25 issue, that Mr. Robbins read in part, the House

1 as was stated in some of our committee meetings  
2 during this past session will at a minimum give  
3 its members compactness measurements and other  
4 measurement tools to judge and deliberate the  
5 maps.

6 As our staff conveyed to Mr. Robbins and  
7 others, we developed the best product we could  
8 in order to get many members of the public  
9 involved in the district building software.

10 As is evident in the hallway, we are  
11 receiving maps from the public, many maps, so  
12 that My District Builder is more than just a  
13 functional application, but begin, Mr. Robbins,  
14 we appreciate your good work and intentions and  
15 your willingness to continue to work with  
16 staff.

17 There are also a couple of other comments  
18 about that measurement tool from the Florida  
19 House's My District Builder application, in  
20 particular. It is simply just not accurate  
21 that the measurement tool was in there, in the  
22 My District Builder.

23 Unfortunately that is a point of confusion  
24 that was raised by an opinion column published  
25 in the Sun Sentinel that the Sentinel later ran

1 a correction to because it simply wasn't true.

2 There are multiple district building  
3 softwares out there. The House's application  
4 is called My District Builder. The Senate's is  
5 called District Builder and there are also a  
6 number of private vendors who make these  
7 applications and there apparently is some  
8 confusion.

9 A couple of other very quick points. The  
10 statement that there was no good work done here  
11 today. I think the people sitting here can say  
12 is factually false. There was a lot of good  
13 information provided here today and a lot of  
14 good work.

15 In particular related to things and just a  
16 few of the comments related to the northern  
17 Palm Beaches community, related to the coastal  
18 communities, related to agriculture in this  
19 area, related to the African-American  
20 communities in Palm Beach County and it went on  
21 and on. Very good input that we will take into  
22 account in dealing with these districts.

23 The point that the Legislature should draw  
24 the maps first and the statement that that is  
25 just not the process is factually incorrect.

1       If you, if any of you are involved in the  
2       Federal NEPA, National Environmental Policy Act  
3       process, it requires that you reach out to the  
4       public with no solutions initially so you get  
5       information back first before then presenting  
6       for further public comment which we will do in  
7       this process, alternative solutions to that.  
8       So we will be doing that.

9               The question related to the use of  
10       taxpayer funds to litigate and joining in a  
11       lawsuit. We are doing what we are obligated to  
12       do. We are sworn to uphold the State  
13       Constitution and the United States  
14       Constitution, and there are allegations that  
15       there are conflicts between the law that we  
16       have passed and the State Constitution and the  
17       U.S. Constitution that we need to have that  
18       resolved as soon as possible.

19              That is our obligation and we are using  
20       funds available to the House from a contingency  
21       fund that we use for everything, whether it is  
22       replacing the carpet or buying new computers.  
23       That is our contingency fund that they have  
24       been referred to. Any statements to the  
25       contrary are factually incorrect.

1           We are scheduling time -- there was a  
2           question about scheduling, allow time for  
3           people to run and for the elections process to  
4           proceed while locally you hear from your  
5           Supervisor of Elections that she doesn't have  
6           the process.

7           I assure you, it is in the record that  
8           other Supervisors of Elections have said that  
9           they will have enough time to work on the  
10          process, that they will be working on their  
11          positions and their systems concurrent with the  
12          elections process.

13          So please feel free to contact them. I  
14          will give you a name, Supervisor Ortel in  
15          Seminole County for one, please contact some of  
16          these other folks.

17          And with that I think I have covered most  
18          of those. I haven't covered all of the  
19          comments, but we do appreciate your time being  
20          here and the constructive input that we have  
21          had from you today. Thank you.

22          SENATOR GAETZ: And we would encourage you  
23          to stay involved in the process. This is not  
24          your last effort or your last opportunity.  
25          This is your first opportunity.

1           At every stage of the game from this point  
2 forward you will have the opportunity to have  
3 your input and there will be public meetings  
4 and public hearings held before any votes are  
5 taken, and with that Representative Precourt  
6 moves we rise.

7           (Whereupon, the proceedings were  
8 concluded.)

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## 1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )

3 COUNTY OF LEON )

4 I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript  
5 is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned,  
6 and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting  
7 under my direction;

8 That the foregoing pages 2 through 175  
9 represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of  
10 the tape-recording;

11 And I further certify that I am not of kin or  
12 counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the  
13 regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor  
14 am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

15 Dated this 26th day of October, 2011.

16

17

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19

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

20

Notary Public

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State of Florida at Large

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Commission Expires:

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November 13, 2014

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REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

10

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2011

11

6:00 P.M.

12

BROWARD COLLEGE GYM

13

DAVIE, FLORIDA

14

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17

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20

Transcribed by:

21

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

22

Court Reporter

23

24

25



1 T A P E D P R O C E E D I N G S

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Good evening,  
3 everyone. My name is Will Weatherford, and I  
4 have the distinguished pleasure of chairing  
5 this hearing this evening.

6 This Joint Senate/House Redistricting  
7 Hearing is called to order right now.

8 We are pleased to be joined by many  
9 members of the Florida House and Senate, and  
10 before we get started, I would like to just  
11 take a few moments to allow each one to  
12 introduce themselves briefly to the audience  
13 and let them all know which community they  
14 represent.

15 I also think that since we are here in  
16 Broward County, we would also start with our  
17 distinguished Senator, Senator Sobel.

18 SENATOR SOBEL: Thank you very much,  
19 Representative Weatherford. We are in my  
20 district, which is District 31. This is Davie,  
21 Florida, and this is -- we got some Davie  
22 people here, and I will try to be brief, but  
23 many years ago I taught special ed at this  
24 college to adults, and Rivka Spiro, I want to  
25 -- is she here?

1           I want to thank Broward Community --  
2           Broward College for hosting this tonight, which  
3           has had a 30 percent increase in enrollment.  
4           And I -- yes, it has. And they represent  
5           66,000 students here on this campus. And they  
6           told me that law enforcement has a  
7           hundred percent pass rate on the exams that  
8           they take, and they have students from 150  
9           countries.

10           I believe that they purposely had it in  
11           this gym so we would get some capital money to  
12           help Broward College, and I hope you will take  
13           note of it.

14           So welcome to Broward County. I  
15           absolutely love living here. Let me tell you  
16           some fun facts that make up -- that make our  
17           county special.

18           It is the second-largest county in the  
19           state, 18th-largest county in the country.  
20           There are 31 cities in Broward County, the  
21           sixth-largest school system with 263,000  
22           students.

23           Broward County was created out of parts of  
24           Dade and Palm Beach Counties in 1915. It was  
25           named for Florida Governor Napoleon Bonaparte

1       Broward, who pledged to drain the Everglades  
2       for development.

3               Jeff Atwater, current CFO, is a Napoleon  
4       Bonaparte Broward's great-grandson. The county  
5       was founded in 1915, almost 100 years ago,  
6       1,200 square miles, roughly the size of Rhode  
7       Island, 787 square miles devoted to  
8       conservation, 23 miles of beaches. Population  
9       in 1920 was a little over 5,000, and today it  
10      is almost two million.

11              The Broward County Library is one of the  
12      largest public library systems in the country.  
13      Home of the Florida Panthers. Snow fell in Ft.  
14      Lauderdale in 1977, the first time in recorded  
15      history.

16              Pompano Beach Festival Flea Market is the  
17      largest indoor flea market in the country.  
18      Broward -- Plantation Golf Course was the site  
19      for the famous "Caddyshack" pool scene, and  
20      Hollywood Beach featured Demi Moore in "Body  
21      Heat," so welcome to Broward County and thank  
22      you for being here.

23              REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS: That is a warm  
24      welcome from Senator Sobel. Thank you,  
25      Senator.

1           SENATOR MARGOLIS: Good evening and  
2 welcome. My name is Senator Gwen Margolis. I  
3 represent District 35. I've represented a very  
4 small part of Broward County for many years,  
5 probably over 30 years, and I am delighted to  
6 represent the east side of Miami-Dade County.

7           In Broward County, I represent the area  
8 between I-95 and the Turnpike, south of  
9 Hollywood Boulevard. So I am very pleased to  
10 be here with you all. It is a little bit of --  
11 a little bit of everything in the district, but  
12 we -- I am delighted to be here with you. I  
13 can't really beat what Senator Sobel said, so I  
14 am going to pass the mike over.

15          REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Good evening,  
16 Hazelle Rogers, Representative for District 94,  
17 representing eight cities in Broward County.  
18 They are Lauderhill, Lauderdale Lakes, Margate,  
19 North Lauderdale, Plantation, Sunrise, Tamarac,  
20 and I hope I did not leave any of my cities  
21 out.

22          And I was boasting all over this state  
23 that we are 1.8 -- approximately 1.8 million  
24 residents, the most diverse county in the state  
25 of Florida.

1           Welcome. We are glad to see you. I am  
2           thrilled that you're all here. Thank you.

3           REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Good evening,  
4           everyone. My name is John Patrick Julien,  
5           representing House District 104, which  
6           encompasses North Miami Beach, North Miami,  
7           Miami Gardens, Opa-Locka, a large chunk of  
8           unincorporated Miami-Dade County, and a small  
9           sliver of the City of Miami and Hialeah.

10          It is an honor and a privilege to be here,  
11          and I look forward to hearing what you have to  
12          say.

13          REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Good evening  
14          everyone. Good evening, everyone, and welcome.  
15          My name is Betty Reed, I represent District 59  
16          in Tampa, Florida. That is the eastern part of  
17          Tampa and Hillsborough County.

18          REPRESENTATIVE WATSON: Good evening. My  
19          name is Barbara Watson. I represent District  
20          103. It incorporates the southern part of  
21          Miramar, Miami Gardens and Opa-Locka. Those  
22          are three large areas of our Dade area, and we  
23          are very much diversified in our community.  
24          And I thank you all for coming out this  
25          evening, and we look forward to your questions

1           this evening.

2           REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: Thank you. My  
3           name is Kathleen Passidomo. I represent House  
4           District 76, which is in Collier County, and it  
5           includes the City of Naples, the City of Marco  
6           Island and the City of Everglades City. Thank  
7           you.

8           REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Good evening,  
9           everyone. My name is Dwayne Taylor. I serve  
10          in the House of Representatives in District 27,  
11          which is Volusia County.

12          REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS: Good evening.  
13          Thanks for allowing us to come this evening.  
14          My name is Trudi Williams, I am a House member  
15          from District 75, which is on the west coast of  
16          Florida, Lee and Collier Counties.

17          REPRESENTATIVE MORAITIS: Good evening, I  
18          am George Moraitis. I represent the east part  
19          of Broward County, a little bit of southeast  
20          Palm Beach County, and I look forward to the  
21          hearing tonight. Thank you.

22          REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: You've got some  
23          fans, George.

24          My name is Mike Horner, District 79 in  
25          Osceola County.

1           REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL:   Dorothy Hukill,  
2       District 28, parts of Volusia County.

3           REPRESENTATIVE FRESEN:   Thank you for  
4       coming out.   Erik Fresen of central Miami-Dade  
5       County, House District 111.

6           SENATOR BOGDANOFF:   Ellyn Bogdanoff,  
7       Senate District 25, goes from Ft. Lauderdale  
8       all the way up to Juno Beach, Broward and Palm  
9       Beach Counties.

10          SENATOR BRAYNON:   Good evening.   State  
11       Senator Oscar Braynon, I represent north  
12       central Miami-Dade, the 33rd Senate district.

13          REPRESENTATIVE NUNEZ:   Good evening, my  
14       name is Jeanette Nuñez.   I am State  
15       Representative for House District 112, which  
16       consists of portions of southwest Broward,  
17       including Miramar and Pembroke Pines, portions  
18       of Dade County and portions of Collier County.  
19       Thank you for coming.

20          REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD:   Good evening,  
21       State Representative Mack Bernard from West  
22       Palm Beach, Florida.

23          REPRESENTATIVE THURSTON:   Good evening, I  
24       am Perry Thurston, House District 93, Ft.  
25       Lauderdale and Plantation, and this is our only

1 meeting in Ft. Lauderdale -- in Broward County.  
2 So we are glad to see so many of you have come  
3 out and we look forward to your questions.

4 REPRESENTATIVE STEINBERG: Good evening, I  
5 am Richard Steinberg, District 106, northeast  
6 Miami-Dade County.

7 REPRESENTATIVE FULLWOOD: Good evening,  
8 Reggie Fullwood, District 15, Jacksonville,  
9 Florida.

10 REPRESENTATIVE YOUNG: Welcome. I am  
11 Representative Dana Young, District 57, which  
12 is the City of Tampa.

13 SENATOR SMITH: Good evening. Senator  
14 Chris Smith, 29th Senate district, which is  
15 Palm Beach, and in Broward, it is Ft.  
16 Lauderdale and Lauderhill, Lauderdale Lakes,  
17 Plantation, Wilton Manors, Pompano Beach,  
18 Deerfield Beach and parts of unincorporated  
19 Broward County. Thanks for coming out.

20 SENATOR SIPLIN: Gary Siplin, State  
21 Senate, District 19, Orlando, Florida.

22 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: State  
23 Representative Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed, House  
24 District 92, Broward County, Deerfield Beach,  
25 Pompano Beach, Oakland Park, Wilton Manors, Ft.



1       Lauderdale, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, North  
2       Lauderdale and Tamarac.

3               REPRESENTATIVE JENNE:   State  
4       Representative Evan Jenne, District 100, where  
5       we all currently sit and stand right now.  So  
6       thank you so much for coming and visiting.

7               I would encourage you to stay, have  
8       dinner, have drinks afterwards and give some  
9       money back to the local economy, so I  
10      appreciate that.

11              Thank you all so very much.  It's been a  
12      long trip for a lot of these folks here, been  
13      around the state, so thank you all for being  
14      here.

15              And as any of you have heard me speak on  
16      this subject before here, District 100 through  
17      the decades has been gerrymandered.  So I would  
18      like your input in making sure that we correct  
19      that situation, so thank you.

20              SENATOR RICH:  Good evening, I am Nan Rich  
21      and I am State Senator for District 34,  
22      mostly -- mostly western -- western Broward  
23      County, but one of the gerrymandered districts  
24      that goes all the way down to the southern tip  
25      of Miami-Dade County, and I do also serve as

1 the Senate Democratic Minority Leader.

2 SENATOR SACHS: Good afternoon, my name is  
3 Maria Sachs and I am State Senator from this  
4 district, actually -- no. I have parts --  
5 beautiful parts of Palm Beach County and part  
6 of Broward County is right around Deerfield  
7 Beach and the northern parts of Broward County.  
8 Thank you for inviting us here today.

9 REPRESENTATIVE ABRUZZO: Thank you. Good  
10 evening, Joseph Abruzzo, State House District  
11 85, which is primarily a western and central  
12 Palm Beach County district.

13 REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: I am Dennis  
14 Baxley, serving Florida House District 24,  
15 Ocala/Marion County. I am a former resident of  
16 Hollywood and graduated from Miami-Dade College  
17 Funeral Service program. Great to be back home  
18 and visiting and to hear from you.

19 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: All right.  
20 Well, thank you. As you can see, we have many  
21 members from different parts of the state, and  
22 we appreciate them being here, but more  
23 importantly, we appreciate you being here and  
24 the tremendous turnout that we have had.

25 Again, my name is Will Weatherford, and I

1       am chairing today's hearing, along with my  
2       Senate colleague, Don Gaetz, and today's  
3       hearing will be webcast statewide by the  
4       Florida Channel over the Internet.

5             Our sole purpose here is to hear from you,  
6       and it is to hear from you about the legal  
7       standards and the governing when it comes to  
8       redistricting that should be applied to your  
9       community so that you are represented in both  
10      Washington and Tallahassee fairly, equitably  
11      and sensibly.

12            Our procedures today are extremely simple,  
13      but they are also very important, and it is  
14      important that you sign in so that we create an  
15      accurate public record of the attendees and  
16      speakers.

17            Also, you may opt to join our e-mail list  
18      so that we can keep you informed about the  
19      redistricting process as we move forward.

20            If you wish to speak today and you have  
21      not filled out an attendance card, please raise  
22      your hand and we will get you a card and so you  
23      can be called upon to give your testimony. It  
24      is the same attendance card whether you want to  
25      speak or just sit and listen. So when you fill

1       it out, you just check the box to say that you  
2       would like to speak.

3               Before we begin today, I would like to  
4       turn it over to my colleague, Senator Gaetz, to  
5       walk us through as what we are here to do  
6       today, what the process will be and maybe a  
7       little bit of background in regard to the  
8       redistricting process in Florida.

9               Senator Gaetz, you are recognized, and  
10      thank you for being here, sir.

11              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
12      Mr. Chairman. I am Don Gaetz. My Senate  
13      District is in far northwest Florida, from  
14      Pensacola to Panama City.

15              Every ten years, the Legislature is  
16      required by our Constitution to redistrict the  
17      state based on increases, decreases and  
18      movements of population within the state. And  
19      because Florida has grown more than other  
20      states in the last ten years, we pick up two  
21      additional members of the U.S. House of  
22      Representatives; in fact, we get two more  
23      electoral votes as well.

24              Because some parts of our state have  
25      increased or decreased disproportionately to

1 others, many Senate and House districts will  
2 change, either by adding or losing population.

3 And when redistricting is complete,  
4 Congressional Districts must be equal, and they  
5 must be equal in population and contain 696,345  
6 people. That is the magic number, 696,345  
7 people, and federal case law means that that  
8 has to be pretty exact.

9 The 40 Senate Districts, we have 40  
10 Senators in the state, the 40 Senate Districts  
11 must be nearly equal at about 470,000  
12 population each, and our 120 House Districts  
13 must be nearly equal at about 156,700 people.

14 There are displays that you saw when you  
15 came in, they are over on that side of the  
16 room, showing the current boundaries of  
17 districts in this area of the state, and also  
18 showing the number of persons which must be  
19 added to or subtracted from current districts  
20 to achieve equal representation.

21 Equality of representation is important,  
22 but it isn't the only legal requirement that  
23 redistricting plans have to meet. There are  
24 other requirements, and the laws and important  
25 court cases that define those other

1 requirements are explained in detail on the  
2 House and Senate websites.

3 Those websites are listed on the  
4 Redistricting 2012 brochure that was available  
5 when you came in. If you didn't get one of  
6 those, you can get it during the hearing or you  
7 can get it on the way out.

8 That brochure, "Redistricting 2012,"  
9 summarizes federal and state laws and outlines  
10 topics and issues that we really need your  
11 input on at today's hearing. If you didn't get  
12 a copy, please pick one up before you leave.

13 The brochure also lists the House and  
14 Senate websites, which are packed with  
15 information about redistricting, including an  
16 explanation of laws and important court cases  
17 governing this topic.

18 The two websites, the House and Senate  
19 website, are not exactly the same. They are  
20 complementary, and they are updated frequently.  
21 They have been updated today, for example.

22 And please visit both and check back  
23 often, because it is a great way to stay  
24 current about the additional submissions we  
25 receive, the new maps that are posted, and will

1       help you understand how Congressional and State  
2       Senate and State House Districts might be  
3       taking shape.

4             The websites also deliver to your  
5       fingertips all of the demographic information  
6       that will be used in drawing districts. Let me  
7       say a word about that.

8             The United States Bureau of the Census  
9       does the census and then releases census  
10      information to the states. Florida didn't get  
11      its census information last, but we were one of  
12      the last states to get it.

13            And as soon as we got that information, we  
14      posted it as rapidly as possible on these  
15      websites so that you can see the same  
16      demographic information defining and describing  
17      the people of Florida and of your community,  
18      the same information that policymakers and  
19      courts would use in drawing districts.

20            We also have provided you with the  
21      computer programs that the Senate and House  
22      will be using in drawing districts so that you,  
23      if you wish, can draw districts, or you can  
24      observe how districts that are presented by  
25      other people or by interest groups would work,

1           and that -- those computer programs are  
2           available to you for your use before, during  
3           and after the hearing.

4           Senate and House professional staff are  
5           available to show anybody the simple steps to  
6           getting online and building or moving lines  
7           around for districts, and if you wish,  
8           submitting a plan now or in the weeks to come.

9           Recommendations from citizens and  
10          citizens' groups will be made publicly  
11          available to everybody. So if you submit your  
12          ideas, those ideas will be made available to  
13          everyone in Florida who wants to tune in.

14          In fact, as of today, there are 32  
15          submissions of partial or complete maps. So  
16          there are 32 maps for you to review. Some of  
17          those maps are from special interest groups,  
18          some are from individuals, some may contain the  
19          ideas that members of the Legislature have.

20          And there are approximately 110 written  
21          ideas for maps, all available on the web so  
22          that you can see them on the House and Senate  
23          websites. And after this week, I am sure those  
24          numbers will increase.

25          In fact, in the last couple of days,



1 attendees at the meetings that we have had just  
2 like this have drawn districts for submission  
3 with the help of our staff at the display  
4 tables, and that is -- those staff members are  
5 available to help you as well.

6 Now, the submission of proposed maps that  
7 makes sense for your community is a very  
8 effective form of public participation in the  
9 redistricting process.

10 The redistricting schedule under which we  
11 are operating is imposed by the State  
12 Constitution. The Constitution does not permit  
13 the Legislature to act on state legislative  
14 maps before the second year after the census.

15 In other words, the census was in 2010,  
16 and under our Constitution, we can't vote on  
17 the floor until 2012. However, we can discuss  
18 maps, we can present maps, we can debate maps,  
19 just like the public is doing now and like  
20 members of the Legislature are free to do  
21 yesterday, today and tomorrow.

22 It has been suggested by some that the  
23 Legislature should draw the maps first and then  
24 ask the public to comment. Now, certainly that  
25 is one way to do things. We believe that puts

1 the answer ahead of the question.

2 We believe there should be no  
3 preconceptions created by politicians, but  
4 rather, public testimony should be free and  
5 unrestricted, and we have had hundreds of  
6 people provide that kind of testimony.

7 In fact, Ellen Freidin, the Chairperson of  
8 the Fair Districts campaign, is on record in  
9 her testimony before the Senate and House  
10 Committees as stating that no new maps should  
11 be drawn until after the public has had an  
12 opportunity to comment, and in that regard, we  
13 certainly agree with Ms. Freidin.

14 Our intent is to use the recommendations  
15 made at these 26 public hearings and the  
16 recommendations and input we get through our  
17 Internet sites and through regular mail and  
18 through your conversations with your elected  
19 representatives as the basis for developing  
20 options for district maps.

21 We will then discuss those options as soon  
22 as we possibly can in open public meetings  
23 before any votes are taken. There will be open  
24 public meetings before any votes are taken even  
25 in committee.

1           In other words, what we are saying is, if  
2           you look at the maps that are here today, the  
3           ones that are actually submitted to the  
4           Legislature by Florida interest groups and  
5           residents, we are starting the legislative  
6           process, not with preconceived maps drawn in  
7           Tallahassee, but rather, we are starting the  
8           process with the input that we are receiving  
9           from residents, and you are able to look at  
10          that online and also here with the displays  
11          today.

12          So if you want to know where the  
13          Legislature will begin its deliberations, it is  
14          with those public submissions and the testimony  
15          from these meetings and other public input.

16          Throughout the process, we will solicit  
17          additional public comment so that proposed maps  
18          can mature with the public involved, all before  
19          the Legislature votes even in committee on any  
20          maps.

21          Whatever the Legislature passes is then  
22          submitted for judicial review. We don't get to  
23          decide what the maps are. We get to make a  
24          proposal. We get to vote and say, "Here is our  
25          idea," and then the Florida Supreme Court must

1 review our proposal, and also the proposal that  
2 we make from the Florida Legislature must be  
3 submitted for federal review as well.

4 Because our purpose today is to hear from  
5 you, all the time between now and adjournment  
6 will be used to ensure that all of the members  
7 of the public who are here and wish to speak  
8 will have the time to present testimony and be  
9 listened to respectfully.

10 If after every citizen has had her or his  
11 say there's time remaining before our scheduled  
12 adjournment, and I hope there will be some,  
13 then any member of the committee, Democrat or  
14 Republican, House member or Senate, may make  
15 any statement, answer any question, offer any  
16 proposal or show you any map that they might  
17 like.

18 Of course, any member of the Legislature  
19 may today or at any time propose a map or a  
20 plan, and as soon as they do, we will make it  
21 available to the public.

22 Mr. Chairman, I hope this description of  
23 our schedule and our methodology helps set the  
24 stage for a successful hearing this evening.

25 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you

1           very much, Chairman Gaetz.

2                   We will adjourn, as the Chairman said, at  
3           9:00 this evening. There are approximately  
4           about 50 people who have signed up to speak,  
5           and so to ensure that each person is heard, we  
6           are going to try to limit the comments to two  
7           to three minutes.

8                   And you've got a lot of folks here, we are  
9           going to give you our undivided attention. We  
10          would ask that you just be concise and be  
11          respectful. This is a passionate issue, and  
12          certainly we hope to hear that passion and hope  
13          to hear your thoughts and comments, but we  
14          would ask that you keep them respectful, and we  
15          want to give everyone an opportunity to have a  
16          chance to speak today.

17                  And so with that, our first speaker today,  
18          or tonight, is going to be Ms. Beverly  
19          Williams, followed by Ed Wujciak. I hope I  
20          said that right, Ed. And after Ed will be  
21          Carol Smith.

22                  And so, Ms. Beverly, as you are making  
23          your way, we are going to try to announce three  
24          names at a time so we can keep it moving and  
25          kind of get you in the queue and get prepared

1 to speak.

2 And with that, Ms. Williams, you have the  
3 floor. Thank you very much for being here this  
4 evening.

5 MS. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon. Just one  
6 second.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: We will make  
8 sure that mike is working for you. Speak  
9 directly into the mike, too, if you could.

10 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. Good afternoon. I  
11 am Beverly Williams. My city is Lauderdale  
12 Lakes, which recently celebrated 50 years this  
13 past June.

14 I have been a resident for 37 of those  
15 years. I reside in the Eastgate section of  
16 Lauderdale Lakes, an area that consists of  
17 single family homes, recently new townhomes and  
18 Somerset Condominiums. Today I represent my  
19 community of 34,000.

20 In 2000, our Legislators decided to split  
21 our community, which created mass confusion.  
22 Election time is a disaster, trying to explain  
23 to our residents why and how it happened, why  
24 they can't vote for certain people, why do they  
25 take this little area out of District 94 and

1       move us to 93. It doesn't make sense, and  
2       which I do agree.

3               Our kids attend the same schools, we share  
4       community backgrounds. Over the years, I have  
5       fought to keep our children within our school  
6       boundaries. We are neighbors, and splitting  
7       districts negatively impacts our community.

8               The area I am speaking of is located  
9       between Oakland Park Boulevard, 31st Avenue,  
10      State Road 7 and Northwest 19th Street.

11              We feel like a stepchild, cast aside. We  
12      are asking that our community is put back in  
13      District 94 where we belong. Representative  
14      Perry Thurston, we want to go home.

15              I have drawn my map of what we think our  
16      district should look like. I will send it in.

17              Thank you for allowing me to speak. I am  
18      also an Escambia County transplant. Thank you.

19              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: All right.  
20      Thank you very much, Ms. Williams, we  
21      appreciate that.

22              Next up is Ed, and I'm sorry if I  
23      butchered your last name there, sir, and then  
24      following Ed is Carol Smith and then Timoli  
25      Ross -- I'm sorry, Timothy Ross.

1           You are recognized.

2           MR. WUJCIAK:   Actually, you did a  
3           wonderful job.

4           I thought long and hard about how to share  
5           with you my citizen's perspective on  
6           redistricting.  I considered objecting to the  
7           lack of timely maps or the timeline clearly  
8           intended to favor incumbents or the arrogance  
9           of spending our tax money to thwart us.  Na,  
10          too obvious.

11          I think I will comment on the behavior of  
12          politicians, and I certainly have a lot here,  
13          more than I expected.  I decided to borrow an  
14          idea from our neighbors in the 12-step  
15          movement.

16          I imagined an officeholder standing in  
17          front of his or her constituents and saying, "I  
18          admit that I am powerless over personal  
19          political ambition and partisan advantage."

20          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:  Ed, I hope  
21          the direction you are going is related to  
22          redistricting, because that is what we are here  
23          to talk about tonight.  So please keep it  
24          focused on redistricting only, if you could.

25          MR. WUJCIAK:  Yes.  Okay.



1           "I have -- I entered politics for  
2       idealistic reasons, but I have allowed this  
3       culture to interfere with my actual job, to  
4       honestly serve the best interests of my  
5       constituents and the people of Florida."

6           Well, Mr. and Mrs. Politician, the voters  
7       of Florida have done you a great favor. By  
8       passing Amendments 5 and 6, the voters have  
9       freed you from the apparently irresistible  
10      temptation to follow your worst impulses.

11          By voting to remove political  
12      considerations from the redistricting process,  
13      the people expressed their fervent hope and  
14      belief that if temptations are removed, the  
15      Florida Legislature can do the right thing, can  
16      actually do an honest job of redistricting.

17          The Legislature should be deeply grateful  
18      to the voters for giving them the freedom and  
19      opportunity to act like statesmen, not partisan  
20      political hacks. Take this gift from the  
21      electorate and make us proud we elected you.  
22      Don't insult our intelligence, don't betray us.  
23      We are watching. Thank you.

24          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
25      very much, Ed. Thank you for those comments.

1           Next up we have Ms. Carol Smith.

2           Following Carol, we have Timothy Ross and then  
3           J. Field.

4           You are recognized, ma'am.

5           MS. SMITH: Thank you. Good evening,  
6           Legislators. Thank you for scheduling these  
7           public hearings to allow the public to discuss  
8           this extremely important issue, and you have  
9           heard volumes.

10          You have standards in place in the Florida  
11          Constitution approved by 63 percent of Florida  
12          voters at the last election.

13          Now I urge you to continue this public  
14          process by drawing prospective maps and  
15          releasing them to the public in the fall, say  
16          by October 3rd. As these maps work through the  
17          committee process, the public would then have  
18          several months to comment, critique the maps,  
19          if you will, and adopt a rule that the maps  
20          will be voted on in the first week of session  
21          so they will have adequate time for required  
22          judicial review. There is precedence for  
23          voting on Bills early in the session, so let's  
24          do this.

25          Do not allow these hearings to become just

1 charades, because they have been vital. Please  
2 demonstrate that you are above partisan  
3 politics.

4 The approved maps must be in place so  
5 candidates know their districts before the  
6 June 4th to 8th filing deadline. I urge you to  
7 keep the interests of voter uppermost in your  
8 minds.

9 The House districts in Broward County have  
10 the strangest wiggly boundaries, one connected  
11 by the Sawgrass Expressway, several crossing  
12 county lines with just several blocks in  
13 Broward, the balance in neighboring counties,  
14 one connects Broward and Collier through the  
15 Florida Everglades.

16 Many Senate and Congressional Districts  
17 are just as bad. My own Congressional District  
18 19 ends in Broward with a big C-shape cutting  
19 across parts of seven cities just in Broward,  
20 not to mention all that goes up through Palm  
21 Beach County.

22 Congressional Districts 20 and 23 are  
23 gerrymandered worse than the name's sake from  
24 1812. We know you can do better. Use the  
25 standards the voters approved, consider

1       municipal and county boundaries, communities of  
2       common interest, put blinders on with regard to  
3       party and incumbency, make them as compact as  
4       possible, and, of course, maintain minority  
5       protections. It can be done. You have in your  
6       possession several suggestions.

7               Again, I urge you, draw the maps by  
8       October 3rd, release them for public comment  
9       during the committee process and be ready for a  
10      vote in early January. Think of the voters  
11      first. Thank you.

12             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
13      very much.

14             Next up, Mr. Ross, followed by J. Field  
15      and then Jim Wolfe.

16             Mr. Ross, you are recognized, sir.

17             MR. ROSS: Thank you, Representative.  
18      Redistricting in Florida has traditionally been  
19      a tool that elected officials used to choose  
20      who votes for them rather than the voters  
21      choosing who represents them.

22             This gives incumbents an advantage that is  
23      almost impossible for a challenger to beat.

24             Over the past 20 years, less than two  
25      percent of incumbents have been defeated in the

1 state of Florida. I believe that the voters  
2 should be allowed to fairly choose their  
3 elected officials rather than elected officials  
4 choosing their voters.

5 I urge you to adopt a same timeline for  
6 redistricting. Florida has one of the latest  
7 redistricting timelines in the nation.  
8 Otherwise, we run the risk of final approval  
9 for the redistricting occurring so close to the  
10 election that it engenders mass confusion of  
11 voters and does not allow for a thoughtful or  
12 organized election.

13 I recommend a deadline of October 3rd,  
14 2011, for Legislators to file all proposed  
15 redistricting plans. All committee review  
16 should be completed by December 2011. There  
17 should be a requirement that any amendments  
18 have sufficient notice to allow citizens to  
19 review and travel to Tallahassee to testify  
20 before the committee vote.

21 The Legislators should -- the Legislature  
22 should vote on final plans no later than  
23 January 13th, 2012.

24 Over 62 percent of voters approved  
25 Amendments 5 and 6 in 2010. Contrary to

1       Senator Alan Hays' statement, you have  
2       allocated over 30 million to oppose the will of  
3       the voters, verified by Politifact.com. Stop  
4       lying to us and do what we elected you to do.

5             Use that money for education or creating  
6       jobs, and stop wasting it on opposing the will  
7       of the voters. Draw districts that observe  
8       city and county boundaries.

9             In my hometown of Wilton Manors, we have a  
10       population of about 11,000. We have three  
11       Congress people, two State Senators and two  
12       State Representatives. We should have one  
13       Congress person, one Senate Senator and one  
14       State Representative.

15            I am upset that you would waste our tax  
16       money on having these hearings before you even  
17       have maps of the redistricting proposals. That  
18       tells me that you really don't care what the  
19       voters think about redistricting.

20            The ability to offer substantive comments  
21       is severely diminished without the presentation  
22       of maps at these public meetings. I ask that  
23       an additional set of meetings be established  
24       throughout the state in order to allow for  
25       effective comment on proposed maps.

1           In closing, I reiterate that we must use  
2           the same timeline for implementation of  
3           redistricting, that you stop opposing the will  
4           of the voters in regards to redistricting and  
5           that you set up an additional set of  
6           redistricting meetings with public comment  
7           around the state once maps are available.  
8           Thank you.

9           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

10           Ladies and gentlemen, we want you to feel  
11           free to express yourself, but also recognize  
12           we've got about 60 people that -- we are now up  
13           to 62 people, so we got to move quick. We want  
14           to give everybody the chance to speak.

15           And with that, Mr. Field, or J. Field, you  
16           are recognized, sir. I'm sorry, there is no  
17           first name, it just says "J.," and after  
18           Mr. Field, we've got Jim Wolfe and Judie Wolfe.

19           MR. FIELD: Okay, thank you very much for  
20           allowing me to speak. I am a resident of Dania  
21           Beach. I'd like to refer to an earlier  
22           document in our history, the Declaration of  
23           Independence, where it talks about the consent  
24           to be governed and the consent to be taxed, and  
25           this is done through elections. But we have a

1       system nowadays, it seems, where people can  
2       waltz into office without no election  
3       whatsoever, because there is no opposition, or  
4       there is only token opposition.

5               We should have a system that does not --  
6       with these crazy lines drawn all over the  
7       place, we should try and keep municipalities  
8       and counties together as much as possible in  
9       districts who have a common goal, common  
10      concerns. And that is about all I have to say  
11      about it. Thank you.

12             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
13      very much.

14             Next up we have Jim Wolfe, followed by  
15      Ms. Judie Wolfe and then Jean Hansen.

16             Mr. Wolfe, are you here?

17             Mrs. Wolfe is here. Thank you very much  
18      for being here.

19             MS. HANSEN: They have decided not to  
20      speak. I am Jean Hanson.

21             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I'm sorry,  
22      okay. Well, Jean, thank you very much for  
23      being here. You are recognized.

24             MS. HANSEN: There's been a lot of  
25      controversy about the Legislature doing the



1       redistricting and they're picking their own  
2       districts, et cetera, but nothing is ever said  
3       about the county commission and the school  
4       board districts.

5               And I would like the Legislature to do  
6       something about that so that they are fair,  
7       because they are not fair, and as we know by  
8       all of the corruption and all of the lawsuits  
9       which we are having to pay for. We now have  
10      two people who've just resigned from the School  
11      Board.

12             So I ask you to, please -- yes, we want  
13      fair districts, but we all know that the  
14      Supreme Court has given you the start of a  
15      plan, and then you have to follow that, and  
16      that is why the districts are long and skinny,  
17      and nobody is taking that into consideration.

18             I would also like you to pass a law that  
19      there would be term limits for everybody who is  
20      in elective office.

21             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Ms. Jean, I  
22      promise you, we are very happy to hear all your  
23      thoughts, and there are some really good ones,  
24      but we want them to be focused on the state  
25      redistricting. That is what we are here to

1 talk about today.

2 MS. HANSEN: Well, I think you are doing a  
3 good job, and I thank you.

4 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.  
5 Thank you very much.

6 Next up we have Alfred DiMaio and I  
7 believe Elizabeth DiMaio, I apologize if I said  
8 that wrong, sir. After the DiMaio's, we have  
9 Arthur Joseph.

10 You are recognized to speak, sir.

11 MR. DIMAIO: Thank you. I have the  
12 material that your House Committee passed out,  
13 and it is Article III, Section 2, where there  
14 is no apportionment plan, or a district shall  
15 be drawn with the intent to favor or disfavor a  
16 political party or an incumbent. This is  
17 before Amendments 5 and 6, that was in our  
18 Constitution. So I --

19 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Actually,  
20 sir, that is amendments. That is Amendments 5  
21 and 6.

22 MR. DIMAIO: Okay. How is it though that  
23 we are in a situation where we have a  
24 Legislature that is so unrepresentative of the  
25 complexity of the population that. In fact, we

1       have the erosion of the confidence of the  
2       citizens in this Legislature?

3               This is the crisis I think we are in, and  
4       so I ask you, as you go about this critical  
5       work, go back to things we have learned in  
6       elementary school, those fundamental ideas and  
7       ideals, that dignity of the individual who  
8       referred to the Declaration of Independence,  
9       but the idea that your job is to make this a  
10      better democracy.

11             Your job is to keep your eye on that  
12      problem, how every day can we make this a more  
13      effective democracy. Instead of caucusing, how  
14      can my Republican, Democrat or whatever caucus  
15      make sure that we keep power.

16             Power is delicious, power is intoxicating.  
17      I know that once you taste it, you are going to  
18      want to keep it and go on and on, and you've  
19      figured out how to do that for all sorts of  
20      wiggles and twists and turns. But it is  
21      undermining the confidence of citizens in our  
22      government.

23             And you have the power to stop this, to  
24      change this, to make an effective development  
25      so in fact every day is a better democratic day

1 from our population.

2 I ask you to go to your consciences, go  
3 back to that, not just your party bosses who  
4 tell you how to act one way or the other, and  
5 when you bring up those maps, which we must  
6 have by October, at least the beginning of the  
7 process of discussion, it is ridiculous to talk  
8 about this kind of problem without some kind of  
9 proposed maps, that you talk to each other, not  
10 your one caucus here and your other caucus  
11 there in the back room or pull -- but you start  
12 to talk to each other, because you have got to  
13 make this a better place.

14 And finally, how in the world can you  
15 explain to this population, how can you spend  
16 money to fight these amendments when you have  
17 cut money to the public schools and to public  
18 -- it is --

19 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
20 Mr. DiMaio.

21 Next up we have Mrs. DiMaio, followed by  
22 Arthur Joseph and then Marty Ireland.

23 You are recognized, ma'am.

24 MS. DIMAIO: Good evening. I have three  
25 comments. First, I am disappointed at the

1       elongated timeline to design and approve the  
2       maps. I encourage you to accelerate that  
3       timeline to enable voters to get to know the  
4       candidates that are looking to represent them.

5               Second, I am very angry that you would  
6       spend our taxpayer dollars to fight against the  
7       will of the voters who voted for the Fair  
8       District Amendments.

9               And, lastly, you asked what we wanted to  
10      see in the maps. I specifically want to see a  
11      separation of the east coast and the west coast  
12      counties. Broward and Collier Counties are not  
13      communities of common interest.

14              Voters from these two counties do not  
15      belong in a single district. Thank you.

16              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
17      very much.

18              We have Mr. Arthur Joseph up, and then  
19      Marty Ireland, followed by Kevin Cerino.

20              You are recognized, sir.

21              MR. JOSEPH: I could probably do this  
22      without a mike, but, anyway, my name is Arthur  
23      Joseph, and I am a retired air traffic  
24      controller. I controlled traffic at the Miami  
25      Air Traffic Control Center for 36 years, and

1       probably handled many flights that you folks  
2       have flown on safely and without falling asleep  
3       at the job.

4               Anyway, I am representing the American  
5       Civil Liberties Union of Florida, more  
6       specifically the Broward Chapter, and we  
7       believe, unlike Senator Gaetz has said, we want  
8       to see the maps as soon as possible, as  
9       expeditiously as possible.

10              We can't talk intelligently until we see  
11       the maps and then give our input. You have had  
12       the information for months. Still no maps.

13              If a person wants to run for office, how  
14       will they know what district they are in? I  
15       want to meet and start talking to the people  
16       that will represent me. How can I do it?  
17       Possibly via a crystal ball or a Ouija board.

18              The new rules, Amendments 5 and 6, were  
19       overwhelmingly approved by the voters, but  
20       according to my investigation, there's a number  
21       of people sitting up there, including the  
22       Representative Weatherford and Senator Gaetz,  
23       that voted for Amendment 7, which was the  
24       poisoned pill that would have killed Amendments  
25       5 and 6. I don't think the people appreciate

1           that, and I know the ACLU doesn't appreciate  
2           that.

3           I have heard there is a gag order on  
4           Legislators not to talk to the public about  
5           redistricting. If this is true, why?

6           After you have redrawn the maps, will you  
7           hold the real hearings so the public can give  
8           you the real input on the real data? This  
9           Florida process is one of the slowest and most  
10          secretive in the country.

11          We, the people, are suspicious and feel  
12          you are trying to keep us in the dark about the  
13          real task at hand.

14          Why are you spending Florida taxpayers'  
15          money to challenge the Fair Districts process?  
16          Why did Governor Scott slow the process by  
17          withdrawing the paperwork that former Governor  
18          Crist had forwarded to the Department of  
19          Justice in an expeditious manner?

20          In summation, I believe that Amendments 5  
21          or 6 are clear enough in their message so that  
22          even Stevie Wonder could see them. The people  
23          of Florida have spoken loud and clear that they  
24          want to see the good 'ol boy process of the  
25          past cease.

1           They want fair districts and they want to  
2           see the new maps ASAP in order to voice their  
3           satisfaction or lack thereof. There is a Latin  
4           phrase that should become your motto, *acta non*  
5           *verba*, which stands for action, not words.

6           Thank you very much, and I would like to  
7           thank all the people that have worked hard and  
8           had voted for Amendments 5 and 6.

9           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
10          sir.

11          Next up we have Marty Ireland, who is a  
12          retired letter carrier, followed by Kevin  
13          Cerino, and then finally, Adrienne Kaltman with  
14          the League of Women Voters of Broward County.

15          Mr. Ireland, you are recognized, sir.

16          MR. IRELAND: Thank you very much. My  
17          name is Marty Ireland. I am a retired letter  
18          carrier, and I have been a resident in south  
19          Florida for over 60 years. I got you beat by  
20          13 years, Representative Taylor.

21          And I have seen gerrymandering from both  
22          sides, the Democrats and the Republicans.  
23          However, last year when we had the run for  
24          Governor, our Governor Rick Scott put on a lot  
25          of advertising.



1           At the each -- at the end of each  
2       advertising, he said, "Let's get to work." You  
3       haven't got to work. You failed to listen to  
4       Governor Scott. We want to see maps. We don't  
5       see maps.

6           Senator Gaetz, you said we have  
7       approximately 32 submissions. Where is yours?  
8       That is what we want to discuss tonight. We  
9       want to discuss yours. We want to see what you  
10      are going to come up with.

11          And you said you wanted to get the impact  
12      from the public. I watched a Daytona Beach  
13      hearing. There was a gentleman by the name of  
14      John Hoyt. He took the time. He took the time  
15      to draw a couple of maps for his area.

16          He wanted to explain what he felt might  
17      need some adjustments. He was cut off by  
18      Representative Dorothy Hukill. I don't know,  
19      why would she cut him off? He was giving you  
20      what you wanted, but apparently you did not  
21      want to listen as a committee. Shame on you.  
22      Shame on you.

23          You said that Ms. Friedman stated that you  
24      shouldn't draw it, that we should speak first.  
25      Well, we all make mistakes. Now, I haven't

1       made one, because I have been married to my  
2       wife for 41 years, so, you know, I did the  
3       right thing there. But Ms. Friedman is wrong.  
4       She is totally wrong. And she has a right to  
5       her own opinion.

6               And the interesting fact that is going to  
7       happen in Broward County, and this is going to  
8       be your challenge, it is in the Senate seats  
9       29, Senator Smith's seat, and Senate seat 25,  
10      Senator Bogdanoff's seat.

11             Now, there is supposed to be some type of  
12      levitation or an evening of the thing, but I  
13      noticed in Senator Smith's districts, 42  
14      non-Hispanic whites, 45 -- excuse me, I'm  
15      sorry, 45, and this is based on two thousand --

16             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Ireland,  
17      I am going to have to ask you to be quick here,  
18      because we are running out of time.

19             MR. IRELAND: I am almost finished, I am  
20      almost finished.

21             Forty-five percent non-Hispanic whites,  
22      45 percent non-Hispanic Afro-Americans. In  
23      Ellyn Bogdanoff, I saw it was about 90 percent  
24      -- 90 percent non-Hispanic whites.

25             My point is, they both went up and down

1 the east coast. Why can't we have them in  
2 Broward County? That is what Broward County  
3 wants.

4 You Republicans don't have to worry about  
5 losing control of the House. The Democrats are  
6 here tonight. And we just want to have fair  
7 representation and we want equal  
8 representation. And I do have some -- a good  
9 Senator in Senator Sobel, and I thank you very  
10 much.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
12 very much, Mr. Ireland, thank you.

13 Next up we have Kevin Cerino. Kevin, you  
14 are recognized, sir. Thank you for being here.

15 After Kevin, we are going to have -- I  
16 hope I say this right -- Adrienne Kaltman, and  
17 then David Brundage.

18 Sure, we will pass these maps out. Thank  
19 you for bringing them with you. You are  
20 recognized, sir.

21 MR. CERINO: Thank you. My name is Kevin  
22 Cerino, and I really don't envy any of you  
23 people here, because you really have an  
24 impossible task.

25 The two amendments that made it to the

1       Constitution last year were very contradictory.  
2       They said that the districts need to be  
3       compact, but they also said that they need to  
4       recognize -- they shouldn't split up cities,  
5       but in order to do that, sometimes you are  
6       going to need to necessarily do that.

7               What is being passed out right now is a  
8       map. That is not a map of a proposed district.  
9       That is not a map of an existing district.  
10      That is a map of the city right here in Broward  
11      County, the City of Dania Beach.

12             That city is made up of four  
13      non-contiguous parts. It looks like somebody  
14      took a tomato and threw it up against the wall  
15      and splattered.

16             There is no way that you are going to be  
17      able to -- and there are many other cities in  
18      Broward County and in other parts of the state  
19      that are made of all kinds of zigzag lines, and  
20      I didn't know how you are going to make compact  
21      districts and also not split up these areas.

22             Now, the one thing in this amendment it  
23      does say is that districts shall be feasible  
24      using existing political and geographical  
25      boundaries.

1           A very simple solution to that is when  
2       redrawing the lines for the State House and the  
3       State Senate, use the existing maps, because  
4       those are political -- existing political  
5       boundaries, and if the district is too small,  
6       you add a precinct from a neighboring district  
7       that has too many. Very simple. Thank you.

8           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
9       very much. We appreciate your comments.

10          Adrienne Kaltman, or Adrienne Kaltman,  
11       followed by David Brundage and then Steve  
12       Moyer.

13          You are recognized. Thank you for being  
14       here.

15          MS. KALTMAN: Good evening. My name is  
16       Adrienne Kaltman. As a native Floridian and  
17       President of the League of Women Voters of  
18       Broward County, I welcome you to Davie and  
19       thank you for this opportunity to speak on  
20       behalf of the League.

21          Once every ten years, every state in the  
22       country redraws its districts for Congress,  
23       State Legislatures and local government. Often  
24       this redistricting process fails, marked by  
25       secrecy and legislative self-dealing,

1           regardless of which political party controls  
2           the Legislature.

3           In 2010, 63 percent of Florida's voters  
4           and 73 percent of voters here in Broward County  
5           approved Amendments 5 and 6, yet congressional  
6           Representatives Corrine Brown and Mario  
7           Diaz-Balart, joined by the Florida House, filed  
8           suit to prevent implementation, asking the  
9           court to strike Amendment 6 from the Florida  
10          Constitution.

11          That is over \$1 million of taxpayer money  
12          has been spent hiring attorneys to fight  
13          voter-mandated redistricting standards does not  
14          inspire confidence that our elected officials  
15          are actually serving their constituents.

16          I urge you to stop using taxpayer dollars  
17          to invalidate this constitutional provision,  
18          dollars which would be better used to create  
19          employment in this challenging economy.

20          Not one Legislator's map has been  
21          presented for public comment or review. Thus,  
22          unlike what has occurred in public hearings in  
23          other states, Floridians have been unable to  
24          publicly comment on Legislators' proposed maps.

25          I urge you each to make

1       legislatively-drawn district maps available in  
2       a reasonable manner and in a reasonable time so  
3       that the good citizens of Florida have as  
4       equally a meaningful opportunity to make our  
5       voices heard as do citizens of other states.

6               Having just two or three days to review,  
7       analyze and comment on statewide maps is both  
8       unrealistic and unduly burdensome.

9               Instead of voting on final maps at the end  
10       of session next March, I ask you to draw them  
11       now, discuss them in this fall's committee  
12       hearings and vote on them during the first week  
13       of session in early January 2012.

14              The timeline will allow time for court and  
15       the Justice Department reviews, while adding  
16       transparency and openness to the redistricting  
17       process.

18              Thank you all for this opportunity to  
19       speak. I wish you a safe journey back to  
20       Tallahassee. Thank you.

21              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
22       very much.

23              David Brundage. David Brundage, you are  
24       recognized, sir, followed by Steve Moyer and  
25       Bernard Seeman.

1           MR. BRUNDAGE: Good evening. Thank you  
2           for letting me speak.

3           I live in a small town called Cooper City.  
4           We pride ourselves in being a small family  
5           town, and we pride ourselves in our schools.  
6           We are divided. I voted for 5 and 6 because I  
7           want to see Cooper City one district. Thank  
8           you.

9           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
10          very much. By the way, I should have pointed  
11          this out earlier, but you get bonus points for  
12          brevity, sir, so you are leading the charge  
13          right now. Thank you very much for that.

14          Next up we have Steve Moyer. After  
15          Mr. Moyer, we have Bernard Seeman and then Alan  
16          Ehrlich.

17          You are recognized.

18          MR. MOYER: Thank you for the opportunity.

19          I also live in Cooper City, which is just  
20          a little south and just a little west of here  
21          in District 97. District 97 also goes past 75,  
22          picks up a piece of Weston, goes through the  
23          Everglades to the north, comes back in at the  
24          county line and takes a piece of Parkland. Big  
25          C-shaped district.



1           Between Cooper City and where we are now  
2           in Davie, the two cities together would just  
3           about make a House district, and they share a  
4           lot in common. There is a common Chamber of  
5           Commerce. Here in Davie, it is an equestrian  
6           community. You will find a hitching post for  
7           the horses at the McDonald's. And in Cooper  
8           City where my daughter just graduated high  
9           school, they are the Cowboys.

10           One time when I lived down in the Keys, it  
11           was Senate District 97, I believe. Senate  
12           District 97 picks up five counties. It would  
13           take five and a half hours to drive from Key  
14           West at one end to Immokalee at the other.  
15           That would make a lot of sense, five counties,  
16           if we were up in the north central part of the  
17           state, but it also picks up pieces of Dade and  
18           Broward. We're in south Florida, the most  
19           densely populated counties in the state. These  
20           kind of districts are what we like to see as  
21           one of the people who voted for 5 and 6 to  
22           become more compact and more reasonable, and we  
23           would appreciate that.

24           I also appreciate the fact that you guys  
25           have to satisfy the Constitution, the state,

1 the federal Constitution, the Voting Rights  
2 Act, Amendments 5 and 6, the Supreme Court, the  
3 Department of Justice. I don't envy your jobs  
4 at all, but that is why we elected you. We  
5 appreciate your efforts, and thank you all very  
6 much.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
8 very much, Mr. Moyer.

9 Next up, Mr. Seeman, followed by Alan  
10 Ehrlich and Eddy Edwards.

11 MR. SEEMAN: Thank you. My name is  
12 Bernard Seeman. I don't have a prepared  
13 speech. I thought I would just come and  
14 listen, and then I decided maybe I should say a  
15 few words.

16 I want to say, first of all, that it was  
17 very enjoyable listening to all the prior  
18 speakers, I agree with just about everything  
19 that they have said, and the message here is, I  
20 believe, keep our communities intact, don't go  
21 dividing it with two and three different  
22 Representatives so we don't know running around  
23 who to find and who to speak to in getting  
24 anything done, because when you divide it with  
25 two and three different Representatives, that

1           really means nothing is going to get done.

2           So you, as the Representatives, really  
3           have a unique opportunity now to set an example  
4           for the rest of the country, in fact, because  
5           the whole country is looking at you to see if  
6           Florida is going to rise above petty politics.  
7           Whether you are a Democrat or Republican,  
8           doesn't make any difference, you are both  
9           guilty of doing the same thing, you want to  
10          stay in office. Let's think of us, the voters,  
11          and the community who sent you here.

12          So what I will do if I see my district is  
13          gerrymandered in the same old way, I will know  
14          that the incumbent did it, and I will vote  
15          against the incumbent to send a message, we  
16          don't want it done this way.

17                 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

18                 Alan Ehrlich, you are recognized, sir,  
19                 followed by Eddy Edwards and Scott McCluskey.

20                 MR. EHRLICH: My name is Alan Ehrlich, and  
21                 I represent house number 9411 on Northwest  
22                 Tenth Street in Plantation.

23                 In the local section of yesterday's local  
24                 newspaper, *The Sun Sentinel*, an article talked  
25                 about these public hearings and the new

1 constitutional standards attempting to, quote,  
2 curb gerrymandering. I hate to disagree with  
3 the author of the article, but last year when  
4 the voters of Florida overwhelmingly voted and  
5 approved the Fair Districts amendments, they  
6 weren't trying to just curb gerrymandering, our  
7 state's shameful history of gerrymandering;  
8 rather, they were trying to end it.

9 Floridians don't want districts that  
10 protect those currently in power. They want  
11 you to draw districts that do not favor an  
12 incumbent or one political party or the other.  
13 They want districts that are compact and  
14 contiguous and are designed so that people of  
15 all races and ethnicities are fairly  
16 represented.

17 You have asked the public to testify and  
18 offer suggestions on this process, but you have  
19 not shown us any maps proposed by the  
20 Legislature. Where are the maps?

21 It is clear to me that in order for the  
22 citizens of Florida to intelligently comment on  
23 this process, they must have a meaningful  
24 opportunity to comment on actual proposed maps  
25 before final passage by the Legislature.

1 Without actual proposed maps for the public to  
2 comment on, it is no surprise that so many  
3 people view these hearings as meaningless and a  
4 sham. You could do much better.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
6 sir.

7 Next up, Eddy Edwards, followed by Scot  
8 McCluskey and Rose Marie Rauschkolb.

9 MR. EDWARDS: Thank you. My name is Eddy  
10 Edwards. I am from the Caribbean-American  
11 community. We have population throughout the  
12 state of Florida.

13 I am here in support of the Voting Rights  
14 Act and Amendment 5 and 6, the latest  
15 amendments to the Florida Constitution. We are  
16 asking that you set the dates and time certain  
17 to have legislatively-drawn district maps  
18 available for the public to comment before the  
19 vote of the House and the Senate.

20 Communities of interest might not have  
21 been included in Amendments 5 and 6; however,  
22 if we draw compact districts without stacking  
23 and cracking, we will produce districts that  
24 are fair. Compact districts are the best way  
25 to keep naturally formed districts together,

1 not splits in streets and neighborhoods, just  
2 keep the neighbors that are a member of the  
3 same homeowner's association, have students  
4 attending the same elementary and middle  
5 schools, attend the same church and play in the  
6 same community centers.

7 Compact geographic districts, contiguous  
8 boundaries, are the intent of the Voting Rights  
9 Act and Amendments 5 and 6. We must not draw  
10 districts that will disenfranchise voting  
11 patterns in the community.

12 People choose where to live. Businesses  
13 choose where to locate based on the  
14 demographics that will support goods and  
15 services they provide. The Caribbean-American  
16 community operate primarily and mainly within  
17 Broward County, with a focus on central  
18 Broward. We have our own doctors, lawyers,  
19 financial institutions that hire from within  
20 our communities so that they can service  
21 language diverse, ethnic and culturally diverse  
22 community that is naturally compact with a  
23 strong Caribbean population.

24 We need to have the timeline moved, and we  
25 need to be mindful of Amendments 5 and 6.

1           On behalf of the community, I want to  
2           thank you for listening to the community, and  
3           we trust that you will give us another  
4           opportunity to look at the Legislature-drawn  
5           map outside of Tallahassee somewhere more  
6           access and less costly to travel before you  
7           begin your vote. Thank you.

8           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
9           very much.

10           Next we have Scot McCluskey, followed by  
11           Rose Marie Rauschkolb, and Karin Hoffman.

12           MR. McCLUSKEY: Thank you, Legislators,  
13           for coming down this evening. I am a native  
14           Floridian, life-long Democrat, public sector  
15           worker, Union member. So as such, the majority  
16           members may not like some of what I have to  
17           say, but I will keep it short anyway.

18           Problems with the current districts are  
19           known and have been articulated well by many  
20           people. I would simply like to ask the  
21           majority members to have the courage of your  
22           convictions. If your policies are the will of  
23           the people, you will be re-elected.

24           Regardless, it is real simple, follow the law.

25           Thank you.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:   Thank you.

2           Next up we have Ms. Rose Marie Rauschkolb,  
3           and after that, Karin Hoffman and Sergio  
4           Escobar.

5           You are recognized, ma'am.

6           MS. RAUSCHKOLB:   Good evening.   My name is  
7           Rose Marie Rauschkolb, and I have lived in  
8           Broward County for nine years.   I would like to  
9           thank this committee for being here in Davie  
10          today and for listening to input from the  
11          public before drawing the new maps.

12          I have a few questions, but first I just  
13          wanted to say I think it is very important when  
14          you draw the new lines, that you keep the  
15          coastal parts of our county separate from the  
16          more inland parts.   The coastal parts are very  
17          different from the more inland portions of the  
18          county.   They have specific interests and  
19          problems, and they should have more  
20          coastal-based representation and coastal  
21          legislative districts.   The same idea would go  
22          for the more agricultural and urban areas  
23          within the state.

24          I read an article recently in *The Sun*  
25          *Sentinel* newspaper that the reason that some of



1       the Florida maps look so funky was that they  
2       were drawn to accomplish two interwoven  
3       objectives: One, to maintain majorities for  
4       the party in power; and two, to boost the  
5       number of minority lawmakers elected. It went  
6       on to say that the new 2012 maps will have to  
7       demonstrate that the plans will not reduce the  
8       number of legislative and congressional  
9       districts likely to elect minorities.

10           It seems to me that the district maps, as  
11       directed by law, should reflect a certain  
12       number of voters, regardless of skin color or  
13       ethnicity of those voters. We don't need  
14       gerrymandered districts representing quotas for  
15       certain skin colors or ethnicities. We are all  
16       Americans. Dr. Martin Luther King said, "Judge  
17       not by the color of their skin, but the content  
18       of their character." Elections recently here  
19       in Florida have shown that people of every skin  
20       color and every ethnicity can be elected when  
21       they reflect the wishes of the voters within  
22       that district.

23           Having said that, I have a few questions  
24       about Amendment 5 and 6. As I understand,  
25       these amendments were meant to stop

1       gerrymandering, and make district lines more  
2       compact. But there are some words in these  
3       amendments that are confusing and can be  
4       interpreted different ways; for instance, "Make  
5       the district lines more compact." "Compact"  
6       can mean different things to different people.  
7       Currently, U.S. Congressional District 23  
8       meanders over five counties, certainly not  
9       compact unless you are seeking to select a  
10      certain group of voters.

11           What does it mean that incumbents can't be  
12      disfavored? Does that mean if two incumbents  
13      are in the same seat and thus forced to run  
14      against each other, they can sue each other for  
15      being disfavored?

16           What does the word "practicable" mean?  
17      What does the word "feasible" mean? And under  
18      what circumstances is following existing  
19      political boundaries feasible or not? And,  
20      finally, what are existing political  
21      boundaries? Amendments 5 and 6 say that they  
22      need to be utilized, but what qualifies as  
23      these boundaries? Are these boundaries the  
24      current legislative seats? If those are  
25      gerrymandered, then why use them? If those

1 boundaries aren't the current district lines,  
2 then what else could they be?

3 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Ms.

4 Rauschkolb, I am going to have to ask you to  
5 wrap it up here, we are over three minutes.

6 MS. RAUSCHKOLB: I am done. It seems to  
7 me that there are many different types of  
8 political boundary lines, which makes the term  
9 confusing. I raise these questions because it  
10 appears there is a lack of clarity in  
11 Amendments 5 and 6 and could mean more lawsuits  
12 over the new maps that are approved by the  
13 Legislature. We don't need more lawsuits.

14 Again, I want to thank you for listening,  
15 and I wish you good luck with this truly  
16 difficult task ahead.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
18 very much, ma'am.

19 Next up we've got Karin Hoffman, followed  
20 by Sergio Escobar and Allan Barsky.

21 I am also going to try to remind folks,  
22 we've got over 80 people who have signed up to  
23 speak now. It continues to grow, and that is a  
24 good thing, but because of that, we are going  
25 to have to limit everybody. I said two to

1 three minutes in the beginning. We are going  
2 to try to stick closer to two. So please bear  
3 with us.

4 And you are recognized, and thank you for  
5 being here.

6 MS. HOFFMAN: Thank you so much for making  
7 this time available. You have a challenge  
8 ahead of you because of the way that the  
9 wording is, and as she alluded to earlier,  
10 you've almost head up a whole framework that  
11 you are not able to abide by. You are either  
12 going to favor or disfavor, there is no other  
13 way around it. An incumbent or a political  
14 party, there is no other way around it.

15 Racial or minority groups, what  
16 constitutes a racial or minority group? Is it  
17 a racial minority group within a district  
18 because some are not represented?

19 The best tool is to really focus on  
20 communities of interest, because there are --  
21 and another gentleman mentioned earlier, you've  
22 got Caribbean groups, you've got Hispanic,  
23 you've got the Cuban, you have Central  
24 American, you've got the suburban, you've got  
25 the coastal communities. They are like

1 interests. That is the best way to be able to  
2 design a district so that you have fair  
3 representation of that district.

4 Representative Ron Klein knew the benefit  
5 of having a coastal community up along the  
6 coast, because there is a similar interest,  
7 being able to take his constituents' concerns  
8 to Washington, DC.

9 Also, because of this, beware of the  
10 challenges of the time frame. There are people  
11 within this organization that are here tonight  
12 that are ready to challenge you in the courts.  
13 Do not let this be the debacle that happened in  
14 the year 2000, the election process. Be  
15 careful how you are doing this, you can rise  
16 above it, but with this wording, you know the  
17 challenge that lies ahead of you. Thank you so  
18 much.

19 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
20 very much. We appreciate your comments.

21 Sergio Escobar, followed by Allan Barsky  
22 and Carlos Verney, Jr.

23 You are recognized, sir.

24 MR. ESCOBAR: Thank you very much. First  
25 of all, I really feel very happy having you

1           here, because it is a very important tool and a  
2           very important opportunity.

3           SENATOR GAETZ:   Excuse me, sir, could you  
4           move your mike up?

5           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:   There we go,  
6           yeah, get closer to the mike.

7           MR. ESCOBAR:   Sure.   Better now?   Okay,  
8           good.

9           As I was telling you, that I think it is a  
10          very important tool that we -- having you be  
11          here.   I think it is a very good way in order  
12          to have an exchange of ideas between your  
13          voters, as we are citizens and you are our  
14          representatives in Tallahassee.

15          My name is Sergio Escobar.   I live in  
16          Weston, a very nice city here in Broward  
17          County, and one of the most diverse communities  
18          that we have in this county.   I do believe that  
19          the census has done a very interesting job,  
20          because we are looking for new political  
21          boundaries and we are facing a new political  
22          map.

23          That is why I really want to call your  
24          attention for that community that people used  
25          to call Hispanic or Latino, it doesn't matter

1 the name, but it is a very growing community  
2 that is in Broward County, and I do believe in  
3 Miami-Dade County as well. So I don't want to  
4 see -- you see us as the numbers. We are  
5 people, too. We are here for building -- to  
6 keep on building the future of the -- our  
7 generations.

8 It is very important that in the new map  
9 that we are going to see in the future, that  
10 not only the majority or the minority will be  
11 there. We want to see that everyone has each  
12 one a position and deserve the best in that  
13 community. Thank you very much.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
15 very much, sir.

16 Allan Barsky? Come on down, you are  
17 recognized, and after Allan, we have Carlos  
18 Verney, Jr., and Jaemi Levine. And also, if I  
19 could, I know we've got a large group over here  
20 to the right of me. If we could, as many  
21 people as we could get to grab a seat, it is  
22 hard for people to get to and from the restroom  
23 and to make their way, so we would like to  
24 clear that out as much as possible, and we're  
25 back to you, Allan, so you are recognized, sir.

1           MR. BARSKY: Thank you. Allan Barsky, I  
2           am a registered voter in the districts of  
3           Senator Bogdanoff and Representative Moraitis.

4           We have heard a lot about fair districting  
5           tonight, so I am not going to repeat all of the  
6           things that people have said. We may disagree  
7           somewhat on what fairness actually means in  
8           this effort, but, you know, have any of you  
9           received anything, any comments, from any  
10          member of -- any person in Florida saying that  
11          we want -- we want you to delay the process,  
12          we'd like you to have lots of lawsuits, we'd  
13          like you to spend lots of money on lawsuits,  
14          we'd like you to gerrymander in favor of  
15          incumbents? I don't think you have heard any  
16          of those things. And as someone two speakers  
17          ahead of me had mentioned, there is a real  
18          concern about lawsuits. You know, even if  
19          there is a decision on redistricting in  
20          January, how many months is it going to take  
21          until it goes through the court review  
22          processes and the federal review process? And  
23          we have primaries that are supposed to take  
24          place next -- next August. I just don't see  
25          how all of this is going to be done.



1           So what I am asking for is, you know,  
2           whatever efforts you can, not just have fair  
3           districts, but to have court-proof districts,  
4           have your map in such good shape and have both  
5           sides and all of your colleagues and all of  
6           your supporters behind these maps so strongly  
7           that we are not going to be fighting court  
8           cases right up to and even after the primaries  
9           and the major elections. I fear that we are  
10          going to be again a laughingstock. We are  
11          supposed to be, you know, a light unto the  
12          nations in terms of our electoral process and  
13          democracy, and it is really up to you to  
14          prevent us from being embarrassed.

15                Thank you very much for all your efforts.

16                REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
17                very much.

18                Next up, Carlos Verney, followed by Jaemi  
19                Levine and John Ziegler.

20                MR. VERNEY: Good evening, Legislators. I  
21                reside in District 96 and also Congressional  
22                District 19. Congressional District 19 extends  
23                from northwest Broward all the way up to  
24                central Palm Beach. Now, District 96 is a more  
25                compact district, except for the southern part

1 of that district that encompasses cities where  
2 there's only five precincts in that district.

3 I would strongly urge you to -- that the  
4 maps of these districts, whether they be  
5 congressional, State Senate or State Rep, match  
6 across the lines and not have the case what --  
7 such as myself, where I live in District 96, in  
8 Congressional District 19, that are not  
9 compact, that stretch across county lines and  
10 actually divide parts of certain cities like my  
11 own Coral Springs into two, District 96 and  
12 District 95. Thank you very much.

13 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
14 sir.

15 Next up, Jaemi Levine, followed by John  
16 Ziegler and Jose Lopez.

17 MS. LEVINE: Just take this down for the  
18 short people.

19 Hi. Thank you all for being here. I am  
20 having a lovely time at the pre-party. I  
21 haven't seen anything that has been indicative  
22 of an event. I am glad that you here and that  
23 you want to visit with us, but I really would  
24 appreciate it if next time you would bring some  
25 maps that we could look at.

1           I seem to remember a commercial from the  
2       '80s. It very much fits the situation. Ladies  
3       and gentlemen, where is the beef?

4           MR. ZIEGLER: I am John Ziegler from  
5       Plantation. First of all, I would like to  
6       address Mr. Cerino's concerns about Amendments  
7       5 and 6 conflicts, particularly with the shape  
8       of Dania. I am familiar with Dania's shape,  
9       and a lot of Dania's -- the boundaries of Dania  
10      are influenced by Port Everglades, an  
11      industrial zone. So I wouldn't be too  
12      concerned about the shape of Dania.

13           I am concerned, though, about a couple of  
14      the plans I saw over there, particularly the  
15      Libby plans. I don't understand them. They  
16      look like they are fracturing communities.  
17      There's a lot of gerrymandering going on with  
18      those -- with that -- those particular plans,  
19      there is a lack of contiguousness and  
20      compactness, and I don't see where Amendments 5  
21      and 6 are even paid attention to with  
22      Mr. Libby's plans.

23           Anyway, I want to reiterate, don't  
24      splinter communities, don't delay the process,  
25      have the maps ready by the fall for public

1 review. Don't blind-side us with eleventh-hour  
2 maps. We need -- and if you do, we need an  
3 additional set of hearings quickly. Don't use  
4 these hearings as a rubber stamp for  
5 last-minute gerrymandering and playing out the  
6 clock, which only favors incumbents.

7 Thank you very much for this chance to  
8 speak with you. Thank you.

9 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

10 Next up, Jose Lopez, followed by Nicholas  
11 Steffens and Robert Muniz.

12 Mr. Lopez? Okay, I don't see Mr. Lopez.  
13 We will put him to the side and move on to  
14 Nicholas. After Nicholas, we have Robert  
15 Muniz, and after Robert, we have Alice Levy.

16 You are recognized, sir.

17 MR. STEFFENS: Thank you very much.

18 Again, since we don't have old maps to  
19 talk about, I just want to talk about the maps  
20 we have now and their effect on Broward County.  
21 There are some cities that are so gerrymandered  
22 that I feel genuinely bad for those residents.  
23 I am fortunate to live in Parkland, which is in  
24 District 97, and while it was discussed  
25 previously, Parkland is in Representative

1 Kiar's district, and he lives in Davie, in  
2 Cooper City, and for those of you not familiar,  
3 those areas, while contiguous by design through  
4 the Everglades, are not really naturally  
5 contiguous through people, so to speak.  
6 Fortunately, Representative Kiar is a hard  
7 worker and we see him all the time in Parkland,  
8 in northern Coral Springs, so I have no  
9 complaints. But if we had a lazier legislator,  
10 I would have many more complaints, I am  
11 certain.

12 But we have cities like Plantation with  
13 five House members and Miramar with five House  
14 members, Sunrise and Deerfield Beach and  
15 Pembroke Pines with four House members, and  
16 then we have the City of North Lauderdale,  
17 which has 41,000 residents and it has four  
18 House members. That is not acceptable anymore.  
19 In the past, you were able to get away with  
20 that, and I understand why you did that, but  
21 that is not going to pass muster anymore.  
22 These districts, especially a city like North  
23 Lauderdale with 41,000 people in it, should be  
24 in one district. A city like the city I live  
25 in, Parkland, which is a relatively small

1 district, should be in one district, and it  
2 should be with Coral Springs, which is just to  
3 our north and we share many of the same  
4 schools, we go to the same hospitals, we have  
5 the same community, we go to the same Chambers  
6 of Commerce, those types of things that bind  
7 those communities. While the people in Davie  
8 and Cooper City and Weston are very nice  
9 people, in Parkland, I don't have a whole lot  
10 in common with them, I don't go to the same  
11 schools, we don't do a lot of the same things,  
12 because we are geographically disbursed.

13 So I hope that in the future you will take  
14 a look at that and really abide by these Fair  
15 Districts. Although I am very much afraid that  
16 this is what some people have referred to as a  
17 dog and pony show, that this -- that you wanted  
18 the answers before the questions, or the  
19 questions before the answers. In my opinion,  
20 this is just going to go in a binder so you can  
21 send it to the Supreme Court and say, "Hey, we  
22 really tried, we went out there and spoke to a  
23 lot of people and took a lot of input, and this  
24 is what we got," and that is not going to pass  
25 muster if the maps you produce do not comply

1 with Fair Districts. So I hope that you do  
2 that, that you look at the cities and the  
3 communities of interest, keep them together,  
4 and let's avoid a court fight, expensive court  
5 fight that this state cannot afford, and we can  
6 have these maps done on time and then people  
7 can run in the next election. Thank you.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

9 Next up, Robert Muniz. Robert? Raise  
10 your hand if you are here, Robert. Okay,  
11 Robert I don't think is here right now.

12 After Robert, we had Alice Levy.  
13 Ms. Levy, you are here, and following Ms. Levy,  
14 we have Margaret Delmont-Sanchez and then John  
15 Voss.

16 You are recognized, ma'am.

17 MS. LEVY: Good evening. I, like everyone  
18 in this room, am dearly committed to the  
19 democratic process. I, like many people here,  
20 am a transplant. Twenty-four years ago, I  
21 moved to what I thought was a sleepy, small  
22 community. It was a choice I made to invest in  
23 a new homestead, a new community, a sharing of  
24 aspirations, joys, difficulties, successes.  
25 Over the 24 years, this has involved a

1       determination to meet, accept, celebrate an  
2       expanding and enriching diversity. I embrace  
3       my community's diverse cultures, their needs  
4       and their talents. So should my government.

5             The U.S. Census and its sequelae,  
6       redistricting, are tantamount to the democratic  
7       process. These events should assure that we as  
8       a nation, we as a state, ensure that not only  
9       are all our citizens represented, but they are  
10      guaranteed a loud and confident and equal voice  
11      in our governance.

12            Floridians have spoken, clearly spoken,  
13      with a 63 percent passage of Amendment 5 and 6.  
14      It is now well past time that our state take  
15      action. Citizens need to be supplied with  
16      probable district maps. Citizens need  
17      something concrete to evaluate. Citizens need  
18      assurance that viable candidates have an  
19      opportunity to identify districts, raise funds  
20      and introduce themselves to their voting  
21      public.

22            I have read in the guidance that the  
23      committee has put out that the discussion  
24      should not show an intent to favor or disfavor  
25      an incumbent or party. As an aside, all of you



1       are incumbents and may feel under attack  
2       tonight.

3               I must say as past President of the League  
4       of Women Voters, I have worked with and spent  
5       time with many in my delegation. I respect and  
6       like them all, and I appreciate what they do  
7       for our communities.

8               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Ms. Levy, I  
9       am going to have to ask you to wrap it up, we  
10      are getting at the end there.

11              MS. LEVY: I was intrigued on the emphasis  
12      about favoring and disfavoring, that they used  
13      the word "intent." I want to make sure that  
14      not by sense of omission that the intent to  
15      favor occurs, and that is going to occur if we  
16      continue to delay these hearings and map  
17      drawings. We need to go forward. October 3rd  
18      has been mentioned repeatedly. I implore you  
19      to do that. Five and 6 have been reviewed by  
20      the Supreme Court. That was mandated because  
21      Florida has a history of disenfranchising  
22      voters. We don't want to be known for that.  
23      Let's step forward, let's draw our maps, let's  
24      show the nation that we enfranchise our voters.  
25      Thank you.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:   Thank you.

2           Next up, Ms. Margaret Delmont-Sanchez,  
3 followed by John Voss and Norm Grad, I may be  
4 saying that wrong, but Norm Grad.

5           You are recognized.

6           MS. DELMONT-SANCHEZ:   Good evening.   I am  
7 Margaret Delmont-Sanchez, resident of Broward  
8 County since early 1970s.   I grew up here, and  
9 I have experienced the growth of the Hispanic  
10 community.   I still remember when we only had  
11 one building in downtown Ft. Lauderdale and you  
12 couldn't go any farther than University Drive.

13          Thank you so much, members of the  
14 Legislature, for making this time to hear the  
15 facts.   I have served my community without  
16 thinking about ethnic backgrounds or any types  
17 of population.   One of the first ones to impel  
18 Latin women, empower Latin women, in the  
19 southwest area of Broward County, even though I  
20 live in Pompano, and it is a ten-year  
21 organization which educates women and their  
22 families about the U.S. culture, the health and  
23 the financial systems in the U.S.  
24 Consequently, we teach them how to contribute  
25 back into the community, as we are socially

1 responsible, as we live in this country that  
2 gives many to us, we are responsible to give  
3 back. I am also former Vice-President and  
4 Chief Development Officer for Hispanic Unity of  
5 Florida in the past ten years, and today I  
6 serve as one of the Directors of the National  
7 U.S. Venezuelan-American Chamber of Commerce,  
8 and volunteer to educate at Youth Leadership  
9 Broward. I have served previously and  
10 volunteered in numerous organizations, and as I  
11 said, I did not look at ethnic or any type of  
12 population to serve my community.

13 Today I am here, because since we will be  
14 impacted by the redistricting. Note that the  
15 question is and knowing how do we make it work.  
16 Hispanic population continues to grow.

17 One out of every four people in Broward  
18 County is Hispanic, as I am Hispanic-American.  
19 Twenty-five percent of the population in  
20 Broward County is Hispanic. One out of five  
21 people in West Palm Beach is Hispanic. And if  
22 we truly say that we are Americans, we have the  
23 responsibility to bring everybody together.

24 How do we make more Hispanic elected  
25 officials in our system? How do we work

1           together --

2           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:   Ms. Sanchez,  
3           I am going to have to ask you to wrap it up.  I  
4           apologize for interrupting.

5           MS. DELMONT-SANCHEZ:   Let's make it  
6           all-inclusive for everyone, teach our  
7           generation -- our new generation and kids in  
8           this society.  Just wanted to make a point that  
9           out of the 458,247 Hispanics from which all of  
10          those are over 18 years of age here in Broward  
11          County.  So let's think about it.  Florida is  
12          the top five states of the fastest Hispanic  
13          growth in the U.S.  So include us, make us  
14          participate, show us how we can make a  
15          difference and get us involved.  Reflect our  
16          growing population and its need.  We are great  
17          consumers and we also pay our taxes.  Thank you  
18          very much.

19          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:   Thank you  
20          very much.

21          Ladies and gentlemen, we are now to John  
22          Voss.  This is our 33rd speaker.  We have 80  
23          speakers so far, and growing.  So, please, I do  
24          not want to be rude, but at the same time, I  
25          just want to make sure that -- let's see, our

1       81st speaker is Nathaniel Wilkerson. I want to  
2       make sure Nathaniel gets an opportunity to  
3       speak, so let's try to be quick.

4             Mr. Voss? Okay, well, that is quick, too.  
5       Mr. Voss is not here. Next up we have Norm  
6       Grad. I hope I am saying that right. Norm? I  
7       can't read the third letter, I am sure it is my  
8       eyes, but --

9             MR. GRAD: Thank you for coming to Broward  
10       County.

11            REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thanks for  
12       being here. After Norm, we've got Kathy  
13       Aterno, and after Kathy, we have former  
14       Congressman Ron Klein.

15            You are recognized.

16            MR. GRAD: Right, okay, Norman Grad,  
17       right. Listen, I have been in Broward County  
18       35 years, and I am going to mention two  
19       political names, because I know this should not  
20       be partisan. We don't care about partisanship,  
21       right? Right. I am going to mention -- I  
22       don't know how many old people -- elder  
23       statesmen we have here. I am going to mention  
24       Dempsey Barron. Hands, anybody remember him at  
25       this table? Oh, okay, sure. Were you born,

1 Evan? Okay, all right, Dempsey Barron. How  
2 about -- in Broward County, how about John  
3 Lamello, hands? Oh, okay, those were the days,  
4 right?

5 Okay. Listen, get on with -- I appreciate  
6 what you are doing. Thanks for coming to  
7 Broward County. I firmly believe that at I-4  
8 we should have a north Florida and a south  
9 Florida. Perry wanted to do it in Texas.  
10 Maybe when he becomes President, he can do it,  
11 all right, but that is what I honestly believe.  
12 We have a two-state situation here, and that is  
13 what we are going to have to live with. So  
14 let's get through this, do it, and we  
15 appreciate you all coming down here. I know  
16 you had to pay for it out of your pockets,  
17 okay. And then let's get to the courts, let  
18 the courts decide. Hopefully, they will do the  
19 right thing. And to quote our House of  
20 Representatives in Washington, I am watching  
21 C-PAN, you are going to love this, "I reserve  
22 the balance of my time."

23 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
24 Norm. Bonus points for Norm.

25 Next up, Kathy Aterno, who is coming up,

1           and then we've got Mr. Ron Klein, following,  
2           Randy Fleischer.

3           Kathy, thank you for being here. You are  
4           recognized.

5           MS. ATERNO: Thank you very much. I won't  
6           repeat what a lot of speakers said before me.  
7           What I brought here is obviously the existing  
8           congressional district map. I am sure it sat  
9           on the back of my wall with all of your maps  
10          for the past eight years, and I look forward to  
11          getting a new one.

12          I came here because I was hoping that you  
13          would provide maps for us to comment on, and it  
14          is unfortunate, because we all know if anyone,  
15          20 percent of the Legislature sitting before  
16          us, you all know what your districts look like.  
17          You know that streets that are cut in half, you  
18          know that communities are divided, and I  
19          believe with all the modeling, and you probably  
20          all have done your individual maps already for  
21          your future districts, I am just asking you to  
22          expedite the process, put maps out there  
23          seriously for public input this fall. I am  
24          concerned about the timeline, and particularly  
25          what this will have the impact on the Divisions

1 of Elections in the various counties, and  
2 jamming them running into the summer of next  
3 year would impact getting out absentee ballots,  
4 and those individuals that are impacted are  
5 seniors since -- our service people abroad,  
6 people that can't, students and everything  
7 else. So please move forward. Give us this  
8 fall some serious maps.

9 Also, please don't make us all have to go  
10 to Tallahassee. It is not as if it is next  
11 door for a lot of people in south Florida.  
12 Provide us another opportunity for real input.  
13 Thank you.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
15 very much.

16 Next up we have former Congressman Ron  
17 Klein. Thank you for being here, sir, and for  
18 your service to our state and our country. You  
19 are recognized.

20 MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
21 Thank you. It is great to be here. Beautiful  
22 blue tie, Mr. Gaetz, Senator Gaetz, nice to see  
23 everyone. A lot of friends up here, and it is  
24 wonderful to see everyone, and thank you for  
25 your service of doing this.



1           Ten years ago, I was in your shoes and in  
2           your seats, and I ran around the state like you  
3           did, so thank you for taking the time to do it.  
4           It is a tough job. We all know there are some  
5           new rules in place this time around. I happen  
6           to remember ten years ago, one of the  
7           newspapers in Florida said that it looked like  
8           the maps that were drawn as approved by the  
9           Supreme Court, because it was very limited  
10          guidance, looked like they were drawn by a  
11          drunk monkey. That's what it said. That sort  
12          of left an impression on me. If you think  
13          about the map that you just saw a minute ago,  
14          certainly the districts that I served and many  
15          of you serve in really are doing exactly what  
16          the people here said, they divided up  
17          communities. And they did it in a way which  
18          has really diluted the impact of the  
19          communities coming together.

20          Now, I think it is very important that you  
21          talk about the fact that we now have the  
22          opportunity to do it in a positive way. I feel  
23          like a little bit of a historian here, because  
24          the term limits, they are only a handful of you  
25          that were actually in the Legislature ten years

1       ago. So it is really a small number of people.  
2       But certainly we all know that what you came  
3       here with today and what the opportunities to  
4       make it better are something that can  
5       acknowledge that there are cities and counties  
6       and geographic lines that can be honored to the  
7       best that we can do.

8               We also know that the notion of when you  
9       have a significant number of seats that are  
10      either drawn hard Republican or hard Democrat,  
11      as most of the districts in the state are, that  
12      disenfranchises a whole lot of people. The  
13      first time I ran for State House, there was no  
14      Republican -- I was a Democrat. There were no  
15      Republicans that ran at all. So the entire  
16      Republican community in that district never got  
17      a chance to vote for four years, because there  
18      was nobody running. It is the same thing on  
19      the other side when Republicans have total  
20      control of the district. That is not what is  
21      in the best interest of this state. We want  
22      good, quality people to run from whatever  
23      background and have that competition.

24             It's already been talked about, about the  
25      timeline, and I want to suggest a couple of

1 things. Number one, having been through this  
2 before, the notion of coming forward is fine,  
3 and listening, that is great, but also the  
4 notion of dragging this thing out, because  
5 there will be court challenges all the way  
6 until June or maybe even longer.

7 When I ran in 1992, I started running a  
8 year ahead of time in a district that I thought  
9 was going to be what was the 89th district. It  
10 didn't even get resolved until July of that  
11 following year, and the primary was in the end  
12 of August. Now, that is not good for the  
13 process, it is not good for the community, not  
14 to know where you are running, it is not good  
15 to run a campaign that way. Most importantly,  
16 the constituents, these are the people that we  
17 all answer to, did not have a chance to really  
18 even get involved in that campaign.

19 So the notion that you have already heard,  
20 I am not going to repeat it, of moving it all  
21 up, you have plenty of time after you complete  
22 this process to get these maps out there, go  
23 through the whole process. If you can do some  
24 more hearings around the state, I think that  
25 would be useful, but give the public plenty of

1           time. I know there were some comments early on  
2           about two or three days before voting. I hope  
3           you are not -- that is not the consideration.  
4           What you need are weeks and maybe even a couple  
5           months.

6           The other thing is with the congressional  
7           districts, folks, the Constitution does not  
8           speak to that same timeline on the Legislature.  
9           You could actually get to the congressional  
10          seats very quickly and move that along so at  
11          least as the members of Congress are running,  
12          wherever they are running from, they will have  
13          an opportunity and the public will know what  
14          those -- what those timeframes are.

15          So, in summary, I think that you do have a  
16          great opportunity, obviously, to get it right.  
17          Your integrity, the legitimacy of the process  
18          and the future of our state really are at stake  
19          here. And I know that you want to get it  
20          right, and the constituents, the citizens of  
21          Florida really want you to get it right so they  
22          can have more confidence in the work that you  
23          do in Tallahassee and the work in Washington.  
24          Whether you are a Democrat, Republican or  
25          Independent, everyone should know that their

1           vote counts. Thank you very much.

2           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
3           very much, sir.

4           Next up we have Randy Fleischer with the  
5           Broward County Executive Committee, Democratic  
6           Executive Committee, followed by Lon Clay Hill  
7           and Alanna Mersinger.

8           MR. FLEISCHER: Thank you. It is an honor  
9           to follow Ron Klein. I know that while Ron was  
10          representing our people, Florida was known as  
11          the Sunshine State. It is even in the State  
12          Constitution, government in the sunshine. But  
13          with all due respect, I fear that we no longer  
14          live in the Sunshine State. We live in a  
15          fascist state, a state that has been bought and  
16          paid for, and the Governor acts like he owns  
17          the state --

18          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Sir, we are  
19          not here to talk about the Governor or any  
20          political philosophy. If you want to talk  
21          about redistricting, we will talk about that.

22          MR. FLEISCHER: Well, I am concerned -- I  
23          will tell you, Mr. Chairman, I am concerned  
24          that those supporting it have no interest in  
25          Government in the Sunshine, that people are

1       hiding like cockroaches, waiting until the end  
2       to foist their maps on us. There is no  
3       interest in working for the people. They are  
4       only interested in hiding their maps until the  
5       last minute, denying Fair Districts, because  
6       the majority is only interested in the  
7       preservation of power.

8               Ten years ago, I testified at these  
9       hearings on this campus, and I testified that  
10      the majority was interested in drawing  
11      districts for personal pleasure, and I compared  
12      the majority to dogs pleasuring themselves,  
13      dogs licking their balls because --

14             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Sir, this is  
15      completely inappropriate, I'm sorry --

16             MR. FLEISCHER: Ten years -- I will tell  
17      you, ten years later --

18             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You are done.

19             MR. FLEISCHER: I'm not done.

20             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you for  
21      coming tonight. You are done. That is  
22      inappropriate. That is inappropriate. Thanks  
23      for coming.

24             Next up -- next up we have Lon Clay Hill,  
25      followed by Alanna Mersinger and Marilyn

1 Soltanipour.

2 Ladies and gentlemen, again, we will give  
3 everyone the time that they deserve, but we  
4 just ask that you be respectful. A lot of  
5 people came a long way to hear and be a part of  
6 this process, and we would ask that you'd be  
7 respectful.

8 Sir, you are recognized. Thank you very  
9 much for being here.

10 DR. HILL: My name is Dr. Lon Clay Hill.  
11 I will try to speak in some constitutional and  
12 lofty terms, but I intend to have a bite. I  
13 speak with a hillbilly accent, partly modified  
14 by experience, but just because I am a  
15 hillbilly doesn't mean I am dumb.

16 I have been in this state now for 22  
17 years. I came to this campus when it was  
18 called Broward Community College. My work, for  
19 the most part, was teaching mathematical  
20 science, and my dissertation was on  
21 visualization, because it turns out that deep  
22 and abstract principles can sometimes be  
23 understood with a few simple images.

24 So the first thing I have to say is acting  
25 in all deliberate speed, you have an obligation

1 to make the visual messaging debate begin.

2 Now, other than my strong support for most  
3 but not all of what's been said today, I have  
4 only two things to offer. One is a deeper  
5 perspective as -- it turns out I am a  
6 descendant of John Hancock, but I learned  
7 recently that it is not the John Hancock of  
8 Massachusetts, but be that as it may, our  
9 country has had its debates, and these debates  
10 have revolved around voting, voting for women,  
11 voting for the descendants of slaves. I  
12 actually was fortunate enough to have my first  
13 vote cast for John Kennedy in 1960, because in  
14 Kentucky, we were ahead of the curve for  
15 18-year-olds.

16 Now we are in another wave that is coming.  
17 It is probably not the biggest, but I want a  
18 meaningful vote. I don't want my vote  
19 distorted by the interest of an incumbent.  
20 Now, to be --

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Hill, I  
22 need you to wrap it up for me.

23 DR. HILL: Yes, it will get there, but in  
24 any case --

25 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: It needs to



1           get there, please. Thank you.

2           DR. HILL: Yes, you want to listen, listen  
3           good.

4           The incumbent, if he or she does a good  
5           job, has a natural advantage, and you need no  
6           other.

7           Secondly, the personal issue, when I came  
8           back from the summer of 1964 when I had been  
9           working in some voter registration in a sister  
10          southern state, I had, it turns out, my last  
11          truly meaningful discussion with my  
12          grandfather, and anyone who wants to talk, I  
13          can talk 30 minutes about things that I am very  
14          glad my grandfather did, but, unfortunately, my  
15          grandfather in really the last significant  
16          conversation with me, instead of being glad  
17          that I thought the Constitution should apply to  
18          all Americans, said he was worried that I  
19          will -- and I will change the language -- that  
20          I might marry a colored gal. Now, each --

21          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Hill, I  
22          need you to wrap it up.

23          DR. HILL: It is a sentence or two. Each  
24          of us has a history, and we will remember it  
25          for the totality of what we do. I am not proud

1 of that part of my grandfather's history, and  
2 you are choosing now how you will be remembered  
3 and not just in the press of the day. Thank  
4 you very much.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
6 sir.

7 Alanna Mersinger. After Alanna, we have  
8 -- Alanna, I apologize, Alanna Mersinger, and  
9 following Alanna, we have Marilyn --

10 MS. SOLTANIPOUR: Soltanipour.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Soltanipour,  
12 thank you very much, and then we have Bob and  
13 Carolyn Kinnard. You are recognized, ma'am.

14 MS. MERSINGER: Hi. Welcome to my  
15 friends. It says up there to tell us your  
16 story, so I will do the quick story. I won't  
17 be long, sir, I swear.

18 I came to the last redistricting and I  
19 said, "Please make it contiguous, compact, and  
20 communities of interest together." So my city,  
21 the fabulous City of Miramar, has five  
22 Representatives and three Senators, because we  
23 are cut up like a little jigsaw. Now, my  
24 Representative, who is a lovely man, but he  
25 lives in Collier County. I don't. In between

1       myself and my Representative is 110 miles and  
2       about 18 alligators. Why? What do I have in  
3       common with these alligators? Nothing.

4             All I am asking for is this time, when you  
5       do it, don't take my power and disburse it.  
6       You have taken the power of Miramar where we  
7       can really not have an impact on any of these  
8       races. We are almost a side bar. And give us  
9       back our power. We are entitled to our power.  
10      This is a democracy, I want a republic, let me  
11      have my power back and my republic. Thank you.

12            REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
13      very much. And thank you for teaching me how  
14      to say Ms. Soltanipour's name, who is next, and  
15      following her, we have Bob and Carolyn Kinnard  
16      and then Edward Leuchs.

17            You are recognized, ma'am.

18            MS. SOLTANIPOUR: Hi, I am Marilyn  
19      Soltanipour. That was Alanna Mersinger.

20            REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes, you are  
21      next, right?

22            MS. SOLTANIPOUR: Yes.

23            REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I'm sorry.

24            MS. SOLTANIPOUR: I'm sorry.

25            REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Ms. Kinnard,

1           you are after that.

2           You are recognized, Marilyn.

3           MS. SOLTANIPOUR: My name is Marilyn  
4           Soltanipour, and ten years ago I spoke before a  
5           committee very much like this one. I came to  
6           voice my concerns as to the way gerrymandering  
7           only serves to suppress concerns common to  
8           contiguous communities, cities and counties.  
9           And it seems like lines are drawn to benefit a  
10          particular party, a group or an individual, as  
11          opposed to protecting the very democracy you  
12          all swore to protect.

13          I am here because, frankly, I, like  
14          Alanna, although I live in Pembroke Pines, I am  
15          also tied to Collier County. We do not have  
16          any power whatsoever. My community cannot be  
17          heard, because as far as, you know, our numbers  
18          are concerned, we would never get someone from  
19          Pembroke Pines elected into that seat. The  
20          numbers are not there.

21          I urge you when you draw maps, please give  
22          voice to all citizens of Florida, not just one,  
23          not just another, but everyone should have a  
24          seat at the table. Thank you.

25          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

1           Okay, Ms. Kinnard, now you are recognized,  
2           and following Ms. Kinnard, we have Edward, I  
3           believe it is Leuchs, I apologize if I am  
4           saying that wrong, followed by Lenys Klumpp and  
5           Peter Tingom.

6           You are recognized.

7           MS. KINNARD: Thank you very much. My  
8           name is Carolyn Kinnard. My husband, Bob, and  
9           I are citizens of the City of Ft. Lauderdale,  
10          which has 32 to 37 distinct neighborhoods which  
11          are bound by natural boundaries, such as  
12          rivers, streets, highways and, of course, the  
13          ocean.

14          About ten years ago or so, my husband and  
15          I were precinct chair people, and as we were  
16          walking our precinct, we found out that only  
17          three-fourths of our Tarpon River neighborhood  
18          was included. We had to get into the car, go  
19          down to Davie Boulevard, drive up over the New  
20          River into Shady Banks, and we found out that  
21          we were only doing half of that neighborhood.

22          So when we are doing the redistricting, at  
23          least in Ft. Lauderdale, we would like to keep  
24          it to the neighborhoods. They are pretty much  
25          similar, and we would appreciate that.

1           Also, in Ft. Lauderdale, those of you  
2           people who are from Ft. Lauderdale, we are  
3           going to have a city meeting Thursday,  
4           August 25 at 5:30 in which we will do  
5           redistricting for our city itself. Thank you.

6           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

7           Mr. Klumpp, you are recognized, sir, and  
8           following Mr. Klumpp, we have Peter Tingom,  
9           followed by Richard Hoyer.

10          MR. LEUCHS: Hi, I am Edward Leuchs.

11          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I'm sorry,  
12          did I skip you? You are right, I did, I'm  
13          sorry about that, Edward. You are recognized.

14          MR. LEUCHS: No problem.

15          I want to address something that hasn't  
16          been fully addressed, and that is the  
17          relationship between the Fair Districts and the  
18          Voting Rights Act. I will be very brief.

19          The one good thing that I would say about  
20          the 2002 redistricting is it did preserve three  
21          African-American congressional seats, which is  
22          an important legacy to our state. It also  
23          created three Hispanic majority districts.

24          I have looked at -- people say there are  
25          no maps, but you can go on the Internet, and I

1 have looked at partisan Republican maps and  
2 partisan Democratic maps, and I am pleased that  
3 both maps show a new Hispanic majority seat.  
4 So both Republicans and Democrats seem to be in  
5 agreement that there is a new Hispanic majority  
6 seat in Orlando and Orange County. And that is  
7 a good thing, I think that is good for our  
8 state.

9 I am disappointed to see that both  
10 Republican maps and Democratic maps are  
11 eliminating Corrine Brown's seat, the Third  
12 District in Jacksonville.

13 I have come up with my own maps, I don't  
14 know who I should give them to, but it is clear  
15 to me as a -- I am a geographer, a former  
16 geography teacher, land use planner for 19  
17 years, certified by the AICP as a mapmaker  
18 who's worked all my life with maps and followed  
19 congressional districts as a hobby. I can  
20 assure you, you can create a close to  
21 50 percent African-American district going from  
22 Jacksonville, only -- only splitting up Duval  
23 County, including Baker, Columbia, Madison,  
24 Jefferson, Leon, Gadsden County, which is  
25 60 percent African-American, and Alachua

1 County. I don't know why this isn't being  
2 contemplated. That is not a violation of Fair  
3 Districts, it's whole counties. They are all  
4 contiguous, they are all along the border with  
5 Georgia.

6 So my point is I don't see any need to  
7 reduce our African-American delegation due to  
8 Fair Districts.

9 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
10 sir. We will have staff -- you can give it to  
11 staff right here -- right there.

12 Next we have Lenys Klumpp. Thank you.  
13 I'm sorry, I am probably not saying that right,  
14 I apologize.

15 MS. KLUMPP: No, you have. Thank you.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay, good.  
17 And after Ms. Klumpp, we've got Peter Tingom  
18 and Richard Hoyer.

19 You are recognized.

20 MS. KLUMPP: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and  
21 members of the committee. I am Lenys Klumpp,  
22 and I have lived in Davie for eight years now.

23 First I want to thank you for the  
24 opportunity to speak here, and for you coming  
25 out here and not drawing the lines before you



1 have received public testimony, enough of it.

2 I am a Hispanic in this community. I was  
3 born and raised in the United States, but come  
4 from Cuban decent. And where I understand the  
5 concerns of my colleagues, my friends, my  
6 neighbors, it concerns me that we will limit,  
7 if not cripple, the ability for minorities,  
8 including Hispanics, to participate in this  
9 process. And I won't give you a long story to  
10 tell you my story, but I have lived abroad and  
11 I have witnessed the inability of minorities  
12 living abroad not being able to represent their  
13 beliefs, their groups, and it has been  
14 devastating, and I think that I am proud of my  
15 country and my community for being able to send  
16 members that represent their communities. And  
17 I hope that as you take a look, you keep in  
18 mind that -- I understand the points that the  
19 others have made, but I disagree in that I  
20 think that you will hurt minorities if you  
21 don't keep in mind these lines and how you draw  
22 them. Thank you.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
24 very much.

25 Peter, you are recognized, followed by

1 Richard Hoyer and Henry Kelley.

2 MR. TINGOM: Thank you. My name is Pete  
3 Tingom, I am an elected city councilman, City  
4 of Plantation. How many people up there  
5 represent Plantation? One, two, three, four,  
6 five, six, seven.

7 We are divided because of the way the  
8 lines are drawn. And we are a small, compact  
9 community of about 86,000 people, and we would  
10 like the Legislature to respect that.

11 I would like to say just a few principles.  
12 Number one, accelerate the process, accelerate  
13 the process and get things to people soon  
14 enough so that we won't be tied up in litigious  
15 acts in June and July and August.

16 Number two, avoid spending unnecessary  
17 taxpayer dollars.

18 Number three, accelerate the process.

19 Number four, try to reason without having  
20 backroom meetings where you draw your  
21 districts. If you don't do this, we will be in  
22 the same situation as many speakers have said  
23 ten years from now when we redistrict again.

24 We would like to be represented in a  
25 close, compact, fairly small city of 86,000

1 people, and I hope that you can accelerate this  
2 process -- get the message? -- so that we do  
3 have things to look at, we can look ahead to  
4 selecting our Representatives.

5 And I will close with a small quote from a  
6 British Lord Acton: "Absolute power tends to  
7 corrupt absolutely." Thank you.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
9 sir.

10 Next up we have Richard Hoyer with Broward  
11 Young Democrats. I'm sorry if I am saying that  
12 wrong, man.

13 MR. HOYE: Yes, sir, you are.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay. What  
15 is your name? We'll at least get it out once  
16 that is right.

17 MR. HOYE: It is pronounced Hoyer.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Hoyer, I'm  
19 sorry. Okay. I think I did say that once, but  
20 I messed it up.

21 You are recognized, and then we've got  
22 Henry Kelley and Ana Valladares.

23 MR. HOYE: Thank you all for coming out  
24 tonight. I will be brief, but necessarily  
25 redundant.

1           The real discussion cannot begin until we  
2           have an idea as to what the actual maps  
3           resemble in order to ensure compliance with  
4           standards as mandated by the Justice  
5           Department. Please present the maps as soon as  
6           possible so that the proposed plan can be  
7           properly vetted by the public. The money that  
8           has been set aside to conduct these hearings  
9           pose ridiculous legal challenges to the will of  
10          the voters can be better utilized by further  
11          funding public education, jobs initiatives and  
12          generally improving the lives of those that  
13          cannot help themselves.

14                 Finally, I ask that you be diligent in  
15          drawing fair districts so that they are truly  
16          representative of the population. Thank you.

17                 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.  
18          Thank you, Mr. Hoyer.

19                 Next up we've got Henry Kelley, followed  
20          by Ana Valladares and then Michael Francis.

21                 And, Mr. Kelley, I believe you have a map  
22          that you have brought with us that you are  
23          going to be pointing to over here to our left  
24          and the audience's right, is that correct, sir?

25                 MR. KELLEY: Yes. Thank you,

1 Mr. Chairman.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: If we could  
3 get that pulled up.

4 MR. KELLEY: As he is pulling it up, I  
5 will use a moment of my time to comment. I was  
6 at the meeting earlier today in Boca Raton, and  
7 I was very disappointed to hear Representative  
8 Waldman quoted as saying that these hearings  
9 are a joke. I notice he is not here this  
10 evening. I took my work seriously in creating  
11 the maps that I've submitted to the committee,  
12 and I am very disappointed to have my work  
13 characterized as a joke.

14 Secondly, the League of Women Voters asked  
15 a trick question to a lot of Representatives.  
16 They asked who wanted to vote on the first week  
17 in January met in session, and a number of the  
18 committee members raised their hands. So I say  
19 to you, if I've had the time to create maps in  
20 my spare time, where are your maps? And I  
21 direct that directly to the people who raised  
22 their hands to say they would vote the first  
23 week in January. Show us your maps and show us  
24 what your agenda is so we can comment on it.

25 Now, having said that, I believe this is

1 map number four. I wrote and drew two  
2 congressional maps, and Representative Klein  
3 made some spot-on comments that I would agree  
4 with. This map I drew -- it is hard to see on  
5 here, but I took the existing U.S.  
6 Congressional District 3, which is labeled  
7 "number one" on this one because of the way a  
8 federal judge has determined it, that is where  
9 we have to start with. And I would say if you  
10 look in the central Florida area and all the  
11 way down, you will see the counties and the  
12 districts are fractured. They are not nice,  
13 neat and contiguous -- they are contiguous, but  
14 they are not whole counties.

15 The other map that I've drawn that is  
16 sitting over there, map number five, over  
17 80 percent of the counties in the state of  
18 Florida I managed to fit whole counties into my  
19 congressional districts. But when you start  
20 with that majority-minority district, it  
21 affects nearly seven million Floridians in the  
22 adjoining counties around it. And I say I  
23 agree with the Fair Districts voters. We voted  
24 for tight, compact districts, and when we have  
25 to start with a court-ordered district that

1 supports one special interest group, it affects  
2 millions of Floridians, and ladies and  
3 gentlemen of the committee, that is unfair, and  
4 I ask that you stand up for states' rights  
5 under the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution.  
6 The voters of Florida have spoken for tight,  
7 compact, contiguous districts, and that is  
8 what, you know, the -- I have gone through the  
9 exercise of drawing the maps, I am familiar  
10 with the software. Despite what people have  
11 said, I found the software very easy to use.  
12 There is a five-minute YouTube video that makes  
13 it very understandable, and I think that -- you  
14 know, as I said, I will be glad, in the balance  
15 of my time tomorrow, Representative  
16 Weatherford, because I will see you in Miami,  
17 that I have additional comments about some of  
18 the methodology that I went through to achieve  
19 these maps, but this map represents everything  
20 that is wrong when a federal court tells us  
21 what a district has to look like. Thank you.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
23 very much, Mr. Kelley.

24 Next up we've got Ana Valladares, followed  
25 by Michael Francis and then Michael De Gruccio.

1           MS. VALLADARES: Good evening, my name is  
2           Ana Valladares, and I am a resident of the City  
3           of Weston in Broward County. I am a Hispanic  
4           of Cuban decent and a U.S. citizen. I have  
5           been a Broward County resident for 28 years,  
6           and I have lived in the U.S. for almost 40  
7           years. I am co-owner of two small businesses  
8           based in Weston that provide jobs and services  
9           through the design, architecture and  
10          construction industry.

11          I want to thank the panel, the members of  
12          the House and Senate here today, for allowing  
13          us, the citizens of Broward, the opportunity to  
14          hear our voices in regards to the redistricting  
15          efforts for our Florida communities.

16          As an active, engaged member of my  
17          community, and a child advocate, I have the  
18          honor over the years of serving in and being  
19          involved in numerous organizations, initiatives  
20          and boards representing our community at large,  
21          most recently as a Governor appointee to  
22          Governor Bush and Governor Crist to the  
23          Childrens' Services Council of Broward County.  
24          In that capacity, I constantly remind -- I am  
25          constantly reminded of the diversity of our



1 community and the many issues, needs and  
2 services that all our Broward children and  
3 families require.

4           However, I am here today as a member of  
5 the Hispanic community to remind you the  
6 Hispanic community in Broward is large, it is  
7 spread throughout the county, and it is also  
8 rich in diversity and a complex community, made  
9 up of hard-working families, and our members  
10 make significant contributions to our local  
11 economy and the state. The Hispanic community  
12 is an important, vibrant component of the  
13 fabric of this community and of our beautiful  
14 state of Florida, and is still growing.

15 Therefore, it is imperative that the  
16 redistricting process meets the basic  
17 objectives that define the Constitutional  
18 Amendment 5 and 6 approved by 63 percent of  
19 Florida voters in 2010. The new districts  
20 should not be designed to further interests of  
21 incumbents or political parties. We demand  
22 that the districts are compact, contiguous,  
23 mindful of city boundaries and mindful of the  
24 rights of the minorities. We will be watching  
25 with attention as you begin to draw the maps so

1           that you adhere to those standards set forth by  
2           Amendment 5 and 6. Thank you.

3           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

4           Michael Francis is up next, and you are  
5           recognized, sir, followed by Michael De  
6           Gruccio, or De Gruccio, I apologize if I say  
7           that wrong, and Cheryl Duckworth.

8           MR. FRANCIS: Hi. I want to thank you for  
9           the opportunity to speak today, and I want to  
10          add my voice to those who have called for an  
11          acceleration of the process. I am having a  
12          hard time understanding how delaying the  
13          process helps any of you in your re-election  
14          campaigns for next year, and I think that -- I  
15          would like to see the maps set by October 3rd,  
16          also to ask you that you do add statewide  
17          hearings once maps are set so that those of us  
18          down here in south Florida don't have to travel  
19          to Tallahassee, and I thank you.

20          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
21          very much.

22          Michael? Michael is next. Following  
23          Michael, we have Cheryl Duckworth and then  
24          Joseph Wagner.

25          MR. DE GRUCCIO: Good evening. I thank

1       you for the time. I became a voter here in  
2       1998, and my current district, House District  
3       97, didn't exist. Parkland was always the  
4       forgotten child. I think we were a part of  
5       Palm Beach or just a forgotten annex to  
6       Broward, and we had two State Representatives  
7       at the time, Mr. Rayson and Mr. Ritter.  
8       Luckily, the last legislative redistricting  
9       combined our great city into one.  
10      Unfortunately, the County hasn't done that yet.

11             But as we move forward, I would like to  
12      see that. I understand everybody is very testy  
13      and very upset with their own opinions here.  
14      As the prior Hispanic, I would also like to see  
15      some district like that, but I also understand  
16      the complexity of that happening.

17             The other thing is, no matter where you  
18      stand, Republican, Independent, Democrat, it is  
19      just I see a rhetoric happening, and I hope  
20      every part -- member of the committee, the  
21      legislate and so forth, remember that it is the  
22      will of the voters -- grant you, the voters  
23      have voted for things like the pigs -- fetal  
24      pigs and so forth, but I would really like for  
25      the voters and the Representatives and Senators

1 to understand and not do the rhetoric. I read  
2 in *The Miami Herald* under the blog that  
3 Chairman Smith of the Florida Democratic Party  
4 decided to start attacking his own previous  
5 stance, saying that he wasn't involved, there  
6 were no maps involved when he was a part of the  
7 process. I know Chairman Bitner has sent  
8 letters back and forth. I hope this process is  
9 open and fair, and thank you and have a great  
10 evening.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
12 very much. We appreciate your comments.

13 Cheryl Duckworth. Cheryl, thank you for  
14 being her, you are recognized, followed by  
15 Joseph Wagner and Alejandro Casas.

16 DR. DUCKWORTH: I thank you, good evening.  
17 My name is Dr. Cheryl Duckworth, and I am happy  
18 to teach international conflict resolution  
19 right next door at Nova Southeastern, and I  
20 think that there -- one of the things that you  
21 teach when you teach international conflict  
22 resolution is elections, elections monitoring,  
23 and what constitutes an election being free and  
24 fair. And, of course, we all know it is not  
25 the people who cast the votes many times, it is

1           the people who count the votes. Perhaps no  
2           state knows that better than Florida.

3           One of the things that can happen  
4           socially, not just from a voting fairness  
5           standpoint, but socially is serious, serious  
6           conflict when people lose faith in the system.  
7           And what I am hearing here tonight is that a  
8           lot of people are beginning to lose faith in  
9           the system.

10          We will be watching. Thank you.

11          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

12          Next up, Joseph Wagner. Joseph, are you  
13          here, making your way down? Raise your hand.  
14          If you are not, going once, going twice.

15          Okay. Moving forward to Alejandro Casas,  
16          and following Alejandro, we'll have Matthew  
17          Isbell and -- I will come back to that name.  
18          You are recognized.

19          MR. CASAS: I would like to thank the  
20          Legislators for organizing this open forums  
21          where private citizens can express their views.  
22          I realize this hearing is mostly about  
23          redistricting the state of Florida, but I would  
24          like to put in my two cents for Broward County.

25          My name is Alex Casas. I was born in

1 Cuba, and I came to this wonderful country when  
2 I was ten years old, and I have been a  
3 tax-paying U.S. citizen for over 50 years and I  
4 wouldn't have it any other way. For the last  
5 seven years, I have been living in the great  
6 City of Miramar where I have been quite active  
7 in the City's affairs as a Chairman of the  
8 Economic Development Advisory Board, and now as  
9 a member of the Budget Advisory Task Force.  
10 What I'm trying to say is that I am what is  
11 defined as a Hispanic, and I am also very much  
12 involved in local civic affairs.

13 As per data from the 2010-2011 Census  
14 Bureau, the number of persons of Hispanic or  
15 Latino origin in Broward County is 25.1  
16 percent. That is one quarter of the total  
17 residents of Broward County. Again, as per  
18 census data, as of 2007, owned businesses of  
19 Hispanics make up about 22 percent of the total  
20 firms in Broward County, and I am sure it is  
21 much higher now in 2011.

22 The dynamics of the present district  
23 boundaries in Broward County make it almost  
24 impossible for elected officials to really  
25 represent the present and ever-growing Hispanic

1 community.

2 In another thought, Broward County is  
3 well-known for the voter apathy shown during  
4 local elections. Most people choose not to  
5 vote because they don't know or can't identify  
6 with the candidates. Maybe, just maybe, the  
7 voters could be more closely identified with  
8 the candidate, perhaps share similar family  
9 values, whatever those may be, or be very  
10 familiar with events in the country where they  
11 came from, whatever that may be, then maybe,  
12 just maybe, voters will become more  
13 enthusiastic about participating in one of the  
14 greatest freedoms the United States offers, the  
15 freedom to vote.

16 I hereby ask the Legislature to take  
17 seriously into consideration whatever proposal  
18 is presented to them that would increase the  
19 chances of Hispanics being voted into office.  
20 It not only makes sense, it would be the right  
21 thing to do. Thank you very much.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
23 Alejandro.

24 Next up, Matthew Isbell. Matthew, you are  
25 recognized, followed by -- I think it is Elroy

1 John. I apologize if I am saying that wrong,  
2 Elroy John, followed by Paul Fealk.

3 You are recognized. Good to see you  
4 again.

5 MR. ISBELL: Hi, thank you. Yes, I am a  
6 student, I currently am going to Florida State  
7 University. I actually had the opportunity to  
8 speak at these hearings back in -- I think it  
9 was June or July when you guys started in  
10 Tallahassee, and I am visiting family here now,  
11 so I figured I would talk again.

12 I actually grew up in Broward County. I  
13 lived here for 19 years until I went up to  
14 college, living in Cooper City and Davie most  
15 of my life.

16 And basically I want to talk about what a  
17 lot of other people are talking about, which is  
18 the issue of the way a lot of these  
19 communities, Davie, Cooper City, Plantation,  
20 Miramar, are divided across several different  
21 districts, even specifically talking about  
22 something like District 37, or 97, the one that  
23 hits Davie, goes through the Everglades and  
24 then goes up into Parkland in north Broward.

25 I think a good idea would be to make it



1       where any district -- yes, it is technically  
2       compact through the Everglades, but it  
3       shouldn't count as compact if it is going  
4       through nothing but federally protected  
5       wetlands that have literally zero population in  
6       them. I should be able to walk across any  
7       district that exists if I wanted to, just walk  
8       across. Did anybody here walk across the  
9       Everglades and get into Parkland? Not unless  
10      you want to become alligator meat.

11           Basically we need to have districts that  
12      are compact via population and not just through  
13      saying, oh, well, it is compact via land. And  
14      cities -- like Cooper City has 30,000 people in  
15      it, Davie is like about 90,000, Plantation is  
16      about 80,000 and so on. These are not big  
17      communities, and these are communities that are  
18      similar. Davie and Cooper City have almost no  
19      real difference between them. I have lived  
20      here all my life, and I can tell. Pembroke  
21      Pines has no difference between us. There's no  
22      difference between Davie, Pembroke Pines,  
23      Cooper City or Plantation. They could be one  
24      district, nice, little, square, rectangle style  
25      district. They should be compact, and they

1       should -- you know, the Everglades, that's --  
2       the Everglades has to be in some district, but  
3       it shouldn't be some sort of connector.

4               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:   Matthew, I am  
5       going to need you to wrap it up for me.

6               MR. ISBELL:   Sure, sure, no problem.

7               Just also the issues of things like we  
8       know a lot of these districts right now are  
9       gerrymandered.   The Florida 22nd, which  
10       stretches all the way from here to West Palm  
11       Beach, looks like a freaking comb.   It goes  
12       along the coast and it eats in here, here or  
13       here.   It is not compact, and it just has to  
14       change.

15              Just one last thing:   Broward County voted  
16       over 73 percent for Fair Districts.   Only five  
17       out of 700 precincts voted against it.   That  
18       says -- that is why we see everyone here saying  
19       the same thing.   We want them compact and we  
20       need them compact now.   Thank you very much.

21              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:   Thank you.

22              Elroy, did I stay that right?

23              MR. JOHN:   Yes.

24              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:   Elroy John,  
25       all right, thank you very much.   Thanks for

1       being here. Next up after Elroy, we have Paul  
2       Fealk and then Angelo Castillo, Castillo who is  
3       a commissioner from Pembroke Pines.

4             You are recognized, Paul -- or I mean you  
5       are recognized, Elroy.

6             MR. JOHN: Elroy. Thank you for the  
7       opportunity to speak.

8             I wanted to start by giving credit where  
9       credit is due, because I think it is important  
10      that you guys have had this meeting for us, but  
11      I would say it's partial credit, because I  
12      think it is just part of your responsibility to  
13      us in this process. Your meeting is missing  
14      some key elements. You are here ostensibly to  
15      listen to what we have to say, and you look  
16      like you are listening, but we really don't  
17      know, because there's no back and forth,  
18      there's no real discussion, there's no exchange  
19      of ideas between -- there's no exchange of  
20      ideas between the Representatives and the  
21      represented. So we are left to assume that you  
22      are going to go back and implement some of the  
23      ideas that we're giving you here. We are  
24      assuming that. You are asking us to buy what  
25      you are selling, which is that you are going to

1 do what is right based on trust. I think that  
2 is a big leap for a lot of us to take, as you  
3 are hearing tonight.

4 So if you feel like you are getting beat  
5 up on the same points, I hope you recognize  
6 why. It is because we are frustrated, and we  
7 are frustrated, and I don't think I am speaking  
8 for myself only here based on what I have  
9 heard, we are frustrated, we are frustrated  
10 because this feels like we are being humored  
11 more than we are really being listened to and  
12 represented.

13 So I would call on you to do some of the  
14 same things others are calling you to do.  
15 Release your versions of the map early,  
16 October, so that we have a chance to review  
17 them, so that candidates have a chance to  
18 review them and can really learn the issues  
19 that they are going to be speaking to us about  
20 when we have to vote for them next year. So  
21 hopefully you will implement those ideas.  
22 Thank you for your time.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
24 Elroy.

25 Paul, you are recognized.

1           Following Paul will be Angelo Castillo,  
2           Commissioner from Pembroke Pines, and I believe  
3           it is Caryl Hattan, Vice-Mayor from the town of  
4           Davie. I hope I got that right.

5           You are recognized, sir.

6           MR. FEALK: Thank you. Senator Gaetz, I  
7           believe in your opening remarks you said  
8           something about a requirement that the  
9           Legislature not propose maps until 2012. If I  
10          heard that correctly, I just want to say I give  
11          the Legislators credit for more intelligence  
12          than you give yourself, because if you wanted  
13          to propose maps, you could just call them  
14          tentative maps, you could call them discussion  
15          drafts. When you guys want to do something,  
16          you usually find a way.

17          With that caveat, I want to associate  
18          myself with the position of the Fair Districts  
19          organization. I want to propose to you that in  
20          a country and in a state where we really have  
21          two viable parties, that political elections  
22          are only truly democratic if we have electoral  
23          democracy, and that means the districts are  
24          drawn in a way to make it possible that either  
25          side might win, not technically, but as a

1 practical matter. And when you do that, you  
2 make the system really work. Ron Klein talked  
3 about districts where they didn't even have an  
4 opponent running. I am saying just because you  
5 have an opponent running is not sufficient if  
6 they don't have a meaningful chance to win.

7 Finally, I want to mention that most of  
8 you probably decided to run for office with  
9 some idealism and some belief that the public  
10 interest is what you wanted to serve. You  
11 probably are learning or have learned in office  
12 that along with that belief, there are some  
13 powerful interests and forces that come to work  
14 upon you, and the need to be re-elected and the  
15 need to run costly elections. And I would hope  
16 that you will look at the long view of history  
17 and stand up and be heard and put aside those  
18 powerful interests and become a hero to the  
19 people. Thank you.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

21 Angelo Castillo, Commissioner?

22 Commissioner, thank you for joining us. Thank  
23 you for your public service.

24 And following Mr. Castillo, we have Caryl  
25 Hattan, I hope I am saying that right, the

1 Vice-Mayor of the Town of Davie.

2 COMMISSIONER CASTILLO: Mr. Chairman,  
3 members of the committee, thank you very much.  
4 Welcome to Broward County. My name is Angelo  
5 Castillo. I am a City Commissioner of Pembroke  
6 Pines, Florida. It is the tenth-largest city  
7 in the state. I want to thank all of you for  
8 your service and for the difficult chore that  
9 you have ahead of you. I know that this will  
10 not be easy.

11 Many of the things that I wanted to say  
12 have indeed been covered, and so I will very  
13 quickly leave you with this thought, if I can:  
14 Those of us who are privileged to serve in  
15 elected positions do so in our democratic --  
16 representative democracy, because the people  
17 give to us not just the opportunity to serve  
18 them, but they also give us their proxy. When  
19 we become elected officials, we -- we vote on  
20 their behalf, and that is a very, very high and  
21 important duty to follow. Every once in a  
22 while, the people tug at the leash of  
23 government and they say, "We want it to heel at  
24 this line," and that limits our authority.

25 Now, in a state where increasingly we see

1       Republicans and Democrats not getting along,  
2       not finding a way to be statesmen, not just at  
3       the state, but also at the national level,  
4       there is one thing that we should be very, very  
5       clear about. It is impossible in a state like  
6       Florida to get a 63 percent agreement on any  
7       one thing and not have Republicans, Democrats  
8       and Independents supporting that thing. It is  
9       just mathematically not possible. And so for  
10      the Legislature to fail to address this issue  
11      in the exact manner that the people of this  
12      state have commanded you to address it would be  
13      not just an affront to your responsibilities as  
14      elected officials, but worse than that, it  
15      would be an affront to every citizen of the  
16      state of Florida.

17           I believe it is very, very important for  
18      you to come as -- come back to us with a map or  
19      some set of options that people can actually  
20      look at and review and give you substantive  
21      input as quickly as possible so that the task  
22      before you can be achieved sooner rather than  
23      later, so that the people have more rather than  
24      less input into that decision-making, and I  
25      urge you to do that on behalf of the good



1 people here in Broward County who are rooting  
2 for the success, not just of Broward County and  
3 the state of Florida, but also the United  
4 States. Thank you.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
6 Commissioner.

7 Next up we have our Vice-Mayor from Davie.

8 VICE-MAYOR HATTAN: Yes, sir, good  
9 evening.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mayor, thank  
11 you very much for being here.

12 VICE-MAYOR HATTAN: I would like to  
13 welcome you to the Town of Davie.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

15 VICE-MAYOR HATTAN: Senator Sobel, I have  
16 to just make a quick correction, unfortunately.  
17 "Caddyshack" was done at Rolling Hills in  
18 Davie. "Caddyshack," the movie, was done at  
19 Rolling Hills in Davie, our golf course. Just  
20 a little correction. We don't want to give  
21 Plantation credit for that, although they are  
22 very nice.

23 Anyway, I am speaking here today as a  
24 member of the Broward Teachers Union, and the  
25 30,000 -- \$30 million that you set aside to

1 fight the citizens' directive to make fair  
2 districts could have well been used for  
3 education.

4 Secondly, gerrymandering. I have heard  
5 that word so many times, and I looked it up,  
6 and, of course, I waited and waited and waited,  
7 so now it is not on here, but it had all kinds  
8 -- the synonyms, look them up when you get a  
9 chance. As a teacher to tell you,  
10 gerrymandering is trade-off, it is -- I am  
11 going to take the time to look it up, because  
12 it was very well done, and I'm probably not  
13 going to be able to find it right now, but --  
14 dictionary, here we go. Sorry, gentlemen and  
15 ladies. Anyway, I had it -- I was sitting  
16 there so long with it, it just went off my  
17 phone. Anyway, it has a lot of synonyms that  
18 are not very pleasant to hear, not very good  
19 things, and I've heard that all night about  
20 gerrymandering.

21 My point is this: We can't go back. I  
22 was here ten years ago in the theater when you  
23 did the ten-year redistricting last year --  
24 last ten years ago. And we can't go back. We  
25 can't change what the Democrats did, what the

1       Republicans did. We can go forward, we must go  
2       forward and you must do what you have been told  
3       to do by the people of this state, your  
4       constituents. They certainly gave you a  
5       mandate to make fair districts, and that is  
6       what they are expecting you to do, and  
7       transparently, not behind closed doors, it  
8       needs to be transparent.

9               The other thing I would like to suggest is  
10       we can't get to Tallahassee. It is not easy  
11       for us to get up to Tallahassee. It is  
12       expensive, it is a big trip, a long trip to  
13       drive. It's -- you know, my suggestion is that  
14       you put out the maps and then you have  
15       videoconferencing, allowing people like all the  
16       people that are here tonight to come in and  
17       give their testimony to you in Tallahassee.  
18       With the technology we have today, there is no  
19       need for us to have to travel to Tallahassee  
20       when we have -- go to meetings, we have  
21       videoconferencing. You could set it up. You  
22       could be sitting right up in Tallahassee  
23       listening to the same things, because we get no  
24       feedback, so it is just a matter of listening.  
25       We could give you our testimony there about

1           what we think of the maps that are drawn.

2           And thirdly and finally, please do it in a  
3           most timely manner. It is very important that  
4           you do the timeline and you push it up and do  
5           what you've got to do. Thank you, and welcome  
6           to Davie.

7           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
8           Mayor.

9           Next up we have --

10          VICE-MAYOR HATTAN: I am Vice-Mayor.  
11          Don't let the Mayor hear you call me Mayor.

12          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Vice-Mayor,  
13          all right. We don't want to get you in  
14          trouble. Thank you for hosting us here in  
15          Davie.

16          Next up we have Marsha Ellison, with the  
17          NAACP, followed by Roosevelt Walters and then  
18          Diego Martini.

19          Marsha, thank you for being here. You are  
20          recognized.

21          MS. ELLISON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My  
22          name is Marsha Ellison. I am President of Ft.  
23          Lauderdale/Broward NAACP, and I'm also  
24          representing the Florida State Conference  
25          NAACP, and our position is the following: The

1 State of Florida should ensure transparency,  
2 fairness and compliance with the Voting Rights  
3 Act with equal protection. You should ensure  
4 one person, one vote. You should redistrict in  
5 a way that avoids minority vote dilution. You  
6 should avoid drawing district lines so that the  
7 minority population is over-concentrated or  
8 packed into election districts.

9 You should also be careful to avoid  
10 crackling or fracturing, drawing district lines  
11 so that an area of concentrated minority  
12 population is divided and spread among several  
13 districts that are predominantly white. You  
14 should also be careful to avoid stacking,  
15 drawing district lines so that the large --  
16 that a large population concentrated is  
17 included with a large white population with the  
18 purpose of or effect of depriving minority  
19 voters of a voting majority.

20 We also respectfully request that you  
21 avoid drawing plans that erode minority rights  
22 relative to the status quo, that you avoid  
23 creating retrogressive redistricting plans.

24 A key traditional redistricting principle  
25 is respect to communities of interest. These

1       are defined by three characteristics: The  
2       extent to which non-members identify members as  
3       a distinct community, the extent to which  
4       members identify themselves as a distinct  
5       community and the extent to which members are  
6       similarly affected by governmental action.  
7       African-American citizens form one of the  
8       strongest communities of interest in the state,  
9       and the redistricting plans should have a  
10      priority -- as a priority the fashioning of  
11      districts that accord appropriate  
12      representation to the communities of interest.

13               We are aware and request adherence to  
14      redistricting principles outlined in Section 20  
15      and 21 of the Florida Constitution. Districts  
16      shall not be drawn with the intent --

17               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Ms. Ellison,  
18      I am going to have to ask you to wrap it up.

19               MS. ELLISON: Yes, absolutely.

20               -- of denying or abridging the equal  
21      opportunity of racial or language minorities to  
22      participate in the political process or  
23      diminish their ability to elect a  
24      Representative of their choice. In addition,  
25      districts should be compact and contiguous.

1           Map production by precinct and voter age  
2           population -- in producing the data for the  
3           maps, we ask that you include precinct and  
4           district voting age population desegregated by  
5           race and national origin. We ask that the data  
6           also include voter age population of citizens  
7           who can vote. And finally, we find the absence  
8           of prospective maps at redistrict public  
9           hearings very troubling. The ability to offer  
10          substantive comments is severely diminished  
11          without the presentation of maps at these  
12          public halls.

13          We ask that an additional set of meetings  
14          is established throughout the state in order to  
15          allow for effective comment on the proposed  
16          maps. Given the population of Broward County,  
17          we question the establishment of one meeting in  
18          Broward County. Multiple locations would  
19          result in a more interactive process by  
20          allowing more voices to be heard. Thank you.

21          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
22          very much, Ms. Ellison. And for those of you  
23          -- if you have a script that you are reading  
24          from, or prepared notes, and I know we are  
25          trying to get it in two minutes and you are

1       having a tight time, feel free to turn those  
2       over to us, or a copy of them. We will make  
3       sure they are admitted into the record. We  
4       want to make sure that all of your comments are  
5       heard. So, Ms. Ellison, thank you very much.

6               Next up we've got Roosevelt Walters,  
7       followed by Diego Martini, Lynn Simon and Carol  
8       Tollefsen.

9               MR. WALTERS: I say good evening to the  
10       committee, and thank you for being here, and I  
11       am sure that you are not hearing anything here  
12       that you have not already heard in other places  
13       in the state or will hear as you travel around  
14       the state, because I think all of us have a  
15       common interest in making sure that good, right  
16       and just things is done as we go through this  
17       redistricting and reapportionment process.

18              Having stated that, I am not going to  
19       testify. I am just simply going to put forth  
20       some questions that I hope that you will  
21       consider when you want to do the good, right  
22       and just things when drawing these maps. And  
23       that is, in an effort to redraw the districts  
24       as the citizens have asked you to do, please  
25       keep in mind the Voting Rights Act and Civil



1 Rights Act, because sometime when we are trying  
2 so hard to follow our new directions, we forget  
3 that we also had old directions, and the Civil  
4 Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act is --  
5 sometime is conflicting, maybe 5 and 6 is  
6 conflicting with those acts. So we want to  
7 make sure that you be aware of those laws that  
8 we have to follow.

9 Secondly, if there is a conflict between  
10 the Amendment 5 and 6, and Section 20 and 21 of  
11 the Florida Constitution, which set of rules  
12 will this committee use? And I will tell you,  
13 I am -- I went to an all-black school, so you  
14 don't expect me to be up there with most of  
15 you, but I can read a little bit, and I know  
16 they are conflicting languages in what you  
17 would have to deal with when you are drawing  
18 these lines.

19 And the last thing I want to say is, how  
20 much of our money have you used, the House, to  
21 fight us with? I have checked your websites,  
22 and it is not there. So the next time you  
23 update your website, I would ask that you  
24 please put that amount up there so that we will  
25 know how well you are spending our money to

1 fight us.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

3 Next up we have Diego Martini. After  
4 Diego, we have Lynn Simon and Carol Tollefsen.

5 Diego, you are recognized for two minutes.  
6 And just so everybody knows, it is 8:25 right  
7 now. We've got to have a few minutes. There  
8 have been some questions that have been asked  
9 tonight by the audience. We are going to make  
10 sure that Senator Gaetz has an opportunity to  
11 address some of those questions while you are  
12 still here, and we also want to give a few  
13 minutes to members on the committee, so we are  
14 going to keep going all the way up until about  
15 8:45 or 8:50, and then we are going to move  
16 into some comments from the committee.

17 But with that, Diego, you are recognized,  
18 sir. Thanks for being here.

19 MR. MARTINI: Thank your, sir. Welcome,  
20 and thank you for allowing me to speak.

21 The leadership in the Florida House and  
22 Senate has committed itself to supporting  
23 unscrupulous corporations over working class  
24 people, undermining cultural participation and  
25 education, and dividing our communities by

1       stigmatizing Hispanics regardless of their  
2       legal status in the United States. Let's  
3       counter this by continuing to build a more  
4       inclusive, educated and just America. This is  
5       what is great about America. People speaking  
6       up, courage to stand up and say, "Value my  
7       career, value my family."

8               Our congressional leaders are diluted as  
9       far as knowing what makes this country great.  
10       A strategically divided line to keep incumbents  
11       in office is a form of diluted intelligence,  
12       lack of cultural sophistication, and most of  
13       all, inadequate common-sense thinking.

14              To your question, what I want to see in  
15       these maps is justice. Millions of immigrants  
16       -- millions immigrate to this country for the  
17       promise of equal opportunity and justice,  
18       justice that this country is responsible for  
19       delivering to its citizens. I and all the  
20       people behind me want to be represented justly.  
21       Show us that you are capable of getting this  
22       done, and not capable of spending the majority  
23       of your time in office answering and making  
24       calls to big corporate wealthy bulldogs.

25              You were sent to Tallahassee to do a job

1       for the working people of this state. Why is  
2       that hard for you to understand that hassle and  
3       -- why is it hard for you to understand that  
4       basic principle? Let's see a greater  
5       collective American good in action from here on  
6       out. Let us start tonight. Thank you.

7               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
8       Diego.

9               Lynn Simon, you are up. Lynn, is that you  
10       coming down? All right. We've got Lynn Simon  
11       coming down, Carol Tollefsen, followed by  
12       Stephanie Shimko, I believe. You are  
13       recognized.

14              MS. SIMON: Hi, I am Lynn Simon. Just  
15       really quick, I had heard maybe that you might  
16       possibly be thinking of dissolving District 97,  
17       and I just hope that you don't do that. We  
18       have been together now for quite some time, and  
19       I would like to see that District 97 stays  
20       together. Thank you.

21              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
22       very much.

23              Carol Tollefsen, followed by Stephanie  
24       Shimko and then Phil -- I believe it is Burg,  
25       but I am not positive.

1           You are recognized, ma'am. Thanks for  
2           being here.

3           MS. TOLLEFSEN: Good evening. I am a  
4           life-long Florida resident and of southwest  
5           Hallendale, I am a Democrat and I vote in every  
6           single election, no matter how small. My area  
7           is currently, I believe, District --  
8           Congressional District 17, which is located  
9           almost entirely in Miami-Dade. We are pretty  
10          much ignored in our little slice of Hallendale.  
11          The VA Hospital is in our district. I don't  
12          even know where that is.

13          Formerly I was in a congressional district  
14          mostly in Broward. We were represented by a  
15          Republican, E. Clay Shaw. His constituent  
16          service was excellent. He didn't care about  
17          political party or ethnicity.

18          Now, in closing, I would like to state  
19          that quality representation does not need to  
20          worry about political party or anything else.  
21          There is no need to gerrymander. If you are a  
22          good Representative, a good Senator, you will  
23          be re-elected or elected. It depends on how  
24          your constituents service.

25          Now, I also would like to say one last

1 point. Don't just consider east and west  
2 Broward. Consider separating east and west  
3 Florida. Leave them over there. We are here.  
4 Thank you.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
6 very much. Coming from Pasco County, I know  
7 how you feel.

8 Next up we have Stephanie Shimko, followed  
9 by Phil Burg and then Barbara Laxon.

10 Stephanie, thank you for being here. You  
11 are recognized.

12 MS. SHIMKO: Thank you. I recognize that  
13 you have a very large task ahead of you and  
14 that probably no matter what, you are going to  
15 have people that are dissatisfied. So I would  
16 make the recommendation that you do everyone a  
17 favor and any maps that you present, and  
18 hopefully they will be presented in an  
19 extremely timely manner, you make comments as  
20 to why the districts were drawn the way they  
21 were drawn. If they cannot be contiguous, if  
22 they cannot keep communities together, there  
23 should be a reason why. I think you are seeing  
24 a lot of anger here, and that would probably  
25 help to quell some of it.

1           As someone who deals in international  
2       business, I spent the last three years in the  
3       Middle East. I would tell people about  
4       Florida, and I would hear, "Oh, hanging chads.  
5       How can you tell us about democracy when you  
6       can't run it yourselves?" I don't want to see  
7       you fight. I want to see you build. Please  
8       make me proud instead of embarrassed, and you  
9       have that power. Thank you very much.

10           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.  
11           Phil, you are recognized.

12           MR. BURG: Thanks.

13           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Following  
14       Phil will be Barbara Laxon and Franco Ripple.

15           MR. BURG: Welcome again to Davie. My  
16       name is Phil Bucie, and Davie is the largest  
17       city in Broward County based on land area, and  
18       it is nice to have you here. I want to  
19       compliment you on the job that you have  
20       started. The process that I have seen as far  
21       as transparency, public involvement, all of  
22       that is really, really good. But, of course,  
23       it is really the outcome that is going to be  
24       the kind of measure of whether we can stand  
25       proudly together with the maps that are finally

1           adopted or not.

2           And a couple of things that would really  
3           help, one is to move the process along with  
4           maps that we can look at, and the other is to  
5           take away the cloud of this lawsuit. Frankly,  
6           it questions the intentions of what is  
7           happening, and although we want the outcome to  
8           be good no matter what, I don't think the  
9           lawsuit is a helpful thing, because Amendments  
10          5 and 6 provide us multiple beneficial goals,  
11          including protection of minority-majority  
12          districts, compactness. Those are not always  
13          going to go perfectly well together. As was  
14          said earlier with the state congressional  
15          districts, the compactness is going to suffer a  
16          bit in order to protect minority-majority  
17          districts. That's just the way it is. But  
18          when we get into the State House and Senate  
19          districts, we can have much more compact  
20          districts, and we can also have a definition or  
21          an understanding of what we mean by  
22          compactness.

23          And I know one lady earlier raised the  
24          question about protecting the beach areas. I  
25          don't know if I necessarily agree with her or



1 disagree with her, but if you could get an  
2 outside third party to look at what we define  
3 as "compactness," and give the State of  
4 Florida, including the Legislature and the  
5 communities of interest, some ideas what we  
6 mean by compactness that we can actually  
7 measure these maps with, it would be very  
8 helpful.

9 So, anyway, I would say try to -- you  
10 know, we are going to trust but verify, at  
11 least I will. I will trust but verify that  
12 this will have an optimistic outcome. But  
13 please move the maps along. You know, we want  
14 to talk, and it is easier to talk about  
15 something that we can look at, and I will try  
16 not to throw stones at things, but you need to  
17 get out there with some ideas. And, please --  
18 you know, someone said put up how much money  
19 the Legislature is spending on this lawsuit.  
20 You know, I think it would be better just to  
21 end it. Then we don't have any question about  
22 the goodness of your intentions. Thank you.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
24 very much.

25 Barbara Laxon. Following Barbara, we have

1 Franco Ripple and Sean Phillippi.

2 MS. LAXON: Yeah, I am not going to go  
3 over all the things that everybody has said,  
4 which I agree with most of them, but one thing  
5 that I noticed that was not brought up in terms  
6 of redistricting, when they were talking about  
7 different counties -- now, when you go into  
8 different counties, you have different laws,  
9 you have different procedures that handle  
10 different things. How can a Representative  
11 represent the voters in more than one county  
12 when the issues are -- by law are different and  
13 are not equal. So that -- this confuses -- has  
14 always confused me.

15 And also I would like to talk about the  
16 setting up districts on an adversarial manner.  
17 "Us," "them," as Republicans, Democrats, okay,  
18 or minorities or different ethnicities or  
19 whatever, it is always "us" or "them." Why  
20 can't we stop being "us" or "them" and be "we"?  
21 And the Constitution was -- the founders of the  
22 Constitution wrote numerous times that they  
23 wanted to avoid factions. So why are we  
24 gearing everything in order to humor these  
25 factions? We need to get rid of political

1 parties all together. Thank you.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

3 Franco Ripple? Is Franco here? After  
4 Franco, we have Sean Phillippi, and then Ira,  
5 but I don't see a last name -- Ira Shear, I  
6 think, maybe or --

7 MR. RIPPLE: Thank you.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You are  
9 recognized.

10 MR. RIPPLE: Thank you. Good evening,  
11 Senators and Representatives of reapportionment  
12 committee. Thank you for doing these hearings  
13 all across the state. I know you are probably  
14 ready to go home for the evening, and you will  
15 be soon.

16 I do have some questions that I would like  
17 to ask. They are rather pointed questions. I  
18 appreciate your answers to these questions at  
19 the end.

20 The Fair Districts guidelines prohibit you  
21 from drawing maps with the intent to favor an  
22 incumbent. That means that your intent and why  
23 you drew a map a certain way will be relevant  
24 to whether the map complies with the Fair  
25 Districts criteria. Have you or any Florida

1       Legislators entered into an attorney/client  
2       relationship or a joint defense agreement with  
3       regard to redistricting such that the public  
4       will not be able to know what discussion you  
5       had with lawyers and consultants regarding the  
6       drawing of the maps? There is a bill this year  
7       that was introduced to require that drafts of  
8       the maps in bill drafting be available to the  
9       press and public and not be considered as  
10      confidential. The bill was abandoned and never  
11      received a hearing. Please raise your hand if  
12      you will commit to allowing the public to see  
13      what drafts of maps have been submitted into  
14      bill drafting. Thank you.

15           Have any members of the committee  
16      consulted with outside experts regarding the  
17      drawing of maps? If you have not engaged  
18      consultants, please raise your hand. Thank  
19      you.

20           You have been asking the public to draw  
21      maps and post them on My District Builder, yet  
22      we have not seen a single map on the website  
23      offered by any member of the Legislature. It  
24      is hard to believe that none of you are at  
25      least experimenting with maps that might be

1        offered. Please tell us, the public, has any  
2        legislator prepared a draft of a final map, or  
3        a final map, and, if so, where are the maps  
4        being prepared and what software is being used  
5        for each map and where is this software housed?

6            Is any private entity contributing funds  
7        to help in the preparation of any maps by any  
8        legislator?

9            And finally, public records show that you  
10       have spent at least \$1 million hiring lawyers  
11       to oppose the Fair Districts amendments, which  
12       I will remind you were supported by roughly  
13       63 percent of the population. Now that you are  
14       spending our tax money to have our amendments  
15       held unconstitutional, please raise your hand  
16       if you think that the House of Representatives  
17       should drop its involvement in the legal  
18       attacks on Amendment 6.

19            Thank you, Legislators, for your time.  
20       Have a good evening.

21            REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

22            Next up we have Sean Phillippi. Sean, you  
23       are recognized. Thanks, I think it is my  
24       understanding you maybe have a map you want to  
25       point our attention to, is that right?

1           MR. PHILLIPPI: I did create a map. If  
2           you want to bring it up, that is fine.

3           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay. Yes, I  
4           think staff is going to pull that up for us.  
5           And while we are waiting, the next speaker we  
6           have is Ira Shear and Burnadette Norris-Weeks.

7           And just to remind everyone, it is about  
8           8:38. We've got about eight to ten minutes,  
9           and then we are going to come and have some  
10          reactions from the members on the committee.

11          You are recognized, sir.

12          MR. PHILLIPPI: Thank you. I started  
13          drawing a map just to see if it was possible to  
14          draw congressional districts without breaking  
15          up municipalities, which is the ideal standard  
16          set forth in Amendments 5 and 6. And I was  
17          able to go ahead and draw a map without  
18          breaking up the population of any municipality  
19          throughout the state.

20          There is only one other map that has been  
21          submitted that is both contiguous and complete,  
22          and that other map has six Congressmen in  
23          Broward County, and they currently have six  
24          Congressmen in Broward County, even though,  
25          after the population shifts, we're entitled to

1 a little over two and a half Congressmen. None  
2 of the congressional districts now, nor in  
3 Mr. Libby's map, have any Representatives  
4 completely encompassed within Broward County,  
5 and Mr. Libby's map has 17 municipalities  
6 broken up. Since I was able to draw a map with  
7 just my own two hands, without breaking up any  
8 municipalities, you are able to do so, and this  
9 proves it.

10 And, also, to the people who said that  
11 they want coastal communities kept together, I  
12 would encourage them to move to strictly  
13 coastal communities like Lighthouse Point, like  
14 Hillsborough Beach, like Lauderdale-by-the-Sea,  
15 like Manalapan, like several others throughout  
16 the state of Florida. You should not be able  
17 to break up municipalities, and you choose  
18 where you live.

19 So I would just encourage of the House of  
20 Representatives and the State Senate to go  
21 ahead and keep south Florida intact, because  
22 south Florida is about 6,000 people short of  
23 eight congressional districts. So I would  
24 encourage you to keep the community of interest  
25 of south Florida together, give us our eight

1       Congressmen, and have those Congressmen have  
2       communities of interest intact.

3               And I would also encourage you lastly to  
4       go ahead and have your maps released by the  
5       first of the year, have your committee meetings  
6       this year, so when you get the legislative  
7       session started, you hit the ground running  
8       instead of starting from scratch. Thank you  
9       for your time.

10              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

11              Ira, thanks for being here, sir, you are  
12       recognized, followed by Burnadette Norris-Weeks  
13       and then Lori Moseley.

14              MR. SHIRE: Ira Shire, but it's okay,  
15       Hollywood, 34 years. I just want to be added  
16       to the list, number one, agreement with 5 and  
17       6; number two, stop wasting money on the  
18       lawsuits; number three, get the maps out;  
19       number four, please do your job. And by the  
20       way, while you are up there, I noted texting,  
21       talking, et cetera, during this. And, finally,  
22       I voted in the primary for Frederica Wilson  
23       proudly, but I also knew it was important for  
24       me to follow that primary, because my district  
25       was clearly -- the primary was the winner, the



1 fact that I am a Democrat, there are many  
2 Republican districts the same way, which means  
3 10,000 votes represented my congressional  
4 district of 650,000 votes. We have to stop  
5 this. Thank you.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

7 Burnadette, thank you very much, and  
8 following Burnadette, we have Lori Moseley.

9 MS. NORRIS-WEEKS: Thank you. Good  
10 evening. I am Burnadette Norris-Weeks. I am  
11 the attorney for the Broward County Supervisor  
12 of Elections office. While I have no authority  
13 to speak this evening on behalf of Dr. Brenda  
14 Snipes, I will say that from a timing  
15 perspective, the plan failure of the  
16 Legislature not to produce maps in a timely  
17 manner is unfortunate.

18 I see firsthand the complexities of  
19 putting on good elections. There are so many  
20 moving parts to elections. Assuming there are  
21 no problems, absolutely no problems, which is a  
22 rarity with putting on elections, the  
23 Legislature's timetable projects final  
24 districts will get final approval just days  
25 before candidates are due to start qualifying

1       for their seats. It is not fair for the SOEs  
2       who already have such a challenging job as it  
3       stands. And due to the sweeping legislative  
4       changes that were passed in this last  
5       legislative session, which many of the people  
6       in the audience probably don't even have a clue  
7       about, and I believe, in my personal opinion,  
8       it makes voting more difficult, this added to  
9       the redistricting process where you will have  
10      qualifying just days before is unconscionable.

11           Broward County has a huge voting  
12      population. We teeter back and forth with  
13      Miami-Dade County in terms of the largest  
14      number of voters in the state.

15           In November 2010, Florida voters approved  
16      two amendments, as you all know, to protect  
17      voting rights and prevent political  
18      gerrymandering of voting districts. While  
19      there is little love shown by the Legislature  
20      to south Florida communities, if you all create  
21      a process that is due for major problems,  
22      Florida could again be the laughingstock of the  
23      country. We have come too far since 2000.  
24      This process needs to be transparent, maps need  
25      to be drawn.

1           Finally, I would like to also say that I  
2       worked for the Legislature as an attorney about  
3       15 years ago. It is interesting to see that  
4       some of the people who were there drawing maps  
5       at that time, I saw one gentleman passing out  
6       maps was walking around passing out the  
7       brochures this evening. So it is very easy --  
8       if in good faith this body had good faith  
9       intentions of allowing the public to understand  
10      and see a transparent process, it is very easy  
11      to do. You have very competent staff. Let's  
12      face it, many of you already have ideas about  
13      what you want to see. Not to share those ideas  
14      with your constituents is simply not fair.

15           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I am going to  
16      have to ask you to wrap it up. We are running  
17      out of time. Thank you.

18           MS. NORRIS-WEEKS: The public is not being  
19      provided an opportunity to speak about a real  
20      map as opposed to generalities related to  
21      redistricting principles.

22           Finally, the voters have asked tough  
23      questions tonight. There have been no answers  
24      from this body. I understand that you will do  
25      that in a moment, and that is great. This is a

1 public hearing so that you all can hear from  
2 the voters. Now that you have heard that we  
3 want to see maps, what will you do with this  
4 information? Thank you.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

6 Lastly, but certainly not least, we are  
7 going to have the Mayor of Miramar, Lori  
8 Moseley. And ladies and gentlemen, I know  
9 there's probably about 14 or 15 people that had  
10 signed up to speak that we are going to run out  
11 of time, unfortunately. That being said, we do  
12 value your input. There are many ways that you  
13 can communicate with us, and Senator Gaetz will  
14 talk about that at the end, but, Mayor, thank  
15 you for being here, and you are recognized.

16 MAYOR MOSELEY: Thank you, my pleasure,  
17 and thank you all for being here and thank you  
18 for taking the time, and I know how it feels, I  
19 will be short and sweet.

20 I am the Mayor of the fourth-largest city  
21 in Broward County, and I have four  
22 Representatives and three Senators.

23 I want you to remember when you take into  
24 consideration that it is very important to have  
25 communities of interest. Miramar happens to be

1       one of the most culturally diverse cities in  
2       Broward County. It is not necessary for us to  
3       have Representatives from Collier County, nor  
4       is it necessary for us to have Representatives  
5       from Dade County. And many of my  
6       Representatives are sitting right here, and  
7       they are fantastic people, but not one of them  
8       has a majority of my city. So will you please  
9       take that into consideration when you go  
10      forward?

11           And wouldn't it be fantastic if the State  
12      of Florida did the right thing and set the tone  
13      for the country so that when people begin to  
14      talk about elections, we won't talk about the  
15      past, and nor will we talk about the  
16      partisanship that is happening in Washington?  
17      Wouldn't it be nice for Florida to take the  
18      lead on something very positive? And I know  
19      you all know what the right thing to do, and  
20      like cities, we are nonpartisan, we try to do  
21      the right thing for our residents. Yes, I have  
22      a party, but my obligation is first to my  
23      residents, and they are the very same  
24      constituents that you have.

25           So I ask you, please take into

1       consideration everything that everyone has said  
2       here, and that you will hear and actually draw  
3       maps that makes sense for communities. Thank  
4       you all very much.

5               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
6       Mayor.

7               That concludes our public testimony  
8       portion. We thank all the ladies and gentlemen  
9       who took place in helping make this a very good  
10      process and an opportunity for us to hear from  
11      you.

12              We would like to give members of the  
13      committee an opportunity, if they had some  
14      observations or questions or concerns, that now  
15      would be a good time. I know that  
16      Representative Horner, I think, had wanted to  
17      offer a suggestion. I think if we can get a  
18      microphone to him, that would be helpful.

19              Representative Horner, you are recognized.  
20      Thank you for being here.

21              REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Thank you,  
22      Mr. Chairman. We heard an interesting point  
23      tonight. I think it was from Matthew Isbell.  
24      He talked about how compactness is more than  
25      just being technically compact, but it is also

1       about functionally being compact. I just  
2       wanted to note that I thought the point was  
3       really well said.

4               We have heard from more than one meeting  
5       that we should consider roadways, and whether  
6       it is actually practical for an elected  
7       official to represent a community. I just  
8       wanted to note that the point was well-taken  
9       and I will be considering it as we move  
10      forward.

11             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
12      Representative.

13             I think Senator Rich had a comment to  
14      make, if we could get a microphone to her.

15             Senator, you are recognized.

16             SENATOR RICH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And  
17      I want to thank the residents of Broward County  
18      for coming out this evening.

19             I want to say that we have had three  
20      hearings in Broward County -- in south Florida  
21      so far: Martin County, Palm Beach County and  
22      now Broward County, with Dade County tomorrow.  
23      I think the message has been incredibly clear  
24      from testimony by hundreds of people, and I  
25      think the issue of the maps, the issue of

1       particularly accelerating the process and  
2       changing the timeline, these are things that we  
3       have heard from so many people, and I think not  
4       only in south Florida, but even though I didn't  
5       attend the northern and central areas, the same  
6       things have been said there.

7               So I would like to ask that you and  
8       Senator Gaetz will talk about this, consider  
9       making some changes to show the population, the  
10      constituents, the voters in this state that we  
11      are actually listening to what they are saying  
12      at these meetings.

13             And I know that, obviously, this is not  
14      something you are going to decide right this  
15      moment, but I do believe that the message has  
16      been so consistent, and that if we go around  
17      this state and ask people to come and talk to  
18      us, and then we do nothing about it, then the  
19      committee -- these meetings will not have been  
20      worthwhile. So I would just ask that if you  
21      could consider it and possibly come back within  
22      the next week or so, not necessarily during  
23      these committee hearings, but think about  
24      making some significant changes.

25             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,



1 Senator.

2 Representative Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed would  
3 like to make a comment, and then we have  
4 Representative Nuñez as well.

5 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Thank you,  
6 Mr. Chair. I have heard tonight and I have  
7 heard in other hearings about who is suing or  
8 who is taking everything to court, that we are  
9 fighting the people. I would just like it to  
10 be known that not every legislator in the House  
11 of Representatives agreed on taking anything to  
12 court. So I just want you to know that, and I  
13 think it is very important that that point gets  
14 out.

15 I too want to thank everybody who has come  
16 out this evening. We have heard the same --  
17 some of the same comments that have gone on in  
18 other hearings, and I am sure we are going to  
19 hear as we move forward the same comments  
20 elsewhere. I hope that folks have their ears  
21 open and are listening. Thank you.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
23 Representative.

24 Representative Nuñez for a comment.

25 REPRESENTATIVE NUNEZ: Thank you,

1       Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to take this  
2       opportunity to thank the members of the public  
3       that came and participated this evening. It  
4       was a long hearing, but we appreciate your  
5       input. And I just wanted to note that I heard  
6       several comments tonight about how the  
7       communities here in Broward relate to the  
8       neighboring counties, and that kind of input, I  
9       believe, is extremely helpful to us as we move  
10      forward in this process. And we have heard  
11      several comments earlier today in Palm Beach  
12      County as well, and I will definitely keep that  
13      in mind as we go to Miami tomorrow and reflect  
14      later on this week on all of the comments that  
15      we have heard and the time we've spent here in  
16      southeast Florida. So thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
18      Representative.

19               Any other comments from the committee?

20               Okay. Seeing none, I think we would like  
21      to turn it over to Senator Gaetz, and Senator,  
22      maybe perhaps you could answer some questions  
23      and some insight into the comments that we  
24      heard today, and maybe some clarification as  
25      well. You are recognized.

1           SENATOR GAETZ: Absolutely. Thank you  
2           very much, Mr. Chairman, and thanks to everyone  
3           who testified.

4           For those who felt that the hearing today  
5           was not useful, all I can tell you is that I  
6           filled nine pages of notes, and those notes  
7           include a lot of observations about individual  
8           neighborhoods and individual communities,  
9           information that I as a Senator from northwest  
10          Florida could never have learned in an echo  
11          chamber in Tallahassee. I had to come here and  
12          listen to you. So your observations and your  
13          analysis was extraordinarily helpful to me.

14          We wanted to go through a few things that  
15          were mentioned, certainly not to argue with  
16          anybody, because everyone is entitled to their  
17          own opinion, but as Daniel Patrick Moynihan  
18          said, not everybody is entitled to their own  
19          set of facts. So we want to make sure that we  
20          all leave here at least with some of the same  
21          facts in mind.

22          First, Mr. Roosevelt Walters, I think,  
23          made one of the most useful comments tonight  
24          when he talked about the conflicts that might  
25          exist between the Voting Rights Act and

1       Amendments 5 and 6. We don't know if those  
2       conflicts exist, because Amendments 5 and 6 in  
3       their entirety have never been used as a  
4       template or set of requirements for any state.  
5       So this will be an opportunity for us to chart  
6       new ground on the whole question of any  
7       conflicts that may or may not exist between the  
8       Voting Rights Act and 5 and 6. But those who  
9       believe that this is a simple thing, that it is  
10      a bumper sticker issue, just do it, should  
11      listen to Mr. Walters, because I think his  
12      testimony was very useful in pointing out that  
13      there may be issues that we really do have to  
14      work through in good faith.

15           Secondly, the very first person who spoke  
16      tonight, and the very last person, the Mayor of  
17      Miramar, talked about communities of interest.  
18      Twelve other people who spoke talked about  
19      communities of interest. And there was someone  
20      who said that they wondered why Representative  
21      Weatherford and I had supported Amendment 17,  
22      which was struck down by the Supreme Court.  
23      Well, Amendment 7, which was struck down, would  
24      have placed communities of interest as a  
25      criterion that could have been used in defining

1 districts into our Constitution. So there is  
2 an apparent or potential tension between those  
3 who spoke about communities of interest,  
4 whether they were beach communities or ethnic  
5 communities, and those who demand faithful  
6 adherence to what they consider to be the red  
7 letter of Amendments 5 and 6.

8 Third, I wanted to get to the question of  
9 timing, because it was raised by so many  
10 people, and our democratic leader, Senator  
11 Rich, just raised it again. Let's just review  
12 for a moment the timing that there is and also  
13 the comments that Chair Weatherford and I have  
14 both made at prior hearings about timing.

15 First, the Legislature usually meets in  
16 March. In order to speed up the process, we  
17 were able to convince our colleagues in both  
18 houses to agree to move up the legislative  
19 session until January. So that moves it up as  
20 quick as the Florida Constitution allows us to  
21 vote.

22 Now, there is a gentleman who said that he  
23 thought I had said that members couldn't  
24 propose maps until 2012. No, no, no, no. We  
25 can propose maps today. We could propose maps

1        yesterday. Any Democrat, any Republican,  
2        certainly Senator Rich who has asked for an  
3        acceleration of the process, I will commit to  
4        her as Chairman of the Senate committee, we  
5        will take up her map at the very first meeting  
6        of the Senate Reapportionment Committee in  
7        September. So we moved up our committee  
8        meetings from December to September, we can  
9        take up maps instantly in September, and we can  
10       debate them and discuss them and we can vote in  
11       committee. What we can't do by the Florida  
12       Constitution is cast votes on the floor until  
13       January, but there is no reason at all why we  
14       can't debate and discuss maps beginning in  
15       September. And I think I can speak for my  
16       colleague, the speaker designate,  
17       Representative Weatherford, in saying that it  
18       is our intention that options be available for  
19       committee members, for Republicans, Democrats,  
20       House members, Senators, as early as possible  
21       so that we can begin eliciting opinions. You  
22       see, I can't simply define that we are going to  
23       vote by a certain time, because I am only one  
24       of 40 Senators. There may be other Senators  
25       who disagree with a map that I might propose

1       who might want to debate it or discuss it or  
2       amend it, and that might take more time to  
3       allow them who disagree with me to do that.  
4       But what I can commit is that Senator Rich's  
5       map will be taken up at the very first  
6       committee meeting in September.

7               Fourth, there were those who said that we  
8       ought not to do the hearings first, we ought to  
9       have maps first. I think that is a legitimate  
10      point of view, but I would go back to the fact  
11      that -- and this gentleman indicated that he  
12      associated himself with the Fair Districts  
13      point of view. Ms. Freidin, Ellen Freidin, who  
14      is the head of Fair Districts, is the one who  
15      testified before the House and Senate and said  
16      that maps couldn't and shouldn't be drawn. She  
17      wouldn't even attempt to draw them until the  
18      public was heard from first. So maybe that was  
19      wrong. Maybe we should have done what Illinois  
20      did, and that is some legislators literally did  
21      go into a back room, they are a one-party state  
22      as well, and they came back out and said, "Here  
23      are the maps, take it or leave it," the  
24      Legislature voted and they went home. That is  
25      one way to do it, but we elected to listen

1 first and then draw maps. The reason that is  
2 important is because we are hearing today, just  
3 like my colleagues heard when we were in my  
4 part of the state, information about  
5 neighborhoods and communities we couldn't get  
6 if we were just listening to politicians in  
7 Tallahassee.

8 Also I would point out that the -- it is  
9 not as if there are going to be, you know, one  
10 or two maps that spring fully-grown from the  
11 brow of Zeus, and those are the maps. The fact  
12 is 21 maps have already been proposed. Any  
13 member of this committee, any member of the  
14 Legislature who is not on the committee,  
15 Democrat or Republican, can propose a map  
16 yesterday, today or tomorrow. It will be, I  
17 think, the fact that there will be many maps  
18 proposed, not one map or two maps or just  
19 approved maps, there will be many maps, and I  
20 believe that they will be in some conflict with  
21 each other, because you have different points  
22 of view and different interests, as were  
23 expressed in the hearing tonight.

24 Also, Mr. Chairman, there was a suggestion  
25 that legislative representation needed to



1        somehow reflect the population of Florida,  
2        Republicans and Democrats. We've got a problem  
3        with that, we can't really do that, and I will  
4        tell you why. There are 40 Senate districts,  
5        for example. Twenty-eight of those districts  
6        are currently held by Republicans, but eight of  
7        the districts that elected Republican Senators  
8        voted for Barack Obama in 2008. So you can  
9        look at it one of two ways: Either President  
10       Obama was a much more compelling and convincing  
11       candidate to people who typically vote for  
12       Republican Senators, so they voted for a  
13       Democrat, or you can say that there were many,  
14       many individuals who voted for President Obama  
15       who also voted for Republican Senators. The  
16       fact is that the Florida electorate is not  
17       neatly divided. Republicans do vote for  
18       Democrats. Many of us voted for President  
19       Obama. Democrats vote for Republicans. Many  
20       Democrats voted for Republican Senators. And  
21       the fastest-growing group of voters in our  
22       state are non-affiliated voters, or Independent  
23       voters, and we can't tell them how to vote. So  
24       as long as we have a secret ballot, we can't  
25       guarantee that the Legislature will reflect

1 exactly what the party affiliations are,  
2 because as several people pointed out tonight,  
3 folks more and more are voting for the  
4 individual and not for the party, and that is  
5 the way it ought to be.

6 Next, Mr. Chairman, there were several  
7 observations about the Florida process being  
8 slower than other states. Let's put the facts  
9 on the table about that.

10 First, the Bureau of the Census releases  
11 census data. We have to rely on the census  
12 data and use it for redistricting. They don't  
13 release it all at once to all states. They  
14 release it in groups or tranches. Florida  
15 didn't get its census data last, but we were  
16 certainly not first or even in the middle. We  
17 received our census data in close to the last.  
18 And as soon as we got the data, we put it  
19 on-line as rapidly as we could so everybody in  
20 the state could see the demographic information  
21 that defines and describes Floridians.

22 And, secondly, you know, we could have  
23 done -- somebody mentioned Illinois. We could  
24 have done what Illinois did, and that is simply  
25 have a take-it-or-leave-it proposition by the

1       Legislature to the people. We elected not to  
2       do that. People of Goodwill can disagree about  
3       that.

4               Then there were some other individuals who  
5       mentioned a series of states like Louisiana who  
6       finished their redistricting sooner than  
7       Florida. The reason is because they vote on  
8       odd years, they don't vote on even years. So  
9       they are permitted by law to do their  
10      redistricting early; in fact, they are obliged  
11      by law to do it.

12             And finally I would just say, again, that  
13      Chair Weatherford and I have both agreed that  
14      we would move the process as quickly as we can,  
15      given the fact that we have 120 opinions in the  
16      House and 40 opinions in the Senate and lots of  
17      opinions in the state of Florida, and we  
18      shouldn't shut off debate and tell people to  
19      sit down and be quiet and they have to vote  
20      today. We need to make sure that all opinions  
21      are heard and given the opportunity to be  
22      considered.

23             Then, Mr. Chairman, there was an  
24      observation that what we ought to do is have  
25      court-proof districts. I love that phrase. I

1       wish it were possible. The individual said he  
2       had a fear of many lawsuits elongating or  
3       protracting the process. Well, frankly, that  
4       is one of the reasons why we are listening  
5       first and then drawing districts, because the  
6       maps ought to reflect the input that we  
7       receive. Now, not everybody here tonight  
8       agreed. Some people disagreed rather strongly  
9       with other people. So everyone won't be  
10      satisfied. But in order for our maps to pass  
11      judicial muster, we have to be able to show and  
12      say that we drew upon the information and input  
13      that we received from the public, and that is  
14      -- doesn't make our maps court-proof, but it  
15      gives us a better opportunity to defend what we  
16      are doing before the courts, as we are required  
17      to do by law. Although I would have to say  
18      that if you look at the record of these  
19      hearings, individuals who say they are members  
20      of various special interest groups have already  
21      indicated that lawsuits will be filed even  
22      before any bills have been passed. So,  
23      unfortunately, I think we may find ourselves in  
24      lawsuits brought by special interest groups who  
25      won't find themselves entirely happy, no matter

1           what we do.

2                   And, finally, Mr. Chairman, I would say  
3           that there were those who said that we ought to  
4           have maps that would make it more likely that  
5           Hispanics would be elected. I think that is a  
6           very legitimate point of view, but you can  
7           understand, I would hope, that there could be  
8           tension between that point of view and then the  
9           point of view of those who say that we ought  
10          not to draw districts around ethnic groups, but  
11          rather, those districts ought to be drawn  
12          compactly around city and county boundaries.  
13          So it is not as easy as falling off a log.

14                   And then, Mr. Chairman, there were some  
15          questions at the very end by a gentleman who  
16          wanted to know -- who said, and I thought this  
17          was very useful, that there needs to be a  
18          rationale for why new districts are drawn. We  
19          need to be able to explain why we did what we  
20          do when we do it. And that is exactly why the  
21          record of these proceedings is so important.  
22          We need to be able to draw from the record and  
23          say, "The reason why we changed the way the  
24          lines are drawn in Indiantown" -- which is  
25          something we heard a great deal about last

1       night -- "is because we learned that here is a  
2       community of less than 4,000 people that is  
3       split among three congressional districts." So  
4       we have to have that information in order to  
5       develop the rationale for drawing districts.

6               Someone indicated that outside third  
7       parties ought to be used to define terms like  
8       "compactness." We are obliged by our  
9       Constitution to draw the lines and then propose  
10      them to the judiciary for review, but there  
11      will be outside third parties. I don't know  
12      how outside they are. The Florida Supreme  
13      Court is certainly inside our state, and then  
14      the federal judiciary as well.

15             Finally, there was a gentleman who asked a  
16      series of questions. I think we have answered  
17      some of them. He asked are we using outside  
18      consultants. I can't speak for anybody except  
19      myself. I can tell you not yet, but we  
20      probably will. It is routine to use outside  
21      consultants, demographic experts, legal  
22      authorities in the area of reapportionment and  
23      redistricting, to make sure that we are not  
24      violating the federal laws and the relevant  
25      court cases that we have to abide by even as we

1       abide by the Florida Constitution.

2               The gentleman asked if we are going to use  
3       outside counsel. The answer is yes. Democrats  
4       and Republicans, House and Senate have  
5       historically used outside counsel, because we  
6       have to get objective opinions from individuals  
7       who can look at the law and say "Here is what  
8       we advise that you do" in these cases where  
9       there are tensions between conflicting values.

10              And then the gentleman asked is there  
11       software that is used by members to draw  
12       districts. The answer is yes. That software  
13       is on-line. It is the District Builder  
14       software that you can look at and use as well.

15              And finally, the individual asked is there  
16       any private entity contributing funds to assist  
17       members in drawing districts. I can only  
18       answer for myself. The answer to that question  
19       is no.

20              I hope that by providing this information  
21       we have helped to lay some questions to rest.

22              I come from a small town called Niceville,  
23       Florida, and in Niceville, we got a place  
24       called Doris' Restaurant. And if you go into  
25       Doris' at seven o'clock in the morning with the

1       most outrageous statement, by six o'clock that  
2       night, everybody in Niceville has heard it, and  
3       about two-thirds of us believe it. So  
4       sometimes information gets put into the  
5       bloodstream that gets repeated and repeated as  
6       if it were true, and that is why we wanted to  
7       provide you with these clarifying bits of  
8       information.

9               This is not your last time to participate.  
10       This is your first time. We look forward to  
11       your continuing to provide information to this  
12       process as we go forward.

13              I think the idea of videoconferencing,  
14       which came up from one individual, is a very  
15       interesting idea, and if we can make that work,  
16       I think that is a way that we can reach out  
17       even further and in another round to make sure  
18       that we hear from the people of Florida.

19              Thank you all. You have been  
20       extraordinarily helpful tonight.

21              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
22       very much, Senator Gaetz.

23              Today if you did not speak, and you would  
24       like to have your opinion heard, please send it  
25       to us. Also, all the records from today's



1 meeting, video, podcast and transcripts will be  
2 available in the coming days. And with that,  
3 Senator Gaetz moves that we rise.

4 (Whereupon, the proceedings were  
5 concluded.)

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## 1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )

3 COUNTY OF LEON )

4 I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript  
5 is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned,  
6 and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting  
7 under my direction;

8 That the foregoing pages 2 through 170  
9 represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of  
10 the tape-recording;

11 And I further certify that I am not of kin or  
12 counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the  
13 regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor  
14 am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

15 Dated this 1st day of November, 2011.

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

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Notary Public

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State of Florida at Large

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Commission Expires:

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November 13, 2014

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REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

11

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2011

12

10:00 A.M.

13

MIAMI DADE COLLEGE

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MIAMI, FLORIDA

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Transcribed by:

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

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Court Reporter

24

25

1 T A P E D P R O C E E D I N G S

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Ladies and gentlemen, if  
3 you will please take your seats, we can begin  
4 the hearing. We would ask members of the House  
5 of Representatives, members of the Senate who  
6 are here for the hearing to take their seats.  
7 If you are in the audience, we would ask you to  
8 take your seats as well.

9 Ladies and gentlemen, we will begin our  
10 hearing with the Pledge of Allegiance led by  
11 the former President of the Florida Senate,  
12 President Gwen Margolis. This is her district,  
13 and we are delighted to be here.

14 SENATOR MARGOLIS: I pledge allegiance to  
15 the flag of the United States of America and to  
16 the Republic for which it stands, one nation,  
17 under God, indivisible, with liberty and  
18 justice for all.

19 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you all very much  
20 for being here this morning. The Joint  
21 Senate/House Redistricting Hearing is called to  
22 order.

23 My name is Don Gaetz. I am a member of  
24 the Florida Senate, and I Chair the Senate  
25 Reapportionment Committee, and we are pleased

1 to be joined this morning by the Speaker  
2 Designate of the Florida House of  
3 Representatives, Representative Will  
4 Weatherford to my left, who will be chairing  
5 this meeting with me, and Representative  
6 Weatherford and I have co-chaired meetings  
7 around the state, listening to voters' concerns  
8 and questions and suggestions as we go forward  
9 in the redistricting process.

10 We are pleased to be joined by a number of  
11 members of the House Redistricting Committee  
12 and the Senate Reapportionment Committee who  
13 have come here to Miami-Dade to hear your  
14 views, and we would like to have them introduce  
15 themselves very briefly this morning.

16 We would like to begin with Representative  
17 Carlos Lopez-Cantera, who will be officially  
18 welcoming us to Miami-Dade County.  
19 Representative?

20 REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ-CANTERA: Thank you,  
21 Mr. Chairman.

22 Mr. Chairman, members, it is so wonderful  
23 to have you all here in Miami today to  
24 experience our beautiful -- beautifully diverse  
25 community and to hear from our community on

1       their positions and their desires as far as the  
2       redistricting process goes.

3               So we know that our community will be very  
4       hospitable to you and understand that you have  
5       a meeting later this afternoon and we know that  
6       that meeting will hopefully go well, and so  
7       welcome and thank you for being here today, all  
8       of you, thank you.

9               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Representative,  
10       and if you would pass the microphone, we would  
11       like to ask each member of the Senate and House  
12       Committees who are here to introduce themselves  
13       and indicate what part of the state they  
14       represent so you know who you are talking to.

15              SENATOR BRAYNON: Senator Oscar Braynon,  
16       and I represent the 33rd Senate District here  
17       in Miami-Dade County, which is the north  
18       central area of Miami-Dade County.

19              REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Good morning,  
20       everyone. My name is John Patrick Julien,  
21       representing House District 104, which  
22       encompasses North Miami Beach, North Miami,  
23       Miami Gardens, Opa-Locka, a large chunk of  
24       unincorporated Miami-Dade County, the City of  
25       Miami and a small sliver of the City of

1           Hialeah. Welcome to Miami.

2           REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Good morning, I am  
3           Hazelle Rogers, State Representative,  
4           representing District 94, which is part of  
5           Broward County, and I boast that we are  
6           approximately 1.8 million after the last  
7           census, and a very diverse county.

8           Cities that I do represent: Lauderhill,  
9           Lauderdale Lakes, Margate, Oakland Park,  
10          Plantation, Sunrise and the City of Oakland  
11          Park. I thank you very much. Thanks for being  
12          here.

13          REPRESENTATIVE LOGAN: Good morning,  
14          everyone, and welcome. I am Ana Rivas Logan,  
15          Representative, and I represent the western  
16          part of Miami-Dade County, part of Sweetwater  
17          around FIU, East Kendall, South Miami Heights,  
18          Miami Heights and part of the Falls.

19          REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Good morning,  
20          my name is Betty Reed, State Representative. I  
21          represent part -- the eastern part of Tampa and  
22          parts of Hillsborough County. Thank you for  
23          being here this morning.

24          REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Good morning,  
25          State Representative Mack Bernard from West

1 Palm Beach, Florida, District 84.

2 REPRESENTATIVE FRESEN: Good morning, Erik  
3 Fresen, State House District 111. In most of  
4 these meetings, I've just said "from  
5 Miami-Dade," but since we are in Miami, I will  
6 tell you specifically where in Miami.

7 I represent the entireties or portions of  
8 the City of Hialeah, Miami Springs, Virginia  
9 Gardens, South Miami, City of Miami, Coral  
10 Gables and West Miami. Happy to have you here.

11 SENATOR DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA: Miguel Diaz  
12 de la Portilla, State Senator, District 36. I  
13 represent the heart of the City of Miami, parts  
14 of Coral Gables, Palmetto Bay, Cutler Bay,  
15 Pinecrest and South Miami and a little sliver  
16 of unincorporated Dade along 87th Avenue.  
17 Welcome, pleasure to be here.

18 SENATOR NEGRON: Good morning, everyone,  
19 Joe Negrón, I represent Senate District 28,  
20 which is northern Palm Beach County and the  
21 Treasure Coast.

22 SENATOR SOBEL: Good morning, everybody.  
23 I am Eleanor Sobel. I represent southern  
24 Broward County, I represent coastal cities,  
25 Senate District 31. I represent Hallendale



1 Beach, Hollywood, Dania Beach, and then I go  
2 out west and represent many of the cities in  
3 Broward County, southern Broward County. Nice  
4 to see you here.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WATSON: Good morning, my  
6 name is Barbara Watson. I am the  
7 Representative for District 103, which  
8 incorporates the southern part of Miramar, the  
9 great City of Miami Gardens and the great city  
10 of Opa-Locka. Welcome.

11 REPRESENTATIVE STAFFORD: Good morning, my  
12 name is Cynthia Stafford, and I represent House  
13 District 109 here in Miami-Dade County. That  
14 encompasses Liberty City, Brownsville,  
15 Allapattah, Overtown, Midtown, Upper East Side  
16 and a portion of Miami Beach. Welcome, and  
17 thank you for being here.

18 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Good morning,  
19 I am State Representative Gwyndolen  
20 Clarke-Reed, and I represent House District 92,  
21 which is in Broward County, the northeast part  
22 of Broward County, Deerfield Beach, Pompano  
23 Beach, Oakland Park, Wilton Manors, Ft.  
24 Lauderdale, a little bit of North Lauderdale  
25 and a little bit of Tamarac. Welcome.

1           SENATOR FLORES: Good morning, I am State  
2           Senator Anitere Flores. I represent Senate  
3           District 38, which is west portions of Dade  
4           County. So if you live 87th Avenue west to  
5           Krome, chances are I am your State Senator.

6           REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: Good morning,  
7           my name is Kathleen Passidomo, I am a  
8           Representative from District 76, which is  
9           Collier County. I represent the City of  
10          Naples, the City of Marco Island, the City of  
11          Everglades City and all the alligators that  
12          didn't make it over to Miami.

13          REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: Hi, I am Dennis  
14          Baxley. I serve Florida House District 24 in  
15          Ocala, Marion County, but I am also a former  
16          resident of Hollywood and a graduate of  
17          Miami-Dade College.

18          REPRESENTATIVE PLAKON: Good morning, I am  
19          Scott Plakon, Florida House District 37, Orange  
20          and Seminole Counties.

21          REPRESENTATIVE STEINBERG: Good morning,  
22          Richard Steinberg, State House District 106.  
23          It is a half -- the northern half of Miami  
24          Beach, Surfside, North Bay Village, Indian  
25          Creek, Bal Harbor, Bay Harbor, Sunny Isles

1 Beach, Golden Beach, Aventura, a portion of  
2 North Miami Beach, a portion of North Miami and  
3 some unincorporated Dade County. Thank you for  
4 being here.

5 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Good morning, my  
6 name is Dwayne Taylor. I represent House  
7 District 27, which is in Volusia County. I  
8 want to thank you all for being here, and go  
9 Dolphins.

10 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Rob Schenck.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: Ritch Workman,  
12 House District 30, Brevard County.

13 REPRESENTATIVE GONZALEZ: Good morning,  
14 Eddy Gonzalez, I represent District 102. That  
15 is Hialeah, Hialeah Gardens, Miami Lakes, PSN  
16 Country Club of Miami all the way out to  
17 Broward, and a little piece of the City of  
18 Miramar in Broward. Thank you for being here.

19 REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Mike Horner, State  
20 House District 79, Osceola County.

21 REPRESENTATIVE CRISAFULLI: Steve  
22 Crisafulli, House District 32, Brevard and east  
23 Orange County.

24 REPRESENTATIVE BRODEUR: Good morning,  
25 Jason Brodeur, State House District 33, parts

1 of Orange, Seminole and Volusia Counties.

2 REPRESENTATIVE ARTILES: Good morning,  
3 Frank Artiles, Representative, District 119,  
4 West Kendall, Sweetwater, Redlands and  
5 Homestead.

6 REPRESENTATIVE BILECA: Good morning,  
7 State Representative Michael Bileca, District  
8 117 as Miami, South Miami, Coral Gables,  
9 Pinecrest, Palmetto Bay and a little piece of  
10 Cutler Bay.

11 REPRESENTATIVE DIAZ: Jose Felix Diaz,  
12 District 115. I have parts of Westchester,  
13 Pinecrest, Palmetto Bay, Cutler Bay and East  
14 Kendall.

15 REPRESENTATIVE TRUJILLO: Good morning,  
16 State Representative Carlos Trujillo. I  
17 represent District 116, which is west of the  
18 Turnpike from Blount High School all the way  
19 south into the Hammocks.

20 SENATOR SIPLIN: Buenos dias. My name is  
21 Gary Siplin, State Senator, District 19,  
22 Orlando, Florida.

23 REPRESENTATIVE GARCIA: Good morning,  
24 bonjour, buenos dias. I am Representative Luis  
25 Garcia, and I officially want to welcome you to

1 District 107. You are sitting in 107 right  
2 now. So this is our home district right here.

3 It represents all the way from Allapattah  
4 to Pinecrest, including parts of Overtown,  
5 Little Havana, downtown Miami, parts of Miami  
6 Beach, Fisher Island, the most expensive ZIP  
7 code in the United States, Key Biscayne, parts  
8 of Coral Gables, Cocoplum and Pinecrest.

9 SENATOR MARGOLIS: Good morning, my name  
10 is Senator Gwen Margolis, and I represent the  
11 east side of Dade County, generally east of  
12 across the street from here. East starting at  
13 the county line on the east side of Dade  
14 County, going all the way down to Deering Bay  
15 at southwest 144th Street, and it is a long,  
16 skinny district, including all the beaches, Key  
17 Biscayne and everything that Representative  
18 Garcia represents. I am delighted to be here  
19 and I am delighted to welcome you here.

20 REPRESENTATIVE FORD: I am Clay Ford from  
21 northwest Florida, District 3, Pensacola.

22 SENATOR GAETZ: And my district -- I am a  
23 Senator. My district is Senate District 4,  
24 which runs from Pensacola to east of Panama  
25 City.

1           So you see you have people who are your  
2 friends and neighbors from right here in  
3 Miami-Dade, and you have people as far away as  
4 you can get and still be in Florida, and we're  
5 all here to hear your views and your  
6 suggestions.

7           We want to thank Miami-Dade College for  
8 allowing us to use this wonderful facility.  
9 Typically we ask that the members of the Senate  
10 and House committees not be on risers or on a  
11 stage, because we think that you ought to be  
12 able to look us straight in the eye and that we  
13 ought not to be on a different elevation than  
14 you unless we are lower.

15           But, nonetheless, we appreciate this  
16 wonderful facility. Thanks to all of you for  
17 being here, especially members of the public  
18 who have come to share their comments and  
19 recommendations to help shape Congressional and  
20 State Senate and State House Districts for the  
21 next decade.

22           Today's hearing, like all of our 26  
23 hearings, is being webcast statewide by the  
24 Florida Channel over the Internet, and we  
25 welcome all those who are joining us through

1           that medium this morning.

2           Our sole purpose today is to hear from the  
3           public about how you believe that the legal  
4           standards governing redistricting, the federal  
5           legal standards, the U.S. Constitutional  
6           standards, Amendments 5 and 6 and the relevant  
7           court cases, how you believe all of those legal  
8           standards governing redistricting should be  
9           applied in your community.

10          You don't have to be a legal expert to  
11          testify to that -- on those issues. You just  
12          need to share what you believe is appropriate  
13          for your community and your neighborhood, so  
14          that you are ably represented in Washington and  
15          Tallahassee fairly, equitably and sensibly.

16          Our procedures today are simple, but they  
17          are important. It is important that you sign  
18          in, because we would like to create an accurate  
19          public record of all attendees and speakers.

20          And also you may opt to join our e-mail  
21          list so that we can keep you informed about how  
22          the redistricting process goes forward after  
23          today.

24          And if you have not signed in, we hope  
25          that you would raise your hand, and a member of

1       our staff, either the House or Senate staff,  
2       would come to you with a card so that you could  
3       sign in.

4               It is the same card you would use if you  
5       wish to speak. So if you wish to speak and you  
6       haven't signed in today, please raise your  
7       hand, and if you are just here to watch and  
8       observe your friends and neighbors and learn  
9       more about the process, we would love to have  
10      you on our e-mail list so that we can keep you  
11      informed.

12             Before we begin, the Chair will recognize  
13      the Speaker Designate, Representative  
14      Weatherford, to explain how today's hearing  
15      fits into the redistricting process.  
16      Mr. Speaker.

17             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
18      very much, Mr. Chairman, and honored to be here  
19      in Miami-Dade County today. I want to give you  
20      a quick overview just about what we are here to  
21      do and some of the processes involved, and also  
22      a little bit of background on redistricting in  
23      general.

24             Every ten years, the Legislature is  
25      required by the Constitution to redistrict the



1 state based on increases and decreases and  
2 movements in population within our state.  
3 Because Florida has grown more than other  
4 states, we have actually picked up two  
5 Congressional seats.

6 So we will no longer have 25 Congressional  
7 seats, we will have 27 Congressional seats.  
8 Because some parts of our state have increased  
9 and decreased disproportionately in population,  
10 many Senate, House and Congressional Districts  
11 will change because of the loss or adding in  
12 population.

13 When redistricting is completed,  
14 Congressional Districts must equal in  
15 population and contain 696,345 people, the 40  
16 Senate districts must also be nearly equal and  
17 at about 470,000 people, and our 120 House  
18 seats around the state must also be nearly  
19 equal at 156,700 people.

20 As you can see, we have displays in the  
21 back of the room showing the current boundaries  
22 and the current districts as they sit today in  
23 the state of Florida.

24 We encourage you to look at those on your  
25 way in or on your way out or even during the

1 hearing today.

2 The equality of representation isn't the  
3 only legal requirement that redistricting plans  
4 must meet, and that is very important.

5 The laws and the important court cases  
6 that govern redistricting are explained in  
7 detail on the House and Senate websites, and we  
8 would encourage you all to go and look at  
9 those.

10 Those websites are actually listed on our  
11 "Redistricting 2012" brochure that was  
12 available to you when you came in, and in fact,  
13 our redistricting brochure summarizes both  
14 federal and state laws, and outlines the topics  
15 that we hope you will discuss with us here  
16 today at the hearing. If you did not get a  
17 copy of that brochure when you came in, if you  
18 would raise your hand, we will make sure that  
19 each and every person who wants a copy gets a  
20 copy here this morning.

21 The brochure also lists the House and  
22 Senate websites, and the websites are packed  
23 with information about redistricting in  
24 Florida, including explanations of laws and  
25 important court cases governing redistricting.

1           The two websites are complementary, and  
2           they are both updated frequently. Visit both  
3           and please check back often.

4           The websites also deliver to you at your  
5           fingertips all of the demographic information  
6           that you will be using in drawing districts in  
7           the exact same computer programs that us as  
8           Legislators use ourselves as we draw districts  
9           in the future.

10          Before, during and after this hearing,  
11          Senate and House professional staff are  
12          available to show anyone the simple steps to go  
13          online and build a district and submit a plan  
14          of your own in the coming weeks to the  
15          Legislature.

16          Recommendations from citizens and groups  
17          of citizens will be made publicly -- public  
18          available, and in fact, as of today, we have  
19          over 32 maps that have been submitted to the  
20          Legislature of partial or complete maps, and  
21          approximately 110 written ideas for maps that  
22          are available on the web.

23          In fact, this week, in this week's  
24          meetings at Stuart, Boca Raton and Davie,  
25          Florida residents completed new maps for

1        submission right at the tables outside the  
2        room.

3                So for anyone here who would like to do  
4        that, we would encourage you to please  
5        participate in that as well.

6                The submission of these proposed maps that  
7        makes sense for your community is the single  
8        most effective way that you can communicate  
9        with us.

10               We certainly appreciate all of you who  
11        have taken time to be here today and to give us  
12        your ideas verbally, but we also think that a  
13        great way for you to give us your ideas is to  
14        put them down on paper and actually draw maps  
15        that you believe would be good for the  
16        Legislature to consider.

17               We have accelerated the process of our  
18        session for a very specific reason. Many of  
19        you know the Constitution does not allow us to  
20        have votes on redistricting maps until 2012.

21               And so what we have done is we have taken  
22        our session, which normally starts in March and  
23        goes for 60 days, and we've moved it up to  
24        January.

25               That is the earliest that we can vote on

1 legislative maps, and I want that to be clear  
2 on the front end of that.

3 It has also been suggested that the  
4 Legislature should draw maps first and then ask  
5 the public for comment. Ladies and gentlemen,  
6 we believe that puts the answer ahead of the  
7 question.

8 There should be no preconceptions made by  
9 politicians, but, rather, public testimony  
10 should be free and unrestricted. In fact, the  
11 principal author of Florida's New Redistricting  
12 Standards and the Chairperson of Fair Districts  
13 Campaign are on the record and in agreement  
14 with the notion that the maps should not be  
15 drawn until or after the public has had the  
16 opportunity to comment. And I believe everyone  
17 on this committee agrees with that as well.

18 Our intent is to use these recommendations  
19 made at the 26 public hearings and throughout  
20 our Internet sites as the basis for developing  
21 one or more options for district maps.

22 We will continue those options in the open  
23 public meetings before any votes are taken,  
24 even in committee. In other words, what we are  
25 literally saying is if you look at the maps

1 outside the room, the ones actually submitted  
2 to the Legislature by Florida residents, we are  
3 literally starting the legislative process with  
4 those maps and other suggestions from you  
5 today.

6 So if you want to know where we begin our  
7 deliberations, it is with the public  
8 submissions and it is with your testimony here  
9 this afternoon.

10 Throughout the process, we will continue  
11 to solicit additional public comment so that  
12 proposed maps can mature with the public  
13 involvement all before the Legislature approves  
14 any final maps.

15 Whatever the Legislature passes, it is  
16 submitted for judicial review to ensure that  
17 the final plans meet every single legal  
18 requirement.

19 Because our purpose today is to hear from  
20 you, all the time will be used to ensure that  
21 every member of the public who is here and  
22 wishes to speak will have time to present their  
23 testimony and be listened to respectfully,  
24 without interruption or argument.

25 And, if needed, we may take, Mr. Chairman,

1       if it is possible, a short break to give the  
2       members -- we have four hours allotted, 10:00  
3       to 2:00, we may take a short break somewhere in  
4       the middle there to give members a break and  
5       also to give members of the audience a break as  
6       well.

7               If after every citizen has had his or her  
8       say, and there is time remaining before our  
9       scheduled adjournment, any member of the  
10      committee may make a statement or offer an  
11      observation.

12             Of course, any member of the Legislature  
13      may today or at any time, propose any map or  
14      any plan, and we will make it available to the  
15      public immediately.

16             Mr. Chairman, I hope that this description  
17      of our schedule and the process helps set the  
18      stage for a very successful hearing. Thank you  
19      for your indulgence.

20             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
21      Mr. Speaker. A couple of housekeeping details.  
22      As Speaker Weatherford indicated, we have a  
23      four-hour time slot for this hearing.

24             Typically when we do a four-hour time  
25      slot, in the middle, we will take a break, a

1       45-minute or so break. What I would like to do  
2       with the committee's indulgence and the  
3       audience's indulgence is because we have at the  
4       moment 30 individuals who would like to speak,  
5       I would like to see if we can make sure that  
6       all of those persons have the opportunity to  
7       speak, and we might be able to do that without  
8       taking a break.

9               If we get a large number of additional  
10       speakers, then with Speaker Weatherford's  
11       indulgence, we will call an audible somewhere  
12       in the middle and take a short break so that  
13       all of you have the opportunity to use the  
14       facilities or grab a bite of lunch or whatever  
15       you would like to do.

16              Now, in order to move along quickly and  
17       make sure everybody has a chance to speak, what  
18       I would like to do is call the first four  
19       speakers up, and there are four reserved slots  
20       right in the front right for you.

21              So if I call your name, if you would come  
22       up -- we will call this on the deck circle --  
23       if you will get on deck, that way we won't  
24       waste time having people come forward from the  
25       audience, you will be ready to speak.



1           And to make sure that everybody has an  
2           opportunity to speak and that we hear your  
3           views, we would like you to hold your comments,  
4           if you can, to three or four minutes. That  
5           way, we can make sure everyone has an  
6           opportunity to speak.

7           If you have extended remarks, if you  
8           brought 15 minutes of good information you  
9           wanted to share, we want it all, and just give  
10          your printed or extended remarks or your script  
11          that you brought or that someone gave you, give  
12          that information to one of our staff.

13          It will go in the permanent record of the  
14          committee, and it will be available and given  
15          to every single member of the committee, House  
16          or Senate.

17          With that said, I would like -- Ira Paul  
18          is going to be our first speaker, and Ira, if  
19          you would come forward, please, and behind Ira  
20          is Jonas Georges, Henry Kelley and Michael  
21          William Calsetta.

22          And so if those three individuals will  
23          come forward in the on deck circle.

24          Mr. Paul, we are delighted that you are  
25          going to lead off our hearing this morning. We

1       are anxious to hear your testimony, and you are  
2       recognized.

3               MR. PAUL:   Okay.   I am going to be very  
4       short, I am going to be less than the three  
5       minutes.

6               My name is Ira Paul.   I am a resident of  
7       Palm Springs North, which is just slightly  
8       northwest of the Hialeah-Miami Lakes community.  
9       I reside in House District 102 and Senate  
10      District 40.

11              I have lived in Miami-Dade, south Florida,  
12      for over 50 years, and I am a retired  
13      Miami-Dade County Public Schools mathematics  
14      teacher.

15              I -- the talking points I have is  
16      65 percent of the Miami-Dade community is  
17      Hispanic, and that it is the constitutional  
18      right of minorities to be able to elect  
19      representatives of their choice.

20              In all fairness, I demand that a  
21      sufficient number of districts be drawn to  
22      offer Hispanics in these areas the ability to  
23      elect representatives of their choice for both  
24      the State House, State Senate and Congress.

25              It is important that the Hispanic

1 community be treated fairly and without any  
2 regression of existing political power in both  
3 legislative and congressional districting.

4 Areas with similar commonalities that  
5 could form the basis of a district or part of a  
6 district are Hialeah, Hialeah Gardens, Miami  
7 Lakes, or Coral Gables, Coconut Grove and South  
8 Miami.

9 Thank you very much for allowing me the  
10 opportunity to speak, and thank you all for  
11 being here today.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
13 Mr. Paul, for your testimony.

14 And now Jonas Georges is next, and  
15 following him, Henry Kelley, and then Michael  
16 William Calsetta, and following Mr. Calsetta,  
17 Gepsie, and I apologize, Metellus, Metellus,  
18 with the Haitian Neighborhood Center.

19 Mr. Georges, you are recognized. Thank  
20 you for coming today.

21 MR. GEORGES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for  
22 the opportunity to speak to you and to the  
23 committee. I am the Reverend Dr. Jonas  
24 Georges, and I live and work in the northeast  
25 city of Miami, the nerve center of my

1 community, the Haitian-American community.

2 I would like to spend my time today to  
3 address the need for this committee to  
4 emphasize and seek to preserve the integrity of  
5 the ethnic communities that are the nerve  
6 centers of our community in south Florida.

7 It is very difficult to conceive Miami,  
8 for instance, without Little Havana or the  
9 black communities of northwest Miami, like  
10 Opa-Locka and Miami Gardens and so on and so  
11 forth and many others.

12 And part of these neighborhoods and ethnic  
13 communities is the -- is in the northeast area  
14 of our city where Haitian-Americans like myself  
15 do live. And within that community, there is a  
16 center where the 17th Congressional District is  
17 located, and the voters there are represented  
18 in 34 precincts by people of Haitian-American  
19 origin.

20 And I would like to impress you of the  
21 necessity to continue the cultural expansion of  
22 our culture, of our democracy, by preserving  
23 that particular sector of our community.

24 We are very well-represented by a person  
25 of our choice in that congressional community,

1       in the person of our Congressperson, Frederica  
2       Wilson, but we do recognize that there are 34  
3       percent of them -- of us voting in that  
4       community that are from my ethnic group.

5             There is no point that this -- that  
6       particular districts right now would require  
7       about 51,000 persons, voters, to really make a  
8       congressional community -- I mean, a district.

9             And our recommendation would be for the  
10       committee to look to the north and northwest  
11       area of the district in order to make up for  
12       that number that is required, that is, 696  
13       voters, and that would make it sure that the  
14       majority of the people who live and work in  
15       that area have a chance of representing  
16       themselves, thus expanding the democracy that  
17       we all love and serve, and allowing another  
18       segment of our population to really show that  
19       only in America that people who enter into this  
20       country barely 30 years ago can live and work  
21       and thrive, do business, go to school, pay  
22       taxes and be able to represent themselves in  
23       the Congress of the United States.

24             Of all the things that you will be doing,  
25       which I know is going to be extremely

1       difficult, but I am calling to your sense of  
2       leadership acumen, your sense of fairness and  
3       your sense of adherence to the law of the  
4       country, and your love also for the great  
5       diversity of this country, to really make sure  
6       that those of us who live in that district, the  
7       17th Congressional District, do aspire to be  
8       members of our community, but also to be able  
9       to represent ourselves in the Congress of the  
10      United States.

11           Thank you very much for the great work you  
12      do, and I hope that you will take into  
13      consideration these statements that I make on  
14      behalf of us all living and working in this  
15      community.

16           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
17      Dr. Georges.

18           Next we will have Henry Kelley and then  
19      Michael Calsetta, then Gepsie Metellus. Say  
20      again? Gepsie Metellus.

21           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: He must be a  
22      popular guy, everybody knows him.

23           SENATOR GAETZ: Very. And then Janet  
24      McAliley, former member of the School Board  
25      here in Miami-Dade County. We would like to

1       have Ms. McAliley come forward, and then Larry  
2       Thorson will be next.

3               Mr. Kelley, you have the floor.

4               MR. KELLEY: Thank you, Senator, and thank  
5       you to the Committee again. I was going to  
6       ask, is there a chance I can get map number  
7       five pulled up? Okay, thank you.

8               Again, to the Committee, I appreciate all  
9       the hard work, and I have -- as we -- I've  
10      tried to catch up in the meetings, you know, I  
11      have actually taken the time to draw two maps,  
12      and today I wanted to focus on that, but I do  
13      want to recognize the difficulty and the  
14      decisions.

15              I have lived in Ft. Walton, Gainesville,  
16      Jacksonville, Orlando and Margate in my  
17      lifetime in Florida, and this morning, my  
18      girlfriend's father lives in Senator Margolis'  
19      district, and I was explaining to him why I was  
20      moving one of his district lines, which gives  
21      me very unique insight into the political  
22      things when your girlfriend's father is yelling  
23      at you.

24              But last night I had the opportunity to  
25      show on the map that is number four by the

1       system where I started with the existing  
2       majority-minority districts and was forced to  
3       draw all the other districts around it, whereas  
4       this map I took and drew while using the  
5       software, which, again, I found very easy to  
6       use my interpretation of Fair Districts and  
7       some of the methodology that I used, my intent,  
8       and because the Fair Districts is unclear on  
9       this, my political boundaries was to minimize  
10      the number of counties that were cut up. And I  
11      achieved about an 80 percent success rate in  
12      keeping counties whole.

13             The other thing that I tried to do was  
14      avoid what I called a U-shaped district where  
15      you have to drive from one end of a district,  
16      go through somebody else's district to arrive  
17      back in your own district. And this was really  
18      the intent that I drew.

19             I tried to keep coastal communities  
20      associated, the more rural areas aggregated  
21      together as much as possible, but, you know, as  
22      we have discussed the maps and we have  
23      discussed the districts, you know, I put this  
24      up because as you -- I've watched a lot of the  
25      hearings, and the comments when people say,



1 "Well, where are the maps," well, here are the  
2 maps, and any group can come out and produce  
3 their own maps.

4 I did this in my spare time, I didn't  
5 receive any money for it, but it can be done.  
6 And these districts are all within a half a  
7 percent of the intended number.

8 And I also have a Senate map and a House  
9 map that will be submitted in a couple of days.  
10 I just have to finish a few districts in Miami,  
11 little tricky.

12 And the Senate -- you know, the Senate  
13 map, again, with -- you can see in this one  
14 that, again, because of the population  
15 differences, you can see a greater variance  
16 between the coastal communities and the more  
17 interior districts, and, again -- but my  
18 driving objective was to minimize the number of  
19 counties that would be cut up.

20 And as I have said to the Committee, I  
21 know you have sat through many hearings, you  
22 still have a few more to go, but that if groups  
23 or individuals submit maps, to afford us the  
24 opportunity in the committee season to come in  
25 and discuss each one at length and some of the

1 particular decisions we have made as to why a  
2 particular district may be shaped in a certain  
3 way or a certain line was put in a certain  
4 place.

5 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, Mr.  
7 Kelley. We appreciate your submission of maps  
8 and your testimony.

9 Michael William Calsetta, representing the  
10 Conservative Democratic Alliance.

11 Mr. Calsetta, thank you very much for being  
12 here, and we look forward to what you have to  
13 share with us.

14 MR. CALSETTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
15 and ladies and gentlemen of the Committee.

16 Representatives of special interest groups  
17 will come before you seeking to redraw the  
18 legislative districts in such a way as to favor  
19 multi-culturalism, some politically savvy  
20 citizens will be looking for ways around the  
21 Florida legislation preventing gerrymandering  
22 for political advantage, and still others will  
23 stress the need to separate themselves from the  
24 majority of their fellow citizens.

25 Our founding fathers carefully crafted a

1 message to the world when we created the United  
2 States. On our great seal is "E pluribus  
3 unum," the translation from the Latin, "Out of  
4 many, one."

5 Those seeking to divide us into what I --  
6 what I call hyphenated Americans, or party  
7 before principle robots, undermine our  
8 political system. They make it impossible for  
9 term limits, in my view, and we need term  
10 limits desperately.

11 Part of the reason we are in such a  
12 financial mess is because politicians are more  
13 interested in re-election than the good of the  
14 nation; again, in my opinion. We must reform  
15 this system if we are to obtain term limits.

16 I implore you to use real, not artificial,  
17 contiguous boundaries in the redistricting  
18 process. We must not permit multi-culturalism  
19 and/or gerrymandering to continue to divide  
20 Florida the way it is today.

21 And by the way, my -- I was born in  
22 Washington, D.C.

23 SENATOR GAETZ: And I apologize, sir, but  
24 if I could get you to make your main points and  
25 then conclude.

1           MR. CALSETTA: Okay. I came to Miami in  
2           1948, so I've been around a while, off and on.

3           My point is simply that Congressional  
4           District 22, in my view, is the most  
5           problematic example of what is wrong and how we  
6           need to fix that.

7           And I have an attachment, which I can  
8           provide to the Committee. I know this to be  
9           true, because I worked in District 22 in 2010.  
10          I was another Democrat for Allen West.

11          SENATOR GAETZ: Sir, I am going to have to  
12          ask you if you would conclude, please.

13          MR. CALSETTA: I will just give you -- I  
14          will just provide a copy of the remaining  
15          statement. I thank you for what you do -- are  
16          trying to do, and I hope that you are able to  
17          follow the previous speaker's advice and take  
18          into consideration his maps.

19          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, and  
20          please do give us the extended remarks that you  
21          have.

22          It is Gepsie Metellus, is that right? And  
23          you will correct me if I am wrong, I am sure.  
24          Thank you so much for being here today.

25          MS. METELLUS: Thank you, Senator Gaetz.

1        Good morning, bonjour. In the spirit of E  
2        pluribus unum, I want to thank you all for  
3        being here and for providing an opportunity for  
4        all of us to convey to you what our sentiment  
5        and feelings are.

6            I don't come before you as an expert this  
7        morning. I come to you as a dedicated, engaged  
8        citizen of Miami-Dade County, one who is  
9        concerned about the future of all of us. One  
10       who is concerned about the need to have  
11       diversity in our governing bodies, one who is  
12       concerned that every single resident and  
13       citizen throughout Miami-Dade County recognizes  
14       his or herself and the leadership that they  
15       choose to elect.

16           And so I simply want to implore you to  
17       allow me an opportunity to elect someone of my  
18       choosing, elect someone who will represent my  
19       interests, my needs, my aspirations, my issues,  
20       who represents me in terms of recognizing and  
21       understanding my history, my traditions, who  
22       represents me in terms of ensuring that my  
23       interests, my needs and aspirations are not in  
24       contradiction with those of my next-door  
25       neighbor, someone who will, indeed, reflect the

1 growing population of Miami-Dade County's  
2 Haitian-American population.

3 As you know, we are probably over 500,000  
4 strong in south Florida. I believe Dr. Georges  
5 mentioned that we, in fact, are about  
6 35 percent of the voters, and specifically  
7 Congressional District 17.

8 We have a 30-year presence in Miami-Dade  
9 County, and very much willing to work towards  
10 improving conditions for all of us.

11 And so I ask you to ensure that you  
12 protect those political gains that we have made  
13 over the past several years. I want to implore  
14 you to indeed maintain the boundaries as they  
15 are such that our interests are protected in  
16 the manner that I have stated.

17 And I want to urge you to, of course,  
18 have -- proceed with what the -- with the Fair  
19 District standards as outlined in Amendments 5  
20 and 6 such that, of course, no one's rights and  
21 interests are in fact denied.

22 And finally, I want to encourage you to  
23 come back and seek additional citizen and  
24 resident input once you have drawn those  
25 preliminary maps, such that we then continue to

1 be a part of this process.

2 I want to encourage you to ensure that we  
3 are a part of the process and that you hear and  
4 acquiesce to needs and issues put before you,  
5 and I want to thank you again for your presence  
6 here this morning.

7 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
8 ma'am, we appreciate your testimony.

9 And now the Honorable Janet McAliley, we  
10 thank you for your distinguished service to the  
11 people of Miami-Dade County and our state, and  
12 following Ms. McAliley, Larry Thorson, and then  
13 Dr. -- and I apologize, Doctor, I am afraid --  
14 you represent the Miami-Dade Democratic  
15 something at 4824 Northwest 15th Court.

16 And I apologize, Doctor, it is not your  
17 handwriting, I am sure, and it is my eyes, then  
18 Dan Espino, and then Rhonda Sibilia.

19 Ms. McAliley, thank you for being here,  
20 and we look forward to hearing from you.

21 MS. McALILEY: Thank you, Senator Gaetz,  
22 and all of the -- all of your colleagues who  
23 are here to hear what the people have to say  
24 about redistricting in Florida.

25 My name is Janet McAliley. I live in

1 Coconut Grove. I am in a Senate district, a  
2 House district, a city district, that runs  
3 pretty much along the coast of this Dade  
4 County.

5 It is a more or less affluent, white  
6 district, and it has been drawn to keep  
7 somebody like me in office. When I was on the  
8 School Board from 1980 to 1996, we had to live  
9 in specific geographic areas of the county, but  
10 we all ran county-wide.

11 And it certainly sensitized me to the  
12 needs of people all over this county. And my  
13 district was Coral Gables, Coconut Grove,  
14 Pinecrest. I spent more time in Liberty City  
15 and West Perrine and other parts of the county  
16 than I did in my own district, because I had  
17 been trained through the electoral process to  
18 know the needs of those counties.

19 So I am hoping that districts will not be  
20 drawn to perpetuate political -- specific  
21 political ambitions. I think it is -- in this  
22 time in our country where we are so polarized  
23 politically, and sometimes ethnically, we need  
24 to be responsible for all people and be aware  
25 of their needs and not draw political lines to



1       perpetuate the divisiveness that is in our  
2       country today and in this state, too.

3               I think that it is important that the  
4       people have time to review the maps that the  
5       Legislators draw way ahead of the time when  
6       they will be passed.

7               These kind of hearings should be held when  
8       the maps are drawn and we can see what you all  
9       have come up with. I don't have the expertise  
10      to draw those maps, but I have very strong  
11      feelings that they need to encompass people of  
12      all sorts of backgrounds.

13              My respect for Gepsie Metellus is very  
14      high, but I have to say I would like to know  
15      that some of my interests are the same as  
16      Haitian-Americans and native black Americans,  
17      as well as the more affluent people whose  
18      district I am in right now.

19              The whole process needs to have integrity.  
20      We are so tired of the kind of power-broking  
21      and warfare that exists in politics in this  
22      country today, and I urge you to put personal  
23      power ambitions aside and draw your districts  
24      so that they will make us understand each other  
25      and appreciate each other and know that our

1 future well-being is together, not divided as  
2 we are so often in this country today. Thank  
3 you.

4 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. McAliley.

5 Next we will have Larry Thorson, please,  
6 and because we have had now, fortunately, a  
7 large number of additional individuals ask to  
8 speak, we are going to be -- we are going to be  
9 a little tighter on time, and after three  
10 minutes, we are going to ask you to yield the  
11 floor to your friends and neighbors who also  
12 want to speak.

13 Mr. Thorson, and following him, the Doctor  
14 from the Miami-Dade Democratic group, and then  
15 Dan Espino and then Rhonda Sibilia, and then  
16 Terry Coble from the League of Women Voters.

17 Mr. Thorson, thank you for coming. You  
18 are recognized.

19 MR. THORSON: Thank you. I am Larry  
20 Thorson. I live in Miami Beach. Gwen Margolis  
21 is my State Senator and Richard Steinberg is my  
22 State Representative.

23 The -- some of the things that have been  
24 said here today made me -- it intensified my  
25 feeling about the word "fairness" that we are

1 talking about here.

2 We are talking about fair districts, that  
3 is our -- that is our aim. And I said on the  
4 form that I am representing retired people. I  
5 am a retired reporter.

6 I worked for a long time for the  
7 Associated Press, including about 20 years  
8 overseas, and the word "fair" came through in  
9 my experiences a couple of times.

10 The first time that it really hit me, I  
11 was working in our Tokyo bureau and I was  
12 listening to some of my Japanese colleagues  
13 chatter along in Japanese, and I kept hearing  
14 what sounded like the word "fair" coming out  
15 pretty strongly.

16 And when they finished, I asked them,  
17 "Were you using the English word 'fair' as you  
18 were talking in Japanese?" They said, "Yes,  
19 there isn't quite the word in Japanese that has  
20 the impact, the meaning, the broad meaning,  
21 that 'fair' does in English."

22 My next assignment was in Germany, I was  
23 working in Berlin, and the same thing happened.  
24 I was listening to my German colleagues chatter  
25 along in German, which I understand fairly

1       well, and they, too, were saying, "Das ist  
2       nicht fair," and I asked them the same thing --  
3       well, there are words that are kind of like  
4       this in German.

5               But, anyway, they had appropriated this  
6       English word, even though both of those  
7       countries, Japan and Germany, were occupied and  
8       still are by American troops, which is not  
9       always a pleasant experience, but they had  
10       absorbed some important things about the United  
11       States, which this is not in the Constitution,  
12       you know, if you look for the word "fair" in  
13       the U.S. Constitution, you won't find it.

14              But somehow it is a very important  
15       concept, and it is what we voted for in very  
16       large numbers last year in the election, even  
17       though say the -- the left or the liberal side  
18       of the -- of the voting public didn't come out  
19       very strongly, if there weren't a whole lot of  
20       Tea Party voters out there, they must have  
21       voted pretty strongly, too, for the idea that  
22       we need fair districts.

23              And it is the kind of thing that we voted  
24       for in very large numbers, because it isn't  
25       fair, it wasn't fair, it hasn't been fair for

1           some time.

2           We've got a system that is one of the --  
3           acknowledged around the country as one of the  
4           most gerrymandered. This is a system that  
5           is -- in a way, it is against this very  
6           important idea of what makes the United States  
7           an important place, and it contributes to a  
8           public distrust of politicians that I am sure  
9           you are aware of, that if there are things  
10          wrong between the public and the politicians,  
11          the gerrymandered, the unfair districts are a  
12          big part of it. So at the --

13          SENATOR GAETZ: And, sir, I am going to  
14          have to ask you, if possible, to conclude.

15          MR. THORSON: I am. At the end of this  
16          process, I just say we will be able to see  
17          again whether it is fair, and we will judge you  
18          accordingly. Thank you.

19          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Thorson.  
20          And next -- and, Doctor, I am very sorry that I  
21          was unable to read your writing. Can you help  
22          us out with your name, please?

23          DR. CHRISTIAN: Good morning. That's how  
24          doctors write sometimes. I developed my own  
25          brief forms in terms of shorthand, because I

1 have so many classes. I'd like to say --

2 SENATOR GAETZ: And would you tell us your  
3 name, ma'am?

4 DR. CHRISTIAN: I am getting ready to. I  
5 would like to say -- I was going to address you  
6 first.

7 SENATOR GAETZ: All right.

8 DR. CHRISTIAN: To the Senate Chair, House  
9 Chair, to the Senate and House committee, my  
10 name is Dr. Mae Christian, C-h-r-i-s-t-i-a-n,  
11 like church.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: You could write  
13 prescriptions with this. This is great.

14 DR. CHRISTIAN: I would like to also say  
15 good morning to our voters that are present and  
16 had an interest to be here.

17 As the President of the Miami-Dade  
18 Democratic Black Caucus and a member of the  
19 Miami-Dade Democratic Party Executive  
20 Committee, I would like to say, in all  
21 fairness, it is not fair to be taxed without  
22 representation, and a lot of us live in  
23 unincorporated Dade and in areas that are in  
24 plight.

25 Recently a study stated that Miami is one

1       of the most plighted cities in -- is the most  
2       plighted city and suffering city in America  
3       with the highest unemployment rate.

4               And speaking for the African-American  
5       community that is possibly in Overtown, Miami,  
6       Miami Gardens, Opa-Locka, and some parts of  
7       Coconut Grove and South Miami, that instead of  
8       gerrymandering the drawings of this -- these  
9       districts, I recommend highly that the  
10      minorities, as you call some of us, that we  
11      need those districts drawn fairly, that we can  
12      be represented fairly.

13             And I also say that it is time for our  
14      leadership and representatives that we voted  
15      for to remember that we are the people that put  
16      you there, and at this particular point,  
17      whether it's the Haitian community, Hispanic,  
18      African-American, that we need you all to  
19      listen to our voice and let you know that we  
20      have a right to have our voice heard. Thank  
21      you very much.

22             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Doctor.

23             And next, Dan Espino, Councilman for the  
24      City of Miami Springs, then Rhonda Sibilia,  
25      then Terry Coble with the League of Women

1       Voters, and then Marlon Hill with the Caribbean  
2       Bar Association.

3               Councilman, thank you very much for being  
4       here, and you are recognized. Thanks for your  
5       service.

6               COUNCILMAN ESPINO: Thank you, Chairman,  
7       and thank you, Senators and Representatives for  
8       your service as well, certainly for being down  
9       here in south Florida, and for certainly  
10      conducting these meetings and genuinely  
11      listening to the public before the maps are  
12      drawn.

13              My name is Dan Espino. I am a Councilman  
14      for the City of Miami Springs. I am a  
15      life-long resident of the City of Miami Springs  
16      and Miami-Dade County. And when I am not  
17      fighting crime and solving quality of life  
18      issues on the council, I am a practicing  
19      attorney.

20              I am Hispanic, and that is the point that  
21      I come to bring to you today, the point of  
22      ethnicity. Amendments 5 and 6 certainly  
23      require neutrality as to party and incumbency,  
24      but they cannot in any way call for the -- the  
25      diminishment of Hispanic representation in our



1 State Legislature and in Congress.

2 As a matter of fact, it would call for the  
3 opposite, and it is a constitutional right of  
4 the minorities to be represented as such.

5 Miami-Dade County is a very unique place  
6 in the state of Florida. We have 65 percent of  
7 our population currently comprised of  
8 Hispanics, but currently Miami-Dade's Senate  
9 seats are comprised of less than 50 percent  
10 Hispanics. So there is not adequate  
11 representation in there.

12 What we need is compact districts that  
13 adequately represent and reflect the continuity  
14 of certain populations, that certainly seek to  
15 minimize jumping chasms, jumping gaps into  
16 other counties.

17 I think the goal should be to push forward  
18 Hispanic representation as it reflects in the  
19 community, to certainly avoid retrogression of  
20 Hispanic votes and to amplify a popular  
21 diversity in our representation.

22 I implore that all of you continue to do  
23 the outstanding job that you are doing in  
24 Tallahassee, but to keep in mind the diversity  
25 of our community and truly what has been the

1 fuel of Miami-Dade County, of south Florida,  
2 which has been the melting pot, the salad bowl,  
3 the soup bowl, of our community coming together  
4 and being able to adequately elect individuals  
5 that represent our beliefs, our choices and our  
6 way of life.

7 Thank you very much, and God bless you  
8 all.

9 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Councilman.

10 And now, Rhonda Sibilia is recognized, and  
11 we thank you very much for taking time from  
12 your day to be with us, and look forward to  
13 your testimony.

14 MS. SIBILIA: Thank you, and good morning,  
15 ladies and gentlemen. You want to know my  
16 story? Well, here's my story: I am a native  
17 Miamian. I am a product of Miami-Dade Public  
18 Schools and the State University System.

19 I have worked as a broadcast journalist in  
20 government and corporate communications, and  
21 Senator Gaetz, that includes a couple of years  
22 at VITAS.

23 I currently work outreach for the  
24 Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public  
25 Trust, and, no, that is not an oxymoron. But I

1 am here as a private citizen, because I have  
2 voted in every election since I was 18 and that  
3 was a long time ago.

4 My home is in an unincorporated area of  
5 Miami-Dade County commonly known as West  
6 Kendall. The major concerns for the region are  
7 smart growth, because there's been a lot of  
8 dumb growth, the need for green space, we have  
9 overburdened transit systems and other  
10 attributes of rapidly developing suburbia.

11 My political districts, I think, are  
12 horribly gerrymandered, and I would like to  
13 explain why.

14 Congressional District 25 spans from  
15 Homestead and West Kendall through Everglades  
16 National Park and northwest to Immokalee. It  
17 includes three very different counties:  
18 Western Miami-Dade, mainland Monroe and a huge  
19 section of eastern Collier.

20 Now, the concerns of the very good  
21 residents of Immokalee are very different than  
22 those of us who live in West Kendall. And I  
23 appreciate that the alligators need some  
24 representation.

25 So I think that for this Congressional

1 District, despite Mr. Henry's very good  
2 intention, the boundaries, the Dade/Collier  
3 line, should be the boundaries dividing that  
4 Congressional District.

5 I am in Florida Senate District 38, which  
6 runs north to south from the Doral city limits  
7 to the Redland, and for those of you from other  
8 parts of the state, that is the huge  
9 agricultural basket that provides much of the  
10 goods that fill our -- the nation's vegetable  
11 basket during the winter.

12 So it includes the suburbs of West  
13 Kendall, Sweetwater and Westchester to those  
14 farms. And, again, our needs and interests are  
15 very different.

16 Other parts of West Kendall, for example,  
17 residents with whom I have much more in common,  
18 the massive Hammocks community, are in a  
19 paralleling district, 34, and, to me, that  
20 makes no sense.

21 I am also in Florida House District 119,  
22 and that stretches further south from the Doral  
23 line to include Homestead. Now, the  
24 Representative of this district was kind enough  
25 to include a map with the recent flyer that he

1       sent out announcing these meetings, and I know  
2       that you can't see this very well, but it is  
3       very large in the bottom.

4               Then there is a skinny little line that  
5       goes up north that includes just a very small  
6       section of the county. District 119 apparently  
7       is so strange that the elected Representative  
8       doesn't even want to live there. Yes, sir.  
9       Rumor is that he is waiting for his homestead  
10      to be gerrymandered into this district.

11             Now, that being said, there is no reason  
12      for these very expensive and time-consuming  
13      public hearings to learn how we want  
14      redistricting to take place. We told you with  
15      overwhelming support of Amendments 5 and 6 that  
16      require the consideration of municipal, natural  
17      or obvious boundaries when redrawing districts,  
18      and not to base it on political party or  
19      candidate considerations.

20             SENATOR GAETZ: And, ma'am, because your  
21      time has elapsed, could you bring it in for a  
22      landing?

23             MS. SIBILIA: I am. I think this is  
24      really a waste of our scarce tax dollars and --  
25      by fighting the will of the people in those

1       amendments. I would like you to put those  
2       supercomputers to work, get some actual  
3       proposals on record, make them make common  
4       sense and not political sense.

5               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much for your  
6       testimony.

7               Next we will hear from Terry Coble with  
8       the League of Women Voters, then Marlon Hill  
9       with the Caribbean Bar Association, and then  
10      Francesca Menes, I believe, with the Florida  
11      Immigrant Coalition, and then we will have  
12      Mayor Michael -- and I apologize, Mr. Mayor,  
13      Michael Pisa -- Pizzi from the town of Miami  
14      Lakes.

15              Ms. Coble, thank you for coming, and you  
16      are recognized.

17              MS. COBLE: Good morning, Honorable Chair  
18      and members of the Redistricting Committee. My  
19      name is Terry Coble. I am the President of the  
20      League of Women Voters of Miami-Dade County,  
21      and a 20-year resident of the City of Miami.  
22      Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to  
23      speak before you today.

24              This year's redistricting is a historic  
25      event, because it is the first apportionment to

1 occur after the passage of Amendments 5 and 6  
2 by which Florida voters enacted standards to  
3 guide the legislative redistricting process.

4 These standards prohibit districts drawn  
5 to favor political parties or incumbents, or to  
6 deny racial or language minorities the equal  
7 opportunity to participate in the political  
8 process and to elect representatives of their  
9 choice.

10 While the League of Women Voters applauds  
11 efforts to seek public input, the present  
12 hearings are being held, we believe, at the  
13 wrong time.

14 They should be held after the Legislature  
15 has drawn proposed maps so that the public can  
16 be heard on needed changes. The public has  
17 already spoken on redistricting by enacting  
18 Amendments 5 and 6 in November of last year.

19 It is now up to the Legislature to assume  
20 its constitutional duty and to begin applying  
21 these new standards without delay.

22 Although the leadership in the state  
23 Legislature is on record as promising hearings  
24 after the maps are drawn, there has been no  
25 commitment to hold these hearings throughout

1       the state, as is the case for the hearings that  
2       are being held now.

3               In addition, the proposed timeline for  
4       legislative redistricting is also far too long.  
5       Maps should be approved by the Legislature in  
6       early January of 2012, so as to allow for  
7       mandatory reviews and probable legal  
8       challenges, while also giving enough notice of  
9       legislative districts so that incum- -- so that  
10      challengers can timely declare their  
11      candidacies. Otherwise, the process will favor  
12      incumbents, in violation of the requirements of  
13      Amendments 5 and 6.

14              The League of Women Voters urges the  
15      Legislature to adopt a timeline for  
16      redistricting that makes sense, given existing  
17      candidate qualifying and primary dates, and  
18      that includes hearings throughout the state  
19      after the maps have been proposed --

20              SENATOR GAETZ: Ma'am, could I ask you to  
21      conclude just in fairness to those who are  
22      behind you?

23              MS. COBLE: Yes, I am on my last sentence.

24              SENATOR GAETZ: All right. Fire away.

25              MS. COBLE: We hope that you will respond



1 to this request in a manner appropriate to the  
2 seriousness of the issue, and, again, thank you  
3 for the opportunity for allowing us to speak.

4 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
5 Ms. Coble.

6 As we are going through today's hearing,  
7 you will notice that there may be some people  
8 who ask specific questions about timeline or  
9 something else, and what we will try to do,  
10 time permitting at the end, is first to make  
11 sure that any members of the committee have an  
12 opportunity to address any comments they wish  
13 to make, but then I will turn to Speaker  
14 Designate Weatherford and ask him if he would  
15 respond to any factual questions that are  
16 answered so that we can all leave with the same  
17 set of facts.

18 While the hearing has been proceeding, I  
19 am pleased that we have been joined by two  
20 leaders of the Florida Senate, the Democratic  
21 Leader of the Senate, Senator Nan Rich, and  
22 Senator Rich, if you would identify yourself  
23 for the audience. Senator Nan Rich.

24 And the Republican Leader of the Florida  
25 Senate, Senator Andy Gardiner from Orlando.

1       Senator Gardiner. So we've got -- we've got  
2       them all, we've got both sides.

3               And now we would like to hear from Marlon  
4       Hill with the Caribbean Bar Association, then  
5       Francesca Menes with the Florida Immigrant  
6       Coalition, and then Mayor Pizzi from the Town  
7       of Miami Lakes, and then Elizabeth Pines, also  
8       from the League of Women Voters.

9               Mr. Hill, thank you.

10              MR. HILL: Good morning, welcome to Miami,  
11       all. Mr. Chair, Mr. Speaker Designate, first  
12       let me just thank newly-minted President of the  
13       Wolfson campus, Madeline Pumariega, for  
14       allowing us this opportunity for being here  
15       this morning.

16              Personally, my name is Marlon Hill. I  
17       reside in West Kendall. I am glad to see my  
18       State Representative here, Ana Rivas Logan, and  
19       State Senator Anitere Flores here as well. My  
20       Congressman, Mr. Mario Diaz-Balart is now  
21       present.

22              Mr. Chair, we have an opportunity here on  
23       our hands to really reset the values that we  
24       have as a state. Some people may say that when  
25       you come to a person's home and you see how it

1 is painted or what is inside, it is a  
2 reflection of who they are as a family.

3 We will be watching very closely. I am  
4 very glad for this opportunity and am very  
5 thankful for the Redistricting Committee staff  
6 for providing this opportunity for us to  
7 participate in such a public manner, because we  
8 are watching very closely.

9 And if you are not paying very close  
10 attention to the radio waves and the  
11 newspapers, folks are not really pleased about  
12 any obstructionist behavior across the country.  
13 We are not in the mood.

14 So we are going to be watching this  
15 process very closely, and we are just imploring  
16 that the Committee take into consideration that  
17 the language of the amendments speak very  
18 clearly, and words are very powerful, favor or  
19 disfavor, incumbency or political party,  
20 compact, equal, contiguous, and not to deny  
21 racial or language.

22 But here in Miami-Dade County, I must tell  
23 you, even in Broward County and in various  
24 counties across the state, this state is very  
25 complex. As you take a look at the U.S. Census

1        numbers, Mr. Chair, you will see that our  
2        population is becoming increasingly diverse.

3                How do we know what fair looks like? How  
4        do we know what equal looks like? How do we  
5        know what denying racial or language barriers  
6        looks like?

7                And, of course, this can go as far as to  
8        the highest courts of the land, but we are  
9        hoping that we can give you some guidance to  
10       allow you to bring some balance to what racial  
11       or language means.

12               Is it Creole? Is it a version of English  
13       in terms of the heritage of my people from  
14       another country in the Caribbean? It is going  
15       to be very difficult for you to find what is  
16       perfect in these boundaries, I must tell you.

17               But the road to perfection, Mr. Chair, is  
18       filled with imperfections, okay, and we just  
19       urge you to travel this road of imperfections  
20       to a path of perfections.

21               For example, one of the most blighted  
22       neighborhoods in Miami-Dade County, Mr. Chair,  
23       is next to one of the most richest, half a  
24       mile. A Representative could potentially --  
25       one of the problems that we have is that

1       Representatives do not care, or we do not care  
2       about our neighbor.

3               SENATOR GAETZ:  And I would ask you if you  
4       could conclude --

5               MR. HILL:  I will conclude.

6               SENATOR GAETZ:  -- out of respect to  
7       others.

8               MR. HILL:  I will conclude.  I urge you  
9       not to consider packing minorities in single  
10      districts, because that would also  
11      disenfranchise folks who are non-minority  
12      packed in their own district, and I thank you  
13      for hearing my comments.

14              SENATOR GAETZ:  Thank you very, very much,  
15      sir.

16              Francesca -- is it Menes?  Francesca  
17      Menes, and then the Mayor will be following  
18      Francesca, then Elizabeth Pines from the League  
19      of Women Voters, and then Thomas Gara, I  
20      believe, and then Harold, I think it is  
21      Fascer -- Foster, I'm sorry.

22              Thankfully I have the President sitting  
23      next to me who can correct me -- from Miami  
24      Beach, Harold Foster.

25              Francesca, thank you for coming, and you

1           are recognized.

2           MS. MENES: Hi, good morning, everyone.  
3           Thank you for allowing me to speak. And I  
4           would like to say good morning to my Senator,  
5           Senator Gwen Margolis, and my Representative,  
6           John Patrick Julien.

7           So I am just basically going to give kind  
8           of like a quick overview and kind of like, I  
9           guess, my feelings on everything.

10          I am with the Florida Immigrant Coalition,  
11          but I am also a member of the Miami-Dade Young  
12          Democrats and I also sit on the Miami-Dade  
13          Commission for Women.

14          Districts can help, but they can also  
15          harm. One of the tactics to fracture minority  
16          populations into multiple districts is -- in  
17          order to break them up is with their voting  
18          power.

19          Another tactic is to consolidate as many  
20          minority voters as possible in just a few  
21          districts in order to limit their population  
22          voting power in the Legislature as a whole,  
23          also known as cracking and packing, and this  
24          way can reliably limit minority representation.

25          The Federal Voting Act of 1965 was

1       designed to combat discrimination, used to deny  
2       minority voters the rights to an effective  
3       vote, including redistricting techniques like  
4       those above.

5               As federal law, the voting rights  
6       amendment overrides inconsistent state laws and  
7       practices. Two sections of the Voting Rights  
8       Act are particularly important to  
9       redistricting, Sections 2 and Section 5.

10              Currently the Florida House is using  
11       taxpayer money to attack and invalidate  
12       provisions of the State Constitution that was  
13       supported by 63 percent of the -- 63 percent of  
14       the voters of the state of Florida. It is  
15       spending our money to join lawsuits filed by  
16       Representative Brown and Representative  
17       Diaz-Balart asking the courts to strike  
18       Amendment 6 from the Florida Constitution.

19              Secretary of State -- Secretary of State  
20       Kurt Browning, who headed the "Nix 5 and 6"  
21       campaign, is the defendant in the case. So  
22       Florida taxpayers are actually now paying to  
23       sue and defend the lawsuit.

24              All of this money is being spent while  
25       teachers are being fired, social services are

1       being cut and not a single job is being  
2       created. This is outrageous. Florida voters  
3       should not and will not tolerate blatant  
4       efforts to protect incumbents and undermine the  
5       fair and competitive -- fair and competitive  
6       elections.

7               We voted for Amendments 5 and 6 in the  
8       past mid-term elections, and we ask that you  
9       adhere to what the voters of the state of  
10      Florida asked you to do. Thank you.

11             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
12      Francesca.

13             Mr. Mayor? Is Mayor -- is it Pizzi?  
14      Mayor Pizzi, are you here? All right. We will  
15      pass the Mayor for the moment and go to  
16      Elizabeth Pines from the League of Women  
17      Voters, followed by Thomas Gara and then Harold  
18      Foster and then Greg Carney from the Venetian  
19      Islands Homeowners Association.

20             Ms. Pines, thank you for being here, and  
21      you are recognized.

22             MS. PINES: Thank you. Thank you for  
23      having me.

24             I have been a resident of Miami-Dade  
25      County for 30 years. I am also on the State



1 Board of the League of Women Voters of Florida  
2 and of Miami-Dade County. I am also an  
3 attorney.

4 I want to start by reiterating  
5 Representative Scott Randolph's query regarding  
6 the expenditure related to the lawsuit the  
7 House has filed against Fair District  
8 constitutional amendment.

9 SENATOR GAETZ: Ms. Pines, could you speak  
10 more directly into the mike so everyone can  
11 hear you?

12 MS. PINES: Yes, sir.

13 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, ma'am.

14 MS. PINES: Have you heard me?

15 SENATOR GAETZ: Yes, much better, thank  
16 you.

17 MS. PINES: Okay. How much is this  
18 costing us? Speaker Dean Cannon has refused to  
19 provide this information, alleging that it will  
20 divulge the Chamber's legal strategy. I ask  
21 myself, will Representative Randolph have to  
22 file another lawsuit in order for us to have  
23 access to this public information?

24 Representative Diaz-Balart and Corrine  
25 Brown have filed lawsuits challenging the

1 constitutional of Amendment 6. The House  
2 has filed a complaint and intervention joining  
3 them and requesting that this amendment be  
4 declared unconstitutional under the elections  
5 clause of the United States Constitution.

6 Why are we doing this? Amendments 5 and  
7 6, as we have heard many times, has been voted  
8 by Florida voters by 63 percent. Why are you  
9 challenging the -- you know, our will, the will  
10 of the people?

11 Why are we continuing to spend taxpayer  
12 dollars on this lawsuit? It is time to stop  
13 this. Dean Cannon, stop wasting our taxpayer  
14 dollars on this. It is time to get to work on  
15 what really counts.

16 Senator Gaetz and Representative  
17 Weatherford, you have stated, and it was stated  
18 in *The Miami Herald* that these public hearings  
19 are to listen to the constituents, will listen  
20 to us. Let's stop wasting our money and get to  
21 what really counts.

22 I would like you to commit to three  
23 things. Number one, adopt a working timeline.  
24 For example, make October 3rd the deadline for  
25 your proposed maps. This is sufficient time,

1           this is 30 days after these public hearings are  
2           over.

3                 In addition, you have the technology and  
4           you will have the input of all the  
5           constituents.

6                 Number two, commit to complete all the  
7           reviews by December 2011, and also allow  
8           citizen review.

9                 And number three, the most important,  
10          please commit to have your final maps by the  
11          first week of January, the first week of  
12          session. That is January 13th, 2011. Thank  
13          you very much.

14                SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
15          Ms. Pines.

16                Next we will hear from Thomas Gara.  
17          Mr. Gara, are you here, sir? You may fire when  
18          ready, sir. And following Mr. Gara is Harold  
19          Foster and then Greg Carney and then Jose  
20          Rodriguez.

21                You are recognized, and thank you for  
22          being here.

23                MR. GARA: Thank you very much. My name  
24          is Thomas Gara, I am a resident of Miami, and I  
25          grew up in Michigan. I lived in New Orleans,

1 Boston and San Francisco during my lifetime. I  
2 have also traveled the world and lived in  
3 Europe for four years and South America for  
4 five.

5 I find myself here out of curiosity to see  
6 just how a state gerrymanders and  
7 re-gerrymanders its districts. And I have  
8 listened to these good people come up and tell  
9 you, "Oh, gerrymander it so the Haitians get a  
10 benefit," "Gerrymander it so the Cubans have a  
11 benefit."

12 I would like to ask you not to do any of  
13 that. I would like to ask you to do districts  
14 that are balanced politically. We have two  
15 major parties, plus independent parties. You  
16 should have a district that has an X number of  
17 dominant party equaling the number of  
18 non-dominant parties, and that will create a  
19 political environment that will be issue-based  
20 and not politically-based.

21 I'm sorry, but it will take away your  
22 comfortable little districts that are easy to  
23 win, but if we can change our political system  
24 to one that has issues instead of political  
25 parties, and we can look at our political

1       system as something that is building a country,  
2       a state and the nation, it will be far better.

3               I'm sorry, but I don't think the Haitians  
4       or the Cubans or any other minority in this  
5       city have any more rights than me, a general  
6       American.

7               When I was in Europe for three years, I  
8       learned German and I spoke it well at the end  
9       of three years. When I was in Brazil, I  
10      learned Portuguese Brazil -- Brazilian  
11      Portuguese, and I spoke it well at the end of  
12      three years, and I lived there and worked as an  
13      exporter for five. I submit to you that our  
14      good immigrants need to do the same.

15              SENATOR GAETZ: Can we bring it back to  
16      redistricting, please? That is why we are  
17      here.

18              MR. GARA: Redistricting, well, that is  
19      what I was talking about, redistricting,  
20      because these people are all asking for special  
21      benefits because of their special situation.

22              Their special situation is that they are  
23      immigrants in another country, and they need to  
24      adapt to the country, they need to adapt to its  
25      language, its political means and whatever.

1           I did that when I was abroad. It is not  
2           hard to do. It is nice to do. You learn the  
3           culture, you learn the language, you get it on  
4           in the country.

5           So I would ask you to redistrict according  
6           to political party demographics so that each --  
7           each district has a major party, and that is  
8           equaled by the non-dominant parties involved,  
9           that would be say Republicans and then  
10          Democrats and Independents, or vice versa or  
11          whatever.

12          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, your time has  
13          lapsed. I appreciate your testimony very much.

14          Next is Harold Foster. Mr. Foster, and  
15          then following Mr. Foster, Greg Carney and then  
16          Jose Rodriguez and then Evan Ross, if you will  
17          be on deck.

18          And we have an on deck circle up here if  
19          you'd care to sit up there to make it easier  
20          for you to come forward.

21          Mr. Foster, you are recognized. Thanks  
22          for coming.

23          MR. FOSTER: Thank you very much. Good  
24          afternoon. I also want to respect our own  
25          State Representative, Carlos Lopez-Cantera,

1       President of our Miami-Dade delegation. We  
2       have a fantastic Miami-Dade delegation that all  
3       of us here in Dade County should be very, very  
4       proud of. And this is a great room and forum  
5       to speak.

6             I live in the state Senate district of  
7       Gwen Margolis. She's been phenomenal. We  
8       would ask that we keep the coastal areas kind  
9       of unified in that sense.

10            I also live in State Seat 107. I also  
11       have -- when I was Chief of Staff for  
12       Commissioner Simon Cruz, I had the honor of  
13       working alongside of Luis Garcia and Richard  
14       Steinberg. I commend you both with the  
15       phenomenal job you have done, but I couldn't  
16       agree more, we're all one county, we're all  
17       together, so we shouldn't be looking at Anglo,  
18       Hispanic, Haitian-American.

19            It is really in the very best interest of  
20       economic development of Miami-Dade County.

21            I would suggest that part of Miami Beach,  
22       maybe the south part of Miami Beach be still  
23       connected to Miami downtown, Coconut Grove  
24       area, and I recommend that for tourism,  
25       hospitality and also to keep a -- somewhat of a

1 communication between Miami-Dade County, the  
2 City of Miami and the U.S. House, and that is  
3 pretty much it.

4 I think you are all doing a brilliant job,  
5 and let's hope this all works out for the best.

6 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
7 Mr. Foster.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

9 SENATOR GAETZ: Next, Greg Carney with the  
10 Venetian Islands Homeowners Association, then  
11 Jose Rodriguez and then Evan Ross and then  
12 Maria Rodriguez from the Florida Immigrant  
13 Coalition.

14 Mr. Carney, you are recognized, and we  
15 appreciate you taking time to come see us  
16 today.

17 MR. CARNEY: Well, thank you very much.  
18 As President of the Venetian Island Homeowners  
19 Association, I have to say we appreciate the  
20 fact that the community -- or the committee  
21 here has schlepped -- that is a technical term  
22 we use in Miami Beach -- has schlepped its way  
23 down here to listen to us.

24 Venetian Island Homeowners Association is  
25 one of many homeowners associations that exists



1       in Dade County. We happen to represent the  
2       causeway that runs between Miami and Miami  
3       Beach behind the Miami Herald building over to  
4       South Beach in Miami Beach. We are maybe five,  
5       six hundred families in that area. It is not  
6       very big.

7             The message I wanted to bring here I think  
8       echoes some of the other messages which you  
9       have heard, which is we in Dade County are a  
10      relatively large county and we have a fairly  
11      dense population here.

12            We have enough population in Dade County  
13      to have three, four U.S. Congressional  
14      Districts that are contained within the county  
15      itself.

16            Instead, we have a number of districts  
17      that stretch all over the place. You know,  
18      District 17 and District 21 are reasonable, but  
19      you take a look at our district, which is  
20      District 20, and it loops up around into  
21      Broward County. District 23 is almost totally  
22      insane.

23            If you take a look at that, it is actually  
24      two discontinuous districts in terms of  
25      population, although it kind of loops out into

1       the Everglades in order to kind of create kind  
2       of a continuous map, I guess to meet the letter  
3       of whatever the law is.

4               But the point I want to make to the group  
5       here is that the compact, contiguous districts  
6       make for better representation. If we, the  
7       voters, can kind of physically get at you, the  
8       Representatives, and know where you are and  
9       know who you are and you know who we are, you  
10      will meet our needs, you will listen to us.  
11      That's been my experience as President of our  
12      homeowners association dealing with various  
13      political representatives that we have. You  
14      will meet our needs.

15             Whether we happen to match you in ethnic  
16      background or religion or skin color or  
17      whatever, you will meet our needs if you know  
18      who we are, we are relatively close to where  
19      you are, that sort of thing.

20             So I would like to urge the Committee to  
21      pay attention to the amendments that have been  
22      passed, look at political bound- -- existing  
23      municipal boundaries, if you can, in drawing  
24      the districts, and try to get the districts,  
25      especially in the United States Congressional

1 Districts, as compact as you possibly can.

2 Thank you very much.

3 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much,

4 Mr. Carney.

5 Next, Jose Rodriguez, then Evan Ross, then

6 Maria Rodriguez and then C. J. Ortuno.

7 Mr. Rodriguez, thank you for being here,

8 and we look forward to your testimony.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. Jose Javier

10 Rodriguez, I am a resident of the City of

11 Miami. Thank you for listening to what we have

12 to say today.

13 For me, the Amendments 5 and 6 come down

14 to keeping our communities together, and what

15 that is all about is improving the quality of

16 our democracy when we keep our communities

17 together.

18 I live smack in the middle of my

19 neighborhood. I walk two houses down, and

20 there's a different State Rep district. My

21 neighbor and I speak the same languages, same

22 ethnicity, we are served by the same school,

23 same public transportation, and yet we have two

24 different State Representatives. And, again, I

25 live smack in the middle of my neighborhood.

1           I also work a lot with community-based  
2           organizations, both privately and  
3           professionally. I am at Legal Services and am  
4           active in my community, and it makes it very  
5           difficult.

6           Anecdotally, I will tell you that most  
7           people do not know who their State Senator or  
8           State Representative is. It is just a fact.  
9           And what is even worse -- and part of that is  
10          because of gerrymandering, it is not  
11          exclusively because of that.

12          But one of the effects of that -- one of  
13          the things that makes that even worse is that  
14          even those who know who they are represented  
15          by, most people can't guess or would have a  
16          hard time guessing who else is in that same  
17          district.

18          So, for example, in Little Havana, would  
19          you be able to guess that you are also  
20          represented by the same person as people in  
21          Cocoplum? You might not be able to guess that.  
22          And some of your introductions in terms of  
23          listing all the different places you represent  
24          I think communicates -- communicates that  
25          probably better than I just did.

1           And I think, you know, the effect of what  
2           would happen of keeping communities together is  
3           echoing a lot of what has been said in prior  
4           testimony is that it would create less safe  
5           seats. And that is a good thing.

6           We as voters want competition, we want  
7           choice. And, you know, if you look at the  
8           statistics, a quarter of Miami-Dade County's  
9           registered voters have no party affiliation,  
10          and where would their voice be in there?

11          So I just want to echo a lot of what has  
12          been said already, and really encourage you to  
13          get this done quickly and get it done fairly,  
14          and hopefully it won't have to go through the  
15          Supreme Court and what-not. Thank you very  
16          much.

17          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, sir.

18          Next, Evan Ross, and following Mr. Ross,  
19          Maria Rodriguez and then C. J. Ortuno and then  
20          Jonathon Fried.

21          Mr. Ross, thank you for coming very much.

22          MR. ROSS: Thank you for having me.

23          Good morning, my name is Evan Ross. I am  
24          fortunate to be represented by Representative  
25          Richard Steinberg and Senator Gwen Margolis.

1           After hearing those long lists -- the long  
2       list of cities that each of you represent in  
3       your introductions, I am very hopeful that when  
4       this process concludes, we can significantly  
5       shorten those lists, thereby giving each of you  
6       the ability to better represent the people  
7       within your districts.

8           I am going to attempt to keep my remarks  
9       brief so that my remaining time may be used in  
10      order to answer the two questions that I will  
11      ask.

12           The first question is directed to all of  
13      our Representatives on stage, and I will simply  
14      ask for a show of hands to respond to it.

15           SENATOR GAETZ: I'll tell you what, we are  
16      not going to do show-of-hands questions. You  
17      can ask any question you want, and then at the  
18      time remaining at the end of the hearing, we  
19      will ask Representatives or Senators if they  
20      wish to comment on any questions.

21           MR. ROSS: I understand. I would still  
22      very much appreciate a show of hands being that  
23      it will save us time.

24           Public records show that you have spent at  
25      least a million dollars hiring lawyers to

1       oppose Fair Districts amendments. Now that you  
2       are spending our tax dollars to have amendments  
3       held unconstitutional that were passed by an  
4       over 63 percent of the population -- the voting  
5       population of the state of Florida, by a show  
6       of hands, to all of our elected Representatives  
7       here today, please raise your hand if you think  
8       that the House of Representatives should drop  
9       its legal challenge and attack on Amendment 5.

10           Thank you to our Representatives who have  
11       raised their hands.

12           My second question I will direct  
13       specifically to Senator Gaetz and  
14       Representative Weatherford.

15           The Florida House has joined the  
16       Diaz-Balart/Brown lawsuit and is trying to get  
17       a federal court to declare Amendment 6  
18       unconstitutional, once again, even though over  
19       63 percent of voters in Florida supported it.

20           Are private funds being collected or used  
21       to fund the House position in this lawsuit?  
22       And I understand that the questions will be  
23       answered at the end.

24           SENATOR GAETZ: We will do our best to do  
25       that, yes. Any other testimony that you have?

1           MR. ROSS: Again, I would very much like  
2           to thank those Representatives who chose to  
3           acknowledge my first question, and I think by  
4           the response of the room, I am not the only one  
5           who very much appreciated your support for 63  
6           plus percent of the voters of Florida, and I  
7           thank you again for that.

8           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, Mr.  
9           Ross.

10          Maria Rodriguez with the Florida Immigrant  
11          Coalition. Ms. Rodriguez, thank you for being  
12          here today.

13          MS. RODRIGUEZ: Good morning. Thank you.  
14          Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you,  
15          and thank you for the people who came here to  
16          share our perspectives.

17          We played a role in the We Are Florida  
18          campaign, and we did that to bring those most  
19          affected to the decision-making bodies, to make  
20          sure that many of the people who contribute to  
21          this great state are seen so that we can deepen  
22          democracy and enrich democracy. I know that  
23          many of you witnessed those humble,  
24          hard-working voices there.

25          I am here to say that this is also part of



1       that process, and, again, I appreciate the  
2       opportunity to participate. I think that the  
3       immigrant community in Florida as a community  
4       of interest is undervalued, and we are facing  
5       sharp attacks, partly because we don't have the  
6       political representation that we deserve  
7       throughout the peninsula.

8               It is obvious that in Miami-Dade and  
9       southern Florida, there's large immigrant  
10      communities, 588,000 naturalized citizens here  
11      in Miami-Dade. But you know what? Immigrants  
12      have been in the state of Florida since its  
13      inception, as seen in the State Seal, as seen  
14      in St. Augustine, Ybor City, Miami, Orlando,  
15      and the one thing that I want as a take-home  
16      message is immigrants and immigration have been  
17      good for Florida and will continue to be good  
18      for Florida when they are given an opportunity.

19             Whether it is Miami, Cubans, the  
20      Jamaicans, Haitians in Miami, or whether it is  
21      Puerto Ricans in Orlando, when people are given  
22      an opportunity, they will give back to the  
23      most. We do not want to exclude, we want to  
24      include.

25             And I agree with the previous speaker who

1       said we want to help people integrate and we  
2       need policies and leadership to help people  
3       integrate, because that doesn't happen without  
4       support. But there are immigrants throughout  
5       the U.S. 27. There's been 40 years of Mexican  
6       immigrants who have fed this state and fed this  
7       nation for -- as an example of a community of  
8       interest of farm workers who have no  
9       representation, no Mexican representation in  
10      the State Legislature, even though they have  
11      been living down the U.S. 27 corridor for more  
12      than 40 years, four and five generations, and  
13      that is an important consideration.

14           Smaller counties, Collier County has  
15      23,000 naturalized citizens, Brevard County has  
16      26,000 naturalized citizens. It is important  
17      to understand that the immigrant rights  
18      movement is developing not only its breadth and  
19      depth, but its political sophistication of  
20      representation. We appreciate --

21           SENATOR GAETZ: Ms. Rodriguez --

22           MS. RODRIGUEZ: -- the opportunity to  
23      speak.

24           SENATOR GAETZ: -- could I ask you to --  
25      oh, thank you very much.

1 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you very much.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, you are just on  
3 time.

4 C. J. Ortuno, and then Jonathon Fried and  
5 then Daniel Granado and then Robert -- I'm  
6 sorry, Ronald Fulton.

7 Thank you very much for being here, sir,  
8 and we welcome your testimony.

9 MR. ORTUNO: Thank you. Good morning,  
10 distinguished Committee members. My name is C.  
11 J. Ortuno. I am the Executive Director of Save  
12 Dade, the largest county-wide lesbian, gay,  
13 bisexual and transgender civil rights  
14 organization in Miami-Dade County.

15 It is estimated that our community  
16 comprises more than 300,000 residents in the  
17 county. Statewide, we are roughly two million.

18 People who are LGBT fully embrace the  
19 privileges as well as the responsibilities that  
20 come with being part of the great Floridian  
21 mosaic. We are no more or no less American  
22 because of our sexual orientation or gender  
23 identity.

24 As you embark on the important work of  
25 reapportionment, I want to leave you with a few

1 thoughts that will hopefully remain with you  
2 throughout the endeavor.

3 I am a resident of the City of Miami  
4 Beach. I live there with my wife and  
5 three-year-old daughter. And as a resident, my  
6 family and I have always been perplexed that  
7 three districts -- State Representatives that  
8 make up the City of Miami are split between  
9 three distinct Representatives, three. Three  
10 different individuals represent 85 blocks  
11 within one city.

12 However, the opportunity to right a wrong  
13 is before you. We see the goal of  
14 redistricting to more fairly represent the  
15 changes in our state's population and represent  
16 communities of common interest.

17 The LGBT community is one such community  
18 of interest that to date has not been  
19 represented in Tallahassee. The citizens of  
20 Florida have never elected an openly gay person  
21 to the State House, to the State Senate, to the  
22 Cabinet.

23 We have never elected a U.S.  
24 Congressperson, no one, never. And let me be  
25 clear, this has not been by choice; rather, the

1       gerrymandering of districts has proven to be a  
2       burden upon openly gay candidates as they face  
3       the daunting challenge of running in districts  
4       that fail to bring together communities of  
5       common interest, and this has to change.

6               LGBT Floridians live all over the state.  
7       The 2000 census ranked us fourth of the highest  
8       population of LGBT people in the country.  
9       Jacksonville, according to the 2010 census, is  
10      estimated to have one of the biggest  
11      populations of gay parents, with nearly  
12      30 percent -- 34 percent of gay people  
13      parenting in that city.

14             Wilton Manors, Miami Shores and Key West  
15      are third, sixth and eighth on the list of  
16      cities with the highest concentration of LGBT  
17      people, respectively.

18             Most alarming is the roster of states that  
19      have had not -- have had openly LGBT state  
20      officials so far. Vermont, Maryland, Alabama,  
21      Arkansas, Nevada, even Texas and Utah are part  
22      of this list.

23             And looking at the Voting Rights Act, I  
24      leave you with these final thoughts: The LGBT  
25      population is sufficiently large and

1 geographically compact --

2 SENATOR GAETZ: I need to ask you to  
3 conclude, sir. You are out of time.

4 MR. ORTUNO: -- the LGBT community is  
5 politically cohesive, and there is clear and  
6 convincing evidence of racial block voting.

7 We must no longer deny the LGBT community  
8 a voice in Florida state politics. Thank you  
9 very much.

10 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you for your  
11 testimony today, sir.

12 Jonathon Fried is next, and following  
13 Mr. Fried is Daniel Granado, then Ronald  
14 Fulton, and then I believe it is Badili Jones.

15 Jonathon Fried is not here? Then we will  
16 pass him for the moment and go to Daniel  
17 Granado. And then if the others will please  
18 come forward to the first row and be on deck.

19 Mr. Granado, thank you for being here and  
20 you are recognized, sir.

21 MR. GRANADO: Good morning.

22 SENATOR GAETZ: Good morning.

23 MR. GRANADO: One district I would like to  
24 see changes, the (inaudible) district, which  
25 includes Miami suburbs, you know, across

1 swamps, farms, all the way to Ft. Myers  
2 suburbs. Does that make sense to you? So I  
3 would like to see that change, maybe get some  
4 of (inaudible) parts, which is heavily  
5 gerrymandered.

6 And that is basically it, and I would like  
7 to see term limits and persuade Mr. West to run  
8 for Senate.

9 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
10 Got in a couple of commercials there at the  
11 end.

12 Ronald Fulton. Mr. Fulton, are you here,  
13 sir? Mr. Fulton has left, okay. I'm sorry?  
14 Mr. Fulton?

15 A VOICE: He is in a wheelchair.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Oh, Mr. Fulton yields his  
17 time.

18 Is it Badili Jones? And I apologize if I  
19 butchered that first name.

20 MR. JONES: Actually, you did a very good  
21 job. I am Badili Jones. I live in Miami-Dade.  
22 I want to say good morning to my  
23 Representatives, Senator Braynon, I live in his  
24 district, and my Representative Cynthia  
25 Stafford. I am very proud of the service that

1           they have been providing to the district that I  
2           live in.

3           I am the political officer for Florida New  
4           Majority, and so the message that I bring is  
5           not -- is a reflection on the consultations  
6           that we have had with our members and with our  
7           coalition partners throughout Miami-Dade.

8           In general, I just want to make sure --  
9           reiterate that the State of Florida should  
10          ensure transparency, fairness and compliance  
11          with the Voting Rights Act with equal  
12          protection.

13          And to just be more specific, we are  
14          concerned that the communities of interest in  
15          south Florida, south Dade particularly, Senate  
16          District 39, that the African-American  
17          community in Senate District 39 will continue  
18          to be able to represent -- to be able to elect  
19          a Representative of their choice.

20          In regard to Congressional District 25, I  
21          don't have to restate what people have already  
22          said.

23          We are concerned that that district is not  
24          representative of communities of interest, and  
25          has only been drawn to protect an incumbent or



1 a particular political party.

2 And then finally, I just want to say in  
3 terms of Congressional District 17, our biggest  
4 concern or the biggest response that we got  
5 from our community is that institutions -- that  
6 the lack of institutions within a district.

7 Congressional District 17 is one of the  
8 poorest districts in the country, and that we  
9 feel that if we add certain institutions, say  
10 the Port of Miami or the airport, into  
11 Congressional District 17, there will be more  
12 investment in terms of infrastructural  
13 investment, not simply in terms of jobs, but to  
14 add pockets of opportunity into Congressional  
15 District 17.

16 Finally, it is disappointing that the  
17 state is using our tax dollars to fight  
18 Amendment 5 and 6. We think that Amendment 5  
19 and 6 is very helpful, and that as long as it  
20 is applied in light of the Voting Rights Act,  
21 we will have a fairer and more representational  
22 -- representation in our Congress and in our  
23 legislative body. Thank you very much.

24 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

25 We appreciate your testimony. And -- sir? Not

1           at all, you are recognized, sir. We definitely  
2           want to hear your testimony.

3           MR. FRIED: Appreciate it. I went out --

4           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much for  
5           coming by.

6           MR. FRIED: -- to put money in the meter.

7           I -- it has been very interesting to  
8           listen to the testimony here today, and it has  
9           made me reflect a lot.

10          If we lived in an ideal world, I think  
11          many of the comments would be very appropriate,  
12          but, unfortunately, we don't live in an ideal  
13          world, and this redistricting, you have a  
14          tremendously difficult task of figuring out  
15          what is fair and ensuring that different  
16          communities of interest have -- are adequately  
17          represented.

18          So I think it is perhaps easiest to say  
19          what is not fair and the things that some of us  
20          -- clearly -- obviously not fair.

21          Just to give you an example, let me tell  
22          you a story. Years ago, I remember we visited  
23          our newly-elected member of Congress, and he  
24          told us how thrilled he was to represent our  
25          city and that when he was a State Legislator,

1       he ensured that the district was drawn to  
2       include our city.

3               Now, I think there's something wrong when  
4       people are drawing their own districts and, for  
5       whatever reason, are ensuring that a certain  
6       place is included, whatever that reason is.  
7       There needs to be really objective, fair  
8       criteria. And, again, the difficulty is  
9       figuring out what those fair criteria are.

10              But let me just say something else that  
11       seems not right, and it is really hard to put a  
12       finger on why it is not right.

13              District -- Congressional District 25 is  
14       way spread out. It includes, you know, from  
15       the Keys all the way up through Homestead, west  
16       Dade, all the way to Collier County. And the  
17       truth is it is possible to draw a Congressional  
18       District that represents communities of  
19       interest in Latino community, the  
20       African-American community and the  
21       Haitian-American community that would be more  
22       contiguous, more compact.

23              And just another thing to say, even though  
24       it is not in the criteria, I mean, Collier  
25       County is a totally different media market. So

1       you are dealing with two different sort of sets  
2       of media, two different -- really different  
3       communities.

4               And so I would hope that you could really  
5       take that kind of thing into account and at  
6       least try to draw a district where at least we  
7       are talking to the same press in that district,  
8       even if it is in -- which is fine here in Dade  
9       County, we love it in at least three languages.  
10      Thank you very much.

11             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Fried. I  
12      appreciate your testimony.

13             Our next speakers will be Jean-Pierre  
14      Bado, Council-member Pete Cabrera from the City  
15      of Doral and then Mark Bryant with the Florida  
16      New Majority and then Ciro Espinel, I believe,  
17      Espinel, and if you will come forward and take  
18      your seats in the front row, we will hear from  
19      all of you, we hope.

20             Jean-Pierre Bado. Jean-Pierre, are you  
21      here? We will pass you for the moment then.

22             Councilman Pete Cabrera. Councilman,  
23      thank you for your service to the City and to  
24      our community, and you are recognized, sir.

25             COUNCILMAN CABRERA: Thank you very much.

1 Thank you to all of you, Mr. Chair, and all of  
2 you here, many friends up there, for taking the  
3 time to listen to the people. I apologize for  
4 my voice, I've had a cold. Listen to the  
5 people before you make these maps.

6 I believe we are in a nation that today we  
7 are more ethnically diverse than anytime in our  
8 history. I believe as a group of people, from  
9 my experience, that are grateful to be in this  
10 great nation.

11 I think they are proud to contribute to  
12 this nation. And this diversity, I believe,  
13 enriches all of us. At the same time, it  
14 creates unique needs, needs that need to be met  
15 so we can continue to grow as a community.

16 Some feel that by representing these  
17 people or representing special groups, we  
18 actually divide. I believe we unite, because I  
19 believe the only way that we can grow as a  
20 nation is to embrace this diversity and  
21 understand it and represent it.

22 By drawing maps that represents -- and  
23 Doral at the time of incorporation I believe  
24 was the first city in the nation to actually be  
25 primarily Hispanic at time of incorporation.

1           Seventy percent of the community were  
2           Hispanic at the time that we incorporated. I  
3           have seen that, I have seen the growth over the  
4           last ten years, and this diversity enriches our  
5           city.

6           I believe that needs representation. So  
7           as an elected official from the city that is  
8           primarily Hispanic, I believe that the maps  
9           need to be drawn in a way that these  
10          minorities, not just Hispanics, but all  
11          minorities are properly represented.

12          So I thank you. I believe that by doing  
13          that, not only will you adhere to the laws, but  
14          I think we will all be winning, I think we will  
15          all benefit from that. So thank you very much  
16          for your time today.

17          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Councilman.

18          Mark Bryant for the Florida New Majority,  
19          followed by, if I have it right, Ciro Espinel  
20          and then Councilman Jesse Walters from the  
21          Village of Miami Shores where I used to live  
22          for ten years.

23          Mark Bryant.

24          MR. BRYANT: Good evening, good afternoon.

25          My name is Mark Bryant. I am a representative

1 of --

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Mr. Bryant, could I ask  
3 you to speak into the microphone so everyone  
4 could hear you?

5 MR. BRYANT: Thank you. My name is Mark  
6 Bryant, and I am a representative of LIFT for  
7 low income -- Low Income Families for --  
8 Families Together in the City of Miami.

9 I have been a long resident of Liberty  
10 City here in the City of Miami, and we -- I  
11 live in Liberty City, which is a minority --  
12 majority-minority district, and at the same  
13 time, with a minority influence district.

14 We the citizens of Liberty City, we do not  
15 want our district to be diluted in such a way  
16 that it would deprive the citizens of the  
17 opportunity to elect a candidate of choice --  
18 of choice.

19 Voting dilution is prohibited under the  
20 Voting Rights Act of 1965. It prohibits  
21 minorities from making decisions that we feel  
22 that best represent our community. Thank you.

23 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
24 We appreciate your being with us.

25 Next, Ciro Espinel. Ciro? Not here?

1           Councilman Jesse Walters? Councilman, how  
2           is everything in my second hometown, Miami  
3           Shores? 800 Northeast 98th Street I was at.  
4           Great city, great village.

5           COUNCILMAN WALTERS: Thank you very much.  
6           It is a pleasure to be here with all of you,  
7           and I appreciate everyone coming down to Miami  
8           and hearing our testimony.

9           I am not only a Councilman in Miami  
10          Shores, I am the Executive Director of the  
11          Chamber of Commerce in Miami Shores as well.  
12          So I have a unique perspective, I think, in  
13          that I have just run for election and heard  
14          many viewpoints from people, and I also hear  
15          from members of the business community.

16          I want to applaud the collegiality and the  
17          respect that I have heard from all the  
18          speakers, as well as from the people on the  
19          head table today. I think that is what we need  
20          more of is mutual respect.

21          There is a lot of passion in the room, but  
22          I think people have been kind to each other,  
23          which I think is important.

24          Two anecdotes from when I did run for  
25          election. I heard from one voter who said to



1 me, "They're just not going to let this happen,  
2 are they?" And, of course, what she meant by  
3 that was Amendments 5 and 6.

4 And I don't know how to answer that, but I  
5 didn't get a good impression from what I read  
6 in the paper that there is a will in  
7 Tallahassee to honor what the people voted for.

8 And in Miami Shores, we voted for it  
9 overwhelmingly. Eighty percent of the people  
10 voted for it.

11 The second thing was, and this came from a  
12 Republican who said to me, "Jesse, we have two  
13 State Senators." Two excellent State Senators  
14 who are right here at the table, I am pleased  
15 to see. "Why -- I know I am not going to have  
16 a Republican represent me as a State Senator,  
17 but why do we have two State Senators in a town  
18 of 10,000 people?" And these are hard  
19 questions to answer.

20 So I would just respectfully ask those of  
21 you who will be making this decision in  
22 Tallahassee to consider what people are saying  
23 and to honor the will of Amendments 5 and 6.  
24 Thank you very much.

25 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,

1 Councilman.

2 Next is Jackie Colon, representing NALED,  
3 and then Will Brown and then Bradford Brown  
4 with the NAACP.

5 Jackie, are you here? Not here? Jackie?

6 MS. COLON: Yes, I am here.

7 SENATOR GAETZ: You are?

8 MS. COLON: Yes.

9 SENATOR GAETZ: Well, come on down. We  
10 would be delighted to hear from you this  
11 morning.

12 MS. COLON: Good morning. My name is  
13 Jackie Colon. It is a pleasure to be here in  
14 front of these distinguished ladies and  
15 gentlemen. I represent NALFO. I am the  
16 Florida Director for the educational fund.

17 It is a nonprofit and nonpartisan  
18 organization that facilitates the full  
19 participation of Hispanics in America for the  
20 American political process.

21 I am specifically here to discuss central  
22 Florida. We spoke before you there, and we  
23 would like for you to consider creating a  
24 Congressional District in the central Florida  
25 area, specifically the Orange, Osceola and Polk

1 communities.

2 As you folks know, the growth has been  
3 tremendous there in regards to Hispanics. It  
4 grew by 30 percent in the last decade. And as  
5 you folks know in the state of Florida, we went  
6 from 2.5 million to 4.2 million, with Hispanics  
7 being 55 percent of that growth.

8 So I would just like to thank all of you  
9 for the time for listening to the community.  
10 And to the gentleman who previously mentioned  
11 in regards to being a general American, as he  
12 put it, because I was listening, too, he is  
13 looking at a general American.

14 I am an immigrant, I am a former Chairman  
15 of the Board of County Commissioners in the  
16 Space Coast, and I think that it is really  
17 important for us to realize that this is our  
18 country. We might be immigrants, and we are  
19 proud to be Americans.

20 So, again, I thank all of you for your  
21 time, for listening to us, and for having  
22 compassion and the respect that everyone has  
23 shown today. Thank you.

24 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, and thank you  
25 for the map that your organization presented to

1           us. It was extraordinarily helpful to the  
2           Committee. Thanks for your testimony.

3           MS. COLON: Thank you. We appreciate it,  
4           Mr. Chairman.

5           SENATOR GAETZ: Sure.

6           MS. COLON: Thank you.

7           SENATOR GAETZ: Our next presenter is Will  
8           Brown. Mr. Brown, are you here? Will Brown?

9           Bradford Brown with the NAACP. Mr. Brown,  
10          thank you very much for your testimony, and you  
11          are recognized.

12          MR. BRADFORD BROWN: Thank you very much,  
13          and Honorable Representatives and Senators, I  
14          appreciate your being here and this  
15          opportunity, and I will leave my talking points  
16          with you since I --

17          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you.

18          MR. BRADFORD BROWN: -- won't cover them  
19          all here.

20          Redistricting is a very critical issue for  
21          the NAACP, and I serve as Vice-President here  
22          in Miami, but I am also on the State Executive  
23          Committee.

24          And it is a critical issue because it is a  
25          right that was won by blood, by blood in the

1 American Revolution, but got votes for  
2 African-Americans in New England and the  
3 northeast, through the Civil War, through the  
4 martyrs of the 50s and the 60s.

5 And redistricting is what makes sure that  
6 that vote actually counts and that actually is  
7 meaningful.

8 We are very concerned, of course, that the  
9 Voting Rights Act is strictly adhered to, as  
10 was voted on and included in Amendments 5 and  
11 6. Packing and cracking have already been  
12 mentioned.

13 And I will just be very specific about one  
14 issue everybody has talked about, Congressional  
15 District 25, but in addition to going all the  
16 way across the Everglades, it split the  
17 communities of African descent in south Dade  
18 into three Congressional Districts instead of  
19 putting one into an area where their votes  
20 could be of influence.

21 And I want to note this community of  
22 interest is really the critical thing, and what  
23 the courts have decided and what defines a  
24 community of interest.

25 One is the extent in which non-members of

1       the group recognize that group as a community  
2       of interest, the extent to which members  
3       identify themselves with that particular group,  
4       and even more particularly, the extent to which  
5       members are affected by governmental action,  
6       because that is what the voting is all about.

7               And we certainly want very much the  
8       consideration of community of interest, and we  
9       in the NAACP feel that the citizens of African  
10      descent are one of the most important  
11      communities of interest, along with others in  
12      the state of Florida.

13              We do also want to urge you to come back  
14      out to us when you have drawn your maps so that  
15      we can comment on them.

16              And when you produce the data for those  
17      maps, we would like to see it in precinct and  
18      district level voting age population,  
19      desegregated by race and national origin, and  
20      also by those eligible to vote, because while  
21      we divide them up on population, it is the  
22      voters that actually determine who is going to  
23      be representing them.

24              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

25              MR. BRADFORD BROWN: So with that, I thank

1           you, and I will leave my remarks at that desk  
2           over there.

3           SENATOR GAETZ: Please do, sir.

4           MR. BROWN: All right.

5           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much for  
6           your testimony.

7           And our next speakers will be John  
8           Laffitte with the King Jesus Ministry, Lisa  
9           Sloat, Vivian Casals-Munoz and Kelly Greene.

10          And, happily, we have been able to get  
11          even more people who would like to speak. That  
12          means we will hear from more of you, but it  
13          also means that in order to be respectful to  
14          all of those who wish to speak, so we can hear  
15          everyone and then have a chance to answer some  
16          of the questions and factual points that have  
17          been raised, we are going to be even tighter on  
18          time.

19          So I am going to ask you if you can hold  
20          it to two and a half minutes. If you have  
21          extended remarks, we will be happy to include  
22          those in the record.

23          Mr. Laffitte, you are recognized, and  
24          thank you for coming.

25          MR. LAFFITTE: Well, thank you very much.

1 I want to thank the Legislature for their time  
2 in coming here. My name is John Laffitte, and  
3 I am a natural born citizen. My parents left  
4 Cuba in the '50s to escape the Communist  
5 revolution, and I have since -- lived since  
6 1994 in Miami-Dade County.

7 I have been able to practice as a  
8 professional engineer, adjunct faculty,  
9 University of Miami and FIU graduate faculty,  
10 but I am part of an associate -- I am an  
11 associate pastor at King Jesus Ministry, which  
12 today is one of the largest Hispanic churches  
13 in the entire nation.

14 We serve over 18,000 people in Monroe,  
15 Dade and Broward County, and we are here to  
16 speak on behalf of the Hispanic community, and  
17 in a representative government such as ours, it  
18 is very important that minorities have the  
19 opportunity to field and elect representatives  
20 that will be able to speak and have a voice for  
21 us.

22 Therefore, what we ask in this  
23 redistricting process is that there be enough  
24 districts to allow such candidates to be  
25 fielded, as well as in places such as Broward



1       where there are few opportunities to field and  
2       to have such candidates.

3               Finally, I would like to ask that there  
4       would be no retrogression of Hispanic votes  
5       and/or diluted in any way, shape or form. So  
6       thank you very much for your time, and God  
7       bless you.

8               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Laffitte,  
9       for that testimony.

10              Lisa Sloat is next, followed by Vivian  
11       Casals-Munoz, if I get that correct, and then  
12       Kelly Greene, and then Lili Bach.

13              Ms. Sloat, thank you for being here, and  
14       you are recognized.

15              MS. SLOAT: Thank you. My name is Lisa  
16       Sloat. I was born in Jacksonville, Florida,  
17       educated in the Florida public school system.  
18       I have lived in Miami many years. So I have a  
19       feel for north Florida and south Florida.

20              I wanted to say that some of the speakers  
21       today really did a wonderful job of explaining  
22       some of the issues that I have.

23              Janet McAliley in particular spoke about  
24       the fact that we can elect public servants and  
25       I say that specifically because public servants

1       are committed to serving their entire  
2       communities, electing public servants versus  
3       politicians who are beholden to an ideology or  
4       a specific group.

5               I am a strong supporter of implementing  
6       Amendments 5 and 6. I will repeat that they  
7       were passed by 62 or 63 percent of the voters.  
8       The money that was spent to promote and to --  
9       and against Amendments 5 and 6 passing were  
10      dollars spent by community people, not taxpayer  
11      dollars that were sent to the State of Florida  
12      to cover the expenses to take care of the  
13      citizens of Florida.

14             So I also want to support what I think his  
15      name was Evan Ross, who spoke about withdrawing  
16      from the lawsuit. I believe that any monies  
17      spent on the lawsuit is taking monies away from  
18      the citizens of the state of Florida.

19             I'll also support that a response be given  
20      to State Representative Randolph's request for  
21      transparency in how any monies are used, and  
22      that any monies that have been set aside to  
23      fight the implementations of either Amendments  
24      5 or 6 be returned to the people of Florida.

25             And, lastly, I want to say that -- well,

1 two things. Rhonda Sibilia did a very good job  
2 of describing the problems we have with  
3 gerrymandered districts and how they are not  
4 truly representing the people.

5 They are not represented by public  
6 servants. They are represented by politicians  
7 who drew them to support their own  
8 re-elections.

9 SENATOR GAETZ: And could I ask you to  
10 conclude, please, ma'am?

11 MS. SLOAT: Yes, and I will conclude with  
12 the same points that the woman from the League  
13 of Voters meant -- said. The timeline now  
14 disenfranchises -- the proposed timeline  
15 disenfranchises voters in the state of Florida.

16 I think that by allowing the time frame to  
17 go too close to the time --

18 SENATOR GAETZ: Speaking of time frames --

19 MS. SLOAT: Yes.

20 SENATOR GAETZ: -- your time has elapsed,  
21 and we thank you for your testimony.

22 MS. SLOAT: Okay. Thank you.

23 SENATOR GAETZ: Next is Vivian  
24 Casals-Munoz, followed by Kelly Greene,  
25 followed by Lili Bach and then Lida

1           Rodriguez -- I think it is Taseff -- Taseff.

2           Vivian, you are recognized. Thank you.

3           MS. CASALS-MUNOZ: Thank you so much.

4           Good morning. I am a Councilwoman for the City  
5           of Hialeah, second-largest city in the county,  
6           and I want to thank the Chair and all the  
7           members that are here today for taking the time  
8           to explain and get information from the  
9           citizens before the maps are drawn.

10          That is so important, because usually we  
11          get them after everything is done, and then  
12          there are no time frames for change.

13          Again, I do represent the second-largest  
14          city in the county, and I understand that  
15          Miami-Dade County is a unique community, one  
16          like no other community in the state of  
17          Florida.

18          We are 65 percent Hispanic in the city,  
19          and yet we are only represented by 50 percent  
20          of the Senators. That needs to change.

21          I understand the need for the  
22          representation that focuses on our community.  
23          I am not trying to divide the communities. I  
24          am trying to get the representations that will  
25          understand the needs of each and every

1 community.

2 Our districts should be divided that we  
3 have representation from similar communities.

4 We have -- right now, we have Hialeah  
5 Gardens, Miami Lakes, Miami Springs, Medley, we  
6 all have the same needs and the same -- and we  
7 share so many of the same services.

8 The -- one of the things that is very  
9 important is when we do the redistricting and  
10 we are represented by our members in  
11 Tallahassee, we have certain needs like the  
12 Enterprise Zone and the HUBZone that we have to  
13 make sure that stay together in the district.

14 We have to make sure that we have the  
15 representation of the Hispanic community.  
16 Again, we are not trying to divide our  
17 communities, we are trying to unite them, but  
18 we need to make sure that we have accurate  
19 representation, and that the people that  
20 represent us understand our needs.

21 Thank you very much, have a great day and  
22 God bless you.

23 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
24 ma'am.

25 And next we will hear from Kelly Greene,

1           and following Ms. Greene, Lili Bach.

2           Ms. Greene, thank you very much for being  
3           here, and you are recognized as well.

4           MS. GREENE: Good morning, Honorable Chair  
5           and members of the Redistricting Committee. My  
6           name is Kelly Greene of Northwest -- 12  
7           Northwest 116th Street, Miami, Florida,  
8           unincorporated Dade.

9           I represent people with disabilities  
10          served by Center for Independent Living of  
11          South Florida. There are 500,000 people with  
12          disabilities in Miami-Dade, and we were part of  
13          the more than 60 percent of the people that  
14          voted for Fair Districts.

15          Yes, we voted, and we represent all of the  
16          ethnicities and races, we are gay and we are  
17          straight. And so whenever we look at our  
18          representatives, we are really looking at  
19          people, and we are looking at people who have  
20          honesty and integrity.

21          We don't care, honestly, if you are a  
22          Republican or a Democrat or an Independent. We  
23          are looking for people that have a high degree  
24          of integrity. That is what we want, and some  
25          of you represent that.

1           We look at the actions of our Legislators  
2           and how they voted on the issues. We vote  
3           across party lines. Thank you.

4           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
5           Ms. Greene.

6           Lili Bach. Is Ms. Bach here? Thank you  
7           for being here, Ms. Bach, and following Ms.  
8           Bach is Lida Rodriguez-Taseff, I believe,  
9           Taseff, and then Mayor Daisy Black from the  
10          Village of El Portal.

11          Ms. Bach, thank you for coming, and you  
12          are recognized.

13          MS. BACH: Good morning. Thank you so  
14          much.

15          SENATOR GAETZ: And you can raise that  
16          mike if you would like, ma'am.

17          MS. BACH: Okay. Thank you very much. I  
18          want to keep it as short as possible in the  
19          interest -- so that way everybody here can  
20          maybe go back to Tallahassee and come up with  
21          the maps.

22          So in the interest of time, this has been  
23          said that this Town Hall is for the sake of  
24          listening to the people. I believe that the  
25          people have spoken overwhelmingly.

1           And just fundamentally, back in the day in  
2           high school, I believe it was taught just, you  
3           know, one voice, one vote, so I would like that  
4           to be exercised.

5           Anyway, moving forward, I would like to  
6           know just how much of the taxpayer dollars are  
7           being spent on these Town Halls and why can't  
8           that money be used for job creation and to  
9           better improve, you know, Florida as a whole.

10          And, lastly, I just would like to know,  
11          where are the maps? You have put us to work in  
12          using these site-building sites, but I don't  
13          think that is our job, I thought that was your  
14          guys' job.

15          So I would just like to know where are the  
16          maps, and to just please stop playing that  
17          political game, you know, like I think all of  
18          us can say here that we're sick of it, and, you  
19          know, in the best interest of everybody from  
20          all across, please just stop playing party  
21          politics and do your job, and let's come  
22          together and make this happen. So thank you  
23          very much.

24          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Bach.

25          Next we will hear from Lida Rodriguez, and



1 I am pronouncing it correctly, Taseff?

2 MS. RODRIGUEZ-TASEFF: You are absolutely  
3 pronouncing it correctly.

4 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, ma'am, and you  
5 are recognized.

6 MS. RODRIGUEZ-TASEFF: Thank you very  
7 much, members of the Committee. Lida  
8 Rodriguez-Taseff, I am a lawyer. I am also a  
9 long-time resident of south Florida. I am the  
10 Co-Chair of South Florida Jobs with Justice,  
11 which is a labor community coalition that  
12 represents and works to improve the lives of  
13 working Miami-Dade County residents.

14 I am also on the Board of Latino Justice,  
15 which is a National civil rights group. And I  
16 live on Miami Beach. Senator Margolis is my  
17 representative, as is Representative Garcia.

18 I am here to focus us in a little bit on  
19 the issue of the unjustified dispersion of  
20 racial minorities and communities of interest.

21 This unjustified, unnecessary splitting of  
22 racial minorities and communities of interest  
23 is happening vis-a-vis Districts 21 and 25,  
24 Congressional Districts, and that is really  
25 what I want to focus on.

1           Later today, members of this community  
2           will be presenting you with a map for how to  
3           redraw District 25 in order to keep our  
4           communities of interest, our racial minorities,  
5           together.

6           One of the goals will be to eliminate  
7           Immokalee from the representation, and also  
8           Naples, because they really do not reflect the  
9           same issues and concerns and need for  
10          representation that, say, for example, the  
11          people of Kendall need.

12          And we will be striving to keep Kendall  
13          together, because the people of Kendall don't  
14          need three different Representatives, they need  
15          one.

16          And our goal here, because the most  
17          important focus of the activists involved in  
18          civil rights is the protection of the very  
19          important gains that were made as a result of  
20          the Voting Rights Act.

21          And I know that none of you will be  
22          forgetting that, and I know many people have  
23          spoken today about the importance of the  
24          passage of the Fair Districts Amendment 5 and  
25          6, but the equal importance is to be given to

1       the protection of the rights of racial  
2       minorities that was provided by the Voting  
3       Rights Act.

4               And I know that you, in drawing these  
5       communities, will take into account the fact  
6       that people in Miami-Dade County who are one  
7       community, racial groups that vote together,  
8       that have common issues, common schools, common  
9       highways, common bus lines, common churches,  
10      need to stay together, and we appreciate the  
11      fact that you are here listening to us, and we  
12      will be providing you with maps and we will  
13      continue to be providing you with concrete  
14      input for how you can keep our racial and  
15      ethnic communities of interest together. Thank  
16      you.

17              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
18      ma'am. We appreciate that testimony.

19              Next we will hear from the Honorable Daisy  
20      Black, Mayor of the Village of El Portal.  
21      Madam Mayor, thank you for your service to the  
22      community, and you are recognized.

23              MAYOR BLACK: Thank you all for being here  
24      today, and it is an honor for me to be here and  
25      I thank you all for putting this on.

1           I am from one of the cities in Miami-Dade  
2       County, not the largest, but the best, okay. I  
3       am here representing these same cities, the  
4       small ones and the large ones in Dade County  
5       who are divided by several, as some of my  
6       predecessors have said, many -- not many, but  
7       at least more than one District Representative,  
8       whether it is the House or the Senate.

9           And this seems to dilute what kind of  
10      clout we have in Tallahassee, because if we got  
11      to go to two or three different people to get  
12      something done, sometimes that hurts us.

13          Okay. I am not going to repeat a lot of  
14      the things that I have heard, because I agree  
15      with a lot of the people who spoke before me,  
16      but Florida, and in particular Dade County, is  
17      a multi-ethnic state as well as county.

18          It's been that way since Florida was  
19      discovered by Christopher Columbus, who was a  
20      Hispanic, and also by General Basu, who was a  
21      Haitian who fought in the St. Augustine War  
22      with the Spanish American War.

23          So our community and our state is a  
24      multi-ethnic community and a multi-ethnic  
25      state. We cannot get past that. But there

1           are --

2           SENATOR GAETZ:   Excuse me, Madam Mayor,  
3           just out of respect for you, I would like to  
4           ask the Committee members if they will give the  
5           Mayor complete attention, please.

6           Thank you, Madam Mayor, please go ahead.

7           MAYOR BLACK:   Okay, I talk loud.   Okay.

8           All right.   So what we are trying to say  
9           is we are representative of everybody.   There's  
10          historical representation in Dade County with  
11          all different groups, and that includes the  
12          Anglos, and I want to address the guy who  
13          thought that he was left out, because I am  
14          saying no, you are not.

15          I grew up in Overtown and Liberty City.   I  
16          grew up here before I-95 went through Overtown  
17          and Liberty City.   So I know what the city was  
18          -- how it can be broken up, and then you lose  
19          the people that you respect and love.

20          So I am just saying, please do not divide  
21          us anymore than what we have to be divided.  
22          Back in 2000, before redistricting, Overtown  
23          and Liberty City, the majority part of Liberty  
24          City was District 108.

25          Now it is divided between 108 and 109, and

1 I want to give honor to my -- one of my State  
2 Representatives, Cynthia Stafford, Ms. Campbell  
3 who is not here, my State Senator Braynon.

4 But the thing I am saying now is when we  
5 get over to 109, 109 goes from Overtown, one of  
6 the most impoverished communities --

7 SENATOR GAETZ: Madam Mayor --

8 MAYOR BLACK: -- to Miami Beach. My time  
9 is up?

10 SENATOR GAETZ: Yes, ma'am, with great  
11 respect.

12 MAYOR BLACK: Thank you.

13 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you for your  
14 testimony.

15 And Will Brown had stepped out for a  
16 moment when we called his name. Is Mr. Brown  
17 here? Mr. Brown, would you come forward? We  
18 would love to have your testimony, please.

19 And following Mr. Brown, Charlotte -- I  
20 believe it is Kleiman or Kleman, then Hank  
21 Klein, and then Jack Lowell, if you would come  
22 down to the on deck circle, please.

23 Mr. Brown, thanks for coming.

24 MR. WILL BROWN: Thank you. Thank you for  
25 having this forum and this hearing. I am with

1       the Martin Luther King Voters League, and we  
2       are a group in Liberty City that is just  
3       starting up, and this is an event that is  
4       particularly in our interest, and we just  
5       wanted to speak on the topic that my research,  
6       or our research has said that there's 41  
7       percent Democrats in the entire state of  
8       Florida versus 36 percent Republican,  
9       20 percent Independents and 30 percent minor.

10           And so the point there is that whenever  
11       you talk about redistricting, those are how the  
12       districts, in our opinion, that is how they  
13       should reflect.

14           They should reflect the voting population  
15       and the voting makeup of the entire state. So  
16       anything short of that would be an injustice to  
17       our community. So those are the views that I  
18       wanted to put forth in the debate.

19           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
20       Mr. Brown. We appreciate your being here  
21       today.

22           Now, Charlotte -- it Kleiman or Kleman?

23           MS. KLEIMAN: It is Kleiman.

24           SENATOR GAETZ: Kleiman. Ms. Kleiman,  
25       thank you for being here, and you are

1 recognized.

2 MS. KLEIMAN: It is my pleasure.

3 I come here as a representative of John Q.  
4 Public, as a resident of Miami-Dade for more  
5 than 45 years, and as a daughter of immigrants.  
6 I come here for the -- just wait one moment.

7 There are two points, two major points, I  
8 would like to -- there are many remarks I would  
9 like to make to this committee; however, there  
10 are two major points to make to reflect the  
11 attitude of millions of voters.

12 Number one, we are appalled that our taxes  
13 are being used to oppose amendments we voted  
14 for.

15 And the second, we implore you to follow  
16 the spirit and the substance of Amendments 5  
17 and 6 so passed by more than 63 percent of the  
18 voters.

19 Thank you very much, sir.

20 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much for that  
21 testimony.

22 Next we will hear from Hank Klein, and  
23 following Mr. Klein, Jack Lowell, and then Lida  
24 Mari, please.

25 Mr. Klein.



1           MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am  
2 very, very proud to call many members that are  
3 up here today my close personal friends, and on  
4 both sides of the aisle.

5           Mr. Chairman, we are practicing democracy  
6 today. I happen to have lived in Miami for 54  
7 years. I am very involved in the community. I  
8 am the past Chairman of the Greater Miami  
9 Chamber of Commerce.

10           I spent eight years on the Board of  
11 Miami-Dade College as the Vice-Chairman, having  
12 been appointed by Governor Bush. I take my  
13 role and responsibility as a voter quite  
14 seriously. I am an independent thinker.

15           When I found out about Amendment 5 and 6,  
16 I looked into it, and I determined after  
17 investigation and after reading newspaper  
18 editorials from both sides for all the way from  
19 Jacksonville and Pensacola to Miami and Ft.  
20 Lauderdale, I determined that this was the best  
21 thing for the state of Florida. So I voted for  
22 Amendments 5 and 6.

23           I didn't vote for a law, I didn't vote for  
24 a rule, I didn't vote for a regulation, I  
25 didn't vote for an ordinance. I voted to amend

1        what I considered to be sacrosanct. I voted to  
2        amend the Constitution of the State of Florida.

3                But much to my dismay, it appears that we  
4        might not be amending the Constitution of the  
5        State of Florida.

6                It is time for us to look at  
7        redistricting, and it is time for us to look at  
8        redistricting in a fair fashion. I am not  
9        naïve. I understand the political process. My  
10       very good friend, and I am proud to call him my  
11       good friend, Mario Diaz-Balart, has filed suit.  
12       He has that constitutional authority and duty  
13       to do that. But I cannot agree with him in  
14       this.

15               We will work our way through this, but I  
16       will tell you what bothers me more than  
17       anything, ladies and gentlemen of the  
18       Legislature.

19               What bothers me more than anything is that  
20       in a time of economic stress, in a time of  
21       economic hardship, that we have allocated in  
22       excess -- I shouldn't say "we" -- you have  
23       allocated in excess of \$20 million to fight  
24       this amendment -- these amendments to the State  
25       Constitution, and that is disappointing to me.

1           It is disappointing to me personally as a  
2       resident of Florida, and it is disappointing to  
3       me as a voter.

4           I ask you to please reexamine, to look at  
5       this more clearly, and please rule on this  
6       fairly and please do not spend that  
7       \$20 million. There are others that need that  
8       money. Senator, thank you.

9           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, Mr.  
10      Klein.

11          Next we will hear from Jack Lowell, and  
12      following Mr. Lowell, Lida Mari and then Diane  
13      Lawrence with Fair Districts, and then Lynn  
14      Wheeler. So if you will all come down to the  
15      deck circle, we would be grateful.

16          Mr. Lowell, you are recognized. We are  
17      glad to have you.

18          MR. LOWELL: Good morning, Mr. Chairman.  
19      I am Jack Lowell. I live in Coral Gables. I  
20      am Chair of the Beacon Council, which is our  
21      economic development council here in Dade  
22      County.

23          I am also on the Board of the Florida  
24      Chamber of Commerce. But I am speaking  
25      individually, this is my personal opinion.

1           I think it is imperative that this process  
2       produce more balanced districts in our state.  
3       When we have all of our decisions made in the  
4       primary portion of the election, we get  
5       ideology running our state instead of ideas  
6       that are carefully thought out and rationally  
7       debated in our legislative process.

8           And I urge you to follow the intent of our  
9       Constitutional Amendments and come up with more  
10      balanced districts so when we debate in the  
11      Legislature, we can do the issues and not  
12      ideology. Thank you.

13           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

14           And next we will hear from Lida Mari. Did  
15      I do that right? Thank you very much, and  
16      then --

17           MS. MARI: Well done, thank you.

18           SENATOR GAETZ: Then Diane Lawrence and  
19      then Lynn Wheeler and then Eufaula Frazier, I  
20      believe.

21           Ms. Mari, fire away.

22           MS. MARI: Thank you. Thank you.

23           Senators, Representatives, thank you for  
24      being here. I particularly want to thank  
25      Representative Carlos Lopez-Cantera. I don't

1       see him here right now, but thank you very much  
2       for being here.

3               I was born and raised here. My parents  
4       came from Communist Cuba, and they were  
5       immigrants, obviously, but I was raised here  
6       and I am raising my children here in Miami-Dade  
7       County.

8               I would sincerely like to thank you for  
9       the effort and the time that you have taken and  
10      the honest attempt to use citizen input to  
11      apply the amendments of both our U.S. and  
12      Florida Constitutions to select the new  
13      district boundaries.

14              Thank you for coming down here and giving  
15      us the opportunity to participate more easily  
16      in our Republic and representative government.

17              After having watched numerous hearings  
18      throughout the state, it is quite clear that  
19      many have concerns about the definitions of the  
20      words of our Fifth and Sixth Amendments.

21              I am a speech and language pathologist. I  
22      would like to participate and contribute to  
23      those definitions.

24              They have also given you criticism that  
25      you do not have prepared maps to present to us.

1       It is our duty and responsibilities as citizens  
2       to define those words for you and to present  
3       you with maps.

4             And in keeping with the spirit that you  
5       represent us, we, the people, have voted for  
6       the amendments, and, therefore, you have no  
7       business in fighting these wishes with lawsuits  
8       or otherwise.

9             It is your responsibility to represent our  
10       definitions and the district boundaries we  
11       present to you in our maps.

12            I would like to first address the issue of  
13       defining the words in the amendments. There is  
14       particular concern among citizens with the  
15       words "compactness," "contiguous" and  
16       "fairness."

17            SENATOR GAETZ: And, ma'am, because of  
18       time and the many people behind you, I would  
19       like to ask you if you could conclude in just a  
20       few seconds, please.

21            MS. MARI: Absolutely.

22            SENATOR GAETZ: And we will be happy to  
23       take your written testimony.

24            MS. MARI: Absolutely. Thank you very  
25       much.

1           Well, basically "compactness" is defined  
2       by "the smallest perimeter around an area of  
3       population." "Contiguous" is "having no  
4       islands." We don't want our representatives  
5       having to cross around a district to get to our  
6       citizens.

7           And "fairness," it is defined by  
8       "providing citizens with the opportunity to  
9       have access to our elected representatives as  
10      closely as possible and to get to them as  
11      easily as possible."

12          I want to sincerely thank you for coming  
13      out here, and I would also like to respectfully  
14      request that you allow us the opportunity to  
15      present to you the maps, which I, for one, have  
16      been working on, but I don't have them fully  
17      completed.

18          And thank you very much for coming down  
19      here.

20          SENATOR GAETZ: Yes, ma'am, and as soon as  
21      you finish any submission that you have or any  
22      idea you would like to provide, you can either  
23      provide it to us over the Internet or you can  
24      send it to us by U.S. Mail. And then we will  
25      make it available to everyone in Florida to

1 look at.

2 MS. MARI: Thank you very much.

3 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much.

4 And next, Diane Lawrence from Fair

5 Districts Now. Is Ms. Lawrence here?

6 Ms. Lawrence, following your testimony, we will

7 hear from Lynn Wheeler and then Eufaula Frazier

8 and then Nelson Hernandez and then Councilman

9 Oliver Gilbert.

10 Ms. Lawrence, thank you for being here,

11 and you are recognized, ma'am.

12 MS. LAWRENCE: I am a victim of the

13 extreme gerrymandering of Congressional

14 District 25, so much a victim that in 2006, I

15 filed with the Federal Elections Commission to

16 run against Mario Diaz-Balart. Why?

17 Because I was sick of going into the

18 voting booth and seeing the one name. I had no

19 desire to be a Congresswoman, and within six

20 weeks, I dropped out, because it was really too

21 rough for me.

22 But I hope that if you will follow these

23 petitions that I worked on, I got signatures

24 and got people to vote for them, that you will

25 follow what they say.



1           Thank you.

2           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, and if you have  
3 information, petitions and other things you  
4 would like to present, we would love to have  
5 them for the record.

6           Next is Lynn Wheeler, and following  
7 Ms. Wheeler, Eufaula Frazier.

8           Ms. Wheeler, you are recognized and we  
9 look forward to your testimony.

10          MS. WHEELER: Thank you, and thank you for  
11 being here.

12          Gerrymandering has been going on, it has  
13 been a problem for many, many years, no matter  
14 what party is in power in our Legislature --  
15 that's who does it, our Legislature  
16 gerrymanders the districts.

17          But when the Fair Districts Amendment 5  
18 and 6 were passed by 63 percent of the people  
19 of Florida, that's not just 51 percent, it  
20 didn't just barely pass, it is a clear  
21 63 percent, it was passed by Democrats and  
22 Republicans.

23          So you all are now supposed to implement  
24 that, and we wanted to see some maps, we  
25 expected to see some maps so we could have

1 something to say.

2 The other thing about your not presenting  
3 maps is it doesn't allow someone who wants to  
4 run against one of our Representatives to do so  
5 very quickly. They will have to get their  
6 campaign together very fast, because they won't  
7 have time to figure out where their district is  
8 and who they have to appeal to.

9 So that was bad enough that we have not  
10 progressed with that, but then to go and use  
11 our government money to fight what we just  
12 voted 63 percent for, that is unconscionable.

13 And I did not realize it was \$20 million  
14 y'all were spending. That is really  
15 ridiculous. So that is all I have to say.  
16 Thank you.

17 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much. And  
18 Ms. Wheeler, please, if you can stay until the  
19 end, I think that you will probably get some  
20 answers to those questions.

21 Sometimes things get put in the  
22 bloodstream and people actually believe that  
23 they are true, but we are going to provide some  
24 information at the end that will be helpful, I  
25 think.

1           Next, Eufaula Frazier.

2           MS. FRAZIER: Yes, thank you for allowing  
3 me this opportunity. I am Eufaula Frazier,  
4 retired, but still active. I have been a  
5 community activist, not only for Dade County,  
6 but throughout the state of Florida, and I  
7 stand here this morning to ask you to keep in  
8 mind the voters' choice.

9           They voted for Amendment 5 and 6, and I  
10 encourage you to keep that in mind when you  
11 start to drawing the line. Not only draw the  
12 line for us, but let us be involved in the  
13 process to let you know what is needed.

14          Florida is growing so fast, you cannot  
15 stand here and say today that you are going to  
16 draw the line for any specific group, special  
17 group, but keep in mind that you are drawing  
18 the line for the next ten years, and remember  
19 the voice of the people. Thank you.

20          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
21 ma'am.

22          Next, Nelson Hernandez, representing the  
23 Town of Miami Lakes. Mr. Hernandez, thank you  
24 for being here, and we look forward to what you  
25 have to say.

1           COUNCILMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you very  
2 much. I am actually a Councilman in the Town  
3 of Miami Lakes, and I decided to come here and  
4 represent my town here today.

5           I thank you all for coming. I know it  
6 takes a lot to come here and sit for several  
7 hours to listen to our concerns, and thank you  
8 for your patience.

9           Just a little background: I represent the  
10 Town of Miami Lakes. We are a fairly young  
11 city. We have only been around for about ten  
12 years. We were incorporated in the year 2000,  
13 which might have been either right before or in  
14 the middle of the last redistricting session.

15          We are about 70 percent Hispanic, so we  
16 are pretty diverse as far as ethnicity is  
17 concerned; however, we are a pretty homogenous  
18 community when it comes to our socioeconomic  
19 status, and which brings me to my next point.

20          Currently in the State House, our town is  
21 divided by two districts down the middle. So  
22 that causes a lot of confusion for my  
23 constituents. They have always asked me who do  
24 I reach to for my State Representative, and so  
25 I always have to ask them where they live. So

1 I think it might be easier, not only  
2 logistically for myself and for the other  
3 members of my City Council, but also as far as  
4 actually representing the interests of my  
5 community, you know, with one solid member in  
6 the State House.

7 We are currently covered by one -- by --  
8 our entire town is only covered in its entirety  
9 in the State Senate by Senator Rene Garcia, and  
10 also in our County Commission. That is it.

11 So I think it is important for me to come  
12 up here and just plead my concern to you all  
13 and see if we can consolidate our city into one  
14 district for the Florida House, and I think  
15 that would be a great service for my community  
16 and my town, and I am sure they will be  
17 grateful for that. Thank you very much.

18 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Councilman, and  
19 thanks for your service to the city.

20 Councilman Oliver Gilbert from the City of  
21 Miami Gardens. We are delighted to have so  
22 many local officials here to give us  
23 information about your communities that we just  
24 couldn't get in an echo chamber in Tallahassee.  
25 So, Councilman, we appreciate your testimony

1           and look forward to it.

2                   COUNCILMAN GILBERT: I thank you for being  
3           here, and I would just like to recognize my  
4           State Senator, Oscar Braynon, my State  
5           Representative, Barbara Watson, and all my good  
6           friends. I see Frank Artiles is up there and  
7           Hazelle Rogers there, and my Mayor who is in  
8           the audience, Mayor Shirley Gibson.

9                   I will be very brief. My interest is that  
10          you keep Miami Gardens together as a city. We  
11          incorporated seven or eight years ago, and  
12          we -- we are 110,000 people, approximately. We  
13          deserve to be in one Senate seat, one State Rep  
14          seat. That is generally my interest and that  
15          is what I am speaking on.

16                  And I would just add this one point. I  
17          have been listening to the comments about the  
18          Fair District Amendments, and I think that you  
19          have every right to challenge them in court.  
20          That is what courts are for.

21                  I would just ask that you do it with your  
22          own money. I would just -- because there is  
23          something profoundly wrong about using public  
24          money to fight against the implementation of  
25          amendments that were voted on by the public.

1           We actually had a chance to decide, so you  
2           are going to take money out of my pocket to  
3           fight something that I said I wanted. That is  
4           probably wrong. The courts are there for a  
5           reason, but you don't need taxpayer dollars for  
6           that. Thank you for coming down.

7           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Councilman,  
8           very much.

9           Laverne Holliday with Curly's House of  
10          Style. And if there is anything I need, it is  
11          style, so if Laverne is here. Not so much, I  
12          guess. Missed my chance. Are you here?

13          MS. HOLLIDAY: I am here, but I decline.

14          SENATOR GAETZ: You decline?

15          MS. HOLLIDAY: Yes.

16          SENATOR GAETZ: Well, if you could consult  
17          with me later, I need some style help, too,  
18          I'll tell you.

19          Christopher Norwood is our next speaker,  
20          and following Mr. Norwood, I believe it is  
21          Gihan Perera with the Florida New Majority, and  
22          then Georges Daniel with the Haitian-American  
23          Coalition.

24          Mr. Norwood, thank you for being here and  
25          please give us your testimony.

1           MR. NORWOOD:   Senator Gaetz, I am very  
2   happy to be here, and I just want to say to the  
3   members of this Committee the awesome  
4   responsibility that you have.

5           I want to speak directly to my members of  
6   the Dade delegation, and there are several, I  
7   won't even start to name, including my Senator  
8   Braynon, Ms. Stafford, Miguel Diaz de la  
9   Portilla and so many others.

10          I also am an adjunct professor at Florida  
11   Memorial University, and I teach a class on  
12   state government.

13          And one of the problems I always have when  
14   I get to that section dealing with  
15   redistricting is how to explain to my students  
16   how it is done. I don't envy you at all by the  
17   responsibilities that you have, but imagine  
18   trying to explain this process to members who  
19   are creating districts in which they run in.

20          And it is a very difficult task, and I  
21   don't have the answers. But what I do know is  
22   that I hope that you use your common sense, try  
23   to keep communities intact, especially  
24   municipalities, and just, you know, do what you  
25   feel is necessary in order to keep this



1 community as whole as possible through a  
2 process that inherently divides us, right?

3 And so that's really all I have to say  
4 today, and I thank you very much for all the  
5 service, and including Representative Garcia,  
6 who is a friend, and many other Dade delegates,  
7 Ms. Logan, who has always been very supportive  
8 as well. Thank you very much.

9 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Norwood,  
10 for your testimony.

11 And then I believe it is -- is it Gihan  
12 Perera?

13 MR. PERERA: Yes.

14 SENATOR GAETZ: Are you here?

15 MR. PERERA: Yes.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much.  
17 Appreciate your being here, and you are  
18 recognized.

19 And following Gihan Perera's testimony,  
20 Georges Daniel and then Jean Robert Lafortune,  
21 I believe it is.

22 MR. PERERA: Thank you, everyone that is  
23 here. Thank you, Senator Braynon.

24 I have three things to say today. I am  
25 with Florida New Majority. A number of our

1 members have been here.

2 We are a statewide organization that does  
3 both voter turnout and on issues affecting low  
4 income people and minority communities. We  
5 have done work on unemployment, on immigration  
6 and on voting.

7 And what I wanted to say in this hearing,  
8 particularly around what is happening in south  
9 Florida, is three things.

10 One is that we are very concerned to make  
11 sure that in south Dade, that the  
12 African-American communities in south Dade  
13 continue to get political representation  
14 throughout this process.

15 The communities down in Perrine, Cutler  
16 Ridge, those areas, we are concerned that the  
17 drawing of the lines here cuts out their  
18 political representation.

19 That representation is very important now  
20 for those communities, and we wanted to ensure  
21 that those communities continue to get the  
22 representation that as a community of interest  
23 that they deserve.

24 Similarly, our organization does a lot of  
25 work in Liberty City and the Liberty City area.

1       We enjoy representation now in the Liberty City  
2       area. There's lots of issues there that need  
3       to be addressed, and particularly in the State  
4       House Districts where those issues,  
5       particularly around jobs and taxation issues  
6       and infrastructure, are going to be very  
7       important for us to have representation in  
8       Liberty City.

9               And, finally, our organization represents  
10       people who are largely moderate and low income  
11       folks. In District 17 in the U.S. Congress,  
12       that district has some of the highest  
13       unemployment rates and child poverty rates.

14              The demographics in our district in  
15       District 17 have a lot of non-English speakers,  
16       immigrants, African-American, Hispanic folks.  
17       We love our constituencies.

18              One of the most important things in those  
19       constituencies is for us to be able to leverage  
20       federal dollars that come into those districts,  
21       into District 17 in particular, to be able to  
22       actually improve the conditions in that  
23       district.

24              Right now the institutions that could be  
25       leveraged to support improvement in those

1 districts, especially the airport and the port,  
2 are currently not within that district, and we  
3 think it is a shame that if you have basically  
4 an island of economic disparity, that the  
5 institutions that are right next to those  
6 districts that could provide economic  
7 opportunities and an economic engine are not  
8 included in those districts.

9 So we would strongly encourage, as these  
10 lines get drawn, to not just look at the  
11 people, but also look at the institutions, and  
12 we highly encourage putting the port and the  
13 airport into that district. Thank you.

14 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
15 We really appreciate your comments.

16 And next, Georges Daniel, and if I  
17 butchered that first name, I apologize. I am a  
18 redneck from the Panhandle.

19 MR. DANIEL: Georges Daniel, that is my  
20 name.

21 Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman. Good  
22 afternoon, member of the Commission and  
23 everybody who are our Representatives.

24 We are here and we have been talking about  
25 fairness and homogenating. Our district where

1 Asian-American is more concerned, and as a  
2 group that we are here, we have come here this  
3 afternoon from the Asian-American Coalition,  
4 who are civil organization and pastors with us.

5 What we are interested is the integrity of  
6 District 17. Now, we know District 17 has a  
7 deficit of 41,000. It is this more or less  
8 district on to add the 41,000, it has to  
9 increase.

10 We would like to be on the record  
11 requesting that it be increased to what the  
12 north -- northwest part of the district,  
13 meaning we could be attached to District 21 in  
14 the Miramar -- west Miramar section, or go over  
15 District 20 on the north side.

16 We know also that District 20 and District  
17 21 are also deficit -- have a deficit of 2,005  
18 and 4,000, but it is toward District 23 or  
19 District 25 where they will increase their  
20 numbers, or District 19, which has a plus  
21 40,000.

22 So, therefore, we will put a map on the  
23 record, we don't have the full map with us, but  
24 we will put it on the record requesting those  
25 change, if change has to be made.

1           Otherwise, we will appreciate that the  
2           district stay the same as it is.

3           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir,  
4           and we look forward to your submission, and  
5           that kind of help is particularly useful to us.

6           Next, Jean Robert Lafortune, and then C.  
7           C. Reed.

8           MR. LAFORTUNE: Good morning, Mr. Chair  
9           and everybody in the panel, and also especially  
10          good morning to Senator Margolis.

11          And we want to take this opportunity to  
12          acknowledge the way that you have been of  
13          support to our community when you were at the  
14          Commission where we get to vote yes to have  
15          fair representation for Haitian-Americans in  
16          2002, and we are still at the front line with  
17          the fair representation issue before you today.

18          Our aim today is basically to drive home  
19          the message of the Haitian-American community  
20          here in the context of District 17. As the  
21          comrade just mentioned, our recommendation, the  
22          recommendation of the Haitian-American Task  
23          Force is for you, policy-makers, who are  
24          entrusted to redraw district line, is to  
25          maintain the integrity of District 17 as is at

1           this time.

2           We are in the process of advocating for  
3           representation. We are witness how segments of  
4           the Haitian-American community in 2002, 2001,  
5           were basically divided up in the City of North  
6           Miami in four different districts.

7           Our message today is not to attempt to do  
8           this kind of artifice or with the Congressional  
9           District 17.

10          Thank you very much, Mr. Chair, and I see  
11          that you have in your hand the separation of  
12          the King Solomon in the old times with the  
13          Bible.

14          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you.

15          MR. LAFORTUNE: And good luck with that  
16          mission.

17          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much. I  
18          remember King Solomon, at least in the movie,  
19          raised the sword and never had to use it.

20          Next is C. C. Reed with -- who represents  
21          Now Our Way. Thank you very much for being  
22          here, and you are recognized.

23          And following Mr. Reed is Paulette -- I  
24          believe it is Darau. Great, I got it. Please  
25          come on down, Ms. Darau, and you can be next.

1 Please go ahead, sir, you are recognized.

2 MR. REED: Good afternoon. As the  
3 qualified 2010 gubernatorial candidate, I am  
4 here to make a statement basically upon the  
5 redistricting.

6 Please, if you can, keep it accountable  
7 for the needs of the people, because we know  
8 that the census is done every ten years, and we  
9 need jobs.

10 Basically this -- what I've seen the  
11 percentages of making up these districts, they  
12 have to be able to include the economic factors  
13 in all the different communities of the state  
14 of Florida, and I am wishing that this  
15 Commission would be able to honor and respect  
16 the people that basically put you where you are  
17 at. Thank you.

18 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
19 Mr. Reed.

20 Next, Paulette Darau. Ms. Darau, thank  
21 you very much for taking time to come and speak  
22 with us today. You are recognized.

23 MS. DARAU: Good morning, everyone. I am  
24 delighted to see everyone.

25 My focus is fairness for us all. It's



1       been many, many years, and people that  
2       represented me and look like me, we are  
3       forgiven, we are absent, and no more can we --  
4       can such be subjected to us.

5               So while you guys are here, I want to make  
6       sure that the people that look like me in my  
7       community is not absent from the circum-front.  
8       It is a new day now, and we must be included.

9               So with this thing called redistricting,  
10       make sure that my community is in the  
11       circum-front. And this is why I am here. I am  
12       out in the community, we register people to  
13       vote, they vote. But I want to know, no more  
14       should we be excluded, we must be included.  
15       And I want to make sure such is given. Jobs is  
16       the next thing.

17               So when we redistrict, don't just exclude  
18       us, include us. It is a new day. I want to  
19       make sure such is given. Be blessed, and I'm  
20       going to make sure accountability is given.  
21       Peace out.

22               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
23       Ms. Darau. And now we had a number of folks  
24       who may have stepped out and may have come back  
25       in.

1           So let's go back through that list.

2           Jean-Pierre Bado? Jean-Pierre, are you here?

3           Would you like to testify?

4           Ronald Fulton. Did Mr. Fulton come back  
5           in? Okay. And I think we got Jonathon Fried.

6           Mayor Pizzi, the Mayor of Miami Lakes.

7           Mr. Mayor, sorry you had to step out, but we  
8           are glad you came back, and thanks for your  
9           service to the community. You are recognized,  
10          sir.

11          MAYOR PIZZI: My name is Michael Pizzi, I  
12          am the Mayor of the Town of Miami Lakes. I am  
13          also the Town Attorney for the great Town of  
14          Medley. I am also an attorney.

15          I would like to say that I would like to  
16          make a plea on behalf of I think all the  
17          citizens of the state.

18          I think that the Constitution and all of  
19          the laws governing redistricting are really a  
20          plea for nothing more than common sense.

21          I think the people should be able to look  
22          at a map with some common sense and figure out,  
23          you know, where the lines are going to be  
24          drawn, and I just think what we really need in  
25          redistricting, I don't think districts should

1           be drawn to help or hurt any elected official  
2           or any group of people.

3           I think that the -- you know, the maps,  
4           there's going to be a lot of different people  
5           who want it drawn to help this person or help  
6           that person.

7           I think the maps should be drawn based  
8           upon an application of the law with common  
9           sense. I think that -- let's not lose sight of  
10          something. The job of the Florida Legislature  
11          is to follow the U.S. Constitution, follow the  
12          Florida Constitution, and apply that law in a  
13          fair and common sense way.

14          And I think that -- so when you look at  
15          the map, what I want you to do, and I think  
16          most people in the state want you to do, is  
17          people should be able to look at the map in a  
18          common sense way and figure out where the lines  
19          are going to be drawn, no different than the  
20          way you draw the lines for municipalities when  
21          you're -- I mean, it is not rocket science.

22          When you draw the lines for  
23          municipalities, they've got to be contiguous.  
24          When you draw the lines for other things like  
25          cities, it is just -- it is pretty simple.

1           I would say -- so I would ask that you  
2       simply follow the law and engage in a common  
3       sense approach, and I think people -- I want to  
4       see a day when you can look at the map and  
5       people could figure out -- nobody should look  
6       at the map and not be able to figure out by  
7       application of common sense who their Rep or  
8       Senator or Congressman is going to be.

9           Now, I think if you redraw the lines and  
10      you have all these crazy, squiggly lines, and  
11      neighbors are represented by different people,  
12      and you can't figure out who your rep is based  
13      on common sense, then you will have failed.

14          I am going to look at the map when it is  
15      finished, and if I can't base -- if it doesn't  
16      make sense to me, then this process has been a  
17      failure.

18          One final point. With regard to Miami  
19      Lakes, you know, when you carve up  
20      municipalities, you dilute their voting  
21      strength and sometimes you render them  
22      irrelevant.

23          The Town of Miami Lakes, the home of the  
24      former Governor Bob Graham, still my most  
25      famous constituent, the Town of Miami Lakes has

1       always been carved up. We have always had two  
2       State Representatives. We have always had two,  
3       in some cases three, Congressional  
4       Representatives.

5               So the average resident of Miami Lakes --  
6       as a Mayor, I have two State Reps, one neighbor  
7       having one State Rep, somebody across the  
8       street having somebody else, and as many as two  
9       or three Congressional Representatives.

10              They all do an outstanding job, I support  
11      them all, and they are all -- God bless them,  
12      but on behalf of the Town of Miami Lakes, our  
13      town is making a plea. Miami Lakes should have  
14      one State Representative. Miami Lakes should  
15      have one Congressperson.

16              To have a town, a small little box of a  
17      five-mile town, how could you take a five-mile  
18      Mayberry little, small town and divide the  
19      people of that town up into multiple  
20      Congressional Districts or multiple State  
21      Senate and multiple State Rep districts?

22              And it really dilutes your strength  
23      because anytime there's a major issue, our town  
24      never has strength, because we are always one  
25      small part of somebody else's larger district.

1           So when you make -- when you carve up a  
2           town and make different parts of the town a  
3           small part of some other larger city's  
4           district, you are depriving those people of  
5           adequate representation, they become  
6           insignificant.

7           So I am making a plea, which I am going to  
8           follow up with a petition that everyone in  
9           Miami Lakes is going to sign, and Miami Lakes  
10          is urging, Miami Lakes is demanding that the  
11          Town of Miami Lakes have one State Rep, one  
12          State Senator and one Congressperson.

13          Anything beyond that would be a failure of  
14          the process and would deprive the people of our  
15          city of their right to fair representation  
16          under the Florida and Federal Constitution.

17          So I am hoping you will do that. I want  
18          to thank you for your time. It is good to see  
19          all of you, many of my friends, you are working  
20          hard here, and I would appreciate you giving  
21          some consideration to my thoughts, and thank  
22          you very much.

23          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Mayor, and when  
24          you do get that petition put together, would  
25          you please forward it to us as quickly as you

1 can?

2 MAYOR PIZZI: We will, and thank you very  
3 much.

4 SENATOR GAETZ: You bet. Thank you.

5 And now, Joel Volinski. Mr. Volinski?  
6 Thank you for coming today, and I think you  
7 have the honor of giving the benediction, or  
8 bringing up the end, or the first shall be last  
9 and the last shall be first. You are  
10 recognized.

11 MR. VOLINSKI: Senators and  
12 Representatives, thank you very much for coming  
13 to Miami to hear everyone. And I apologize, I  
14 only came into the room a few minutes ago, so  
15 whatever I am saying may have already been  
16 said.

17 So I apologize in advance if it is a  
18 duplication of anything, but I am here just to  
19 spend two minutes to say that I do have genuine  
20 concerns about the integrity of our democracy  
21 and the fact that our country is so divided  
22 right now, so split, and I really do think a  
23 lot of it has to do with districting.

24 And when those who are in power have the  
25 right to kind of draw lines to retain power, it

1       doesn't make me feel comfortable, and when the  
2       State of Florida citizens provided a pretty  
3       clear message that they want to see a very fair  
4       set of boundaries established, to me, that  
5       was -- that was something that was very valid,  
6       something that represented the anxiety that  
7       they have over this splitting up of our country  
8       based on safe districts.

9               And once there's safe districts,  
10       Representatives or Senators don't have to  
11       listen to the side that they don't -- they  
12       don't particularly care for in one way or  
13       another.

14              And so my thought is to, please -- and I  
15       am an Independent, I am not in any particular  
16       party, and if it were Democrats that were in  
17       control, I would say the same thing, that we  
18       simply have to have our people running for  
19       elected office listening to all sides of all  
20       arguments, the marketplace of ideas, instead of  
21       being safe and usually ending up being  
22       determined by the most extreme elements of  
23       either party in their district. So really that  
24       is all I was here to say.

25              I don't understand the details of the



1       Legislature's challenge to what the voters  
2       passed. I thought it was stunningly arrogant,  
3       but I -- but I, again, don't understand it  
4       completely.

5               But I am here just to say that I would  
6       wish in a state that is relatively evenly  
7       divided, that there should be more districts  
8       that are challenged fairly in every election,  
9       and I hope that as you are doing your  
10      redistricting, that you will take that into  
11      account.

12             Again, I thank you very, very much for the  
13      opportunity to speak. Thank you for your  
14      efforts in coming to this part of the state to  
15      hear us. Thank you.

16             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. Excellent  
17      testimony to end our hearing.

18             We have reached the part of our meeting  
19      now, or our hearing now, where we will invite  
20      any members of the House Redistricting  
21      Committee or the Senate Reapportionment  
22      Committee to make any comments they wish to  
23      make or make any proposals or offer any maps or  
24      offer -- answer any questions.

25             And then at the end, we will turn to

1 Speaker Designate Weatherford, who has been  
2 making copious notes on specific questions or  
3 points of fact that have come up.

4 So let me begin by asking, are there  
5 members of the House? Representative Rivas  
6 Logan requests recognition, and please give her  
7 the mike.

8 SENATOR GAETZ: You are recognized.

9 REPRESENTATIVE LOGAN: Thank you,  
10 Mr. Chair. I appreciate the dialogue today  
11 about various communities, racial and ethnic  
12 minority communities, economic communities of  
13 interest, and the very civil and respectful  
14 debate that went on here today.

15 But I feel it is important to make it  
16 perfectly clear that Florida's new standards  
17 for redistricting specifically state that  
18 districts shall not be drawn with the intent or  
19 result of denying or abridging the equal  
20 opportunity of racial or language minorities to  
21 participate in the political process, or to  
22 diminish their ability to elect the  
23 Representative of their choice.

24 And my point in saying that is simply that  
25 these issues must be by federal and now state

1 law considered, and the letter of the new state  
2 law makes these considerations very prominent.

3 And so while I certainly appreciate and  
4 frankly think it is very important that  
5 everyone offer their guidance in how these  
6 issues should be implemented, opportunities for  
7 racial and language minorities must be  
8 considered by both state and federal law.  
9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
11 Representative. Other comments by members of  
12 the House Redistricting Committee? Yes, sir --  
13 well, any members of the House first, then we  
14 will go to Senators.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Representative  
16 Baxley.

17 SENATOR GAETZ: Representative Baxley, you  
18 are recognized, and then we will go to the  
19 Democratic Leader of the Senate.

20 REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: Thank you,  
21 Mr. Chairman, and I too would like to thank the  
22 participants today, including our Chairman, for  
23 the courtesy with which this meeting has been  
24 conducted. It has been outstanding.

25 One thing I would like to address, because

1       we do hear a lot about the lawsuit. It happens  
2       to be one of the few bipartisan things going on  
3       in that we have an African-American  
4       Congresswoman and a Republican Hispanic  
5       Congressman who are putting this together, and  
6       regardless of all of the consistency that we  
7       hear about opposition to this lawsuit, the fact  
8       is if what we have passed in our State  
9       Constitution is in conflict with the United  
10      States Constitution, we need to know the answer  
11      to that question.

12           And we do need to be prepared that as  
13      people exercise their right to file suits  
14      regarding this map, these maps that are drawn,  
15      that we should be prepared to have that  
16      discussion, and it is not the only environment  
17      in which we pay both sides.

18           Another area that we need to know the  
19      right answer is in those cases with death  
20      penalty. We pay the argument for that  
21      judicious decision on both sides, because we  
22      must know the right answer.

23           So while we may differ about that, I would  
24      like to add that context, that that lawsuit is  
25      more than trying to subvert the will of the

1 people, it is trying to discern how do you fit  
2 together those views that some of these things  
3 that are proscribed for us to do by law, to  
4 follow the law, seem to be in conflict, and how  
5 do we resolve that.

6 So I hope maybe that sheds some light on  
7 at least my perspective on the validity of  
8 having that discussion and finding the answer  
9 to that question.

10 The other is, I would like to point out  
11 many remarks that we hear have to do with  
12 people choosing their own voters, drawing their  
13 own maps, and I would like to point out how  
14 much that the aspect of term limits has already  
15 addressed this subject.

16 You will find that most of these people  
17 did not run on maps that they were any part of  
18 drafting, and that with ten-year census data  
19 and eight-year term limits, much of that kind  
20 of thing is blunted, and Congressmen don't draw  
21 maps at all.

22 So I think much of it has been addressed,  
23 and I think we do -- are going to see out of  
24 the work of this Committee some compact  
25 districts that deal with many of the things

1           that were brought before us.

2           Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your liberty.

3           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Representative,  
4           and now we would recognize the Democratic  
5           Leader, Senator Rich.

6           SENATOR RICH: Thank you, Senator Gaetz.

7           Representative Baxley, I want to tell you,  
8           you are correct that some of us who were in the  
9           Legislature in 2002, when the lines were drawn  
10          absolutely had nothing to do with their  
11          districts and how they were drawn, and I am one  
12          of those people.

13          I am one of the handful of people probably  
14          here that, Senator Negrón, a few others, that  
15          actually was involved in a redistricting, but I  
16          will not say that I was involved in how the  
17          lines were drawn, because there was no  
18          transparency, it was done behind closed doors,  
19          and all of a sudden, I had a district that was  
20          entirely different than the district that I had  
21          previously run for in the year 2000.

22          So I think we are all working very hard to  
23          try and have a different result here.

24          Having said that, I think it is important  
25          for the people who have testified here, the

1 people who are still here, to know that we are  
2 not all of one mind up here.

3 There are many of us up here that do agree  
4 strongly with many of the points that you have  
5 made, particularly with regard to the timeline.

6 We have heard from Supervisors of  
7 Elections who feel that this is going to be  
8 devastating, this timeline, especially in the  
9 larger counties that have hundreds of precincts  
10 and tremendous numbers of absentee ballots and  
11 so forth.

12 So what I did last night -- Senator Gaetz,  
13 I don't have a map to present to you, but I  
14 still would have the same request, to take a  
15 look at the timeline in light of the hundreds  
16 of people who have spoken to us about it in the  
17 counties that we -- where we started on Monday,  
18 Martin County and then Palm Beach County,  
19 Broward County and now Dade County, have pretty  
20 much told us the same thing.

21 So I hope that we will take that into  
22 consideration and listen to the voices of the  
23 voters.

24 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
25 Leader.

1           Other comments? Leader Gardiner, the  
2           Republican Leader.

3           SENATOR GARDINER: Thank you,  
4           Mr. Chairman, and I was not prepared to speak,  
5           I didn't address the audience when you were in  
6           my community, but I did want to just mention a  
7           couple of things, because Leader Rich brought  
8           up ten years ago.

9           I was on the Committee ten years ago, and  
10          there are a couple of things that I think need  
11          to be put in the record.

12          Number one, I was speaking with staff,  
13          we're actually ahead of schedule compared to  
14          where we were ten years ago. The first map ten  
15          years ago was not presented to the Committee  
16          until January, the second week in January.

17          The League of Women Voters, who have been  
18          very active in saying we should have maps now,  
19          didn't present a map until two days after we  
20          presented a map in January. That is the  
21          realities of the situation.

22          And the idea that it was done behind  
23          closed doors, it was presented before the  
24          Committees, we took public testimony, everybody  
25          had an opportunity to look at them, make



1        recommendations, amend them, and then it  
2        followed through the process before it and  
3        passed bi-partisanly.

4                So this idea that we should have maps now,  
5        the reality is if we had maps now, just as many  
6        people would be standing up saying it was done  
7        behind closed doors, we didn't have the  
8        opportunity to review them, and now you are  
9        just going to just pass it.

10               So I just would keep that in mind, those  
11        that say it is behind closed doors, or look at  
12        the timeline, Mr. Chairman, we are ahead of  
13        schedule compared to where we were ten years  
14        ago.

15               So, again, I just wanted to clarify that,  
16        put that on the record, and I want to thank you  
17        for your time coming down here today. Thank  
18        you.

19               SENATOR GAETZ: Yes, sir. Thank you,  
20        Leader. President Margolis.

21               SENATOR MARGOLIS: I will stay seated.

22               I think that the participation of this  
23        very diverse community today has been an eye  
24        opener for my colleagues from around the state.

25               I thank you all for coming forward,

1       expressing your opinions and telling us what  
2       you expect of us.

3             If you look at our redistricting brochure,  
4       you will see that we talk about not only the  
5       two Constitutional Amendments that were  
6       recently passed and saying that we have to  
7       abide by those -- those guidelines, but we also  
8       have to abide by the guidelines of the Voting  
9       Rights Act.

10            I don't think they need to be in conflict.  
11       I would hope that they don't need to be in  
12       conflict at all during this process. But I  
13       think that the members here have understood  
14       that this is a very extremely diverse community  
15       and respect all of you in the input that you  
16       gave us, and I thank you for being here.

17            SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Madam  
18       President.

19            Any other members of the Senate Committee  
20       that wish to be recognized? If not, the Chair  
21       recognizes the Speaker Designate, Chair  
22       Weatherford, for concluding comments.  
23       Mr. Speaker.

24            REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
25       very much, Chairman, and I just want to thank

1       everybody for taking the time to come out today  
2       and to give us your thoughtful opinions and  
3       suggestions.

4               We know it takes time out of your day to  
5       be here and to sit through a hearing like this,  
6       and while it is our job to be here, you have  
7       other things going on in your life, and the  
8       fact that you would be here and be a part of  
9       this really makes us thankful.

10              And I will tell you, Mr. Chairman, I  
11       learned a great deal today about Dade County.  
12       And I have spent a lot of time here over the  
13       years and I live in the Tampa Bay area, but to  
14       hear first-hand from the citizens from  
15       different parts of the community here within  
16       Dade County, to hear about the diversity, to  
17       hear about the differences of the communities  
18       of interest, to hear about the communities of  
19       interest in the Haitian community and then the  
20       Hispanic community and the African-American  
21       community, has really been, frankly, eye  
22       opening for me, and I wouldn't have that if I  
23       hadn't been here today.

24              And so I want to thank you for bringing  
25       that diversity and making sure that it is

1 explained it the Committee.

2 I also want to make it clear that I think  
3 there was also a very strong signal sent to the  
4 Legislature today that the breaking up of  
5 communities and the breaking up of cities and  
6 the breaking up of neighborhoods should be  
7 avoided when possible, and that you want  
8 compact districts and districts that also at  
9 all times when possible to follow geographic  
10 boundaries.

11 I think that is a very reasonable request.  
12 Somebody said earlier that Amendments 5 and 6  
13 was basically just trying to make the  
14 redistricting process reasonable, and I  
15 couldn't agree with you more, and it should be  
16 reasonable.

17 And your comments today helped us as we  
18 navigate through this process, which is very  
19 complex, to understand your community better.

20 Something else I heard today that I  
21 thought was important, that I took note of, was  
22 to make sure there was no retrogression of the  
23 minority districts here in Dade County, both  
24 the Hispanic districts and the African-American  
25 districts.

1           And I think that is something that  
2           everyone on this Committee recognizes. It is  
3           now enshrined in our Constitution. Not only is  
4           it part of the Voting Rights Act, but it is  
5           also in our Constitution, and we plan to uphold  
6           that. And so we appreciate those comments in  
7           that regard as well.

8           There were those who mentioned that they  
9           are planning on drawing maps today. I thought  
10          that was great. I said earlier today there can  
11          be no better form of participation in this  
12          process with this Committee than actually  
13          submitting maps.

14          That has been extremely informative. We  
15          have 35 of them already. We would love to have  
16          a hundred, the more, the merrier, because it  
17          gives us more ideas, more options, more  
18          thoughts on paper that you have, and so we  
19          could ask you to continue to do that.

20          A gentleman earlier by the name of  
21          Mr. Hill asked a couple of questions. They  
22          were almost rhetorical in nature, but I thought  
23          that they were timely.

24          And he said, "How do we know what fair  
25          districts look like? How do we know what

1 compactness looks like? How are we going to  
2 know -- they're enshrined in our Constitution,  
3 but how do we know what they actually are?"

4 And that is the whole reason we are here  
5 today, Mr. Chairman, is because we don't know  
6 exactly what those are. We know that there are  
7 different court opinions about what compactness  
8 means.

9 We know that if we ask ten people in this  
10 room what fairness means, we would probably get  
11 different answers. But the idea is to come to  
12 you first and to get your opinion before we  
13 start drawing the first line.

14 And so that leads me to the question that  
15 we hear everywhere we go, which is, "Where are  
16 the maps?" And it is very simple.

17 We are probably going to be -- this  
18 Committee would probably be criticized whether  
19 we had the maps or we didn't, but this is a  
20 chicken versus the egg debate, and it should be  
21 what comes first.

22 Should the Legislature make decisions  
23 first and draw maps first, or should we come  
24 before you, listen to you, spend hundreds of  
25 hours traveling the state, getting a feel for

1       the diversity of our state, for the diversity  
2       of Dade County, and then draw maps and then get  
3       public testimony after that?

4               Well, that is the choice that we have  
5       made, Mr. Chairman, and I think it is the right  
6       choice, and I think we should continue on the  
7       track that we are on, because I could have  
8       never had the understanding of the diversity of  
9       Dade County and the different communities  
10      involved had I not been here today.

11              And if we would have drawn maps before we  
12      showed up today, I think we would have been --  
13      it would have been insulting to the members of  
14      this audience, and, frankly, would have been  
15      insulting to the people of Florida, because  
16      they deserve to be listened to.

17              And the worst Bills that have been voted  
18      on in the Legislature, in my opinion, have been  
19      the ones that have been rushed through, the  
20      ones that we have tried too quickly to push  
21      them through.

22              And we heard a lot of complaints from  
23      citizens around the state saying, "Take your  
24      time, slow it down." Well, ladies and  
25      gentlemen, that is what we are doing here.

1           This is a very serious thing.

2                   We are redrawing every district in the  
3           state of Florida. How you are going to be  
4           represented in Tallahassee, how you are going  
5           to be represented in Washington, D.C., will be  
6           dictated by this Committee and what we submit  
7           to the full bodies in the Legislature.

8                   And I submit to you that taking our time  
9           and doing it the right way is better than  
10          rushing through it.

11                   And so that leads me very quickly into the  
12          timeline. We are on a tight timeline, and we  
13          do recognize that it has to go through the  
14          courts and we do recognize that qualifying is  
15          waiting for us in the first or second week of  
16          June, and we have to be done by then.

17                   But I would also submit to you that doing  
18          what the State of Illinois did, which is voting  
19          on maps and submitting maps to their full body  
20          for a vote with very limited, if not any at  
21          all, public testimony, is the wrong way to do  
22          it, and that what we are doing, while we are  
23          being sensitive to the timeline, we feel it is  
24          more important to hear from you first and  
25          continue to watch the time and make sure that



1           we get done.

2           The Constitution also says, and I think  
3           most people in this room are familiar with  
4           this, that we cannot vote on legislative maps  
5           until January at the earliest. We cannot vote.

6           We are legally not allowed to vote on  
7           legislative maps until then. So if we spend  
8           the summer listening to you, and the fall  
9           looking at maps and debating maps, we will have  
10          plenty of time to vote and look at the last  
11          maps by session.

12          Lastly, this was raised numerous times,  
13          and I just want to touch on it very quickly.  
14          There was a lot of conversation about  
15          litigation and lawsuits, and I first want to  
16          say this:

17          There is litigation taking place and there  
18          are lawsuits that are taking place, but I raise  
19          my hand every two years when I am sworn in to  
20          uphold the Constitution of the United States of  
21          America and of the State of Florida, and  
22          everybody else up here does the same.

23          And I can assure you that Amendments 5 and  
24          6 passed with over 60 percent of the vote, they  
25          are on the Constitution, they are the law of

1 the land, and every person, including myself,  
2 will follow the law of the land, and we will  
3 follow Amendments 5 and 6 to the T. We will  
4 absolutely do that.

5 There was also a mention in regard to  
6 money that is being spent on lawsuits, and I  
7 have heard numbers like \$30 million and  
8 \$20 million, and that is simply not true, and  
9 it is a rumor, and it was one -- a newspaper  
10 article that was written that apparently it  
11 just seems to continue to float out there, but  
12 I just want to make it clear one more time,  
13 that is not true.

14 There is no 20 or 30 million dollar pot of  
15 money that is dedicated to these lawsuits. It  
16 does not exist, it is not true. And if you  
17 don't believe me, you can go to  
18 [transparencyflorida.gov](http://transparencyflorida.gov).

19 [Transparencyflorida.gov](http://Transparencyflorida.gov) is a website that is  
20 run by the State of Florida, and it shows every  
21 dollar that is being spent by the Legislature  
22 and all the agencies and everything else. I  
23 hope you will go there and check it out.

24 Lastly, I just want to say, Mr. Chairman,  
25 that any member on this Committee at any time

1       during this process can submit maps to this  
2       body or to the Legislature, and they will  
3       immediately be placed online for the citizens  
4       and for other members to look at.

5               And so for those who are out there that  
6       want to rush through this and want to hurry up  
7       and see maps and have maps presented by the  
8       Legislature, any member of this body can do  
9       that, and we, frankly, would encourage them to  
10      do that.

11              But I learned a lot today, Mr. Chairman.  
12      Thank you for chairing a great meeting, and I  
13      look forward to the meeting tonight. Thank you  
14      very much.

15              SENATOR GAETZ: And with that,  
16      Representative Weatherford moves we rise.

17              (Whereupon, the proceedings were  
18      concluded.)

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25

## 1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )

3 COUNTY OF LEON )

4 I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript  
5 is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned,  
6 and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting  
7 under my direction;

8 That the foregoing pages 2 through 169  
9 represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of  
10 the tape-recording;

11 And I further certify that I am not of kin or  
12 counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the  
13 regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor  
14 am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

15 Dated this 10th day of November, 2011.

16

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19

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

20

Notary Public

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State of Florida at Large

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Commission Expires:

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November 13, 2014

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REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

11

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2011

12

6:00 P.M.

13

FIU COLLEGE OF LAW

14

SOUTH MIAMI, FLORIDA

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Transcribed by:

22

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

23

Court Reporter

24

25

1 T A P E D P R O C E E D I N G S

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: My name is  
3 Will Weatherford, and I have the honor of  
4 chairing today's hearing, and this is a Joint  
5 Senate/House Redistricting Hearing, and we are  
6 now calling it to order.

7 We are pleased to be joined today by  
8 several members of the Florida House and  
9 Senate, and I would like to ask each one of  
10 them to briefly introduce themselves and tell  
11 you who they are and where they are from.

12 But first, because we are in her district,  
13 I would like to turn it over to State  
14 Representative Ana Rivas Logan to welcome  
15 everyone to Miami and let her kick us off.

16 So, Representative, you are recognized.

17 REPRESENTATIVE LOGAN: Thank you,  
18 Chairman. I would like to welcome everybody to  
19 the redistricting meeting, and thank you for  
20 being part of the process. It is wonderful  
21 looking out in the audience and seeing so many  
22 community activists out there coming to give us  
23 your input.

24 We will be taking notes and we will be  
25 listening and we will be following up on your

1 input and it will be taken seriously, and thank  
2 you once again for being with us today.

3 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Rob Schenck.

4 REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Good evening,  
5 everyone. My name is John Patrick Julien,  
6 representing House District 104, which  
7 encompasses North Miami Beach, North Miami,  
8 Miami Gardens, Opa-Locka, unincorporated  
9 Miami-Dade, the City of Miami. I'm glad to see  
10 so many friendly faces, and looking forward to  
11 hearing from you all.

12 REPRESENTATIVE ARTILES: Good afternoon,  
13 Frank Artiles, District 119, Sweetwater,  
14 Redlands, West Kendall and down to the City of  
15 Homestead.

16 REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Good evening, Mike  
17 Horner, District 79, Osceola County.

18 REPRESENTATIVE STARGEL: Hello, Kelli  
19 Stargel, District 64, north Polk County, which  
20 is Lakeland, Polk City, Kathleen and Davenport.

21 SENATOR NEGRON: Good evening, Joe Negron,  
22 Senate District 28, which is the Treasure Coast  
23 and northern Palm Beach County.

24 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Good evening, my  
25 name is Dwayne Taylor. I represent House

1 District 27. That is Volusia County.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BRODEUR: Good evening,  
3 State Representative Jason Brodeur,  
4 representing parts of Orange, Volusia and  
5 Seminole Counties, District 33.

6 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Hi, Jim Boyd,  
7 Florida House District 68, which is Manatee  
8 County, just below Tampa Bay on the other side  
9 of the state.

10 REPRESENTATIVE GOODSON: Good evening, Tom  
11 Goodson, representing District 29 from Mims,  
12 Florida, to the St. Lucie County line and  
13 Indian River County. Thank you.

14 REPRESENTATIVE OLIVA: Good evening, Jose  
15 Oliva, District 110, representing Hialeah,  
16 Miami Lakes and part of unincorporated Dade.

17 REPRESENTATIVE NUNEZ: Good evening,  
18 Jeanette Nuñez, State Representative for House  
19 District 112, which consists of portions of  
20 Miami-Dade County, Broward and Collier County.  
21 Happy to be here at FIU, and I am a proud alum,  
22 twice over. Thank you.

23 SENATOR GARCIA: You stole my line about  
24 proud alum. Out you on that one.

25 Rene Garcia, Senate District 40,



1 encompasses northwest Dade County area.

2 REPRESENTATIVE DIAZ: Hi, I am Jose Diaz,  
3 representing District 115, which encompasses  
4 much of Fountainbleau, Westchester, East  
5 Kendall, Pinecrest, Palmetto Bay and Cutler  
6 Bay.

7 I am not an FIU alum, I'll one you up. My  
8 wife is, so my better half, and my  
9 father-in-law taught here for 30 years. So I  
10 am very proud to be here. Thank you.

11 REPRESENTATIVE FORD: Clay Ford,  
12 Representative, District 3, Pensacola.

13 REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: Ritch Workman,  
14 District 30, Brevard County.

15 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Mack Bernard,  
16 State Representative, District 84, West Palm  
17 Beach.

18 REPRESENTATIVE STEINBERG: Richard  
19 Steinberg, House District 106, Miami Beach,  
20 Surfside, North Bay Village, Indian Creek, Bal  
21 Harbor, Bay Harbor, Aventura, Sunny Isles  
22 Beach, Golden Beach, North Miami Beach, North  
23 Miami and a little bit of unincorporated Dade  
24 County.

25 REPRESENTATIVE TRUJILLO: Good evening, my

1 name is Carlos Trujillo. I represent Florida  
2 House District 116, which is the Balin High  
3 School area all the way down into the Hammocks.

4 SENATOR RICH: Good evening, I am Nan  
5 Rich, State Senator, District 34, representing  
6 nine municipalities in southwestern Broward  
7 County, and then coming down all the way to the  
8 southern end of Dade County, all unincorporated  
9 areas, quite a gerrymandered district, and I  
10 also serve as the Senate Minority Leader for  
11 this two-year period.

12 SENATOR BRAYNON: Good evening, State  
13 Senator Oscar Braynon. I represent Senate  
14 District 33, which is Miami Gardens, Opa-Locka,  
15 North Miami, North Miami Beach -- a piece of  
16 North Miami Beach, Biscayne Gardens -- I never  
17 did this listing. It is north central  
18 Miami-Dade.

19 So from the county line to the Miami  
20 River, from Biscayne all the way to the edge of  
21 Hialeah.

22 SENATOR SACHS: Good evening. My name is  
23 Maria Sachs. I am a State Senator from Palm  
24 Beach County, beautiful Palm Beach County, and  
25 a little bit of Broward County up by the county

1 line. It is good to be here in Miami tonight.

2 SENATOR BOGDANOFF: Ellyn Bogdanoff, State  
3 Senate District 25, representing Broward and  
4 Palm Beach Counties' coastal communities.

5 REPRESENTATIVE PLAKON: Good evening, I am  
6 Scott Plakon, Florida House District 37, Orange  
7 and Seminole Counties.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay, great.  
9 Obviously you can see that we have a lot of  
10 Legislators here from the House and Senate who  
11 took time to be here to listen to you.

12 More importantly, you are here, and we are  
13 very thankful that many of you took the time to  
14 be here as well.

15 We would like to put a special thank you  
16 to FIU, and more specifically the Law School,  
17 for opening up this beautiful facility. I see  
18 the President of Florida National. President  
19 Rosenberg, sir, thank you very much for opening  
20 up your house to us. It is a wonderful  
21 facility, you have a wonderful university here  
22 and we are all rooting for the Golden Panthers  
23 this football season, so good luck to you guys.

24 But we are very grateful for this  
25 opportunity to hear from you, and, again, my

1 name is Will Weatherford, and I along with my  
2 partner here, Senator Gaetz, who is the  
3 Co-Chair of this Committee, we will -- I will  
4 be chairing this Committee today with him,  
5 which is going to be webcast live on the  
6 Florida Channel over the Internet.

7 Our sole purpose today is to hear from  
8 you, as I said before. We want to hear from  
9 you about what you think about the legal  
10 standards that guide us for redistricting and  
11 how they should be applied to the community  
12 that you live in.

13 We want to make sure that you are  
14 represented both in Tallahassee and in  
15 Washington, D.C., fairly, equitably and  
16 sensibly.

17 Our procedures today are going to be  
18 pretty simple, but they are very important, and  
19 it is important that you sign in so that we  
20 create an accurate public record of all the  
21 attendees and speakers.

22 Also, you may opt to join our e-mail list  
23 so that we can keep you informed about how the  
24 redistricting process is progressing over the  
25 next few months.

1           If you have not signed in, please raise  
2           your hand, and a staff member will give you an  
3           attendance card.

4           If you wish to speak today and you have  
5           not filed out an attendance card, please raise  
6           your hand as well, and we will get you a card  
7           so that you can be called on and that we won't  
8           miss your testimony.

9           It is the same attendance card whether you  
10          wish to speak or if you just wish to sit and  
11          listen.

12          Before we begin, I would like to turn it  
13          over to the Co-Chair, Senator Gaetz, to walk us  
14          through a little bit about -- give us a  
15          historical perspective of redistricting and  
16          maybe walk us through the process of what we  
17          are here to do today and perhaps provide some  
18          insight to the Committee and also to the  
19          members of the audience.

20          Chairman, you are recognized.

21          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much. Is  
22          this on? Not so much. Now it is. You bang  
23          it, it works.

24          Well, that is what you need to know about  
25          redistricting. Every ten years, the Florida

1       Legislature, just like all Legislatures in  
2       America, is required by our Constitution to  
3       redistrict the state, and we redistrict based  
4       on increases, decreases and movements of  
5       population within the state.

6               Now, Florida has grown more than other  
7       states in the last ten years, so just as New  
8       York lost two members of the U.S. Congress, we  
9       picked up two members of the U.S. Congress.

10              So we go from 25 to 27 U.S. Congressmen,  
11       and from 27 to 29 electoral votes.

12              Because some parts of our state have  
13       increased or decreased disproportionately to  
14       other parts of the state in population, many  
15       Senate and House districts will change either  
16       by adding or losing population.

17              When redistricting is completed,  
18       Congressional Districts, U.S. Congressional  
19       Districts, must be equal in population, and the  
20       magic number is 696,345 people, no more, no  
21       less.

22              There have been court cases where if you  
23       have 11 more people in the next Congressional  
24       District, the federal courts have thrown it  
25       out. So it is 696,345 people. The 40 State

1 Senate Districts must be nearly equal at about  
2 470,000 people.

3 There are 120 members of the House of  
4 Representatives, and each of their districts  
5 must be nearly equal at about 156,700 people.

6 Now, we have displays that are over here  
7 that you -- many of you I saw were looking at  
8 as you came in, displays as well as you came in  
9 through the lobby, showing the current  
10 boundaries of districts in this area of the  
11 state, and also the number of persons which  
12 must be added to or subtracted from current  
13 districts to achieve equal representation.

14 Equality of representation is important,  
15 but it is not the only legal requirement  
16 redistricting plans must meet. There are other  
17 requirements, and the laws and the important  
18 federal court cases governing redistricting are  
19 explained in detail on the House and Senate  
20 websites.

21 You can get to those websites by looking  
22 at the website information listed on the  
23 "Redistricting 2012" brochure that was  
24 available when you came in. The "Redistricting  
25 2012" brochure summarizes state and federal

1 laws, and outlines topics that we really need  
2 your advice on at today's hearing.

3 If you did not get a copy of the  
4 "Redistricting 2012" brochure when you came in,  
5 they are available on tables when you leave, or  
6 if during the hearing you would like to get a  
7 copy, just raise your hand, and a member of our  
8 staff will make sure that you do get a copy.

9 The brochure lists the House and Senate  
10 websites, and these websites are important  
11 because they are packed with information about  
12 redistricting in Florida, including explanation  
13 of the laws and court cases that govern  
14 redistricting.

15 It isn't just one section of the law. It  
16 is many sections of many laws and many court  
17 cases that have to be all applied and knitted  
18 together to develop our redistricting plan.

19 The two websites, the Senate and House  
20 websites, are complementary and are updated  
21 frequently. We hope you will visit them and  
22 check back often.

23 The websites are a great way to stay  
24 current about how new Congressional Senate and  
25 House districts are taking shape.



1           The websites also deliver to your  
2           fingertips all of the demographic information  
3           supplied to Florida by the U.S. Bureau of the  
4           Census that describe the people of Florida,  
5           that give all of the information that we will  
6           use in determining where district lines ought  
7           to be, and that information was supplied to us  
8           by the Bureau of the Census.

9           We were one of the -- not the last state,  
10          but one of the last states to get the  
11          information, and we put it on the Web as  
12          quickly as possible.

13          And also you will find on the Senate and  
14          House websites the precise computer programs  
15          that will be used by policy-makers and probably  
16          also by the courts to evaluate and draw various  
17          districts and options for districts.

18          Any member of the public can participate  
19          in building plans or seeing maps submitted by  
20          Legislators or by other citizens. I am fairly  
21          techno stupid. It took about 15 minutes for  
22          the staff to show me how to use the websites to  
23          understand the plans that have been submitted,  
24          and I am sure it would take you even less time.

25          I know a number of people in the audience

1       here have already begun to use the websites.  
2       Before, during and after the hearing, Senate  
3       and House professional staff are available to  
4       show anybody the simple steps to getting  
5       on-line, to building or evaluating the district  
6       maps that are already there, and submitting a  
7       plan, if you would like, of your own now or in  
8       the weeks to come.

9               Recommendations from citizens and groups  
10       of citizens will all be made publicly  
11       available. So if you give us your ideas, we  
12       want to make sure your ideas are also available  
13       to everybody in Florida so that this is a  
14       completely open and transparent process.

15              In fact, as of today, 32 maps are on the  
16       website for you to review. These maps take  
17       different points of view, you will see  
18       different philosophies represented, but there  
19       are 32 maps for you to review now.

20              There are approximately 110 written ideas  
21       for maps that have been submitted by interest  
22       groups or individuals, and those are on the web  
23       as well. And after this week, I am sure those  
24       numbers will probably increase.

25              In fact, in the last couple of days,

1 attendees at meetings just like this have drawn  
2 districts for submission with the help of our  
3 staff and they have drawn the districts at the  
4 display tables here at the hearing.

5 So it is a fairly simple process if you  
6 would like to share your ideas about your  
7 neighborhood or your community. If you don't  
8 want to share your ideas, that is fine, too.  
9 But the submission of proposed maps that makes  
10 sense for your community is the single most  
11 effective form of public participation in the  
12 redistricting process.

13 Now, the redistricting schedule, the  
14 timeline under which we are operating, is  
15 imposed by the State Constitution. It is not  
16 something that we can make up or change. It is  
17 imposed by the Constitution.

18 The State Constitution does not permit the  
19 Legislature to act on state legislative maps  
20 before the second year after the census. In  
21 other words, the census was in 2010. The  
22 Constitution says we can't vote on maps until  
23 2012.

24 But we have accelerated this process as  
25 much as we legally can by moving up the 2012

1 legislative session from March, when we usually  
2 begin, to January, so that we can begin  
3 deliberating and voting as soon as legally  
4 possible.

5 And we began our statewide hearings five  
6 months in advance of the 2012 session, and  
7 Committee meetings, which usually start in  
8 December, are starting in September; again,  
9 allowing an acceleration of the schedule.

10 Now, it's been suggested by some that the  
11 Legislature should draw maps first, and then  
12 present those maps as a take-it-or-leave-it for  
13 the public to comment. But we believe that  
14 this puts the answer ahead of the question.

15 There should be no preconceptions created  
16 by politicians, but, rather, public testimony  
17 ought to be free and unrestricted. In fact,  
18 the author -- the principal author of Florida's  
19 new redistricting standards and the Chair  
20 person for Fair Districts are both on record in  
21 testimony before the Senate and House stating  
22 that no maps should or could be drawn until the  
23 public has had an opportunity to comment  
24 through public hearings.

25 Our intent is to use the recommendations

1       made at these 26 hearings and recommendations  
2       that come to us through the Internet, through  
3       regular mail, through your conversations and  
4       input to your Representatives and Senators as  
5       the basis for developing options for district  
6       maps.

7               We will discuss those options in open  
8       public meetings before any votes are taken even  
9       in Committee. In other words, what we are  
10      saying is if you look at the maps that are  
11      available to you today here at this hearing and  
12      the maps that you can look at on-line, these  
13      maps submitted to the Legislature by Florida  
14      residents and interest groups are the starting  
15      point in the legislative process.

16             So if you want to know where we will begin  
17      our deliberations, if you want to see where the  
18      maps are now, it is with those public  
19      submissions, as well as testimony from the  
20      meeting tonight and other public input that we  
21      will receive.

22             Throughout the process, we will solicit  
23      additional public comment so that proposed maps  
24      can mature, can change, with public criticism  
25      and public involvement, all before the

1           Legislature votes or approves any final maps.

2           But we are not the ones who actually get  
3           to decide what the maps ought to be. The final  
4           decision is left with the judiciary. Whatever  
5           the Legislature passes based on input from the  
6           public is then submitted for judicial review to  
7           the State Supreme Court and for federal  
8           judicial review to ensure that the final plans  
9           meet all the legal requirements, state and  
10          federal.

11          Because our purpose today is to hear from  
12          you, all the time between now and the time we  
13          adjourn at 9:00 will be used to ensure that  
14          every member of the public who is here and  
15          wishes to speak will have time to present  
16          testimony and be listened to respectfully.

17          Now, after every citizen has had her or  
18          his say, if there is time remaining, and we  
19          hope there will be, before our scheduled  
20          adjournment, then any member of the Committee,  
21          Democrat or Republican, House member or  
22          Senator, may make any statement, offer any  
23          observation, answer any question or make any  
24          proposal.

25          And, of course, any member of the

1       Legislature may yesterday, today or tomorrow,  
2       propose a map or a plan, and we will  
3       immediately make those proposals available to  
4       the public.

5               Mr. Chairman, I hope this description of  
6       our schedule and the process that we will use  
7       helps set the stage for a successful hearing  
8       tonight.

9               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
10       very much, Senator Gaetz. We appreciate your  
11       words. And as the Senator said, we will  
12       adjourn promptly at 9:00, and there are a few  
13       dozen individuals who have signed up to speak  
14       so far, and if there is anyone else who wishes  
15       to speak, please ensure that you get a card,  
16       and we will make sure and get you to sign that.

17              Because we are limited in time, we are  
18       going to try to divide the time evenly and to  
19       ask each testifier to limit their remarks to  
20       about three minutes, and we will try to be  
21       liberal with that, but as more people sign up,  
22       we may have to be a little bit tighter.

23              Our first speaker this evening is going to  
24       be Celestino Palomo, and she will be followed  
25       by Jesus Medina, and then Jean Newland.

1           What we will do is call three names at a  
2           time and try to -- we have seats that are  
3           prepared in the back for those who are on deck.  
4           So if you could kind of be prepared to speak.

5           And without further ado, we would like to  
6           recognize Celestino Palomo to speak. Yes, sir,  
7           you are recognized, sir. I hope I said your  
8           name right. I was asking Ana Rivas Logan to  
9           help me.

10          You are recognized, sir, correct. We are  
11          going to turn that mike on for you.

12          MR. PALOMO: Good evening, members of the  
13          panel, ladies and gentlemen. My name is  
14          Celestino Palomo, and I have been living in  
15          Miami permanently since I was discharged from  
16          the U.S. Army in the year 1970.

17          I have been compelled to participate in  
18          this public hearing, my first ever, because I  
19          think this is a historic moment in the state of  
20          Florida.

21          This is about implementation of Amendments  
22          5 and 6 and their redistricting procedures  
23          taking place. Those amendments prohibit the  
24          Legislature to favor incumbents or political  
25          parties or to deny racial minorities their



1 right to participate in our electoral process.

2 If you accomplish this, we will see voters  
3 participate in greater numbers in our  
4 elections, and we will also see how communities  
5 from different backgrounds or races will be  
6 coming together to find solutions for common  
7 problems.

8 If you don't, it will be politics as  
9 usual. We have all witnessed in the past few  
10 months partisan politics at its worst all of  
11 the way from Washington, D.C., to communities  
12 in our neighborhood.

13 Please do the right thing for the good of  
14 all our citizens. Thank you very much. God  
15 bless America.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
17 very much, sir. We appreciate those comments.

18 Next up we have Jesus Medina. Following  
19 Jesus will be Jean or Jean Newland, and then  
20 Annie Betancourt. Jesus is -- no? Okay. All  
21 right, does not want to speak. Thank you for  
22 being here though, sir.

23 Next up we have Jean Newland, followed by  
24 Annie Betancourt, and then after that we have  
25 David Crespo.

1           Jean is with the ACLU, or is affiliated  
2           with the ACLU. Thank you very much for being  
3           here, ma'am. We are honored, and you have the  
4           floor.

5           MS. NEWLAND: Well, thank you very much,  
6           and I would just like to say thank you for your  
7           good description of how redistricting works,  
8           because that was one of the things I was going  
9           to say.

10          The one thing I would like to ask is why  
11          the geospacial analysis and the compactness  
12          were deleted from the computer system that you  
13          have engaged to help with the redistricting.

14          I would like to also know why Senator Alan  
15          Hays was so disingenuous when he said that the  
16          State of Florida did not file a suit against  
17          the Amendment 5 and 6.

18          Actually, the suit was filed by Corrine  
19          Brown and Mario Diaz-Balart, members of the  
20          Florida Congressional Delegation. The State of  
21          Florida merely joined the suit as  
22          Plaintiff/Intervenor.

23          This they thought would give them good  
24          deniability. That means that if Mr. Balart  
25          backs off, we can just step right in as the

1 state.

2 The Legislature is fighting to have  
3 Amendment 5 and 6, and they are spending  
4 taxpayers' money to do it. The Legislature so  
5 far has spent \$700,000 in legal fees associated  
6 with redistricting, half of which has been  
7 delegated against Amendment 6.

8 And to add to an even more bazaar twist,  
9 an almost Orwell-ian twist, the Secretary of  
10 State is charging \$60,000 to the taxpayer to  
11 defend the amendment.

12 So one hand, the State is trying to  
13 invalidate it, and on the other hand, is going  
14 to defend it, and we are paying for both sides.

15 I know that you have a big job to do in  
16 Tallahassee, but please don't forget that you  
17 represent us, and you represent all of us, and  
18 it is important not only to the ACLU, but all  
19 of us to protect our Constitution. Thank you.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
21 very much. And, Ms. Newland, I will tell you,  
22 what we will do is at the end of the hearing,  
23 we will make sure -- if you can stick around  
24 long enough, we will turn it over to the  
25 members to respond to some of the comments, and

1 specifically the questions you raised.

2 Senator Gaetz will make an attempt to try  
3 to answer them for you today. We want to make  
4 sure that we give everyone an opportunity to  
5 speak first, but after that, there will be a  
6 moment where the Senator will be able to  
7 address some of those questions.

8 So thank you for your questions, and with  
9 that, we will move forward to Ms. Betancourt  
10 with the League of Women Voters of Florida.  
11 You are recognized.

12 MS. BETANCOURT: Thank you. Good evening.  
13 Representative Weatherford, Senator Gaetz,  
14 members, thank you for coming down to our  
15 community. I am delighted to appear before  
16 you.

17 Redistricting and reapportionment, it is  
18 one of the most political of all political  
19 sports, and it occurs every ten years. I  
20 should simply say and equate it to the Olympic  
21 games. There are winners and there are losers.

22 I have been following this process since  
23 1982, when legendary Senator Dempsey Barron  
24 chaired the Committee. I know you, Senator  
25 Gaetz, now have the honor to sit in that

1 district and represent the people in the  
2 Panhandle.

3 But ever since that time, and again in  
4 1992, I followed the process. And then ten  
5 years ago, I sat on that other side of the  
6 table as a Representative for District 116  
7 where Representative Trujillo is. So I  
8 seriously take this exercise as a very, very  
9 serious.

10 Back in 1981, when Senator Barron chaired,  
11 it was a historic moment for Florida, because I  
12 was sitting in the audience and it was a  
13 turning point in the state where we had  
14 multiple districts.

15 And what happened was that by going into  
16 the single member, it opened the door, it  
17 really truly opened the floodgates for  
18 African-Americans, for Hispanic and for women  
19 to run for office.

20 I know that in addition, the issue of one  
21 person, one vote, and the principle for all  
22 citizens regardless of where they reside are  
23 entitled to equal representation.

24 And the point is that we, the people, pick  
25 the elected officials, not the elected official

1 pick the people on election day.

2 The concern that I have is it's a matter  
3 of timeline in terms of the way for getting the  
4 job done, so to speak, the district lines, the  
5 maps to be drawn, and clearly we know as a  
6 result of the census, Florida has 18,800,000  
7 people.

8 And thank you for making the clarification  
9 in terms of the number of residents per  
10 Congressional District. But you do have the  
11 ability to draw those districts anytime you  
12 have the information at your fingertips. The  
13 sophisticated technology is there.

14 So I don't see no reason why it is being  
15 delayed and delayed. Floridians spoke loud and  
16 clear when the Constitutional Amendments 5 and  
17 6 were passed with 63 percent of approval rate  
18 in our state.

19 So all I am here tonight asking you to  
20 please roll up your sleeves, do your job and  
21 get those maps out. Democracy, it is not a  
22 spectator sport, and voters should not be the  
23 loser in this Olympic game. Thank you so much.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
25 very much. And thank you for your service to

1           the State of Florida. We are very grateful for  
2           that as well.

3           Next up we have Mr. David Crespo. Mr.  
4           Crespo. Following Mr. Crespo, we have Andrew  
5           Casademunt, and after Andrew, we after Angela  
6           Vazquez.

7           David, you are recognized, sir. Thanks  
8           for being here.

9           MR. CRESPO: Thank you. This will be  
10          probably the first time I will be speaking to a  
11          State Legislature. It feels like I'm speaking  
12          to lions and tigers.

13          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: It is okay,  
14          we don't bite.

15          MR. CRESPO: Well, I am glad that most of  
16          you are kittens.

17          I just wanted to bring up the issues on  
18          the Constitutional Amendments 5 and 6 that were  
19          passed last year. I was one of those  
20          individuals that originally signed the Petition  
21          to have those amendments on the ballot.

22          It turns out I was a pinhead, because I  
23          have learned from then that when -- as I did  
24          research on it, it was really -- it was  
25          really -- first of all, I was deceived.

1           It was made to look like a good idea, but  
2           I was maliciously deceived. It was designed by  
3           the secular progressives and the far left wings  
4           to have these redistricting decisions to be  
5           left up to the Florida Supreme Court, which is  
6           a court full of judicial activists.

7           And I am bringing this up because I know  
8           that you got a bunch of individuals and  
9           crybabies, with all due respect to the lady  
10          from the ACLU, a bunch of --

11          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Sir, we want  
12          to keep the comments focused on redistricting,  
13          we don't want to talk about anybody else, just  
14          talk directly to us, that's it.

15          MR. CRESPO: To you?

16          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Just us.

17          MR. CRESPO: Sorry, sir.

18          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You can call  
19          me a crybaby, but nobody else in the room,  
20          okay?

21          MR. CRESPO: Understood.

22          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: All right.

23          MR. CRESPO: Understood.

24          It was really designed to intimidate you  
25          guys, to intimidate you to come -- to



1       redistrict according to the image of the  
2       secular progressives.

3               And so I would like to offer you guys some  
4       encouragement. Those list of people, those  
5       secular progressives that I just mentioned,  
6       don't fear them. The one who -- the one who  
7       all of us should fear is God himself. He is  
8       one that put you guys in the position you are  
9       in now, and he is the one who can take it away  
10      from you guys.

11             I trust that you guys will do the right  
12      thing with fair -- with no prejudice. I trust  
13      that you guys will make the right decisions  
14      and with God as your counselor.

15             And if any of those people that I just  
16      mentioned try to threaten you with lawsuits,  
17      disregard them. Keep your -- just do the right  
18      thing and rely on God within the meetings that  
19      you guys have as your counselor, and do the  
20      right thing. And even if they do bring you to  
21      court, God looks within your hearts and he  
22      knows your right intentions, and if you have  
23      done this with the right intentions, I  
24      guarantee you, through God himself, even though  
25      you won't see him, will defend you in court.

1           And I would like to close with this last  
2           statement from the book of Psalms, in chapter  
3           1, the last verse: "The Lord watches over the  
4           ways of the righteous, but the ways of the  
5           fools will lead to destruction." I yield the  
6           floor.

7           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
8           very much, Mr. Crespo.

9           Next up we have Mr. Andrew Casademunt. I  
10          apologize if I am not saying that right, sir.  
11          Following Andrew, we have Angela Vazquez, and  
12          then Edith Owens.

13          Andrew, you are recognized, sir.

14          MR. CASADEMUNT: Thank you, sir.

15          Today I am here to talk about the  
16          redistricting. I want to start with the  
17          federal Congressional Districts.

18          I have a big thing with District 20, how  
19          it is right now. I think it is one of the  
20          worst gerrymandered districts in the country.  
21          I currently see it going from west and all the  
22          way down to Aventura into Sunny Isles Beach and  
23          Bay Harbor Island.

24          I think that District 20, which has  
25          lost -- which has lost 4,000 people, should go

1 more into Broward. I currently think that  
2 District 17 should take over those  
3 municipalities.

4 I also think that District 18, how it is  
5 right now, should stay how it is, because it  
6 covers coastal communities from Miami Beach  
7 down into the Keys.

8 I also want to speak about District 25.  
9 Right now, there is a big problem with people  
10 in Collier County. Collier County has grown in  
11 population, and I think that the State of  
12 Florida, since it's received two new  
13 Congressional Districts, should get a new  
14 Congressional District for southwest Florida.

15 I also think that District 21 should --  
16 has lost a little bit of population, should  
17 move up, you know, and get more of the areas.  
18 But the problem is with Amendment 5 and 6, I  
19 see that the Voting Rights Act law is the law  
20 of the land, and these districts have a lot of  
21 minorities, Cubans, African-Americans,  
22 Hispanics, and I think that we need to protect  
23 that, then what Amendment 5 and 6 has done.

24 I am currently seeing here in the Florida  
25 House how there's been a lot of population loss

1 of 20,000, 17,000. And I think that even  
2 though there are a lot more minority districts,  
3 I think we need to keep those in place.  
4 There's a lot of communities in south Florida,  
5 which is a melting pot compared to different  
6 areas of Florida. So I strongly urge that you  
7 keep these districts how they are, but we need  
8 to do it in a way that, you know, voters can  
9 see what the districts are going to look like.

10 I want to speak quickly on 117, 101 and  
11 112. 112 and 101, they go from Collier County  
12 all the way down to the Florida Turnpike. I  
13 definitely think that we need to keep Collier  
14 County with Collier County, and Dade County  
15 with Dade county. And I think we need to  
16 combine 101 with 112 and make it a rural area,  
17 because there's a lot of farmers and a lot of  
18 rural communities that need a representative in  
19 the Florida House and the Florida Senate.

20 The other thing I want to talk about was  
21 that -- you know, how they are talking about  
22 voter precincts and all that, whether  
23 Republican or Democrat. I think we should go  
24 by ZIP code. I don't know if anybody said  
25 that, but I think ZIP codes is a good way to

1 make districts fairer, and city lines.

2 Like, for instance, District 117 and one  
3 -- 117 and 111, for instance, go through Coral  
4 Gables, and there's about two districts that --  
5 you know, why are you going to have two  
6 districts in Coral Gables when you can only do  
7 one district?

8 So I think that we really need to preserve  
9 the minority districts, but I think we should  
10 try to go ZIP code and use like state roads,  
11 interstates and county boundaries. Thank you.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
13 very much, sir.

14 Next up we have Angela Vazquez, followed  
15 by Edith Owens and then Louella Grayson.

16 Ms. Vazquez, you are recognized. Thank  
17 you for being here.

18 COUNCILWOMAN VAZQUEZ: Thank you,  
19 Mr. Chairman, and thank you to all of you for  
20 coming down here. And some of you may already  
21 know, I have an issue that sometimes the state  
22 and federal government says they are going to  
23 come hear the people, and then they meet in  
24 south Broward and say that they were in  
25 Miami-Dade County. So thank you very, very

1       much for taking the time to venture in, I  
2       promise you will get out safe, into Miami-Dade  
3       County to hear -- I don't know why they don't  
4       want to come -- to hear what we have to say.

5               I want to let you know I run five senior  
6       centers and a Meals On Wheels program for the  
7       -- through that and the fact that I am a  
8       community Councilwoman in our area, I do know  
9       several of our State Reps, and I know that  
10      Amendment 5 and 6 charges you with very  
11      specific things that you need to do, and that  
12      there are some funky-shaped districts out  
13      there, but I beg you to please remember -- and  
14      my county may not be a minority, but Hispanics  
15      in particular, the elderly. You can do the  
16      same thing and water down a minority, or you  
17      can keep a minority adrift and make sure their  
18      voice is heard. And I hope that you will make  
19      sure when you go in there and redraw what you  
20      are doing, that you remember the minorities and  
21      you remember the Hispanics and be careful on  
22      how you draw it.

23             And specifically to me, those that  
24      represent my five senior centers, and I don't  
25      know them by memory, I know them by name, I can

1 tell you, the elderly are very important, they  
2 are very frail and they are usually overlooked.  
3 And from -- well, from most of the Miami-Dade  
4 delegation, they really, really went out of  
5 their way. I sit on a state board for the  
6 Florida Association of -- of FASP, and on a  
7 national board for the elderly, and many times  
8 they look at their Legislators with dismay,  
9 because they think that they are not thought  
10 of. Ours do.

11 And lastly, and my Representative in  
12 particular, who you are in her area today, very  
13 open, very outgoing. Actually, everybody, I  
14 think, in here that I do know can tell you they  
15 are doing a great job. And I know you can't  
16 protect the incumbents, but for the sake of my  
17 old people, for the sake of us women,  
18 Hispanics, et cetera, take care of the ones  
19 that take care of us, because to throw the baby  
20 out with the bath water just doesn't make any  
21 sense, and thank you.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
23 very much.

24 Next up we have Edith Owens with the  
25 Democratic Executive Committee. Ms. Owens,

1       waiving your time? Okay. Thank you very much  
2       for being here.

3               We also have -- I hope I am saying this  
4       right, Louella Grayson, also with the DEC.  
5       Waive your time, too, ma'am? Thank you very  
6       much.

7               Augusto Luna is next. I'm sorry I didn't  
8       call your name earlier. After Augusto, we will  
9       have Artie Leichner, followed by Dorrit Marks.

10              Augusto, you are recognized.

11              MR. LUNA: Thank you. I just -- I wanted  
12       to be here in favor of the local business  
13       owners, small business owners, namely District  
14       119.

15              I had a run-in with -- I was just trying  
16       to move my business recently, and I encountered  
17       some local government that wasn't supporting my  
18       move *per se*. I went through the proper  
19       channels to fix this, and I couldn't fix it.  
20       Thankfully, I was able to go into my State  
21       Reps, Frank Artiles, and he took a special  
22       interest in my case and basically promptly gave  
23       me a quick resolution to my problem, coming  
24       back in business. So I think it is important  
25       that, you know, in my district, which is mainly



1       -- I think it's 50 percent Hispanic or so, that  
2       we keep that representation close to the  
3       business owners, because that's what really  
4       moves the economy. So I just wanted to thank  
5       Frank personally, and just give him the support  
6       that we need for small business owners in my  
7       district at least. Thank you.

8               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
9       very much, Augusto, we appreciate that. And at  
10      the end of the hearing, we will make sure and  
11      give out Representative Artiles' cell phone  
12      number so he can help out everyone in the room  
13      who has any problems. If you please could do  
14      that for us later, sir, we would appreciate  
15      that.

16             Next up we have Artie Leicher, or  
17      Leichner. I apologize if I didn't say that  
18      right. After Artie, we've got Dorrit Marks,  
19      and then we have Ernesto Ackerman.

20             You are recognized.

21             MR. LEICHNER: Good grief.

22             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I thought I  
23      had a booming voice. That's pretty strong  
24      there.

25             MR. LEICHNER: No, you got it right the

1 second time. Thank you very much.

2 I am Artie Leichner. I am First  
3 Vice-President of the United Teachers of Dade,  
4 and a member of the State Executive Board for  
5 the AFL-CIO.

6 I just want to tell you, I came here a lot  
7 more skeptical before I heard the opening  
8 statements about how the process is being done  
9 and why you are coming to us without maps, and  
10 that sort of made me a little less skeptical  
11 about that process, so thank you.

12 I do want you to just keep in mind that  
13 63 percent of the people of this state voted  
14 for this amendment, both of these amendments,  
15 and it is really a rare thing to get 63 percent  
16 to vote for anything. Our Governor was only  
17 elected with 49 percent. So it sort of makes a  
18 big statement about the desire of the people of  
19 the state to have fairness in representation.

20 Now, I guess I am one of those secular  
21 progressives that the gentleman was complaining  
22 about before, and I am not making a threat to  
23 have a lawsuit. I just want you to follow  
24 exactly what was prescribed in the amendments  
25 and do it with fairness, efficacy and

1 efficiency.

2 I would personally be faced with a  
3 dilemma, because the concept of Hispanic  
4 minority in south Florida is almost oxymoronic,  
5 considering there's such a Hispanic majority,  
6 and I don't know how that all plays into what  
7 you have to configure, but I am sure that does  
8 in some way make it a little bit more  
9 complicated. But if you follow the process,  
10 and we do have districts that don't look like  
11 snakes crawling up the side of a mountain, and  
12 if you follow the process and everything gets  
13 blocked off, some of you will keep your seats,  
14 some of you will lose your seats. That is just  
15 politics. I am not complaining about the  
16 politics. But at least the representation will  
17 be based on communities, geography and the way  
18 things need to be set up.

19 My biggest curiosity, though, is if  
20 someone wanted to run for one of the current  
21 seats, and they wanted to run by petition, how  
22 would they go about that, not knowing where the  
23 seats are drawn? And that -- I guess that is a  
24 question that maybe Senator Gaetz can answer at  
25 the end.

1           And thank you all for being here tonight,  
2           and I just hope it is not costing the citizens  
3           of the state a whole lot of money for you to  
4           make the traveling show. Thank you.

5           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
6           very much. And you are correct, we will get  
7           the answer to that question. There is an  
8           answer to it, and Senator Gaetz will address it  
9           later.

10           Next up we have Ms. Dorrit Marks, who's  
11           already at the microphone, and following Dorrit  
12           will be Ernesto Ackerman, followed by Wilson  
13           Cristancho.

14           And Ms. Marks is with the League of Women  
15           Voters of Miami Dade County. Ms. Marks, thanks  
16           for being here, you are recognized.

17           MS. MARKS: Thank you both Senator Gaetz  
18           and Representative Weatherford. I think it is  
19           wonderful, so many of the Representatives and  
20           Senators here. Thank you, and welcome to our  
21           community.

22           My name is Dorrit Marks, and I am  
23           Vice-President of the League of Women Voters of  
24           Miami-Dade County, and a long-time resident of  
25           Pinecrest, which is in southwest Miami-Dade

1 County.

2 As members of the Florida Legislature, you  
3 have a most important task: Drawing and voting  
4 on congressional and legislative district  
5 boundaries. The Florida Constitution gives you  
6 the job to draw new district boundaries every  
7 ten years following the census.

8 In November 2010, the people of Florida  
9 voted in favor of standards to guide the  
10 redistricting process. The Florida  
11 Constitution requires that as you draw new  
12 districts, that you do not create districts  
13 with the intent to favor political parties or  
14 incumbents, and that you be mindful that the  
15 districts do not deny racial or language  
16 minorities the opportunity to elect  
17 representatives of their choice, and that  
18 district populations be nearly equal, that  
19 districts be geographically compact, using  
20 existing city and county boundaries where  
21 possible in joining communities.

22 But what, in fact, does the Constitution  
23 of Florida say? So this -- I am quoting really  
24 from the Constitution. This is Article III,  
25 "The Legislature," Section 20 and 21, that

1 provides standards for establishing  
2 Congressional District boundaries and standards  
3 of establishing legislative districts. So it  
4 says: "No apportionment plan or district shall  
5 be drawn with the intent to favor or disfavor a  
6 political party or an incumbent, and districts  
7 shall not be drawn with the intent or result of  
8 denying or abridging an equal opportunity of  
9 racial or language minorities to participate in  
10 the political process, or to diminish their  
11 ability to elect representatives of their  
12 choice, and districts shall consist of  
13 contiguous territory." And then it goes on  
14 further: "Unless compliance with the standards  
15 in this subsection conflicts with the standards  
16 in subsection a" -- which is what I just read  
17 -- "or with federal law, districts shall be as  
18 nearly equal in population as is practicable.  
19 Districts shall be compact and districts shall,  
20 where feasible, utilize existing political and  
21 geographical boundaries." So I just wanted to  
22 make clear to the Representatives, Senators and  
23 everyone in the audience what it actually says.

24 While it is positive for you to gather  
25 input from citizens, it would be better and

1 more efficient really to hold hearings after  
2 draft district maps have been proposed. Only  
3 then can the public really comment in an  
4 effective manner.

5 While I know you cannot vote on new  
6 district maps until the Legislature meets in  
7 early April -- or early January, I'm sorry --  
8 early January of next year, the League of Women  
9 Voters asks that Legislators file proposed  
10 redistricting plans in early October and that  
11 Committee meetings in the fall review such  
12 proposed maps and then have public hearings by  
13 December. Citizens need time to review and  
14 give input. And, further, the timeline should  
15 assure that maps be approved by the Legislature  
16 in January, as early as possible after the  
17 session --

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Ms. Marks, I  
19 don't want to rush you, but we are over the  
20 time limit.

21 MS. MARKS: I am almost finished, almost  
22 finished.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay, good.

24 MS. MARKS: -- as early as possible after  
25 the session convenes. We are suggesting this

1 timeline so that there is time for review by  
2 the Florida court and the U.S. Department of  
3 Justice, and to respond to challenges from the  
4 government or the public, and that can be a two  
5 or three-month process. This timeline will let  
6 candidates know district boundaries and enable  
7 them to qualify. If you do not move up the  
8 timeline, decisions for candidates, for  
9 Supervisors of Elections and voters will be  
10 chaotic. Thank you.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
12 Ms. Marks. We appreciate your comments.

13 Next up, Ernesto Ackerman with Independent  
14 Venezuelan-American Citizens. You are  
15 recognized, sir.

16 Following Mr. Ackerman, we will have  
17 William Cristancho, followed by Gisela Gomar.

18 You are recognized, sir.

19 MR. ACKERMAN: Thank you, sir.

20 First of all, I would like to thank the  
21 members of the Legislature for listening to us  
22 and coming down all the way to Miami.

23 I am the President of the Independent  
24 Venezuelan-American Citizens, as you said. We  
25 have eight years only in -- involved in



1 politics, so we are kind of new in this field.  
2 We educate politically all the Venezuelan  
3 community to participate in local politics.

4 We also do the citizenship drive to help  
5 the legal residents become citizens. And we  
6 also bring students from Venezuela to see how  
7 the democracy works in this country.

8 We have learned in our small time in this  
9 area that before the '80s, there was no  
10 Hispanic representation in the local  
11 government. And that is why we would like to  
12 ask you to -- in the new maps, to really take  
13 care of all the Hispanic community that lives  
14 in this area. That is really important and  
15 big. And that is all.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
17 very much, sir. We appreciate that.

18 Next up, William Cristancho.  
19 Mr. Cristancho, you are up, and then following  
20 Mr. Cristancho, we have Gisela Gomar and Joseph  
21 Salzverg.

22 You are recognized, sir.

23 MR. CRISTANCHO: Thank you. Thank you,  
24 Mr. Chairman, Senator Gaetz. Thanks for coming  
25 to south Florida, and thanks for coming to an

1 area where we all live and we want to share our  
2 thoughts with you.

3 I am a resident of Miami-Dade County. I  
4 am a U.S. citizen for 23 years and counting. I  
5 was born in Columbia and I am very active in  
6 the Colombian community. And I am also a  
7 professional IT consultant in  
8 telecommunications and I travel quite a bit.  
9 And I have taken the time today, because this  
10 is a historic moment, like many of those have  
11 mentioned.

12 I want to make sure the Hispanic community  
13 is actually identified, that there is no  
14 retrogression, which is something of grave  
15 concern for us, the Hispanic community, and to  
16 continue expanding and truly represent our  
17 Hispanic community in Miami-Dade County.

18 I am from the neighborhood of Kendall  
19 where many of our Colombians live there, and so  
20 I am representing them, and -- but most of all,  
21 I am here representing my son. My son is a  
22 child of nine years old. He has autism, and he  
23 is on a waiting list of many kids waiting to  
24 receive services. I want to make sure that  
25 this time around, there is an opportunity for

1 Hispanic kids with special needs, not only with  
2 autism, but with many other needs to get access  
3 to those services. Thank you very much.

4 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
5 very much, sir.

6 Next up we have Ms. Gomar, and following  
7 Ms. Gomar, we have Joseph Salzverg, followed by  
8 Tim Daubert.

9 You are recognized.

10 MS. GOMAR: Good evening. My name is  
11 Gisela Gomar, and I live in the Sunset/East  
12 Kendall area. And if you pardon me, I wrote  
13 everything down so I can make sure that I  
14 communicate everything that I want to to you  
15 today.

16 I wanted to take this moment to discuss  
17 our very unique south Florida community, a  
18 community that I have been part of for over 50  
19 years. I grew up here in the Westchester area.  
20 I think that it is fantastic that you are here  
21 today listening to us, the voters.

22 Our county might be the only one in the  
23 state that has the majority of the -- are  
24 minorities, so I believe that Amendments 5 and  
25 6 will allow us to preserve many of our current

1 district boundaries.

2 It is important to note that it is  
3 difficult, if not impossible, for the  
4 boundaries of our counties, almost 40  
5 municipalities, to be completely preserved. In  
6 fact, I think that certain areas like Palmetto  
7 Bay have been better served having two  
8 Representatives. Instead of having one person  
9 to call, some of these cities have the luxury  
10 of calling more than one Representative when  
11 they need help with a regional issue.

12 I also think that you should continue to  
13 have our districts in Dade run north to south  
14 instead of east to west. I believe that it is  
15 in the best way to truly capture and represent  
16 our local communities of similar interest.

17 Again, thank you for your time, and good  
18 luck.

19 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
20 very much.

21 Joseph Salzverg, followed by Tim Daubert  
22 and then Pablo -- I hope I am saying this  
23 right -- Lead or Led. Leal, I apologize. You  
24 are recognized, sir.

25 MR. SALZVERG: Good evening. First of

1 all, I want to thank you guys for having this  
2 forum. It definitely cements the fact that you  
3 guys are interested in what we have to say  
4 before these districts are drawn. I just want  
5 to thank you guys.

6 I wanted to speak with you a little bit.  
7 I am a life-long Miami-Dade County resident,  
8 born and raised in Miami, attend the University  
9 of Miami. Now I live in the East  
10 Kendall/Sunset area. I currently live in  
11 District 115, which is pretty well-drawn. It  
12 is a north/south district, with the eastern  
13 border being the Palmetto and then going west  
14 to 97th Avenue, very like communities with  
15 Kendall, with Westchester. A lot of the  
16 opportunities and a lot of the troubles that I  
17 face either with transportation, traffic,  
18 services are very common in Kendall which to  
19 what they are in Westchester, you know, single  
20 family homes and -- and it dramatically changes  
21 once you go west of the Turnpike.

22 So the biggest thing that I would like to  
23 recommend and really cement with you guys is  
24 what she said, let's have these districts  
25 north/south, especially in the southwest

1 Miami-Dade County area. Let's take into  
2 account the U.S. 1 corridor, which separates  
3 communities, affluent communities like  
4 Pinecrest and Palmetto Bay, so that they're  
5 maybe not in the same district as an area as  
6 Fountainbleau, which is, you know, dramatically  
7 different. Let's take into account the  
8 Palmetto Expressway as well. Let's take into  
9 account the Turnpike, because once you cross  
10 the Turnpike and go west, you have a lot of  
11 multi-family housing, you have a lot of cluster  
12 homes, you have a lot of new development, new  
13 roads.

14 The biggest thing I would like to cement  
15 is, you know, let's keep like communities in  
16 the same districts and let's make sure that  
17 these run at least north/south in our area,  
18 because, you know, that's really helped us in  
19 the long run and that's helped us get proper  
20 representation and knowing where we sit. Thank  
21 you for your time.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

23 Next up, Mr. Tim Daubert, followed by  
24 Pablo Leal and then Thomas Comerford. I hope I  
25 am saying that right. I apologize if I am not,

1 but you are recognized, sir.

2 COUNCILMAN TIM DAUBERT: Good evening,  
3 Councilman Tim Daubert from the Town of Miami  
4 Lakes. Representatives and Senators, I want to  
5 thank you very much for being here. I want to  
6 thank FIU for hosting this. And Representative  
7 Logan, it is a great area that you have in your  
8 area here. I personally want to thank  
9 Representative Oliva and Senator Garcia, my two  
10 representatives in Miami Lakes.

11 I urge you as you sit there and listen to  
12 the constituents -- I also want to say thank  
13 you to each and every one of you, the public  
14 that is here. It is very impressive and very,  
15 very important for you to get your voices out.  
16 One of the things that I ran on when I ran for  
17 office only in October was getting the word out  
18 to the public. And I urge you as you sit  
19 there, please listen to the public. Do the  
20 right thing, and that is it. Thank you very  
21 much.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
23 Councilman, and thank you for your service to  
24 our state.

25 We have Pablo next, and following Pablo,

1 we have Thomas and then Barbara Schwartz.

2 Pablo, you are recognized, sir.

3 MR. LEAL: Good evening. I am here  
4 representing the student body of FIU, I guess.  
5 I may -- I guess three-fourths of my life is  
6 spent here. The other fourth is spent at home  
7 and at work, which is represented in District  
8 114.

9 I just want to thank the Legislator for  
10 coming out here and doing this for us. I  
11 didn't have talking points already made, but I  
12 want to support you guys in this troubling time  
13 that you guys are going to go through, and I  
14 hope that you guys can figure out the lines for  
15 us, and don't forget about us students, because  
16 we are your future.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
18 very much. Go Panthers.

19 Next up, Mr. Thomas, and I hope I can say  
20 your last name right, Comerford.

21 MR. COMERFORD: Comerford.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Comerford,  
23 okay. And then after Mr. Comerford, we've got  
24 Barbara Schwartz and then Orlando Gutierrez  
25 Boronat. I may have messed that one up, too,



1 but you are recognized.

2 MR. COMERFORD: Good evening. Thank you  
3 very much for holding this meeting.

4 I am in Senator Ana Rivas Logan's district  
5 and also Senator Flores' district. I live in  
6 the Kendall area, but I am also the co-founder  
7 of the Sacred Heart Outreach Center in  
8 Homestead, and so I want to support the people  
9 down there, that most of the people we work  
10 with are the poor, and many of them are also  
11 the undocumented, and so those are the people  
12 that are picking our food, and we don't want to  
13 forget those people. There's a lot of bills  
14 that they are going to be coming up and did  
15 come up that are important in that area, so I  
16 wanted to call that to your attention.

17 But there is a great book by Bill Bishop  
18 called *Sorting*, and it is about how people in  
19 the United States are grouping, mainly by  
20 lifestyles. And that is what we see here in  
21 Dade County with all these communities. And so  
22 please keep that in mind as you are drawing  
23 these districts, so that people of like  
24 backgrounds and like characteristics are  
25 considered. And don't overlook the poor people

1 throughout Dade County.

2 And I want to welcome all those people  
3 from central and northern Florida. I go to  
4 Tallahassee every year for Catholic Days at the  
5 Capitol. It takes us about eight hours to  
6 drive up there, so we know it is a long trip  
7 down here, but we welcome you down here. Thank  
8 you.

9 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
10 sir.

11 Next up we have Ms. Barbara Schwartz,  
12 followed by Orlando Gutierrez Boronat, and then  
13 Alexandra Bassil.

14 Ms. Schwartz.

15 MS. SCHWARTZ: Representatives and  
16 Senators, not you guys, I just want to  
17 apologize for those people who do not know how  
18 to address you properly.

19 I am a long-time resident of Miami-Dade, I  
20 am an activist, and I believe that people voted  
21 for 5 and 6 because they were tired of looking  
22 at some of the districts in Florida that go  
23 through three, four and five counties, who do  
24 not represent similar people of the same  
25 interest.

1           Example: I am in District 25, and that  
2 goes from Kendall Lakes all the way over to  
3 Naples. I guarantee you I have no relationship  
4 with the crocodiles -- with the alligators, I  
5 have no -- I really do not have the similar  
6 backgrounds of the people of Naples, and I  
7 think that has to be taken into consideration.

8           We have a lot of very good and a lot of  
9 very not so good Representatives, but we have  
10 to remember that this is basically a majority  
11 Hispanic community. We have many different  
12 nationalities. And when you say Hispanics, I  
13 don't think you can group them as one people.  
14 I think they have their own individuals, rights  
15 and ideas, and I think this is a melting pot,  
16 or a salad, whichever you wish to call it, but  
17 we have mixtures, and you are going to have the  
18 responsibility of blending them into unique  
19 areas of common interest, and it is not right  
20 for a Representative in 25 to have to go all  
21 the way over to Naples. They don't represent  
22 the same people, and you've got to be able to  
23 talk to your Senators, your Representatives.  
24 And so I think you've got a very tough job  
25 ahead, but let us help you. Thank you.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
2           very much.

3           Next up we have Orlando Gutierrez Boronat,  
4           followed by Alexandra Bassil and then Dario  
5           Moreno.

6           You are recognized, sir.

7           MR. BORONAT: Thank you. Firstly, I would  
8           like to thank the members of the Legislature  
9           for listening to my testimony and that of other  
10          citizens. My name is Orlando Gutierrez  
11          Boronat, and I have been a resident of  
12          Westchester for 30 years. I teach social  
13          sciences.

14          I respect the task that you have before  
15          you as our elected representatives of drawing  
16          legislative and Congressional Districts, which  
17          is not an easy one. Through our votes, we  
18          citizens require that these districts be drawn  
19          in a way that does not favor or disfavor any  
20          incumbent, candidate or party. This period of  
21          fairness is important for the integrity of our  
22          political decision-making process.

23          I would like to remind the members of the  
24          Legislature to take into account the nature of  
25          the communities involved. I came to the United

1 States at a very young age with my family,  
2 Cuban exiles who came to this country so we  
3 could live in freedom. I live in a majority  
4 Hispanic community. My neighbors came to the  
5 United States, which was also a beacon of  
6 opportunity and offered freedom for them as  
7 well.

8 Constitutional Amendments 5 and 6, which  
9 we citizens passed recently, respects the right  
10 of my community and similar ones to elect  
11 representatives of our choice, specifically  
12 prohibiting any drawing of district lines that  
13 would diminish the ability of minorities to  
14 elect representatives of our choice. When it  
15 comes to choosing Legislators who will  
16 represent us in Tallahassee and Washington, DC,  
17 we are counting on this constitutional  
18 protection to ensure that our concerns and  
19 interests get a fair hearing in the law-making  
20 process. Therefore, an unacceptable result  
21 would be retrogression of Hispanic voting  
22 rights, especially at a time when the Hispanic  
23 population continues to grow. In fact, the  
24 Hispanic voting population has grown to the  
25 point that it merits an additional Senate seat.

1           In conclusion, I would like to once again  
2       state my gratitude to the Legislature for  
3       giving this matter the consideration it  
4       deserves, and I exhort the members to keep in  
5       mind their constitutional duty to draw  
6       districts that will neither play political  
7       favorites nor diminish the ability of  
8       minorities to elect representatives of our  
9       choice. Thank you.

10           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
11       Orlando.

12           We have Alexandra Bassil with the ACLU of  
13       Florida, followed by Dario Moreno and then Evan  
14       Ross.

15           You are recognized.

16           MS. BASSIL: Hi, good evening, welcome to  
17       south Florida. My name is Alexandra Bassil. I  
18       am a Greater Miami Chapter member of the ACLU  
19       of Florida, and I am a second-generation native  
20       Miamian. I live in District 109 for the House  
21       and 35 for the Senate.

22           I just was here today because I really  
23       wanted to impart that the Fair District  
24       standards does protect minority districts, and  
25       remember that most of the people in Florida

1       voted for amendments, almost 63 percent of the  
2       voters, so they are not really amendments that  
3       were Democratic or Republican, and I really  
4       believe that linking the Fair Districts  
5       amendments to minority districts is a  
6       distraction.

7               Attorney General Eric Holder and the U.S.  
8       Justice Department have already approved or  
9       pre-cleared the amendments, finding that they  
10      do not violate the 1965 Voting Rights Act and  
11      do not dilute or have a retrogressive effect on  
12      minority voting strength in Florida. It is  
13      important that everyone, especially people of  
14      color, have equal access to impact and election  
15      and run for and have a fair opportunity to  
16      compete for elective office. Thank you.

17              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

18              Okay. Dario Moreno, good to see you  
19      again, sir, and then after Mr. Moreno, we've  
20      got Evan Ross and then I believe it is Joshua  
21      Eisenstein.

22              MR. MORENO: I am Dario Moreno. I teach  
23      political science at Florida International  
24      University. Welcome, and I am glad you are  
25      beginning the process early.

1           I just want to remind the Legislature that  
2       really the headline news of the 2010 census was  
3       the continuing growth of the Hispanic  
4       population. In 1990, 10 percent of Florida  
5       residents were Hispanic. Today it is  
6       22 percent. By the next census, it will  
7       probably be in the 30s. So it is incredibly  
8       important for the political legitimacy of this  
9       process that Hispanic and African-American  
10      representation is not diluted, and this you  
11      face a very, very difficult calculus, because  
12      the Hispanic population, about 48 percent of  
13      it, is concentrated in Miami-Dade County, and  
14      Miami-Dade County, because its population  
15      growth is less than in the rest of the state,  
16      is actually going to lose representation, or  
17      its Senate and State House seats will be  
18      larger. At the same time, because the state  
19      has gained in population, its congressional  
20      seats will be smaller.

21           So the challenge you have before you is to  
22      protect Hispanic and African-American  
23      representation, and in order to do that, I  
24      don't see any other way than to go over the  
25      boundaries in many of the districts into



1 Broward County.

2 And if worrying about community of  
3 interest, for example, I see very similar  
4 communities in Miami Gardens and the eastern  
5 side of Miramar, so -- as an example. So it is  
6 very important as you go through this process  
7 is to realize that the Hispanic population is  
8 rising and it is going to be more difficult to  
9 draw Hispanics districts in central Florida  
10 than in south Florida. Thank you for your  
11 time.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
13 Dario, always good to see you. Thank you.

14 Next up we have Evan Ross, followed by  
15 Joshua Eisenstein and then Lois Kahn.

16 Good to see you again.

17 MR. ROSS: Good to see you again. Good  
18 evening. Having had the privilege of speaking  
19 in front of you this morning, I am pleased to  
20 be able to do so once again.

21 Unlike this morning, I won't be asking any  
22 questions here this evening for any of you to  
23 answer. Instead, I will be making a demand on  
24 behalf of 3,155,149 people, though I won't be  
25 requesting use of all of their time. Those

1 people are you all of those across the state of  
2 Florida who voted for Amendment 5. Lead by  
3 Speaker Dean Cannon, the Florida House of  
4 Representatives has filed suit against over 3.1  
5 million people I am representing here today,  
6 not against them personally, but against their  
7 will.

8 Coming from a Legislature that has  
9 preached low taxes and less wasteful spending,  
10 I can't help but find these actions of our  
11 House hypocritical, and for lack of a more  
12 appropriate word, deplorable. Each and every  
13 one of you that does not stand up and fight  
14 against our tax dollars being used against us  
15 is responsible for some of the most wasteful  
16 spending in the history of our great state.

17 So I have to ask the question, could our  
18 tax dollars be better spent? At a time when  
19 you passed a budget that cut \$542 per student  
20 in education spending, I can't help but ask,  
21 could our tax dollars be better spent? At a  
22 time when we have made massive cuts to  
23 veterans' benefits, those people who have  
24 risked their lives to protect and serve this  
25 country, I have to ask, could our tax dollars

1       be better spent? At a time when you all felt  
2       the need to cut unemployment benefits when so  
3       many Floridians are in such dire straits due to  
4       lack of employment opportunities, I can't help  
5       but know the answer to my question. Our tax  
6       dollars could be much better spent.

7               I fully expect that when you leave here  
8       today, though my words will be in your memory,  
9       they won't be used to create any real progress.  
10       I fear that you will continue to play party  
11       politics and work to continue gerrymandering  
12       districts that benefit you rather than the  
13       people that you are supposed to be  
14       representing. If you care about the will of  
15       the voters of Florida, if you care about  
16       honoring the oath you gave to defend and uphold  
17       the Constitution when you took office, prove me  
18       wrong.

19               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.  
20       Thank you very much.

21               Moving on, we've got Joshua Eisenstein,  
22       followed by Lois Kahn and then Congressman  
23       Mario Diaz-Balart.

24               MR. EISENSTEIN: Hello, Senators and  
25       Representatives. My name is Joshua Eisenstein.

1 I am a social studies teacher in Miami-Dade  
2 County Public Schools. And with due respect to  
3 the other social studies teachers in the room,  
4 I think that drawing a district really isn't  
5 all that difficult.

6         Granted, the Fair Districts Amendments 5  
7 and 6 are the law, and you have to follow the  
8 law, but one of the things it says is you don't  
9 have to consider one part over all the other  
10 parts. And I -- every fall, I teach a lesson  
11 to my seventh graders on how to draw a  
12 district, and I think they do an okay job of  
13 it. And I think when you look at a district, I  
14 think really you shouldn't really over-think it  
15 that much. My advice is don't think about it  
16 that much. Just make it look basically like a  
17 rectangle. It is the kind of thing where you  
18 know what a fair district looks like when you  
19 see one, that is what I think. And if by any  
20 chance you should need any help this fall  
21 drawing the districts, I volunteer my seventh  
22 grade class. They can help. Thank you.

23         REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
24 very much, and don't think we won't take you up  
25 on that. So we appreciate those comments.

1           Next up we've got our -- I think Lois Kahn  
2           is not going to speak. We thank you for being  
3           here though. Next up we've got our  
4           Congressman, Mario Diaz-Balart.

5           Congressman, thank you for being here,  
6           sir. Thank you for your public service to the  
7           State of Florida and our country. Welcome.

8           CONGRESSMAN DIAZ-BALART: Chairman, good  
9           to see you, gentlemen, distinguished members,  
10          honorable distinguished members of this  
11          Committee. I will be brief.

12          First, welcome to this, a great part of  
13          the state of Florida, the great state of  
14          Florida. Yes, I am a little biased, I admit  
15          it, but it is great. It is a privilege and an  
16          honor to have you here.

17          I want to thank all of you for doing what  
18          you are doing, for traveling the state before  
19          you draw the plan, to -- listening to the  
20          people before you draw the plan. I know that  
21          you have traveled and have heard from a number  
22          of Floridians about their requests to consider,  
23          for example, and it has probably gotten some  
24          say, too, parts of Amendments 5 and 6 that  
25          speak about contiguous districts and -- but as

1       the Committee considers what you are going to  
2       have to be doing, and it is a very difficult  
3       task, I would like to draw your attention, all  
4       of you, to another part of the amendment that  
5       requires the Committee to consider racial or  
6       language minorities in the process.

7               The relevant part of the amendment reads,  
8       if I may quote, "Districts shall not be drawn  
9       with the intent or result of denying or  
10      abridging the equal opportunity of racial or  
11      language minorities to participate in the  
12      political process," end of quote.

13             And I respectfully request from all of you  
14      that the Committee pay special attention to  
15      this essential requirement and the text of the  
16      amendments, because for way too long, the  
17      redistricting process was really used as a way  
18      to really disenfranchise minorities, racial and  
19      language minorities, really take away their  
20      ability to elect candidates of their choice.

21             You know, I worked -- as some of you may  
22      know, I worked when I was in the State  
23      Legislature in a bipartisan way, on a  
24      bipartisan level, with members of both parties,  
25      including some that I see here and that I have

1       seen in this process and I have run into and  
2       that I run into all the time, including the  
3       State Representative, now I guess State  
4       Senator, Chairman Smith, and many others, to  
5       make sure that we did -- had some fair plans  
6       for the State of Florida. I am proud of the  
7       way that we worked together, and those efforts  
8       lead to what? Go back to -- think about  
9       pre-1992. There was one district where an  
10      African-American -- I'm sorry, there were no  
11      African-Americans representing on the  
12      congressional level, no African-Americans  
13      representing the State of Florida. Can you  
14      believe that? I mean, I am not talking about a  
15      million years ago. This is 1991. And one  
16      Hispanic. But because of the efforts -- the  
17      bipartisan efforts that I worked on with a  
18      number of many people, many other people, we  
19      were able to -- right after that redistricting  
20      process that you are now involved with, then,  
21      we went from zero African-Americans to three  
22      members of Congress, three African-American --  
23      districts where African-Americans could elect  
24      candidates of their choice, and we went to two  
25      Hispanics. Fast-forward ten years, three and

1 three.

2 And I mention that because I think it is  
3 very key that we do not retrogress, that we do  
4 not go backwards and go back to the years where  
5 minorities were used as pawns in the  
6 redistricting process.

7 So, again, I know you have a very  
8 difficult task, and I wanted to be brief. I  
9 want to again thank you for the fact that you  
10 are listening to everybody in the state of  
11 Florida before drawing. Novel concept, elected  
12 officials listening, you are doing it, thank  
13 you. And number two is, please pay special  
14 attention, don't retrogress. Remember that  
15 part in the Constitution that says that you  
16 shouldn't. And, again, I commend you. It is a  
17 privilege and an honor to have all of you here  
18 in this great community. Thank you for what  
19 you are doing. You are doing the people's  
20 work, and we are grateful for it. Thank you  
21 very much.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
23 Congressman. And thank you for your service to  
24 our country, sir. It is good to see you.  
25 Thank you very much.



1           Next up we have Tim Hyman, and after  
2           Tim -- I'm sorry, Tim, I didn't give you very  
3           much heads-up there. After Tim, we have Gisela  
4           Gomar-Salzverg, although I think we may have  
5           heard from her already, and then after that, we  
6           have Jeanne Baker, or Jeanne Baker, Jeanne  
7           Baker.

8           Tim, you are recognized, sir.

9           MR. HYMAN: Good evening, sir. Thank you  
10          for the opportunity to speak. That is a tough  
11          act to follow.

12          I am here tonight as a member of the  
13          community of West Kendall. I had the  
14          opportunity to run ten years ago when the last  
15          redistricting process took place. As my wife  
16          says, I was very fortunate to lose in that  
17          process. And I have stayed active in the  
18          community, because it is important that we all  
19          stay active.

20          As a member of the community that would I  
21          guess be considered a minority now, not being  
22          Hispanic, I think it is interesting that the  
23          focus seems to be whether it is Hispanic or  
24          non-Hispanic. What I say is the people need to  
25          vote for the person they believe in, not

1       whether they are Hispanic, whether they are  
2       Anglo, whether they are black, white, yellow,  
3       brown, it doesn't really matter. You need to  
4       have a person representing you that believes in  
5       what is best for the community.

6               So what I am here to say is, please, if it  
7       is not broken, don't fix it. If the districts  
8       haven't changed, if the community hasn't  
9       changed, leave it alone.

10              I am represented by a Hispanic that I  
11       believe in. I don't think it matters if he is  
12       black, white, Republican or Democrat. I vote  
13       for the person who is going to take care of our  
14       community.

15              So please keep a simple process -- the  
16       process simple, and I agree with don't  
17       over-think it. If you remember that we are  
18       here to elect you and it is our job to do so,  
19       then I think that's what's most important. So  
20       I would ask the voters to remember to go out  
21       and vote. That is what is going to make the  
22       difference, not where you draw the line. Go  
23       out and vote. Thank you.

24              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

25              Next up we have Gisela Gomar-Salzverg,

1           although I think we heard from her earlier. Is  
2           she here? Okay, no.

3           Then we have Jeannie Baker.

4           MS. BAKER: Jeanne Baker.

5           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Jeanne Baker,  
6           I'm sorry. And, Ms. Baker, after you, we have  
7           Maria Wadsworth.

8           You are recognized.

9           MS. BAKER: Good evening, Senators,  
10          Representatives, fellow citizens and voters. I  
11          am another person from the ACLU. We are all  
12          over the place tonight, because we were all  
13          over the effort to get 5 and 6 as part of our  
14          Constitution. It was an effort that was  
15          rewarded by a non-partisan 63 percent super  
16          majority of Floridians. And, yes, we applaud  
17          ourselves. And the ACLU is here in a very  
18          non-partisan position.

19          I have heard so many speakers share their  
20          delight in this process tonight, and I am very  
21          impressed with it. It is wonderful to have our  
22          Senators and Representatives come to us and  
23          give us an opportunity to speak, and hopefully  
24          listen. But we in the ACLU are a little bit  
25          concerned that there might be more of an

1 appearance than substance in these hearings.

2 I will tell you why we are concerned. It  
3 was really pinpointed by the two excellent  
4 speakers from the League of Women Voters. We  
5 can speak tonight in generalities, in  
6 platitudes. Occasionally a speaker has said,  
7 "I live in such-and-such a district, and it is  
8 really weird that I am joined with somebody in  
9 Naples when I live, you know, somewhere in  
10 Miami-Dade." So we have had -- we have heard  
11 some specifics, but for the most part, and for  
12 the most part probably what you will hear from  
13 me, have to be classified as generalities and  
14 platitudes. And what I am concerned about,  
15 what the ACLU is concerned about, is that until  
16 we see what the Legislature is proposing, we  
17 cannot make meaningful comments, we cannot  
18 point out -- we cannot until we see what your  
19 proposed map looks like. We cannot point out  
20 how it doesn't look like that rectangle that  
21 the seventh graders apparently know what a  
22 district looks like. We can't point out that  
23 it still looks like a salamander sliding up the  
24 state coastline. We cannot point out that  
25 there are still communities thrown together who

1       have nothing in common, either economically or  
2       geographically. We can't point those things  
3       out.

4               And we, on behalf of the ACLU, urge that  
5       you change your own timeline to reflect the  
6       timeline proposed by the League of Women  
7       Voters, and that you have real maps to -- a  
8       real map, perhaps two real maps from each  
9       chamber, to show us at the very beginning of  
10      2012, which is the time when you can undertake  
11      to vote. And if we can see real maps then,  
12      then you can get not just the appearance of  
13      citizen participation in the process, but the  
14      reality of citizen participation in the  
15      process. So I leave you with that request.  
16      Thank you very much.

17               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

18               Next up we have Maria Wadsworth, and  
19      following Maria is Kathy Charles and then  
20      Denise White.

21               MS. WADSWORTH: Good evening, my name is  
22      Maria Wadsworth. I live in the Palmetto Bay  
23      area. I decided to come to this hearing  
24      because I believe that this is very important.  
25      We do this every ten years, so it will effect

1           us for many elections.

2           Our districts are whole, together  
3           communities with similar concerns and  
4           interests, and I encourage you to keep these  
5           districts in a way that matters to us and that  
6           it means something to us.

7           So just a short request, and I thank you  
8           very much for holding these meetings. Take  
9           care. Thank you very much.

10          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

11          Ms. Kathy Charles, and following Kathy, we  
12          have Denise White and -- I am going to have to  
13          get back to everybody on that one. I need a  
14          minute to read it.

15          MS. CHARLES: Good evening.

16          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You are  
17          recognized, Kathy.

18          MS. CHARLES: Good evening,  
19          Representatives and Senators. My name is Kathy  
20          Charles, and I live in the south Dade area;  
21          actually, specifically in the area represented  
22          by Representative Artiles. As a --

23          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: If you could  
24          speak a little closer to the mike.

25          MS. CHARLES: As a citizen by way of the

1 Caribbean, I want to let you know that this  
2 community means a lot to me. I went to high  
3 school here, went on to University of Miami,  
4 got married here, am raising a five-year-old  
5 daughter, and look forward to being actively  
6 involved in my community. Therefore, I think  
7 that our government and our community benefits  
8 directly from the level of involvement of its  
9 residents. So I am happy to have this  
10 opportunity to provide input and what those  
11 priorities should be and how we want our  
12 districts to look and how we want to be  
13 represented. Happy to have this opportunity on  
14 the front end, but I must say I would agree  
15 with some of the previous comments regarding an  
16 opportunity on the back end to provide input.

17 So we are looking forward to you actively  
18 taking the information from the community and  
19 giving us another opportunity to participate  
20 and partner with you in how the community  
21 looks.

22 So welcome to the south Dade area, and I  
23 invite you back.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

25 Next up we have Denise White, and I

1 believe the name after it -- the only part I  
2 can make out is Reyes. I know it is probably  
3 my reading and my eyes. Reyes, okay, we've got  
4 you next, sir, and then Peter Nefsky.

5 You are recognized, ma'am.

6 MS. WHITE: Good evening, Representatives  
7 and Senators. My name is Denise White. I am a  
8 concerned voter, and I appreciate your being  
9 here listening, and I pray what you are hearing  
10 is not falling on deaf ears.

11 I am not versed in mapping districts yet.  
12 However, I feel the State of Florida should  
13 ensure transparency, fairness and compliance  
14 with the Voting Rights Act and with equal  
15 protection. You should assure one person, one  
16 vote. You should redistrict in a way that  
17 avoids minority vote dilution. You should  
18 avoid drawing district lines so that the  
19 minority population is over-concentrated or  
20 packed in election districts.

21 You should always be careful to avoid  
22 cracking, drawing district lines so that an  
23 area of concentrated minority population is  
24 divided and spread among several districts that  
25 are predominantly white. You should be careful



1 to avoid drawing district lines so that a large  
2 minority population concentration is included  
3 with a larger white population with the purpose  
4 of or effect of depriving minority voters of a  
5 voting majority, and that would fall in the  
6 stack -- that would -- to avoid stacking.

7 I would respectfully request that you  
8 avoid drawing plans that erode minority rights  
9 relative to the status quo, that is, you avoid  
10 creating retrogressive redistricting plans. I  
11 pray you are fair in your challenges, and I  
12 thank you very much.

13 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

14 Reyes, you are recognized next, sir, and  
15 following Reyes, we have Peter Nefsky and then  
16 Frank Pena.

17 If you could identify your last name for  
18 the record, too, I apologize. I know it is my  
19 eyes.

20 MR. REYES: My name is Jaime Reyes. I am  
21 from the Town of Cutler Bay. I am going to  
22 give you all the benefit, Mr. Chairman and  
23 Senator Gaetz and the rest of you Legislators,  
24 the benefit, and believe that you are going to  
25 go back and you are going to take some of these

1 ideas and actually implement them.

2 I don't see a lot of folks writing, and I  
3 am the kind of person if I don't see anybody  
4 writing or taking notes, I kind of wonder  
5 whether they are really listening. I do see  
6 you, by the way, you are one of the few.  
7 Representative Horner I have seen writing, and  
8 the Chair and Senator Gaetz. Everyone else  
9 seems to be listening, so I hope you have a  
10 good memory.

11 The Town of Cutler Bay -- you could easily  
12 say that all lines go through the Town of  
13 Cutler Bay, because that is the way that it was  
14 done ten years ago. District 117, 118, 119 and  
15 120 literally split our community apart. Okay.

16 The Town of Cutler Bay is about 40,000  
17 citizens. It is contiguous, it is a very mixed  
18 town.

19 I would like for you Legislators to go  
20 back. I have seen some of the maps that are  
21 drawn, and it looks like they are heading in  
22 the right direction to keep the Town of Cutler  
23 Bay -- so remember the name, the Town of Cutler  
24 Bay would like to remain contiguous.

25 The Congressional Districts, also in

1       the state -- the state Senate, we have three  
2       Senate lines or Senate seats that come through  
3       Cutler Bay, so we have three different  
4       representatives. That is nuts, really.  
5       Congressional, we have also three. It is hard  
6       to believe, but if you look down at that end of  
7       the map, which is in southern south Dade, you  
8       will wonder how that ever happened. And I  
9       think that is what lead a lot of the citizens  
10      to Amendment 5 and 6, a lot of our folks in our  
11      community were very angry about that.

12             So I would like to go on the next -- would  
13      like to believe the next ten years that we have  
14      one representative, either it's a state  
15      Senator, Representative, congressional, what  
16      have you, that represents our entire Town of  
17      Cutler Bay. That is what I want to see, and I  
18      hope that is what you remember.

19             That is really all I have, you know. I  
20      don't want to talk about Amendment 5 or 6. I  
21      just want you to remember what I said, and when  
22      you go back to your staff say, "Listen, I  
23      talked -- I listened to the guy from the Town  
24      of Cutler Bay, and he wants it changed."

25             Thank you.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
2           Jaime.

3           Next up, Peter Nefsky, followed by Frank  
4           Pena and then Joe Miller.

5           MR. NEFSKY: Honorable Chairman and  
6           distinguished members of the political  
7           community and members all, I have been involved  
8           in politics since 1960. I am only 73 years  
9           old, but I always have belonged to a political  
10          clubhouse in New York City, and about  
11          95 percent of the people that I work with have  
12          been in office. I came down here because I  
13          think I would love not only to be a person from  
14          New York to just visit, but to live. And I  
15          have been here since '95.

16          I am -- when I went for my program of a  
17          Master's degree in political science and  
18          international politics in Staten Island  
19          University, I thought that I would be able to  
20          see things differently, and, sure enough, when  
21          I came down here, I saw this redistricting, and  
22          I never thought in my life that I would see  
23          something so terrible. I was appalled at what  
24          transpired, and I am sure that many of you did  
25          not agree with this. I don't know why you

1       voted for it, but you have cut the community in  
2       half.

3               I have seen communities in black  
4       communities that were divided. I have seen --  
5       where I live in Kendall, off Bird and 127, I  
6       have seen where we have two different  
7       districts. We have in Kendall, I think, a big  
8       enough community to have its own congressional  
9       district, but in Richmond Heights, I have  
10      seen -- and not only do I work with the crime  
11      watch, but I have seen people who say, you  
12      know, "I have a different district." Kendall  
13      has two different districts, if not more, and I  
14      think that you should keep the community  
15      together. We have Chinese community in  
16      Kendall, Asian community, Hispanics, Jewish  
17      people in Kendall. I think that Kendall should  
18      remain as is. I think that other communities  
19      who have been there for many, many years should  
20      exist in its entirety.

21             Can you imagine having two different  
22      Congressional Districts, one gets funded, the  
23      other don't? In other areas, one side gets  
24      funded, the other don't? Every Congressman is  
25      entitled to vote for his community, but what a

1       shame that across the street, something is  
2       happening; in my community, nothing is  
3       happening.

4               So am I involved in politics in this  
5       Florida? Yes. I am a precinct captain and I  
6       am area coordinator for the 116. So I have  
7       seen things and I feel and I work with  
8       communities whereby I volunteer my services  
9       other than the community that I live, and my  
10      party will tell you that.

11              So all I am saying is that when you make a  
12      redistricting, put into consideration that you  
13      keep the community, you know, together, not to  
14      divide it, please. Thank you very much.

15              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
16      sir.

17              Next up we have Frank Pena, followed by  
18      Joe Miller and then Vivian Navarro.

19              Frank? Is Frank here? We are missing  
20      Frank, so we will keep moving forward to Joe  
21      Miller. Is Joe here?

22              Mr. Miller, thank you for being here, and  
23      then we've got Vivian Navarro, followed by  
24      Efran Montero. I hope I've said that right.

25              One thing I would like to point out, when

1       we first started, we had about 30 people who  
2       had signed up to speak, and so we said we would  
3       keep it at three minutes and be a little  
4       liberal. We are now over 60 people who signed  
5       up to speak because we keep getting them as  
6       they come in. So we would like to try to keep  
7       our time limit to about two and a half minutes,  
8       and I am going to try to keep it tight, so I  
9       don't want to be rude to anybody, I want to  
10      make sure you get all of your comments in, but  
11      if you could, we give bonus points for brevity,  
12      and we want to make sure that everyone gets an  
13      opportunity to speak here this evening.

14               So with that, you are recognized to speak,  
15      sir.

16               MR. MILLER: Good evening, Representatives  
17      and Senators. I apologize for my attire. My  
18      physical therapist said one more round today.

19               I am here as a Representative from  
20      Democracy for America Miami-Dade. We are a  
21      non-partisan progressive organization. We are  
22      very concerned about the implementations of 5  
23      and 6.

24               With a State Legislature with their  
25      first -- one of their first actions was to cut

1 services for severely disabled kids and  
2 autistic children, they -- and also to override  
3 the citizens' amendment to --

4 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Sir, I would  
5 like to keep the comments focused on  
6 redistricting.

7 MR. MILLER: -- for high speed rail --

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Plenty of  
9 Town Hall meetings to have that conversation.

10 MR. MILLER: Okay. We are concerned that  
11 the State Legislature is going to just ram down  
12 this proposed maps that they are going to come  
13 out with at the last minute. With the track  
14 history of the State Legislature on these other  
15 issues, we are very skeptical if the State  
16 Legislature is even going to have enough time  
17 for hearings and if there is going to be anyway  
18 for public input for 5 and 6 into the maps. We  
19 are very skeptical about the implementation  
20 process. I hope that you guys prove us wrong,  
21 but, sadly, I don't think so.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

23 Next up we have Vivian Navarro, followed  
24 by Efran Montero and then Julie Simon.

25 Ms. Vivian? She is waiving her time. Okay,



1           thank you.

2           Efran Montero, I hope I am saying that  
3           right. I see him coming. Efran, thank you for  
4           being here.

5           Next after Efran, you have Julie Simon and  
6           then Milton Todd.

7           MR. MONTANO: It is Efran Montano, but  
8           that is all right. I understand.

9           I would like to take this time to thank  
10          all of you for your effort and your service,  
11          your public service. Thank you for the time  
12          you have taken to listen to our concerns. And  
13          I am here as a citizen, a proud public service  
14          employee and a proud Union member for AFSCME.  
15          And I am proud to have said that I voted for  
16          Amendment 5 and 6, because I believe this  
17          finally gives us, the voters, a voice to choose  
18          our representatives, and not for our  
19          representatives to choose us through  
20          gerrymandering.

21          Once again, I would like to thank you for  
22          your time and your efforts.

23          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.  
24          Bonus points for Efran. Thank you, sir.

25          Next up we have Julie Simon. Following

1 Julie, we have Milton Todd and Gary Simon.

2 MS. SIMON: Hi. Thank you for letting me  
3 speak, and thank you for visiting us in south  
4 Florida.

5 Just a little background: I live in  
6 Pinecrest. I was born at Jackson Memorial  
7 Hospital. My parents moved here in the  
8 mid-'30s. My mom is 96, still living here, and  
9 my son is a U.S. Marine.

10 So with that being said, I just wanted to  
11 say I am very, very concerned about the timing  
12 of the amendments and the drawing of the maps.  
13 People have already addressed the fact that  
14 there are no maps for us to comment on, but I  
15 am concerned that they are not going to be  
16 finished in time for the June 12th filing  
17 deadline. And how will people know what  
18 district they are filing for if they -- if  
19 there are no redistricting maps, number one.

20 And also, number two, I am really  
21 concerned with the state of our state, and  
22 again, I would like to ask -- I guess I have  
23 more questions than comments, but the question  
24 is the money that is being spent to fight the  
25 redistricting that 63 percent of us voted for

1 is coming out of the State Legislature, and we  
2 are basically paying for it as state taxpayers,  
3 and that is really inappropriate since  
4 63 percent of us have already approved this  
5 amendment. Thank you.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

7 Next up is Mr. Milton Todd. He says he is  
8 a voter. Thank you very much. We are glad  
9 that you are voting, Mr. Todd, thanks for being  
10 here, and you are recognized to have the floor.

11 MR. TODD: Thank you for providing these  
12 hearings and giving us the opportunity to  
13 express our views.

14 I have been working on my maps, and I will  
15 be submitting them when they are completed. It  
16 is a tedious process, but it is completely  
17 doable. I am a little disappointed here that  
18 folks prefer you to do these maps first.

19 "Gerrymandering" is the buzz word, and it  
20 is what we have now because there was  
21 insufficient input from the people. This  
22 process right here is the fix. Thank you for  
23 the fix.

24 The new amendments have some language that  
25 is ripe for interpretation. The last thing I

1       want is the Legislature to do the interpreting  
2       for me. I want you to represent my  
3       interpretations. That is what our government  
4       is all about.

5               First, the big word in there, "fair." I  
6       submit that only -- the only concept of fair  
7       that will work is blindness. The districts  
8       must be drawn with no consideration to what  
9       type of voter resides in what area, just to how  
10      many voters reside there. Every person in this  
11      room will have a different definition of  
12      "fair." Therefore, no solution will be viewed  
13      as fair by everyone. Some will want focus on  
14      community interest, others on economic  
15      similarity, others on ethnic similarity.  
16      Massaging districts to accommodate any of this  
17      is just another form of gerrymandering.

18             Next phrase in there is "make use of  
19      existing city, county and geographical  
20      boundaries." I submit roads are some of the  
21      best boundaries. They tend to be generally  
22      straight, and are also inherently understood by  
23      people. The larger the road, the better.  
24      Rivers, canals, shorelines are also easily  
25      understood. Current city and county boundaries

1           can sometimes look as ridiculous as some of the  
2           Congressional Districts we are trying to fix.  
3           So to strictly follow those is going in the  
4           wrong direction.

5           The word "compact" comes up. That  
6           essentially means minimizing the perimeter for  
7           maximizing the area. Circle is the most  
8           compact, that is not going to work. So the  
9           most compact shape that is practical is a  
10          square. So while impossible to achieve, each  
11          district should attempt to be as square-like as  
12          possible.

13          And finally, "contiguous" should simply  
14          mean there are no islands of districts, there  
15          should be no pocket of District X completely  
16          detached from the rest of District X.

17          These are the guidelines I am using for my  
18          maps, and I want them to be your guidelines,  
19          too. I will submit them when I'm complete.  
20          Thank you again for having this available.

21          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
22          very much, and thank you for taking the time to  
23          work on maps and submit them. We really  
24          appreciate that.

25          Next up we have Gary Simon. After Gary,

1           we have Lida Mari and then Lisa Lorenzo.

2                   MR. SIMON: Good afternoon. Thank you for  
3           being here, Senators and Representatives.

4                   I found this brochure very informative,  
5           because I had no idea you were actually asking  
6           us for some input about certain areas and  
7           interpretations. Not only am I concerned about  
8           the timing of everything, because the timing is  
9           really important for other people who want to  
10          seek election, and you can stymie that or you  
11          can favor that. I am hopeful that you are  
12          going to favor that and you are going to work  
13          on getting these maps so we can reflect on them  
14          after you have created them.

15                  I am hopeful that in your Committee  
16          meetings, that they are going to be open so  
17          that we can see what you are thinking about and  
18          how you arrived at the different dimensions and  
19          sizes and locations of each of these different  
20          districts.

21                  I do not think that "compactness" means  
22          taking into account commerce, transportation or  
23          communication. When this -- when these  
24          amendments were proposed, the word  
25          "compactness" always had a geographical

1       analysis, not commerce, transportation and  
2       communication. To try and broaden it and  
3       liberal it so you -- liberalize it so you can  
4       make your own ideas about where you want things  
5       to be and say, "Well, it is now compact," I  
6       don't agree with that.

7               I know it is important from your  
8       perspective to preserve the core of existing  
9       districts. I realize this is your job, this is  
10      what you do a lot, you spent a lot of time, a  
11      lot of energy, but that is not and should not  
12      be why we draw districts. It could be  
13      pie-in-the-sky thinking, but I am hopeful that  
14      you will create a blind eye, you will forget  
15      where the existing districts are, you will  
16      forget your own district, and you will draw  
17      districts that we, the voters, voted in in 5  
18      and 6. Thank you.

19             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

20             Next up we have Lida Mari, followed by  
21      Lisa Lorenzo, and then Gerry Tiziani.

22             Lida? You are recognized, thank you.

23             And if we could, we've got a couple of  
24      seats up front for those of you, if you are on  
25      deck, if you want to sit in those seats, it

1 will make the process go quicker, so thank you  
2 very much.

3 You are recognized. Good to see you.

4 MS. MARI: Thank you. Good to see you  
5 again. I want to thank you again all for being  
6 here and allowing us the opportunity to come  
7 before you.

8 I want to continue where I left off this  
9 morning. I wanted to address the issue of  
10 defining the words as a speech pathologist.  
11 Words mean a lot, and I want to particularly  
12 express to you that I would like for you to  
13 represent what I have in mind when I read the  
14 amendments.

15 There is particular concern among citizens  
16 with the words "compactness," "contiguous" and  
17 "fairness." "Compactness," it can be defined  
18 as having the smallest perimeter around an area  
19 of a population. Now, we cannot have districts  
20 that are round, but the next best ratio of  
21 perimeter area is a square. So our districts  
22 should be as square as possible, like building  
23 blocks or train cars connected to each other.

24 "Contiguous" is to have no islands. No  
25 piece of district should be trapped inside of



1 another district. We don't want  
2 representatives to have to cross another  
3 district just to get to the rest of his or  
4 hers, and I certainly wouldn't want people to  
5 have to travel long distances to go and meet  
6 their representatives.

7 "Fairness." It can be defined as  
8 providing citizens with the opportunity to have  
9 access to our elected representatives to be as  
10 close and as easy as possible.

11 It is also our responsibility as citizens  
12 of a republic to participate in drawing the  
13 maps. Yes, they are tedious, time-consuming to  
14 draw, but it is not like mapping the human  
15 genome. We want representative government?  
16 Well, it takes work to participate, it takes  
17 our time and it takes your effort to make it  
18 work for you. You can then come here and argue  
19 your case clearly on how you want the districts  
20 drawn. They can -- our Representatives and  
21 Senators can then represent your interests,  
22 because they know what you want.

23 Having said that, I acknowledge that you  
24 have all been here and have gone to a lot of  
25 meetings, but I wish to respectfully request

1           that you give us another opportunity to present  
2           our maps to you and to explain them in detail  
3           so that you may represent our interests as  
4           effectively as possible. We are working on  
5           them, I am, but I don't have them available  
6           today.

7           Thank you very much for being here, and I  
8           sincerely appreciate it.

9           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

10          Next up is Lisa Lorenzo, followed by Gerry  
11          Tiziani and then Marcia -- Marcia Reisman.

12          You are recognized.

13          MS. LORENZO: Hello, Representatives and  
14          Senators. I hope you don't mind, I am a little  
15          nervous, I am going to read from my notes.

16          First of all, I am a mom from -- Dade  
17          County resident, and I would never tell my  
18          child, "Do your homework and then read the  
19          instructions." So I am glad that you are here  
20          listening first and then going on to do your  
21          job.

22          As you guys know, Miami-Dade County is a  
23          unique community defined by its diversity, as  
24          we see here today, and is unlike any county in  
25          Dade County -- in the state of Florida. So I

1 ask that you make -- make every attempt not to  
2 split our districts into multiple counties.

3 Furthermore, Dade County is over  
4 65 percent Hispanics, as we have heard. To me,  
5 what does that mean? That means that my  
6 daughter gets to look at our State  
7 Representative, Jeanette Nuñez, and see a  
8 Hispanic woman, and know that she can grow up  
9 to be anything she wants to be, and it is all  
10 possible because of where she lives and where  
11 she is able to go to the voters and have people  
12 like her vote her in for her beliefs and what  
13 she stands for. And she is doing a great job.  
14 Thank you, Representative Nuñez.

15 Lastly, I just want to say that we must  
16 keep our districts compact, our key word today,  
17 so that we can allow additional Hispanic access  
18 representation in the House and the Senate.  
19 And I am going to take my bonus points for  
20 being brief, and thank you very much.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Take them and  
22 run with them. Thank you.

23 Okay. Next up we have Gerry. Gerry here?  
24 You are passing, okay. Major bonus points.

25 Thank you very much, ma'am, but we do

1 appreciate you being here, I can tell you.

2 Okay, you are thinking, good.

3 After that, we have Marcia Reisman. Did  
4 she leave? Okay.

5 After that we have Claudio Perez from The  
6 Agape Network. Raise your hand if you are  
7 here. Yes, okay, I'm sorry if I said your name  
8 wrong there. Mr. Perez, you are next up, sir,  
9 and then we have Patrick O'Keefe, followed by  
10 Dexter Baldan.

11 You are recognized.

12 MR. PEREZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
13 represent The Agape Network, and what we do is  
14 we are a substance abuse and mental health  
15 treatment facility for women. These are women  
16 that have been abandoned, abused, and the  
17 reason I am talking about that is because they  
18 have a faint voice, and as we do the  
19 redistricting, in looking at all the different  
20 representation, they usually with that  
21 population need the representation that a  
22 specific, small redistricting process would  
23 give to recognize their needs.

24 So I appreciate your servanthood for our  
25 great state. God bless you.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
2           sir, and thank you for your service.

3           Next up we have Patrick O'Keefe, who is,  
4           it looks like, a student at FIU. Is Patrick  
5           here? Great, Patrick, thanks for being here.

6           And then I believe we have -- I believe it  
7           is Dexter Baldan, and after Dexter, we will  
8           have Milagro Ruiz.

9           You are recognized, sir.

10          MR. O'KEEFE: Chairman, Senators,  
11          Representatives, I would like to thank you to  
12          coming to my school, Florida International  
13          University. I am currently the student body  
14          President here at FIU, and I am also the  
15          Legislative Chairman of the Florida Student  
16          Association, representing over 300,000 public  
17          university students here in the state.

18          I also represent two communities. I  
19          currently reside in Hernando County, but my  
20          current community is obviously Miami-Dade.  
21          Seeing the differences between rural Florida  
22          and urban or Hispanic, a very more diverse  
23          Florida, it really has given me a lot of views  
24          that would be different than a lot of other  
25          citizens in this state. In this area, I have

1       seen explosive growth. It is very impressive  
2       to see the differences in communities, and I  
3       think this area could really benefit from an  
4       extra Senate seat.

5             Another thing to remember, and there  
6       really are some very commonalities between this  
7       area and rural Florida, if you look at the --  
8       not only the -- I would say the racial  
9       diversity, but also the economic diversity, if  
10      you go and you look at rural Florida, you will  
11      see -- especially in my county, Hernando  
12      County, you will see that Brooksville, Florida,  
13      out in eastern Hernando County, and Citrus  
14      County have a lot of very common interests, and  
15      you will see that Springhill and Port Richey,  
16      New Port Richey and those areas have common  
17      interests. Yet they're really -- the districts  
18      are really generated without that in mind. I  
19      mean, I think when you are looking at the  
20      districts, you have to remember that I am  
21      trying to elect somebody to represent me, and  
22      if you draw up the districts just in giant  
23      blocks, you are not going to have the person  
24      that represents you, because it is tough. You  
25      can't have a district that both represents

1       the -- just the county when you are looking at  
2       it and you are seeing that this person is so  
3       conflicted because they have so different group  
4       of people that they are trying to represent.  
5       So I just ask you to try to create the  
6       districts to best represent the people as a  
7       whole, and I thank you for your time. I look  
8       forward to seeing more of you in the spring in  
9       Tallahassee.

10               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

11               Next up, Dexter Baldan. Do we have Dexter  
12       here, did he leave maybe? I will put him over  
13       here. I believe it is Baldan, B-a- -- Beatriz,  
14       I'm sorry, that's my eyes. Ms. Beatriz Baldan,  
15       thank you very much, I'm sorry that I butchered  
16       that so badly, but we do want to hear from you,  
17       and so after Ms. Beatriz, we will hear from  
18       Milagro Ruiz and then Frank Irizarry.

19               MS. BALDAN: Hi. Thank you for being  
20       here, and I will just be extremely brief,  
21       because there were a lot of people here that  
22       spoke with the same willingness that I have.  
23       But I want you -- to remind you that people who  
24       voted for 5 and 6 voted because they didn't  
25       like what they saw. So basically is when you

1           are going to do the districting now, remember  
2           that. That is your mandate. Thank you.

3           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
4           Beatriz.

5           Okay, Milagro Ruiz? Is Mr. Ruiz here,  
6           Milagro?

7           Okay. Frank Irizarry? Frank, thank you,  
8           Frank. After Frank, we have the Mayor of  
9           Pinecrest, Cindy Lerner, and after Cindy, we  
10          have -- I believe is Winnie Tary, but we will  
11          get back to that.

12          Frank Irizarry, thank you very much for  
13          being here, sir. You are recognized.

14          MR. IRIZARRY: Thank you very much for  
15          being in our community. My name is Frank  
16          Irizarry. I am the Chairman of the West  
17          Kendall Business Association, and I have to say  
18          that I can get very used to having you all  
19          here. I really don't want to wait another ten  
20          years to have you all here, but I would very  
21          much like to have you back on a regular basis.  
22          This expression of democracy is wonderful, and  
23          I think I speak for everyone here that we want  
24          to have you back.

25          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.



1           MR. IRIZARRY: You have set this up very  
2 well. Everyone is very well-informed. I think  
3 it is great.

4           Shared constituencies, that seems to be  
5 the new word in our dictionary. I think that  
6 we all can agree that there are some issues  
7 with regard to the way our representatives are  
8 set about in our community.

9           I am from New York, and none of you know  
10 -- you may have heard of the Finger Lakes. And  
11 I look at our congressional and representative  
12 maps, and I am reminded of the Finger Lakes,  
13 and I am reminded of the Finger Lakes because  
14 of the fact that way up in the northern part of  
15 the Finger Lakes, they would know nothing about  
16 what is going on in the southern part of the  
17 Finger Lakes, and to a very great degree, I  
18 think that is what happening here. Shared  
19 constituencies.

20           I have wonderful representatives that deal  
21 with the West Kendall Business Association,  
22 starting with Ana Rivas Logan, who is a member  
23 of the West Kendall Business Association,  
24 Carlos Trujillo back there, he is a member of  
25 the West Kendall Business Association, Frank

1        Artiles, who has also been very, very involved  
2        in the West Kendall Business Association,  
3        Anitere Flores, wherever she went, is also a  
4        member of the West Kendall Business  
5        Association. Our representatives are very in  
6        tune with the business of being successful here  
7        in Kendall.

8                But I think that we -- like any business,  
9        we like to know where we are at. We like to  
10       know -- we don't like surprises, we like to  
11       have consistency. And I think that having  
12       these tentacles that we have is very -- does  
13       not accomplish what we want to do.

14               I have two representatives in our area  
15       that -- and I feel bad because I am a Democrat  
16       and I would love to have more input from them,  
17       but they are not around. And I can understand  
18       that, because their constituency is further  
19       south or further north. I am talking about  
20       Senator Rich and Representative Saunders. I  
21       understand, Representative Saunders is down in  
22       Key West, Senator Rich is up north, I  
23       understand that. But, unfortunately, she  
24       represents some people that are across the  
25       street from me, but then I don't see her that

1       often. I would very much like to see her  
2       often, believe me, as a Democrat in this area,  
3       I would love to see her more often. But,  
4       however, I understand that her values are a  
5       little bit further north, as it is  
6       Mr. Saunders. But the representatives that we  
7       have here that I spoke about earlier are very  
8       dutiful, they're representative, but, however,  
9       I think it would help them better if we have a  
10      bit more of a shared constituency and not  
11      having all of these Finger Lakes type of  
12      districts that we have now. Thank you very  
13      much.

14                REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Next up we  
15      have the Mayor of Pinecrest, Ms. Cindy Lerner.  
16      Mayor, thank you very much for being here, and  
17      after the Mayor, we have Winnie -- I believe it  
18      is Tary, or Tang, and then Maria Barbaran.

19                Mayor, thank you so much. You are  
20      recognized.

21                MAYOR LERNER: Good evening. I was  
22      elected to the Florida Legislature in the year  
23      2000, representing the old District 119.  
24      District 119 had been drawn in 1992 after the  
25      census of 1990, and it was a perfect House

1 district. It represented a community of  
2 interest. It was everything from Kendall Drive  
3 south to Homestead and east of U.S. 1. So that  
4 old district contained all of Pinecrest, what  
5 is now Palmetto Bay, what is now Cutler Bay.  
6 And I am the victim of the very ugly side of  
7 redistricting, the very partisan side of  
8 redistricting, because my district was wiped  
9 off the map in 2002, literally gone. It was  
10 chopped into thirds, given over to neighboring  
11 districts. Some of my colleagues that were  
12 elected with me in the year 2000 sit up on the  
13 dais now and very capably and well represent us  
14 in the state of Florida still in different  
15 positions in the Legislature were not the  
16 victims, but know full well exactly what I  
17 experienced. It was quite brutal and quite  
18 disappointing.

19 I can't complain, because I would have  
20 never imagined I would be Mayor of Pinecrest  
21 now. It is much better than being in the  
22 Legislature ever was, and I have power to do  
23 things in my community now, which I didn't  
24 have. I can see immediate results and I can  
25 well represent my community, not only within my

1       own village, but in my county and my state and  
2       throughout the country. So I appreciate that I  
3       ended up in a better place.

4               But I say all that because I am very  
5       concerned about the districts we ended up with.  
6       We have no voice. Pinecrest has no voice in  
7       the Legislature anymore, based on those  
8       districts.

9               I brought my props just to show you the  
10      old District 19 that was compact, it was  
11      contiguous, it had a community of interest, and  
12      based on what is going on now in Pinecrest,  
13      Palmetto Bay, Cutler Bay, South Miami, we are a  
14      very dedicated, very well-organized and  
15      collaborative set of municipalities that are  
16      working for the entire region of south Dade  
17      County, and we need a voice that represents all  
18      of us in that regard. What happened to  
19      District --

20              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mayor, I am  
21      going to have to ask you to -- we've got a lot  
22      of speakers to get to.

23              MAYOR LERNER: Okay. I just want to show  
24      you, because it is very important that you see  
25      what happened to that and the other districts,

1           and that we do have no voice. One way I can  
2           tell you I am very disappointed in what's  
3           happened to the district and that we have no  
4           voice -- you see this?

5           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Actually,  
6           Mayor, we actually all have copies of the maps  
7           right here in front of us.

8           MAYOR LERNER: Yes, but it is much clearer  
9           -- look at this 117 --

10          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Ma'am,  
11          please.

12          MAYOR LERNER: You see the tentacles? My  
13          voice and my constituents' voice in 117 are not  
14          heard at all. I have not --

15          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
16          very much. You are a minute over, and I'm --

17          MAYOR LERNER: I just want to make one  
18          last sentence.

19          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay, last  
20          thing.

21          MAYOR LERNER: I have not seen or heard  
22          from either of our State Representatives, and  
23          when I was a State Representative, I made damn  
24          sure I got myself out there to represent the  
25          people that I cared about. We haven't seen

1           them.

2                   REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:   Thanks,  
3           Mayor.

4                   MAYOR LERNER:   Thank you.   One more prop  
5           --

6                   REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:   Next up we  
7           have Winnie Tang.

8                   MAYOR LERNER:   One more quick --

9                   REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:   No, I'm  
10          sorry, ma'am, we are out -- we are out of time.  
11          Mayor, we are out of time.   Thank you very much  
12          for being here.   Thanks for your service to  
13          your community.

14                   Next up we have Winnie Tang.   Ms. Tang,  
15          thank you very much for being here.   Following  
16          Ms. Tang, we have Maria Barbaran, and then Mark  
17          Gotz.

18                   You are recognized.

19                   MS. TANG:   Thank you, Chairman, Honorable  
20          Chairman, Representative and Senators.   And  
21          based on the census 2010, the Asian population  
22          have increased 70 percent, and which is almost  
23          equal one -- one seat for the Senators as of  
24          the redistricting.

25                   So you leave it all in one community, it

1 looks really well, we have one State Senator  
2 representing us and three House representing --  
3 representing us, but reality, we are not. We  
4 are spread out in the entire state of Florida.  
5 And many of you may miss some of them for  
6 across the state, and not like a lot of people,  
7 you heard earlier, the Hispanic interest, the  
8 African-American interest, and right now I am  
9 here to voice that you also listen to the  
10 Asian-American interest. And we are  
11 fast-growing communities, and we don't really  
12 ask too much, we work very hard, and in our  
13 organization as for the Asian community, we do  
14 the citizenry drive, voter registration drive,  
15 to also allot education for our community to be  
16 productive citizens.

17 However, as Asian community, we are over  
18 100 different languages, so it is a challenge  
19 for us to really get everybody together to say  
20 one language. And, fortunately, we got English  
21 right now in the United States and -- but  
22 there's a lot of concern and issues, and I'd  
23 really like to thank you for you all coming  
24 back to the legislation to really listen to the  
25 Asian community to help us also serve our



1 community as the way it is.

2 So for the redistricting, we look -- we're  
3 looking at it, no matter how you draw the map,  
4 but we like as square as possible, it doesn't  
5 matter how you draw it, we are all over the  
6 whole Florida state. And then -- but we also  
7 really want to make sure that when you do the  
8 map, and also a lot of people have really  
9 expressed an interest that not too much  
10 divided, and that we should have one  
11 Representative to serve to voice the community.  
12 So in that way, just think about the Asian  
13 community also be here and then we work among  
14 the whole community, across the whole state.  
15 So we look forward that we are going to see a  
16 fair and then well-represented communities for  
17 redistricting to serve us. And just remember,  
18 2012, when you come back to the session,  
19 there's a lot of issues for the Asian community  
20 to really come forward to you, but hope that  
21 time you also listen to us as to really support  
22 our issue, which is the one issue I want to  
23 take this minute to say it, and not many people  
24 knows about it. There's alien land law, and  
25 state of Florida is the only state have this

1 old discriminating language in our state to  
2 really prohibit and the Asian to purchase and  
3 lease any property.

4 So we want your support in coming up with  
5 legislation to help us to remove that language  
6 off to the --

7 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank your,  
8 Ms. Tag.

9 MS. TANG: -- our state.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes, ma'am,  
11 thank you very much. Thanks for your comments.

12 Next up we have Maria Barbaran with the  
13 Miami-Dade Florida College Democrats, and then  
14 Mark Gotz. Following Mark, we have Ana  
15 Navarro.

16 MS. BARBARAN: Hello, respectable Senators  
17 and Representatives. I am glad to see  
18 Representative Clarke-Reed and Representative  
19 Nuñez, I went over there in Tallahassee in  
20 around April to fight for women's health rally,  
21 nice to see you guys. Thank you for coming  
22 down here.

23 Basically, I am 23, I am a senior at FIU,  
24 I am a homeowner. I just bought my first house  
25 here at FIU, in front of FIU, and I am really

1       excited to be getting into this political  
2       realm, because this is insane. I think that we  
3       need more information out there for students,  
4       for people that don't speak English, to come  
5       over here in these meetings, because these are  
6       very great and informative.

7             Okay, so my point is, thanks for coming at  
8       FIU. As an FIU -- as a Florida voter, I would  
9       like to see Florida Legislature honor the wish  
10      of constituents who voted for Fair District  
11      standards. Sixty-three percent of Floridians  
12      expressed that they wanted fair districts, but  
13      the Legislature has spent well over a million  
14      dollars on taxpayer money to fight them. All  
15      this money has been spent while teachers are  
16      being fired, social services are being cut out,  
17      and not a single job has been created. The  
18      House and Senate have set aside upwards of \$30  
19      million to avoid the Fair District standards  
20      and promote the version of a redistricting  
21      plan.

22            The Legislature's timeline for drawing the  
23      districts is unfair to Florida voters. It  
24      makes no sense that the hearings that are being  
25      held now today around the state have been held

1       around the state, but there has been no maps  
2       provided for citizens to comment on. Citizens  
3       are completely left out of the process.

4               I am asking you today to honor the  
5       standards of Fair Districts that 63 percent of  
6       the Floridians voted for, finish the maps and  
7       stop wasting taxpayer money. Thank you, and  
8       listen, I want to commend the Mayor of  
9       Pinecrest. I know that it was so much of her  
10      bringing an extra map out, but, come on, you  
11      know, we need to get things going, like Rick  
12      Scott says, we need to get to work, and no  
13      matter what Representative -- Republicans or  
14      Democrats, who cares, let's make this happen.  
15      We can do it. I will do it, I will help you  
16      for free, I'm here.

17              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
18      very much.

19              Next up we have Mark Gotz. After Mark, we  
20      have Ana Navarro and then Alex Cruzet. Is Mark  
21      here? I don't see Mark, so we are going to put  
22      him to the side. I don't see Ana Navarro, she  
23      was here earlier, so we will put here to the  
24      side as well. Alex Cruzet? Sorry I didn't  
25      give you more heads-up there. We've got Alex,

1           and then we've got Dudley Philistin, and then  
2           after Dudley, we have Fran Cobo.

3           Alex is with the Democratic Party. Alex,  
4           thanks for being here, and you are recognized  
5           to speak, sir.

6           MR. CRUZET: Good evening, Senators and  
7           Representatives. I thank each and every one of  
8           you for making it out here. My name is Alex  
9           Cruzet. I am a member of the Democratic Party,  
10          and I was a candidate to the State House of  
11          Representatives in 2010 in District 113.

12          I think that what is going on today in  
13          Tallahassee is unbelievable, and I think that  
14          some of the people that are making these  
15          decisions really need to rethink what they are  
16          doing. The fact that \$30 million are being  
17          spent at a time when we have an employment  
18          problem in this state and no jobs are being  
19          created is shameful.

20          When I was in -- a candidate for House of  
21          Representatives and I took on an incumbent, it  
22          was hard, especially working at the Public  
23          Defender's office representing people of low  
24          income who are charged with sometimes absurd  
25          crimes. I think that before -- I think that

1 before you guys make a decision, you should  
2 really consider the interests of the state, and  
3 in the spirit of democracy, allow people who  
4 want to get involved in the democratic process,  
5 the time to even prepare, because if by August  
6 is when we are -- as new people who want to  
7 join the House of Representatives, okay, if by  
8 August is when we even have a chance to  
9 prepare, there's really no way that we can be  
10 ready to take on an incumbent.

11 So as a challenger and as somebody who  
12 wants to be involved in the democratic process,  
13 I urge you, if you truly believe in democracy  
14 to take that into consideration. Thank you.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
16 Alex.

17 Next up, Dudley Philistin. Dudley? Does  
18 she? Okay, thank you very much, Representative  
19 Julien. Okay, having waived, Fran Cobo, is  
20 Frank here? Okay. Next up we have Jorge  
21 Navarro. Is Jorge here? All right, thank you,  
22 sir. Sorry we didn't give you more time there.  
23 After Jorge, we have Jenny Levin and then  
24 Thomas Lander.

25 Jorge, thanks for being here.

1           MR. NAVARRO: Thank you so much. Good  
2 evening, Senators, Representatives. My name is  
3 Jorge Navarro, and I just would like to say  
4 that what makes this county great is its  
5 diversity. Miami-Dade County is a melting pot  
6 of different Hispanic cultures.

7           I come from a Hispanic family that left  
8 Cuba because of a lack of political  
9 representation, so I know how important this  
10 process is.

11           I believe that we need to keep our  
12 districts compact in order to allow for  
13 additional Hispanic access to the Legislature.  
14 This is the only way that we can ensure that  
15 our cultural and our local interests are  
16 represented at the state level. And I thank  
17 you so much for all of your hard work.

18           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
19 Jorge.

20           Next up we have Jenny -- I think it is  
21 Levin, I hope. I am not sure if I said that  
22 right, but after Jenny, we have Thomas Lander  
23 and then Janice Coakley.

24           Jenny, you are recognized.

25           MS. LEVIN: Good evening, my name is Jenny

1       Levin, and I want to thank each and every one  
2       of you for taking the time to come out here,  
3       but also to listen to our concerns.

4               Miami-Dade is very unique, and it is  
5       unique because of its diversity for Hispanics  
6       and different diversities alike. Miami-Dade  
7       has over 65 percent Hispanic, but yet less than  
8       50 percent are actually represented in both the  
9       House and the Senate.

10              My only concern is that if we do all this  
11       redistricting, we must make sure at all costs  
12       that Hispanics are represented in both the  
13       House and the Senate. Thank you.

14              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

15              Next up, I skipped Ana Navarro, but I know  
16       she is here, so why don't we go to Ana first,  
17       and then we will come back to Thomas.

18              Ana, good to see you again. Thank you for  
19       being here, and the floor is yours.

20              MS. NAVARRO: Well, I love having you all  
21       here. I think it is good for our economy, so I  
22       think we need to have more of these hearings.  
23       And my friend Mario Diaz-Balart said he was  
24       going to be brief. I am actually going to be  
25       brief.



1           It is so very important for you all to  
2       recognize that Miami-Dade is unique. You all  
3       know it, we know it, it is no big secret.  
4       There's 67 counties. There's 66 counties and  
5       Miami-Dade.

6           I am here because I am from Nicaragua  
7       originally. I am a naturalized citizen, and  
8       when you are a naturalized citizen, voting,  
9       representation, means so much, particularly  
10      when, like so many of us here, you have had to  
11      leave your homeland because of lack of  
12      representation, because of oppression. So I  
13      commend you guys for taking this process so  
14      seriously. It is very important that we have  
15      adequate Hispanic and minority representation  
16      in Florida, especially for counties like  
17      Miami-Dade.

18           Miami-Dade is unique, so to the extent  
19      possible, if you can keep the districts within  
20      the counties. People in Broward will tell you  
21      that they think they need visas to come here,  
22      and some of us think we need visas to go there.  
23      We are different. It is different  
24      constituencies, different needs. So I urge you  
25      to take a look at keeping the districts as

1 compact as possible. And I think we need a new  
2 Senate seat in Miami-Dade. I would like you  
3 guys to consider that. And other than that, I  
4 am going to be brief.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.  
6 You certainly beat the Congressman, there is no  
7 doubt about that. Thank you, Ana.

8 Next up --

9 MR. LANDER: I like Ana's juice.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Next up we  
11 have Mr. Lander.

12 MR. LANDER: How are you doing? I am  
13 Thomas Lander.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: One second,  
15 Mr. Lander. After Mr. Lander, we have Janice  
16 Coakley, and after that, we have Alejandro  
17 Almirola.

18 MR. LANDER: I am a teacher at Miami-Dade  
19 County Public Schools, a public servant, paid  
20 for by the taxpayers, and on behalf of all  
21 public servants, I want to apologize that we  
22 caused the economic downturn in America.

23 I am a history teacher. I am a great  
24 history teacher. I love teaching social  
25 studies. And I think of the words that we, the

1 people of the United States, in order to form a  
2 more perfect union, not an AFL-CIO, although I  
3 wish it was, but a union that is united, and so  
4 many times we are talking past each other when  
5 we create the districts that represent us. We  
6 have people today that are choosing the voters,  
7 rather than the voters choosing the candidates.  
8 We build our districts for political power of  
9 ideology that divides us and doesn't get us to  
10 discuss the important issues. And we are  
11 becoming more and more balkanized as a society,  
12 and we see it where we can't solve our  
13 problems. We voted for Fair Districts so that  
14 we can come together and reach consensus and  
15 not go to the opposite poles of our society.  
16 We have serious problems affecting Florida and  
17 this nation, and unless we bring the reds and  
18 blues together in the districts, we will not  
19 find solutions, but we will continue to raise  
20 the rancor, and that can bring terrible  
21 consequences to our country.

22 Please make these districts fair. Look  
23 back to our founding fathers to create a more  
24 perfect union. God bless you in your work.

25 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,

1 Mr. Lander.

2 Our next speaker is Janice Coakley.

3 Janice is followed by Alejandro and then Millie  
4 Herrera.

5 MS. COAKLEY: Good evening, Senators,  
6 Representatives and guests. Janice Coakley,  
7 President of AFSCME local 3293 and trustee on  
8 the AFL-CIO board.

9 A key traditional redistricting principle  
10 is respect for communities of interest. These  
11 are defined by three: One, the extent to which  
12 non-members identify members as a distant  
13 community; two, the extent to which members  
14 identify themselves as a distant community;  
15 three, and the extent to which members are  
16 similarly affected by government actions.

17 African-American citizens form one of the  
18 strongest communities of interest in the state,  
19 and the redistricting plan should have as  
20 priority the district that accord  
21 representation to communities of interest.

22 We are aware and request redistricting  
23 principle outlined in Section 20 and 21 of the  
24 Florida Constitution: "Districts shall not be  
25 drawn with the intent or result of denying or

1       abridging the equal opportunity of racial or  
2       language minorities to participate in the  
3       political process or the ability to elect  
4       representatives of their choice." In addition,  
5       districts should be compact and be fair to all.

6             Thank you.

7             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

8             Next up we have Alejandro Almirola,  
9       Alejandro? After Alejandro, we have Millie  
10       Herrera, followed by Robert Sarhack.

11            Thank you, Alejandro, you have the floor.

12            MR. ALMIROLA: Hello, my name is Alejandro  
13       Almirola, and I just wanted to state my huge  
14       disappointment with the Legislature wasting  
15       millions of dollars fighting its people. Why  
16       don't you just put a sign up that says, "Screw  
17       the people over"? That is what you have been  
18       doing, and I feel very disappointed with your  
19       actions.

20            And I really hope that the districts are  
21       drawn fair, because I would hate for the state  
22       to waste millions of dollars to defend against  
23       a lawsuit by the ACLU or any -- or citizens  
24       because the lines aren't drawn fairly, and it  
25       should be very shameful for all -- for all

1       those who are supporting that lawsuit, who are  
2       supporting the Governor from not getting it  
3       cleared from you trying -- the Legislature  
4       trying to fight it. It just -- why are you  
5       trying to fight it? I would hope for a good  
6       explanation and a refund check in the mail for  
7       all that waste of money and time for such a  
8       stupid thing.

9               So I hope -- and I am very disappointed  
10       with also on -- tagging along with that with  
11       the recent Voter Suppression Act. So what is  
12       the signal you are sending? You are sending a  
13       signal of we are going to trick our voters, and  
14       we don't -- and we're going to say no to the  
15       voters that don't agree with us. I think you  
16       want a dictatorship, not a democracy. So it is  
17       a huge insult for us.

18              So Representatives and Senators who  
19       support these lawsuits, they should do us all a  
20       favor and resign from office, because they have  
21       done a huge disservice to this office.

22              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Sir, I will  
23       allow you to speak, but I will just ask this:  
24       The committee is being very respectful to  
25       listen to you. I would only ask that you be

1 respectful to the Committee who's listening.

2 MR. ALMIROLA: Be respectful to the  
3 people. Don't waste our money. I would agree,  
4 yes, don't waste our money either. I would  
5 really hope you don't waste our money anymore,  
6 and I really want the refund and an explanation  
7 of why you have to waste our money. Thank you.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.  
9 Thank you very much.

10 Next up we have Millie Herrera, followed  
11 by Robert Sarhack.

12 MS. HERERRA: Good evening to everyone.  
13 My name is Millie Herrera. I am a Cuban-born  
14 Hispanic, proud to be a U.S. citizen since 1975  
15 and a resident of Kendall for the past 24  
16 years. Thank you very much for the opportunity  
17 to express my thoughts on the redistricting  
18 process.

19 I am here as a member and representing  
20 LULAC Florida, the oldest Hispanic civil rights  
21 organization in the United States.

22 We want to urge you to adopt a timeline  
23 for redistricting that ensures an early final  
24 approval of the new maps and districts in  
25 January of 2012. This will allow county

1 Supervisors of Elections to properly prepare  
2 for the municipal, primary and general  
3 elections, and inform the public of new  
4 districts and voting places. It will prevent  
5 much of the voter confusion that ensued in 2002  
6 when the process took us down to only weeks  
7 before the August election.

8 Excuse me, my voice, I have a cold.

9 We suggest finalizing the proposed  
10 redistricting plans by October the 3rd,  
11 complete all Committee reviews of the maps in  
12 December of 2011, and require that amendments  
13 are filed with sufficient notice so that  
14 citizens can review, testify before any  
15 Committee before they vote, and vote on the  
16 final plans no later than the first week of  
17 session in January 2012. This timeline is  
18 going to allow the U.S. Justice Department  
19 plenty of time to review and approve Florida's  
20 redistricting plans and certify compliance with  
21 the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

22 We also ask that you keep to the letter of  
23 the Amendments 5 and 6, and where feasible,  
24 follow the existing city, county and  
25 geographical boundaries, not gerrymander across



1 the counties, nor across communities with  
2 little in common with each other.

3 You must also please resist the urge to  
4 sequester minority voters into only a few  
5 districts in order to protect incumbents and  
6 the continued majority of one party over  
7 another.

8 Miami-Dade County is a very diverse  
9 county, as diverse as can be. We have  
10 65 percent Hispanics. Over 49 percent of  
11 Miami-Dade residents were born in a foreign  
12 country. This is why it is important to have  
13 this information early, so that everybody gets  
14 access in their own language to where they are  
15 going to be voting.

16 I also ask that you keep in mind that over  
17 19 Latin American countries are represented,  
18 now less than 40 -- 50 percent of Cuban decent  
19 and the majority from Columbia, Nicaragua,  
20 Honduras, Venezuela, Peru, Mexico, Dominican  
21 Republic, Puerto Rico and the rest of south and  
22 Central American countries. It is very  
23 important to -- that this fact be kept in mind  
24 when districts are drawn so that we also create  
25 opportunities for all these other populations

1 to elect representatives of their choice, and  
2 more than one group is represented in our  
3 elected leadership.

4 Lastly, I urge you to please require  
5 Governor Rick Scott to reintroduce Amendments 5  
6 and 6 to the U.S. Justice Department for  
7 approval as required under the Voting Rights  
8 Act of 1965. The people of Florida spoke  
9 loudly and clearly. Sixty-three percent of us  
10 voted for these reforms to the Florida  
11 Constitution, and it is your -- it is your  
12 obligation to please keep the letter of the law  
13 and draw districts fairly following the new  
14 dictates of the law, without partisan or  
15 incumbency considerations, in a timely manner  
16 to ensure that we have smooth elections in  
17 2012. Thank you very much.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

19 Last we have Robert Sarhack. While Robert  
20 is coming up, there's a couple of people we  
21 skipped. Frank Pena earlier, I don't know,  
22 Frank, if you ever came back, but if you are  
23 here, we would love to get to you. Milagro  
24 Ruiz, Mark Gotz or Frank Cobo, if any of you  
25 are here, please step forward. If not, you are

1        recognized, sir, and don't worry, we saved the  
2        best for last. So, Robert, please wow us with  
3        your words, sir.

4                MR. SARHACK: I don't about that, I have  
5        nothing prepared, but I would like to say thank  
6        you for coming out. I hope you are listening.  
7        I am a little disappointed that more people  
8        haven't come out. It may be indicative of how  
9        disenfranchised people are feeling about this,  
10       that maybe you aren't going to listen. This is  
11       the first time I have done this, but I am  
12       hoping that you all listen to what the people  
13       are requesting.

14               Compact districts. When I went on the  
15       website the other night and I looked at the  
16       districts, I thought my monitor had gone whack.  
17       I could not believe the way some of the  
18       districts were set up. It's like who is doing  
19       this? What drugs are they taking? It  
20       shouldn't be hard. Compact districts is all it  
21       takes. And it is really indicative of how  
22       disenfranchised people are feeling when they  
23       don't come out to this forum to -- for all you  
24       all to listen to us. And I just hope you  
25       listen and appreciate to get the people

1 involved again, give us districts that work.

2 Thank you.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

4 Okay. We are told that we missed someone  
5 that is back in the room, Dudley Philistin.  
6 Dudley? You don't have to, but if you want to,  
7 we will wait for you. You are last, this is  
8 it. All right. One point for democracy.

9 After Ms. Dudley, I will go ahead and --  
10 we're going to -- for those of you who had  
11 comments or questions that maybe were seeking  
12 clarification, if you will stick around for a  
13 moment, Senator Gaetz will spend some time  
14 after we allow other members for comment to  
15 maybe try to answer some of those questions for  
16 everyone.

17 So with that, Ms. Dudley, thank you for  
18 being here, and you are recognized.

19 MS. PHILISTIN: Hello. My name is Dudley  
20 Philistin. I would like to say that this is my  
21 first time, and I have never been introduced to  
22 this until today. I would like to thank you  
23 guys for coming to hear our concerns, and as a  
24 college student, I am here to represent the  
25 immigrant students. And on the behalf of the

1 Haitian community, I am asking how will the re-  
2 --

3 A VOICE: Redistricting.

4 MS. PHILISTIN: Yes -- benefit us as  
5 Haitians who are trying to better our lives,  
6 and will it bring healthcare to the seniors,  
7 will it bring better opportunities and will it  
8 bring more funds to us as different  
9 communities. That's it.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.  
11 You did a great job, Ms. Dudley. Great job.

12 Okay. We have one more who showed up just  
13 now who wants to speak, Ralph Rosado. Ralph?  
14 You are last, my friend, but they say that the  
15 last will be first and the first will be last,  
16 so feel free to come up and give us your  
17 thoughts. Thanks for being here.

18 MR. ROSADO: Thank you. Yes, I am Ralph  
19 Rosado, private citizen. I want to tell you a  
20 quick story about something that happened to me  
21 last week which had never happened to me  
22 before. I went to Chicago for an academic  
23 conference. Usually when I fly, I like to  
24 travel comfortably, sneakers, jeans, flannel  
25 shirt. I showed up at the building where I

1       would be making a presentation. This was a  
2       doctoral conference. I am walking around, I'm  
3       just -- you know, I am thinking, it is Chicago,  
4       I want to sightsee. I see two gentlemen in  
5       uniforms walk by me.

6               I see Gonzalez and Guzman. They asked me,  
7       limpia la oficina?" "Did you clean the  
8       offices?" So in Miami, I am a businessman, I  
9       am a professional. In Chicago, perhaps in  
10      L.A., in New York, in a number of cities, I am  
11      probably the janitor.

12             Miami, Miami-Dade, Florida, we are light  
13      years ahead of a lot of those places, and we  
14      need to make sure that we maintain that  
15      standing. So I would urge you, in a county  
16      that is two-thirds Hispanic, we not lose any  
17      Hispanic representation. In our Senate, which  
18      I know has done in many ways a wonderful job,  
19      we are represented by fewer than a 50 percent  
20      Hispanic delegation. In the State House,  
21      certainly we are always at risk of losing that.  
22      I urge you, if we are going to be the Hispanic  
23      leaders of the country, we not lose that  
24      representation at our state level ever. So  
25      thank you very much.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
2           Ralph.

3           Okay. I think what we are going to do at  
4           this time, historically what we have done at  
5           this time is we have allowed members on the  
6           Committee, if they have any comments or  
7           questions or suggestions or would like to offer  
8           any suggestions, this is the time to do it. So  
9           if there are any members here, we will pass the  
10          mike around.

11          Senator Rich, would you like to start us  
12          off?

13          SENATOR RICH: Thank you. I wanted to  
14          make a comment tonight about the issue of the  
15          lawsuit. Many, many people at these hearings  
16          have expressed their disapproval that the House  
17          has gone to court to have Amendment 6 thrown  
18          out, despite the fact that 63 percent of the  
19          people voted in favor of the Fair Districts  
20          standards. And some of my colleagues, this  
21          morning in particular, responded that they were  
22          not trying to have the amendment invalidated,  
23          that they were only seeking clarification, and  
24          now --

25          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Senator --

1       now, I know that we live -- I know that people  
2       accuse us of partisan politics, but I swear  
3       that was not part of it. Senator, we are very  
4       sorry about that, but it woke everybody up for  
5       those who may have been sleeping. So please  
6       continue.

7               SENATOR RICH: So now in the last few  
8       days, we have heard a number of Legislators say  
9       that they felt that it was the duty of the  
10      House to uphold both of the Florida and the  
11      Federal Constitutions, and that Amendment 6  
12      might create some conflict between the two.

13             Actually, I checked this out today, the  
14      court papers filed on behalf of the House do  
15      not ask for clarification, nor do they ask for  
16      the court to resolve any conflict. The court  
17      papers specifically ask the court to hold  
18      Amendment 6 unconstitutional so that, in  
19      reality, the people who have been saying that  
20      taxpayer money is being spent to invalidate the  
21      amendment are actually correct.

22             I also would just like to say, and I think  
23      it is important for the people who came here,  
24      and I very much, all of us, appreciate our  
25      constituents and voters coming here to share



1       their points of view, it is extremely  
2       important, but I do want to say that all of us  
3       are not of the same mind here. Your concerns,  
4       especially about the timeline, have been voiced  
5       not only by voters, constituents, but by  
6       Supervisors of Elections across the state,  
7       particularly in the large counties, and they  
8       have indicated that it would be -- they would  
9       be unable to prepare for the elections on this  
10      timeline. So I have spoken at several of these  
11      meetings and asked that our Chairs take a look  
12      at this and listen to the voters and to the  
13      people across this state who would like this to  
14      be done, the timeline to be accelerated to some  
15      degree, so that we can make sure that we have a  
16      good and effective process in place so that we  
17      can have an election of which we can all be  
18      proud.

19           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
20      Senator Rich. That is right, it is bipartisan  
21      now, it's happened to both sides. Good point.

22           Okay. I don't see -- are there any other  
23      members who wish to speak? I didn't see  
24      anybody else raise their hand. Okay, yes,  
25      Representative Steinberg, you are recognized,

1           sir, if we can get him a microphone.

2                   REPRESENTATIVE STEINBERG: Thank you,  
3           Mr. Chair. I sat through the meeting earlier  
4           today and this, and I think that what we heard  
5           in Miami-Dade is consistent with what was voted  
6           on here. And while we heard that 63 percent of  
7           Floridians voted for 5 and 6, the reality is,  
8           in Dade County, it was even higher.  
9           Sixty-seven percent of the voters here in Dade  
10          County supported 5 and 6. And so we heard  
11          overwhelmingly, and what I took out of these  
12          meetings was a call on us to respect the  
13          language and the intent of 5 and 6, not to try  
14          to find ways to circumvent it, overturn it, get  
15          around it, but to respect the will of those of  
16          us that elect here, especially those in the  
17          Dade delegation, and support 5 and 6 and make  
18          sure that the maps that we come up with are  
19          consistent with 5 and 6.

20                 So I will hold that to heart and hope that  
21          all the members here do so as well, and that  
22          the maps that we do comply with 5 and 6, not  
23          only to the letter, but to the intent of 5 and  
24          6 and create the fair districts that Floridians  
25          have demanded.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
2           Representative.

3           Okay. Anybody else wish to speak? Alex,  
4           do you see anybody else with their hand raised?

5           Okay. We are going to turn it over to our  
6           Senator, or my co-Chair, Senator Gaetz, to try  
7           to leave us with a few comments and maybe some  
8           clarification and some data points to make sure  
9           we all walk out of here with the same facts,  
10          and, again, want to thank everyone for being  
11          here, and Senator Gaetz, you are recognized to  
12          finish us off here.

13          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, and  
14          I want to associate myself with Representative  
15          Steinberg's comments. Each of us has taken an  
16          oath when we are sworn into the Senate or the  
17          House to preserve, protect and defend the  
18          Constitution of the United States and of the  
19          State of Florida, and I believe that every  
20          single one of us, whether we are House members  
21          or Senators, regardless of political persuasion  
22          or where we come from in the state, intend to  
23          fulfill that oath, and intend to fulfill it  
24          with respect to all the provisions of the  
25          Florida and United States Constitution. So

1 Representative Steinberg's comments were  
2 comments that I think that we could all  
3 associate ourselves with.

4 One of the interesting things that I have  
5 observed tonight, and I have taken my usual  
6 large set of notes, is that while almost  
7 everybody, not everybody, but almost everybody  
8 said that 5 and 6 ought to be implemented -- in  
9 fact, there's one individual who said it ought  
10 to be followed exactly as it was prescribed --  
11 that there were a number of differences as to  
12 what the meanings of various words were and  
13 various concepts. For example, we heard a lot  
14 of testimony today in the earlier hearing and  
15 tonight about ensuring that districts be drawn  
16 in order to preserve certain racial or ethnic  
17 groups, making sure that there is no  
18 retrogression, and, in fact, even a call for  
19 additional districts for Hispanics, which is  
20 certainly a legitimate point of view. But, on  
21 the other hand, there were those who said, you  
22 know, really what you need to do is pay  
23 attention to the literal words of 5 and 6,  
24 which talk about, for example, compactness.

25 The interesting point here is that there

1       could be, in many people's minds, some tension  
2       between these two values. So I believe that  
3       Representative Steinberg's words could be  
4       associated with all of us, but at the same  
5       time, that one of the great values of these  
6       hearings is to hear your view about how you  
7       think these values that some people believe  
8       might be in conflict, that some people believe  
9       might have some tension between them, could  
10      actually be applied in a fair and equitable  
11      fashion.

12           Mr. Chairman, let me go down some of the  
13      other questions that were asked. There was a  
14      question asked, "Why was the geospacial  
15      analysis deleted from the House website?" To  
16      clarify, there was never such a tool in the My  
17      District Builder House website; therefore, it  
18      was never removed. Unfortunately, there is  
19      some confusion because there was an opinion  
20      column that was published in *The Sun Sentinel*,  
21      and later *The Sentinel* ran a correction because  
22      the information was inaccurate. The author of  
23      the opinion column, unfortunately, confused My  
24      District Builder with a private vendor's  
25      application, and that application had a similar

1 name. So it was a case of mistaken identity,  
2 and the notion that there was a spacial feature  
3 that was deleted from the House website or the  
4 House computer program was simply not true, and  
5 *The Sun Sentinel* has printed a retraction, but  
6 once you get something in the bloodstream,  
7 sometimes it stays there, and so I think that  
8 is important for us to know. And I appreciate  
9 the question being asked so it could be  
10 clarified.

11 A number of folks talked about the  
12 timeline, and our Democratic Leader, Senator  
13 Rich, eloquently spoke of the timeline. Let me  
14 mention a couple of facts that have to do with  
15 the timeline, and then indicate how Chairman  
16 Weatherford and I plan to go forward.

17 First, it is true that Florida is among  
18 the last states to complete its redistricting.  
19 But part of the reason for that is because  
20 Florida was not the last state, but was one of  
21 the last states to receive the census  
22 information from the Bureau of the Census, the  
23 demographic information that by law we must  
24 rely upon. That shows the movement of  
25 populations back and forth, and the character

1       and description of those populations. As soon  
2       as we received the census information, we put  
3       it on the website and began to use it, but we  
4       were in -- not the last state, but one of the  
5       last states to receive it.

6               Secondly, it is true, and a couple of  
7       people mentioned it, that there were some  
8       states that got their job done earlier.  
9       Illinois, I think, was mentioned. Well, the  
10      fact is that Illinois is a one-party state, and  
11      the Legislature there, I think it is fair to  
12      say, went into the proverbial back room, came  
13      out with a take-it-or-leave-it set of maps, did  
14      a fairly quick vote, a snap vote in the  
15      Legislature, it was over and they went home.  
16      Now, that is one way to do it, but our  
17      presiding officers chose to do it very  
18      differently, and their direction to us was that  
19      even though this is maybe sometimes a difficult  
20      or even contentious process, that we needed to  
21      make sure that we heard people's opinions and  
22      their input before we went forward.

23             The -- another individual mentioned, in  
24      listing states that had gone before Florida,  
25      Louisiana. Well, the reason Louisiana got its

1       job done earlier is because it holds its  
2       elections on odd years, not even years, so it  
3       is required by law to get its redistricting  
4       done sooner, and it's provided the information  
5       by the Census Bureau to do so.

6               Florida did accelerate the process. As we  
7       indicated at the beginning of the hearing, and  
8       I know some of you were not here, typically the  
9       Legislature goes into session in January -- or,  
10      rather, in March. We moved up the session to  
11      January, the Legislature voted, Republicans and  
12      Democrats, to move the session up to January so  
13      that we could begin voting as soon as we  
14      constitutionally could. And then, in order to  
15      begin discussing -- producing and discussing  
16      and debating maps earlier, we moved up  
17      Committee meetings from when they would usually  
18      begin in December to September. And Leader  
19      Rich has asked that we take this matter up as  
20      quickly as possible, and I have given her my  
21      commitment that at the very first meeting of  
22      the Senate Reapportionment Committee in  
23      September, the second item on the agenda after  
24      the call to order will be a discussion of  
25      Senator Rich's proposed maps, and we will



1       invite any member of the Legislature,  
2       Republican or Democrat, to bring their maps  
3       that day.

4               Sometimes there is a confusion and people  
5       think that there's going to be a set of maps.  
6       The fact is that there will be multiple sets of  
7       maps that will be debated and discussed. They  
8       can be produced today by any member of the  
9       Legislature, and we will call for those maps on  
10      the very first day that we have the first  
11      legally-allowed committee meeting.

12             Then, Mr. Chairman, there was a question  
13      about using city and county boundaries, but yet  
14      somebody else testified, quote, "It is  
15      difficult, if not impossible, to draw districts  
16      around the boundaries of 40 municipalities in  
17      south Florida." There is a city to the north  
18      of Miami-Dade County that has three  
19      non-contiguous areas in its city; in other  
20      words, the person who testified earlier about  
21      this said that the city boundaries were sort of  
22      like throwing some mud against the wall, and  
23      part of it is over here, part of it is here and  
24      part of it is here, the city is actually in  
25      three different non-contiguous places. So you

1       can't always use city boundaries, and that,  
2       again, indicates the potential tension there  
3       may be between a literal interpretation of  
4       Amendments 5 and 6, and a practical application  
5       of it, and it is why it is so important to get  
6       the information we have gotten from these  
7       hearings. And there are some city boundaries,  
8       if you look at them, that look like Rorschach  
9       tests, the city boundaries are splattered, and  
10      they're certainly not perfect squares or  
11      perfect rectangles, to get to you, the social  
12      studies teacher.

13             And then there was a comment made that if  
14      someone wanted to run, how could they get  
15      petitions? That was a really good question,  
16      how could you get petitions. Well, I happen to  
17      be a candidate for the Senate in District 4,  
18      and the way that the law works is that in a  
19      redistricting year, when district lines haven't  
20      been drawn, that petitions -- you simply sign  
21      up with your address as it is now, and you can  
22      get petitions from any registered voter in  
23      Florida. So it is really easy. If you want to  
24      run for office in a redistricting year, it is  
25      actually easier to be a challenger and get

1       petitions signed than in any other year,  
2       because you can get any registered Florida  
3       voter to sign the petition. So we are glad to  
4       provide that information.

5               Then, Mr. Chairman, a member of the public  
6       said tonight that the league asks that  
7       Legislators file redistricting plans by early  
8       October. Let me emphasize again, it is not  
9       going to be a plan. There will be multiple  
10      plans that will be advanced by Legislators who  
11      don't necessarily agree with each other. We'd  
12      all have one opinion. Even within the  
13      Democratic caucus and within the Republican  
14      caucus, there are differences of opinions. So  
15      let me emphasize, any Democratic member of this  
16      Committee, any Republican member of this  
17      Committee, can submit a map today, they can  
18      file a map today. There is not a requirement  
19      that you wait till September or wait till  
20      October, as the league has suggested, it can be  
21      filed today.

22              And then, Mr. Chairman, there were several  
23      individuals who said that many current  
24      districts are drawn oddly, improperly and with  
25      all kinds of odd geometry. A point that I

1 think is important to make is that nearly all  
2 of us who are here -- not all of us, but nearly  
3 all of us are representing districts whose  
4 boundaries we didn't draw. I -- I am a Senator  
5 from the Fourth Senate District, and the Fourth  
6 Senate District wasn't drawn by me, it was  
7 drawn by people who were in the Legislature in  
8 2002, and I wasn't in the Legislature in 2002.  
9 So I am living with the consequences of  
10 somebody else's decision, and most of us are.  
11 So there is no pride of authorship. We are in  
12 it with you. We would like to see many of the  
13 oddities associated with these districts  
14 resolved.

15 I will tell you personally, I live in what  
16 is called a rattail of a Congressional  
17 District. We are in a rattail at the end of a  
18 Congressional District that really has its  
19 center of gravity a long, long way away. And  
20 there are a lot of us who will associate with  
21 the belief that we ought to, as much as  
22 possible, try to deal with those oddities.

23 And then, Mr. Chairman, there were  
24 individuals who used the term "communities of  
25 interest," and one -- one testifier tonight

1       said that a community of interest is more  
2       practical than county lines. Well,  
3       "communities of interest," that is a good term,  
4       it is a useful term, but Representative  
5       Weatherford and I and others actually tried to  
6       get that term included in the amendments to the  
7       Constitution so that it could be used as a  
8       criterion, but the Supreme Court said no. So  
9       "communities of interest" is not a term that is  
10      in the Constitution, it is not in Amendments 5  
11      and 6, and, therefore, there again could be an  
12      apparent tension between those who very  
13      eloquently discussed using "communities of  
14      interest" as a way to define a district, and  
15      those who want a literal interpretation of  
16      Amendments 5 and 6.

17           We had a very eloquent young man, a social  
18      studies teacher, who said that it is easy,  
19      because you just make districts look like  
20      rectangles, and he volunteered his seventh  
21      grade class to do that. I note that he  
22      disagreed with another social studies teacher,  
23      I guess social studies teachers don't always  
24      see it that way, but I would encourage you to  
25      check with the geography teachers. They will

1 tell you Florida is not a rectangle. So I have  
2 a deal for you. One of the great things that  
3 we have had in the Legislature over past years  
4 is students proposing legislation that gets  
5 seriously considered and even passed. Here is  
6 my offer: If -- and it's got to be student  
7 work now. If it is student work, if you can  
8 get your class to draw all the Congressional  
9 Districts, all the Senate districts and all the  
10 House districts to comply with all federal and  
11 state laws and court cases, including no  
12 retrogression of minorities, and all of them  
13 are perfect rectangles, I will personally pay  
14 for the bus to bring you and your class to  
15 Tallahassee and we will have you testify before  
16 the committee. How about that? Will you do  
17 that? Will you take me up on that? I hope you  
18 will.

19 Then one testifier said tonight that he  
20 didn't see everybody writing and taking notes.  
21 I take notes because I am an old newspaper  
22 reporter, and I just -- you know, I do that.  
23 But I would want you to know that all of the  
24 members here are furnished with transcripts and  
25 have access to video transcripts, as well as

1       written transcripts, of every one of these  
2       hearings. So oftentimes you will have  
3       Legislators who will study the transcripts  
4       later. I plan to do that. Others take notes.  
5       It just depends on your personal preference.  
6       But, believe me, everybody was listening and  
7       paying attention to your views.

8               Then a testifier suggested that there was  
9       a fear that the State Legislature would, by  
10      itself -- and these are his words -- "ram the  
11      maps down our throats without public  
12      testimony." Well, here are a couple of facts:  
13      First, no vote, no vote, even in Committee,  
14      will be taken without public testimony being  
15      taken first, no vote. Secondly, the  
16      Legislature doesn't have the final word. Even  
17      if we wanted to ram something down somebody  
18      somewhere, we couldn't do it, because the  
19      judicial review that is called for in the law  
20      and the Constitution means that whatever we  
21      come up with has to go to the Supreme Court of  
22      Florida and it has to go to federal judicial  
23      review. And already there have been  
24      individuals who are members of various public  
25      interest groups and personal special interest

1 groups who have indicated that they are  
2 threatening lawsuits even before the first map  
3 is presented by Senator Rich or whoever will  
4 present the first map. So I guarantee you,  
5 there won't be any ramming of anything.  
6 Instead, I think there will probably be a good  
7 year for lawyers.

8 Then, Mr. Chairman, an individual said,  
9 and I think with great sincerity, that you  
10 ought to forget where your districts are when  
11 you do this. I probably can't forget the five  
12 counties that I represent and the communities I  
13 represent. It is probably impossible to forget  
14 them. But let me tell you what Speaker  
15 Weatherford has said to the House of  
16 Representatives and to his staff. He has  
17 instructed them that he doesn't even want to  
18 know where incumbents live, so that when  
19 districts are drawn, they will be drawn without  
20 reference to even where incumbents live, let  
21 alone their preference.

22 And secondly, let me tell you what I have  
23 said as Chairman of the Senate Committee to our  
24 professional staff. I want any maps that are  
25 presented to the Senate Reapportionment



1 Committee to have no partisan data in them, so  
2 that the maps would not be able to be looked at  
3 by our Committee with people being able to say,  
4 "Well, here's how many Republicans there are  
5 here, and here's how many Democrats." So while  
6 we can't forget the people and the communities  
7 we represent, I think there is a real intent  
8 here to try to be fair and to be as unbiased as  
9 possible.

10 Finally, Mr. Chairman, let me comment on  
11 the comments of the ACLU. First, there was an  
12 ACLU representative who said that certainly  
13 hope that the 5 and 6 would be pre-cleared and  
14 that we could get Governor Scott to submit them  
15 for pre-clearance.

16 Here are the facts: The House and the  
17 Senate have submitted 5 and 6 for pre-clearance  
18 to the Justice Department, and our request that  
19 they be pre-cleared was honored, and they have  
20 been pre-cleared.

21 And the ACLU Representative said that in  
22 her view, 5 and 6 do not conflict with minority  
23 rights. We agree, and we hope that that turns  
24 out to be the case. We requested  
25 pre-clearance, and we believe that 5 and 6

1       could strengthen the Voting Rights Act. We  
2       don't believe that there has to be a conflict,  
3       even though you have heard a lot of testimony  
4       today, and we have in all of these hearings,  
5       suggesting that, in some people's minds, there  
6       could well be tension.

7               But then, finally, Mr. Chairman, there was  
8       an ACLU member who spoke -- let us see -- and  
9       said that, sadly, she could only speak in  
10      generalities and platitudes, and suggested that  
11      these hearings could only be about generalities  
12      and platitudes. Boy, I hope she was here to  
13      hear the Mayor of Pinecrest. I hope she was  
14      here to hear the representatives of the city  
15      governments of Kendall, the gentleman from  
16      Cutler Bay, the representatives from Miami  
17      Lakes and Miami Shores and El Portal and the  
18      other communities who spoke in tonight's  
19      hearing and this afternoon's hearings, because  
20      they didn't speak in platitudes and  
21      generalities. We have heard literally hundreds  
22      of people in these hearings who have talked  
23      about their neighborhoods and their communities  
24      and how current lines may be bisecting or  
25      trisecting those neighborhoods and need to be

1 fixed. We've gotten all kinds of specific,  
2 very specific data, that we never could have  
3 gotten in an echo chamber in Tallahassee, only  
4 could have gotten on the ground by listening to  
5 people who live in those communities and  
6 neighborhoods.

7 And I'm sorry that there might be some who  
8 believe that there is no value in proposals and  
9 maps submitted by grass roots organizations and  
10 by individuals and by special interest groups.  
11 We think there is. There are 21 maps that have  
12 been submitted, and, frankly, I believe that  
13 there's some real value in some of them. And I  
14 haven't drawn a map myself yet, don't plan to  
15 until I hear all the public testimony, but I  
16 can already tell you that there are some things  
17 about the maps we have received that I hope  
18 will be in the options that are presented to  
19 the House and the Senate Redistricting  
20 Committees.

21 The 31 -- the 21 -- actually, 31 maps are  
22 real maps, and they were developed by real  
23 people who were really sincere, and I would  
24 hope we would not denigrate their efforts by  
25 saying it was only generalities and platitudes.

1       These are people who take the process  
2       seriously.

3               And, finally, Mr. Chairman, let me just  
4       say that we have learned an extraordinary  
5       amount about Miami-Dade County. I lived here  
6       for ten years, and I thought I knew something  
7       about this community. I can tell you that I  
8       learned a whole lot about what's happened since  
9       I left, and I am delighted that we were here, I  
10      think we have all gained a great deal and we  
11      thank everyone who has contributed value to  
12      these hearings.

13             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
14      and I think this has been mentioned before, but  
15      our great distinguished Senator who just spoke  
16      is also from Niceville, Florida. So thank you,  
17      Senator, for that very much.

18             And I think everybody recognizes that we  
19      do take your comments seriously, we appreciate  
20      you being here this evening and we hope you  
21      continue to follow the process on our websites  
22      that you have on the brochure. And with that,  
23      Senator Gaetz moves that we rise.

24             (Whereupon, the proceedings were  
25      concluded.)

## 1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )

3 COUNTY OF LEON )

4 I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript  
5 is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned,  
6 and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting  
7 under my direction;

8 That the foregoing pages 2 through 152  
9 represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of  
10 the tape-recording;

11 And I further certify that I am not of kin or  
12 counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the  
13 regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor  
14 am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

15 Dated this 10th day of November, 2011.

16

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

20

Notary Public

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State of Florida at Large

22

Commission Expires:

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November 13, 2014

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REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

11

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2011

12

4:00 P.M.

13

FLORIDA KEYS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

14

KEY WEST, FLORIDA

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Transcribed by:

22

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

23

Court Reporter

24

25

1 T A P E D P R O C E E D I N G S

2 SENATOR GAETZ: The Joint Senate House  
3 Redistricting hearing is called to order, and  
4 before we any other business the Chair will  
5 recognize the Speaker Designate of the Florida  
6 House of Representatives for a motion.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I think --  
8 thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the motion  
9 was going to come from the gentleman who  
10 resides here in the Keys.

11 SENATOR GAETZ: The Leader.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: The District  
13 Leader, that is exactly right.

14 SENATOR GAETZ: Well, in that case we are  
15 pleased to recognize our House Leader,  
16 Democratic Leader, Ron Saunders, who is a  
17 legend in the Keys and even more of a legend in  
18 Tallahassee, and our good friend.

19 REPRESENTATIVE SAUNDERS: Thank you,  
20 Mr. Chairman, and on behalf of all of the  
21 constituents in District 120, I want to welcome  
22 you.

23 It is a very big honor, by the way, for  
24 those of you who aren't in the Legislature, we  
25 have both Chairs, the Senate Chair and the

1 House Chair Redistricting who are here, but  
2 there are also the incoming President of the  
3 Senate and incoming Speaker of the House.

4 So when you have the top two presiding  
5 officers of the next term in our city, that is  
6 a real honor for us to have them down here, as  
7 well as the rest of my colleagues.

8 We have a lot of House members and  
9 Senators here and to have people come all of  
10 the way to Key West and all of us who live here  
11 know how hard it go to get here, so to have  
12 them here is a real honor for us and we  
13 certainly appreciate ya'll being here.

14 Last night I went on, because the videos,  
15 they, this is the 20th meeting around the State  
16 of Florida, but those that know me very well,  
17 people that went to high cool with me, I don't  
18 wear a coat and tie very often.

19 So I said, what is the dress for these  
20 meetings. So I actually went out and watched  
21 the video and every video I watched, every  
22 member on the Committee was wearing a coat and  
23 tie. So it is not a wedding or a funeral, but  
24 I am wearing a coat and tie today.

25 But in talking with Representative



1       Weatherford, who I was elected in 2006, along  
2       with Will, he is a good friend of mine, I said,  
3       was the deal here. He said why don't you make  
4       a motion.

5               So I would like to make a motion now that  
6       we waive the rules and allow the members to not  
7       wear their neckties today.

8               SENATOR GAETZ: Without objection, so  
9       ordered. And if there are any members of the  
10      statewide press who are here or who are  
11      listening, let it be known that this was a  
12      bi-partisan decision and a bi-cameral decision.

13              Well, we thank you very much, Leader, and  
14      thanks for welcoming us to your community where  
15      you have served with great distinction for many  
16      years.

17              And I will tell all of you that while we  
18      hear often about the ranker in Washington,  
19      there are certainly sharp philosophical  
20      disagreements, disagreements on principle that  
21      occur in Tallahassee.

22              That is the way the framers of our  
23      Constitution set it up, but there is tremendous  
24      respect and affection for Ron Saunders and he  
25      is an extraordinarily Legislator and a great

1 leader for the State of Florida.

2 REPRESENTATIVE SAUNDERS: So I hope you  
3 will vote for my map.

4 SENATOR GAETZ: Ladies and gentlemen, were  
5 are pleased to be joined today as the Leader  
6 indicated, by a number of members of the  
7 Florida House of Representatives and the  
8 Florida Senate.

9 I will tell you that when we indicated  
10 that we would be having a hearing in Key West  
11 all of a sudden that was not viewed as hard  
12 duty or hazardous duty, but there were people  
13 on our committees who made sure that they could  
14 come here and hear your views, because your  
15 views matter as much as those in Pensacola, in  
16 my part of the state, where we began on  
17 June 20th.

18 But with your permission, Mr. Speaker, I  
19 would like to ask each of the members who are  
20 here today if they would briefly introduce  
21 themselves and indicate the part of the state  
22 that they are from so that -- well, so that you  
23 will know who is talking to you and who you are  
24 talking to.

25 And we will begin with the former

1 President of the Florida Senate, Senator Gwen  
2 Margolis, Madam President.

3 SENATOR MARGOLIS: I am delighted to be  
4 with you today and listen to your comments  
5 about redistricting in the state of Florida,  
6 delighted to be in Key West.

7 This was a stop I wouldn't miss. So thank  
8 you for coming today and thank you for  
9 expressing your opinions.

10 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Thank you. My name  
11 is Representative Peter Nehr. I am in the  
12 Tampa Bay area, specifically Tarpon Springs and  
13 Palm Harbor, District 48 and I am also  
14 delighted to be here, thank you.

15 SENATOR LATVALA: I am Jay Latvala. I  
16 represent the 16th Senatorial District and I  
17 live in Clearwater.

18 SENATOR BRANNON: I am State Senator Oscar  
19 Brannon and I represent the north central area  
20 of Miami-Dade County, and if you will look, pan  
21 to the camera right down there you will see  
22 State Representative Rob Schenck.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: Representative  
24 Ritch Workman from Brevard.

25 REPRESENTATIVE BRODEUR: Representative

1 Jason Brodeur from the 33rd District,  
2 representing parts of Seminole, Orange and  
3 Volusia Counties.

4 REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: Hi, State  
5 Representative Evan Jenne, District 100 in  
6 southeast Broward County and thank you all for  
7 having us here.

8 REPRESENTATIVE CRISAFULLI: Good  
9 afternoon, Steve Crisafulli, House District 32  
10 out of Brevard and east Orange County.

11 REPRESENTATIVE PLAKON: Scott Plakon,  
12 Florida House District 37, it is good to be  
13 here tonight and I was smart enough to marry a  
14 conch, the former Suzie Rushing, Key West 1979,  
15 good to be here.

16 REPRESENTATIVE FORD: Representative Clay  
17 Ford from Pensacola 's District 3, and I drove  
18 16 hours to get here. So I hope our input  
19 tonight is going to be worth that drive, and I  
20 am sure it will, thank you.

21 REPRESENTATIVE DIAZ: Hi, Jose Diaz from  
22 District 115 in Miami, which goes from Fountain  
23 Blue through Cutler Bay.

24 REPRESENTATIVE NUNEZ: Good afternoon,  
25 Jeanette Nuñez, from House District 112, which

1 represents portions of Dade, Broward and  
2 Collier County.

3 REPRESENTATIVE GOODSON: Good afternoon,  
4 Tom Goodson, representing House District 29  
5 from north Brevard through St. Lucie County,  
6 the St. Lucie County line, Vero Beach, thank  
7 you.

8 REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Good afternoon  
9 everyone, I am John Patrick Julien,  
10 representing House District 104, which is in  
11 the northeastern parts of Miami-Dade County.  
12 It is a pleasure to be here.

13 I might as well call this my second home,  
14 because we are always down here anyway, but  
15 looking forward to hearing what you all have to  
16 say.

17 REPRESENTATIVE GARCIA: Thanks, Luis  
18 Garcia, Senate District 40, northwest Dade  
19 County.

20 SENATIR GARDINER: Andy Gardiner, District  
21 9 out of the Orlando central Florida area.

22 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Dwayne Taylor from  
23 Volusia County. I represent House District 27  
24 and I am glad to be here at Key Saunders -- I  
25 mean, Key West, I am sorry.

1           REPRESENTATIVE REED: Good afternoon, I am  
2 Betty Reed from Tampa, Florida. I represent  
3 the eastern part of Hillsborough County and  
4 some of the southern part of Hillsborough  
5 County. I am happy to be here. This is my  
6 first trip and it is beautiful.

7           REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Good  
8 afternoon, I am state Representative Gwyndolen  
9 Clarke-Reed, representing House District 92,  
10 and for eight years in September, I always came  
11 here as a local government official.

12           So I am so happy to be able to come back  
13 now as a state Representative. I represent the  
14 northeast part of Broward County, seven cities,  
15 starting in Deerfield Beach and going all of  
16 the way down to Ft. Lauderdale, out to north  
17 Lauderdale and a little bit of Tamarac. Thank  
18 you. Happy to see you.

19           REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Good afternoon, I  
20 am State Representative Hazelle Rogers. I  
21 represent eight cities in Broward County, one  
22 of the most diverse counties in your state with  
23 approximately 1.8 million residents.

24           My eight cities are Lauderhill, Lauderdale  
25 Lakes, North Lauderdale, Oakland Park,

1           Plantation, Tamarac, Margate.

2                   It is good to be here to listen to you.

3           Thank you for being here.

4                   REPRESENTATIVE CANNON: I have been  
5           introduced, but I want to introduce our host.  
6           As you know, we are here on the campus of  
7           Florida Keys Community College.

8                   In the audience we have our President of  
9           the college, Dr. Larry Tyree, and we also have  
10          a couple of our Trustees here. I will mention  
11          them both, Republicans and constituents, they  
12          are very good friends of mine. We have Ed  
13          Scales here, who was our Speaker's roommate in  
14          college, the House members, Ed Scales, and we  
15          have the State Republican Committee Woman from  
16          Monroe County, Anne O'Bannon.

17                   REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: And I am  
18          Representative Steve Precourt, also from the  
19          west side of Orlando, right in the center of  
20          the state.

21                   SENATOR GAETZ: If everyone has had the  
22          opportunity to be introduced I want to join  
23          Representative Saunders in thanking Florida  
24          Keys Community College and Dr. Tyree for  
25          allowing us to use this wonderful facility.

1           Thank you all for being here, especially  
2           those of you who have come to share your  
3           comments and your recommendations to help shape  
4           Congressional Senate and House Districts for  
5           the next decade.

6           My name is Don Gaetz. I am a Senator from  
7           the panhandle of Florida, northwest Florida,  
8           the northwest Florida Gulf Coast from Pensacola  
9           to east of Panama City is my district.

10          And along with my House colleague, Will  
11          Weatherford, to my immediate left,  
12          Representative Weatherford is the incoming  
13          Speaker of the House of Representatives and  
14          pleased to be joined by him in chairing today's  
15          meeting which is being webcast statewide by the  
16          Florida Channel over the Internet.

17          Our sole purpose today is to hear from you  
18          about how you believe the legal standards, all  
19          of the legal standards, Amendments 5 and 6, but  
20          also the Federal requirements and Federal Court  
21          cases, how all of the legal standards governing  
22          redistricting should be applied in your  
23          community.

24          You don't have to be a legal expert to  
25          comment. You can just tell us about your



1 community and your part of the state and what  
2 makes sense so that you are represented in  
3 Washington and Tallahassee fairly, equitably  
4 and sensibly.

5 Our procedures today are simple but  
6 important. It is important that you sign in so  
7 that we can create an accurate public record of  
8 all attendees, and also you may opt to join our  
9 e-mail list so that we can keep you informed  
10 about how the redistricting process is moving  
11 forward.

12 If you have not signed in, please raise  
13 your hand and we will give you one of these  
14 attendance cards. If you have not signed in,  
15 raise your hand and one of our professional  
16 staff will come by and get you to sign an  
17 attendance card.

18 It is the same card that you would sign if  
19 you wish to speak, whether you want to  
20 participate by speaking or participate by  
21 listening to your friends and neighbors, we  
22 would like you to sign in if you would.

23 Before we begin the Chair will recognize  
24 the Speaker Designate, Representative  
25 Weatherford, to explain how today's hearing

1 fits into the redistricting process.

2 Mr. Speaker.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
4 very much, Mr. Chairman. Make sure that is on  
5 there. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman,  
6 again, my name is Will Weatherford, and my  
7 district is in Pasco County, which is just  
8 north of Tampa and very happy to be here today.

9 We had a beautiful drive in driving  
10 through the Keys and it has been a great day  
11 and we are looking forward to hearing from your  
12 comments this afternoon.

13 One thing that is important, I will try to  
14 be brief, but it is important that we walk  
15 through at every hearing to give everyone kind  
16 of an understanding of where we are in the  
17 redistricting process and what we are doing  
18 here today and what we hope we will hear from  
19 you in the public comment portion.

20 Every ten years the Legislature is  
21 required by our Constitution to redistrict the  
22 state based on increases, decreases and  
23 movements in population.

24 Because Florida has grown dramatic over  
25 the last ten years, we are actually picking up

1 two Congressional Seats. So were are now going  
2 from 25 Congressional Seats to 27 Congressional  
3 Seats.

4 Because some parts of our state have  
5 increased or decreased disproportionately, many  
6 State or House Districts will change, either  
7 adding or gaining in population.

8 When redistricting is completed  
9 Congressional Districts must be equal in  
10 population and contain 696,435 people. The 40  
11 Senate Districts must also be nearly equal at  
12 about 470,000 people, and our 120 House  
13 Districts must also be nearly equal at 156,700  
14 people.

15 Now, for the approximate 73,000 residents  
16 of Monroe County and the Florida Keys,  
17 redistricting has unique impacts, and I will  
18 tell you why.

19 Because of its unique location and the  
20 fact that the county's population is less than  
21 the size of a complete district, the question  
22 for Monroe County can be characterized as which  
23 community does Monroe County want to be joined  
24 with for its State Legislative and  
25 Congressional Districts.

1           In addition to that, Monroe County is one  
2           of Florida's five counties that is covered  
3           under Section V of the Florida -- of the  
4           Federal Voting Rights Act, meaning that we must  
5           consider how Monroe County's political lines  
6           will impact the ability of minority communities  
7           to elect a candidate of their choice.

8           Now, we have displays on the outside of  
9           this room that show the current boundaries and  
10          the districts, I am sorry, at the very front of  
11          this room, that show the current districts as  
12          they stand today, both the Florida House,  
13          Florida Senate and the Congressional Districts.

14          Equality in representation is not the only  
15          legal requirement that redistricting plans must  
16          meet.

17          It is important to everybody to understand  
18          that the laws and important court cases  
19          governing redistricting are explained in detail  
20          on the brochure that people handed out when you  
21          first came in.

22          And in fact, if you did not get one of  
23          those Redistricting 2012 brochures, if you will  
24          raise your hand we will make sure that you get  
25          one right now.

1           Our Redistricting 2012 brochure summarizes  
2       Federal and State laws and outlines the topics  
3       that we hope we will hear from you today about.

4           If you did not get a copy when you came  
5       in, as I stated earlier, please raise your hand  
6       and keep it up and we will get it to you.

7           The brochure -- I am sorry, before and  
8       during this hearing Senate and House  
9       professional staff are available to walk  
10      through with you how to draw actual maps, and  
11      recommendations from citizens and groups of  
12      citizens will be made publicly available as  
13      soon as we get them.

14          And in fact, as of this morning we have  
15      over 32 public submissions of partial or  
16      complete maps and approximately 110 written  
17      ideas for maps that are all available on the  
18      web.

19          In fact, in this week, the meetings that  
20      we have had in Stuart, Boca Raton, Davie and  
21      Miami, Florida residents have completed new  
22      maps for submission right there at the tables  
23      that are outside of this building.

24          And so we would hope that on your way out  
25      you would walk through there and talk to our

1       staff and if you have are interested in drawing  
2       maps and getting involved in that process and  
3       submitting them to us, we would certainly  
4       encourage that.

5             The submission of the proposed maps that  
6       make sense for your community is the single  
7       most effective way that you can communicate and  
8       participate in the redistricting process.

9             Our intent is to use the recommendations  
10      made at these 26 hearings and through our  
11      Internet sites as the basis for developing one  
12      or more options for our district maps.

13            We will discuss those options in open  
14      public meetings before any votes are taken,  
15      even in committee.

16            In other words, what we are literally  
17      saying is, if you look at those maps outside of  
18      this room, the ones that have actually been  
19      submitted to the Legislature by Florida  
20      residents, we are literally starting the  
21      legislative process with those maps and other  
22      suggestions from people in the public just like  
23      you.

24            So if you want to know where we are  
25      beginning our deliberations, it is with those

1 public submissions and the testimony from the  
2 meetings that we have had so far.

3 Throughout the process we will continue to  
4 solicit your additional public comments so that  
5 the proposed maps can mature throughout the  
6 process.

7 Whatever the Legislature passes, it is  
8 then submitted for judicial review to ensure  
9 that the final plans meet every single legal  
10 requirement.

11 Because our purpose is to hear from you  
12 today, all of the time will now be used to  
13 ensure that every member of the public who is  
14 here and wishes to speak will have time to  
15 present public testimony and to be listened to  
16 with respect and without interruption.

17 If, and after every citizen has had their  
18 say and there is time remaining on the  
19 scheduled adjournment, any member of the  
20 Committee may make any statement or any  
21 observation.

22 Of course, any member of the Legislature  
23 may today or at any time propose a map or a  
24 plan to this Committee and we will make it  
25 public immediately.

1           Mr. Chairman, I hope that brief  
2           description gives a good perspective on the  
3           hearing today and I look forward to hearing the  
4           public testimony from the citizens here in the  
5           Florida Keys. Thank you very much.

6           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
7           We have a number of people who have indicated  
8           that they wished to speak.

9           If you would like to speak and came in a  
10          little bit late, please raise your hand and a  
11          member of our staff will get you one of these  
12          registration forms so that we will have it and  
13          we can call on you.

14          If during the public hearing you become  
15          inspired and you feel like you would like to  
16          speak, you don't feel as though you have missed  
17          your chance.

18          You can raise your hand and a member of  
19          our staff will get you a slip of paper. We  
20          will call on you. We want to make sure that  
21          everyone who is here tonight will have the  
22          opportunity to share their views with the House  
23          and Senate Committees.

24          We have Pam Martin as our first speaker,  
25          and Ms. Martin, if you would come down right



1           there by the microphone so that everyone can  
2           hear you, we would be grateful.

3           Our next speaker will be Ed Scales and  
4           following Ed Scales, Terry Griffs, and if they  
5           will be on deck and ready to come forward.

6           Ms. Martin, thank you for taking time from  
7           your day and we are anxious to hear your  
8           testimony.

9           MS. MARTIN: Thank you. I am Pam Martin  
10          from the upper Keys. I want to thank you all  
11          for being here. The last time ten years ago  
12          when I testified at the Key Largo library there  
13          was just a very few of you.

14          One of the things I would like to ask is  
15          why the Legislature prepares, wouldn't prepare  
16          the maps earlier, debate them in the fall and  
17          pass them during the first week of session.

18          It has been reported the Legislature, you  
19          all, plan to finalize district maps at the end  
20          of the session in March.

21          By law the courts and the Department of  
22          Justice have more than 90 days after passage to  
23          review the maps.

24          Under the present timeline it would be  
25          cutting it very close before the June 8th, 2012

1 deadline for candidates to file their papers to  
2 run.

3 Florida maps will be approved later than  
4 almost every other state in the nation.  
5 Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana,  
6 Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi,  
7 Nebraska, Nevada and Oklahoma have either  
8 already completed or almost completed their  
9 redistricting.

10 Your Legislature's own attorney says it  
11 will cause massive voter confusion. Election  
12 Supervisors will have insufficient time to  
13 prepare for the election.

14 Challengers or new candidates will have  
15 little if any time to mount campaigns and  
16 voters will be voting for candidates they have  
17 little opportunity to get to know.

18 The Constitution requires you to redraw  
19 the districts during our 2012 regular session,  
20 but you could debate and pass maps during the  
21 first week of session.

22 You could hold interim Committee meetings  
23 from September through December, and then you  
24 could present the maps, allow public comment  
25 and prepare final plans to submit to the full

1       House and Senate before the legislation  
2       convenes.

3               Then the Legislator could bring the maps  
4       to the floor and the first order of business,  
5       voting on them by the end of the session's  
6       first week, that would be January 13th.

7               This would double the time for review by  
8       the courts and the Department of Justice  
9       creating a real possibility that maps could be  
10      finally approved before qualifying and allow  
11      election officials ample time to prepare.

12              Inserting as what a district will look  
13      like helps incumbents because incumbents are  
14      already known to the voters and can raise money  
15      and challengers are reluctant to throw their  
16      hat in the ring.

17              The current timeline is designed as an  
18      incumbent protection plan, and, you know, we  
19      are here for getting the best Representatives  
20      that we can to do the best job for Florida.

21              So we would like to ask why the  
22      Legislature is spending money to oppose the  
23      will of the constituents as expressed when  
24      63 percent voted for the fair district  
25      standards.

1           The Legislature doesn't want to comply  
2       with fair district standards so it spent over  
3       that million dollars of taxpayer money hiring  
4       attorneys to fight them and to set aside  
5       30 million for court battles.

6           You tried many ways to stop fair  
7       districts, but it didn't work, and the citizens  
8       passed it.

9           Please stop using our taxpayer dollars to  
10      attack and invalidate the provisions of our  
11      State Constitution that was supported by  
12      63 percent of Florida voters.

13          This wastes money. At this time you are  
14      spending money while teachers are being fired,  
15      social services are being cut and not a single  
16      job is being created, yet the House and Senate  
17      are putting upwards of \$30 million aside so  
18      they can try to avoid fair district standards  
19      and promote their version in redistricting.

20          You know, this, and you joined in a  
21      lawsuit to seek to clarify. Well, that excuse  
22      doesn't fly to the voters. Politicfact and the  
23      Orlando Sentinel rate the denials of spending  
24      public money to avoid fair districts false.

25          The Legislature should be working to

1       uphold the constitutional provision placed here  
2       by almost two-thirds of the electoral last  
3       November.

4               Stop -- instead, stop spending the money  
5       to protect your own seats. So we ask, where  
6       are the maps? Why won't the Legislature  
7       provide at least some sample maps, not the ones  
8       that we the audience have done there.

9               You say that in order to do the maps you  
10       must hear from the citizens about what they  
11       want them to look like.

12              Well, you are asking non expert citizens  
13       to comment in a vacuum and to draw the first  
14       maps. The Legislature has the necessary data  
15       to draw the district maps since March, and over  
16       four months since not a single map drawn by any  
17       Legislator has been revealed to the public.

18              So while you have created the My District  
19       Builder, and I worked with that a little today,  
20       to have the public draw their own maps, the  
21       system does not provide the actual real input  
22       that we need to look at compactness and other  
23       data.

24              It is intended to make us feel good about  
25       doing that, but yet you are going to use

1 consultants and you are not going to be looking  
2 for very much from public input when you will  
3 be doing those.

4 Without the maps to comment on, the public  
5 does not have a real opportunity to really make  
6 meaningful comment on the maps, and  
7 unfortunately, the map, the real mapping will  
8 be done away from the public eye and without  
9 meaningful public input in Tallahassee, where  
10 the mass, the majority of us don't live.

11 It takes me nine and-a-half hours speeding  
12 in the middle of the night to get to  
13 Tallahassee.

14 Okay, so we really need to go ahead and  
15 have that comment period where people can  
16 actually do it. How can citizens hundreds of  
17 miles from Tallahassee review, analyze and  
18 comment on complicated statewide maps in two or  
19 three days?

20 So it is pretty obvious what has been  
21 trying to happen. No maps, pushing the time  
22 limits, lawsuits are probably going to follow,  
23 and it is going to be hard for candidates to  
24 run.

25 The public isn't falling for it. We

1       passed Fair Districts because we want fair  
2       districts. You know, it has always been  
3       America has been about equal opportunity, have  
4       a chance, balance of power, and we would like  
5       you to honor the constituents what they voted  
6       for.

7               Thank you very much for coming and  
8       visiting us. Please tip our waiters and  
9       waitresses very well, okay, and give the bag  
10      boys a lot of dollars and spend a lot of money  
11      in town. We could use it. Thank you.

12             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, and Ms. Martin,  
13      I hope you can stay for the whole hearing  
14      because we are going to let every member of the  
15      public who wants to speak, speak, then we are  
16      going to turn to members of the Committee for  
17      any observations they might have, and then  
18      Speaker Weatherford is making a list.

19             There were a number of specific expressed  
20      and implied questions in your testimony, and  
21      you will hear answers to those and all of the  
22      members of the audience will be before you leave  
23      today, if you could stay for the whole hearing.

24             MS. MARTIN: I will.

25             SENATOR GAETZ: Thanks so much,

1 Ms. Martin. A great way to start out. Our  
2 next speaker will be Ed Scales.

3 MR. SCALES: Good afternoon, I am Ed  
4 Scales and I have been a resident of the  
5 Florida Keys since 1998, and for full  
6 disclosure, I am an attorney and I am  
7 affiliated with the Gray Robinson Law Firm  
8 which is the counsel for the House of  
9 Representatives for redistricting.

10 SENATOR GAETZ: You may sit down then.

11 MR. SCALES: But I am not here today on  
12 behalf of anybody, except myself. First of  
13 all, welcome to the Florida Keys, and more  
14 particularly, welcome to Florida Keys Community  
15 College.

16 I know this is not a meeting about higher  
17 education, but as a Trustee of our Community  
18 College I would be remiss if I didn't take this  
19 opportunity to thank you so much for your  
20 support of higher education, and especially  
21 funding are to Florida's state colleges.

22 In particular, thank you for funding the  
23 capital improvement on our campus, the state of  
24 the Art Marine Propulsion Building which will  
25 provide practical job training and practical



1 research for thousands of residents, not only  
2 in the Keys, but throughout the state of  
3 Florida.

4 SENATOR GAETZ: And Ed, we appreciate the  
5 thanks, but if you could bring it around to  
6 redistricting, we would be grateful.

7 MR. SCALES: I will. I will. Had I not  
8 mentioned the Community College though the  
9 President would have shot me in the head.

10 SENATOR GAETZ: There you go.

11 MR. SCALES: With regard to redistricting,  
12 I want to thank the Legislature for providing  
13 this open and transparent process and to give  
14 Florida citizens the opportunity to know how we  
15 feel about redistricting and how we should be  
16 represented in the Florida Senate, the Florida  
17 House and the United States Congress.

18 As you are no doubt aware, Monroe County  
19 and the Florida Keys are different than just  
20 about any other area in the state. If you  
21 don't believe that, I challenge you to walk on  
22 Duval Street tonight at 2:00 a.m. and you will  
23 realize that we are fundamentally different  
24 than most places in the state of Florida.

25 And you will recognize that difference by

1           designating not only Key West, but Monroe  
2           County as an area of critical state concern.

3           You have recognized our unique  
4           significance to the entire state, our historic  
5           cites, our proximity to the largest coral reef  
6           in North America, our unparalleled fishing,  
7           diving and snorkeling opportunities and our  
8           very sensitive and fragile ecosystem.

9           You have also recognized our unique  
10          challenges, our goal for affordable housing,  
11          our staggering windstorm insurance, our  
12          hurricane --

13          SENATOR GAETZ: We got to get it back to  
14          redistricting. Other people wants to speak,  
15          too.

16          MR. SCALES: Against -- against this back  
17          drop, please recognize that the Florida Keys  
18          need a cohesive, single Representative in the  
19          House and the Senate and the United States  
20          Congress.

21          Our geography is not compact as the new  
22          requirements outline, but our issues are unique  
23          and that is why we need the Keys to stay  
24          together in a single House District, a single  
25          Senate District and a single Congressional

1 District.

2 And so I would urge you that in drawing  
3 the maps, please keep the Florida Keys together  
4 and not split them up.

5 Thank you very much for your time.

6 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much,  
7 Mr. Scales. Our next speaker is Terry Griffs,  
8 if I have that correct, and then following  
9 Terry Griffs, Michael Berman from the ACLU.

10 Terry, are you here? I am sorry, you are  
11 not going to speak?

12 Thank you very much for being here in any  
13 case, and if you have any written testimony we  
14 would be happy to take that into the record and  
15 share it with all of the Committee members.

16 Michael Berman from the ACLU.

17 Mr. Berman, thank you for being here and  
18 you are recognized, sir.

19 MR. BERMAN: I am Dr. Michael Berman, Key  
20 west, and actually, I don't think I actually  
21 registered for this as a member of the ACLU.  
22 It has nothing to do with what I am here to say  
23 today.

24 SENATOR GAETZ: It says so right here on  
25 your thing. It says representing ACLU,

1 Florida. If you are not, I apologize.

2 MR. BERMAN: I actually never said that,  
3 but that is okay, I am a proud member of the  
4 ACLU. I am sure many of you on the panel are.

5 I only have a few things to say. Florida  
6 implemented the Fair Districts Amendments  
7 overwhelmingly this past November.

8 The new rules mean that you can't make a  
9 district to favor any political party. I am  
10 troubled that so many of you, of our  
11 Legislators, opposed, fought and continue to  
12 fight these voter approved fair district rules.

13 What steps are you going to take to make  
14 sure the new redistricting rules that are now a  
15 part of our Constitution are followed?

16 It is an insult for the -- to the  
17 democratic process for you to ignore and  
18 continue to fight the results of an election  
19 just because you disagree with the outcome.

20 The Legislature has spent already over a  
21 million dollars and has put aside \$30 million  
22 to fight the overwhelmingly approved Fair  
23 District Amendments.

24 Furthermore, this process today and these  
25 hearings are very troubling. The Legislature

1       has invited the public to comment but gives us  
2       nothing to comment upon.

3               Why does it take you so long to develop  
4       the maps of the new House, the Senate and  
5       congressional Districts? You have had the  
6       information from the census for months.

7               If anyone of us can use the Internet to  
8       create a map, why can't you do it? After all,  
9       we are not the experts. You have consultants.

10              This isn't really a conversation. You  
11      have not said anything and you have given us  
12      nothing to talk about.

13              My understanding is the final outlines of  
14      the new districts will be approved just prior  
15      to the next election, giving the incumbents an  
16      overwhelming advantage.

17              If I want to run for office, when will I  
18      know what district I am in? Thank you.

19              SENATOR GAETZ: And Dr. Berman, thanks for  
20      your testimony and I hope you can stay until  
21      the end of the hearing because I think you will  
22      get some helpful information in answer to your  
23      comments and questions.

24              Robert, is it Cintron?

25              MR. CINTRON: Yes, sir.

1           SENATOR GAETZ: Mr. Cintron, you are next,  
2           and following Mr. Cintron, Ian Whitney who  
3           writes here that he represents the Monroe  
4           County Democratic Executive Committee.

5           Mr. Cintron, thank you for coming, and we  
6           look forward to your testimony.

7           MR. CINTRON: Thank you, sir, and thank  
8           you for being here. My name is Robert Cintron.  
9           I live and work in Key West. I grew up in Key  
10          West.

11          I don't represent anyone but myself here  
12          today, and I want you to know that I have been  
13          a Republican since 1972, when I first was able  
14          to vote, and I have always been a Republican.

15          But as a Republican I do not expect my  
16          party to carve up our state in such a way that  
17          would favor the Republicans over the Democrats,  
18          favor incumbents over other folks.

19          I expect you to draw lines that are fair  
20          and representative of the demographics of the  
21          districts that you, for the lines that you are  
22          going to draw.

23          Many of my friends and colleagues have  
24          said and I have read that this, these  
25          proceedings are nothing more than a horse and

1       pony show, and that you are just going through  
2       the motions to make it appear that this is a  
3       fair process.

4               I don't accept that. The reason I don't  
5       accept that is that hundreds of thousands of  
6       women and men died to preserve our democracy  
7       and they deserve that you all treat this  
8       process with the utmost respect, and in my  
9       estimation, what you are doing is probably the  
10      most fundamental thing that you can do to  
11      preserve this democracy, because if people  
12      believe that districts are being drawn to favor  
13      parties or to ensure that an incumbent is  
14      re-elected, then you are just going to further  
15      damage an already very damaged perception that  
16      people have of our democracy.

17             And I just want to share with you one  
18      story that, an actual story that I was a part  
19      of about ten years ago.

20             A very good friend of mine who happens to  
21      be in this room decided to run for a statewide  
22      office, and I met with a friend of mine who is  
23      in the Florida Legislature who was on Key West  
24      on vacation and I explained to him that this  
25      friend of mine was running for this office, and

1       he laughed and he told me that this friend of  
2       mine had absolutely no prospect of winning the  
3       election.

4               And I asked him why, and he said because  
5       this district was drawn in such a manner that  
6       only a certain type or class of person could be  
7       elected.

8               And it turns out, unfortunately for my  
9       friend, that he lost the election, and that  
10      didn't set very well with me, because it just  
11      doesn't seem right that gerrymandering is used  
12      to protect seats, to favor incumbents and to  
13      help parties maintain their control of the  
14      Legislature and the Senate and the Congress.

15              As you all know, the United States Supreme  
16      Court has said many, many times that you cannot  
17      draw district lines based upon political  
18      considerations such as those.

19              And I would urge you to please, make a  
20      difference and demonstrate to the people of  
21      this state that you are going to do it right  
22      this time and that you are going to draw lines  
23      that are fair and are an accurate reflection of  
24      the demographics of the community.

25              And I once again thank you for the



1 opportunity to speak.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
3 Mr. Cintron. Very excellent testimony.

4 Next, Ian Whitney with the Monroe County  
5 Democratic Executive Committee, and then  
6 following Mr. Whitney, Phillip Schaeffer with  
7 the Monroe County Democratic Executive  
8 Committee and then Constance Gilbert is next  
9 after that.

10 Mr. Whitney, thank you for coming and we  
11 are delighted to have your testimony.

12 MR. WHITNEY: Yes, thank you all for  
13 coming down to Key West. My name is Ian  
14 Whitney. I am the Democratic State Committee  
15 man for the Florida Keys.

16 I would like to just have a disclaimer  
17 first that I would probably say this if  
18 Democrats controlled the Legislature and were  
19 running this meeting right now, because I think  
20 that it would apply.

21 I am somewhat skeptical that public input  
22 is going to really play that much of a role in  
23 this process, because in 2010, I think that the  
24 public made their position on redistricting  
25 extremely clear by passing Amendments 5 and 6.

1           It is -- one distinction that Key West has  
2           other than key lime pie and being a really  
3           popular tourist destination, is that we are  
4           about as far away from Tallahassee as you can  
5           get in the state of Florida, and people down  
6           here just like all across the state think that  
7           Tallahassee is broken.

8           Not because good people aren't sent there,  
9           but because the process is so rigged and the  
10          way that the districts are set up is so rigged  
11          that in many districts across the state  
12          elections turned out to be more formality than  
13          actually an in-depth campaigns of people  
14          competing to win office based on their merits.

15          One thing that I would like to see and  
16          simple, I guess this is my comment. If you  
17          follow the law, if you follow what the  
18          amendments say and speed up the process so that  
19          we know what these districts are further out  
20          before qualifying so that good candidates can  
21          step up and run, then we will have a  
22          Legislature that is more representative of the  
23          people of this state. Thank you.

24          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
25          Mr. Whitney, and next, Phillip Schaeffer, and

1 following Phillip Schaeffer, Constance Gilbert  
2 with the Key West National Organization for  
3 Women.

4 Mr. Schaeffer, thank you for coming and we  
5 look forward to what you have to share with the  
6 Committee.

7 MR. SCHAEFFER: Thank you. I want to join  
8 with Representative Saunders, I am Chairman of  
9 the Monroe County Democratic Executive  
10 Committee and I want to share his welcome to  
11 this distinguished group of visitors to the  
12 Florida Keys. And to follow on Pam Martin's  
13 suggestion, please tip on the high end.

14 My statement actually is simple. I could  
15 reiterate the comments that you have heard  
16 already, but I am not going do.

17 I would simply ask that you do what you  
18 have been sworn to do, and that is follow the  
19 Constitution of the State of Florida.

20 That Constitution has been amended through  
21 Amendments 5 and 6 with the redistricting  
22 guidelines contained therein. The voters  
23 overwhelmingly voted for that. It is now part  
24 of the State Constitution.

25 I hope when you get back to Tallahassee

1       you will address this issue, promptly, fairly  
2       and equitably and get the maps drawn. We will  
3       be watching. Thank you.

4               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
5       Mr. Schaeffer, for your testimony.

6               Next is Constance Gilbert, ready, and then  
7       following Ms. Gilbert, and I apologize if I  
8       butcher this name, Ty Symroski.

9               MS. GILBERT: Perfect.

10              SENATOR GAETZ: Ms. Gilbert, thank you for  
11       coming and the floor is yours.

12              MS. GILBERT: Thank you, sir. I welcome  
13       all of you to Key West. I am -- I was brought  
14       here first in 1944, which is before most of you  
15       were born.

16              I haven't lived here non stop since then,  
17       but I have a good deal of experience in the  
18       last 17 or 18 years, and also in the 60s when I  
19       taught at Miami-Dade then Jr. College, now  
20       Community College, and brought my creative  
21       writing students down to Key West for field  
22       trips.

23              I am thrilled that you are here,  
24       especially those of you who haven't visited us  
25       before, because we are a very, very lovely

1 place to spend some time.

2 Unfortunately, beyond the positive affects  
3 of showing ourselves off to those of you who  
4 have never been here before, I am afraid I have  
5 not been given reason to have faith in the  
6 process that we are now a part of.

7 The National Organization for Women in  
8 Florida were very early and active supporters  
9 of our Amendments 5 and 6. We worked in full  
10 faith that the Legislature would not, in fact,  
11 work against what the will of the voters had  
12 proven itself to be.

13 It is very positive that you are here, but  
14 I am reminded that gerrymandering is  
15 manipulation, and it is discrimination, no  
16 matter which way you cut it. That I am small  
17 and female and right, mostly, and Jewish, is no  
18 reason to believe that I can't vote for someone  
19 who is brown and Christian and male.

20 Leave me to decide, even if in political  
21 parties, I hate to admit it in this company,  
22 but I don't vote a straight ticket. I try very  
23 hard to vote for the best possible candidate.

24 Please respect my intelligence. A very  
25 nice and intelligent gentleman from Key West

1       named Chris Belland, writes a column in the Key  
2       West Citizen, and a couple of times over the  
3       last months he has pointed out that statesmen  
4       look forward to the next generation.  
5       Politicians look forward to the next election.

6             It is up to you to prove my discomfort  
7       wrong. I hope you will. Thank you very much.

8             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
9       Ms. Gilbert, for your testimony.

10            Ty, Ty Symroski, if I got that right.

11            MR. SYMROSKI: Very.

12            SENATOR GAETZ: Then Kimberly Sloan, who  
13       writes here that she represents the ACLU.  
14       Mr. Symroski.

15            MR. SYMROSKI: Yes, thank you very much  
16       for coming here. My name is Ty Symroski and I  
17       am a resident of Key West, and again, thank you  
18       for, ladies and gentlemen of our government to  
19       come here. It is great to see the government  
20       can make a house call once in a while. So  
21       thank you very much for coming here.

22            I would like to reiterate both the  
23       comments of Ed Scales, as well as Robert  
24       Cintron, to recognize, as you are looking at  
25       these boundaries, to recognize that the Florida

1       Keys have been designated as an area of  
2       critical state concern.

3               This entails a great deal of  
4       responsibility and partnership with the state  
5       to administer and address these very unique  
6       issues that we have down here.

7               These issues include the endangered  
8       species that we have down here. Its very  
9       strange aspects of affordable housing, and, of  
10      course, certain --

11              SENATOR GAETZ: Mr. Symroski, to make it  
12      more comfortable, President Margolis suggests  
13      that maybe you manipulate the microphone so you  
14      don't have to bend over.

15              MR. SYMROSKI: Thank you, thank you very  
16      much.

17              SENATOR GAETZ: She is a nice lady. She  
18      is thinking of your best interest.

19              MR. SYMROSKI: Thank you very much. So we  
20      need a -- and we have a very, at this time of  
21      the year we are all very aware of hurricane  
22      evacuation. So we, as you draw these  
23      boundaries I hope you will be aware that we  
24      need that cohesive representativeness of  
25      interests and the people that are going to be

1 responsible for implementing the area of  
2 critical state concern, crafting the local  
3 response, and will bear the results of that.

4 So as you draw these boundaries I hope you  
5 will recognize that we are unique down here.  
6 We have a unique responsibility and we need  
7 that cohesiveness to address that and to make  
8 sure that we have the best Representative that  
9 we can that can speak fully to those issues.

10 So thank you again very much for coming  
11 here.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir,  
13 for your testimony. Next is Kimberly Sloan  
14 here?

15 MS. SLOAN: Yes.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Ms. Sloan, representing  
17 the ACLU, and then Elissa Bishop-Becker is  
18 next, and then Doctor, Reverend Doctor Randolph  
19 Becker follows Ms. Bishop-Becker.

20 You are recognized, Ms. Sloan, and thank  
21 you for taking time to come and share your  
22 views.

23 MS. SLOAN: Thank you, and just so it is  
24 clear, I am also with the Democratic Executive  
25 Committee, and thank you all for being here and



1           for hearing our comments.

2           One thing I wanted to point out and  
3           something that I desperately hope that you all  
4           address is why it is at this point we are  
5           having an invitation for the public to comment.

6           I mean, that is something that we did  
7           already. The people of this state have voted  
8           on this. They approved this. We stood out on  
9           street corners, we got signatures. We typed  
10          our Facebook accounts away.

11          We did everything that we could to get  
12          this passed and it is passed, and so why are we  
13          still here talking generally about the  
14          redistricting issue?

15          Why don't we have maps? Why don't we have  
16          something more at this point to talk about?  
17          Why is it being stalled? Why do we have  
18          attorneys working to fight this?

19          That is from where I sit, what it exactly  
20          looks like, that we are fighting the whole  
21          redistricting movement. The people of this  
22          state have spoken and they said that they don't  
23          want gerrymandering. We want more equitable  
24          districts. When are we going to see movement  
25          in that direction?

1           In addition, I am a government employee,  
2           and I have recently had my pay cut by three  
3           percent. So why is it that we are funding  
4           attorneys millions of dollars in order to go  
5           against something that the people of this state  
6           have spoken and voted on and said that they  
7           wanted, and I want to know why, specifically  
8           what steps you all are taking to implement  
9           these redistricting amendments. Thank you.

10           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, thank you,  
11           Ms. Sloan, and if you can stay until the end of  
12           the hearing I think we will be able to provide  
13           you with some -- with some background on your  
14           questions. Elissa Bishop-Becker. Come on  
15           down.

16           MS. BISHOP-BECKER: Hello.

17           SENATOR GAETZ: If you need to adjust the  
18           microphone, ma'am, feel free. We are delighted  
19           to have your testimony.

20           MS. BISHOP-BECKER: Do you think I do?

21           SENATOR GAETZ: You don't. You are  
22           sounding great to us.

23           MS. BISHOP-BECKER: Thank you so much.

24           All right, that is all.

25           SENATOR GAETZ: No, no, no. We are not

1           letting you off that easy.

2           MS. BISHOP-BECKER:   Okay, first of all, I  
3           want to thank you all for coming here, but I  
4           have to tell you, I am a little bit puzzled as  
5           to the purpose of this whole process.

6           I heard, I just got here so I didn't hear  
7           anybody before me, but I just heard someone say  
8           something similar.

9           First of all, we are very happy with our  
10          Representative from Key West, but it seems to  
11          me like a very strange process and one that I  
12          don't really trust.

13          We have already told you, as that woman  
14          before me said what we wanted, with -- as  
15          expressed by our votes for overwhelming votes  
16          for Amendments 5 and 6.

17          And now, and you have joined in a lawsuit  
18          as intervenors which is just another word for  
19          plaintiff, in a lawsuit to fight Amendments 5  
20          and 6 that we voted for, to fight the will of  
21          the people, and now you are coming to listen to  
22          us to find out what we want.

23          We have already told you what we want. I  
24          don't know how I can trust that you are going  
25          to listen to us. It seems like a sham to be

1           totally honest.

2           It seems, and the fact that you are using  
3           our money to fight against us is just wrong,  
4           and really, I have heard the arguments. I have  
5           heard the denials. I have heard this is  
6           bi-partisan.

7           I really don't care if it is bi-partisan.  
8           It is wrong, and that is what I have to say.

9           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you for your  
10          testimony. And next, Reverend Doctor Randolph  
11          Becker and we have just heard from your boss,  
12          Reverend, so --

13          REVEREND BECKER: I had better concur.

14          SENATOR GAETZ: I would suggest that you  
15          may want to stay within the lines, Pastor.

16          REVEREND BECKER: Yes.

17          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you for being here.

18          REVEREND BECKER: Glad to be here, and  
19          besides looking at the immediate issues of what  
20          is before you, which is the implementation of a  
21          referendum that has overwhelmingly passed, the  
22          question is how are you going to do that, not  
23          are you going to do it.

24          I will tell you what I am looking for. I  
25          am looking for a rational, logical algorithm, a

1        model, a systematic model that can be applied  
2        within the state, and there are many  
3        mathematical models that could be used that  
4        have no relationship to any partisan politics.

5            A model that say begins with the four  
6        corners and the 11 population centers of the  
7        state and using ZIP codes, all of the  
8        statistical areas. Maps out new districts  
9        based upon the number you want to get to in  
10       each district.

11           Doing some model like that that is not  
12       based on who wants this territory or who wants  
13       that, we could get to a model that could stand  
14       for a long period of time, no matter who is in  
15       control of the various houses of government,  
16       and I don't hear that happening.

17           I am hearing plans being made for how we  
18       are going to work all of this out, but there  
19       are within higher mathematical operations, ways  
20       this could all be figured that would take it  
21       out of the political realm, and I think that is  
22       what the people asked for, that it is not be a  
23       political operation, but rather be a simple  
24       statistical, it is actually a geographic  
25       operation that could be taken care of by

1 computers easily using already established  
2 lines such as ZIP codes.

3 So you wouldn't divide neighborhoods, you  
4 wouldn't divide certain areas, but there would  
5 logically go together based upon that model and  
6 not upon the manipulation of the people.

7 I hope you will find some model that  
8 doesn't reflect personality, but rather  
9 reflects values. Thank you.

10 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
11 pastor. Now, we have had excellent testimony  
12 up to this point, but we have had fewer people  
13 sign up to testify at this hearing than at any  
14 of the other hearings so far, and I am sure  
15 that is not because we lack ideas or opinions  
16 or points of view.

17 So if there is anyone else who did not  
18 sign up to speak who would like to sign up to  
19 speak, we will pause for a moment if anybody  
20 else has had the spirit move them.

21 If not we will go to Committee members for  
22 their comments and observations and then to  
23 Speaker Weatherford. Anybody else that we have  
24 missed?

25 Okay, if no one else has any public

1 testimony, let's turn first to members of the  
2 House of Representatives Redistricting  
3 Committee to ask if any would like to share any  
4 observations, make any comments or if they have  
5 any plans or proposals to present.

6 Any members?

7 Then let's go to members of the Senate who  
8 are here. Any comments or questions? If the  
9 spirit moves any of you we may come back to you  
10 as well.

11 Speaker Weatherford, thank you for taking  
12 notes during the meeting. There were a number  
13 of very good questions that were asked and  
14 points that were made that call out for  
15 information.

16 Daniel Patrick Moynihan, that great  
17 Democratic Senator said everyone is entitled to  
18 their opinion but not everyone is entitled to  
19 their own set of facts.

20 So we are going to try to lay out some  
21 information so that at least we may leave here  
22 with a similar set of facts.

23 Let me start with a historical analysis  
24 that we learned from a member of the Democratic  
25 Executive Committee in Alachua County up in

1           Gainesville who also happens to be a teacher.

2           And he testified and explained the history  
3           of gerrymandering. I thought it started with  
4           the Governor Eldridge Gary of Massachusetts,  
5           but according to the testimony we received in  
6           Gainesville, it was actually Patrick Henry.

7           Patrick Henry was trying to make sure that  
8           James Madison didn't get elected to the  
9           Virginia House of Burgesses, and so therefore,  
10          he gerrymandered poor James Madison, and as a  
11          consequence, all of this got started with, give  
12          me liberty or give me death. So it has a -- it  
13          has a rich historical precedent.

14          With that, Mr. Speaker, you are  
15          recognized.

16          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
17          very much, and as the Chairman and many members  
18          of this Committee recognize, when you put a  
19          microphone in front of me, the spirit always  
20          moves me, and I feel compelled to speak.

21          And so I did very copious notes and I want  
22          to thank everybody for taking the opportunity  
23          to come out here and to share with us your  
24          views and to give us your perspective on  
25          redistricting.



1           And there is a couple of things I would  
2           like to touch on, Mr. Chairman, if that is  
3           okay. I am going to try not to take up too  
4           much time and let people get home.

5           The first thing is that we hear a lot of  
6           the same comments when we are on the road and  
7           when we are going from town to town and county  
8           to county and sometimes rumors get into the  
9           blood stream, and certain comments continuously  
10          get made, although we have pointed out some  
11          facts otherwise.

12          And so I wanted to try to fix some of  
13          those and I know some folks also have talking  
14          points that may not have been amended since  
15          some of the facts have come out, so I want to  
16          address those as well.

17          The first one of that is the timeline, the  
18          issue of the timeline, and people have said  
19          that, you know, maybe we should be like  
20          Illinois or one of the other seven or eight  
21          states that were mentioned earlier.

22          Well, there is a reason that we are not  
23          done with redistricting, and it is very simple.  
24          The first reason is because we are one of the  
25          last states, not the last state but one of the

1 last states to get our census data.

2 We got it back in, I believe it was April  
3 or late March, while we were in the middle of  
4 session and most states got it much earlier  
5 than that.

6 For example, the state of Virginia, the  
7 state of Louisiana, the state of Mississippi,  
8 they have elections this November. So they got  
9 their census data long before we did and drew  
10 their maps long before we did, because they had  
11 elections in about three and-a-half months,  
12 whereas ours aren't until November 12.

13 And so there is a reason other states are  
14 ahead of us. I want to make sure no one is  
15 misled by that.

16 The other thing is, and I think this is  
17 important to point out as well, and that is  
18 that if the timeline which was so important  
19 which we are now hearing about every hearing  
20 that we go to, it would have been nice if the  
21 Fair District folks would have put that into  
22 the Constitution, because they could have  
23 easily added that to the Constitutional  
24 Amendments, Amendments 5 and 6 and asked for a  
25 specific timeline, because currently the reason

1       we are on the current timeline that we are on  
2       is because the Constitution of the State of  
3       Florida says we cannot vote for legislative  
4       maps until the session in 2012.

5             And ladies and gentlemen, let me tell you  
6       what we have done so that we can vote on them  
7       as quickly as we possibly can.

8             We normally have session in March of 2012  
9       or March of any year, it is actually the first  
10      Tuesday of March, and what we did was we moved  
11      it up by two months and so we are actually  
12      going to meet for session in January, the first  
13      week of January just so we can make sure and  
14      past maps out as quickly as possible, get them  
15      into the courts and good into the process so  
16      people can qualify and know the districts that  
17      they are running for.

18            So for those who say that we are slowing  
19      the process down. There is nothing that could  
20      be further from the truth. In fact, we are  
21      moving very quickly and we have done so much as  
22      to move our session ahead by 60 days.

23            The other thing I want to point out is  
24      because of the Constitutional requirement that  
25      we can't vote on maps until the session, what

1 we are doing this summer is we are spending the  
2 summer months, June, July and August on the  
3 road and listening to you, and it would be  
4 really easy for me to sit in the Ivory Tower or  
5 any member of this Committee to sit in  
6 Tallahassee and to try to draw maps for the  
7 entire State of Florida, but if you have never  
8 been to those communities, if you have never  
9 sat across from the citizens eyeball to eyeball  
10 and had a chance to hear from them and hear  
11 from people like Ed Scales who talk about the  
12 uniqueness of the Florida Keys, then we  
13 wouldn't really understand what we are doing  
14 and what we are drawing.

15 So the reason we are on this tour, the  
16 reason we are going to 26 different locations  
17 all over the state of Florida, starting in  
18 Pensacola and ending here, is just for that  
19 reason. So we can see the community you live  
20 in, we can understand the uniqueness and the  
21 communities of interest, we can understand what  
22 you think about your district, about your  
23 community, and I think that is why we are doing  
24 it the way that we are.

25 The other thing that we have heard a lot

1       about or we hear the same question everywhere  
2       we go. There are several people who get up and  
3       say, where are the maps, why hasn't the  
4       Legislature shown us the maps.

5               And there is a chicken versus the egg  
6       debate taking place. If the Legislature would  
7       have drawn the maps first and then showed up  
8       and said, here is our maps, here are the  
9       districts we have drawn for ourselves, what do  
10      you think.

11             Most people would have said it was a sham,  
12      that clearly the Legislature had already made  
13      its decision and that we have already drawn the  
14      maps for ourselves and that we are wasting  
15      everybody's time and why are we even here.

16             Instead, for the first time since I have  
17      been in the Legislature, the Legislature is  
18      actually listening first, and we are coming to  
19      you first and listening to you before we draw  
20      the first line.

21             And frankly, I wish, Mr. Chairman, we  
22      would do that on more issues. I think we are  
23      usually criticized when we say we have passed  
24      bad policy or people accuse us of passing bad  
25      policy, it is usually because they say were

1           rushing too quickly.

2           And one thing I can tell you about this  
3           process is that we are not rushing, we are  
4           being deliberate, but we are also being very  
5           sensitive to the timeline that is before us.

6           Another issue that is very important in  
7           regards to the maps is that Ellen Freidin, who  
8           is the Chairwoman of Fair Districts, she was  
9           the woman who was behind the Amendments 5 and  
10          6, funded them from the very beginning,  
11          supported them, was the face of the entire  
12          organization.

13          She testified before a Joint House and  
14          Senate Committee in Tallahassee over a year ago  
15          and specifically said to us that she would not  
16          even attempt to draw the first map until she  
17          went and heard from the citizens of the public.

18          She specifically said that, and we agree  
19          with Ms. Freidin and we agree with the leader  
20          of Fair Districts and that is why we are doing  
21          this.

22          The other thing is, when people ask about  
23          the maps, there are 32 maps that have already  
24          been submitted, most of them are actually out  
25          in the foyer there.

1           We hope you look at those. Those are  
2           actually the maps that we are looking at.  
3           Those are the starting point. We are allowing  
4           the citizens of Florida to start this  
5           conversation and draw maps and submit maps to  
6           us to give us ideas.

7           There was a comment made by a gentleman by  
8           Mr. Berman who asked how would -- how would you  
9           know as a candidate what seat you are going to  
10          be running for with all of the kind of  
11          confusion that he had talked about.

12          And I just want to point out and be very  
13          clear, there shouldn't be any confusion,  
14          because what will happen is, we will go into  
15          session, we will pass maps during session. The  
16          Attorney General's Office has 15 days to then  
17          submit those maps to the Florida Supreme Court.  
18          These are the legislative maps.

19          Those maps will go before the Supreme  
20          Court and the Supreme Court has 30 days to make  
21          a decision and to tell us what they are going  
22          to do, approve or what-not, and then it goes to  
23          the Department of Justice, and the Justice then  
24          has 60 days to make a decision and to pre-clear  
25          those maps.

1           And so there is a very clear line and if  
2           anyone wants that information, it is on the  
3           websites, and if you have that brochure, keep  
4           it, go online, study it, it should not be that  
5           confusing.

6           There is a very clear way to know what  
7           seats you are going to be running in and how to  
8           follow the process.

9           The fourth thing, and this has been  
10          brought up quite a bit today as well, is in  
11          regard to the lawsuits and litigation,  
12          Mr. Chairman.

13          This also seems to come up quite a bit and  
14          I want to make sure that I clarify a few  
15          things.

16          There is litigation that is going on. The  
17          Congresswoman from Northeast Florida,  
18          Congresswoman, Corrine Brown, a Democrat, and a  
19          Republican, Mario Diaz-Balart, from Miami, both  
20          filed litigation.

21          That litigation has nothing to do with  
22          legislative maps. It has nothing to do with  
23          the map of the seat that I am running for. It  
24          has nothing to do with the map that Senator  
25          Gaetz is running for.



1           It only deals with Congressional maps, and  
2           for those who say that the Legislature or there  
3           is a lawsuit involved with Legislators fighting  
4           against the Constitutional Amendment that deals  
5           with legislative maps, it is not true. There  
6           is no litigation. That does not exist.

7           There is litigation that is taking place  
8           on the Congressional maps and what I will tell  
9           you is that myself as Chairman of this  
10          Committee and Co-Chair with Senator Don Gaetz,  
11          we swear every two years to uphold the  
12          Constitution of the United States and of the  
13          State of Florida.

14          And that means that we are going to follow  
15          Amendments 5 and 6, and we will follow them to  
16          the letter of the law and we will make sure  
17          that they are upheld and that they are  
18          respected. That is our job and we will make  
19          sure and do that.

20          Also we hear a lot about that the  
21          Legislature has stored away money, \$20 or \$30  
22          million to fight these amendments which I just  
23          clarified, to fight the amendment.

24          I want to clarify that as well. That is  
25          not true. There was an article written about

1       it and it is one of those things that got in  
2       the blood stream and so we hear it over and  
3       over.

4               There is no \$20 or \$30 million that is  
5       dedicated to fighting these lawsuits. It is  
6       not true, and frankly, if you don't believe me,  
7       you can go to Transparency Florida.gov,  
8       Transparency Florida.gov is a website where you  
9       can track money that is being spent at the  
10      state level in the Legislature.

11             I hope you will follow that. I hope you  
12      will look at it and hold me accountable if what  
13      I am saying is not true.

14             Mr. Chairman, I also want to point out  
15      lastly that any member of this Committee can  
16      submit any map or any plan to this Committee or  
17      to the Legislature at any time, and as you have  
18      stated before, if anyone in the Senate submits  
19      a map, you will have it heard in the very first  
20      Committee hearing in September, and I think  
21      that the Florida House would be willing to do  
22      the same.

23             So we encourage members of the public to  
24      continue to work with us, follow this process.

25             There is a lot of misinformation out there. If

1       you have questions, please follow up with us.  
2       There is many ways to communicate with our  
3       offices and please visit our websites and learn  
4       more about what we are doing.

5               We are honored to be here today in the  
6       beautiful part and unique part of our state. I  
7       hope you learned a little bit of something  
8       about this process.

9               We have certainly learned a lot about your  
10      community and we appreciate your time.

11              Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Speaker  
13      Weatherford. This is not your last time to  
14      have input to this process. Instead, it is  
15      your first opportunity.

16              There will be other opportunities as well.  
17      There was an individual who asked whether or  
18      not there would be votes in the Legislature  
19      that would not be in public.

20              The fact is that there won't be and there  
21      can't be, it would be a violation of the law  
22      and anybody who tried to vote on a matter like  
23      this without doing it in a public hearing and  
24      first taking public testimony, would be in  
25      serious legal trouble and probably lose their

1 jobs.

2 So the other commitment we can make to you  
3 is, if after tonight and tomorrow or the next  
4 day or the day after that, you have decided  
5 that while we did hear some general comments  
6 tonight about the process, frankly, we didn't  
7 hear too many comments tonight about one of the  
8 questions that is really important to the Keys.

9 And that is, as Speaker Weatherford  
10 indicated at the beginning, because the Keys  
11 doesn't have enough population for a Senate  
12 Seat or a Congressional Seat, or a State House  
13 Seat, the real question is, what part of South  
14 Florida do you believe constitutes a community  
15 of interest for you to be attached to for those  
16 districts.

17 And so if later an idea comes to you or a  
18 proposal comes to you we are very interested.  
19 You can contact us online. You can contact us  
20 by mail. Leader Saunders is right here in this  
21 community. You can contact him face to face  
22 and share your views or share your proposals or  
23 suggestions.

24 And again, we commit to you that no  
25 decision will be made on any map even in the

1           Committee that is not made in public taking  
2           public testimony ahead of time with you being  
3           able to see how every single member of the  
4           Legislature votes.

5                   And with that Representative Weatherford  
6           moves we rise.

7                   (Whereupon, the proceedings were  
8           concluded.)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )

3 COUNTY OF LEON )

4 I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript  
5 is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned,  
6 and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting  
7 under my direction;

8 That the foregoing pages 2 through 64 represent  
9 a true, correct, and complete transcript of the tape-  
10 recording;

11 And I further certify that I am not of kin or  
12 counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the  
13 regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor  
14 am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

15 Dated this 1st day of November, 2011.

16

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19

\_\_\_\_\_  
CLARA C. ROTRUCK

20

Notary Public

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State of Florida at Large

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Commission Expires:

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November 13, 2014

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REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

11

MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2011

12

4:00 P.M.

13

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY COMMISSION

14

TAMPA, FLORIDA

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Transcribed by:

22

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

23

Court Reporter

24

25

1 T A P E D P R O C E E D I N G S

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you all. The Joint  
3 Senate/House Redistricting Hearing is called to  
4 order. We are pleased to be joined today by a  
5 number of members of the House of  
6 Representatives and the Senate who serve on the  
7 House Redistricting Committee and the Senate  
8 Reapportionment Committee, and in a moment, I  
9 will ask them to briefly give their name and  
10 the part of the state that they represent so  
11 that you will know who you are speaking to.

12 We want to thank Hillsborough County  
13 Public Schools and particularly Jefferson High  
14 School.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Florida state  
16 champs.

17 SENATOR GAETZ: Yes, the last year  
18 state -- state high school football champions.  
19 And Speaker Weatherford just told me they beat  
20 his brother's team, so you all can take great  
21 pride in that.

22 We want to thank the Hillsborough County  
23 Public Schools and Jefferson High School for  
24 allowing us to be here today and to use their  
25 facility.



1           Thank you all for coming here, especially  
2           those of you who have come to share your  
3           comments and your recommendations to help shape  
4           congressional, Senate and House districts for  
5           the next decade.

6           My name is Don Gaetz. I am a State  
7           Senator. I represent northwest Florida's Gulf  
8           Coast from Pensacola to Panama City, and along  
9           with my colleague to my left, State  
10          Representative Will Weatherford, who is the  
11          Speaker Designate of the Florida House of  
12          Representatives, I will be chairing today's  
13          meeting, which is being webcast statewide by  
14          the Florida Channel over the Internet.

15          And let's now go, if we can, to each  
16          member and ask them to indicate their name and  
17          indicate what part of the state they represent.  
18          Why don't we begin with Senator Joyner.

19          SENATOR JOYNER: Thank you, Senator Gaetz.  
20          My name is Arthenia Joyner, I am State Senator,  
21          District 18, encompassing portions of  
22          Hillsborough, Pinellas and Manatee Counties.

23          SENATOR LATVALA: Hi, I am Jack Latvala.  
24          I represent Senate District 16, which is  
25          Hillsborough and Pinellas.

1           REPRESENTATIVE BURGIN: Hello, I am State  
2           Representative Rachel Burgin, representing the  
3           City of Tampa and eastern Hillsborough County,  
4           District 56.

5           SENATOR NORMAN: I am Senator Jim Norman,  
6           I represent north Hillsborough County and about  
7           two-thirds of Pasco County in Senate District  
8           12.

9           SENATOR DETERT: Good afternoon. I am  
10          Nancy Detert, State Senate District 23. I  
11          represent a portion of Manatee, 70 percent of  
12          Sarasota County and about 25 percent of  
13          Charlotte County.

14          SENATOR STORMS: She is just trying to  
15          impress you with math.

16          I am Senator Ronda Storms, and I represent  
17          eastern Hillsborough County, I represent a  
18          little bit of Polk County and a little bit of  
19          Pasco County, Zephyrhills, and if you know  
20          where Publix is in Polk County, Wabash, around  
21          that area, a little bit around there, and then  
22          most of eastern Hillsborough County.

23          SENATOR NEGRON: Joe Negron, I represent  
24          the Treasure Coast on the east side of Florida,  
25          Martin, St. Lucie, and Palm Beach Counties,

1           also a little bit of Okeechobee as well.

2           REPRESENTATIVE McKEEL: I am Seth McKeel.

3           I represent parts of Polk and Hillsborough  
4           Counties. I am not on the redistricting  
5           committee, but I Chair the Hillsborough  
6           delegation and certainly am interested in the  
7           conversation. Thank you.

8           REPRESENTATIVE ALBRITTON: Hi, my name is  
9           Ben Albritton. I represent in the Florida  
10          House southern Polk, all of Hardee County and  
11          northwestern Highlands.

12          REPRESENTATIVE STARGEL: I am  
13          Representative Kelli Stargel, I represent north  
14          Polk County.

15          REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Good afternoon, my  
16          name is Dwayne Taylor. I serve in the House of  
17          Representatives, House District 27, and that is  
18          the other end of I-4 in Volusia County.

19          REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Good afternoon,  
20          John Patrick Julien representing House District  
21          104, which is in Miami-Dade County, encompasses  
22          North Miami Beach, North Miami, Miami Gardens,  
23          Opa-Locka, City of Miami, Hialeah and  
24          unincorporated Miami-Dade. It is a pleasure to  
25          be here.

1           REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: Thank you. I am  
2           Dennis Baxley, serving the Florida House from  
3           Ocala and Marion County, thank you.

4           REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Mike Horner,  
5           representing District 79 in central Florida.

6           REPRESENTATIVE ADKINS: Hi, I am Janet  
7           Adkins, representing House District 12, which  
8           is Nassau, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Union and  
9           Duval Counties.

10          REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Mack Bernard,  
11          State Representative, District 84, West Palm  
12          Beach, Florida.

13          REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Peter Nehr, State  
14          Representative, north Pinellas County and Pasco  
15          County.

16          REPRESENTATIVE CAMPBELL: Daphne Campbell,  
17          District 108, Miami-Dade County.

18          REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Hazelle Rogers,  
19          Representative from Broward County, one of the  
20          most diverse counties in the state of Florida,  
21          representing approximately 1.8 million people,  
22          and it is good to be here, District 94.

23          REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS: Good afternoon.  
24          My name is Representative Alan Williams. It is  
25          great to be here with my good friend, Gershom

1 Faulkner, I see out there. And I represent the  
2 Tallahassee and Gadsden County, and it is great  
3 to be here in the birthplace of my father,  
4 Leroy Williams, in Tampa.

5 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Good  
6 afternoon. I am State Representative Gwyndolen  
7 Clarke-Reed, representing House District 92,  
8 northeast Broward County, representing seven  
9 cities: Deerfield Beach, Pompano Beach,  
10 Oakland Park, Wilton Manors, Ft. Lauderdale, a  
11 little bit of Tamarac and a little bit of North  
12 Lauderdale. Thank you.

13 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Hello, everybody.  
14 My name is Martin Kiar, and I represent  
15 District 97 in the Florida House, which is  
16 located solely within Broward County. And I  
17 have to tell you, this is my first time back to  
18 Tampa after taking the Florida Bar exam, and  
19 this is a much better experience, so I am  
20 happier now. Thank you.

21 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Good afternoon, I  
22 am Doug Holder. I represent House District 70,  
23 which is all within Sarasota County, south  
24 Sarasota County.

25 REPRESENTATIVE HOOPER: Hello, I am Ed

1       Hooper, representing House District 50, which  
2       is central Pinellas County.

3               REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT:   Good afternoon,  
4       I am Chuck Chestnut, House District 23, a  
5       portion of Marion County and a portion of  
6       Alachua County.

7               REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE:   Good afternoon, I  
8       am State Representative Jim Frishe from  
9       Pinellas County.  I represent the beaches on  
10      the west edge.

11              REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO:   Kathleen  
12      Passidomo, House District 76, which is Collier  
13      County, City of Naples, Marco Island and  
14      Everglades City.  Thank you.

15              REPRESENTATIVE TRUJILLO:   Good afternoon,  
16      my name is Carlos Trujillo.  I represent  
17      District 116, which is West Kendall and  
18      southwest Miami-Dade County.

19              REPRESENTATIVE FULLWOOD:   Good afternoon,  
20      Reggie Fullwood.  I represent District 15,  
21      Jacksonville, Florida.

22              REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON:   Good afternoon,  
23      welcome to Tampa.  I am Shawn Harrison, I  
24      represent northern Hillsborough County, the  
25      City of Temple Terrace, Lutz and New Tampa.

1           REPRESENTATIVE SMITH: Hello, Jimmie  
2       Smith. I represent District 43, Citrus, Levy  
3       and Hernando County.

4           REPRESENTATIVE FORD: Representative Clay  
5       Ford from Pensacola. Like Marty Kiar, I lived  
6       here about a week while I was prepping for the  
7       Florida Bar, and this is a way better  
8       experience, I agree with Marty.

9           REPRESENTATIVE REED: Good afternoon, my  
10      name is Betty Reed, and I represent the eastern  
11      part of Hillsborough County. And I thank each  
12      one of you for being here today.

13          REPRESENTATIVE CRUZ: Good afternoon, my  
14      name is Janet Cruz, and I represent District  
15      58, and I want to tell you welcome to District  
16      58, because you are sitting in my district.  
17      District 58 is here, West Tampa. This is  
18      Lincoln Gardens, Carver City, West Tampa, the  
19      eastern part of Town and Country and a little  
20      piece that runs out into the Busch Gardens  
21      area, but thanks for being here today.

22          REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Good afternoon, I am  
23      Jim Boyd, District 68, which is western Manatee  
24      County and northwest Hillsborough County,  
25      including the beautiful Egmont Key.

1           REPRESENTATIVE YOUNG: Hi, everyone, and  
2           thanks for coming. I am State Representative  
3           Dana Young, and I represent South Tampa all the  
4           way up to Westchase. And looking out here, I  
5           see many, many of my constituents, and I am so  
6           grateful that you are here to share your views  
7           with us, so thanks for coming.

8           SENATOR GAETZ: I thank that -- does that  
9           take into account everybody who is here?  
10          Representative Richard Corcoran is here.  
11          Representative Corcoran, would you wave? We  
12          are delighted to have you here as well.

13          Our purpose today, ladies and gentlemen,  
14          is to hear from the public about how you  
15          believe the legal standards governing  
16          redistricting, the state, federal redistricting  
17          standards, ought to be applied in your  
18          community so that you are ably represented in  
19          Washington and Tallahassee fairly, equitably  
20          and sensibly.

21          Our procedures today are simple, but  
22          important. It is important that you sign in so  
23          that we can create an accurate public record of  
24          all attendees and speakers, and also you may  
25          opt to join our e-mail list so that we can keep



1       you informed about how the redistricting  
2       process is proceeding. If you have not signed  
3       in, please raise your hand, and a staff member  
4       will give you an attendance card. It is the  
5       same card if you wish to speak. If when you  
6       came in you did not get a chance to sign a  
7       card, and you wish to speak, raise your hand,  
8       and we will get a card to you, because we don't  
9       want to miss your testimony. There is a young  
10      lady -- two young ladies up there, and a  
11      gentleman in the center, another gentleman  
12      about in the middle. If you will just keep  
13      your hands up, we promise to get you a card.

14             Before we begin, the Chair recognizes the  
15      Speaker Designate of the Florida House,  
16      Representative Weatherford, to explain how  
17      today's hearing fits into the redistricting  
18      process and timeline.

19             Mr. Speaker.

20             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
21      very much, Chairman Gaetz, and we welcome all  
22      the members. A great turnout today to hear  
23      from folks from Tampa Bay.

24             I want to walk through really quickly,  
25      Mr. Chairman, if I could, just the process that

1       we are here to do and what we hope to achieve  
2       by the end of this evening.

3               Every ten years, it is required that the  
4       Legislature, by our Constitution, to redistrict  
5       the state based off of increases, decreases and  
6       movements in population. Because Florida has  
7       grown more than most states over the last ten  
8       years, we have moved up from 25 congressional  
9       seats to 27 congressional seats. Because some  
10      parts of our state have increased or decreased  
11      disproportionately in population, many Senate  
12      and House districts will change, either adding  
13      or losing in population.

14             When redistricting is completed,  
15      congressional districts must equal in  
16      population 696,345 people, the 40 Senate  
17      districts must be nearly equal and have 470,000  
18      people, and our 120 House seats around the  
19      state must also be nearly equal at 156,700  
20      people.

21             We have had displays up at the front  
22      before you came in the room showing the current  
23      boundaries -- I guess we have them at the front  
24      of this room. We have displays on the front of  
25      the room showing the current boundaries of the

1 districts in this part of the state and the  
2 number of persons which must be added or  
3 subtracted from each state. So feel free at  
4 any point during the hearing to walk down there  
5 and take a closer look.

6 Equality of representation is not the only  
7 legal requirement that redistricting must meet,  
8 and that is very important. The laws and the  
9 important court cases governing redistricting  
10 are explained in detail on the House and Senate  
11 websites. Those websites are listed on the  
12 "Redistricting 2012" brochure that was  
13 available when you came in. Our "Redistricting  
14 2012" brochure summarizes both federal and  
15 state laws, and it outlines the topics that we  
16 hope that you will share with us today. If you  
17 did not get a copy of that brochure when you  
18 came in, please raise your hand, and we will  
19 make sure and get you a copy while you are  
20 sitting here this evening. Keep your hand up  
21 just like we did with the sign-in sheet,  
22 there's a lot of folks, so we will get you that  
23 brochure and I will just keep moving.

24 The brochure also lists the House and  
25 Senate websites. The websites are packed with

1 information about redistricting in Florida,  
2 including explanation of the laws and the  
3 important court cases governing redistricting.  
4 These two websites are complementary and  
5 updated frequently. Visit them both and please  
6 check back often as current and new maps come  
7 into place and are submitted for your viewing  
8 pleasure.

9 The websites also are delivered to your  
10 fingertips all of the demographic information  
11 that will be used in drawing the districts and  
12 the exact same computer programs that  
13 legislators and professional staff will use in  
14 Tallahassee when we go to draw maps. Any  
15 member of the public can participate in  
16 building plans or seeing maps submitted by  
17 legislators or other citizens.

18 Before, during and after this hearing,  
19 Senate and House professional staff are  
20 available to show anyone the simple steps in  
21 going on-line, building districts and  
22 submitting a plan. So when you walk out these  
23 doors, we will have staff out there throughout  
24 the entire meeting and even after the meeting  
25 to help you, show you how to draw maps

1           yourselves.

2           Recommendations from citizens and groups  
3           of citizens will be made publicly available  
4           immediately, and, in fact, as of this morning,  
5           we have had 48 public submissions of partial or  
6           complete maps and many other written ideas for  
7           maps available on the Web.

8           The submission of these proposed maps that  
9           makes sense for your community is the single  
10          most effective way for you to participate in  
11          the redistricting process. I will say that  
12          again. The submission of proposed maps that  
13          makes sense for your community is the single  
14          most effective way for you to participate in  
15          the redistricting process.

16          The schedule under which we are operating  
17          is imposed by the State Constitution, and I  
18          want to be clear about that. The Constitution  
19          does not permit us to act on legislative maps  
20          before the second year after the census, and  
21          what that means is before 2012. Now, we have  
22          accelerated the process as much as we possibly  
23          can by moving the session up, which is normally  
24          in March, up until the first week of January in  
25          2012.

1           It has also been suggested that the  
2       Legislature should draw maps first and then ask  
3       the public to comment. We believe that puts --  
4       I am almost through, ladies and gentlemen. Let  
5       me get through. We believe, both Chairman  
6       Gaetz and I and many others believe that puts  
7       the answer ahead of the question. In fact, a  
8       principal author of the Florida's new  
9       redistricting standards and the Chairperson for  
10      Fair Districts campaign are both on record and  
11      in agreement with us that the notion that they  
12      would not even attempt to draw maps until they  
13      heard from the public first. The lady who  
14      actually said that was Ellen Freidin, who was  
15      the Chairwoman of Florida districts --  
16      Floridafairdistricts.org.

17           Our intent is to use the recommendations  
18      made at these hearings today and many around  
19      the state and through our Internet sites as the  
20      basis for developing one or more options for  
21      district maps. We will discuss those options  
22      in open public meetings before any votes are  
23      taken, even in committee. In other words, what  
24      we are literally saying is if you look at those  
25      maps outside the room and the 48 other maps

1       that have been submitted to the Legislature,  
2       the ones that have actually been submitted by  
3       citizens, Florida residents, we are literally  
4       starting the legislative process with those  
5       maps and other suggestions from the public. So  
6       if you want to know where we begin our  
7       deliberations tonight, it is with those public  
8       submissions and the testimony from meetings  
9       just like this. Throughout the process, we  
10      will continue to solicit public comment so that  
11      the proposed maps can mature with the public's  
12      involvement. Whatever the Legislature passes,  
13      it is then submitted for judicial review to  
14      ensure that the final plans meet every single  
15      legal requirement.

16           Because our purpose today is to hear from  
17      you, all of the time between now and 8:00 p.m.  
18      will be used to ensure that every member of the  
19      public who is here and wishes to speak and  
20      provide public testimony is given that  
21      opportunity and is listened to both  
22      respectfully and without interruption or  
23      argument.

24           Note that I do anticipate that we will  
25      likely take a short break sometime after two

1       hours. So sometime around 6:00 p.m., we will  
2       probably break for a few minutes.

3               If after every citizen has had his or her  
4       say, and there is time remaining before our  
5       scheduled adjournment, any member of this  
6       committee may make any statement or offer any  
7       observation. Of course, any member of the  
8       Legislature may today or at any time propose a  
9       map or a plan, and we will make it available to  
10      the public and to you immediately.

11             Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing me to  
12      take a few moments to walk us through the  
13      process, and I look forward to hearing from our  
14      citizens here in Tampa Bay tonight. Thank you.

15             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
16      In order to facilitate as many people as  
17      possible getting a chance to testify, let me  
18      ask first, where is Laura Simpson? Laura,  
19      where are you? Laura, I am an advocate for  
20      you. Right now you are the last person signed  
21      up to testify. There are probably going to be  
22      some others, but right now you are the last  
23      one. We have over 70 people signed up to  
24      testify. So in order to make sure we hear from  
25      Laura, everybody else needs to be respectful of



1       those behind you, your friends and neighbors  
2       who have also come to testify, and so we ask  
3       that your testimony be limited to three  
4       minutes. If you have other testimony,  
5       additional or extended testimony, we want it,  
6       just give it to us in writing. If you brought  
7       a script or something that you wish to read,  
8       and if it can't be done in three minutes, give  
9       it to us, and we will make it available to all  
10      of the members of the committee.

11             If someone else has already made your  
12      point, it is okay to say "I agree with them,"  
13      and then sit down so that your friends and  
14      neighbors behind you will have an opportunity  
15      to speak. But even if somebody has already  
16      made exactly the same point, and you want to  
17      read off of exactly the same script and the  
18      spirit moves you, we still want to hear from  
19      you.

20             So with that, I am going to call three  
21      people at a time so that we can -- we are going  
22      to have an on deck circle right down here in  
23      front of the podium, and we are going to call  
24      three people at a time. If you would come  
25      forward, that way we could use the time as

1           efficiently as possible.

2           Our first speaker tonight is going to be  
3           Kenneth Johnson, followed by Jack Wolff,  
4           followed by Anne Voss. So if those three  
5           individuals will come forward, we would like to  
6           begin. And, again, we are very, very grateful  
7           that so many people have come out tonight. We  
8           are anxious to hear your testimony.

9           And, Mr. Johnson, you are recognized to  
10          begin our evening celebrations.

11          MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. Thank you for  
12          welcoming us here. We welcome -- we would like  
13          to welcome you also. I know that you all have  
14          taken a lot of time to do this arduous task  
15          that you have.

16          SENATOR GAETZ: Mr. Johnson, the  
17          Sergeant's office is going to help you here.  
18          We want to make sure we get every word that  
19          everybody has to say, and you are also on  
20          statewide television, so -- there you go.  
21          Check your hair, check your makeup, we want you  
22          to look good, we want you to sound good.

23          Mr. Johnson, you are recognized.

24          MR. JOHNSON: My name is Ken Johnson. I  
25          am a resident of District 9 -- Congressional

1 District 9 here in Tampa. I have lived here  
2 for 16 years. I want to welcome you all to the  
3 festivities here today. I know you have an  
4 arduous task, and we appreciate the work that  
5 you have to do.

6 I have a couple of points that I would  
7 like to raise regarding the Fair District  
8 amendments passed last year. One of the main  
9 issues I have with these amendments is that  
10 they treat Floridians unequally.

11 As I understand them, the amendments say  
12 that districts must be compact, but this  
13 standard only applies to non-minority seats.  
14 Minority seats don't have to be compact. This  
15 is going to mean that districts surrounding  
16 minority seats will not be compact either since  
17 they fill in around the borders of the  
18 non-compact minority seats. The gerrymandering  
19 of minority seats will also mean political  
20 parties and incumbents will be favored since  
21 minority voters tend to support one party over  
22 another.

23 My other concern with these amendments is  
24 that they are so loosely defined, I think  
25 judges, rather than you legislators, will be

1       the people who ultimately end up drawing the  
2       new districts. I don't want to see that  
3       happen, but with so many ambiguous terms like  
4       "compact," "practicable," "feasible" and  
5       "existing political boundaries," how will you  
6       be able to prevent a landslide of lawsuits from  
7       falling on you once you pass a map? Are there  
8       definitions for these words that you will be  
9       going by when you draw the new maps? Without  
10      firm definitions for these words, I don't see  
11      how you will be able to satisfy all of the  
12      requirements of the amendments, which means  
13      millions of our tax dollars will be spent in  
14      litigation over the maps that you pass this  
15      year or next year.

16             You have a tough job ahead of you, and I  
17      hope you will be able to juggle all of these  
18      various requirements and end up with some good  
19      maps. Thank you for your time.

20             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
21      Mr. Johnson. And next we will hear from Jack  
22      Wolff. Mr. Wolff, if you will pull the mike  
23      down, we are delighted you are here and anxious  
24      to have your testimony on the record.

25             MR. WOLFF: Thank you. Good afternoon.

1       My name is Jack Wolff, W-o-l-f-f. My address  
2       is 2718 Laurel Oak Drive, Plant City, which is  
3       in eastern Hillsborough County.

4               Now, the Florida Constitution now requires  
5       compact legislative and congressional districts  
6       to replace the gerrymandered districts that we  
7       now have. In Hillsborough County, we have  
8       three snake-like congressional districts  
9       intertwined in the county and spinning out into  
10      neighboring counties.

11             With the limited time that I have here to  
12      speak today, I wish to give you my suggestion  
13      as how we can instead have two compact  
14      congressional districts in Hillsborough County.  
15      The 2010 federal census is the basis for  
16      redistricting. The population of Hillsborough  
17      County in 2010 was a little over 1,200,000.  
18      Dividing the 2010 Florida population of just  
19      over 18,800,000 by the 27 congressional  
20      districts allocated for Florida by the 2010  
21      census, each Florida congressional district  
22      will have a population total of just under  
23      700,000.

24             Now, using these figures, I would like to  
25      show you how Hillsborough County would best be

1 divided into two compact congressional  
2 districts by a north/south line creating an  
3 east Hillsborough County congressional district  
4 and a west Hillsborough County congressional  
5 district.

6 Now, with the help of the Hillsborough  
7 County Planning Department, I was able to  
8 determine by the population figures that the  
9 north/south dividing line should be at or near  
10 I-75 to the Bay. This would create a primarily  
11 urban west Hillsborough County district with a  
12 population of 697,371, the amount of population  
13 needed for a congressional district, and which  
14 is shown on this map in yellow. The remaining  
15 portion of the county in green is east  
16 Hillsborough County, a much larger area, but  
17 more sparsely populated and primarily an area  
18 of smaller communities, rural and farmland,  
19 very different from west Hillsborough County,  
20 with a different constituency.

21 Now, similar constituency within a  
22 district is an important factor to consider  
23 when drawing these district maps. The  
24 population of the more sparsely green area is  
25 531,855, or approximately 165,000 population

1 short of the needed population of a  
2 congressional district. My suggestion for this  
3 shortfall is to include the east portion of  
4 Hillsborough County, a contiguous portion of  
5 eastern Pasco County that is also east of I-75  
6 to the north, for the additional 165,000  
7 population. This makes sense, because this  
8 portion of Pasco County also has small  
9 communities, rural and farmland, with a similar  
10 constituency of eastern Hillsborough County.  
11 And I plan to e-mail each of you on the  
12 committees -- the redistricting committees my  
13 completed map of the two districts with the  
14 exact population figures, which I hope can be  
15 of help to you in drawing the congressional map  
16 for our area and that you will give it your  
17 consideration.

18 One final thing. These public hearings  
19 are slated to be over later this week on  
20 September 1st. Time now is of the essence for  
21 you to complete your drawing of the legislative  
22 congressional districts without delay. It is  
23 critically important for you to --

24 SENATOR GAETZ: Speaking of time being of  
25 the essence --

1 MR. WOLFF: Just one more sentence.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: All right.

3 MR. WOLFF: It is critically important for  
4 you to have all of the Florida legislative and  
5 congressional districts maps drawn and  
6 completely approved well before the June 4th  
7 day, 2012 date, the only dates candidates can  
8 qualify to run for state and federal office in  
9 Florida.

10 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. Thank you very  
11 much and thank you for your maps that you drew,  
12 and please turn them over to Mr. Guthrie and we  
13 will be happy to include them with all the  
14 other maps.

15 MR. WOLFF: I am going to e-mail a more  
16 completed one.

17 SENATOR GAETZ: Okay. Thank you very  
18 much. Thank you, Mr. Wolff.

19 We will hear from Anne Voss, and after Ms.  
20 Voss, Carol Carter, if you will come on deck,  
21 please, and then Martha Hodge.

22 Ms. Voss, thank you for being here. We  
23 are delighted to see you, and you are  
24 recognized.

25 MS. VOSS: Thank you. I want to thank you



1 all for coming and listening to the citizens of  
2 Hillsborough County before you redraw our  
3 districts. I would also like to thank the  
4 Legislature for an open and transparent process  
5 that allows us, the citizens, to make  
6 recommendations, draw our own maps and submit  
7 them on-line for your consideration.

8 I want to now address Amendments 5 and 6,  
9 which were added to the Florida Constitution  
10 last year, because I feel without important  
11 clarifications, you cannot reasonably begin  
12 your task.

13 These amendments use the term "compact,"  
14 but do not define it. So my first request is  
15 that you please explain in layman's language  
16 exactly what this important term means and how  
17 it relates to the amendments' mandate to  
18 respect existing city, county and geographical  
19 boundaries.

20 In addition, Amendments 5 and 6 prescribe  
21 very subjective standards; for example,  
22 establishing criteria using the words that Ken  
23 also mentioned, "practicable" and "feasible."  
24 I would like to know how are we to judge that  
25 these standards have been met. I might think

1       the lines you draw are practical and feasible,  
2       while others may well in good faith not.  
3       Unless these terms are clarified and subject to  
4       be minimized, I don't understand how you can  
5       reasonably begin. I am very concerned that  
6       these vague terms will result in confusion,  
7       consternation and lawsuits, which will deprive  
8       us of our equal right to representation. I --  
9       we don't want this to happen, and moreover, I  
10      want the legislators to establish the new  
11      districts, not the courts and unaccountable  
12      judges.

13           I hope that you will clarify these points  
14      for me and for all Floridians. I wish each and  
15      every one of you the very best with this truly  
16      difficult challenge. Thank you.

17           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, Ms.  
18      Voss, and a number of you have already been  
19      begun to raise questions. There will be  
20      questions raised during the hearing. Some will  
21      be rhetorical questions, of course, some will  
22      be questions of fact. The Speaker Designate is  
23      making a list of those questions, and as he  
24      indicated, when all public testimony is  
25      concluded, then we are going to give members an

1 opportunity to answer any of the questions that  
2 have been asked. The Speaker Designate will  
3 bat cleanup, and he will try to get to any  
4 factual questions that members have not gotten  
5 to.

6 And so with that, Carol Carter is  
7 recognized. Following Ms. Carter, Martha  
8 Hodge, and then if Chris Hart will come on  
9 deck.

10 Ms. Carter, thank you for coming, and we  
11 look forward to your testimony.

12 MS. CARTER: Well, thank you all for being  
13 here today to listen to us. My name is Carol  
14 Carter, and I have been a resident of Tampa  
15 since 1949. I have seen redistricting happen  
16 every ten years since that time. It is always  
17 tough, but I think you are unfortunately  
18 operating under a difficult situation this year  
19 with Amendments 5 and 6.

20 I think that we can all agree that we want  
21 districts that are reasonable, but I do not  
22 believe that Amendments 5 and 6 will lead to  
23 that outcome, because they are so vague. Take,  
24 for example, as someone else mentioned, the  
25 requirement for districts to be compact. What

1       does that mean? Can all of you on this  
2       committee agree and understand this term used  
3       in Amendments 5 and 6?

4               Then we have the term "existing political  
5       boundaries." What are those boundaries? Are  
6       they city boundaries? People have spoken to  
7       you before about not splitting up cities.

8               Here is a map of the City of Tampa. Once  
9       it was compact, I would have said, but I would  
10      not say that the City of Tampa is now compact.  
11      Would you? So then how would you draw a  
12      district that would use the boundaries of the  
13      City of Tampa? And also you might note, this  
14      is the City of Plant City. It is not very  
15      compact either.

16              Under the amendments, I would say --  
17      anyone here say that it would -- that Tampa  
18      would qualify as a compact district, even under  
19      Amendments 5 and 6? I don't think so. I would  
20      describe the City of Tampa as sprawled out and  
21      oddly shaped. Tampa is just one example of the  
22      many that you will face as you redistrict the  
23      state.

24              I believe that Amendments 5 and 6 are  
25      filled with words and standards that don't mesh

1 with reality, words like "compact,"  
2 "practicable" -- I don't even know what that  
3 word is -- "feasible" and "existing political  
4 boundaries," to list a few. With these  
5 regulations, I don't see how you can draw a map  
6 that will withstand legal challenge.

7 I wish you the best of luck with this  
8 arduous task, and thank you for allowing me to  
9 speak.

10 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
11 Ms. Carter. We appreciate your testimony. And  
12 Martha Hodge is next, then Chris Hart, and  
13 following Chris Hart, Charles Mckenzie.

14 Ms. Hodge, did I get your name correctly,  
15 ma'am?

16 MS. HODGE: You did.

17 SENATOR GAETZ: Well, you are recognized,  
18 and we look forward to your testimony.

19 MS. HODGE: Thank you. Good afternoon. I  
20 am a voting Democrat in precinct 112 in Tampa,  
21 and I take pretty much a totally different tack  
22 from two of your previous speakers. I was one  
23 of the original signers of the Amendments 5 and  
24 6 because I believed in the necessity for some  
25 more organization as regards that, and I have

1       been dismayed, I might as well be honest with  
2       you, at the Legislature's, one, attempt to come  
3       up with another amendment that would have  
4       nullified 5 and 6, and secondly, to spend  
5       taxpayers' dollars, that would be me for one,  
6       to fight these amendments, and I think that you  
7       certainly show your colors in those  
8       circumstances.

9               But the -- my reason for speaking here  
10       though is not to chastise you, but I am old  
11       enough to be able to chastise most of you, so  
12       keep that in mind. My reason for speaking here  
13       is that I ask you to deal with these amendments  
14       in the fairest way possible. That is why it  
15       was called the Fair Districts amendment.

16              I studied gerrymandering in the eighth  
17       grade. I don't think I ever really understood  
18       it until I moved to Florida, and I have been  
19       stunned. And I was a Georgian, we are not good  
20       up there, but I was stunned when I came here.

21              The intent of Amendments 5 and 6 was  
22       purely to ensure that all districts are redrawn  
23       in a way so as that incumbents don't have a  
24       totally open book to move and win another seat,  
25       and to make sure that neither political party

1 gets any particular advantage. These were  
2 necessary because Democrats and Republicans  
3 alike in previous years have, in fact, used  
4 their political prowess to district out what  
5 would work for them.

6 I will say to each of you, you have not  
7 been courageous enough to tell us what is on  
8 your mind and what is in your heart and what  
9 lines you have already drawn in your thinking.  
10 I have no idea. I can look at your website  
11 from now until next year, sir, and I see really  
12 only one that even comes close, one map that  
13 comes close, and I don't see your signature on  
14 any of them. So I don't believe with these  
15 particular hearings that you are really looking  
16 at the legal intent of the laws.

17 I would say to you, show us or tell us  
18 your thinking. Show us your map. I would say  
19 most of the people in here would join me. Can  
20 you join me and say that? Show us your map.  
21 We have to have it. We really need it. Now, I  
22 have used my minutes up and --

23 SENATOR GAETZ: Yes, ma'am, and we  
24 appreciate your testimony and appreciate those  
25 who came to support you tonight.

1           Our next speaker is Chris Hart, and  
2           following Chris Hart, Charles Mckenzie, and  
3           following Charles Mckenzie, Alan Peacock.

4           Chris Hart, thank you very much for being  
5           here tonight. We are grateful.

6           MR. HART: Mr. Chairman, members of the  
7           Legislature, thank you for joining us. It is  
8           nice to see you here. I know some of you  
9           traveled far, but also let me first, if I  
10          might, thank Representative Cruz since this is  
11          her district, but also for what I consider the  
12          only priority ahead of this, and that was  
13          creating jobs, and she just had a job fair here  
14          recently we desperately needed.

15          When I talk about redistricting, I have  
16          had a few opportunities to do this having been  
17          a commissioner here over a 12-year period where  
18          I represented 1.2 million people, and so we  
19          have gone through this over -- a few times over  
20          the years, and I've worked directly with some  
21          of you here now as legislators.

22          But let me get a little bit toward this  
23          Amendments 5 and 6, because I think they are  
24          important. I know it is something that many  
25          people have addressed for many years and



1       mentioned here, but when I look at some of  
2       this, it talks about intent or result of  
3       denying or abridging equal opportunity or  
4       diminish somebody's ability to elect  
5       Representatives of their choice. In many  
6       cases, the words are intended only to apply to  
7       minorities, but I would have you say -- or I  
8       would certainly say I think they really apply  
9       to us if you look at the broader intent of this  
10      legislation.

11           When I get into some other things that we  
12      all know, it talks about feasibility and  
13      compact and practical, and then the closing  
14      words in your documents to us said, "following  
15      political and geographical boundaries." Well,  
16      I am only going to use two districts as  
17      examples to talk about here today. I wish one  
18      of the Representatives were here, because it is  
19      Florida Congressional District 11 and Senate  
20      District 16, and I use them both as examples to  
21      address my points, and it goes to one of the  
22      other points that you know is that  
23      congressional districts or Senate or House  
24      districts make cross bodies of water. But I  
25      will tell you, it doesn't set well here in

1 Tampa and Hillsborough County. What it does,  
2 too, if you look at -- and I can just hold this  
3 up, I know you've got this record, but if you  
4 look at Hillsborough and Pinellas County,  
5 District 11, you've got this area here of  
6 Pinellas County. Who in hell living there  
7 would actually believe that they are being  
8 represented by somebody in Tampa and  
9 Hillsborough County? Well, if you go down  
10 to -- you go down to the county south of us, do  
11 they -- who really believes and if you live  
12 there or sit there, that those people have a  
13 chance to elect a Representative that is really  
14 going to represent their views and their  
15 values?

16 Now, when I look at the Florida Senate  
17 district, it crosses a body of water as well.  
18 Where I live in this area, I know that no one  
19 living in Tampa and Hillsborough County can  
20 ever be elected to that Senate position. I  
21 will tell you that has a chilling effect on  
22 people going to the polls.

23 Where you have many House districts here,  
24 for example, you may go up and touch lines and  
25 cross lines, but it would be like starting the

1 state of Florida somewhere in the middle of  
2 Florida instead of saying, "You know what, we  
3 do have to start at Key West." You can't end  
4 up there and find out you don't have enough  
5 people. Surely you must have to do that.

6 Well, we are a peninsula. Hillsborough  
7 County and Pinellas County are peninsulas, and  
8 I would recommend to you, you start looking at  
9 those political and geographic boundaries and  
10 then move north.

11 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much.

12 MR. HART: Thank you very much.

13 SENATOR GAETZ: Appreciate it. Next we  
14 will hear from Charles Mckenzie with the  
15 Rainbow-PUSH Coalition, then Alan Peacock with  
16 the National Association of Letter Carriers,  
17 and then Earl Lennard, the Supervisor of  
18 Elections, the Honorable Earl Lennard.

19 MR. MCKENZIE: Good afternoon.

20 SENATOR GAETZ: Mr. McKenzie, you are  
21 recognized.

22 MR. MCKENZIE: I want to thank Senator  
23 Gaetz and Representative Weatherford for this  
24 opportunity to speak, and I am delighted to see  
25 so many members of our august body of

1       legislators here today. And to this honorable  
2       group of legislators, I ran for a congressional  
3       seat that is highly gerrymandered, and I ran  
4       for a House seat against a very capable  
5       opponent. I wish I was sitting where he is  
6       sitting today, but that was not the case. But  
7       I know what it means, and I think --

8               SENATOR GAETZ: I think he might change  
9       places with you today.

10              MR. MCKENZIE: I know what it means, and I  
11       think he knows what it means to run for office  
12       in a highly gerrymandered district. It is a  
13       very cumbersome task.

14              But I wanted to say this, and then I will  
15       take my seat: Amendments 5 and 6 were passed  
16       by Florida voters in November, and they reveal  
17       that the majority of Floridians are tired of  
18       lopsided, partisan-driven politics and public  
19       policy. They want political districts with  
20       boundaries that are contiguous and genuinely  
21       competitive. This is the leading rationale  
22       that should guide any redistricting that takes  
23       place. They are weary of politics by those who  
24       are drunk with the arrogance of power and  
25       inflicted with the recurring disease of

1       incumbenitis. And I believe that this is a  
2       reasonable expectation that would only be a  
3       anathema to those who intend to maintain power  
4       at any cost and by any means in spite of the  
5       legitimate will of the majority.

6               Because the Legislature, of course, is  
7       controlled by honorable individuals who would  
8       never engage in politics of pure self-interest,  
9       we are also certain that there is no  
10      undisclosed agenda unfolding here. We have not  
11      gathered in this place to wag the dog and dance  
12      the pony simply to avoid lawsuits and judicial  
13      intervention if the real deal was on the table.

14             Surely there is no attempt here to prolong  
15      the process, create mass confusion, let the  
16      clock run down and chase challengers away.  
17      This is undoubtedly a bona fide,  
18      honest-to-goodness attempt to allow the people  
19      to have a meaningful impact on the  
20      redistricting process. After all, we know that  
21      those we elect want to represent the will of  
22      the people and operate with the consent of  
23      those who are governing.

24             That having been said, I have but two  
25      questions to direct to our distinguished panel,

1       the lawmakers: Why have you spent three  
2       million dollars of taxpayers' money trying to  
3       overturn the very amendments that we, the  
4       people, passed in the last election cycle? And  
5       then finally, we have listened intently to your  
6       usage of terminological exactitudes and  
7       polysyllabic vocables about time tables in  
8       other states and the accelerated session and  
9       that you are waiting to begin working on them,  
10      but for some strange reason, hanging in our --

11           SENATOR GAETZ: Could I ask you to wrap up  
12      soon just to -- with respect to all the people  
13      behind you?

14           MR. MCKENZIE: Yes, absolutely. Hanging  
15      in our mental skies is this hard to dismiss,  
16      lingering question, where are your maps?

17           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

18           Now, Alan Peacock, Mr. Peacock,  
19      representing the National Association of Letter  
20      Carriers. Then we will hear from the Honorable  
21      Earl Lennard and then we will hear from Danny  
22      Aprile, I believe it is Aprile.

23           MR. PEACOCK: That is a hard act to follow  
24      right there --

25           SENATOR GAETZ: It is.

1           MR. PEACOCK:  -- and to precede  
2           Dr. Lennard, who I have known for a long time,  
3           and his task is going to be one that is going  
4           to be very difficult if some of these don't  
5           come to fruition before too long, as all the  
6           election supervisors in this state.  If we  
7           don't get the maps and we don't get the  
8           confusion dismissed and everything, then it is  
9           going to create quite a confusion when it comes  
10          to election time.

11          Now, I have signed a resolution with my  
12          organization that's going to go to Congress in  
13          hopes that there will be a permanent absentee  
14          ballot where you won't have to actually, you  
15          know, reconfirm your absentee ballot request  
16          every four years.  Those are one of the things  
17          that I am looking forward to.

18          I am hoping that in the near future there  
19          will be voter mail, because I do represent the  
20          Postal Service and letter carriers, all right.

21          I grew up in southeast Hillsborough  
22          County, and I resided most of my life now in  
23          northwest Hillsborough County, and I don't  
24          think there is a great divide in constituency  
25          between east and west, north and south.  I

1 don't think that is the proper way of trying to  
2 divide things to create the maps.

3 All right. None of the maps that are on  
4 your website now are currently contiguous or  
5 complete. When will the committee allow the  
6 citizens of Florida to see one proposed by the  
7 Legislature?

8 If the Libby map is the one that is being  
9 considered, I want to record my objection to  
10 that map, because it fails to comply with  
11 Amendments 5 and 6.

12 There is no doubt about it, it is a  
13 difficult task you have. The large population  
14 shifts have taken place in over one-third of  
15 all the current districts. So there is no  
16 doubt it is a difficult thing that you've got  
17 to deal with, but let's get with it. Let's get  
18 her done. Thank you.

19 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much,  
20 Mr. Peacock. And next we will hear from our  
21 Supervisor of Elections, the Honorable Earl  
22 Lennard, who has served this community in more  
23 than one capacity, and all was honorably, and  
24 we are delighted to hear you today,  
25 Mr. Supervisor, Mr. Superintendent. It is good



1 to see you again.

2 MR. LENNARD: Also good to see you,  
3 Mr. Superintendent.

4 Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman, members of the  
5 Legislature, I want to thank you for being here  
6 at beautiful Jefferson High School, one of the  
7 finest high schools in the state of Florida and  
8 the United States of America, as well as one of  
9 the finest school districts and counties in the  
10 state of Florida and the United States of  
11 America.

12 I want to thank each of the people that  
13 have come out, because this is a great audience  
14 you have here, and I know you've got a tough  
15 task ahead of you, and so I want to just  
16 mention some of the things that's important to  
17 the Supervisors of Elections and, of course, to  
18 me in carrying out my responsibilities.

19 And while I am going to be redundant, I  
20 would be remiss if I did not reiterate two very  
21 important issues for the Supervisors of  
22 Elections in getting the task done and setting  
23 up for the 2012 election, and first of all, of  
24 course, is the timeline. You are very much  
25 aware of that, but I think I would be remiss if

1 I did not once again mention it to you. The  
2 timeline is very important to us in order to  
3 get all the ministerial work that goes into  
4 getting everything set up prior to qualifying  
5 and then moving forward with setting up the  
6 election.

7 Also, I would like to mention that as you  
8 go about drawing the districts and drawing the  
9 lines within those districts, that you consider  
10 the Voting Tabulation Districts. We furnished  
11 that information to you some time ago at your  
12 request, and I think it would be -- it would be  
13 great if you were able to honor the work that  
14 we have done as supervisors in providing and  
15 utilizing that information.

16 Other than that, I want to say that the  
17 issues are before you, you know them, and I  
18 wish you very well. God speed and good luck in  
19 this task ahead of you. Once again, it is very  
20 good to see you, many of you old friends -- not  
21 old -- former friends, and so it is good to see  
22 you again, and take care and God speed.

23 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, and  
24 thank you for your service to the community.

25 Next we will hear from Danny Aprile, I

1 think, if I am pronouncing it correctly, then  
2 Ted Campbell with the Florida Strawberry  
3 Growers, and then Connie Johnson with the  
4 Florida Realtors. Ms. Johnson, if you will be  
5 on deck.

6 Danny, thanks for coming. We look forward  
7 to your testimony.

8 MR. APRILE: Good evening. I am Danny  
9 Aprile, Hillsborough County Farm Bureau  
10 President.

11 As the redistricting process progresses,  
12 we respectfully request that those involved in  
13 this process recognize the unique heritage,  
14 makeup and importance of the agricultural  
15 industry in eastern Hillsborough County,  
16 specifically in the area east of Interstate 75.  
17 Residents of this area share long-term  
18 agriculture interests and endeavors, enabling  
19 them to contribute significantly to the  
20 county's economy with over \$700 million in  
21 annual sales and providing jobs for 20,000  
22 people, with an annual income of over \$293  
23 million.

24 We believe drawing the district boundaries  
25 from I-75 east to the county boundary would

1 help to preserve the important way of life,  
2 rural character and economic engine that this  
3 area -- to benefit not only those who reside  
4 there, but all residents of Hillsborough  
5 County.

6 Thank you for your time and consideration.

7 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
8 We appreciate your testimony.

9 And next may we hear from Ted Campbell  
10 with the Florida Strawberry Growers, then  
11 Connie Johnson and Robin Lankford, if you would  
12 please come on down.

13 Mr. Campbell, thanks for coming, and the  
14 floor is yours.

15 MR. CAMPBELL: Good afternoon and thank  
16 you for allowing me to speak and thank you all  
17 for coming to this event. My name is Ted  
18 Campbell, I am Executive Director of the  
19 Florida Strawberry Growers Association in Plant  
20 City.

21 Our farmers represent the largest segment  
22 of agriculture production in Hillsborough  
23 County, over 42 percent of the total farm gate  
24 value on five percent of the land. Florida  
25 produces about 20 percent of the domestic

1 strawberry crop, with over 90 percent of  
2 Florida's commercial production in eastern  
3 Hillsborough County. It is a very high-value  
4 crop and obviously a very high-density crop.  
5 So the Florida strawberries generate  
6 approximately \$700 million in economic value to  
7 Hillsborough County. We are responsible for  
8 60,000 jobs and have an annual payroll of our  
9 farm workers alone of \$165 million.

10 Our economic impact goes beyond jobs and  
11 revenue, because agriculture in eastern  
12 Hillsborough County provides desirable green  
13 space, wildlife habitat, fresh water recharge,  
14 areas of rural character, I want to echo what  
15 Danny just said, it brings a high quality of  
16 life to all of Hillsborough County. And we are  
17 a tax park, and agriculture exerts  
18 substantially less tax drain on public  
19 resources. A Hillsborough County study showed  
20 farms only required only 25 cents' worth of  
21 services for every tax dollar they spend, as  
22 opposed to urban residents that did a  
23 hundred -- 129 in services for each dollar. So  
24 we are revenue positive for the county.

25 But we are here to talk about

1       redistricting, so I will get more to the point.  
2       To maintain the desirable agricultural  
3       community and the continuity of eastern  
4       Hillsborough County, we are suggesting the  
5       state district lines would be drawn from I-75  
6       east to the county boundaries. It is a very  
7       contiguous region, and within that area it is  
8       very simple to draw House districts in lateral  
9       bands across that area based on the population  
10      density in each of those sectors.

11               So thank you for your consideration.

12               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, Ted.  
13      We appreciate your testimony.

14               And next, Connie Johnson with the Florida  
15      Realtors, then Robin Lankford and then Willie  
16      Lawson, please.

17               Ms. Johnson, thank you for coming, and we  
18      are delighted to hear your testimony today.

19               MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. Yes, that is  
20      great, thanks.

21               First of all, I would like to thank all of  
22      you for giving your constituents the  
23      opportunity to come and tell you what is very,  
24      very important to them, because it truly is.

25               As a realtor, and I have been a realtor

1       for over 20 years, I do have the opportunity to  
2       speak with a lot of people, and being on the  
3       leadership team of the Florida Realtors, I do  
4       get to speak to realtors. As of last week, we  
5       had a convention from all over the state. The  
6       things that are important to us is what you are  
7       hearing from everyone here, so I thank you for  
8       allowing us to say what is important.

9               On a personal note for myself, I live in  
10       east Hillsborough County. I am very happy with  
11       the way it sits. I know you have to make some  
12       changes and it is going to be difficult for  
13       you, but there are communities that have  
14       changed in the last ten years and there's been  
15       a lot of growth, and now there's growth that is  
16       no longer there. I want you to please keep  
17       that in mind. Densities are changing. It is  
18       not going to be the same as it is today next  
19       year or the year after, so please keep that in  
20       mind.

21              But the one thing I do want to bring up to  
22       you now is something I heard over and over  
23       again last week with the realtors. That is the  
24       time frame. This we know you know is crucial,  
25       but please don't put us in a position to where

1           we don't know who we are voting for. Thank  
2           you.

3           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
4           Ms. Johnson. And I hope -- Ms. Johnson, I hope  
5           you will be able to stay until the end of the  
6           hearing, because I think there is some  
7           information about time frame that might give  
8           you a little bit more data and some comfort,  
9           hopefully.

10          Next, Robin Lankford and then Willie  
11          Lawson. Following Willie Lawson, Dr. Wesley  
12          Johnson.

13          Robin, thank you for coming tonight. We  
14          appreciate hearing from you.

15          MS. LANKFORD: Well, thank you. As you  
16          said, my name is Robin Lankford, and I have  
17          lived in Hillsborough County for over 30 years.  
18          That is a long time in one county for Florida.

19          I want to thank you first for your  
20          common-sense approach to gathering input from  
21          all of us about drawing the new maps and  
22          allowing the public a never before access to  
23          redistricting the whole process. The My  
24          District Builder software makes it so easy for  
25          anyone to submit a proposed map to the



1       Legislature.

2               And I know there's been some groups,  
3       specifically the League of Women Voters, that  
4       are not participating or maybe not appreciating  
5       the path you are taking this year in the  
6       redistricting process, and I think that is a  
7       shame. After all, the League submitted maps to  
8       you ten years ago and they worked very hard to  
9       get Amendments 5 and 6 passed. Obviously they  
10      are interested in the redistricting process, so  
11      why would they not submit maps this time  
12      around? Getting 5 and 6 passed was only half  
13      the battle, in my opinion. The League needs  
14      now to offer some concrete suggestions for  
15      drawing maps. With these standards in place,  
16      it is more important than ever that the  
17      Legislature draw good maps, and I don't think  
18      you can do that without getting suggestions  
19      from the public. With Amendments 5 and 6 on  
20      the books, I think it is incumbent upon the  
21      League to show us what they think is fair  
22      districts. I hope they will choose to  
23      participate and be a meaningful part of the  
24      redistricting process by submitting maps like  
25      they did ten years ago.

1           We did hear from some folks tonight who  
2       said that they think that you should submit  
3       them first. Well, you can't win in that  
4       situation. If you tell us what you are going  
5       to do, we are going to say you didn't allow us  
6       input. Now you let us have input, and now that  
7       is wrong, too. I feel sorry for you in the  
8       fact that it is very difficult for you to make  
9       your constituents happy, because it is like no  
10      matter what you do, you can't win. But I  
11      appreciate the fact that you are holding these  
12      meetings and that you are here listening to all  
13      of us tonight as you have done in other  
14      counties as well.

15           So until you hear from everybody, I  
16      appreciate you continuing to keep those lines  
17      of communication open, and I encourage the  
18      other voters and concerned citizens to submit  
19      maps to you for you to have a chance to look  
20      at, and I also would highly encourage the  
21      League of Women Voters to do the same.

22           Thank you for your time.

23           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
24      Ms. Lankford, appreciate your testimony.

25           Next, Willie Lawson, and after Mr. Lawson,

1 Dr. Wesley Johnson and then Elizabeth Morowati,  
2 I believe it is, and I apologize if I  
3 mispronounced your name, Elizabeth, but please  
4 do come on down.

5 Mr. Lawson, we are delighted you are here,  
6 and we look forward to what you have to share  
7 with us.

8 MR. LAWSON: Well, that is great. Thank  
9 you so much. Again, thanks for being here.  
10 You know, I am running for a local office, but  
11 right now, I wouldn't trade with you guys for  
12 anything on the planet. I just wouldn't do it.

13 Again, I am a resident of east Tampa,  
14 County Commission District 3, the State House  
15 District 59, State Senate District 18 and  
16 Congressional District 11. I have been here  
17 for years.

18 The hope of these hearings is to produce  
19 not only fair districts, but just districts,  
20 because fair, as you know, is subjective. It  
21 is just that is important. And I believe that  
22 district representation needs to look like the  
23 electorate. The ever-changing demographic  
24 dynamics of Florida, however, provided  
25 ever-changing backdrop by which to draw these

1 lines.

2 I would hope that much care is taken to  
3 provide all Floridians with a voice in the  
4 political process. I would hope that you would  
5 avoid the temptation to destroy political  
6 discourse by the time old tradition of  
7 gerrymandering.

8 I would also -- and this is tough in this  
9 highly politicized time, I know that is going  
10 to be tough, also avoid the temptation to use  
11 any particular area as a trading chip or  
12 bargaining chip to satisfy a political agenda.  
13 That also must be avoided.

14 I am sure this is a difficult process, but  
15 please remember whatever you do affects real  
16 people. These aren't just lines on a map.  
17 These are real people.

18 Please also remember the importance to  
19 provide more than fair districts. Like I said,  
20 fair is subjective. You must provide just  
21 districts that show that Florida is a  
22 government by all the people, a government of  
23 all the people and by all the people. It would  
24 be a travesty to miss the opportunity to right  
25 the wrongs of the past while offering a

1 platform to the voices of the future. Many of  
2 these voices are from emerging, traditionally  
3 ignored or bargained-away areas. They are from  
4 every stripe that are starting to understand  
5 the importance of them to stand and be heard.  
6 They are hearing from their communities that  
7 there must be change from the status quo.

8 Please keep in mind that in order for  
9 Florida to continue to move forward  
10 politically, socially, morally, racially, we  
11 must have full participation in a political  
12 process by all Floridians. I am in no way  
13 asking for a return to segregation, but a  
14 sensitivity to the demographic dynamics that  
15 can provide some of the things of which I have  
16 already talked about, an awareness of the  
17 importance to provide access to government and  
18 representation to everyone that makes up the  
19 tapestry of this wonderful state.

20 So, in closing, please understand the  
21 difference between fair and just districts,  
22 please remember that what you decide will  
23 affect a generation of Floridians, and finally,  
24 remember to thank past the next election cycle  
25 and far into the future of Florida. Good luck

1           and God bless.

2                   SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much,  
3           Mr. Lawson.

4                   Next, Dr. Wesley Johnson, and following  
5           Dr. Johnson, Elizabeth Morowati and then  
6           Christopher Cano.

7                   Dr. Johnson, thank you for coming, and the  
8           floor is yours, sir.

9                   DR. JOHNSON: Thanks. Nice to see you  
10          all, Senators and Representatives. As you  
11          mentioned, my name is Dr. Wesley Johnson, and I  
12          am a medical research scientist, I am a  
13          businessman, I served seven years in the United  
14          States Navy in the submarine force and I am a  
15          voter. I have lived in Dade County, I have  
16          lived in Citrus County, Alachua County, and now  
17          for the past eight years, I have lived in  
18          Hillsborough County, and Senator Latvala and  
19          Representative Young are my representatives in  
20          the Senate and the House.

21                  I am skeptical, quite frankly, of the  
22          redistricting process. My skepticism is  
23          largely due to the current partisan structure  
24          of Florida's government, one political party  
25          that holds all the cards. Historically, when

1       one party holds power, that party is loathe to  
2       give it up. In fact, every effort is typically  
3       made to solidify and extend that party's power.

4             I am challenging you, each and every one  
5       of you, to take the high road, the ethical  
6       road, do the right thing, do the fair thing.  
7       Doing so will make your life and your job much  
8       harder. It is easy to do it the bad way, but  
9       much harder to do it the ethical way. But the  
10      voters and citizens of Florida deserve no less  
11      than your supreme effort to do it correctly.

12            The great philosopher John Rawls said,  
13      contrary to the previous speaker, that fairness  
14      is justice. That is a definition, fairness is  
15      justice.

16            A fair process is the goal that has been  
17      set before you by Florida's voters. I'll  
18      remind you all that an unjust society does not  
19      long endure. Thank you for your attention.

20            SENATOR GAETZ: And thank you very much  
21      for your service to our country.

22            Next we will hear from Elizabeth and --  
23      oh, thank you very much, ma'am. And I am --  
24      did I pronounce your name correctly? Morowati,  
25      and you are recognized, and thank you so much

1           for being here tonight.

2           MS. MOROWATI: Thank you. Let me tell  
3           you, I have been here since 1979, but I lived  
4           overseas for nine years, so I am an American  
5           first and then a Floridian. I was in New York  
6           before that, born in Brooklyn. You can hear  
7           that accent, I am sure.

8           What I have done here is I have prepared a  
9           statement, but I have given you existing  
10          layouts of congressional districts and overlays  
11          showing recommended changes, and what started  
12          me on this track was District 11. It is  
13          gerrymandered and it is absurd.

14          Now I am going to read my text, if you  
15          don't mind. Okay. Sirs, these comments and  
16          recommendations refer to the U.S. House of  
17          Representatives, Districts 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13  
18          only, and now are being discussed via the  
19          redistricting process.

20          Accompanying this cover letter are sets of  
21          maps pertaining to existing boundaries as well  
22          as those I am proposing. You are going to see  
23          with the overlay, the existing and the  
24          suggested.

25          Based on recommendations for redrawing of



1 district boundaries: A, any district should be  
2 designed for the mutual benefit of both the  
3 constituent and their Representatives so that,  
4 one, the constituents can have their  
5 Representative easily accessible via a physical  
6 address should they want or need to visit an  
7 office, as well as use other means of  
8 communications, the Internet, phone, fax, mail,  
9 et cetera; two, the Representative can have  
10 more direct and interactive contact with their  
11 constituents to not only hear about their  
12 concerns, but observe these concerns, if  
13 necessary, during their travels throughout the  
14 various communities they represent.

15 B, boundaries should be drawn with  
16 common-sense continuity. B, practical for both  
17 Representative and constituents alike for  
18 reasons stated in A and B above.

19 General comments -- now, I'm referring to  
20 District 11 as now drawn belies these criteria.  
21 It is located in three counties: Pinellas,  
22 Hillsborough, Manatee. I propose consolidation  
23 of District 11 to improve both quality and more  
24 Representative interactions between  
25 Representative and constituents by having

1       redrawn -- it redrawn solely within  
2       Hillsborough County alone.

3               Two, to do so, surrounding districts will  
4       have to be boundary adjustments based upon any  
5       comments above. Florida will be getting two  
6       members for the U.S. House of Representatives  
7       because of an increased population, this being  
8       the case because of increased demographics and  
9       where they -- excuse me -- dominate one or more  
10      of the following recommendation boundary  
11      adjustments might be examined and divided into  
12      two districts from the existing one based upon  
13      where the increase in population dominates.

14              Four, District 9, which is presently Gus  
15      Bilirakis' seat, looks as though the areas  
16      between Dunedin to the south and Palm Harbor to  
17      the north have been cut out as part of District  
18      11, which is Bill Young's seat. It is also  
19      appears as though the district to the east  
20      should really be part of District 12, which is  
21      now Dennis Ross' seat.

22              SENATOR GAETZ: And, ma'am, may I -- just  
23      in deference to those behind you, could I ask  
24      you to conclude? This has been extremely  
25      helpful, and all of this will go on the record

1           and on the Internet so everybody here can see  
2           this.

3           MS. MOROWATI:   Okay, okay, okay.   Can I  
4           just conclude with the recommendations then?

5           SENATOR GAETZ:   Could you just wind that  
6           up in about five seconds?

7           MS. MOROWATI:   Sure, recommendations, yes.

8           District 11 should be more compact only  
9           within the County of Hillsborough, these areas  
10          currently in Pinellas County to be part of  
11          redrawn District 10, and those areas currently  
12          in Manatee County to be part of redrawn  
13          District 13, and that was my focus and you have  
14          the --

15          SENATOR GAETZ:   Thank you, and everything  
16          that you provided to us will be in the record,  
17          shared with every member here, and those maps  
18          were extremely helpful.   Thank you very much,  
19          Ms. Morowati.

20          Next, Christopher Cano, and following  
21          Mr. Cano's testimony, David, I think it is  
22          Kulcsar, and then Sharon Janis, if you will be  
23          on deck.

24          Mr. Cano, did I get your name right, sir?

25          MR. CANO:   Yes, sir, yes, you did.

1           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much for  
2           being here and sharing some of your time with  
3           us.

4           MR. CANO: Not a problem.

5           My name is Christopher Cano. I know many  
6           of you in the room. I am born and raised here  
7           in Hillsborough County, just celebrated 28  
8           years on this planet and in this county, and I  
9           am happy to be here this evening.

10          What I am here to talk about is not just  
11          Amendments 5 and 6, of which has been touched  
12          on, but also the Voting Rights Act, in which  
13          each of you are very familiar with, and the  
14          dilution of minority population groups and  
15          their voting power.

16          Hillsborough County is under pre-clearance  
17          because of past discrimination to the Hispanic  
18          community, and that is why we are under  
19          pre-clearance by the Justice Department. And  
20          in saying that, when you go to redraw these  
21          lines, I would caution you to take into account  
22          the Hispanic community's population to avoid a  
23          lawsuit and avoid a wastefulness of taxpayer  
24          dollars.

25          Representative Janet Cruz's district,

1 District 58, happens to be one of the only  
2 districts that we have always had a Hispanic  
3 Representative, because of the large majority  
4 Hispanic population. Currently it is  
5 51 percent Hispanic. And there was a map  
6 submitted to you earlier today via e-mail  
7 through a nonprofit group called LatinoJustice  
8 up in New York, which actually handles, you  
9 know, this issue that we're talking about as  
10 far as dilution of Hispanic voting power.

11 We would ask that you would actually  
12 re-include, as it once was, Town and Country in  
13 her district, which is a large Hispanic  
14 neighborhood, because in the end, all of these  
15 debates that we are having break down the  
16 neighborhoods, you know, should this  
17 neighborhood be in this district, should that  
18 neighborhood be in that district, and you can't  
19 properly draw these lines unless you take  
20 neighborhoods into account. I, myself, am on  
21 the Board of Directors for the Wellswood  
22 neighborhood here, and we are very happy to  
23 have Representative Cruz as our Representative.  
24 We would ask that you keep our communities and  
25 stop dividing them up.

1           I know it is going to come down to  
2   Representative Young and Representative Cruz  
3   getting together and deciding where they want  
4   to draw their border at. So we would ask that  
5   you draw everything between Hillsborough Avenue  
6   and Waters Avenue and put that into District  
7   58, and we would hope that they would work  
8   together to do that.

9           People have concerns about gerrymandering,  
10   and for many of you in the room, you talked  
11   about 5 and 6 and you talked about  
12   gerrymandering. Well, gerrymandering is  
13   simple. If you direct yourself up to the House  
14   districts, you can see that our esteemed Chair  
15   Weatherford's district goes into Hillsborough  
16   County. And we would ask, why is that  
17   necessary when you represent pretty much all of  
18   Pasco, why do you need that sliver, New Tampa?  
19   That is what Amendments 5 and 6 were designed  
20   to stop, and that is what we ask that you do is  
21   that you make the districts compact, that you  
22   take in our geographical boundaries and that  
23   you do what the voters of the state of Florida  
24   have asked you to do last November. Thank you  
25   for your time.

1           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
2           Mr. Cano.

3           Our next speaker will be David -- is it  
4           Kulscar? Kulcsar, thank you very much.

5           And since the hearing has begun, great  
6           news. We have had another 34 people sign up to  
7           speak since we started. So now -- now we are  
8           into triple digits, and so, therefore, I am  
9           going to take the prerogative of the Chair to  
10          make sure we hear from as many as we can, and I  
11          am going to ask if you could possibly hold your  
12          verbal comments to about two minutes, and then  
13          we will take your written comments and pass  
14          them out to the committee and make sure they  
15          are available to the public as well.

16          And with that, David, you are recognized.

17          MR. KULCSAR: Okay. I don't want to seem  
18          like I hold any animosity towards any one of  
19          you. I don't know any of you really that much  
20          personally at all, so don't assume I am  
21          attacking you. But as I stand here, I am  
22          looking at the incoming Speaker of the House  
23          and the incoming Senate President. These two  
24          men have been ensured these positions based on  
25          the predictability of the elections in our

1       Legislature, and of which they are in charge of  
2       drawing the majorities for the 2012 session.

3           Masterfully, in 2002, the Republican party  
4       in power has crafted a miraculous map that  
5       ensured their lock on the state of Florida.  
6       For the next ten years or so, the map has  
7       pretty much done its job. However, this is  
8       giving them a peace of mind to at least choose  
9       people ahead of time. You have freshmen people  
10      -- freshmen legislators being choosed to be  
11      Speaker of the House, State Senate Presidents,  
12      at the end of their eight-year terms and  
13      eight-year term limits.

14           However, I feel this thing is a very  
15      dangerous thing for our democracy. Our  
16      predictability is making it very difficult for  
17      us to really feel engaged with our Legislature  
18      and our political system. If, say, you do  
19      something very unpopular to the citizens of  
20      Florida, we could vote you out. We want to  
21      vote you out, but it may be pretty hard to. I  
22      mean, we want more districts that are actually  
23      more representative of the areas. And I have  
24      drawn three maps for House, Senate and  
25      Congress. A lot of them are swingy. I'm sorry,



1 but that's just how Florida is. We are not  
2 called a swing state for nothing.

3 Now, I am not going to expect you guys to  
4 draw maps that will draw yourselves out of a  
5 job. That would be kind of futile to say,  
6 wouldn't it? But I am going to say this: It  
7 angers me as a voter, it repulses me as a  
8 citizen and it depresses me as an American when  
9 I see the maps that we have right now. Orlando  
10 is sliced and diced four ways just so Winter  
11 Park can have three Congressmen is wrong. And  
12 when I also look at the maps we have in our  
13 area, St. Petersburg -- the only person in St.  
14 Petersburg that's actually really in District  
15 12, I think -- or which one, Kathy Castor's  
16 district -- is just the black section of it --

17 SENATOR GAETZ: And David, can I ask if  
18 you might --

19 MR. KULCSAR: I am almost done.

20 SENATOR GAETZ: -- summarize?

21 MR. KULCSAR: Yeah. What I am saying is  
22 simply we need to be honest and more equitable  
23 in our districts at least, because Bill Young,  
24 his district has been -- let's just put it this  
25 way: Pinellas County has not voted for a

1       Republican President since George Bush, Sr.,  
2       and Bill Young has stayed possibly a little bit  
3       longer, whatnot, his district or whatnot could  
4       be a little bit better if it had all Pinellas  
5       County.  So --

6                SENATOR GAETZ:  Thank you very much,  
7       David, and our next speaker is Sharon Janis and  
8       then Christopher Shalosky, and following  
9       Christopher is Mickey Castor.  And, again, we  
10      ask, just in respect for all of those people  
11      who have come who are your friends and  
12      neighbors who want to speak behind you, if you  
13      could hold your verbal comments to about two  
14      minutes.

15               You are recognized.

16               MS. JANIS:  I live in St. Petersburg  
17      and --

18               SENATOR GAETZ:  Could I ask you to pull  
19      the mike up?  Tommy, would you pull that up?  
20      Please go ahead.

21               MS. JANIS:  Okay.  I am from St.  
22      Petersburg, and I hope you will excuse me  
23      reading a note from my Blackberry, because my  
24      thoughts want to fly away with the butterflies  
25      in my stomach, so -- for a long time, Florida

1 politicians have been drawing voting districts  
2 in ways to keep themselves in office and to  
3 favor their party. As you know, last November,  
4 we, the people, overwhelmingly passed  
5 Amendments 5 and 6 so that districts can be  
6 drawn in ways that are fair and logical. They  
7 would have districts drawn in ways that makes  
8 them compact, equal in population, and they can  
9 use the existing geographical boundaries.  
10 Amendments 5 and 6 are conducive to two -- to  
11 democracy. Real communities would have a  
12 voice, instead of contrived ones.

13 As you know, districts would not be drawn  
14 to favor or disfavor a particular candidate or  
15 party, and the real reasons the court  
16 challengers are there are simply about  
17 protecting those in power. They are not really  
18 about protecting minority rights or democracy.

19 Thank you.

20 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
21 Sharon, for your good testimony.

22 Next, Christopher Shalosky and then Mickey  
23 Castor with the League of Women Voters and then  
24 Christine Goding with the Polk County Elections  
25 Office.

1 Christopher, thank you for coming, and the  
2 floor is yours.

3 MR. SHALOSKY: Thank you, sir. My name is  
4 Chris Shalosky. I have been a resident of  
5 Florida since 1988 and a resident of  
6 Hillsborough County since 2004.

7 I just want to start by saying thank you  
8 very much for having these public hearings.  
9 The government works best when it is open and  
10 transparent, and I, for one, am very happy and  
11 very pleased that you guys are taking our  
12 inputs first before you draw maps, because it  
13 is usually done in darkness. We like it done  
14 in the light. So thank you for listening to us  
15 first.

16 I want to say that you guys have a very  
17 difficult task ahead of you, Amendments 5 and 6  
18 provide a lot of ambiguity, and I am just  
19 afraid that that is going to be the lawyer  
20 employment act of this year, because the people  
21 that should be the winners in this  
22 redistricting act are the people and it  
23 shouldn't be tied up in the courts for years,  
24 and I am just afraid it is.

25 And a lot of people have covered the

1 topics I wanted to cover, but one other one  
2 that someone hasn't is that when we talk about  
3 favoring or disfavoring a candidate, if you  
4 take any part of a candidate's current district  
5 away, aren't you disfavoring him? Those are  
6 his current constituents, they are people who  
7 vote for him. So if you take away part of his  
8 current district, you are disfavoring him. So  
9 I don't see how you can win with the way this  
10 bill is written.

11 So I do appreciate the way you guys are  
12 going about it, I think you've got a tough road  
13 ahead of you, and I just wish you good luck.  
14 Thank you.

15 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
16 Chris, appreciate it.

17 Next we will hear from Mickey Castor with  
18 the League of Women Voters and then Christine  
19 Goding with the Polk County Elections Office  
20 and then Jack Keates with Tampa 912 Group.  
21 Jack, if you will come down, please.

22 Ms. Castor, thank you for coming. It is  
23 good to see you.

24 MS. CASTOR: Good to see all of you, and  
25 thank you for coming and giving us an

1 opportunity to provide input.

2 I am the President of the Hillsborough  
3 County League of Women Voters, and all of you  
4 as members of the redistricting committee have  
5 a very important responsibility. You have two  
6 choices in how you carry out that  
7 responsibility. You can continue on your  
8 announced timeline of adopting the new maps in  
9 March. This will result in confusion and chaos  
10 for all concerned. Your own legislative  
11 attorney said this timeline will create massive  
12 voter confusion, chaos for all concerned.  
13 Elections supervisors, you have heard from  
14 Dr. Lennard, who talks about the difficulties  
15 that this timeline would create for all  
16 elections supervisors, for candidates and  
17 potential candidates, who will have a very  
18 short time frame to know what district they are  
19 running in and how to mount a campaign, and  
20 most of all, voters will be confused, because  
21 they will have a very short time to get to know  
22 the candidates in their district, the potential  
23 candidates in their district. Surely your  
24 commitment to good government will not allow  
25 you to pursue such an outcome.

1           The alternative is you can follow the  
2           timeline submitted to you on August 10th of  
3           this year by the League of Women Voters of  
4           Florida, Democracia, the NAACP and Common  
5           Cause. How many of you have seen and agree  
6           with that timeline? Anybody seen it? Good.

7           In summary, it asks four things: To  
8           publish and commit to an accelerated  
9           timeline --

10           SENATOR GAETZ: And, Ms. Castor, again,  
11           out of respect for those behind you, could I  
12           ask you to summarize, please?

13           MS. CASTOR: Yes.

14           -- adopt a rule requiring all maps to be  
15           filed by October 3rd, adopt a rule requiring  
16           all committee action on redistricting plans to  
17           be completed by the end of 2011 and adopt a  
18           rule requiring all plans to be voted on the  
19           first week of the session.

20           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you.

21           MS. CASTOR: This will not deviate from  
22           your constitutional requirements. You can do  
23           it. We hope you will. Thank you.

24           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Castor,  
25           very useful testimony.

1           And now, Christine Goding with the Polk  
2           County Elections Office, then Jack Keates with  
3           Tampa 912 Group and then Scott Barrish.

4           Ms. Goding, thank you very much for being  
5           here.

6           MS. GODING: Thank you for giving me the  
7           chance to speak. I am the Deputy Supervisor of  
8           Elections from Polk County, as you said, and  
9           this is the third redistricting process that I  
10          will be going through. I have been with the  
11          office for 20 years. I am thankful that we all  
12          have so much better tools to use as we go  
13          through this process now, but as Dr. Lennard  
14          spoke earlier, we do have a lot of work to get  
15          done in a short time frame. So I really just  
16          want to echo what he had to say and just ask  
17          for as much time as we can to get the  
18          information out to the voters and get the right  
19          ballot to the right voters, because of that  
20          timeline with -- you know, if you finish at the  
21          best possible time scenario, we have two weeks  
22          to get absentee ballots out to our overseas  
23          voters. So thank you for that consideration.

24          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Goding, and  
25          I hope that you will have a chance to stay to



1 the end of the hearing, as well as Ms. Castor,  
2 because occasionally there are some things that  
3 get put into the bloodstream, and after a while  
4 they actually sound like facts, and I think you  
5 will get some reassurance when you hear from  
6 the Speaker Designate later.

7 Jack Keates. Jack, thanks for coming  
8 tonight, giving us your time.

9 MR. KEATES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
10 members of the jury.

11 SENATOR GAETZ: That is the jury.

12 MR. KEATES: I know, I know. I was going  
13 to mention that.

14 I didn't bring any maps tonight. I didn't  
15 bring any fancy terminology. I brought an  
16 experience.

17 Last year before the November election, I  
18 was driving down 41 through Parrish -- or,  
19 pardon me, Palmetto, down in northern Manatee  
20 County, and saw a sign -- pardon me, multiple  
21 signs for Kathy Castor. I honestly don't  
22 remember if I saw any for Senator Joyner, but I  
23 do remember because Kathy Castor, whatever you  
24 think of her politically -- I live just outside  
25 of Temple Terrace. That is 40 miles between

1           there and down there.

2                   That is one of the reasons why I am here  
3           tonight is because we are gerrymandered.  
4           Whether we like it or not, Florida has a  
5           problem. It is in your hands. I don't -- I  
6           don't envy you your job, I really don't,  
7           Republican or Democrat, I don't care. It would  
8           be easy to just say, "fix it," but you are not  
9           going to be able to make everybody happy. I  
10          don't even expect you to make me happy, but  
11          please, please work on it. Keep these citizens  
12          in mind.

13                   I didn't realize until I came in here  
14          today, although I have heard some of your  
15          reruns, and they are pretty good, and I have  
16          heard other people who feel like I do, it is  
17          always nice to know the majority of these  
18          people in this county feel the same way.

19                   Thank you.

20                   SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much. Thank  
21          you, Jack. And we heard, by the way, Jack, up  
22          in Alachua County from a civics teacher who I  
23          think was an official of the Democratic party,  
24          so, therefore, he had to be trusted, being a  
25          civics teacher, of course, that gerrymandering

1        didn't get its start in Florida or even with  
2        Governor Elbridge Gerry in Massachusetts, but  
3        it was that rascal Patrick Henry who drew some  
4        strange lines to try to push his enemy, James  
5        Madison, out of a congressional seat. So it is  
6        all of the way back to those rascals Patrick  
7        Henry and James Madison. We are in good  
8        company.

9                Scott Barrish is next, and following  
10       Mr. Barrish, Adriane Lunny and then Vera  
11       Chapman.

12               Mr. Barrish, you are recognized, and we  
13       are pleased you are here.

14               MR. BARRISH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15               My name is Scott Barrish. I have been a  
16       Hillsborough County resident for over ten  
17       years, very active in local and state politics,  
18       as some of you here on this panel are well  
19       aware.

20               Amendments 5 and 6 that was passed this  
21       election cycle, who wouldn't want fair  
22       districts? However, when you read those  
23       amendments, the terms are very ambiguous and  
24       vague, and it's going to be extremely difficult  
25       for this body to come up with concrete

1 definitions of those terms and come to an  
2 agreement on how to draw these districts. As  
3 much as you want to do it and pass it in the  
4 Legislature, it is going to go to the courts,  
5 and that is not fair. We cannot hold the  
6 judges accountable, but we can hold you  
7 accountable. So please work on getting these  
8 definitions and passing these districts in the  
9 Legislature. Thank you.

10 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
11 Mr. Barrish.

12 Next, Adriane Lunny, if you are here,  
13 Ms. Lunny, and then Vera Chapman, and then if  
14 Joseph McCormick will come down to the on deck  
15 circle, we would be grateful.

16 Ms. Lunny, thank you so much for being  
17 here tonight, and you are recognized.

18 MS. LUNNY: My name is Adriane Lunny, I am  
19 from Sun City Center, Florida, and I won't take  
20 your time repeating what other people have  
21 said. I would just like to remind you that  
22 Amendments 5 and 6 were passed by a majority of  
23 voters, Independents, Republicans and  
24 Democrats. It was not a one-party deal. Thank  
25 you.

1           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much,  
2       Ms. Lunny.

3           Vera Chapman. How are you?

4           MS. CHAPMAN: Doing just fine.

5           SENATOR GAETZ: Good to see you. We are  
6       delighted you are here, and you are recognized.

7           MS. CHAPMAN: Thank you, thank you. Let  
8       me get this down.

9           I am from Sun City Center. I am a -- I  
10       live in a community of about 20,000 people. In  
11       season, we have 20,000. This time of the year,  
12       we don't.

13          Sad to say, it depends on which side of  
14       Route 674 who represents you, and that causes a  
15       lot of confusion. Maybe that is what you want.  
16       I would certainly hope not. To give you  
17       further definition, my Congressman -- I'm in  
18       Congressional District 12, Senate District 10  
19       and State House 63.

20          Sixty-three percent of Floridians voted  
21       for fair districts. No statewide elected  
22       official got 63 percent of the vote. And I  
23       know that percentage is higher than many of you  
24       got. Even Dean Cannon didn't get 63 percent.

25          We are the people. You need to stop

1       wasting our time and our money on these sham  
2       hearings and your desire to overturn 5 and 6.

3               I am old enough to be the mother of some  
4       of you here on this panel, and I can assure  
5       you, if you were my child, you would be taken  
6       behind the shed and it would be a darn stiff  
7       switch that would take your hineys.

8               Use the Fair Districts rules when you draw  
9       your official maps. Finally, if you do not  
10      understand terminology like "compact,"  
11      "contiguous," "fair," I recommend you buy a  
12      dictionary.

13              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. And now from  
14      the other side of the woodshed, Joseph  
15      McCormick, and following Mr. McCormick, we have  
16      Judy Davis McCormick. You are related?

17              MR. McCORMICK: Spouse, yes.

18              SENATOR GAETZ: Okay. And you are not  
19      going to let her speak first?

20              MR. McCORMICK: Well, I was, but you  
21      called me down first, so I came first.

22              SENATOR GAETZ: Okay, okay, because if she  
23      spoke first, then that way you could make your  
24      remarks consistent. Now you are on your own,  
25      my friend.

1           MR. McCORMICK:   Okay, I will let her speak  
2           first.

3           SENATOR GAETZ:   All right.   Wise man, wise  
4           man.   Judy, you are recognized.

5           MS. McCORMICK:   He knows when to give up  
6           the floor.

7           I am Judy Davis McCormick.   I have lived  
8           in Florida for 40 years, and lived in Tampa for  
9           17 years, I guess, the same amount of time I  
10          have been married to this wonderful man.

11          During the last several days, I have been  
12          working on creating district maps.   The My  
13          District Builder website is very easy to use as  
14          long as I am keeping the districts very simple  
15          and straightforward.   When working on areas of  
16          the state where I have lived, Tampa,  
17          Tallahassee, Panama City, Ft. Walton and the  
18          Keys, I have no problem.   The difficulty comes  
19          when I start trying to keep like communities  
20          together and other areas with which I am not so  
21          familiar.

22          While doing this exercise, it occurred to  
23          me that the group of people most qualified to  
24          understand the various communities in all areas  
25          are the elected county Supervisors of

1        Elections. I understand, as Dr. Lennard has  
2        said, that they have created the VDTs, but --  
3        and -- I'm sorry -- that they have created the  
4        VDTs. I changed my notes. But perhaps if this  
5        group were given more of a role in  
6        redistricting in the future, the process would  
7        be made simpler. Not only do they know their  
8        areas better than outsiders, they also know the  
9        difficulties in creating the many complicated  
10       ballots that are required for each election,  
11       and they are elected without political  
12       affiliation since 2008.

13                As an added benefit of placing the  
14       responsibilities on the 67 county supervisors,  
15       the legislators of our state would be removed  
16       from any cloud of suspicion that they are  
17       creating districts to benefit their own  
18       political parties.

19                Perhaps the next amendment Florida voters  
20       should consider is to remove the charge of  
21       redistricting from the legislators and place it  
22       in the capable hands of the state's county  
23       Supervisors of Elections. Thank you.

24                SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much. And  
25       now we will hear from the lower chamber of the



1 house of McCormick. Joseph McCormick, thank  
2 you very much for being here. You now know  
3 which lines to stay within.

4 MR. McCORMICK: That is right, thank you.  
5 I will be brief. Thank you for the opportunity  
6 to speak today on redistricting.

7 By way of disclosure, I signed the Fair  
8 District petition, contributed a small amount  
9 of money to help pass it and voted for them. I  
10 would ask any members of either the House  
11 Redistricting or the Senate Reapportionment  
12 Committee to remove themselves from their  
13 committee if they have any conflict of interest  
14 or perceivable conflict of interest in this  
15 matter.

16 For example, Senator Gaetz, you -- the  
17 website shows that you have -- you also lead  
18 the Florida Leadership Alliance. That group  
19 has contributed \$10,000 to the legal defense  
20 funds of U.S. Representatives Mario Diaz-Balart  
21 and Corrine Brown. That lawsuit attempts to  
22 defeat the restructuring -- the redistricting  
23 amendments as they relate to federal voting  
24 districts. This apparent conflict of interest  
25 seems an easy target for any future lawsuit to

1           overturn the actions of the 2012 Legislature in  
2           drawing up new congressional districts and, in  
3           turn, state redistricting.

4                     In the best interest of the people of  
5           Florida, if any of you have such a conflict of  
6           interest, please remove yourself from your  
7           Senate or House committee before taking any  
8           action on this when committee meetings begin in  
9           September. You will restore a huge amount of  
10          confidence of the people of Florida in their  
11          elected representatives if you will do so.  
12          Thank you.

13                    SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much. And,  
14          Mr. McCormick, I hope you will have a chance to  
15          stay until the end. I think you will be able  
16          to get some information that might disabuse you  
17          of any you might have there.

18                    John -- is it Teti with the League of  
19          Women Voters? And John, I'm sorry I didn't  
20          give you a long enough heads-up, but following  
21          John, Charlie Touchton and then Mark Smith.

22                    John, did I get your name right?

23                    MR. TETI: It is John Teti.

24                    SENATOR GAETZ: Teti. I am very sorry,  
25          sir. You are recognized.

1           MR. TETI: Thank you. Welcome to Tampa,  
2           distinguished visitors. I really do appreciate  
3           the opportunity tonight.

4           I am speaking on behalf of the League of  
5           Women Voters. I wish to apologize, first of  
6           all, to the Legislature, because somehow we,  
7           the people, didn't make ourselves clear in  
8           November. We told you what we wanted. We, the  
9           people, sent you to Tallahassee to -- with an  
10          unambiguous mandate with the passage of  
11          Amendments 5 and 6. Yet we obviously left  
12          leaving you something that you didn't  
13          understand.

14          You joined in a lawsuit to defeat that,  
15          and we asked you to drop that lawsuit, stop  
16          spending our money, we, the people, stop that  
17          immediately, and it is a wasteful and foolish  
18          effort.

19          Having watched some of the videos of the  
20          past conferences across the state, it would  
21          still seem that you are dumbfounded in not  
22          understanding what we, the people, are asking  
23          for.

24          Let me add the voice for all here tonight  
25          in saying that we, the people, sent you,

1 everyone, to Tallahassee to draw the districts.  
2 It is not for us, the League of Women Voters,  
3 or any other entity to actually draw them. We  
4 can give you recommendations, and the League as  
5 individuals are doing so, but the League will  
6 not draw the -- as we did in 2000, because you  
7 didn't listen to us. You completely ignored --  
8 we spent a lot of money, and you completely  
9 ignored what we did.

10 So we ask that you draw your maps, get on  
11 with the job, and we want you to do this before  
12 the end of March -- no, March 9th. We want to  
13 see the maps in January. So thank you very  
14 much.

15 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Teti.

16 Charlie Touchton is next, and following  
17 Charlie Touchton, Mark Smith and then Kenneth  
18 Key, if you will please come down and take your  
19 seat in the on deck circle.

20 Mr. Touchton, thank you for coming and  
21 sharing your views with the committee.

22 MR. TOUCHTON: Thank you, Senator Gaetz.

23 Good afternoon, I am Charlie Touchton. I  
24 live in South Tampa. I have lived in Florida  
25 most of my life and in Tampa most of that time.

1           Number one, I really appreciate this  
2           opportunity to talk to all of you and give you  
3           one set of inputs relative to the task you have  
4           in front of you. It is a challenging effort, I  
5           know, and I don't envy you. And yet I can look  
6           at the Amendments 5 and 6 and the broad  
7           guidelines that those two amendments present to  
8           you, and I wind up being fairly comfortable.  
9           Admittedly, compact is kind of hard, and  
10          practical might be kind of hard, but if I look  
11          at it in terms of four fundamentals that I call  
12          fair, balanced, cohesive and logical.

13          Fair and balanced is fairly  
14          straightforward. All I am looking for there is  
15          for every voter in every district to feel like  
16          he has an opportunity to be heard and an  
17          opportunity to reach out and touch his  
18          legislator as I am able to do locally, to reach  
19          out and touch my Senator as I am able to do  
20          locally, and even though it is across the bay,  
21          and therefore it is somewhat of a stretch and I  
22          can talk to him -- to Dana more easily more  
23          than I can talk to Jack, but at the same time,  
24          that is the kind of reach-out that is  
25          important.

1           The second piece, however, gets a little  
2       bit more complicated, and that's where we get  
3       to cohesive. Cohesive, compact, hard to say  
4       exactly how you separate those two, but if we  
5       look at House District 56 reaching from  
6       Westchase on one end, I think, down to  
7       Riverview on the other end, that is not compact  
8       and that is not cohesive. You can't reach out  
9       and touch. I am fortunate because I live in  
10      South Tampa, and that is in the center. But if  
11      I were -- if I were somebody that lived in  
12      Westchase, and my Representative were down in  
13      Riverview, that would be a problem.

14           Similarly, going across the river --  
15      across the bay to St. Petersburg, similarly, if  
16      we go into District 11, it just doesn't make  
17      sense, and that is where --

18           SENATOR GAETZ: Charlie, if I could get  
19      you to bring it in for a landing.

20           MR. TOUCHTON: Yes, sir.

21           The -- try to reach out and touch --  
22      Manatee doesn't make sense. The -- Pinellas  
23      County in the case of District 11 doesn't make  
24      sense. So what we need is to tighten our  
25      boundaries however you find it in your best

1 interest to do so and --

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. Thank you very  
3 much.

4 MR. TOUCHTON: -- I think we can do that.  
5 Thank you very much, Senator. I appreciate the  
6 opportunity to speak.

7 SENATOR GAETZ: Yes, sir, of course.  
8 Thank you for your testimony.

9 Mark Smith is next, and following  
10 Mr. Smith, we will have Kenneth Key, and then  
11 if Ella Coffee would please come down and be  
12 ready to testify.

13 Mr. Smith, thank you for coming, and you  
14 are recognized, sir.

15 MR. SMITH: Thank you, and thank you for  
16 giving me this opportunity --

17 SENATOR GAETZ: And if you could pull the  
18 mike up, that way everyone can hear your  
19 testimony.

20 MR. SMITH: Thank you.

21 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, sir.

22 MR. SMITH: I appreciate that.

23 My name is Mark Smith. I am a resident of  
24 Valrico, District 9. I am here today to  
25 request the redistricting committee consider

1 leaving all of Valrico with -- and east  
2 Hillsborough in District 9 for two reasons.  
3 The first and foremost is that we want  
4 Congressman Bilirakis to remain our  
5 Congressional Representative. Second, we want  
6 to remain with District 9 because this district  
7 best represents our community.

8 In recent years, we have seen the failure  
9 of corporations, financial institutions and  
10 foreign governments. We have witnessed the  
11 fundamental transformation of our healthcare  
12 system and the near collapse of our very own  
13 federal government. The change we are  
14 experiencing is traumatic and is tearing apart  
15 the social fabric of our society.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Sir, I need you to bring  
17 it back to redistricting, please.

18 MR. SMITH: This district in District 9,  
19 this is a multi-county band of bedroom  
20 communities composed of commuters,  
21 professionals, military veterans and small  
22 business owners. This district is a homogenous  
23 district, and the last thing that we want  
24 changed is our congressional district where a  
25 new Congressman's ideology will contrast with



1 the interests of our community. There is a  
2 high potential that a new representative would  
3 support their traditional base at the expense  
4 of newly acquired voters and destabilize our  
5 current effect of political representation.

6 There are two ways to divide up districts:  
7 Geography or demographics. Because we are  
8 largely a suburban district, our need for  
9 representation differs at many levels from  
10 neighboring districts. It would be a  
11 disservice to assimilate parts of District 9  
12 into districts with urban areas, as it would be  
13 a disservice to the urban voters as well. I  
14 believe a representative is at their best when  
15 they are representing a defined group of  
16 voters. When that interest is split, one group  
17 will be favored at the expense of the other.  
18 We will have a more effective representation  
19 using our current demographic boundaries.

20 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
21 We appreciate your testimony.

22 Next we will hear from Kenneth Key,  
23 please. Kenneth, thank you for being here  
24 tonight, then Ella Coffee and then Dan  
25 Raulerson -- Raulerson, I apologize, Mayor of

1 the City of Plant City.

2 Kenneth, thank you for coming, and you are  
3 recognized. Go Rays.

4 MR. KEY: Thank you for the opportunity to  
5 speak here tonight. I agree with many of the  
6 people that have spoken before, so I am not  
7 going to -- try not to repeat too much of it.

8 But one of the things that the committee  
9 and the Legislature needs to keep in mind is  
10 the fact that an overwhelming majority of the  
11 populous did approve Amendments 5 and 6, and it  
12 is not very difficult to understand what the  
13 terminology means. It is common sense. Chris  
14 Hart actually said something earlier, which I  
15 think may be the first time I have agreed with  
16 him politically, but having the south St.  
17 Petersburg part of Kathy Castor's district  
18 makes no sense, unless you are gerrymandering.  
19 It just -- it doesn't.

20 So if you use common sense -- and he also  
21 looked back at the reason why 5 and 6 were  
22 necessary to begin with. If the Legislature 10  
23 years ago and 20 years ago had done their job  
24 and drawn fair districts that made some  
25 semblance lanes of sense, 5 and 6 would have

1        never happened, all right. We elect you to use  
2        common sense, because it is like both parties  
3        do it, you know. The Democrats did it just 20  
4        years ago, you guys did it 10 years ago. Well,  
5        let's break the cycle.

6            I do have two questions real quick I did  
7        want to ask for the record, one of which is, is  
8        there any private entity contributing funds to  
9        help for the preparation of any map by any  
10       Legislature? And, also -- and I think that  
11       comes to conflict of interest, but also  
12       Representative Precourt at the Boca Raton  
13       hearing said that the House and Senate used  
14       different District Builder software. What is  
15       the difference between the two, are they using  
16       the same data, and are there private software  
17       programs being used to draw maps?

18            SENATOR GAETZ: Great questions, and we  
19        will get those answers for you at the end,  
20        assuming we have a little bit of time left.

21            Next, Ella Coffee, and then following  
22        Ms. Coffee, Mayor Raulerson, and then Mike -- I  
23        think it is Pheneger, I apologize if I  
24        mispronounce, President of the ACLU of Florida.

25            Ms. Coffee, thank you for coming, and you

1 are recognized.

2 MS. COFFEE: Thank you. My name is Ella  
3 K. Coffee, and I hope that buys me a couple  
4 extra moments with Representative Weatherford  
5 there. I reside in State House District 67.  
6 The majority of that district is in Manatee and  
7 Sarasota Counties. The district office is in  
8 Sarasota. There isn't a district office in  
9 Hillsborough County. I don't have as much in  
10 common with the communities in Manatee and  
11 Sarasota that I do in Hillsborough. Our  
12 children attended public schools here in  
13 Hillsborough County. Our youngest is actually  
14 attending Thomas Jefferson High School where we  
15 are tonight, as a senior and a member of the  
16 AAA state champions, which will probably now  
17 take those few moments from Representative  
18 Weatherford now. We shop, we play and we vote  
19 here in Hillsborough County. My representation  
20 should be from Hillsborough County. I should  
21 be able to visit an office in Hillsborough  
22 County. District 56 fits that criteria. That  
23 district office is in Riverview, which is my  
24 community.

25 District 63, which is represented also by

1 a Representative out of the county in Polk  
2 County, his office is in Lakeland. District 67  
3 backs up to 63. Again, those Representatives  
4 that are my neighbors should not have to travel  
5 out of the county to visit their  
6 Representative. Our boundaries for District 56  
7 should include east of Interstate 75 to Balm  
8 Boyette Road and south to State Road 672.

9 District 59 boundaries should continue up  
10 41 to State Road 582, to include citizens that  
11 share the same city council, county  
12 commissioners, but remembering that communities  
13 share the same interests.

14 District 58 should continue northwest from  
15 Hillsborough Avenue to Sligh Avenue and  
16 continue over west with the current boundaries.

17 The minority districts must be preserved.  
18 The redistricting process is in place to ensure  
19 we are represented by those who share our  
20 community's interests, values and beliefs, and  
21 who will be accountable to the citizens.  
22 Communities share common languages,  
23 characteristics such as housing, economic  
24 factors, education, working in the same  
25 industries, racial and ethnic commonalities.

1           When drawing maps --

2           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Coffee.

3           Could you conclude very, very quickly?

4           MS. COFFEE: Sure.

5           When drawing maps, they should be  
6           continuous as it relates to communities. Help  
7           make Florida as good as America's promise, one  
8           person, one vote. Ensure that none of our  
9           minority seats are held -- none of our minority  
10          seats that are currently held end up being  
11          fractured or cracked. Thank you.

12          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
13          Ms. Coffee.

14          Mr. Mayor, thank you for your service to  
15          the community, and we are anxious to hear your  
16          testimony, and following your testimony, it is  
17          Mike Pheneger, I think -- is that correct --  
18          with the ACLU, and then Evelito Otero, I  
19          believe.

20          Mr. Mayor.

21          MAYOR RAULERSON: Thank you, Senator, and  
22          first of all, thank all of you for being here.  
23          Not only do you have a tough job, but you have  
24          been threatened to be taken to the woodshed.  
25          Now, I saw a bunch of you straighten up in your

1       seats when she said that, so apparently there's  
2       enough of you up there old enough to know what  
3       that really means. I won't say which ones, but  
4       what I want to do first of all is to thank you.  
5       I will be short, which is not my nature, but I  
6       do want to say that we are -- in east  
7       Hillsborough County, in the Plant City area, we  
8       are happy with our current representation, both  
9       at the state level and the federal level. We  
10      represent the areas -- or the areas we are  
11      represented by are 9 and 12. We are very happy  
12      with those people, and we would really like for  
13      you guys to figure out a way that we could get  
14      a third one in there somehow. We would love to  
15      have three U.S. Representatives from the Plant  
16      City area.

17           However, practicality being what it is,  
18      the most important thing I think is that we  
19      need to understand -- and it has been  
20      articulated by people before me very well, so I  
21      will be short. We have a very  
22      agricultural/industrial base group of people  
23      and economy in east Hillsborough County. So  
24      what we would ask is that you take that into  
25      consideration and make sure that the

1        agricultural interests of Hillsborough County,  
2        which is 62nd in the country in terms of all of  
3        the counties of the United States in  
4        agricultural production. And when you grow  
5        food, and we have talked about how important  
6        jobs are, when you grow food, folks, you grow  
7        jobs, and that is important to this economy.  
8        And east Hillsborough County and Hillsborough  
9        County in general has done an extremely good  
10       job of growing those jobs and growing the food  
11       that feed the rest of the world.

12                In closing, I would certainly like to wish  
13       you well, God speed and God bless you, good  
14       luck. Thank you.

15                SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
16       Mr. Mayor, and thank you for your service to  
17       the people of your community.

18                Mike, I think I butchered your name.

19                MR. PHENEGER: It is Pheneger.

20                SENATOR GAETZ: Say again, sir.

21                MR. PHENEGER: Say that P-h as an F, like  
22       in telephone.

23                SENATOR GAETZ: Okay.

24                MR. PHENEGER: It is Pheneger.

25                SENATOR GAETZ: Okay. Thank you for



1       correcting me. And after your testimony,  
2       Evelio Otero and then Maria Elbilbaisi, I  
3       think. And I apologize, I know I messed that  
4       one up.

5               Mike, you are recognized. Thanks for  
6       coming.

7               MR. PHENEGER: Thank you. I am the  
8       President of the ACLU of Florida. I am also a  
9       retired Army colonel. I retired after a couple  
10      of tours out at MacDill Air Force Base where I  
11      was the Director of Intelligence for Special  
12      Operations Command.

13              We are very interested in this thing. I  
14      want to say dittos to Mickey Castor and the  
15      elections supervisors on issues of timing, but  
16      I would like to kind of take on the critics of  
17      5 and 6, because I have noticed Representative  
18      Weatherford here nodding a lot of the time when  
19      they were up here.

20              They say that the words are vague and  
21      ambiguous. Well, there's not much more vague  
22      and ambiguous than nothing, and because without  
23      5 and 6, that is what you've got, nothing. The  
24      only guideline you have is to make the  
25      districts relatively equal in population, okay.

1       So we have given you some districts. Now, I  
2       think these are pretty easy to do. After equal  
3       in population, you can say contiguous. A  
4       district that is contiguous isn't separated by  
5       Lake Okeechobee or Tampa Bay, things like that.  
6       A district that is compact doesn't begin on the  
7       east coast of the state of Florida and end up  
8       in Ft. Myers. That is not compact. So we can  
9       see that these districts, they may be subject  
10      to some interpretation, they are there. All of  
11      this is, in fact, possible.

12             Now, the other thing I would like to do is  
13      talk a little bit about the districts and the  
14      citizens-developed districts, because I have  
15      heard Representative Weatherford now talk about  
16      that twice, and using that as a basis. I must  
17      tell you that I have my suspicions about using  
18      citizens-established districts as the basis for  
19      your consideration. First, elections have  
20      consequences, and for better or for worse, we  
21      have given you the job, okay. It is your  
22      responsibility to draw the districts and apply  
23      the constitutional standards.

24             The second thing I would like to say is  
25      that I would be suspicious that you all have

1 kind of done the equivalent of salting the mine  
2 and putting out districts from so-called  
3 members of the citizenry to --

4 SENATOR GAETZ: Mike --

5 MR. PHENEGER: -- kind of conform to what  
6 you want to do.

7 SENATOR GAETZ: Colonel, in deference to  
8 those behind you, if I could get you to wrap  
9 up, sir.

10 MR. PHENEGER: I will wrap up, and I will  
11 simply wrap up with this: If you all produce a  
12 set of districts where each of you is not  
13 absolutely sure that you are going to be  
14 reelected, then maybe you all have done the  
15 job. Thank you.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Colonel, and  
17 thank you for your service to our country.

18 MR. PHENEGER: I have a gift for you.  
19 Show me the maps. I will give one to each of  
20 you.

21 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. I always need  
22 another campaign button. I can put it next to  
23 my Spiro is the one.

24 Now, Evelio Otero. Did I pronounce that  
25 name correctly?

1           MR. OTERO: Yes, you did. Before you did  
2 it, only my mother used to call me Evelito.

3           SENATOR GAETZ: Evelito.

4           MR. OTERO: So Evelio is my name.

5           SENATOR GAETZ: Evelio. So I got it  
6 right?

7           MR. OTERO: You got it.

8           SENATOR GAETZ: Good. You are recognized.

9           MR. OTERO: Yes. Ladies and gentlemen, I  
10 am Evelio Otero, I am also a retired colonel  
11 from MacDill, and special operations commando  
12 was my last assignment where we developed  
13 international agreements and SOF, Special  
14 Operations, and I also worked in Intelligence  
15 with a central commander in the war beginning  
16 on September 11, that is when we started, and  
17 one thing that I learned that you are doing  
18 very well is that intelligence comes before  
19 operations. You are the infantry. We are  
20 providing you the intelligence. It is very  
21 difficult to do it the other way around. If  
22 you develop the maps and nobody knows what is  
23 going on, then it is going to be  
24 self-defeating. So what you are doing right  
25 now, obtaining the intelligence from us so you

1       can go ahead and develop the appropriate maps  
2       is the way to go. I applaud you for that.

3               I also wanted to -- I also wanted you  
4       folks to know that being a member of the Tampa  
5       community since 1997 and having been one of the  
6       senior-ranking Hispanics in Central Command and  
7       the most senior-ranking Hispanic in Special  
8       Operations Command, I am in touch with that  
9       community. I am very much in touch with the  
10      Hispanic community, and I would encourage you  
11      to maintain the community as it is, to maintain  
12      the integrity of the community, whether it is  
13      in House 58, whether it is in the Senate 18,  
14      Districts 18 and 58, please maintain them as  
15      such. When it comes to the Congressional  
16      district, the Congressional District 11, that  
17      is fine, except Pinellas, which makes no sense  
18      whatsoever. They are great people, love them  
19      to death, I go there a lot to smoke my cigars,  
20      but when it comes to political reasons, we  
21      don't have anything in common. There are  
22      issues that need to be discussed when it comes  
23      to funding from universities, when it comes to  
24      baseball parks, et cetera, that if there is no  
25      actual representation for those -- for those

1 specific districts, it is self-defeating.

2 I just want to say thank you very much for  
3 everything you are doing. I respect you very  
4 much, and maintain your duty of elegance.

5 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
6 Colonel.

7 And, Maria -- I am going to try this --  
8 Elbilbaisi.

9 MS. ELBILBAISI: Yes.

10 SENATOR GAETZ: Elbilbaisi. Maria  
11 Elbilbaisi, thank you for being with us  
12 tonight, and following Maria's testimony,  
13 Carole Torres and then Benito Torres.

14 And you are recognized, ma'am. Thank you  
15 for coming.

16 MS. ELBILBAISI: Thank you, members, for  
17 coming here today to listen to us --

18 SENATOR GAETZ: And I apologize, ma'am, if  
19 you could speak directly into the microphone,  
20 that way everybody can hear you.

21 MS. ELBILBAISI: Thank you, members, for  
22 coming here today to listen to us on a critical  
23 issue that, depending on what you do, could  
24 empower us or could diminish us.

25 My name is Maria, and I live in Ybor

1 neighborhood, a proud historical black  
2 community of Tampa. At this time, House  
3 District 59 is a minority black district, and  
4 that I ask you to uphold in the State Senate  
5 and in Congress, united with other communities  
6 in Bradenton and St. Petersburg. We have the  
7 opportunity to participate in the political  
8 process and elect a Representative of our  
9 choice. I ask you to maintain these districts  
10 to give us a voice. The Florida Constitution  
11 requires you. Thank you.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
13 Maria, we appreciate your testimony.

14 And next, Carole Torres, please, and  
15 following Carole Torres, Benito Torres, and  
16 then Pat Spencer.

17 Ms. Torres, you are recognized. Thank you  
18 for coming and sharing your thoughts tonight.

19 MS. TORRES: Thank you. My name is Carole  
20 Torres, and I appreciate all of you listening  
21 to all of us this evening. I will be brief,  
22 because I know there are others behind me.

23 I am mainly here to ask you not to turn  
24 back the wheels of political progress that we  
25 have -- the black community here in Tampa have

1       witnessed in the past decades. The black  
2       community in House District 59 constitutes a  
3       majority, and we don't want this district split  
4       up. In the State Senate and in Congress, our  
5       community, along with others in Tampa Bay, form  
6       majority districts that give us the ability to  
7       elect a Representative of our choice. The  
8       Voting Rights Act and Amendment 5 and 6 require  
9       you to keep our community empowered. Not  
10      following the law will result in unnecessary  
11      and expensive lawsuits. They can be avoided if  
12      you get it right the first time. Thank you so  
13      much.

14             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, ma'am.  
15      And now we will hear from Benito Torres.  
16      Benito, you were wise to let Carole go first.  
17      And you are recognized, sir, and we are pleased  
18      that you took time out of your day to come and  
19      testify before the committee.

20             MR. TORRES: Thank you. I would like to  
21      welcome everybody. I have lived in Tampa since  
22      1973.

23             SENATOR GAETZ: Could you speak directly  
24      into the mike, because there are some folks in  
25      the way back who could not hear you, sir?



1           MR. TORRES: Okay. I said I would just  
2           like to welcome everybody, and I have lived in  
3           Tampa just about since -- about the time since  
4           I left New York City, that was 1973. So I  
5           currently reside in the State House District 59  
6           where we are proud to be represented by Betty  
7           Reed. I also take part in electing our State  
8           Senator, Arthenia Joyner, and Castor in the  
9           U.S. House. In the State House seat, the black  
10          community forms the majority. In the House,  
11          Senate and in the U.S. House together, we --  
12          with Hispanic voters, we form a  
13          majority-minority district. We elect  
14          candidates who know the needs of our community,  
15          and we like it this way. I ask that when  
16          redrawing the district boundaries, you maintain  
17          these districts as much as possible so that our  
18          voice stays strong and we are not weakened.  
19          Thank you.

20          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very, very much,  
21          sir. We appreciate that. And in this part of  
22          our hearing, we are going to take a short  
23          break, but in this part of our hearing, Pat  
24          Spencer is going to be our final speaker, and  
25          then don't go away, because we have lots more

1       folks who would like to share their views.

2               Ms. Spencer, thank you for coming tonight,  
3       and we look forward to anything you may have to  
4       share with us.

5               MS. SPENCER: Thank you very much. I,  
6       too, would like to say thanks to all of you for  
7       coming, and if you will notice, I am watching  
8       each and every one of you, because I have read  
9       so much about you, and I read about you,  
10      especially during the sessions, but when you  
11      can put a face with a name that you have read,  
12      then when I read, I will know who I am upset  
13      with or who I am pleased with. So thank you  
14      for coming.

15              And maybe I don't agree with what  
16      everybody has said, because a lot of people  
17      have said the way you are doing the hearings  
18      and doing your maps and not having the maps  
19      here, I do not agree with that. So I am going  
20      to be very brief with what I am saying and ask  
21      that once you get all of the information at the  
22      hearings and you get your maps drawn, in your  
23      schedule will you please try to put in some  
24      time that you can come back to the citizens and  
25      let us see what you are presenting to us, and

1           that way, we can have some input. Thank you  
2           and God bless.

3           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
4           Ms. Spencer. And we will take a 15-minute  
5           recess, but don't go away, come back after 15  
6           minutes.

7           (Brief recess taken.)

8           SENATOR GAETZ: Would you start over?

9           MS. RACHEL: Yes.

10          SENATOR GAETZ: And would you speak  
11          directly into the mike, please?

12          MS. RACHEL: Yes. My name is Wanda  
13          Rachel, and I am a resident of Hillsborough  
14          County and I have been a resident for over 40  
15          years and I am a commercial truck driver. And  
16          I am here today as a member of the  
17          African-American community here in Tampa to ask  
18          you to please reserve our vote when you redraw  
19          your district lines.

20          Amendment 5 and 6, passed by over  
21          60 percent of the voters, guarantees us our  
22          rights as minorities to participate in the  
23          political process and to elect representatives  
24          of our choice. So I hope you will remain -- I  
25          hope you will maintain the district that

1           currently allows us to have that  
2           representation.

3           House District 59 is very important to us  
4           as black minority-majority district. Please  
5           don't undo that. Also, please uphold Senate  
6           District 18 and Congressional District 11 as  
7           districts that let African-Americans and  
8           Hispanics from around Tampa Bay join together  
9           to elect candidates of our choice.

10           Please follow the law and let our voices  
11           be heard at all levels of the government, and  
12           thank you for your time.

13           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Rachel,  
14           very much for your testimony tonight.

15           Next we will hear from Willie James  
16           Jackson, and following Mr. Jackson, Eva  
17           Collette, and then Patricia W. Hall from the  
18           League of Women Voters.

19           Mr. Jackson, thank you for coming, and you  
20           have the floor, sir.

21           MR. JACKSON: Okay. Hillsborough 3 --  
22           good afternoon. My name is Willie Jackson. I  
23           am a native of Florida -- I mean, Tampa,  
24           Florida.

25           SENATOR GAETZ: Could you pull the

1 microphone up just a little bit?

2 MR. JACKSON: I have been from Tampa,  
3 Florida, for 60 years. I appreciate -- I  
4 appreciate you -- I can't get this right. I  
5 have to hold it up. I appreciate you coming  
6 here to listen to us.

7 My main concern here today is to urge you  
8 all to continue to -- the political progress  
9 that we in the black community have witnessed  
10 -- have witnessed here in the Tampa Bay area  
11 over the past few decades.

12 In House District 59, the black community  
13 is the majority, and we may -- I'm sorry -- we  
14 want you to keep it that way. In the state --  
15 in the State Senate and Congress -- Congress,  
16 uniting with Hispanics would form a coalition  
17 district, allowing us the ability to select a  
18 Representative of our choice.

19 I would like to remind you legislators  
20 that not only are we -- are you legally  
21 required to keep our community empowered, but  
22 it is just the right thing to do. Thank you.

23 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. Thank you very  
24 much, Mr. Jackson. Great testimony.

25 Eva Collette is next, and following Ms.

1 Collette, Patricia Hall, and after Ms. Hall  
2 speaks, Kathy Brown.

3 Ms. Collette, thank you for coming and  
4 taking time from your evening to share your  
5 views.

6 MS. COLLETTE: Thank you. I just am in  
7 such awe that y'all have sat here for so long  
8 and listened to so many people's different  
9 views. I thank you for listening to mine. I  
10 am going to speak very slowly so y'all know  
11 exactly what I am speaking about.

12 I agree with Dr. Lennard and Mr. Wolff. I  
13 see Mr. Wolff is no longer here, he has left,  
14 but those -- they had my -- they said  
15 everything I wanted to say, and I didn't want  
16 to leave and y'all call my name and I am gone.  
17 Thank you very much.

18 SENATOR GAETZ: We appreciate your taking  
19 time, and your comment's important to us.

20 Next is Patricia Hall with the League of  
21 Women Voters, and then Kathy Brown and then  
22 Michael Weinbaum.

23 Ms. Hall, retired teacher?

24 MS. HALL: Yes.

25 SENATOR GAETZ: Glad to have you here

1           tonight.

2           MS. HALL: Retired teacher from Jefferson  
3 High School, no doubt.

4           SENATOR GAETZ: All right.

5           MS. HALL: The Legislature has had the  
6 data necessary to draw district maps since  
7 March. In the five months since, not a single  
8 map drawn by any legislator has been revealed  
9 to the public. Other states that have public  
10 hearings do so in order to allow citizens the  
11 opportunity to comment on the actual proposed  
12 maps. For example, after maps are finalized in  
13 Arizona, they are made available to the public  
14 for comment for 30 days before final passage.  
15 Why are you not showing us any maps? You have  
16 had the census data for five months.

17           While you have created My District Builder  
18 for the public to draw their own maps, the  
19 system does not provide the tools necessary to  
20 draw real statewide maps with measures of  
21 compactness and other data.

22           Maps submitted by the public will not be  
23 voted on. This mapping for the public is a  
24 charade intended to make people believe they  
25 have input when the real maps will be drawn by

1 consultants and presented with little or no  
2 meaningful public input. The real mapping will  
3 be done away from the public eye and without  
4 meaningful public input.

5 Committee leaders have said the public  
6 will have an opportunity to comment during the  
7 redistricting process in Tallahassee. What  
8 about the vast majority of us, as Pat Spencer  
9 mentioned, who live nowhere near Tallahassee  
10 and members of the public will not be allowed  
11 speak in time-limited meetings? You promised  
12 the public that they will have two or three-day  
13 comment period before any votes are taken on  
14 any proposal. Get real. How can citizens  
15 hundreds of miles from Tallahassee review,  
16 analyze and comment on complicated statewide  
17 maps in two or three days?

18 And how many people have computers in  
19 Florida? They tell us to send e-mails or post  
20 comments on the website. Are they serious?  
21 Will they really read hundreds of last-minute  
22 e-mails or posts during the two or three-day  
23 period? It is no wonder that the vast majority  
24 of citizens who have been attending these  
25 hearings have expressed suspicion --



1           SENATOR GAETZ: And, Ms. Hall, if I could  
2 get you to bring it in for a landing.

3           MS. HALL: I will.

4           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you.

5           MS. HALL: -- suspicion about the true  
6 motives of legislators. There's something very  
7 strange about this refusal to present any maps  
8 for comment.

9           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much --

10          MS. HALL: Thank you.

11          SENATOR GAETZ: -- Ms. Hall. And next,  
12 Kathy Brown, and following Ms. Brown, Michael  
13 Weinbaum, and then after Mr. Weinbaum, Matthew  
14 Cooper.

15          Ms. Brown, thank you for taking your time,  
16 and we look forward to what you have to share  
17 with us.

18          MS. BROWN: Senators, Representatives and  
19 fellow citizens, I am Kathy Brown, a 37-year  
20 resident of Valrico. I have been semi-retired  
21 for the last two years and have now --

22          SENATOR GAETZ: Ms. Brown, could you move  
23 over like two inches? There you go, you are  
24 right on the mike now.

25          MS. BROWN: Is that better?

1           I have been semi-retired for the last two  
2       years, so I now have time to do my civic duty  
3       and try to participate in government.

4           Thank you for allowing me to speak here.  
5       I am truly awed by the task you have before  
6       you. You can please some of the people all of  
7       the time, all of the people some of the time,  
8       but you can never please -- you cannot please  
9       all of the people all of the time. I fear that  
10      at the end of your task, most people will not  
11      be pleased. However, I do -- do see the reason  
12      for having the redistricting and getting rid of  
13      gerrymandering. I do know one thing:  
14      Gerrymandering is not a good thing.

15           And I live in District 9, which sprawls  
16      from Tarpon Springs to east of Plant City. I  
17      do not believe that that is a good way to plan  
18      a district. When my -- when my Congressman  
19      holds a town hall in Tarpon Springs, it is  
20      quite a hardship for people in my area to  
21      attend that town hall and have our views heard.  
22      And yet parts of Valrico are in Congressional  
23      District number 12. Those people have an  
24      equally difficult task to get to their  
25      Congressman.

1           As I said earlier, I realize you have a  
2           daunting task to accomplish, but I just ask  
3           that you set district boundaries that make  
4           sense and keep communities together.  
5           Valrico should not be divided into two  
6           districts. Thank you.

7           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
8           Ms. Brown.

9           And next -- did I get it correctly, it is  
10          Michael Weinbaum?

11          MR. WEINBAUM: I just wanted to say yeah,  
12          most people don't get that right, so --

13          SENATOR GAETZ: Well, thank you,  
14          Mr. Weinbaum, for being here tonight, and you  
15          are recognized, sir.

16          MR. WEINBAUM: I am not here to recommend  
17          a specific district or a specific community  
18          that can't be divided, because I understand  
19          that districts are just like puzzle pieces. If  
20          you say, well, this community can't be divided,  
21          then you got a big piece and you got to work  
22          other little pieces around it, and then all of  
23          a sudden, someone else's community is divided.  
24          Someone's community has got to be divided.

25          So the first districts that you should

1 draw should start at the corners of the state,  
2 and you should just work your way until you get  
3 enough people. You should start at Key West,  
4 go north on U.S. 1 until you get enough people  
5 for whichever district it is. You should start  
6 at the Alabama border, keep working your way  
7 east until you get enough people. Now, I mean,  
8 unless you run into a geographically compact  
9 minority population.

10 I also heard that -- some of the  
11 commenters said they didn't know what  
12 "feasible" meant. Every district is feasible.  
13 If you drew it, it is done. That means --  
14 "feasible" just means it can be done.

15 "Practicable." That is, again, a  
16 meaningless term. If I was able to do it, that  
17 means someone else could do it, and it seems  
18 practical to me.

19 So the only term I want you guys to focus  
20 on is "compact." I went to high school in  
21 Jacksonville, had a good geometry education, I  
22 got my engineering degree, University of  
23 Central Florida, so I am a product of you guys'  
24 schools, thank you for that. And a circle is  
25 the most compact shape possible. "Compact" is

1       the ratio of perimeter over area. A square is  
2       a very compact shape, a rectangle slightly less  
3       so. Something that is C-shaped or U-shaped,  
4       like District 12, very non-compact. Now, what  
5       this means, since "compact" is now in our  
6       Constitution, that if you draw district lines  
7       and I am able to simply move your lines and  
8       make something more compact -- and, again, this  
9       is a mathematical value, it is a ratio. If  
10      mine is less than yours and therefore more  
11      compact, and both of our lines affect the  
12      minority representation about the same way, I  
13      win, you lose.

14           SENATOR GAETZ: See you in court. Your  
15      time is up. Thank you very much.

16           And next, Matthew Cooper, and then Sara, I  
17      think it is Scher, with Planned Parenthood and  
18      then Rod Jurado.

19           Matthew, thank you for coming tonight, and  
20      you are recognized, sir.

21           MR. COOPER: Thank you. I am Matthew  
22      Cooper. I am a fifth-generation Floridian. My  
23      great-great-grandfather was one of the first  
24      sheriffs of Dade County.

25           History is important. If we look back ten

1 years, it is important to remember our  
2 Republican Legislature was able to gerrymander  
3 districts so that in the DC Florida  
4 congressional delegation, there are 16  
5 Republicans now, only nine Democrats, even  
6 though Florida boasts a 600,000 dollar more --  
7 more Democratic voters than Republican.

8 The Fair District amendment threatened  
9 this gerrymandering system, and, of course,  
10 Republican domination. There could have been  
11 only two responses, and there were, confusion  
12 and delay, confusion by pushing two competing  
13 amendments to confuse voters as to which was  
14 the real one, delay by spending 2.5 million  
15 taxpayer money to kill the amendments that  
16 passed, confusion by encouragement now of  
17 hundreds of maps when only one really matters,  
18 delay by promising to release maps only days  
19 before filing deadlines, and confusion by  
20 forcing court challenges to overlap election  
21 periods, finally, delay as shown by  
22 Representative Weatherford's promise to give us  
23 pertinent information, but only after all of us  
24 have given our comments.

25 I suggest to you, Republican Gaetz and

1       Republican Weatherford, that you do have maps,  
2       they do exist and they are very detailed. I  
3       call on you both to reveal tonight the partisan  
4       maps I submit you have, postpone these hearings  
5       and reschedule them when we have something to  
6       work with. Thank you for your time.

7               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much,  
8       Matthew.

9               And next is Sara Scher with Planned  
10       Parenthood, and after Sara, then Rod Jurado and  
11       then Jocelyn Dickman.

12              Sara, thank you for coming, and you are  
13       recognized.

14              MS. SCHER: Thank you. My name is Sara  
15       Scher, and I am on the Board and speaking on  
16       behalf of Planned Parenthood of Southwest and  
17       Central Florida.

18              It appears to us that the Legislature's  
19       timeline for drawing districts is extremely  
20       unfair to Florida voters. Along with so many  
21       others, we question why the Legislature won't  
22       prepare the new district maps earlier, leave  
23       time to debate them this fall, then pass them  
24       during the first week of the legislative  
25       session, instead of waiting to finalize the

1 maps until the end of the legislative session  
2 in March 2012.

3 Florida's maps will be approved later than  
4 almost every other state in the nation. Our  
5 new districts may not be finalized until  
6 August, just two months before the  
7 all-important 2012 elections. Election  
8 supervisors will have insufficient time to  
9 prepare for elections, and it is unlikely  
10 absentee and oversea ballots will be finalized  
11 by their deadline for mailing. Challengers or  
12 new candidates will have little, if any, time  
13 to mount campaigns. Uncertainty as to what a  
14 district will look like helps incumbents,  
15 because incumbents are already known to the  
16 voters and have a huge advantage in raising  
17 money. Challengers will be reluctant to throw  
18 their hats in the ring.

19 One can only think that the current  
20 timeline is designed as an incumbent protection  
21 plan. Without maps to comment on, the public  
22 does not have an opportunity for meaningful  
23 comment before final passage. Is this the way  
24 our democracy is supposed to work? We don't  
25 think so.



1           Also, why is the Legislature spending our  
2       precious tax dollars, over \$1 million so far,  
3       to oppose Fair Districts passed during last  
4       year's election by 63 percent of the  
5       electorate? All of this money is being spent  
6       unnecessarily while teachers are being fired,  
7       social services are being cut, fewer women are  
8       able to access healthcare and not a single job  
9       is being created.

10           SENATOR GAETZ: And, Ms. Scher, sadly,  
11       sadly, your supporters used up the rest of your  
12       time. So, therefore, we thank you for your  
13       testimony.

14           And our next -- our next testifier is Rod  
15       Jurado. Mr. Jurado, are you here? And  
16       following Mr. Jurado, Jocelyn Dickman.

17           MR. JURADO: Rod Jurado. I have been --

18           SENATOR GAETZ: Mr. Jurado, if you would  
19       speak directly into the mike, it would be very  
20       helpful.

21           MR. JURADO: All right. Rod Jurado. I  
22       have been a citizen of Hillsborough County for  
23       53 years now. In fact, my mother is a graduate  
24       of Jefferson High School, my grandmother was a  
25       student here.

1           When I was in high school, I was told that  
2           there's no point in being a Republican because  
3           you can't vote. And over the time, I studied  
4           my civics, I know that for 120 or so years,  
5           there really wasn't any discussion about how  
6           districts are going to be laid out, and I, for  
7           one, thank all of you, both Republican and  
8           Democrat, for being willing to open up. I know  
9           many of you here personally, I have talked to  
10          you, I've got your phone numbers, we have  
11          talked, whether it is in Tallahassee or in -- I  
12          see Erik Fresen from Miami here. I appreciate  
13          the fact that we have people from all over, and  
14          I know it is -- you are hearing people telling  
15          you -- living in Temple Terrace, last time ten  
16          years ago, you started in the north and started  
17          in the south and came to the middle, and we  
18          ended up in a very fortunate situation with  
19          three Congressmen. It will never happen again,  
20          but it got us a chance to do a lot of things,  
21          get a lot of things done. We also ended up  
22          with two county commissioners in Temple  
23          Terrace, and I think that we've got to be  
24          careful about reminding people that more  
25          representation is better than limited

1 representation by saying your boundaries are  
2 more important than your people.

3 And so thank you very much for all the  
4 time you have and all the work you are putting  
5 in. You remind me of what is happening right  
6 now in New York with the weathermen who are  
7 being beat up because the storm wasn't as  
8 strong as it should have been. So thank you  
9 very much for being willing to be the  
10 weatherman for us and trying to predict the  
11 future and do the things by listening to us  
12 before giving us your maps.

13 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, Rod,  
14 for your comments. And next, Jocelyn Dickman,  
15 and following Ms. Dickman, Joann Matthews, and  
16 then in the on deck circle would be Mike  
17 Michelin, please.

18 Ms. Dickman, thank you so much for coming,  
19 and we are anxious to hear what you might have  
20 to share with us.

21 MS. DICKMAN: I know you are.

22 Hello, everyone. First thing I want to  
23 say is, you are asking us to trust you as a  
24 body to do what is right for the citizens who,  
25 as I said in Pasco, are your bosses. Your job

1 is to do -- do things for the voters, for the  
2 citizens. It is very difficult to trust our  
3 Legislature this year after the majority in the  
4 Legislature, and you all know who I am speaking  
5 to and who I am not at this point, this year  
6 passed the most vial, despicable, depraved to  
7 the point of criminal legislation against  
8 voters in the state of Florida with the Voter  
9 Suppression Act. How are we to believe that a  
10 body who could pass that kind of law would do  
11 anything for the people of Florida, number one.

12 Number two -- also, Representative  
13 Weatherford, my Representative, when you  
14 campaigned this year earlier -- last year,  
15 sorry, you had ads that said you didn't believe  
16 in bigger government, but you believe in better  
17 government, which is very interesting coming  
18 from an incumbent --

19 SENATOR GAETZ: Now, ma'am, if you want to  
20 talk to Representative Weatherford, I know he  
21 will stay after and chat with you, but let's  
22 keep it to redistricting.

23 MS. DICKMAN: Okay, that is. That's --

24 SENATOR GAETZ: Let's see if we can bring  
25 it back to redistricting.

1 MS. DICKMAN: It's coming right back there  
2 if you let me have a chance.

3 SENATOR GAETZ: Hey, ladies and gentlemen,  
4 now we will listen to this lady with respect,  
5 and she is going to keep it to redistricting.

6 MS. DICKMAN: It is coming back.

7 SENATOR GAETZ: Okay. Let's see if we can  
8 bring it into the zone.

9 MS. DICKMAN: It is the difference -- it  
10 will.

11 SENATOR GAETZ: Okay.

12 MS. DICKMAN: It is the difference of the  
13 definition of "bigger government" versus  
14 "better government." "Bigger government" is  
15 you pick the district. It is Representative  
16 Weatherford who advertises for better  
17 government, drawing a district for his brother  
18 to run for State House and himself run for  
19 Congress.

20 SENATOR GAETZ: No, no, ma'am --

21 MS. DICKMAN: It's redistricting.

22 SENATOR GAETZ: -- ma'am, let's keep it --  
23 let's keep it to the subject of the hearing.  
24 If you want to meet with --

25 MS. DICKMAN: Is the subject drawing

1 districts? Because that is what I am trying to  
2 speak about.

3 SENATOR GAETZ: Try -- try to bring it  
4 back to the subject of the hearing.

5 MS. DICKMAN: Okay, back to redistricting.  
6 I know it's been said at these hearings that no  
7 one on this panel has in the past drawn a  
8 district for themselves, and I understand that  
9 that is a truth. The issue isn't what you have  
10 done in the past, it is what you are going to  
11 do in the future with this new redistricting.  
12 Yes, you haven't drawn your districts in the  
13 past, but I want you to tell us that you are  
14 not going to personally draw your districts the  
15 way you want them for yourself in the future.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much for  
17 your testimony. Following Ms. Dickman, we will  
18 now have Joann Matthews. Ms. Matthews, are you  
19 here? Joann Matthews? Well, I'm sorry, she  
20 apparently gave up on us.

21 Mike Michelin. Mike, are you here?  
22 Following Mike, we will have Greg Vawter and  
23 then Helen Baines.

24 Mike, thanks for coming, and the floor is  
25 yours.

1           MR. MICHELIN: I appreciate the  
2           opportunity to be here. It is not every day  
3           that the public gets to address a large  
4           contingent of the legislators, so out of due  
5           respect, I think that we should be able to say  
6           anything we want.

7           SENATOR GAETZ: Sir, I apologize, could  
8           you speak a little more closely into the  
9           microphone?

10          MR. MICHELIN: Sorry. I said that if you  
11          want to talk about respect, I believe that  
12          people should be able to state whatever they  
13          need in the time that they have up here, and  
14          that you should not be --

15          SENATOR GAETZ: Well, I apologize, sir,  
16          but we are just here to talk about  
17          redistricting, not about other subjects that  
18          might be important --

19          MR. MICHELIN: Okay.

20          SENATOR GAETZ: -- so if you can keep it  
21          to redistricting, we would be delighted to hear  
22          your testimony.

23          MR. MICHELIN: I have a prepared  
24          statement, and it is not because anybody handed  
25          me a script, it was because I hear you can get

1 more respect and attention by withholding your  
2 anger and criticism from your public comments,  
3 which I find it very hard to do with what is  
4 going on in Tallahassee right now.

5 Two of the biggest issues with  
6 redistricting is what everybody else has said,  
7 the delay tactics and the procrastination that  
8 is going to push us right up into the midst of  
9 the election cycle next year. Furthermore, the  
10 litigation that is being --

11 SENATOR GAETZ: Mike, we are missing some  
12 of your good comments. If you would stay right  
13 on top of the mike, if you can. I apologize.

14 MR. MICHELIN: The litigation that has  
15 been brought forth against the amendments that  
16 were passed last -- the election, no matter  
17 what you feel about Amendments 5 and 6, the  
18 election was last year, they passed  
19 overwhelmingly, and now the litigation that is  
20 being brought using the same tax money from the  
21 people that voted overwhelmingly to pass these  
22 amendments is unconscionable and it should  
23 outrage every citizen of the state.

24 The people have sent a voice to  
25 Tallahassee that they want -- that they don't



1       want self -- political self-interest to  
2       overrule the will of the people. The will of  
3       the people says that we want fair districts  
4       that are drawn based on geography, not  
5       incumbency. So I would ask that you would stop  
6       the tactics that advance your partisan causes,  
7       and fulfill the will of the people.

8               SENATOR GAETZ: Thanks. And, Mike, if you  
9       had some additional comments, turn them in, and  
10      we would be happy to include them in the  
11      record.

12             Next we will hear from Greg Vawter and  
13      then Helen Baines, and following Helen, Vivian,  
14      I think it is Bacca, B-a-c-c-a.

15             Greg, thank you for coming, and the floor  
16      is yours, sir.

17             MR. VAWTER: Thank you, Senator,  
18      Representative.

19             To some extent, I feel like I am thanking  
20      the foxes for inviting the chickens to provide  
21      input. Nonetheless --

22             SENATOR GAETZ: It was such a great line,  
23      I am going to give you a chance to repeat it  
24      into the microphone where they can all hear it.

25             MR. VAWTER: That is all right, you have

1           heard it, I am going to go on.

2           SENATOR GAETZ: I heard it, but they  
3           didn't. It was so good.

4           MR. VAWTER: The point I would like to  
5           make is that we are here to talk about power,  
6           and the League of Women Voters has been called  
7           out for not drawing maps. We have already  
8           provided our position that the maps should be  
9           drawn by the Legislature and then provided to  
10          the public for comment, and that is what we are  
11          looking for.

12          What we are interested in is whose best  
13          interests are we looking out for here? I'm  
14          sorry, I will wait.

15          A VOICE: Go ahead.

16          MR. VAWTER: All right. The fairness that  
17          we are looking for is what is fair to the  
18          people who you represent, not necessarily what  
19          is fair for you as you are looking out for  
20          your -- we know you are concerned for the  
21          non-incumbent candidates who will be facing you  
22          for election. We need to think about the fact  
23          that to some extent the foxes are in charge of  
24          the hen house to try to figure out what is  
25          going to happen with this next election, and so

1       what we have are some defined rules that say  
2       how this is supposed to be done.

3               For people who would like to have some  
4       input as to whether the League of Women Voters  
5       draws maps, I happen to be the membership  
6       chairperson for the Hillsborough County League  
7       of Women Voters, and I would be happy to enroll  
8       anybody who would like to join our group and  
9       have something to say about whether we have  
10      those maps drawn, but in the meantime, we would  
11      like to encourage our Legislature to do that  
12      job. Thank you very much.

13              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much.  
14      Appreciate your comments, Greg. And Helen  
15      Baines is next, and following Ms. Baines -- are  
16      you here, Ms. Baines? Helen Baines? Going  
17      once, twice. Well, we will come back to her if  
18      we have time.

19              Vivian Bacca, did I get take right, ma'am?

20              MS. BACCA: Bacca.

21              SENATOR GAETZ: Bacca, I'm sorry. And  
22      then Neil Cosentino, Cosentino, I'm sorry, and  
23      then Glenn Carr.

24              Thank you very much for coming tonight,  
25      ma'am, and the floor is yours.

1           MS. BACCA: Hi, my name is Vivian Bacca, I  
2           am from Brandon, Florida, and I voted for Fair  
3           District amendments in part because I didn't  
4           think it was fair that my portion of Brandon  
5           was lumped in with Polk County voters when it  
6           came to choosing our Congressional  
7           Representative. I believe that as much as  
8           possible, communities should be maintained  
9           intact. Specifically, I would like to see all  
10          of Brandon in the same congressional district  
11          with our fellow eastern Hillsborough County  
12          citizens.

13                 And I would also like to suggest that if  
14          you are going to time speeches, please bring a  
15          timer. Most people are used to the dingding  
16          that we can hear that warns us when our 30  
17          seconds is getting close. Thank you.

18                 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much. We  
19          will give you a ten-second warning from now on.  
20          That is a good point, good suggestion, Vivian.

21                 Neil, you are up, and then Glenn Carr, and  
22          following Glenn Carr, we are going to get to  
23          Laura Simpson. Laura, come on down.

24                 Neil, how do I pronounce your name, sir?

25                 MR. COSENTINO: Cosentino.

1           SENATOR GAETZ:   Cosentino.

2           MR. COSENTINO:   Thank you for asking.

3           SENATOR GAETZ:   Of course, sir.   Thank you  
4           for coming.

5           MR. COSENTINO:   I am representing a think  
6           thank.   Our think tank is Camelot Florida.   We  
7           have been asked to look at this issue, and,  
8           therefore, I am representing a spokesperson for  
9           2.1 million NPA registered voters.   That is  
10          23 percent of the voters in Florida, and that  
11          is significant.

12          We are optimistic that you will do the  
13          right thing, we really are, I think we are  
14          going to find that we will come up with  
15          something better than what we had, and,  
16          therefore, it will keep getting better.   That  
17          is the way we do it in America.

18          As a fighter pilot and Vietnam veteran,  
19          Phantom -- if you've ever flown a Phantom,  
20          anybody in here flown a Phantom, you keep your  
21          eye on the mission, and the mission here is to  
22          do the right thing, and hopefully I can bring  
23          in all the soldiers that we have lost, because  
24          when they died, they didn't die for  
25          gerrymandering, I can tell you that for a fact.

1       And that might sound emotional, but I have seen  
2       men die, and I know they didn't die for this.

3               So coming back to the issue of being  
4       optimistic, I also caution you, everyone here,  
5       we are going to have a Republican convention  
6       here. If you don't do the right thing, okay,  
7       there's going to be a lot of problems here in  
8       this city. And as you know, it is July of next  
9       year -- August, I'm sorry, August of next year.  
10      If you mess this up, you are going to have  
11      13,000 media here looking at it. So do it  
12      right. If you are going to do it right, do it  
13      right this time. Thank you very much.

14             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, and  
15      thank you for your service to our country.

16             Next is Glenn Carr. Is Glenn here? Glenn  
17      Carr?

18             Laura Simpson?

19             All right. Tim Heberlein, Tim Heberlein.

20      And, I'm sorry, Tim, I didn't give you a  
21      heads-up, but you are next, and then Eddie  
22      Adams, Jr., representing Adams for Congress. I  
23      wonder which Adams that is. Then Ruth Brewton  
24      Talley, please.

25             Tim, thanks for coming, and you are

1 recognized before the committee.

2 MR. HEBERLEIN: Thank you very much. I  
3 was actually at a previous hearing, so I will  
4 keep my comments brief, just extended comments  
5 that I had made at the previous hearing.

6 But I wanted to again thank you for  
7 putting this hearing again -- appearing  
8 together in Tampa. I know that you have  
9 expended a lot of resources in having these  
10 hearings and public comment, but, again, I am  
11 still waiting for the maps, as I said in Polk  
12 County. I am still waiting for the maps here  
13 as well.

14 And I want to address the issue of asking  
15 the public to provide these maps using the  
16 District Builder software. It is -- you  
17 mentioned earlier it is putting an answer  
18 before the question if you had presented maps  
19 before that. But instead what you have done is  
20 asked us to give us an essay answer to a very  
21 complex geography question, which none of us  
22 are really -- I am not an expert in geography,  
23 I am not an expert in geographical information  
24 systems or minority voter regression  
25 statistics. So when you are asking me to use

1       this software to cut lines through communities  
2       which I know nothing about, it is doing a  
3       disservice not only to the rest of the  
4       communities in which I am drawing, but also it  
5       is your job. And you are asking for our public  
6       comment here, and our public comment came last  
7       year in November when we voted yes on  
8       Amendments 5 and 6.

9               And to the other point, actually just a  
10       couple of months ago the Board of County  
11       Commissioners did their redistricting process.  
12       They actually provided six maps, and they have  
13       just the same census data that we've had here.  
14       So I would love to see at least one map being  
15       provided with the information that you have had  
16       for quite a while.

17              And, actually, someone had mentioned  
18       earlier the software, that the Senate and the  
19       House are using different types of software.  
20       I, too, would like to know the differences.  
21       Why is that happening? Why are you using  
22       different types of software? Is the data the  
23       same? That is a little bit disconcerting to  
24       me.

25              And also, his other question, is any other



1 private entity contributing funds to help the  
2 preparation of any map to any legislator. I  
3 want to know that on record, please. Thank  
4 you.

5 SENATOR GAETZ: Sure, we will get to those  
6 questions. Thanks for your testimony. And it  
7 is good to see you again.

8 Eddie Adams, Jr., Adams for Congress. We  
9 aren't going to talk about the congressional  
10 race today, we are just going to talk about  
11 redistricting, right, Mr. Adams?

12 MR. ADAMS: Well, thank you, sir, thank  
13 you very much. Thank you for the opportunity  
14 to be before you today, and part of the process  
15 that we are dealing with today, ten years ago  
16 they did not have a crystal ball to see what  
17 the results of the last redistricting hearing  
18 was all about. Ten years ago, there was a  
19 mandate by the courts to create minority  
20 congressional districts so that blacks would be  
21 represented in the U.S. Congress and the State  
22 of Florida. That being said, it appears that  
23 we have come back full circle to try to undo  
24 some of that that happened ten years ago. So  
25 hopefully you guys' crystal ball will work a

1           little better this time.

2           District 11 goes from -- one of the  
3           districts that is involved goes 100 miles in  
4           one direction from one end of the district to  
5           the other end of the district. I know because  
6           I wore out a knee trying to work from one end  
7           to the other end of the district. Now, that  
8           makes no sense to a lot of folks back in the  
9           old days when common sense used to be common.  
10          It is no longer common, and the fact that you  
11          got to get in your truck or car and drive  
12          100 miles, and the folks that is in Manatee  
13          County, those 15 precincts down there who don't  
14          even know who their Congressional  
15          Representative is.

16          So, again, hopefully this time we will  
17          make it more effective in how we do it, and  
18          that the people who actually have the  
19          opportunity to vote for their members of the  
20          state and for the U.S. Congress, the House and  
21          the Senate and all those good things, actually  
22          have an opportunity to participate in the  
23          process by knowing who their Representative is  
24          and being accessible to their Representative.  
25          Thank you for the opportunity to speak before

1           you.

2           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Adams, and  
3           thank you for being a candidate for office.

4           Ruth -- I think it is Brewton Talley. Is  
5           that correct, ma'am? And following Ms. Talley,  
6           Ginny Zukowski, the PTSA Legislative Chair for  
7           Bartels Middle School, and then Susan Smith, if  
8           you would be down here, ready to testify.

9           Ma'am, thank you for coming, and the floor  
10          is yours.

11          MS. TALLEY: Thank you for being here, and  
12          we appreciate your coming, and we want you to  
13          know that we would like to have a little fairer  
14          districts.

15          I am in District 9 and I live in  
16          Hillsborough County and I am relegated to -- to  
17          District 9 instead of District 11, and I would  
18          like to have a more concrete district for this  
19          area where I live. And I appreciate the fact  
20          that you are here, but I do hope that you -- I  
21          had hoped you would have the maps, so I am  
22          saying please bring the maps back and have  
23          another meeting.

24          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much. And  
25          next is Ginny Zukowski, who is the PTSA

1       Legislative Chair for Bartels Middle School. I  
2       will tell you, if you are working as a parent  
3       to help kids in a middle school, then my hat is  
4       off to you.

5               MS. ZUKOWSKI: Thank you very much.

6               Okay. Well, this has been very  
7       interesting to watch this process, so this is  
8       my first time coming to one of these, and it is  
9       an eye-opening experience.

10              I want to just say most of you don't even  
11      know, but we are watching you, and when he  
12      talked about that 23 percent of voters, this  
13      whole row was glued in, and it was just amazing  
14      how your ears totally sparked up. My reasons  
15      for coming here is really more of the school  
16      and the voting that is going on like right now.  
17      Every Monday is a half-day, so I know coming to  
18      these things do affect our kids in the school,  
19      so we are hoping that it is more fair, because  
20      I am seeing the effects in the school, I mean,  
21      is it impacting. So I hope you are making good  
22      choices, because we do have to educate  
23      ourselves because we are not seeing our  
24      children go the lengths that they should, or  
25      the opportunity as well. So I hope -- I hope

1       we get to see the maps, too. I guess that is  
2       the main drive for this evening, see the maps  
3       another meeting. Thank you.

4               SENATOR GAETZ: Good, thank you. Susan  
5       Smith, and following Ms. Smith is Joe Matta  
6       with AARP, and then Mary Bright with  
7       Moveon.org.

8               Ms. Smith, thanks for coming.

9               MS. SMITH: Hello. Thank you.

10              SENATOR GAETZ: The floor is yours.

11              MS. SMITH: Thank you. I am Susan Smith,  
12       and I live in Odessa, Florida, which is in the  
13       northwest part of Hillsborough County.

14              "Us versus them," I heard this term  
15       yesterday from Dr. Susan MacManus, who is a  
16       respected professor at the University of South  
17       Florida. She has coined the term to describe  
18       the upcoming 2012 election. "It will be us  
19       versus them," she said. People expect their  
20       governmental institutions to be forthright with  
21       them, but trust in government is at an all-time  
22       low, and a lack of transparency is at the heart  
23       of it, according to Dr. MacManus. Even though  
24       the topic they were discussing was the  
25       Governor's mysteriously missing e-mails, that

1 same lack of transparency, along with the  
2 delays and obstruction, have been the hallmarks  
3 of this redistricting process so far in  
4 Florida.

5 By holding these hearings without maps and  
6 by using lawsuits to delay, you have caused  
7 voters to suspect that you are not acting in  
8 good faith. Your actions or lack thereof are  
9 contributing to distrust both in you and in the  
10 institution you have been charged with leading.

11 You claim that you came to hear what the  
12 citizens want. Well, we told you very clearly  
13 last November 2nd what we want. With the  
14 passage of Amendments 5 and 6, we sent a  
15 message that we no longer want the incumbent  
16 protection racket known as gerrymandering. It  
17 is time for true accountability at the ballot  
18 box. Specifically we told you that we want  
19 districts that do not favor any political  
20 party, we want minority representation  
21 protected, and we want contiguous and compact  
22 districts of equal size that respect existing  
23 geographic boundaries.

24 I urge you to return to Tallahassee to  
25 draw the maps in a timely and transparent

1 manner. The results of this process will be  
2 your legacy. Please approach it fairly and  
3 without thought to your own political future.  
4 Democracy cannot be sustained with a  
5 distrustful and cynical electorate. Us versus  
6 them is no way to run the state. Thank you.

7 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Smith. Our  
8 next speaker is Joe Matta. Is Joe here? And  
9 following Joe, we will have Mary Bright with  
10 Moveon.org, and then Frank Winch -- Wyche, I  
11 believe -- then Mary Kay Ross.

12 Joe, you represent, it says here, AARP.  
13 You don't look old enough.

14 MR. MATTA: I am. Believe me, I am.

15 Good afternoon, Chairman Gaetz and  
16 Chairman Weatherford. I am here as a volunteer  
17 with AARP.

18 I urge the legislation -- Legislature to  
19 make the redistricting process to be fair and  
20 equitable for all of Florida, not just a few,  
21 but all of Florida. As you exercise your  
22 constitutional duty to draw voting districts  
23 for the next ten years, starting with our 2012  
24 election, AARP urges you to ensure that there  
25 is transparency for the Legislature's

1       redistricting process every step of the way.  
2       Transparency means that redistricting  
3       discussions among the members and by the  
4       members should be open to the public, with  
5       enough notice for them to plan for attendance.

6               Transparency also means that we, the  
7       public, have the opportunity to comment, and to  
8       have those comments be meaningfully considered  
9       by the Legislature during all the redistricting  
10      proceedings and on redistricting proposals,  
11      both interim and final. And this must be done  
12      before the Legislature makes their decisions.

13              You must ensure timeliness, and that seems  
14      to be the biggest thing that we are all talking  
15      about here. We want to see the maps, we want  
16      to see them long before March.

17              Florida voters have always stated --  
18      already stated their constitutional mandate to  
19      the Legislature. We voted last November for  
20      those things. The Legislature should complete  
21      the redistricting process in a professional and  
22      timely manner. The procedures, steps, have  
23      been given to the Legislature, and that needs  
24      to be completed.

25              SENATOR GAETZ: Joe, could I get you to



1 summarize, please? Just because we've got a  
2 whole bunch of people behind you who would like  
3 to speak.

4 MR. MATTA: Yeah. Well, we should take  
5 the steps to ensure that the redistricting  
6 process is done timely.

7 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you.

8 MR. MATTA: Thank you.

9 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, Joe.  
10 That is very good testimony.

11 Mary Bright? Ms. Bright?

12 Frank Wyche? Frank, come on down, and  
13 then Mary Kay Ross, then Cathy, and I  
14 apologize, Paunov at 5134 29th Avenue North. I  
15 am sure I butchered that name.

16 Frank, you are recognized. Thanks for  
17 coming, and we look forward to your testimony.

18 MR. WYCHE: Thank you, good evening. I  
19 will be quick, so keep up. I call this I have  
20 seen things change.

21 When I was six years old, Daddy ran for  
22 office, an office that no longer exists. He  
23 got beat very badly, to say the least.

24 Twenty-five years later, I worked on the  
25 Hillsborough County Environmental Land

1       Acquisition Program campaign, and we won.  
2       Winning was fun. So when I saw Amendments 5  
3       and 6 voted in this last year, I, of course,  
4       said to myself things change.

5               Elected officials, I vote in the  
6       congressional and State House districts that  
7       cover three counties, and when I saw Amendments  
8       5 and 6 pass, I was hoping that in the 2012  
9       elections I would be voting for Representatives  
10      that will be, hey, representing my geographic  
11      area. Things change.

12             Now, a young man spoke earlier about how  
13      it is your responsibility to present us  
14      something to comment on, it is not our  
15      responsibility to present you with the plan.  
16      And ten years from now, most of you will not be  
17      here, whether it is because of term limits, you  
18      have gone on to other things or whatever -- or  
19      whatever. But history will judge what you do  
20      when things change, and from my experience and  
21      from seeing things change, it doesn't have to  
22      do with party, Republican, Democrat or  
23      otherwise. It comes down to which side you  
24      were on when choices were made.

25             Thank you very much, and have a nice

1 evening.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, sir.

3 Next, Mary Kay Ross, and then following

4 Ms. Ross, Cathy Paunov, I think. I'm sorry,

5 ma'am. Then Garry Spencer and then Edward

6 Quinones.

7 Mary Kay Ross, thank you for being here

8 tonight, and we are anxious to have your

9 testimony on the record.

10 MS. ROSS: Well, I can't thank you all

11 enough. I have looked so forward to this

12 particular gathering, and the information that

13 has been given has been really so significant

14 and I think it will help you along your way and

15 the task that you got forward.

16 And I am only speaking as me as a person.

17 I was fortunate enough to be involved in some

18 political campaign recently, and I am from the

19 11th District, and that experience is a great

20 teacher. And over the last year and a half, I

21 learned a lot about District 11, and I learned

22 how difficult it is. And I have walked Manatee

23 County and I have walked Pinellas County and I

24 have walked Hillsborough County extensively,

25 and I can tell you that this is an almost

1 impossible district in which to correctly give  
2 representation. So we need to look at  
3 Hillsborough. Hillsborough is such a viable  
4 area and we have become such a wonderful city  
5 and I think living in the Tampa area, that we  
6 need a district that will well represent us as  
7 a District 11. So I charge you with the huge  
8 task of trying to not make us cross bridges and  
9 not make us go to other counties. It is -- we  
10 need this within Hillsborough County.

11 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
12 Ms. Ross, and thank you for supporting the  
13 candidates of your choice so vigorously.

14 Cathy, help me out.

15 MS. PAUNOV: Paunov.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Paunov.

17 MS. PAUNOV: You did real well.

18 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, and I'm  
19 sorry if I messed your name up. Go ahead. You  
20 are recognized.

21 MS. PAUNOV: Thank you. Senators and  
22 Representatives, my name is Cathy Paunov. I am  
23 a high school teacher here in Hillsborough  
24 County. I teach at Gaither High School. And  
25 the course I teach is AP human geography, and

1       this is not the edition I am teaching out of,  
2       this is the newest edition, but it has the same  
3       map that is found in the edition I teach my  
4       children.

5               In this particular case, there is a  
6       discussion of gerrymandering. It cites one  
7       good example of legislative districts organized  
8       around geographic and county and city borders.  
9       It then gives two examples of bad states and  
10      gerrymandering. One of them, of course, is  
11      North Carolina, and regrettably, the other one  
12      is Florida. It actually blows up south Florida  
13      to show that creative elements of 22, 23, 19,  
14      17 and 20, which I have to say is almost  
15      artistic in its -- in its shape and size, not  
16      in a good way. I want the next edition of  
17      Rubenstein's textbook for my students to show  
18      Florida as, like Iowa, using geographic  
19      boundaries, contiguous. Huh, my goodness,  
20      doesn't that sound like Amendments 5 and 6?  
21      Thank you.

22              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. Thank you very  
23      much, Cathy. There are some of us who want to  
24      get Florida reshaped to look like Iowa, too.

25              Garry Spencer is next. Garry Spencer?

1 Not here.

2 Okay. How about Edward Quinones? And  
3 following Mr. Quinones is Graham Stacy and then  
4 Steve -- I think it's Phillippy or Phillippy,  
5 with the ACLU of Florida.

6 Mr. Quinones, you are recognized, and  
7 thank you for coming tonight.

8 MR. QUINONES: Thank you very much. My  
9 name is Ed Quinones. I have been involved in  
10 different Hispanic causes for many, many years.  
11 I have recently been involved with the  
12 redistricting process here in Hillsborough  
13 County. We had public meetings just like this  
14 one, we presented different maps, we had lots  
15 of testimony from many, many quarters, many  
16 different parts of this area, and lo and  
17 behold, it didn't mean very much, because a  
18 one-party system decided it was going to be  
19 their way and that was it. There was no  
20 respect for the public hearing, and I suspect  
21 that this same type of hearing is what we are  
22 facing today.

23 Tallahassee is going to be very hard to  
24 change. We have no confidence that you are  
25 going to be able to do very much in spite of

1       the law, in spite of all the regulations, and,  
2       luckily, we have a court system in this country  
3       where we can correct some of these things where  
4       civil rights are respected and minority rights  
5       can be respected. So, gentlemen and ladies, we  
6       will see you in court.

7               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
8       Mr. Quinones. And next we will hear from  
9       Graham Stacy, and following Graham, Steve --  
10      and I apologize, it is either Phillippy or  
11      Phillippy, with the ACLU, and then Victor  
12      DiMaio, President of the Hillsborough County  
13      Democratic Hispanic Caucus.

14             Graham, thank you very much for staying  
15      with us, and you are recognized for your  
16      testimony.

17             MR. STACY: Thank you very much. My name  
18      is Graham Stacy. Ladies and gentlemen of the  
19      committee, thank you for letting me come and  
20      speak here today.

21             Now, at this meeting and others, I've  
22      repeatedly heard many people come up to the  
23      stand and talk about how the system is unfair  
24      and all the maps are rigged to favor some  
25      random group of people and so on and so on.

1 Now, nobody's map can appease everybody, so if  
2 you want a map that meets your standards, then  
3 draw one yourself. But thus far, very few  
4 people have actually proposed a plan to be  
5 considered and scrutinized. So my mother,  
6 sister and several friends and I have worked  
7 together to create a Florida House district  
8 plan named -- the proposed maps are named  
9 proposed map one and proposed map two.

10 Now, while map one's focus is to follow  
11 the standards required by Amendments 5 and 6,  
12 compactness and fairness were considered the  
13 main priority. While proposed map two was  
14 developed with the federal government's  
15 minority district standards --

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Folks -- excuse me,  
17 Graham. Folks, if you want to look at the  
18 proposed map, it is up there on the screen.

19 MR. STACY: While map two was developed  
20 with the federal government's minority district  
21 standards in mind, all the while still  
22 attempting to comply with Amendments 5 and 6.

23 Districts can only be as compact as the  
24 area that they represent are. Understanding  
25 those limitations, map one and map two were



1 drawn in an effort to create not perfectly  
2 compact districts, but to create districts out  
3 of even population numbers and logical  
4 boundaries.

5 Thank you very much.

6 SENATOR GAETZ: Graham, could I just ask  
7 you one question? Just out of curiosity, and I  
8 apologize for prying, but can you tell us how  
9 old you are?

10 MR. STACY: I will be turning 14 on the  
11 15th.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: You will be turning 14?

13 MR. STACY: Yes.

14 SENATOR GAETZ: Wow. You might be able to  
15 be a consultant to the League of Women Voters.  
16 Thank you. And your -- your proposed maps will  
17 be included in what we provide to all of the  
18 citizens of Florida, and all of our committee  
19 members will study your maps and we really look  
20 forward to studying them some more. Thank you  
21 for your testimony.

22 And, Steve, is it Phillippy? Phillippy?  
23 Help me out, Steve.

24 MR. PHILLIPPY: Steve Phillippy, just like  
25 the park over in Pinellas County.

1           SENATOR GAETZ: Okay. Representing the  
2           ACLU, and you are recognized, sir.

3           MR. PHILLIPPY: Yes, and I don't -- I --  
4           first of all, Mike Pheneger, the President of  
5           the ACLU of Florida, has already spoken today,  
6           so I don't want to steal his thunder.

7           I particularly like the gentleman before  
8           us, okay, before me. A 14-year-old to do that  
9           kind of work with his family, I think that is  
10          the kind of thing we need in the future.

11          One of the things that I am concerned  
12          about -- and, again, let me give the ACLU line,  
13          and first we believe in Amendments 5 and 6 as  
14          need to be enforced, and I also believe that  
15          the timelines need to be relevant and you need  
16          to work on those, and I think that conflict of  
17          interest need to be avoided.

18          One of the reasons that I am involved and  
19          have been involved in the ACLU since 1988 is  
20          because I really couldn't find that I was  
21          really politically involved. I wanted to be  
22          just kind of involved in making things fair for  
23          everybody and making certain people have the  
24          right to speech, okay. That is -- free speech  
25          is very important to me. So I am -- I am --

1       congratulate you for doing this speech, but --  
2       this listening, but I am concerned about the  
3       fairness.

4               One of the things that I have in my  
5       background and currently doing, I work for the  
6       Supervisor of Elections two or three days a  
7       year as a clerk in my own district. I also am  
8       involved in -- in doing some things in the  
9       schools that I think are important, too.

10              So we -- these are wonderful  
11       Representatives, and everyone here has gathered  
12       here to talk about redistricting, which is all  
13       about fairness and getting people involved in  
14       their own representation, in governing  
15       themselves. And I just encourage you to  
16       continue to -- the long term is how does  
17       democracy work, how effective is everyone's  
18       involvement in democracy, and I just don't  
19       think that some of the things that you are  
20       doing, although I hope that you are good  
21       intentioned, and I am not a cynic like some of  
22       the others, I believe that most of you have  
23       good intentions, but I believe that you need to  
24       think about the big picture. The big picture  
25       is how does democracy work and how much are

1 people involved so that they will be part --  
2 feel part of the process.

3 Thank you very much.

4 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, sir.

5 And next, Victor DiMaio, Mr. DiMaio,  
6 representing the Hillsborough County Democratic  
7 Hispanic Caucus, and you are recognized, sir.  
8 Thanks for coming tonight.

9 MR. DiMAIO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
10 Chairman Gaetz, Chairman Weatherford, Senators  
11 and Representatives, my name is Victor DiMaio,  
12 I am president of the Hillsborough County  
13 Hispanic Democratic Caucus, and one of the  
14 things I am very proud of -- by the way,  
15 welcome to District 58, which is the district I  
16 have lived in my whole life. This district was  
17 represented by state -- started when it was  
18 first formed by State Representative Eldon  
19 Martinez, who had the district for almost 23  
20 years, after that, State Representative Deborah  
21 Tamargo, who is actually in the audience  
22 tonight with us, and after that, Bob Enriquez  
23 and then Michael Scionti and then  
24 Representative Cruz. So we have a long line of  
25 Hispanic Representatives here, and we are

1        basically here because we want to keep it that  
2        way. Our district that we drew -- my  
3        Vice-Chairman, Chris Cano, was up here earlier,  
4        and he presented a map, which was e-mailed to  
5        the committee. We worked with a group called  
6        LatinoJustice in New York with a professional  
7        demographer, and we tried to keep the district,  
8        which is what the amendments are for, is  
9        contiguous, it follows the boundaries, and the  
10       neighborhoods which you want to keep compact,  
11       and we would like for you to take that under  
12       consideration. We have worked very hard for  
13       many years to, you know, keep our culture and  
14       our community together, and we would just like  
15       to keep the respect that we would like to  
16       continue on with the continuity of the  
17       district.

18                We would like to also make a suggestion or  
19       recommendation, because we got together with  
20       about 24 other groups here in Hillsborough  
21       County for the first time in the history of our  
22       county to fight for a county commission seat.  
23       We've stayed together for this redistricting  
24       issue. We would like to see if there is anyway  
25       possible -- we are actually working with a

1       demographer, we may work on a Senate district  
2       and a congressional district as well for a  
3       Hispanic seat.

4               Just as a reminder, there is a famous case  
5       in 1994, it was called DeGrande versus Johnson,  
6       and at that time, the Legislature was  
7       controlled by the Democrats, and DeGrande, who  
8       represented the Republican party, fought the  
9       Democrats at the time because -- as you  
10      remember, when I mentioned Eldon Martinez, he  
11      was at one time the only Hispanic  
12      Representative for the entire State of Florida.  
13      There was no other Hispanic Representatives in  
14      the state.

15             SENATOR GAETZ: And could I ask you to  
16      conclude just out of respect for those behind  
17      you?

18             MR. DiMAIO: Yes, sir.

19             But that is what we are asking for. We  
20      are asking for -- to respect the Hispanic  
21      community, keep our -- keep Representative  
22      Cruz's district intact and look for a district  
23      that she might be able to advance to later on  
24      as a Senator or a Congress lady. Thank you  
25      very much.

1           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, sir. We really  
2       appreciate your comments. And I apologize to  
3       this next individual, first because I didn't  
4       give this person a heads-up, and secondly,  
5       because I know I am going to butcher the name.  
6       Ercilia Albistu. Ercilia Albistu, are you  
7       here? Well, you got a round of applause  
8       anyhow.

9           Joe Affronti with the City of Temple  
10       Terrace. Joe? Thank you for coming. And  
11       following Joe's testimony, Joan Alagood and --  
12       just a moment, please -- and then Deborah  
13       Tamargo.

14           MAYOR AFFRONTI: Thank you very much,  
15       legislators, for being here.

16           SENATOR GAETZ: Mr. Mayor? You are the  
17       Mayor of Temple Terrace?

18           MAYOR AFFRONTI: Yes, I am.

19           SENATOR GAETZ: Wow. We thank you for  
20       being here.

21           MAYOR AFFRONTI: Thank you.

22           SENATOR GAETZ: Thanks for your service to  
23       the community.

24           MAYOR AFFRONTI: Thank you.

25           Temple Terrace has about 25,000 residents,

1       which is a very diverse community. There is no  
2       one political party that is a majority in  
3       Temple Terrace. So what I am here to ask is  
4       that we keep Temple Terrace the way it is.

5               We have -- we have been very privileged to  
6       have three U.S. Representatives in Temple  
7       Terrace, District 9, District 11 and District  
8       12, and because of that, we are in the process  
9       now of a \$160 million redevelopment,  
10      \$160 million, and during these times. And it  
11      was because of the support that we have  
12      garnered from our Representatives, and also  
13      District 60 for the Florida House and District  
14      12 for the Senate.

15             So we would appreciate keeping things  
16      intact as they are for Temple Terrace. We love  
17      the representation that we got, and we hope  
18      that you will consider leaving it that way.

19             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and  
20      your Senator Joyner knew exactly who you were,  
21      and she was finishing your sentences in my ear.  
22      So she is on top of this issue, believe me.

23             Joan Alagood, and following Ms. Alagood,  
24      Deborah Tamargo, and then on deck, please,  
25      Lydia Medrano.



1           Ms. Alagood, thank you for coming, and you  
2       are recognized.

3           MS. ALAGOOD:   And thank you, Senator, and  
4       thank you, Representatives, for hearing us out  
5       and for listening all night.   And I have been  
6       watching, because I went to one hearing like  
7       this with the county commission, and there was  
8       a guy on his Blackberry all night, so I have  
9       been looking to see and I have been seeing some  
10      attention here.   This is a celebration --

11          SENATOR GAETZ:   We are afraid of the  
12      woodshed.

13          MS. ALAGOOD:   -- of freedom and democracy  
14      and personal responsibility, which is why I  
15      drove here from the south end of  
16      Valrico tonight.   There are 40 of you here  
17      listening to one of me, and that is quite an  
18      honor.

19          The tool on-line is quite clear, as  
20      evidenced by the 13-year-olds who can use it.  
21      What is wrong with the rest of us?   And he has  
22      an opportunity to present that to you and for  
23      you to take it into consideration, and I do  
24      agree with the other folks that have said give  
25      us some time after the -- you know, several

1 maps are out for us to comment again.

2 I would ask you to listen to the voters,  
3 to keep the districts clear and compact. I,  
4 too, helped work in an election campaign where  
5 I went from Temple Terrace to Manatee County to  
6 south St. Pete, and it was a little ridiculous.  
7 I mean, I want contiguous lines and fair lines.

8 Now, James Madison didn't have a computer,  
9 but we do, so I also ask you to avail  
10 yourselves of the technology to make this work  
11 better than what they could have done in those  
12 days. Keep it fair, real and simple.

13 However, I want to make one side comment  
14 about something ironic here, and that is the  
15 folks that are getting up and saying, you know,  
16 5 and 6, 5 and 6, listen to 5 and 6. These are  
17 the same people who went -- when Nancy Pelosi  
18 was saying elections have consequences and read  
19 the bill after it's been written, you know,  
20 give us a break. You can't say that in -- in a  
21 national election. Okay. That is so. All  
22 right.

23 SENATOR GAETZ: I think your time is up,  
24 ma'am.

25 MS. ALAGOOD: Thank you, sir, appreciate

1           it.

2           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much.

3           Next is Deborah Tamargo, please, and  
4           following Ms. Tamargo is Lydia Medrano with the  
5           LULAC of Florida, and then Gary Dolgin, I think  
6           it is D-o-l-g-i-n. If I mispronounced that, I  
7           apologize.

8           Deborah, thanks for coming, and you are  
9           recognized.

10          MS. TAMARGO: Senator Gaetz and Senator  
11          Weatherford, Chairmen, Senators and  
12          Representatives, welcome to my hometown. I am  
13          a second-generation Tampa native, and so I have  
14          been through a few redistrictings and I have a  
15          couple of comments to share with you this  
16          evening.

17          One comment is regarding the listening.  
18          My good teachers and my great parents taught me  
19          to listen first, that that was the smart thing  
20          to do, listen, assess and then act. So I want  
21          to compliment you on being what my parents and  
22          my teachers would have called smart.

23          The second point I would like to make is I  
24          think I have heard a lot of very disingenuous  
25          comments this evening. Obviously, the Fair

1       Districts amendments had a great campaign, but  
2       what I think they failed to do was really  
3       explain what it is that you are tasked with  
4       doing. So I do understand that you have a  
5       difficult task, and part of it is that  
6       understanding. There appears to me in just  
7       reading, without being an attorney, that there  
8       may be some conflict with the Voter Rights Act  
9       and with pre-clearance, so that is a very  
10      difficult issue. It is not as easy as going to  
11      the Webster's Dictionary and finding a few  
12      definitions and then producing the maps. And I  
13      will tell those of you who that are not from  
14      Hillsborough County, that our county  
15      commissioners did just that, they drew their  
16      maps and they presented them to the public, and  
17      guess what? The public was appalled here in  
18      Hillsborough County. So I think it is very  
19      disingenuous to tonight tell you that they want  
20      to see maps when, in fact, they didn't like it  
21      being force-fed by our county commission just a  
22      very couple of months ago.

23               So I applaud you, I do feel like this Fair  
24      District thing is a little bit of a ruse, and I  
25      congratulate you for listening, assessing,

1 acting, and we will have plenty of opportunity  
2 to comment again. Thank you.

3 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much,  
4 Ms. Tamargo.

5 Lydia Medrano with LULAC, and following  
6 Ms. Medrano, Gary, I think it is Dolgin, and  
7 then Elizabeth Belcher.

8 You are recognized. Thanks for coming.

9 MS. MEDRANO: Thank you. Good evening.  
10 My name is Lydia Medrano, and I am the District  
11 Director for LULAC, the League of United Latin  
12 American Citizens, and LULAC is a national,  
13 nonpartisan civil rights organization. And  
14 LULAC, LatinoJustice and other Hispanic  
15 organizations in the Tampa Bay area have come  
16 together, formed a partnership with the sole  
17 purpose of participating in redistricting. So  
18 I don't want to hear like one time somebody  
19 told me where have you been. So we are here.  
20 We are participating.

21 The voter act -- the Voting Rights Act  
22 provides protections to minority groups.  
23 Hispanic is the largest minority group now in  
24 Florida, and I want to speak in support of  
25 District 58 that was presented to you before,

1           and Victor also spoke about it, which has  
2           51 percent Hispanic population in that  
3           district. I hope this information is useful  
4           for you. Thank you.

5           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, Ms.  
6           Medrano, and thank you for your group's  
7           submission of maps. I think particularly your  
8           group has been very, very helpful to us. Thank  
9           you so much, ma'am.

10          And next is Gary Dolgin, I believe. Is it  
11          Dolgin?

12          MR. DOLGIN: Dolgin.

13          SENATOR GAETZ: Dolgin, I had it right the  
14          first time. Thank you very much for coming,  
15          and you are recognized, sir.

16          MR. DOLGIN: Good evening, everyone, and I  
17          hope that you all --

18          SENATOR GAETZ: Could you pull the mike up  
19          just a little bit so everybody can hear you?

20          MR. DOLGIN: My name is Gary Dolgin, and I  
21          hope all of you will be inspired by the  
22          14-year-old to follow his example and draw some  
23          maps.

24          Too much power in one party is a threat to  
25          our democracy, whether it is Republican or

1 Democrat. We live in a equal divided state  
2 with approximately half Democrats and half  
3 Republicans. We elected Barack Obama in 2008,  
4 and then turned around and elected Rick Scott  
5 in 2010. That is pretty divided. But yet the  
6 Legislature is made up of 75 to 80 percent of  
7 Republicans right now, and the Senate is --  
8 seems to be pretty similar. That doesn't seem  
9 right, and when you look at it, it is because  
10 of gerrymandering.

11 Talk about District 11 where I live, which  
12 is a Democratic district, and the reason it is  
13 a Democratic district is because you have areas  
14 of Pinellas and Manatee in that district, you  
15 have packed all the Democrats in the area into  
16 that district so that the surrounding districts  
17 can be majority Republican. Now, in  
18 California, there is the same complaint that  
19 the Republicans have against the Democrats.

20 We have a better democracy if we have  
21 competitive districts. If I asked each of you  
22 to raise your hand, how many of you had a  
23 competitive election last year? You all swore  
24 under oath to defend the Constitution of the  
25 State. If you all meet your oath, that will

1 mean that some of you will not be reelected.  
2 The question is whether you will have the  
3 courage to follow that oath and put the  
4 interests of the people ahead of your own  
5 personal political interests. Thank you very  
6 much.

7 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, sir.  
8 And next, Ms. Belcher, thank you for coming  
9 tonight and giving of your time, and after your  
10 testimony, I believe that Herbert Belcher is  
11 speaking, and then after that, Maria Lopez, and  
12 then Patrick Mantegia, I think.

13 SENATOR JOYNER: Mantega.

14 SENATOR GAETZ: Mantega. Boy, am I lucky  
15 I've got Senator Joyner here.

16 Ms. Belcher, you are recognized, and thank  
17 you for sharing your time with us tonight.

18 MS. BELCHER: With all due respect, this  
19 is a waste of time and expense for the  
20 citizens. Where are the maps? Where are the  
21 -- why is the Legislature wasting money on  
22 lawsuits when the citizens made it abundantly  
23 clear that -- with the Fair Districts amendment  
24 that -- what citizens wanted? And why the  
25 citizens strongly feel that this is a waste of



1           time is the fact that one of our own local  
2           elected officials has apparently left the  
3           building.

4           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, Ms.  
5           Belcher. And next we will hear from the other  
6           side of the Belcher family, Herbert. You are  
7           recognized, sir.

8           MR. BELCHER: Thank you. I am Herbert  
9           Belcher. I would just like to say I would like  
10          to see Amendments 5 and 6 fully upheld. It is  
11          straightforward. Unlike many other people here  
12          who are against that, we would definitely  
13          appreciate you following it to the law. Thank  
14          you.

15          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
16          Mr. Belcher. Next, Maria Lopez, Ms. Lopez,  
17          representing the Latino Professionals Network.  
18          In fact, she is the Director. And then Patrick  
19          Mantega and then Sharon Calvert.

20          MS. LOPEZ: Good afternoon and welcome.  
21          My name is Maria Lopez, Director of Latino  
22          Professionals Network. I am part of the  
23          coalition that the Hispanic community has  
24          formed.

25          I have a sense of disappointment, and it

1       has come from previous hearings regarding  
2       redistricting. In the hopes that you, besides  
3       hearing, you actually listen, we are here today  
4       as well, but not only on behalf of the  
5       Hispanics, but on behalf of everybody, because  
6       we feel that we have not been heard, no one was  
7       heard previously, and we hope that today we  
8       are.

9               We sensed also that there were many bones  
10       thrown to us, and those were that since we were  
11       everywhere in the areas, in the regions, then  
12       we can grow, and they didn't recognize --  
13       didn't recognize the natural increase and  
14       concentration of Hispanics, so they didn't  
15       follow that line. They also said that we have  
16       gone very far and that we should be happy for  
17       not having our rights recognized. That is what  
18       we read between lines of what happened  
19       afterwards. But not only us, there were other  
20       communities that were not heard at all.

21              We are as Hispanics an important factor in  
22       the demographic change since in the last ten  
23       years, we have grown 70 percent. It is not a  
24       small percent, it is 70 percent. And we feel  
25       that there is an effort to go contrary to that

1 growth. So we would like to -- that you  
2 consider keeping District 58 intact and you  
3 follow the natural ties that the communities  
4 have formed, and not the opposites.

5 SENATOR GAETZ: May I ask you to  
6 summarize, please, ma'am?

7 MS. LOPEZ: That is the summary, keep the  
8 58 intact.

9 SENATOR GAETZ: Great. Thank you.

10 MS. LOPEZ: Thank you. And then give us  
11 another pat on the back so we should be happy  
12 for not having our rights recognized.

13 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, ma'am.  
14 Next we will hear from Patrick Mantega, I am  
15 getting it right here thanks to Senator Joyner,  
16 and then Sharon Calvert, and then we will hear  
17 from Gary Gibbons.

18 Patrick Mantega, thank you so much.

19 MR. MANTEGA: Thank you. I am here to ask  
20 that you honor Florida's diversity. I believe  
21 that with a little extra effort, the  
22 Legislature can make compact, continuous  
23 districts that respect concentrations of  
24 Hispanic and black minorities.

25 The Hispanic community shares a mostly

1 common heritage, culture and cuisine. They  
2 frequent the same bodegas and sandwich shops.  
3 Hispanic community boundaries should be as  
4 important in the redistricting process as  
5 municipal and subdivision boundaries.

6 The census shows that Hispanics are the  
7 state's largest minority population, but the  
8 population of Hispanic elected officials falls  
9 far short of our population percentage. No  
10 prominent Hispanic congressional district in  
11 central or north Florida, no prominent Hispanic  
12 State Senate district in central or north  
13 Florida. The only prominently Hispanic House  
14 district on the west coast of Florida is where  
15 we currently sit in District 58.

16 Florida's Hispanic population has grown by  
17 leaps and bounds, but, sadly, the number of  
18 elected officials that share Hispanic heritage,  
19 culture and the love of cafe con leche have  
20 not. Please rectify this problem.

21 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
22 Next, Sharon Calvert, please, Ms. Calvert, and  
23 then we will hear from Gary Gibbons and then we  
24 will hear from Jane Gibbons.

25 Ms. Calvert, thank you for coming.

1 MS. CALVERT: Well, thank you, and I  
2 appreciate having this opportunity, you coming  
3 to Hillsborough County.

4 First of all, I would like to reiterate  
5 again that those who were looking for a map  
6 were given tools and opportunities to draw a  
7 map and present it, so they could have had a  
8 map.

9 I would like to see the maps created along  
10 natural boundaries as much as possible as those  
11 who reside, those voters, within those natural  
12 communities and those natural boundaries share  
13 commonalities, and voters within those natural  
14 boundaries would feel more part of a process  
15 that would foster better voter participation.  
16 Thank you.

17 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
18 ma'am. Our next speaker is Gary Gibbons, and  
19 then we will hear from Jane Gibbons and then  
20 from John Russell, if you will be on deck.  
21 Mr. Gibbons.

22 MR. GIBBONS: Hi. I believe this is the  
23 20th hearing or so that you all have had, and  
24 at each one the people have spoken just as they  
25 spoke in November, and you aren't listening.

1       At each one of these hearings, they have asked  
2       for maps. It is your constitutional duty to  
3       prepare the maps, it is not mine. We elected  
4       you. You work for me. Make the maps.

5               Now, believe it or not, some people have  
6       characterized these hearings as a game, and I  
7       have wondered what that game might be. Is it  
8       the old 60s TV show, "I've Got a Secret"? No,  
9       because on that one, the contestants had to  
10      answer questions, and in this case, y'all have  
11      a gag order that prevents you from answering  
12      any of the questions. Is it charades where  
13      there's a lot of acting and people trying to  
14      guess what is going on? Maybe. Is it  
15      Pictionary? I don't think so. If so, we would  
16      have maps. But what I am really afraid about  
17      is that what this is really about is the old  
18      game of Monopoly. There are some people who  
19      say that you want to control the districts, you  
20      want to ensure your reelection, you want to  
21      keep the districts a secret until the very last  
22      second in order to prevent anyone -- any  
23      opposing candidates from running against you,  
24      and that you will do whatever it takes to stay  
25      in office.

1           Now, I hope that is not the case, and I  
2           want you to remember the oath that you took.  
3           Each of you took an oath to uphold the  
4           Constitution of the State of Florida and the  
5           Constitution of the United States and --

6           SENATOR GAETZ:   And could you --

7           MR. GIBBONS:   -- Amendments 5 and 6 --

8           SENATOR GAETZ:   -- wrap it up?

9           MR. GIBBONS:   -- are in the Florida  
10          Constitution.

11          SENATOR GAETZ:   We will have to do Truth  
12          or Consequences if you don't wrap it up.

13          MR. GIBBONS:   I want you to remember that  
14          when any of you allow taxpayer dollars to be  
15          used in lawsuits to attempt to invalidate  
16          Amendments 5 and 6, you are violating your  
17          oath.

18          SENATOR GAETZ:   Thank you, Mr. Gibbons.  
19          And now, having heard from Mr. Gibbons, we will  
20          hear from Mrs. Gibbons and see if we can slip a  
21          cigarette paper in any way between their  
22          comments.

23          You are recognized.   Thank you for coming.

24          MS. GIBBONS:   Hello, I am Jane Gibbons,  
25          and I would actually like to share a phone

1 conversation that I had earlier today with a  
2 friend of mine: "Hi, Farah, I would like to  
3 talk to you, but I'm going to have to be  
4 getting off soon because I am going to a  
5 meeting."

6 "Where are you going?"

7 "I am going to Jefferson High School."

8 "Why are you going to Jefferson?"

9 "I am going to a hearing about  
10 redistricting. Do you remember all those  
11 petitions we got signed from all those people,  
12 how we were going to get that gerrymandering  
13 ended and we were going to have more sensible  
14 districts and we were going to have competitive  
15 elections? Well, they are trying to keep all  
16 those changes from happening."

17 "What do you mean?"

18 "Well, they are being very secretive, for  
19 one thing. They refuse to show us any of the  
20 maps, they are not answering any questions at  
21 any of the hearings. The Republican Speaker of  
22 the House has actually put a gag order on all  
23 the GOP members."

24 "Well, that is not what we voted for."

25 "No, it isn't, but it gets worse. The



1 House has set aside \$30 million, the Senate has  
2 set aside \$9 million to spend in court to fight  
3 redistricting."

4 "Don't tell me they are spending taxpayer  
5 money to do this."

6 "Oh, they sure are. We didn't vote for  
7 that either."

8 "I can't believe they are going against  
9 the will of the voters. Didn't that pass by a  
10 large margin?"

11 "Oh, yeah, 63 percent. The whole  
12 situation is terrible. You know what? My  
13 grandmother had a word for stuff like this and  
14 for people like this. She called them crooked.  
15 And you know what? My grandmother was a really  
16 smart lady. When she thought somebody was  
17 crooked or something was crooked, she was  
18 usually right."

19 Thank you.

20 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, and thanks to  
21 your grandmother. And I hope you will stay to  
22 the end of the hearing to find out if some of  
23 the things that you and Vera talked about were  
24 actually true.

25 John Russell, and Mr. Russell, you have

1 two minutes.

2 MR. RUSSELL: Ladies and gentlemen, happy  
3 to be here again. You know, I have heard some  
4 people make some very good comments here.  
5 Whether they will be put to use, I certainly  
6 have my doubts.

7 I would like to talk about transparency.  
8 Transparency is a word that has been used much,  
9 including e-mails that I've received signed by  
10 Mr. Weatherford. And what is transparency? Is  
11 transparency allowing the public to come up and  
12 give their commentary in this -- with respect  
13 to this project? I don't think so. What is  
14 transparency in the context of doing this?

15 We know that this redistricting, whatever  
16 it ends up being, is going to be done on a  
17 computer. Well, if it is done on a computer,  
18 you have to put some information into the  
19 computer. I talked about this before when I  
20 saw you guys in Wesley Chapel. And so real  
21 transparency would be when you put in front of  
22 the public exactly the parameters that are  
23 going to be put into program the computer,  
24 okay, to program the computer and what it is  
25 going to draw, because nobody's drawing these

1 things by hand, this is not a graphic arts  
2 exercise. And, you know, we wouldn't even need  
3 to have these meetings if there was any  
4 integrity in this process. We all know it is  
5 about money, we all know everyone is appointed  
6 here, including the Democrats.

7 The Democrats should be standing up and  
8 screaming, but they are such a minority, 70/30.  
9 And, you know, it is funny that Amendments 5  
10 and 6 passed by 63 percent of the vote. That  
11 is typical for a gerrymandered election. And  
12 it is pretty funny when a friend over here  
13 whose name I forget stood up, raised his  
14 hand -- when he said who had a competitive  
15 election or didn't, he raised his hand and said  
16 he had a competitive election. I know that was  
17 like 60/40, so --

18 SENATOR GAETZ: Mr. Russell, Mr. Russell,  
19 bring it in for a landing now.

20 MR. RUSSELL: I am bringing it in for a  
21 landing.

22 Bottom line is, bottom line is this is a  
23 dog and pony show. It is the fig leaf, as you  
24 referred to in the last one in Wesley Chapel,  
25 and you are doing a good job as a blocking back

1           for Mr. Weatherford so he can continue his  
2           career as a politician. Thank you very much.

3           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Russell.  
4           It has always been my ambition to be a blocking  
5           back for such a good athlete.

6           Gail Parsons. Gail Parsons?

7           Susan McMillan with Protect Our Waters,  
8           and then Boris Viteri. Ms. McMillan, I'm sorry  
9           I didn't give you a long enough heads-up.  
10          After Mr. Viteri, then we have Tatiana Denson.

11          You are recognized.

12          MS. McMILLAN: Thank you. I am not going  
13          to speak on behalf of Protect Our Waters. I am  
14          just going to speak on behalf of myself as a  
15          citizen.

16          I have been a Republican for almost my  
17          entire life, find myself falling sometimes with  
18          the Democrats, sometimes with Republicans. I  
19          am a mother of three. I am a small business  
20          owner. I run a small agency for people who are  
21          offenders of domestic violence and substance  
22          abuse, and I see firsthand the effects of drugs  
23          and alcohol on our youth and the effects of  
24          budgets cuts, and I have all kinds of feelings  
25          about it, but this is not what we are here to

1 talk about.

2 The reason I am telling you this is  
3 because this amendment passed with 63 percent  
4 of the vote, and a lot of those people were  
5 Republicans and Independents and people  
6 similarly minded to me. So I am one of these  
7 people, I want you to hear from me. I should  
8 be home with my kids tonight, but I am here,  
9 and I want to let you know that I don't want to  
10 live in a gerrymandered, rigged state. I want  
11 my kids to have a state that they can count on,  
12 politics that mean something. I want them to  
13 feel like their vote means something. And if  
14 you guys have maps and you wait until the very  
15 last second to show it to the public, that  
16 really raises a lot of suspicions and leaves a  
17 bad taste in the mouth of everybody who wants  
18 to believe in our government. And mistrust in  
19 government is growing, and you guys have the  
20 power to do something about that and to restore  
21 some trust. So I am going to ask you to think  
22 about that when you are making your decisions.

23 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, and thanks for  
24 taking time from your family tonight.

25 Boris Viteri? Not so?

1           MS. PARSONS: Gail Parsons. I don't know  
2 if you thought the former speaker was Gail --

3           SENATOR GAETZ: Oh, yes, Ms. Parsons, we  
4 did call you.

5           MS. PARSONS: Yes, you did.

6           SENATOR GAETZ: Please, you are  
7 recognized.

8           MS. PARSONS: Thank you. I am a member  
9 of -- or a citizen of Congressional District 9  
10 in northwest Hillsborough County, Odessa area,  
11 and that obviously is one district that is a  
12 gerrymandered district. It is north Pinellas,  
13 east Hills- -- or east Pasco and all of north  
14 Hillsborough, all the way down to Plant City  
15 and even below Plant City. I would like to see  
16 that type of gerrymandering stopped, fixed,  
17 when you do your redistricting. There's others  
18 also, but this is the one that I live in.  
19 Let's see that fixed. Let's see contiguous --  
20 if there is one word that I would like to see,  
21 when redistricting is contiguous, contiguous,  
22 contiguous. Thank you.

23           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much. That  
24 is exactly the kind of testimony we need.

25           And Boris, are you here? Is it Viteli?

1           MR. VITERI:   Viteri.

2           SENATOR GAETZ:   Viteri, I'm sorry.   You  
3   are recognized, and we are delighted to hear  
4   your testimony.

5           Next is Tatiana Denson, and then after  
6   Tatiana will be -- no, we have heard from her,  
7   I'm sorry -- will be Dr. Carolyn Collins with  
8   the NAACP.

9           You have the floor, please.

10          MR. VITERI:   Thank you.   Welcome to Tampa.  
11   I am born and raised here in Tampa.   And the  
12   previous lady who was up here who said she took  
13   time -- she came here instead of being with her  
14   kids or family at home, she took the words  
15   right out of my mouth.

16          I used to be a Democrat.   I am now a  
17   Republican.   However, I did vote for this --  
18   for this amendment.   And, obviously, if the  
19   amendment got over 60 percent of the votes,  
20   that means Republicans, Independents and  
21   Democrats voted for it.   So it is important  
22   that you consider that.

23          I am a swing voter, just like she is,  
24   because I heard her say she sometimes agrees  
25   with some things on the other side, I am on the

1       opposite side, and I can agree with things on  
2       some sides, too, because at the end, it is all  
3       about all of us, it is not just about one  
4       specific party or one specific community.

5               And since you are in Tampa, I am here to  
6       speak about U.S. District 11, congressional  
7       district. I've heard a lot of people talk  
8       about statewide Representatives and --  
9       statewide districts. I am here to talk about  
10      the congressional district.

11             This congressional district is  
12      gerrymandered. There should be no reason why a  
13      Representative that represents Tampa or  
14      Hillsborough County should have to go all the  
15      way to Pinellas County and speak with voters in  
16      St. Petersburg or go to down to Manatee County  
17      and speak to voters in Bradenton when they have  
18      no connection to us here in Hillsborough  
19      County. And, trust me, I will be in Pinellas  
20      County tomorrow discussing Bill Young's  
21      district, because it is the same situation.

22             This district here in Tampa and this  
23      county should be more representative of  
24      Hillsborough County. Where are all the  
25      northern and western suburbs and eastern



1       suburbs of Tampa? They are not included in  
2       this congressional district. You are missing  
3       Westchase, you are missing Carrollwood, you are  
4       missing Northdale, you are missing Brandon,  
5       those are all suburbs of Tampa that should be  
6       part of U.S. District 11. And St. Petersburg  
7       and Bradenton are not part of the Tampa area.  
8       They are part of Pinellas and Manatee. Maybe  
9       one could go down to Vern Buchanan, the other  
10      one can go the other way to Bill Young. But  
11      please keep that into consideration if you want  
12      compact and continuous districts, that is the  
13      way they should be, because I have walked the  
14      district, and there's no way I should have to  
15      go all across a bridge to speak to voters over  
16      there that have nothing in common with the  
17      voters on this side, and vice-versa.

18             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. Thank you  
19      very, very much.

20             MR. VITERI: Thank you for your time.

21             SENATOR GAETZ: Tatiana Denson.

22             MS. DENSON: Good evening. My name is  
23      Tatiana Denson, and I am a resident and current  
24      candidate for Florida House of Representatives  
25      District 59. Last week during a redistricting

1 informational meeting by our current  
2 Representative, Representative Betty Reed, we  
3 were told that District 59 was short 15,000  
4 residents and that was needed to ensure a seat  
5 is maintained in the House.

6 The one request I have is please do not  
7 put our district with one that does not have  
8 the same needs as our own. And let's be  
9 honest, human nature is to want things to work  
10 out in one's own good, or for one's own good,  
11 regardless of party affiliation. But what  
12 about the good of the people? No offense to  
13 anyone seated, but the 14-year-old presentation  
14 is proof why we need more young people  
15 represented in legislation, because we are more  
16 flexible and innovative in our views. People  
17 need officials who will get to the business of  
18 doing what they were hired for, and that is to  
19 serve the people. Thank you.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.  
21 Thank you, Tatiana. Next up we have  
22 Dr. Carolyn Collins with the NAACP, and  
23 following Ms. Collins is Russell Patterson.

24 DR. COLLINS: Good evening and thank you.  
25 Representing the Hillsborough County branch

1       NAACP, I would like to just leave a couple of  
2       basic principles that we would love for you to  
3       consider, and we would like to start those off  
4       by ensuring one vote for each individual, one  
5       person, one vote.

6               We also would like for you to stick with  
7       the concept you've constantly heard,  
8       transparency, fairness, compliance with the  
9       Voting Right Acts with equal protection.

10              While we look at redistricting as a sense  
11      of common interest for those and the  
12      individual, we want to also make sure that the  
13      reference is made to Section 20 and 21 of the  
14      Florida Constitution.

15              The maps, of course, by precincts, we  
16      would love to see maps that are drawn that not  
17      just deal with the increase in population, but  
18      would seriously address the voting age  
19      population. If you look at the 2010 census,  
20      the results tell us that 51 percent of the  
21      growth in the United States of America was in  
22      the state of Florida, that 51 percent was with  
23      foreign-born African-Americans and Hispanics.  
24      We want to make sure that there is fair  
25      transparency, equal representation, in those

1 areas.

2 I think sufficient information has been  
3 given by Amendment 6. We have participated in  
4 the Board of County Commissioners' maps. We  
5 are here with you and with the school district  
6 at the same time. We are asking not you, we  
7 have seen it on your website, the maps, we have  
8 tried it, we even had a workshop two weeks ago  
9 to even try it. What we are saying is the maps  
10 are necessary, so, finally, when you look at  
11 the absence of the maps, we are asking that  
12 once the maps are drawn, that the community at  
13 large, state of Florida, have an opportunity to  
14 look.

15 Finally, I would like to clearly say one  
16 person, one vote, in summary, no packing, no  
17 cracking, no stacking, compactness,  
18 contiguousness, and district without seeing the  
19 gerrymandering and clearly it is broken.

20 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you.

21 DR. COLLINS: We ask that you fix it.

22 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
23 ma'am. And our final speaker tonight, we are  
24 sorry we couldn't get to everybody, but we will  
25 have gotten to 93 speakers, then we are going

1 to find out if we have a gag rule.

2 Russell Patterson, Mr. Patterson.

3 MR. PATTERSON: I feel honored. Like many  
4 folks, I came to Florida from another state and  
5 I live here in Florida by choice, and I moved  
6 here because I think it is one of the greatest  
7 states in the nation. In the state I grew up  
8 in, we used to make fun of other states, and  
9 one of the states we made fun of as being kind  
10 of backwards is Louisiana. Louisiana is one of  
11 the states that's pretty much finished their  
12 redistricting process. Let's get on the ball.  
13 Let's be Florida, not Flori-duh.

14 SENATOR GAETZ: That is a great way to  
15 end. And, Mr. Patterson, I hope you will stay  
16 for the comments, because we are going to  
17 specifically answer the question about  
18 Louisiana. That is a great way to start.

19 Let's find out if we have a gag rule by  
20 asking if there are any members of the House of  
21 Representatives, Democrats or Republicans, who  
22 wish to make any comments, ask or answer any  
23 questions or offer any recommendations tonight?

24 Representative Adkins, you are recognized.

25 REPRESENTATIVE ADKINS: Thank you,

1       Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to reflect on what  
2       I heard from several individuals tonight,  
3       including I believe it was the Supervisor of  
4       Elections, and they referenced keeping specific  
5       neighborhoods together. And, in fact, I think  
6       one person even said that was the reason why he  
7       voted for 5 and 6. So I just wanted to make  
8       sure that -- I found those comments very  
9       helpful. And the supervisor also referred to  
10      the Voting Tabulation Districts and the  
11      importance of those, so I will be keeping those  
12      comments in mind as we move forward, but I  
13      found those comments very, very helpful  
14      tonight. Thank you.

15             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Representative.  
16      Other members of the House? Over there on the  
17      very, very end. We will get to you,  
18      Representative Fresen, I'm sorry.

19             REPRESENTATIVE REED: I am Representative  
20      Betty Reed, District 59. I just want to say  
21      thank you to each and every one of you for  
22      being here tonight and for speaking. And I  
23      know that several people said, "I don't know if  
24      you are listening or not." Well, this is being  
25      recorded. So anyone that is not listening have

1 the opportunity to go back and hear this all  
2 over again.

3 Thank you. Thank you so much for being  
4 here.

5 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much. And  
6 right behind you, Alex.

7 REPRESENTATIVE FRESEN: Thank you so much,  
8 Mr. Chair, and I appreciate your indulgence and  
9 I will be quick.

10 I just wanted to point out very simply,  
11 first of all, thank you all for coming out here  
12 tonight, it is always great to be in Tampa, but  
13 being a Representative of a majority-minority  
14 district, I appreciated the reminder from many  
15 of you tonight, including former Representative  
16 Tamargo and others, that the Fair Districts  
17 amendment, the very one that everybody keeps on  
18 talking about here today, prioritized electoral  
19 protections for minority communities, amongst  
20 other things. And I take those comments made  
21 here tonight as a friendly and reasonable  
22 suggestion to follow the prioritization of  
23 standards as they are actually written in the  
24 law, which we have been reminded to do and we  
25 are taking as a task very seriously. But that

1 aspect is actually also a part of Fair  
2 Districts, with, of course, an adherence to  
3 those overarching principles of the federal  
4 law. So I say this because while some  
5 standards in Florida's new redistricting laws  
6 may be discussed more frequently than others,  
7 one in particular that was said three times in  
8 the closing of a very recent person testifying,  
9 it is critical that we, as legislators, always  
10 attend to every single aspect of the law and of  
11 the Constitution, not just one or two, and that  
12 is what makes our task obviously difficult,  
13 it's part of the reason why we have asked for  
14 your testimony, so that we can figure out how  
15 to actually combine all of those standards that  
16 are in 5 and 6, not just one or two, and figure  
17 out the best and fairest way to draw these  
18 districts. So, again, I thank you all for your  
19 guidance and appreciate your comments.

20 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
21 Representative.

22 Representative Frishe, you are recognized,  
23 sir.

24 REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: Thank you,  
25 Mr. Chairman. There were several folks who



1 spoke tonight about compactness and the  
2 different ways that it might be applied, and  
3 one of the reasons we have these hearings is so  
4 we can hear how you view it in your own  
5 community, because obviously we don't know  
6 every single community in the state. I have,  
7 for instance, learned a lot about the Panhandle  
8 when I was up there and the communities of  
9 interest and how sometimes it is roads and  
10 bridges and all that actually are what tie a  
11 community together. And I appreciate y'all  
12 talking about that, because that is going to be  
13 very, very important when we get down to  
14 considering the compactness of a district.

15 I happen to represent a district that has  
16 numerous bridges in it, because I represent the  
17 barrier islands of Pinellas County, and a lot  
18 of the mainland also. So I understand how  
19 bridges and roads and the geographic features  
20 sometimes tie together communities, and they  
21 sometimes separate them, too, but usually they  
22 tie them together. Thank you.

23 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
24 Representative. Any other members of the House  
25 wish to make any comments? If not, we will

1           turn to Senators who are here. Members of the  
2           Senate wish to make any comments, offer any  
3           observations, answer or ask any questions?  
4           Senate Joyner.

5                   SENATOR JOYNER: Thank you, Senator Gaetz.  
6           I just want to thank all of you, the citizens  
7           of Hillsborough, Pinellas, Manatee and all of  
8           the other counties that are represented here  
9           tonight. It is wonderful to have such an  
10          outstanding group of citizens participating and  
11          expressing their views. So thank you again,  
12          and do continue to participate and follow what  
13          this Legislature does.

14                   SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Senator Joyner.  
15          Any other comments by members of the Senate?

16                   There was one question specifically asked  
17          of me. I will try to answer it before I turn  
18          to the Speaker Designate. And that was a  
19          question about whether or not I had contributed  
20          to an organization that opposed Amendments 5  
21          and 6. The answer to that question is yes,  
22          before the election. Before the election,  
23          there were \$12 million contributed, most of it  
24          for Amendments 5 and 6, and most of it by folks  
25          out of state, but there were a number of folks

1       who contributed money because we thought  
2       Amendments 5 and 6 should not be in the  
3       Constitution. I was one of those people.  
4       However, following Amendment 5 and 6 being  
5       added to the Constitution, and following my  
6       appointment to this committee, I have  
7       contributed nothing to any lawsuit or any  
8       action having anything to do with overturning  
9       Amendments 5 and 6.

10           It is the ability of every citizen and the  
11       right of every citizen to contribute your vote,  
12       your walking door to door, your stuffing  
13       envelopes, or if you wish to make a financial  
14       contribution to or against any cause or any  
15       candidate. However, as public servants, once  
16       the election is over, we are obligated to  
17       uphold the Constitution and the laws of the  
18       State of Florida and of the United States, and  
19       since that election when Amendments 5 and 6  
20       were adopted, I have contributed nothing to any  
21       effort to try to upend or to reverse those  
22       amendments.

23           Having said that, let me turn to the  
24       Speaker Designate. Representative Weatherford  
25       has made extensive notes tonight, as have I, as

1       have many members of the committee, and we  
2       would like to try to answer some of the factual  
3       questions that were raised. Mr. Speaker.

4               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
5       very much, Mr. Chairman, and ladies and  
6       gentlemen, I am going to try to be brief. I  
7       know everybody wants to get out of here. We  
8       appreciate all the comments that have come  
9       forth tonight. We've gotten a lot of great  
10      advice, we have had some constructive  
11      criticism, we have had some straight-out  
12      criticism and we even had an offer to take us  
13      to the woodshed, which I thought was unique on  
14      this swing. My mother always said, she is the  
15      mother of nine children, that spanking is good  
16      for the soul, so we are getting our fair share  
17      of that.

18             But I would just like to say the diversity  
19      of comments that I think we have gotten today  
20      has shown us, you know, how complicated this  
21      process is, and, frankly, how important it is  
22      that we hear from citizens. We heard about the  
23      diversity of the county from the east side to  
24      the west side, and how one side is more urban  
25      and one side has more industrial and

1       agriculture base. We heard -- someone showed  
2       us a map of the City of Tampa, and was talking  
3       about the geographic boundaries of the City of  
4       Tampa and then talking about compactness,  
5       almost as if those two almost fall out of line  
6       with each other, which they do. And so when  
7       you talk about Hillsborough County, you talk  
8       about the communities of interest, the  
9       geographic boundaries of Hillsborough County,  
10      it is very diverse. It is racially diverse, it  
11      is geographically diverse, the municipalities  
12      are diverse, and I think that is important that  
13      we think about that.

14           There was a suggestion, Mr. Chairman, that  
15      came about, and I don't have the person's name  
16      who mentioned this, but I think this is a  
17      tremendous suggestion, and, frankly, in the  
18      House, we are going to look at this, and I hope  
19      you will consider it in the Senate, they  
20      mentioned that when Hillsborough County did  
21      their redistricting, they actually proposed six  
22      maps and they had different options for people  
23      to choose from and for citizens to look at,  
24      and, frankly, I think that is a very good idea  
25      and something that we should consider going

1 forward. So that got my attention certainly.

2 There was a lady, I want to say this  
3 right, Mrs. Morowati -- is that right? I just  
4 want to say you get the MVP for tonight. I  
5 have not looked at the maps you suggested, but  
6 you showed up, you had comments, they were  
7 detailed and then you actually had specific  
8 suggestions that you gave forth, and I thought  
9 that was tremendous and that's the kind of  
10 feedback we are looking for. I just want to  
11 thank you for doing that.

12 There was -- there were some comments in  
13 regard to the maps, and I want to be very  
14 clear. Everywhere we go, we hear the same  
15 question, where are the maps, show us the maps.  
16 And there are some groups that are a little  
17 more vocal about that than others.

18 The first thing I want to point out in  
19 regard to the maps is this: The Fair Districts  
20 Chairwoman came and spoke before a joint  
21 committee just like this in Tallahassee made up  
22 of House members, Senate members, Democrats and  
23 Republicans, and specifically said to the  
24 committee, that is recorded and I will give you  
25 a copy of it to any person who is in this room,

1           that she would not begin to draw the first map  
2           until she heard from the public. This is  
3           coming from the Chairperson of Fair Districts.  
4           So for everybody who voted for that and  
5           supported that cause, the leader of that cause  
6           thought it was prudent for the Legislature to  
7           listen, to listen first.

8                     One of the biggest complaints I hear in  
9           this process is that politicians tend to act  
10          first and listen later, if they listen at all.  
11          And we have made a statement in this process  
12          that we are going to listen first. And if that  
13          is the worst thing that you can accuse us of  
14          doing, I will take it. If the biggest problem  
15          I've got is being a listener, I will take that.  
16          My mom didn't say that about me when I was a  
17          kid, by the way, but I will take it now.

18                    The other thing, and I am going to read  
19          really quickly, last week in Georgia -- I was  
20          just reading about this. Last week in Georgia,  
21          the League of Women Voters in Georgia not only  
22          prepared and publicized its own redistricting  
23          maps, it organized a map fair at the Georgia  
24          State Capitol to encourage members of the  
25          public to present their own maps. And this

1       quote, "Our goal throughout this process is to  
2       ensure that citizens have a choice," said the  
3       President of the League of Women Voters of  
4       Georgia, "and what better way to do that than  
5       bringing people here with their own maps to the  
6       Capitol." Interesting how we are hearing a  
7       completely different story for the last four  
8       hours this evening, Mr. Chairman.

9               Not only that, we had a young man by the  
10       name of Graham, and everybody is calling you a  
11       14-year-old. You are really 13-and-a-half,  
12       right? Thirteen, okay, I thought that. They  
13       were giving you credit for that extra year.  
14       You look 14. But here is Graham with his  
15       little -- with his older sister or younger  
16       sister and his family who were able to produce  
17       120 maps that we saw right there before us.  
18       One student, one sister, one family that was  
19       able to do that, and it was tremendous and it  
20       was of great support. We are going to look at  
21       that, we are going to learn from that, and we  
22       have had 48 other maps just like that.

23              Ladies and gentlemen, we are going to have  
24       maps. We are going to have maps for you to  
25       look at, we are going to have maps to get



1 feedback on, but we are having an opportunity  
2 to hear from you first, and I don't see why  
3 that is such a bad thing.

4 Next on the timeline, a lot of people  
5 talked about the timeline and the fact that we  
6 need to speed this process up. One gentleman  
7 actually mentioned I think Louisiana as a  
8 state, and Lord knows, they have had their  
9 challenges over the years, but apparently they  
10 have finished the process. Well, I can give  
11 you a very easy answer as to why Louisiana and  
12 about eight other states have finished the  
13 process, because they have elections in three  
14 months. They have their elections in off  
15 years. So their election is in 2011, not in  
16 2012. So for states that you hear like  
17 Louisiana and Mississippi and New Jersey and  
18 others who are way ahead of us on  
19 redistricting, first off, they got their census  
20 data way before we did. We were one of the  
21 last states, not the last, but one of the last  
22 to receive our census data. But they also have  
23 elections in November of this year. And so the  
24 department -- the Census Bureau gave them their  
25 data ahead of time so they could start to draw

1           their maps. I just think that is an important  
2           thing to point out.

3                   Also in regard to the timeline, the  
4           Constitution is very clear, and I said this at  
5           the beginning, but I will say it again for  
6           clarity. It is very clear that we cannot vote  
7           on legislative maps legally until January of  
8           2012. That is the soonest we could possibly  
9           vote on any map. So what we are doing is we  
10          are spending the summer on a listening tour,  
11          listening to folks just like you, hundreds of  
12          hours of public testimony. Next we are going  
13          to spend the fall looking at maps, drawing  
14          maps, having the opportunity to debate, having  
15          an opportunity for you to debate, to look at  
16          maps, but we wanted to listen first. And so we  
17          will get through the fall, and when we get into  
18          session, I can assure you there will be votes  
19          taken on maps on the floor and we will get them  
20          out on time. We are very sensitive to the fact  
21          that we have to have them done by qualifying.  
22          We get it, we get it. And I can assure you,  
23          and everyone here can assure you that we are  
24          going to get that done.

25                   Also, there was mention about the certain

1        dates that I think the -- the one I keep  
2        remembering, someone mentioned March that we  
3        had to -- we were going to vote in March and  
4        that our timeline said a vote on March. That  
5        is not true. Those are deadlines. We are not  
6        operating by deadlines. We are moving at a  
7        clip and at a pace that we hope is going to be  
8        very, very fast. And so there is no plan to  
9        vote in March or anything in the month of  
10       March. I hope that we are done far before  
11       that, Mr. Chairman.

12                Moving forward, something that I think is  
13       very important that came up several times is  
14       litigation. We also hear this argument every  
15       time there are concerns. There is no  
16       litigation in regards to Amendment 5. People  
17       think there's litigation -- and those are the  
18       legislative maps. There is litigation going on  
19       on Amendment 6, which are the congressional  
20       maps. And I want to be very clear about this,  
21       and that is that there is litigation, but it is  
22       our job, both as Chairman Gaetz and myself and  
23       every member of this committee, the  
24       Constitution says that 5 and 6 passed, it was  
25       voted unanimously almost -- or overwhelmingly

1 by 64 percent of the citizens of Florida. We  
2 are going to uphold it, we are going to honor  
3 it, and every person here is going to make sure  
4 that it is implemented in our maps, Amendments  
5 5 and 6, okay. We are going to do that, no  
6 matter what litigation is going on. And the  
7 idea that the Legislature has stored away tens  
8 of millions of dollars, which we continue to  
9 hear, to fight the maps simply is not true. It  
10 is not true. We hear it in every city we go  
11 to. I am here to tell you, I am looking y'all  
12 in the eyeball, it is not true. It does not  
13 exist.

14 Lastly, I am going to finish off,  
15 Mr. Chairman, there is an opportunity for every  
16 member of this committee, Democrat, Republican,  
17 Chairs, Vice-Chairs, any person can propose a  
18 map, can submit a map, can debate a map, and I  
19 think you even offered to members of your  
20 committee that if they propose a map, you will  
21 hear it at the very first committee hearing  
22 that you have in September. And so ladies and  
23 gentlemen, this is the beginning of the  
24 process. It is not the end of the process.  
25 Your input will continue to matter, it will

1           continue to hold water as we go through it.

2           And I know someone mentioned earlier that  
3           there was different games being played, and I  
4           won't speculate on different games, I like lots  
5           of games. I always grew up liking Yahtzee and  
6           Monopoly and, you know, everything else, but  
7           sometimes I also enjoyed playing pop the  
8           piñata, and sometimes, Mr. Chairman, I feel  
9           like we get to be the piñata. But you know  
10          what? That is our job. That is our job to sit  
11          here and to listen to you no matter what the  
12          comment is, and I thought we got some great  
13          comments from members of the public. I learned  
14          a lot. And we just thank you for taking the  
15          time to do that.

16          I did notice one thing, there were two --  
17          a couple of questions that were asked, and now  
18          that I just looked down, I want to make sure I  
19          hit them real quick. To my knowledge and to  
20          any knowledge of any person up here that I know  
21          of, there are no private funds being used to  
22          assist with building districts. I want to make  
23          that very clear.

24          The House and Senate did create in-house  
25          two separate district building applications.

1       The data is the same, but the operating systems  
2       were different. And I suggest that if you  
3       want, you can talk to our staff, and they can  
4       explain that.

5               And the last one was that eight of the 48  
6       public submissions of plans we have received  
7       thus far were made with different applications,  
8       which means people used their own applications  
9       and submitted those to us, and I meant to talk  
10      about that in the beginning, but I missed it,  
11      Mr. Chairman.

12             Thank everybody for bearing with me on  
13      that long explanation. Thank you for your  
14      comments. We learned a lot about Hillsborough  
15      County, a lot about Tampa Bay, and I hope  
16      everyone has a great night. Thank you.

17             SENATOR GAETZ: And with that,  
18      Representative Weatherford moves we rise.

19             (Whereupon, the proceedings were  
20      concluded.)

21  
22  
23  
24  
25

## 1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )

3 COUNTY OF LEON )

4 I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript  
5 is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned,  
6 and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting  
7 under my direction;

8 That the foregoing pages 2 through 208  
9 represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of  
10 the tape-recording;

11 And I further certify that I am not of kin or  
12 counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the  
13 regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor  
14 am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

15 Dated this 20th day of November, 2011.

16

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19

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

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Notary Public

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State of Florida at Large

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Commission Expires:

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November 13, 2014

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REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

11

TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2011

12

8:00 A.M.

13

EPI CENTER at ST. PETE COLLEGE

14

LARGO, FLORIDA

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Transcribed by:

22

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

23

Court Reporter

24

25



1 T A P E D P R O C E E D I N G S

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Good morning.

3 My name is Will Weatherford, and I have the  
4 honor of chairing today's hearing. The  
5 Joint/Senate House Redistricting hearing is now  
6 called to order.

7 We are pleased to be joined today by  
8 several members of the Florida House and the  
9 Florida Senate. I am going to ask them in just  
10 a moment to briefly introduce themselves so  
11 that everybody here understands who we are  
12 talking to.

13 But we have Legislators from across the  
14 state of Florida who are interested in knowing  
15 about your community and having a better  
16 understanding so that when we are drawing lines  
17 in the future, that we have all the information  
18 necessary.

19 And so we are grateful to be here this  
20 morning, had a great hearing last night in  
21 Hillsborough County, and happy to be here.

22 We want to thank St. Pete College and  
23 President Law for having us here today. I saw  
24 President Law earlier, right there in the front  
25 row. We appreciate you for allowing us to use

1       this wonderful facility. This is a great  
2       facility, and we are very happy to be here.

3               And we want to thank all the members of  
4       the public, we've got a great turnout this  
5       morning already, I am sure people will be  
6       trickling in.

7               I got stuck on the interstate coming in  
8       from Wesley Chapel, but I made it here just in  
9       the nick of time, Mr. Chairman, and so I'll  
10      tell you what we will do, before we get  
11      started, I would like to -- if we have a spare  
12      mike, John, we will start here, right here with  
13      Representative Frishe, and go down and allow  
14      them introduce themselves, and we will have Mr.  
15      Frishe here welcome us here to Pinellas County.

16              REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: Thank you,  
17      Mr. Chairman. I am Representative Jim Frishe.  
18      I am Chairman of the Pinellas County  
19      Legislative Delegation, and on behalf of the  
20      delegation and my colleagues, welcome to  
21      paradise, and to the public, thank you for  
22      coming out and participating in your  
23      government. Freedom is a heavy lift and it  
24      needs a lot of hands helping, so thank you for  
25      coming out.

1           REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Good morning. I am  
2           Representative Peter Nehr, and I represent  
3           north Pinellas County and south Pasco.

4           SENATOR DETERT: There's a gentleman for  
5           you.

6           Good morning, I am Senator Nancy Detert,  
7           and I represent parts of Manatee, most of  
8           Sarasota County and parts of Charlotte County.  
9           Very happy to be here to listen to you this  
10          morning.

11          SENATOR BENACQUISTO: Good morning, I am  
12          Lizbeth Benacquisto. Thank you all for coming  
13          out this morning. I represent Florida Senate  
14          District 27, which covers portions of Lee,  
15          Glades, Charlotte, Hendry and Palm Beach  
16          County.

17          REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: Good morning, I  
18          am Kathleen Passidomo, House District 76, which  
19          is Collier County. I represent the City of  
20          Naples, City of Marco Island and Everglades  
21          City.

22          REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Good morning. I am  
23          Jim Boyd. I represent House District 68, which  
24          is western Manatee County just across the bay  
25          and just a small portion of Hillsborough

1 County. Glad to be here.

2 SENATOR NEGRON: Good morning, Joe Negron,  
3 I represent the Treasure Coast and northern  
4 Palm Beach County and Okeechobee in the Florida  
5 Senate.

6 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Good morning,  
7 State Representative Mack Bernard, District 84  
8 in West Palm Beach, Florida.

9 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Good morning,  
10 Chuck Chestnut, House District 23, a portion of  
11 Alachua County and a portion of Marion County.

12 REPRESENTATIVE CAMPBELL: Good morning.  
13 State Representative Daphne Campbell, District  
14 108, from Miami-Dade County.

15 REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Good morning, John  
16 Patrick Julien, representing House District  
17 104, which encompasses North Miami Beach, North  
18 Miami, Miami Gardens, the City of Opa-Locka,  
19 unincorporated Miami-Dade County and the City  
20 of Miami, and it is a pleasure to be here.

21 REPRESENTATIVE ROUSON: Good morning, I am  
22 Darryl Rouson. I represent House District 55,  
23 south Pinellas, north Manatee, north Sarasota  
24 and one little smidgen of Hillsborough County,  
25 south.

1           REPRESENTATIVE BRANDES: Good morning,  
2           State Representative Jeff Brandes. I represent  
3           House District 52, which is portions of St.  
4           Petersburg, Clearwater, Largo and Pinellas  
5           Park. Thank you.

6           REPRESENTATIVE AHERN: Good morning, State  
7           Representative Larry Ahern, representing five  
8           cities: Pinellas Park, Largo, Seminole, South  
9           Pasadena and west St. Petersburg.

10          REPRESENTATIVE HOOPER: Good morning,  
11          State Representative Ed Hooper. I represent  
12          District 50, which is parts of Clearwater,  
13          Largo, Dunedin, Safety Harbor and  
14          unincorporated Pinellas.

15          REPRESENTATIVE BURGIN: Good morning,  
16          State Representative Rachel Burgin from  
17          District 56, which is the City of Tampa and  
18          eastern Hillsborough County.

19          REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Good morning, my  
20          name is Mike Horner. I represent State House  
21          District 79 in central Florida.

22          REPRESENTATIVE ADKINS: Good morning, I am  
23          Janet Adkins from northeast Florida,  
24          representing House District 12, which is  
25          Nassau, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Union and Duval

1 Counties.

2 REPRESENTATIVE CRUZ: Good morning, my  
3 name is Janet Cruz, and I am your partner in  
4 the bay area, Tampa Bay, that is. I represent  
5 District 58 in Tampa, which is the central part  
6 of Tampa. Happy to be here.

7 SENATOR JOYNER: Good morning, I am  
8 Arthenia Joyner, State Senator, District 18,  
9 which encompasses portions of Manatee,  
10 Pinellas, and the majority of the district is  
11 in Hillsborough County.

12 SENATOR LATVALA: Good morning, I am Jack  
13 Latvala and I am proud to represent the 16th  
14 Senatorial District and want to welcome many of  
15 my constituents here today, as well as  
16 welcoming my colleagues to the 16th Senatorial  
17 District, which is where we are sitting right  
18 at this moment.

19 REPRESENTATIVE NUNEZ: Good morning, my  
20 name is Jeanette Nuñez. I represent House  
21 District 112, which consists of portions of  
22 Miami-Dade, Broward and Collier County.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay. I  
24 think that's everybody. Before we move  
25 forward, I would like to take just a brief

1 moment to make a pledge to our flag, and  
2 Representative Frishe is going to lead us in  
3 that pledge.

4 REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: I pledge  
5 allegiance to the flag of the United States of  
6 America and to the Republic for which it  
7 stands, one nation, under God, indivisible with  
8 liberty and justice for all.

9 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
10 very much. Again, ladies and gentlemen, my  
11 name is Will Weatherford, and along with my  
12 Senate colleague, Don Gaetz, who is the future  
13 Senate President of the Senate, we are here,  
14 going to be co-chairing this meeting, which  
15 will also be webcast live over The Florida  
16 Channel and on the Internet, so hopefully  
17 people will be watching us there as well.

18 Our sole purpose here today is to hear  
19 about what you believe the legal standards  
20 governing redistricting and how they should be  
21 applied in your community, so that you are  
22 represented in Tallahassee and in Washington,  
23 fully, equitably and sensibly.

24 Our procedures today are going to be very  
25 simple, but they are also very important. And

1       it is important that you sign in so that we can  
2       create an accurate public record of all  
3       attendees and speakers. Also, you may opt to  
4       join our e-mail list so that we can keep you  
5       informed about the redistricting process as we  
6       work through it over the next few months.

7             If you have not signed in, please raise  
8       your right hand, and a staff member will give  
9       you an attendance card. Keep your hand up,  
10      too. I see lots of hands out there, and just  
11      keep them up and we will make sure and give you  
12      an attendance card.

13            If you wish to speak today and you have  
14      not filled out an attendance card, also raise  
15      your -- I'm sorry, before we begin -- and you  
16      would like to speak and not just to show that  
17      you are here, but if you would like to speak,  
18      also raise your hand, and we will get you that  
19      attendance card and make sure that you get the  
20      opportunity to speak. We want to make sure  
21      that we have plenty of time to give everyone  
22      that opportunity.

23            And before we begin, I would like to  
24      recognize Senator Gaetz for a few moments to  
25      walk us through what we are going to be doing



1       here today, what we hope the comments from the  
2       public are focused on, and to give us a little  
3       bit of background and history of redistricting.  
4       So, Senator, if you could, maybe walk us  
5       through that.

6               SENATOR GAETZ:  Thank you very much,  
7       Mr. Speaker.  Every ten years, the Legislature  
8       is required by our Constitution to redistrict  
9       the state based on increases or decreases or  
10      movements of population within the state of  
11      Florida, and because our state has grown more  
12      than other states in the last ten years, we  
13      have actually picked up two additional seats in  
14      the U.S. House of Representatives.  We have  
15      gone from 25 to 27 seats in the House of  
16      Representatives.

17             And part of our job as voters, as  
18      citizens, as a committee, as a Legislature, as  
19      a judiciary, is to determine where those two  
20      additional congressional seats ought to be  
21      located.

22             Now, because some parts of our state have  
23      increased or decreased disproportionately in  
24      population, many Senate and House districts  
25      will change.  In fact, my guess, Mr. Chairman,

1 is that all Senate and House districts will  
2 change because of the addition or the  
3 subtraction of population or the movement of  
4 population within the state. When  
5 redistricting is completed, congressional  
6 districts must be equal in population and  
7 contain 696,345 people, 696,345 people in a  
8 U.S. Congressional District. The 40 State  
9 Senate districts must also be nearly equal at  
10 about 470,000 people, and our 120 House  
11 districts must also be nearly equal at about  
12 156,700 people.

13 There are displays that you can see over  
14 here to my right on the wall, and those  
15 displays, I saw a number of you looking at them  
16 when you came in, they show the current  
17 boundaries of districts in this area of the  
18 state and the number of persons which must be  
19 added to or subtracted from current districts  
20 in order to achieve equal representation.

21 Now, equality of representation is  
22 important, but it is not the only legal  
23 requirement that redistricting plans must meet  
24 under the law. The laws and the important  
25 court cases governing redistricting are

1 explained in detail on the House and Senate  
2 websites. Those websites are listed in a  
3 "Redistricting 2012" brochure that was  
4 available when you came in. Did you get a 2012  
5 redistricting brochure?

6 If you didn't, it is a tri-fold brochure,  
7 raise your hand, and we will make sure you get  
8 one. Lots of customers, okay. They were  
9 available when you came in, but we want to make  
10 sure everybody gets one.

11 The reason why they are important is  
12 because they not only list the House and Senate  
13 websites, but they explain how the websites are  
14 packed with information about redistricting in  
15 Florida, including the explanation of the laws  
16 and important court cases governing  
17 redistricting.

18 The two websites, the House and Senate  
19 website, are complementary. They are not  
20 exactly the same. They are complementary.  
21 They are updated frequently. We hope you will  
22 visit both and check back often, because it is  
23 a great way to stay current about how  
24 congressional, Senate and House districts are  
25 taking shape.

1           The websites also deliver to your  
2           fingertips all of the demographic data that  
3           will be used in drawing districts and the exact  
4           same computer programs that legislators and  
5           professional staff would use. Any member of  
6           the public can participate in building plans or  
7           seeing maps or critiquing plans or critiquing  
8           maps submitted by Legislators or other  
9           citizens.

10           Before, during and after this hearing,  
11           House and Senate professional staff are  
12           available to show anybody the simple steps to  
13           getting on-line and building districts in your  
14           area, in your neighborhood, in your community,  
15           or if you want to take a whack at it, the whole  
16           state, and then submitting that information so  
17           that we can use it as a basis for the  
18           Legislature's deliberations.

19           If you think that it is too complicated,  
20           it is not. I am pretty tech stupid, and it  
21           took the professional staff about 15 minutes to  
22           show me how to use the District Builder  
23           software.

24           Recommendations from citizens and groups  
25           of citizens will be made publicly available.

1        So any maps that are offered by anybody will be  
2        available for everyone to see. In fact, as of  
3        this morning, there are 48 different maps that  
4        have already been submitted. So if somebody  
5        says, "Where are the maps," you had to walk  
6        past them when you came in. There are 48 of  
7        them, and some of them have been submitted by  
8        individuals who have come to hearings and then  
9        literally gone outside during the hearing or  
10       after the hearing and learned how to use the  
11       software and submitted their maps.

12           Plus there are over a hundred additional  
13       submissions we have had of written ideas for  
14       how neighborhoods ought to be either divided or  
15       communities ought to be held together, and all  
16       of that is available on the Web.

17           The submission of proposed maps, the  
18       submission of your ideas that makes sense for  
19       your community, is the single most effective  
20       form of public participation in the  
21       redistricting process.

22           We are glad to have people talk to us in  
23       any way they would like about the process  
24       itself, if you have comments or criticisms,  
25       that is fine, but the most valuable information

1       that you probably can impart is to tell us  
2       about your neighborhood, your community, how it  
3       is divided now, whether that makes sense and  
4       what your specific recommendations are.

5               The redistricting schedule under which we  
6       are operating is imposed by the state  
7       Constitution. The Constitution does not permit  
8       the Legislature to act on state legislative  
9       maps before the second year after the census;  
10      in other words, the Constitution of Florida  
11      does not permit the Legislature to vote on  
12      legislative maps until 2012. However, we have  
13      accelerated this process as much as we legally  
14      can in order to get done so that we will be  
15      able to have elections in an organized and  
16      thoughtful way in 2012.

17             We have moved up the 2012 legislative  
18      session from March, when it would usually  
19      start, to January, and we have begun our  
20      statewide hearings five months in advance of  
21      the 2012 legislative session, and we will begin  
22      our committee weeks where we will vote -- we  
23      will debate, discuss and vote in committees in  
24      September instead of in December.

25             Now, it has been suggested that the

1       Legislature should draw maps first and then put  
2       them in front of the public and say, "Here they  
3       are." We believe this puts the answer ahead of  
4       the question. We believe there ought to be no  
5       preconceptions created by politicians, but,  
6       rather, public testimony should be free and  
7       unrestricted.

8               In fact, a principal author of Florida's  
9       new redistricting standards, and Ellen Freidin,  
10      the Chairperson for Fair Districts, are on  
11      record testifying before the House and Senate  
12      stating that new maps should not be drawn until  
13      after the public has first had an opportunity  
14      to comment in public hearings, and so that is  
15      exactly what we are doing.

16             Our intent is to use the recommendations  
17      made at the 26 public hearings and through our  
18      Internet sites as the basis for developing one  
19      or more options for district maps. I don't  
20      think you will see one map come fully blown  
21      from the brow of Zeus.

22             I think instead you will see several  
23      options, drawing from the input we receive at  
24      these hearings. We will discuss those options  
25      in open public meetings before any votes are

1           taken, even votes in committee.

2           In other words, what we are saying is if  
3           you look at the maps that you had to walk past  
4           outside this room, and you look at the other  
5           maps and submissions that are on-line, the ones  
6           actually submitted to the Legislature, we are  
7           saying that we are starting the legislative  
8           process with those maps and with the other  
9           input we have received from the public. So if  
10          you want to know where we will begin our  
11          deliberations and what Legislators will be  
12          using as we start this process in Tallahassee,  
13          it is with those public submissions, those maps  
14          that you had to walk past when you came in the  
15          door.

16          Throughout this process, we will solicit  
17          additional public comment so that proposed maps  
18          can mature with the public involved, all before  
19          the Legislature approves any final maps.

20          And then whatever the Legislature passes  
21          is submitted from judicial review. The  
22          Legislature doesn't get to decide by itself  
23          where the lines are drawn. Anything that we  
24          develop based on the input we receive from the  
25          public is then submitted to the Florida Supreme



1 Court and submitted to the federal judicial  
2 level for approval to make sure that every  
3 legal requirement, state and federal, is met.

4 Because our purpose today is to hear from  
5 you, all of the time remaining between now and  
6 11:00 a.m. will be used to ensure that every  
7 member of the public who is here and wishes to  
8 speak will have time to present testimony and  
9 be listened to respectfully without  
10 interruption. If after every citizen has had  
11 her or his say there is time remaining before  
12 our scheduled adjournment, and we hope there  
13 will be some time, then any member of the  
14 Committee, Democrat or Republican, House member  
15 or Senator, may make any statement, answer any  
16 question, offer any observation they would  
17 like.

18 And you will see that Speaker Weatherford  
19 and I will be making heavy notes, you will see  
20 other people making heavy notes, so that if  
21 there are data-specific questions or empirical  
22 questions that come up during the hearing, we  
23 will try to make sure, time permitting, that we  
24 answer those so that we all leave here with the  
25 same set of facts.

1           Mr. Chairman, I hope that this description  
2           of our schedule and our process helps set the  
3           stage for a successful hearing. John Guthrie,  
4           our Senate Professional Staff Director,  
5           admonishes me to remind you that you must sign  
6           in with the professional staff if you wish to  
7           speak.

8           So even if you have let us know on the  
9           Internet that you are coming to the hearing  
10          today, we are delighted you did let us know, if  
11          you want to speak, be sure to let the  
12          professional staff know so that Speaker  
13          Weatherford has a speaker sheet for you and can  
14          call your name.

15          And that is a recitation of the process  
16          and where we go from here, Mr. Speaker.

17          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
18          very much, Chairman Gaetz, great explanation of  
19          the process here. And very quickly, before we  
20          start public hearings, which we will start just  
21          in a second, every hearing kind of has its own  
22          personality, and we are happy to be a part of  
23          this today and we've got a lot of members of  
24          the Legislature that are here to listen to you  
25          in a very respectful and thoughtful manner, and

1 all we would ask is in your comments that you  
2 also make your comments in a very respectful  
3 and thoughtful manner.

4 We want to hear your thoughts, whether it  
5 is constructive criticism, whether it is, you  
6 know, cheerleading, whatever it is, just do it  
7 in a respectful way, and I can assure you  
8 everybody on this Committee will treat you in  
9 the same manner. So we thank you very much for  
10 that ahead of time.

11 We've got several speakers; in fact, we've  
12 got probably over 40 speakers already signed  
13 up, and so we are going to try to limit to  
14 about three minutes per person. We will try to  
15 give you a little bit of latitude and let you  
16 know, and I will lean towards the mike maybe  
17 when we are getting close to the end, but try  
18 to give everybody at least three minutes. We  
19 want every person to have the opportunity to  
20 speak.

21 I am also going to call out at least three  
22 names at a time, and we have designated this  
23 front row up here to my right and your left as  
24 kind of an on deck circle. And so as I call  
25 your name out, if you could, walk up to the

1 front, so that way we can get you to the mike  
2 as quickly as possible and do this in an  
3 orderly fashion.

4 So without any further ado, our first  
5 speaker this morning is going to be B. J. Star,  
6 and following B.J. is going to be Mary Freeman,  
7 and following Ms. Freeman will be Jasmina  
8 Forcan.

9 And so, B.J., we appreciate you being  
10 here. You get the honor to go first, and we  
11 are happy that you are here this morning, and  
12 you are recognized for three minutes.

13 MS. STAR: Thank you very much. My name  
14 is B. J. Star, and I am a woman. I had to wait  
15 144 years before I was given the right to vote  
16 in this country. Because of this struggle, I  
17 do believe that all the women of this nation  
18 appreciate the right of the franchise in a very  
19 special way.

20 Women were imprisoned, force fed and  
21 beaten during the battle to win the right to  
22 vote, and, thus, our cry of one person, one  
23 vote, is especially meaningful.

24 I come to you today repeating the message  
25 of 63 percent of Florida voters that we -- all

1       we want for you to do is to follow the law, and  
2       you don't need these expensive hearings to know  
3       what that is.

4               The fact that you have set aside \$30  
5       million to defend your maps once you finally  
6       share them with us is disheartening. It is  
7       like it is a foregone conclusion that you are  
8       going to have to defend yourselves. If you do  
9       it the right the first time, there won't be any  
10      legal skirmishes.

11             Additionally, the two and a half million  
12      dollars you have already spent fighting against  
13      the implementation of Amendments 5 and 6 is  
14      appalling. It is even more egregious that  
15      Florida taxpayers are paying both for the  
16      defense of the amendments and for the lawsuit  
17      challenging the amendments. These expenses are  
18      even more shocking in a state where you have  
19      laid off thousands of teachers.

20             We are disappointed that you have chosen  
21      to fight the very amendments that Floridians  
22      want. We are disappointed you don't have maps.  
23      It is especially disappointing that the  
24      timeline you have chosen will only lead to more  
25      confusion. It is bad enough that you wasted

1       this legislative session to pass a number of  
2       egregious bills against women. In passing a  
3       voter suppression --

4               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Ms. Star, if  
5       we could, we are here to talk about  
6       redistricting, not policy decisions that have  
7       been made in the past or the future, just  
8       redistricting. Ladies and gentlemen, please.  
9       Please, ladies and gentlemen --

10              A VOICE: Let her finish.

11              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: She's going  
12       to get to finish, but we are going to keep the  
13       comments on redistricting.

14              MS. STAR: Floridians have voiced their  
15       opinions and given you their input, and you  
16       have chosen to sue us. My foremothers suffered  
17       and battled too hard to gain the right to vote.  
18       For now to make a mockery of this process is a  
19       shame. Please return to Tallahassee, draw us  
20       legal maps, and then we will talk. And one  
21       last word for the women of Florida: Uterus.  
22       Thank you.

23              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
24       Ms. Star.

25              Next up -- next up we have Ms. Mary

1 Freeman with the Democratic Women's Club of  
2 Pinellas County, and then Jasmina Forcan, and  
3 following Ms. Forcan we have Nigel Watson.

4 Ms. Freeman, you are recognized.

5 MS. FREEMAN: Hi, I am Mary Freeman, and  
6 what I'm here to say is in today's economy, why  
7 are you spending millions of taxpayer dollars  
8 on fighting an amendment that was approved by  
9 63 percent of Florida voters?

10 I want to know where the maps are and why  
11 are you asking us to draw them up. If you  
12 really need help, I and several others would be  
13 more than happy to sit down with you and get it  
14 done. This could save millions of dollars.  
15 The stalling is merely a tactic made to help  
16 incumbents who are afraid of being voted out of  
17 office.

18 You are only seeking -- you say you are  
19 only seeking clarification on reforms -- on the  
20 reforms. Well, here is the clarification:  
21 Stop wasting taxpayer money, start doing what  
22 you are paid to do, draw the maps, have them  
23 ready for filing by October 3rd. And, finally,  
24 if you do have them ready, will you give us the  
25 opportunity to review them to see if you have

1           responded to our requests? Thank you.

2           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
3           very much.

4           I know there were some -- there were some  
5           questions that have been asked already thus  
6           far. Just so everyone knows, what we will do  
7           is we will make sure there is time at the end  
8           for any member on the Committee to offer  
9           suggestions or answer some of the questions  
10          that are presented, and then Senator Gaetz will  
11          also try to keep very copious notes, as I will  
12          as well, and we will answer all the questions  
13          that are asked. So you are recognized, thank  
14          you for being here. And, I'm sorry, but after  
15          Jasmina, we've got Nigel Watson and R. B.  
16          Johnson. Thank you.

17          MS. FORCAN: I am Jasmina Forcan, and I am  
18          glad for this opportunity. This is my first  
19          involvement in the process, and I hope that  
20          everything goes smoothly and the end result is  
21          what we expect of you. Thank you.

22          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.  
23          We are offering bonus points for brevity,  
24          ma'am, and I can tell you, you are leading the  
25          charge, so thank you very much.



1           Next up we've got Nigel Watson, and  
2           following Mr. Watson, we have R. B. Johnson and  
3           Leo Murray.

4           Nigel is with the ACLU. Thank you for  
5           being here, sir.

6           MR. WATSON: Good morning. I am not here  
7           for Democrats or Republicans. I -- two  
8           parties. I am for foreplay -- fair play --

9           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Sir, I think  
10          you are at the wrong public hearing.

11          MR. WATSON: No dirty tricks.

12          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: The County  
13          Commission is meeting several miles from here,  
14          we encourage you to go to the County Commission  
15          hearing.

16          MR. WATSON: I am getting ready to go  
17          right after.

18          I live in a state in which Democrats had a  
19          600,000 plus majority of registered voters, yet  
20          two-thirds of the state leg is somehow  
21          magically Republican. Does that make sense to  
22          you all?

23          My input was in voting for Amendments 5  
24          and 6 last November. Your input should have  
25          been preparing the maps to show us at these

1 meetings.

2 It is disingenuous for you now to  
3 cynically ask us for our version of amateur  
4 maps -- no, we don't know how to use that  
5 software -- that you then promise to consider,  
6 but have no legal dictate to do so.

7 Where are the maps is the focus here, in  
8 case you hadn't noticed what the focus was, not  
9 productive dialogue. You've got it backwards.  
10 No maps equals no debate, except what you are  
11 doing. Add to this the millions of our tax  
12 dollars being wasted to defeat or amend these  
13 measures, excuse me, clarify, you can  
14 understand why running out the clock comes to  
15 my mind.

16 From gerrymandering the maps, we are now  
17 gerrymandering the meetings. Being  
18 intellectually honest, such tactics look mighty  
19 like a betrayal of your non-partisan public  
20 trust. Can we now rely on you to honor the  
21 clear will of the people in both letter and  
22 spirit, or will you present us with a *fait*  
23 *accompli* at the 11th hour, leaving scant time  
24 for candidates to plan or for courts to rule?

25 So that your reputations don't sink any

1 further, I suggest that you do right by the  
2 people you have pledged to serve. Set aside  
3 your grists and tricks in hopes the home folks  
4 won't notice, they will. Look in the mirror.  
5 Is this how you would want to be now governed  
6 if the leg disagreed with your point of view?  
7 Instead, withdraw your legal beagles, reset the  
8 spacial coding on your mapping software and do  
9 the better job two-thirds of us want done.

10 Thanks for your time and attention.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.  
12 And Mr. Watson, I say this with all sincerity,  
13 we appreciate you, for lack of a better term,  
14 warming up the Committee. Thank you very much.

15 Next up we've got R. B. Johnson, followed  
16 by Leo Murray and then Doris Houdesheldt. I  
17 hope I said that right. R. B. --

18 REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: Mayor.

19 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mayor  
20 Johnson, I apologize, that's not written down.  
21 And, Mayor, thank you very much for being here,  
22 sir, and thank you for your service to the  
23 community.

24 MAYOR JOHNSON: Thank you. I appreciate  
25 y'all giving us a chance to speak before you

1           this morning.

2           I am the Mayor of Indian Rocks Beach, and  
3           I am here to speak on behalf of the beach  
4           communities, and what we would like to see, I  
5           believe, is fairly universal amongst us,  
6           especially the Representatives, the mayors,  
7           city commissioners and councilmen up and down  
8           Indian Rocks, or up and down the beach  
9           communities, is after the redistricting process  
10          is finished, we would like to see the beach  
11          communities to remain essentially as a distinct  
12          entity and within the same district, whether it  
13          is the House, Senate, et cetera.

14          Now, when you look at this brochure that  
15          you passed out here, it talks about the  
16          districts being contiguous and compact and as  
17          much as possible having the same geographic and  
18          municipal boundaries, as much as possible be  
19          close together and to be very distinct. And if  
20          you look around Pinellas County, if you are  
21          looking at an area that has a character that is  
22          very distinct and to a large extent separate  
23          from the rest of the county, the beach  
24          communities would be it.

25          If you are on the beach communities, if

1       you live there, if you have a business there,  
2       it is because you love beach living. You have  
3       the Gulf of Mexico on one side, you have the  
4       Intracoastal on another, and tourism basically  
5       fuels our lives, and the businesses and the  
6       people who live there have a certain way of  
7       life and they are there for a particular  
8       reason.

9               Gulf Boulevard runs north and south along  
10       the entire length from St. Pete Beach all the  
11       way up into Clearwater Beach. It is sort of  
12       the life blood line of the beach communities.

13              And we have elected -- we have a series of  
14       interests that keep us together and keep us  
15       focused about the way of life that we have  
16       there. As a matter of fact, we have our own  
17       entity called the Big C, the Barrier Islands  
18       Governmental Council, that meets once a month  
19       to talk about our shared interests and to make  
20       certain that when issues come before the State  
21       Legislature, that we are united, when there are  
22       issues that need to be discussed between  
23       ourselves and the rest of the county, that we  
24       are united, and that if we are not united, we  
25       try to discuss things in an amicable way, but

1       as much as possible, we like to speak with one  
2       voice. So we would like to see that continued  
3       in the future, because we are our own -- I  
4       won't say we are not totally separate from  
5       Pinellas County, but like I said, we have  
6       everything that determines essentially what you  
7       are looking for here as far as redistricting to  
8       keep ourselves into one separate district,  
9       whether it is the state legislative district --  
10      whether it is for Representatives, for Senate  
11      or of a congressional district.

12               So we appreciate it if you would take that  
13      into consideration, and I know there are other  
14      representatives here from beach communities as  
15      well, and that is pretty much all it is. Thank  
16      you very much.

17               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
18      Mayor, and thanks for your service, sir, we  
19      appreciate it.

20               Next up we have Leo Murray, followed by  
21      Doris Houdesheldt and then Mike Anderson.

22               Mr. Murray, thanks for being here.

23               MR. MURRAY: Hi. Good morning, Leo  
24      Murray. I have lived in my present home in St.  
25      Petersburg since 1979. I am in Senate District

1           16, House District 52 and U.S. Congressional  
2           District 10.

3           I have been through this process, this  
4           will be the fourth time since I have been here.  
5           2002 was probably the -- in my opinion, the  
6           most drastic and -- during that time.

7           I am going to repeat some of what's  
8           already been said. Where are the maps, not  
9           amateur drawn maps, but where -- professionally  
10          drawn maps by the staff and what have you in  
11          Tallahassee that are paid to do this and will  
12          be doing it at some point? Why is it taking so  
13          long to draw the maps? Again, the maps -- we  
14          should have had maps that we could have  
15          commented on here, not necessarily if they were  
16          firm maps, but tentatively drawn maps that we  
17          could have commented on and maybe some --  
18          helped tweak them at this point.

19          And, again, why are you wasting taxpayer  
20          money on lawsuits and on -- for these public  
21          comment hearings? Again, because there's not  
22          maps, it is something that's -- and many people  
23          are saying is a waste of time to have these  
24          meetings.

25          When the maps are drawn, I hope that they

1       will be compact and the districts shall, where  
2       feasible, utilize existing political and  
3       geographical boundaries. In my opinion,  
4       Pinellas County should be one of the more easy  
5       areas to redistrict. You've got the Gulf of  
6       Mexico on one side, you've got Tampa Bay on the  
7       south and east side, and in my opinion,  
8       districts shouldn't cross the bay, shouldn't  
9       straddle the bay.

10               Currently in District -- nor should they  
11       be in three, four, five, six different  
12       political communities, whether it is St. Pete,  
13       Clearwater, Largo, Pinellas Park, Oldsmar,  
14       Safety Harbor, whatever. Jack Latvala's  
15       District 16 starts in St. Pete, goes all the  
16       way around the bay and into Tampa. I don't  
17       think that is fair representation for most of  
18       those other communities, especially when the  
19       office is in St. Pete.

20               Jeff Brandes' district starts in St. Pete,  
21       and it also goes through three or four or five  
22       different political communities, but the office  
23       is in St. Pete, which is difficult for people  
24       to visit.

25               We have other districts that also straddle



1       the bay, minority districts, and I know that is  
2       going to be a challenge to maintain those  
3       minority districts, because they do straddle  
4       the bay. That is a challenge, but where  
5       possible, I would like to see the districts  
6       stay in Pinellas County and not be split  
7       between two and three counties. Some districts  
8       are -- start in St. Pete, they go into Manatee,  
9       Sarasota, whatever counties. Others are in  
10      both counties.

11           Congressional District 10, Bill Young's  
12      district, that carved out the African-American  
13      community in St. Petersburg, moved it to  
14      District 11 in 2002. St. Pete should be in the  
15      same -- in the same congressional district.  
16      When they redraw that map, it should start at  
17      the Skyway, Fort DeSoto, and just move north  
18      until you meet your population, six hundred  
19      thousand something, I think you said, and the  
20      same with the other districts in Pinellas --

21           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Murray, I  
22      am going to ask you to kind of wrap it up.  
23      We've got a lot of speakers that want to speak  
24      also.

25           MR. MURRAY: Okay. Just square it up and

1 make them as compact as possible.

2 I also see in a newspaper article that  
3 quoted you, Mr. Weatherford, and it said you  
4 remain hopeful that lawmakers can reach an  
5 agreement on time and avoid litigations. I  
6 think it is -- and I don't it think it is  
7 rocket science. There is a way to do this and  
8 a way to do it right, and I hope you live up to  
9 that -- those quotes that are attributed to  
10 you. Thank you.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
12 very much.

13 Next up we have Ms. Doris, and following  
14 Doris is Mike Anderson and then Mac McLaughlin.

15 MS. HOUDESHELDT: Thank you very much.  
16 First of all, thank you for pronouncing my name  
17 almost right. I would say Houdesheldt, but  
18 that is what my husband told me a long time ago  
19 anyway, 57 years ago, to be exact.

20 I also appreciate your effort to follow  
21 the Amendments 5 and 6 for holding these  
22 redistricting meetings in our area. I think it  
23 is important that you hear the views of the  
24 constituents whose lives are being affected by  
25 the lines being drawn. And I also wish to

1 specifically thank Representative Weatherford  
2 and Senator Gaetz for your work.

3 I am in Congressional District 11, and I  
4 think it is important as a resident of  
5 Congressional District 11 that our district be  
6 centered in Pinellas County.

7 The problem is that we have Tampa people  
8 outweighing us when it comes to our opinion, we  
9 are overpowered by them. And I do respect,  
10 too, the fine work of Senator Joyner. The  
11 people of District 11 in Pinellas should be  
12 represented by a Pinellas Representative. It  
13 is also important to keep the other districts  
14 in Pinellas as close to current as possible.

15 Once again, I want to thank you for giving  
16 me this time to speak on redrawing the lines of  
17 Congressional District 11. Thank you.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
19 very much. We appreciate your comments.

20 Next up we have Mike Anderson, followed by  
21 Mac McLaughlin and then Dorine McKinnon.

22 MR. ANDERSON: Good morning. I am a  
23 retired social studies teacher. I thank you  
24 for permitting me to express my thoughts on  
25 redistricting in this public forum.

1           In Monday's *St. Petersburg Times*, Senator  
2       Gaetz is quoted as saying that there needs to  
3       be a rationale why new districts are drawn.  
4       Today I intend to give you my rationale for  
5       supporting one of the plans for redistricting.  
6       I hope my comments will be part of the road map  
7       Senator Gaetz spoke of in the process of  
8       drawing new districts for this state. I  
9       applaud you for gathering the broadest range of  
10      opinion on this subject as you have visited  
11      numerous communities in Florida.

12           I am here to support the congressional  
13      maps submitted on July 8th, 2011, by John Libby  
14      of Duval County. It is HPUBC0003. I believe  
15      the plan faithfully follows the Fair District  
16      amendments to the State Constitution, as well  
17      as the requirements of the Federal Voting  
18      Rights Act.

19           In 2009, in a North Carolina case, the  
20      U.S. Supreme Court in *Bartlett versus*  
21      *Strickland* interpreted the Voting Rights Act to  
22      only protect the voting power of minority  
23      groups when they constitute a majority of the  
24      electorate in a legislative district.

25           In this North Carolina case, their

1        Constitution required that legislative  
2        districts respect county boundaries similar to  
3        the passed Fair District amendments in Florida.

4            Mr. Libby provides district summary  
5        statistics to accompany his map. And four  
6        congressional districts are from south Florida.  
7        Minority districts were proposed. In Districts  
8        23, 25 and 27, Hispanics constitute at least a  
9        majority of the voting age population. In  
10       District 26, African-Americans constitute a  
11       majority. In two other congressional  
12       districts, one from southeast Florida and the  
13       other from the Orlando area, the combined  
14       minority populations constitute a majority of  
15       the population. These are Districts 24 and 12.  
16       These are minority access districts.

17            In one other southeastern Florida  
18        district, the combined minority population is  
19        48.9 percent of the population, and that is  
20        District 22.

21            Florida's African-Americans and Hispanics  
22        represent 25.7 percent of the state's  
23        registered voters. Seven congressional  
24        districts that is proposed by Mr. Libby would  
25        give a minority a competitive chance to win,

1       which is 25.9 percent of the state's  
2       congressional district delegation.

3               In five other congressional districts,  
4       non-Hispanic whites constitute 55.1 percent to  
5       59.8 percent of their districts. These are  
6       Districts 4, 9, 10, 13 and 19. Those districts  
7       include Jacksonville, Tampa, east Hillsborough,  
8       west Orange and North Palm Beach. A minority  
9       or a minority-backed candidate would be  
10      competitive in those districts.

11             The census found that 42 percent of  
12      Florida's population is comprised of  
13      minorities. Under Mr. Libby's plan, 12  
14      districts would be competitive to elect a  
15      minority or a minority-backed candidate. That  
16      is 44.4 percent of the delegation.

17             I also like Mr. Libby's plan because it  
18      provides for five congressional districts along  
19      the Sun Coast. Pasco and Hernando would have a  
20      congressional district.

21             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Anderson,  
22      this is great detailed information, but we have  
23      got to put a bow on it for us.

24             MR. ANDERSON: I ask the Chairman for  
25      permission to have someone Xerox this --

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:   Yes.

2           MR. ANDERSON:   -- and give it to the  
3 members of the Committee.

4           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:   We will do  
5 that.  We appreciate the detailed information,  
6 but what we will do is we know that a lot of  
7 folks have more information than what they can  
8 get out in three minutes, we will make sure  
9 that every member of the Committee -- that goes  
10 into the record.  Every member of the Committee  
11 will get a hard copy of that.

12          MR. ANDERSON:   I understand, Mr. Chair,  
13 and I appreciate your giving me permission to  
14 be up here, and I hope the members of the  
15 delegation will look this over.  I think it is  
16 important that you use this plan as a road map  
17 to adopt a plan for us.

18          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:   Yes, sir.  
19 Thank you, Mr. Anderson.  We appreciate your  
20 detailed testimony.

21          Next up we have Mr. Mac McLaughlin,  
22 followed by Dorine McKinnon and then Aaron  
23 Dietrich.

24          MR. McLAUGHLIN:   Good morning, delegates.  
25 I want to say thank you for this opportunity.

1       My name is Mac McLaughlin, and I am a resident  
2       of Pinellas County, obviously. I am the former  
3       Commissioner and Vice-Mayor of Safety Harbor  
4       for eight years, and one of the things I am  
5       concerned about is the city -- in the  
6       Amendments 5 and 6 as it relates to cities and  
7       boundaries. And as you'll look at this map  
8       that has been made up by the State, that Palm  
9       Harbor is not a city, Feather Sound is not a  
10      city, Lealman is not a city, and the problem  
11      with it is the whole Pinellas County needs to  
12      be as one group for voting.

13             Now, I heard all of these numbers about  
14      population, how we got the extra seats. But  
15      the key to it is, where's the voters? We are  
16      not basing this on votes or -- but basing it on  
17      population. So there's never going to be  
18      anything perfect, no matter what we do.

19             I am kind of disappointed that we're  
20      spending all this money, because that -- that  
21      really is what it is all about is the money and  
22      who is going to get the money for doing this.  
23      And for the lawsuits, both ways, okay.

24             Another thing I would like to see -- that  
25      I live in South Pasadena, but I live in the



1 county of South Pasadena. How do I vote? How  
2 do I vote? Where am I going to be? And it is  
3 just like the beach people. We need to keep  
4 them all together, the beach community, and  
5 also keep the entire part of Pinellas County  
6 together. Let's get Tampa, Hillsborough  
7 County, stay over there, and so they are not --  
8 so we have our representation here.

9 I understand the pressures that you are  
10 all under, and it is a no-win situation. You  
11 all knew that when you came here today. You  
12 knew that no matter what you listened to, it is  
13 never going to -- no one is going to agree.  
14 And, once again, I want to thank you for your  
15 time, and think about the cost to the Cities  
16 and to the Counties in this deal and where are  
17 they going to get their money to enact what you  
18 all agree to, hopefully, and I am sure you will  
19 come to some agreement. But the bottom line  
20 is, no matter what you come up with and what  
21 these people here want, there's only one person  
22 that is going to make the difference, and that  
23 is the Governor of Florida, because he is going  
24 to veto it or not veto it, and we need to take  
25 that into consideration.

1           I want to thank you for your time, and for  
2           those who came a great distance here to be with  
3           us, we all appreciate that, and thank you.  
4           Come up with a good solution.

5           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
6           sir. We appreciate that.

7           Next up we have Ms. Dorine McKinnon,  
8           followed by Aaron Dietrich and then Jim Good.

9           MS. MCKINNON: Hi, I am Dorine McKinnon  
10          and I am a member of the unincorporated  
11          Pinellas County, and I would like to begin by  
12          thanking the Committee, Representative Frishe  
13          and Weatherford, and Senators Gaetz, Joyner and  
14          Latvala for the exceptional work that is being  
15          done to make this process transparent and  
16          orderly.

17          I appreciate that it is being presented  
18          earlier than the 2000 census and is more  
19          transparent than previous sessions and that  
20          these meetings do not just focus on more dense  
21          urban areas, but also include less populous  
22          areas and even rural communities.

23          I hope to see new districts that will  
24          allow Pinellas constituencies to be represented  
25          by a Pinellas legislature while staying as

1 close as possible to the current districting  
2 lines. Pinellas is unique and different from  
3 Hillsborough and Manatee, and our concerns --  
4 and we want representation close to where we  
5 live. Thank you.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
7 very much. Bonus points for Ms. McKinnon. She  
8 was done in less than a minute.

9 Next up we have Mr. Dietrich, followed  
10 Mr. Jim Good and then Sean Krummerich, I hope  
11 is the name, I hope I didn't say that wrong,  
12 but, Aaron, you are recognized. Thanks for  
13 being here, sir.

14 MR. DIETRICH: Thank you. Good morning to  
15 all of you. I would like to start off by  
16 saying I appreciate the situation that you are  
17 in, it's a great deal of responsibility. I am  
18 a graduate student from the University of South  
19 Florida. I am also a resident of St.  
20 Petersburg. I have a few concerns I would like  
21 to address with you this morning. I will be  
22 brief.

23 To start, I am troubled by the notion that  
24 this body has taken valuable time -- valuable  
25 time and resources in search of public input

1 across this great state. As many of us are  
2 aware, you have already received the public  
3 input that is necessary in the forms of  
4 Amendments 5 and 6. There you will find clear  
5 and concise guidelines for the task at hand.  
6 The fact that this Legislature has spent \$2.5  
7 million in a time when we are firing teachers,  
8 \$2.5 million paying lawyers instead to defeat  
9 these constitutional amendments, with all due  
10 respect to all of you, that really calls into  
11 question the true intent of these meetings, but  
12 it casts serious doubt upon the integrity of  
13 your leadership, ladies and gentlemen.

14 I will close by saying it appears to many  
15 of us that these meetings lack any foundation  
16 for discussion.

17 As there are no maps provided by the  
18 Legislature, we have no basis for meaningful  
19 input. We have not come here to see maps drawn  
20 by schoolteachers and construction workers. We  
21 come here to see maps drawn by the people we  
22 paid -- we have elected to do so.

23 Thank you very much for your time. I wish  
24 you the best of luck.

25 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,

1 Aaron.

2 Next up we have Jim Good, followed by Sean  
3 Krummerich and then Curtis Holmes. Jim, thanks  
4 for being here, sir.

5 MR. GOOD: Thanks, good morning. As you  
6 said, my name is Jim Good. I worked for the  
7 Post Office for 31 years, and then for the  
8 Letter Carriers' Union for nine years, and they  
9 have a program they use, and although it is  
10 certainly not perfect, it may be similar to the  
11 program you have for building the districts.  
12 So I am sure that you could have listened to  
13 the community and got their opinions after  
14 drawing maps and then just pushed a few buttons  
15 and changed it to be based on what the opinions  
16 were that you drew from those.

17 Also, I am, as other people have said, a  
18 little bit upset with the idea that the Senate  
19 and the House chooses to have a lawsuit against  
20 Amendments 5 and 6 that were passed by the  
21 people. I mean, that is the whole idea of our  
22 system.

23 And one final note, if you could give a  
24 message to Senator Haridopolos for me just to  
25 let him know that I am appalled by the recent

1       posting that he put on YouTube that was paid  
2       for with state funds. I think he will know  
3       what I am talking about.

4               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
5       sir.

6               Next up we have Sean Krummerich and then  
7       followed by Curtis Holmes and then Steve  
8       McFarlin, who is the Mayor of St. Pete Beach.

9               Thanks for being here, Sean.

10              MR. KRUMMERICH: Distinguished Senators  
11       and Representatives, good morning.

12              Last November, on one issue Florida's  
13       voters spoke with a clearer voice than on  
14       virtually any other issue or candidate on the  
15       ballot. They said we are tired, we are tired  
16       of having politicians choose their voters  
17       rather than the other way around, we are tired  
18       of gerrymandered districts, we are tired of the  
19       situation which in any given year a third of  
20       the Legislature is automatically reelected  
21       because nobody bothered to run against them.

22              Well, Amendments 5 and 6 represent the  
23       fruits of that frustration, and as we go  
24       through this process, we are counting on you,  
25       our elected representatives, to adhere to both

1       the letter and spirit of the law that  
2       63 percent of us voters approved. And as far  
3       as I am concerned, you haven't done your jobs  
4       unless on the final approved maps every  
5       district in the state, be it State House, State  
6       Senate or U.S. Congress, is fully competitive  
7       for a candidate from either political party.

8               I know how much you love the convenience  
9       of being able to plan so far ahead, but I'm  
10      sorry, in a society in which a sparse if you  
11      are Democratic, you simply should not be able  
12      to plan out three years in advance who will  
13      held legislative leadership positions.

14             And another thing -- one other thing,  
15      please stop using our tax dollars to fight the  
16      implementation of these amendments.

17             You have given your reasons for not  
18      presenting any of your proposed maps prior to  
19      embarking on this round of public meetings.  
20      While I strongly disagree with your rationale,  
21      things are what they are. I will tell you,  
22      however, the people of Florida are expecting  
23      for those final proposed maps to be made  
24      publicly available for comment and response  
25      well in advance of their final approval by the

1       Legislature. And by well in advance, I mean at  
2       least a month. Don't think that you can throw  
3       them on the website three days before the final  
4       vote and think that that will be all right.

5             Just remember, the people of Florida, they  
6       voted for and they expect fair and equal  
7       districts, and we will be watching to make sure  
8       that you deliver on that promise. Thank you.

9             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

10            Next up we have Commissioner Holmes, or  
11       Councilman Holmes, followed by Steve McFarlin,  
12       who is the Mayor of St. Pete Beach, and then  
13       Mayor Kathleen Peters. We've got a lot of  
14       mayors here today.

15            COMMISSIONER HOLMES: Good morning, one  
16       and all. I am glad to see that Jack has  
17       graduated to a cane.

18            SENATOR LATVALA: For protection.

19            SENATOR GAETZ: It is a weapon.

20            COMMISSIONER HOLMES: I appreciate all you  
21       coming out on a day like today. It is --  
22       people think that the Florida House and Senate  
23       are such high rollers when it comes to the cash  
24       department, but you people are vastly  
25       underpaid.



1           Anyway, I am looking at -- yes, I will  
2           take the hiss right now. I wouldn't -- I  
3           wouldn't take your job as a gift. Anyway, I am  
4           looking at this thing, and this -- you have so  
5           many mandates on this redistricting that -- you  
6           have population mandates, which you have no  
7           choice on. You have mandates in here on the  
8           Voting Rights Act, which you have no choice on.  
9           Well, I have looked at your website, and I  
10          thought to myself wouldn't it be smarter to  
11          have an interactive website where if you want  
12          citizens' comment on this thing, you have to  
13          give us the option on this thing where you can  
14          take the map and you want to change a district  
15          line around, put your cursor on there and  
16          scroll it, have the population numbers change,  
17          have the voting rights districts changed. If  
18          you need minority representation and you start  
19          shifting this thing around, you ought to have a  
20          little color chart that comes up and says,  
21          huh-huh, that one's not going to fly. That  
22          would be a lot easier.

23                This reminds me of what we did in Largo  
24                when we were going to build a new fire station.  
25                We had a public meeting, and we were going to

1        build a new station next door to HCA Hospital  
2        on Indian Rocks Road. And I attended this  
3        meeting and, it became so bazaar because every  
4        speaker who got up there get into the weeds.  
5        We didn't like the sirens, you don't have the  
6        traffic, you don't have big enough road there,  
7        et cetera, et cetera. And I went up to the  
8        Chief afterwards and I said, "Wouldn't it have  
9        been smarter just to draw a line on a map, and  
10       seeing as the county commission is here, and  
11       just say, 'The County has told us that we have  
12       to locate this fire department within this  
13       boundary. If you don't like where we are going  
14       to put it, where do you want us to put it  
15       within this boundary?'" That would have ended  
16       it real quick, because there was no other  
17       parcel available.

18               Well, on this redistricting, why don't you  
19       just come up with an interactive map, you can  
20       go on-line, just scroll the thing, you know, I  
21       don't like Jim Frishe's boundary, okay, well,  
22       let's change Frishe's boundary. Is that going  
23       to work under the Voting Rights Act? Is that  
24       going to work with the population? And it is  
25       going to tell you in advance, instead of just

1       having these maps here, they are not going to  
2       tell me anything. I want something that is  
3       going to tell me when that comes up right and I  
4       am still going to be in Jack's district, I am  
5       not going to have any problem with that,  
6       because this is going to comply with the  
7       federal mandates, that this is what you are  
8       dealing with here is federal mandates. This  
9       isn't so much state law. This is what the Feds  
10      are telling you we must comply with. That is  
11      my suggestion. Thanks for coming out.

12           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
13      Commissioner. And, Commissioner, if you will  
14      stick around, I think Senator Gaetz will  
15      address some of that, and, in fact, if you walk  
16      outside, you will see some of our staff. We  
17      actually have a website, the House and Senate  
18      have a District Builder that has not all the  
19      components you are talking about, but most of  
20      them, and I know they would be interested to  
21      hear your comments as well. So thank you very  
22      much for being here.

23           And next up we have Mayor of St. Pete  
24      Beach, Mayor McFarlin, followed by Mayor  
25      Kathleen Peters and then Jim Jackson.

1           Mayor, thanks for your public service and  
2           thanks for being here.

3           MAYOR McFARLIN:   Good morning, Steve  
4           McFarlin, Mayor of St. Pete Beach.   I want to  
5           thank you all for allowing us to come and  
6           participate and possibly share some newfound  
7           thoughts with you.

8           I was born in St. Petersburg.   I owned a  
9           business in downtown St. Petersburg, the  
10          Cadillac dealership, for many years, operated  
11          it.

12          I can tell you that the culture between  
13          the mainlands, downtown St. Petersburg and the  
14          beaches are entirely different.   It is almost  
15          like we are in a different state out there.  
16          Since I moved out there, I retired and moved  
17          out to the beach and gotten involved -- we are  
18          in the hospitality business out there.   Y'all  
19          are in the hospitality business.   You live off  
20          of those.   We are a feeder community, which  
21          most of the barrier islands are.

22          I think it is important that we keep those  
23          groups together out there, because it is a  
24          different culture out there.   It is -- it is  
25          different, we'll just leave it at that, on some

1 occasions. We are currently going through some  
2 redevelopment issues.

3 But just like the push Senator Jones and  
4 Mr. Frishe have done for us on renourishment,  
5 they didn't put that sand there for us to  
6 frolic in. No visual there, but they did it as  
7 an investment for tourists. Right now as we  
8 sit, buses are on the way, shuttles are on the  
9 way, they are bringing dollars into the  
10 community, which are going to end up in your  
11 hands.

12 This is something we need. We need  
13 representation that understands that, works  
14 that, and maximizes and capitalizes on our  
15 natural resources. It is something different.  
16 I know -- it is funny, to date -- I have been  
17 in office for six months, and to this very day,  
18 I have never spoken with the Mayor of St.  
19 Petersburg, never had any communication with  
20 him, never met him. We -- and I don't mean  
21 anything negative by that, but we just don't  
22 share in any daily issues. The beaches are  
23 different. I just ask that we keep them  
24 together and let's maximize it for economic  
25 reasons. That is the reason. Thank you.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
2           Mayor.

3           Next up, Mayor Kathleen Peters from the  
4           City of South Pasadena --

5           MAYOR PETERS: Good morning.

6           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: -- followed  
7           by Jim Jackson, and Bonnie Agan.

8           Mayor, thank you for being here. Good to  
9           see you.

10          MAYOR PETERS: Thank you, it is good to  
11          see you, and I really want to thank you for all  
12          of the work that you do.

13          I was listening to the earlier testimony,  
14          and it brought me back, and I apologize to  
15          going on a story, but I am just compelled to do  
16          it.

17          About 15 years ago, I took a 17-year-old  
18          student from Seminole High School to  
19          Washington, DC, and we spoke to him -- maybe  
20          it's longer, we were speaking to Senator Graham  
21          at the time, and then we went to the Capitol  
22          and we were sitting in the Senate Gallery, and  
23          she sat over the edge and she is lying over the  
24          side and she looks at me and she says, "This is  
25          my best day."

1           Now, at that time, I was extremely cynical  
2       about our government and our government  
3       process. And I looked at her shocked, and I  
4       said, "This is your best day?" And she said,  
5       "Where else but in this country can a  
6       17-year-old student come to our nation's  
7       Capitol and speak to a Senator and tell him  
8       what I think should be changed in our laws and  
9       what should be done?" At that time, it was  
10      about issues in juveniles and juvenile justice.  
11      "And where else can I go to my nation's Capitol  
12      and sit in the gallery and watch the process?"

13           We live in the best country and we have a  
14      great government, and I believe that the public  
15      comment and the public process is the  
16      cornerstone of what makes our government great,  
17      and so I want to thank you.

18           That young girl on that day changed my  
19      life and my perception, and as a result, I now  
20      serve in the local community. So I want to  
21      thank you for your service. I appreciate this  
22      process and I think it is a good process, and I  
23      appreciate that you're willing to hear what we  
24      have to say before you draw those maps, and I  
25      know that you will be willing to hear what we

1       have to say after you draw those maps, so thank  
2       you.

3               Now, regarding drawing those maps, I can  
4       tell you I am in a very small city. And I am  
5       not a barrier island, I am on the mainland.  
6       However, my boundaries primarily are the  
7       Intracoastal Waterway. And my commonalities  
8       are closer to the barrier islands, because the  
9       barrier islands are all small cities. Many of  
10      us have smaller than 50 employees, and,  
11      therefore, we all have small group health  
12      insurance issues. Our fire departments are all  
13      about the same size.

14             Therefore, we have the same pension and  
15      small fire department issues. And I believe it  
16      is those commonalities that make it important  
17      that we can get together and we can get  
18      representation for the small interests that  
19      we -- our common interests. And I can tell  
20      you, and no disrespect to the Representatives  
21      that are in this room that have served my city  
22      before, and currently, but there are some times  
23      that we will ask for support or representation  
24      on different issues and we feel that since we  
25      are such a small city combined with a big city



1       like St. Petersburg and Largo and Pinellas Park  
2       and Seminole, that small, little South Pasadena  
3       doesn't get the representation that it should  
4       relating to the other issues that we have that  
5       are not consistent with the larger cities. So  
6       I believe that we ought to have commonalities.

7               And I believe also that with this economy  
8       that we are in that is going to take us a  
9       decade to get out of and rebuild, that we need  
10      to consider putting districts together with the  
11      thought of economic development, commonalities  
12      for infrastructure that we can work together  
13      and we can build Pinellas County, the Tampa Bay  
14      area, the state of Florida, so we can build  
15      this state to be the best great -- best --  
16      greatest -- although I believe it is, the best  
17      and greatest state. But I think we can do  
18      better, and I think that is where we need to  
19      keep our focus. And thank you again, and I  
20      appreciate your service to our state.

21              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
22      Mayor, thanks a lot. Thank you for your  
23      service.

24              Next up we have Mr. Jim Jackson, followed  
25      by Bonnie Agan and then Douglas Hickman.

1           MR. JACKSON:   Jim Jackson, south St.  
2           Petersburg.   I represent any number of groups.  
3           I speak often at the school board, and it's  
4           tradition there for people that support an  
5           issue, that if you would stand, all those folks  
6           that belong to groups that I belong to, would  
7           you stand and support me on this?   They know  
8           who I am.   Yeah, all of you who know me, if you  
9           would stand.   It's quite a few.

10                  And I know many of you, especially my  
11           House Rep, Darryl Rouson, my State Senator,  
12           Arthenia Joyner.   I met you last year when you  
13           were speaking at a class size amendment rally  
14           in front of St. Petersburg High School.

15                  It says tell you your story.   My story is  
16           this:   I am a voter.   This is a non-partisan  
17           issue.   When you buy a house, I do due  
18           diligence.   I check out the roof, I check out  
19           the comps, I check out the square footage, I  
20           check out the walkability of the neighborhood.  
21           It is buyer beware.   What I didn't check out  
22           was voter beware.   I live in south St.  
23           Petersburg.   The tiny little red push pin on  
24           this very primitive map way down there is me.  
25           I am an educator of 43 years.   I am using shoe

1 strings because we are on a shoe string budget  
2 in education, as you know.

3 My districts absolutely make no sense.  
4 These are based on 2002. These are not -- I  
5 had a rumor that you didn't have maps.  
6 Arthenia Joyner's district covers three  
7 counties, divided by this large body of water,  
8 Tampa Bay. Darryl Rouson's district covers --  
9 55 covers four counties, again divided by this  
10 large geographical barrier, Tampa Bay. Kathy  
11 Castor, my Congressional Representative, her  
12 district also covers three districts divided by  
13 this large body of water, Tampa Bay. I live in  
14 this little bitty area down here in south St.  
15 Pete. They are not contiguous. They are not  
16 compact. They have very definite geographical  
17 barriers here. When you go to draw these maps,  
18 I would like to see you make much more sense  
19 about putting people together, no geographical  
20 barriers, make them compact, make them  
21 contrite, make them make sense. Fair  
22 districts, 63 percent of us voted for fair  
23 districts. Let's make them fair, let's make  
24 them districts as well.

25 A few years back, at my age, I decided I

1       would run for a delegate to the presidential  
2       election in Denver. I wanted to be an elected  
3       delegate. I didn't realize that even though I  
4       live in south St. Petersburg, I had to go to  
5       Tampa to in fact run for that because Kathy  
6       Castor is my Congresswoman. So I had to pack  
7       up all my supporters, some of these folks in  
8       the audience, truck them over to Tampa to vote  
9       for me, and persevered and won. I know you got  
10      thick skins. I ran for public office last  
11      year. It is not easy being a public official,  
12      I know that.

13             On here, red is actually Darryl Rouson, I  
14      thought he'd wear red cowboy boots today, blue  
15      is Arthenia Joyner and the beige is Kathy  
16      Castor. Again, this looks like a tropical  
17      storm or Hurricane Irene spaghetti model. I  
18      know it makes no sense --

19             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Jackson  
20      if --

21             MR. JACKSON: Wrap it up. But let's have  
22      fair districts, let's get them soon, let's get  
23      some maps, let's do the job we elected you to  
24      do. Thanks so much.

25             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you

1           very much. Thank you, Mr. Jackson.

2           Next up we have Bonnie Agan, followed by  
3           Douglas Hickman and Rob Roberts.

4           MS. AGAN: Hello, my name is Bonnie Agan,  
5           I live in St. Petersburg. I live in this  
6           little, tiny green portion of District 18, and  
7           State Senator Arthenia Joyner is my State  
8           Senator; however, she lives over here, and even  
9           in spite of her best efforts, she does -- I  
10          don't feel that she represents my interests. I  
11          am very lucky to have Representative Darryl  
12          Rouson, who really does live in my community,  
13          and I feel very well represented and I have  
14          total access to him. I don't know that I can  
15          say the same thing about the people in the  
16          other three counties that his district slivers  
17          into.

18          So I would ask that you consider the word  
19          "community" when these lines are being drawn.  
20          I think that is a very, very important  
21          component, of course, along with contiguous and  
22          compact.

23          And I believe you said that this is not  
24          rocket science, and you are absolutely right.  
25          This has been done since 1991 in Iowa without

1 court challenge. They have the software, they  
2 have been doing it, and you don't have to  
3 reinvent the wheel, just go ask them. I am  
4 sure they would be glad to help you. Thank you  
5 very much.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.  
7 If only Florida were a perfect square like the  
8 state of Iowa, it would make my life a lot  
9 easier.

10 Next up we have Douglas Hickman, followed  
11 by Rob Roberts and Richard Piper.

12 Mr. Hickman, you are recognized, sir.

13 MR. HICKMAN: Yeah, thank you for coming.  
14 I just wish that we really could have more  
15 interaction here.

16 I have two points. One of them is  
17 beaches, and it is very true, I have lived out  
18 there for 34 years now, Redington Shores, okay,  
19 and we are. But if you look at what 54 is now,  
20 okay, it also takes in part of south St. Pete,  
21 a part of Gulfport, much different communities  
22 than the beach communities. It also takes in  
23 the large black area of Largo, kind of dilutes  
24 their thing, because they don't seem to have  
25 much to do with the beach communities or

1 anything else.

2 And while I would like to see the beach  
3 communities have a little clout, I don't know  
4 if you could actually draw those maps and draw  
5 them fairly when that's what the law states we  
6 are supposed to do.

7 I've had to take a couple of oaths in my  
8 life. You elected officials took an oath to  
9 defend the Constitution of the State of  
10 Florida. Like it or not, Amendment 5 and  
11 Amendment 6 are right now the law of the State  
12 of Florida. It is not your job in this case to  
13 fight it. It should be the people, if they  
14 don't like what we voted for, that should do it  
15 by an amendment, okay. You should not be  
16 spending our money doing this. You took an  
17 oath. Follow your oath, you know, please do  
18 that and think about it. A lot of us died for  
19 our oaths, okay. It means something to me,  
20 thank you.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
22 sir.

23 Next up we have Rob Roberts, followed by  
24 Richard Piper and Gail Trask. Rob? Rob is not  
25 here right now, so we will put him to the side.

1           How about Richard Piper, is Richard here?

2           MR. PIPER: I am here.

3           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: All right.

4           Sorry I didn't give you more -- more room to  
5           breathe there, sir. Richard Piper, followed by  
6           Gail Trask and then Karen Hodgen.

7           Mr. Piper, thanks for being here. You are  
8           recognized.

9           MR. PIPER: Thank you. I am Rich Piper.  
10          I live in unincorporated Largo. I am a  
11          Professor Emeritus of government at the  
12          University of Tampa, and I would like to repeat  
13          some of what has been said before, but I will  
14          keep this very brief.

15          I would strongly urge the Legislature to  
16          comply fully with Amendments 5 and 6 and cease  
17          the lawsuit against them, present us promptly  
18          with redistricting plans that meet the legal  
19          criteria of these and the other laws governing  
20          the process, seek genuine feedback on your  
21          proposals, providing clear maps to which people  
22          can react, and enact appropriate redistricting  
23          time for candidates to prepare their campaigns  
24          effectively for the 2012 elections.

25          One of my biggest concerns is the last of



1       those four, that drawing this process out well  
2       into 2012 is discouraging potential candidates.  
3       I have talked with several of them myself.  
4       They said, "Well, we just don't feel like  
5       running when we have no idea what the district  
6       lines are going to be." So I think it is  
7       important that you get out some preliminary  
8       proposals and get feedback on them promptly.

9               I have gone on-line, you do have a very  
10       good website, and I have drawn up districts.  
11       They do comply with many of the suggestions  
12       that have been made here, and I will leave  
13       those -- those with you. I didn't have time to  
14       send them. I would still like to fine-tune  
15       them a little bit, quite frankly, but I did  
16       draw one going down along the beaches as the  
17       mayors out there requested. I happen to live  
18       in District 54 right now.

19              I live on the mainland in Harbor Bluffs,  
20       but we are a part of that beach community in  
21       many, many respects.

22              The problem is, of course, the population  
23       isn't quite big enough there to justify a  
24       district unto itself, so then the question is,  
25       which other communities do you include with it.

1 I would include places like South Pasadena and  
2 Gulfport rather than inland areas of Largo. I  
3 think we should try to keep the districts  
4 contiguous. We should respect community  
5 boundaries as much as possible.

6 The districts I have drawn for Pinellas  
7 County would keep the whole county together,  
8 with one exception, and that is the southern  
9 district, currently Representative Rouson's  
10 district. I would not take it across four  
11 counties, but I would still take that one, let  
12 it overlap a little bit down into Bradenton.  
13 There is an African-American community there  
14 that has a good deal in common with the  
15 African-American community in south St.  
16 Petersburg and Midtown, and this would be a  
17 district that would be likely to elect a  
18 minority Representative still. With that one  
19 exception, I would keep the county together.

20 I would have a congressional district that  
21 is all Pinellas County, currently the Young  
22 district, and I would have another  
23 congressional district that would be north  
24 county. Because of the population shortfall,  
25 it would need to spill over a little bit into

1 Pasco or Hillsborough, but one can easily find  
2 communities there that fit well with north  
3 Pinellas County. I think that makes good  
4 sense.

5 On the State Senate districts, again, you  
6 are going to have to spill over a little bit,  
7 but I think that can be done in much the same  
8 way, St. Petersburg up to about Ulmerton Road  
9 all together, and then on north district, it  
10 spills over into Pasco or Hillsborough.

11 So, again, I think there are good ways of  
12 doing this. I really regret that you haven't  
13 put forth some thoughts. They don't have to be  
14 formal proposals yet, but I would like to see  
15 what the Legislators are thinking. I know many  
16 of you are thinking about it. I have heard  
17 what Senator Latvala has suggested --

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Piper,  
19 you're going to have to wrap it up for me, sir.

20 MR. PIPER: Great. Just hopefully get  
21 this process moving forward expeditiously and  
22 fairly. Thank you.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
24 sir. Okay. Next up we have Ms. Gail Trask,  
25 followed by Karen Hodgen and then Vince Cocks.

1           I would also want to mention, I know when  
2       we first started, I had mentioned that there  
3       was about 40 people who had signed up to speak.  
4       We now have over 70 people signed up to speak.  
5       And is Burt Benner here? Burt, are you here?  
6       Somewhere in the back.

7           Burt is the one who signed up last, and so  
8       we want to get to Burt. We want to give  
9       everybody an opportunity to speak, and so we  
10      are going to try to do it -- you know, if we  
11      could get every speaker to be about two to two  
12      and a half minutes, we want everyone to get an  
13      opportunity to have something to say, and a lot  
14      of folks came a long way to speak, we want to  
15      give them that chance. So I'm sorry for that.

16          Ms. Gail, you are recognized, and thank  
17      you for being here.

18          MS. TRASK: Thank you. Thank you for  
19      being here to listen. I, for one, appreciate  
20      the opportunity --

21          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: If you could  
22      speak a little closer to the microphone. Thank  
23      you.

24          MS. TRASK: If I was a little taller, that  
25      might help.

1           Okay. I, for one, do appreciate the  
2           opportunity to influence the way my districts  
3           are drawn before you draw the maps and make up  
4           your minds. I disagree with the notion that  
5           we, the people, are too stupid to help draw our  
6           own districts. Our government was never meant  
7           to be left to the professionals.

8           Our representatives are supposed to be  
9           just that, our representatives, not  
10          professionals that make proclamations from on  
11          high and send them down to we, the people. So  
12          I appreciate the opportunity to be here and be  
13          heard.

14          I am concerned about districts such as the  
15          U.S. Congressional District 11, which may be  
16          drawn according to the letter of the law, but  
17          it is certainly not drawn according to the  
18          spirit of the law, allowing communities to have  
19          a common vote. Gerrymandered districts such as  
20          this one with pieces taken from three counties  
21          and different communities ripped apart and  
22          diverse communities stuck together, those are  
23          not going to be tolerated by the people when we  
24          see these new districts drawn. We are going to  
25          hold you accountable. I know that they go

1 through other layers of government to be  
2 approved and disproved; however, you are our  
3 representatives, you are the ones that we will  
4 hold accountable. We expect you to draw these  
5 districts lines fairly and honestly and  
6 according to both the letter of the law and the  
7 obvious spirit of the law to keep communities  
8 together. I say it is of utmost importance  
9 that you keep districts truly compact and  
10 follow existing political and geographic and  
11 community boundaries, and these are readily  
12 available.

13 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.  
14 Next we have Karen Hodgen with the Pinellas  
15 Democratic Executive Committee, and then Vince  
16 Cocks, followed by Peter Franco.

17 Karen, you are recognized. Thanks for  
18 being here.

19 MS. HODGEN: Thank you. Defining  
20 communities and preserving them are an aspect  
21 of redistricting. I live in Gulfport, which is  
22 a fairly small town. We have less than 13,000  
23 in population, and we are only 2.8 square miles  
24 in area. So we are pretty small with size and  
25 population, but we are pretty big in spirit.

1           The interesting thing is Gulfport has been  
2           one of those communities that's been a victim  
3           of gerrymandering. For our size, we have two  
4           U.S. Congressional districts, two State Senate  
5           districts and three State House of  
6           Representative districts, and this simply  
7           divides individuals our community. Either we  
8           must be pretty important and we deserve  
9           super-special representation, or either we have  
10          been carved up to justify or to dilute our --  
11          to dilute our vote. So that definitely takes  
12          away our sense of community.

13          Gulfport really should be represented by  
14          one Congressperson, one State Senator and one  
15          State House of Representative. The size we are  
16          simply does not justify how we have been  
17          divided.

18          Amendments 5 and 6 are important to us.  
19          Now it is your duty to act accordingly. We  
20          need and expect fair districts so communities  
21          like Gulfport and other similar communities  
22          will remain intact. We like the language of  
23          the Fair Districts. Terms like "compactness"  
24          and "contiguous lines" struck a cord with us.  
25          It spoke of fairness. Unfortunately, our

1 Florida Legislators can't seem to keep their  
2 fingers out of the pie. Some states have  
3 independent commissions that determine the  
4 districts so it is done fairly and impartially,  
5 and I would like to think that maybe Florida  
6 could be one of those states as well. Thank  
7 you.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.  
9 Next we have Vince Cocks, followed by Peter  
10 Franco and Matthew Lettelleir.

11 MR. COCKS: Good morning. I reside in  
12 south St. Petersburg. I am represented by  
13 Honorable Darryl Rouson in our House, and  
14 Honorable Arthenia Joyner in our Senate. I  
15 applaud your voting record this session. That  
16 is Darryl and Arthenia, I applaud that.

17 I am in total agreement with earlier  
18 speakers such as Mr. Murray, Jim Jackson and  
19 Rich Piper, who stated that Pinellas should  
20 remain contiguous and one area when  
21 redistricting. Darryl is a neighbor of mine,  
22 lives four blocks away, he lives directly  
23 across from where I worship. Arthenia lives in  
24 Tampa. I don't get to see her often. I see  
25 Darryl often. But I admire your service, I



1       really do, Arthenia.

2               Recently Bill Maxwell in *The St. Pete*  
3       *Times* reported a quote of a former university  
4       professor. This was in last Sunday's edition.  
5       The quote was, "When money takes over politics,  
6       only a shadow of democracy remains." The  
7       author of this was Pope Benedict XVI, and he  
8       represents over 1.1 billion Catholics  
9       worldwide.

10              Not only has the love of money cast a  
11       shadow over our democracy in Florida, there is  
12       a total eclipse now. In the session this year,  
13       our Legislature voted along party lines to  
14       resurrect House Bill 1207, leadership --

15              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Sir, we are  
16       here to talk about redistricting, so tie it to  
17       redistricting for me.

18              MR. COCKS: This is, because you know  
19       what, when you don't -- you started this by  
20       saying we wouldn't be interrupted by you.  
21       Please don't interrupt me. I won't interrupt  
22       you.

23              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: As long as  
24       you are talking about redistricting, I can  
25       assure you you won't be.

1           MR. COCKS: This is about redistricting,  
2 money is about redistricting.

3           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Keep it to  
4 redistricting.

5           MR. COCKS: My God. Special interest  
6 groups now line up to give House and Senate  
7 leaders obscene amounts of money anonymously.  
8 Howard Troxler of *The St. Pete Times* described  
9 this as campaign slush funds operated legally  
10 and officially by the leaders of the  
11 Legislature themselves. This is Florida where  
12 the laws of democracy are now openly and  
13 officially for sale.

14           This folly continues with House Bill 1355,  
15 a voting bill that has to do with  
16 redistricting. This is under the guise of  
17 reigning in voter fraud.

18           Then we got -- I will leave this one out.

19           All right. Here is another one, House  
20 Bill 45, shouldn't even go into that, that is  
21 control of gun laws that will now be done by  
22 the State, and no, you know, local control.

23           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Vince, if you  
24 could, wrap it up for me, sir, because we are  
25 short of time now.

1           MR. COCKS: Oh, sure, I am not taking a  
2 lot of time here. And my Mayor last night, he  
3 spoke at my father-in-law's church, and he  
4 stated this is the stupidest law that he's ever  
5 seen.

6           That being said, I ask you, elected  
7 officials, please enact fair districts with  
8 utility in mind. Let the demons of special  
9 interest be vanquished. Do the greatest amount  
10 of good for the greatest amount of people. And  
11 I leave you with, "Alas, poor Yorick, I knew  
12 him well." Thank you.

13           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.  
14 Next up we have Peter Franco, followed by  
15 Matthew Lettelleir and Joseph Saportas.

16           Peter, you are recognized, sir.

17           MR. FRANCO: Yes, thanks for giving me the  
18 time. My name is Pete Franco. I am a resident  
19 in South Pasadena, Pinellas. I just want to  
20 first acknowledge the Board for putting this  
21 meeting together.

22           My thoughts are that I am glad that you  
23 are doing this and giving us a chance to give  
24 you some feedback on what we think with respect  
25 to redistricting, so I acknowledge you for it.

1 And, in general -- so my general purpose of  
2 being here is to acknowledge you for putting  
3 this together.

4 As many others have said, I would -- one  
5 of my strong requests would be to keep the  
6 boundaries as contiguous as possible,  
7 especially congressional districts that  
8 currently are crossing over into Tampa. I  
9 think Pinellas should be Pinellas, pretty much  
10 the bottom line, and to keep the districts as  
11 contiguous as possible.

12 And, yeah, I -- with respect to the whole  
13 timeline of this hearing, I actually -- again,  
14 I appreciate that you have taken the time to do  
15 it and not rushing it right up off to the  
16 courts, and to keep in line with the  
17 regulations, both state and federal, but to  
18 give us an opportunity to give you our input.  
19 That is pretty much what I came to say, and  
20 thank you for giving me the time.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
22 sir.

23 Next up we have Matthew Lettelleir,  
24 followed by Joseph Saportas and then Wendy  
25 Grassi.

1           MR. LETTELLEIR: Good morning. My name is  
2           Matt Lettelleir, and I am born and raised and  
3           now live in northeast St. Pete. Thank you for  
4           allowing me to speak this morning, and thank  
5           you for holding these hearings. I, for one,  
6           believe these hearings are important and show  
7           how much this Legislature appreciates its  
8           constituents. I also appreciate you all being  
9           here and taking time away from your families.

10           I agree with the Mayor from Indian Rocks  
11           Beach that our communities have distinct  
12           characteristics that should be considered. I  
13           believe that downtown St. Pete has more in  
14           common with downtown Tampa than with St. Pete  
15           Beach.

16           I believe lines can be drawn while staying  
17           within the constitutional provisions, but very  
18           few of the people in this room will be happy,  
19           no matter what you do. I say to these that are  
20           unhappy with the Legislature, to run for office  
21           themselves, and if elected, you may begin to  
22           understand and have an appreciation for your  
23           hard work.

24           I also say that if you don't like the  
25           timeline, then propose an amendment to allow

1 the Legislature to move the time frame up.

2 Thank you very much.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
4 sir.

5 Next up, Joseph Saportas, followed by  
6 Wendy Grassi and Kofi Hunt.

7 Joseph is with the Citizen and Native of  
8 Florida. Joseph, are you here? I don't see  
9 him here, so we will move forward to Wendy  
10 Grassi.

11 Wendy, thank you for being here, followed  
12 by Kofi Hunt, and Winnie Foster. Wendy is with  
13 Planned Parenthood. Thanks for being here.

14 MS. GRASSI: I am, I am with Planned  
15 Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida.

16 It appears to us that the Legislature's  
17 timeline for drawing districts is extremely  
18 unfair to Florida voters. Along with so many  
19 others, we question why the Legislature hasn't  
20 prepared the new district maps earlier, leave  
21 time to debate them this fall and then pass  
22 them during the first week of legislative  
23 session, instead of waiting to finalize the  
24 maps until the end of the session in March.

25 Florida's maps will be approved later than

1 almost every other state in the nation. Our  
2 new districts may not be finalized until  
3 August, just two months before the 2012  
4 elections. Challengers or new candidates will  
5 have little, if any, time to mount campaigns.  
6 Uncertainty as to what a district will look  
7 like helps incumbents, because incumbents  
8 already -- are already known to the voters and  
9 have a huge advantage in raising money.  
10 Challengers will be reluctant to throw their  
11 hats in the ring. We can only think that the  
12 current timeline is designed as an incumbent  
13 protection plan.

14 Also, why is the Legislature -- why is the  
15 Legislature spending our precious tax dollars,  
16 millions of dollars, to oppose Fair Districts  
17 passed during last year's elections by  
18 63 percent of the voters? All of this money is  
19 being spent unnecessarily while teachers are  
20 being fired, social services are being cut and  
21 fewer women are able to access healthcare.

22 All of this -- all of this leads us to  
23 believe that the real mapping is going on in  
24 back rooms, and that the real new maps will be  
25 presented at the end of the upcoming

1 legislative session to be rammed through  
2 without the public really knowing what is going  
3 on.

4 We call on the Legislature to heed the  
5 voters. This issue is a test of our democracy  
6 and the will of our people. Thank you very  
7 much.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

9 Next up we have Kofi Hunt, Kofi is with  
10 Awake Pinellas, followed by Winnie Foster and  
11 then Darden Rice.

12 MR. HUNT: Hi. Thanks for letting me talk  
13 today. I am in Jeff Brandes, Jack Latvala and  
14 Bill Young's district. I was born and raised  
15 in St. Petersburg, Florida.

16 You know, one thing with me is I have a  
17 difference from a lot of people, maybe it is  
18 because I am a lot younger, is I don't see race  
19 as much. I don't see -- I see more the  
20 communities that I think that that should be  
21 considered definitely when considering the  
22 districts.

23 Also about we don't want any maps that are  
24 hard, we would like maps that are flexible, so  
25 that we could, you know, discuss them, and just



1 open democratic debate and discussion.

2 I don't think that we do have adequate  
3 information or resources on hand. I personally  
4 work two jobs to contribute to the process, and  
5 I would appreciate the maps, you know, as well.  
6 And when you do create the maps and you bring  
7 them to the public, I would like you to, you  
8 know, participate in the open dialogue with all  
9 of the challenges you get, the logical ones.  
10 And also I would like all the information  
11 regarding the legal challenges to Amendment 6  
12 to be provided to the broader public for voter  
13 scrutiny. Beyond that, you know, we would like  
14 fair districts. Fair districts, fair  
15 democracy, that is my saying. Thanks.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

17 Next we have Winnie Foster, followed by  
18 Darden Rice and then Mary Louise Ambrose.

19 MS. FOSTER: Okay. That is not senility.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Somebody  
21 knows how to take control of a room.

22 MS. FOSTER: I am 84 years old -- thank  
23 you, gentlemen, for your assistance -- and I  
24 have a 40-year history in south St. Petersburg  
25 where I have been a grass roots organizer. I

1       now have a program called the Sojourner Truth  
2       Center. Much of my organizing has been done in  
3       south St. Petersburg. I was part of the group  
4       that helped to elect the very first black judge  
5       in Pinellas County when everybody said it can't  
6       be done. So I know that things can change and  
7       happen, and I am always willing to try  
8       something new.

9               I see many friends that I am acquainted  
10       with in the Pinellas delegation, and we are  
11       proud to be able to contact them, but I wanted  
12       to tell you about the redistricting that I  
13       remember when we got what was called the bug  
14       splat districts. They really looked like  
15       somebody just threw something against the wall  
16       and tentacles went out, and we know that they  
17       have been not really as successful as I guess  
18       the drawers had hoped.

19              It was done as a compromise negotiation  
20       between two groups, and I think one of the  
21       groups that compromised on that really realized  
22       later that they had lost something very  
23       important, they had lost some very effective  
24       Legislators.

25              One of the lines was drawn in my district,

1 a block away from the house of one State  
2 Senator, and moved a Tampa Representative into  
3 St. Petersburg district, so that she only had  
4 17 precincts left in Tampa and something like  
5 70 in Pinellas County. So that -- that was not  
6 a win for those incumbents. It was a result of  
7 a compromise.

8 And I can remember that we talked a great  
9 deal during the hearings for that redistricting  
10 about being compact and contiguous and  
11 community, and I can remember many of us  
12 standing up and like people are here saying  
13 that that is something to be adhered to, and  
14 yet it wasn't.

15 And so I just want to tell you this  
16 history because, as you know, if we don't know  
17 our history, we are going to repeat it, perhaps  
18 not in pleasant ways. So thank you.

19 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
20 very much. We appreciate it, Ms. Foster.

21 Next up we have Darden Rice with the  
22 League of Women Voters, followed by Mary Louise  
23 Ambrose and then Joe Barkley.

24 MS. RICE: Thank you. Good morning. My  
25 name is Darden Rice, and I am the President of

1 the St. Pete League of Women Voters. I am also  
2 the former Chair of the local Fair Districts  
3 Now campaign where the League, along with many  
4 others, worked for the passage of the Fair  
5 Districting amendments.

6 I want to thank you for your service. We  
7 know this isn't an easy job. I have spoken and  
8 worked with many of you sitting here.  
9 Sometimes a good friend is the friend that  
10 tells you what you need to hear and not what  
11 you want to hear, so I am here in the spirit of  
12 I am offering criticism, but I know that you  
13 are working hard at what you do and I know that  
14 we share the common goals of wanting to see  
15 democracy work in our state.

16 The Florida asks -- excuse me, the League  
17 asks the Florida House to stop spending our own  
18 taxpayer money against us. Please respect the  
19 will of the 63 percent of Florida voters who  
20 want new redistricting standards to be applied.  
21 The House is using our taxpayer money against  
22 us to attack and invalidate Amendments 5 and 6.  
23 It is spending our money to join a lawsuit  
24 asking the court to strike the amendments, and  
25 we ask you to withdraw from this lawsuit

1 immediately. As the State makes major cuts,  
2 these efforts to thwart voters wastes money and  
3 doesn't do a thing to create jobs.

4 In addition to the 30 million, 30 million,  
5 set aside to avoid Fair Districts, *The Miami*  
6 *Herald* reported yesterday that the cost of  
7 fighting redistricting continued to mount. In  
8 addition to the two and a half million spent on  
9 lawsuits, the paper also reported that these  
10 hearings, which are perhaps less than useful  
11 because we have no maps to comment on, have  
12 cost the House \$48,000 through July. In the  
13 spirit of transparency and fairness, please  
14 provide documents to either refute *The Miami*  
15 *Herald's* claims, or provide invoices to give  
16 the public reasons for your expenses.

17 Finally, PolitiFact and *Orlando Sentinel's*  
18 malarkey meter weight the Legislature's denials  
19 of wasting money as false.

20 If you would stop fighting this, instead  
21 applying these standards as voters intended,  
22 there would be no need for wasting massive  
23 amounts of taxpayer money.

24 And thank you for listening to my  
25 constructive criticism.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

2           MS. RICE: Thank you.

3           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
4           very much. And, Ms. Rice, if -- I hope you can  
5           stay to the end of the meeting, because Senator  
6           Gaetz will have an opportunity, and other  
7           members will too, to address some of those  
8           questions. And sometimes information gets out  
9           there that may not be completely factual. We  
10          will make sure that we address each and  
11          everything that you mentioned there. So thank  
12          you.

13          MS. RICE: I look forward to that. If  
14          there's an opportunity for a dialogue to ask  
15          questions back, we would appreciate that.  
16          Thank you.

17          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.  
18          Next up we have Mary Louise Ambrose with the  
19          Pinellas County Democratic Executive Committee.  
20          Thank you for being here. And followed by  
21          Ms. Ambrose, we have Joe Barkley and then  
22          George Gonzalez.

23          MS. AMBROSE: Good morning. My name is  
24          Mary Lou Ambrose, and I am from Belleair  
25          Bluffs. Mr. Frishe is supposed to be my

1 Representative.

2 My question to you is, why haven't you  
3 done what we asked you to do?  
4 Sixty-three percent of us said we want fair  
5 districts, we want contiguous, we want compact,  
6 we want no political input. What we got and  
7 you guys -- what we have now and what you guys  
8 proved to us this morning when you introduced  
9 yourself is a malarkey of various lines and  
10 snakes and little districts butting into other  
11 little districts in order to do one thing.

12 This is what we have. The only reason for  
13 this is sitting here in front of me.  
14 Incumbency is what it is all about, and we want  
15 you to stop it. We want fair districts. I am  
16 thinking more like squares and rectangles here  
17 instead of whatever this is.

18 And the second thing I want you to do is  
19 stop spending our money fighting us. There is  
20 absolutely no reason why you should sue your  
21 constituents. What is wrong with you?

22 The fact is we want fair districts, we  
23 want them now, we don't want to wait until next  
24 June. We want to be able to bring up people  
25 who will at least give you some competition.

1           You need it.

2           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:   Thank you.

3           Next up we have Mr. Joe Barkley, followed  
4           by George Gonzalez and Maria Shurggs -- or  
5           Scruggs.

6           COMMISSIONER BARKLEY:   That is a tough act  
7           to follow.   That lady is my wife.

8           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:   Well, you  
9           were smart to let her go ahead of you then.

10          COMMISSIONER BARKLEY:   I didn't even know  
11          I was speaking, she put my name on the list,  
12          but I will just say a few words.

13          I live in Belleair Bluffs, I am a  
14          Commissioner there.   Like many folks who are  
15          local elected officials, they want to serve  
16          their communities more.   The way to do that is  
17          to seek wider office, to seek a higher office.

18          When you run for office -- I hope other  
19          people in the back realize this.   When you run  
20          for office, you don't just wake up one day and  
21          decide to run for office.   It takes a long time  
22          to run for office.   You have to develop a  
23          committee, you have to develop a plan, you have  
24          to raise money, you have to knock on doors, you  
25          have to make phone calls.   You have to do



1 everything possible to get your name out and  
2 your ideas out.

3 When we have this kind of situation where  
4 we have no time as an elected official who  
5 wishes to run for office to form a committee,  
6 to decide where to make a phone call, to decide  
7 where to knock on a door, to decide how we can  
8 best represent people, this is depriving the  
9 citizens of Pinellas County and the State of  
10 Florida of the right to have a vote. This is  
11 extremely, extremely bad behavior on your part,  
12 and I take personal offense at this and I hope  
13 we will correct this immediately.

14 We need to have a competitive elective  
15 system. You guys are all shoe-ins because we  
16 have no way to make a valid campaign when we  
17 have no way to know where our elected  
18 representation is going to be. Thank you.

19 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
20 Commissioner.

21 Next we have Mr. George Gonzalez, followed  
22 by Maria Scruggs and then Judy Landon.

23 MR. GONZALEZ: Good morning. In my  
24 statements, you will probably sense a man that  
25 has lost all faith and hope in his political

1       system and his legislative process. I am not  
2       really here today to give you my opinion about  
3       redistricting, how to draw the districts, or to  
4       plead that you create fair districts that more  
5       aptly represent the voter composition of our  
6       state, because I know the money and time wasted  
7       on these meetings is only for show.

8               If you were truly representatives of the  
9       voters, these meetings would have been held  
10      months ago, would surely include maps,  
11      suggested districts, their voter composition,  
12      and you would not be trying to circumvent the  
13      will of the people with lawsuits.

14             I am here to sound a warning. Sixty-three  
15      percent of the voters of this state, well above  
16      your ability to claim partisanship,  
17      resoundingly ordered you to redraw districts to  
18      be more competitive, that reflect the fact that  
19      we live in an evenly divided state. They asked  
20      you to stop creating districts that tap into  
21      surrounding minority or opposing party areas  
22      that there is no commonality with where you are  
23      putting it, and doing it for the sole purpose  
24      of strengthening one district for your party  
25      while weakening the other district to make it

1 competitive for your own party.

2 Despite your lawsuits to circumvent the  
3 will of the people, despite the fact that you  
4 insult our intelligence by trying to make us  
5 think you come to us for political comment,  
6 even though you bring us no maps to comment on,  
7 you and everybody in this room knows what the  
8 intent of the voters was, regardless of party  
9 affiliation.

10 By now your brains are probably saying to  
11 yourself, "Let's discount this guy's  
12 commentary, he is just an angry Democrat."  
13 Yes, I am a Democrat by default, because  
14 Republican policies have devastated my family.  
15 I could care less if I was represented by the  
16 wigwam party.

17 Frankly, however, what I yearn for is the  
18 America and Florida of my childhood where  
19 Republicans and Democrats did not operate under  
20 the premises of obstruction, where the parties  
21 were not obsessed with keeping unfair balance  
22 in the Legislature and did not -- and did not  
23 reflect the voters they represented. I long  
24 for the days when I respected Republicans even  
25 though I disagreed with them, not hated them

1       for the pain they are causing my family. I  
2       long for the days when both parties either  
3       chose or were forced to compromise in order to  
4       do what was best for the citizens, not what was  
5       best for themselves or their reelection.

6               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: George, I am  
7       going to have to ask you to wrap it up, sir.  
8       We are getting tight on time.

9               MR. GONZALEZ: They chose to -- they chose  
10       redistricting to send you a clear message, and  
11       the intent was clear, so my warning is this:  
12       You ignore and circumvent the will of the  
13       people at your own peril.

14               If you do not do this honestly and adhere  
15       to what is right, ethics charges, lawsuits and  
16       federal investigations. I beg you, do this  
17       right, you could begin the healing that has  
18       this state and this country divided. You could  
19       be the catalyst that causes us to find common  
20       good for all instead of the selfish need for  
21       one.

22               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
23       sir.

24               Next up we have Maria Scruggs, followed by  
25       Judy Landon and Marilyn Hafling.

1           I just want to remind everybody, we've got  
2           probably almost 40 speakers left, and not a lot  
3           of time, so, please, we don't want to be rude  
4           and interrupt anybody, but we do want to keep  
5           to a very tight time frame, so be brief.

6           Thank you very much for being here. You  
7           are recognized.

8           MS. SCRUGGS: You are quite welcome, and  
9           for the sake of brevity, I will be brief.

10          First of all, good morning, and thank you  
11          for the opportunity to come to present to you  
12          this morning. My name is Maria Scruggs, and I  
13          live in Representative Rouson's district and  
14          Senator Joyner's district. And contrary to an  
15          earlier comment made that the minority -- the  
16          community of Midtown, which is primary  
17          African-American, does not need lines drawn  
18          that are compact and contiguous is not true.

19          We do not necessarily have the same  
20          interests of African-American communities in  
21          Manatee just by the nature of our ethnicity.  
22          So, please, when you are drawing the lines,  
23          consider that not to be the case.

24          For the sake of brevity, I will not repeat  
25          a lot of what has been said today. I say that

1       Amendment 5 and Amendment 6 have been passed by  
2       63 percent of the voters. As you can tell from  
3       the comments here, from the comments that have  
4       been heard around the state, taxpayers are  
5       frustrated and they are weary. I beg of you to  
6       take the framework of Amendment 5 and Amendment  
7       6 and ensure that the lines are drawn to fall  
8       within that framework, and then after your work  
9       has been done, for the sake of transparency and  
10      the sake of clarity, establish a framework that  
11      clearly demonstrates that you have adhered to  
12      what the voters asked you to do by the passing  
13      of Amendment 5 and Amendment 6.

14             And, finally, withdraw from the  
15      litigation. That does not lend well to the  
16      voters, and I am certain that if this  
17      litigation is to ensue, many of you probably  
18      will not be here in your next terms. Thank  
19      you.

20             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

21             Next up we have Judy Landon, followed by  
22      Marilyn Hafling and then Mary Pugh.

23             MS. LANDON: Hi. Thank you so much for  
24      allowing me to speak with you today. A lot of  
25      what I have to say is just going to be a repeat

1 of what other people have said, so I am going  
2 to keep it brief.

3 Please stop fighting Fair Districts with  
4 taxpayer dollars. That is just not right. It  
5 really isn't.

6 Eliminate multi-county districts as much  
7 as you possibly can, because they really don't  
8 make any sense. And in the past, they have led  
9 the districts that have crossed the entire  
10 state. That is insane.

11 We have -- another thing I would like to  
12 say here is that it seems like we have the cart  
13 before the horse, which a number of people have  
14 said here, but we don't have maps to comment  
15 on. These maps aren't going to be coming out  
16 until the legislative session, from what I can  
17 see from the timeline. It would be best if  
18 they came out earlier.

19 At the time that they do come out, what  
20 type of review and comment will the public get?  
21 What type of input are we going to get? Will  
22 there be more public hearings? The last thing  
23 that I -- well, see, and here's another thing  
24 that kind of concerns me. Those of us who want  
25 to play by the rules and use the mapping

1 software, My District Builder, we have a key  
2 component of it taken out, *The Sun Sentinel*  
3 brought this out, that the -- let's see -- we  
4 have the removal of the compactness and  
5 geospatial software between the first release  
6 last year and the second release of My District  
7 Builder, and I do believe that would have made  
8 things a little bit easier. I will try to do  
9 it as best I can without.

10 And the last thing that I would like to  
11 say is to -- well, at the very end, even though  
12 we have very little time, to move up the plan  
13 approval, to bring to the floor the first week  
14 of the legislative session and try to vote on  
15 it as soon as possible so that we will be able  
16 to meet the June 8th deadline for qualifying  
17 for state and federal elections in Florida, to  
18 be able to get those district boundaries set  
19 before people are trying to qualify and run for  
20 office, not only for the candidates, but for  
21 everybody involved. I work for the Supervisor  
22 of Elections' office, and I am holding my head  
23 thinking what that one is going to do to us  
24 really.

25 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Ms. Landon --



1 MS. LANDON: So thank you very much.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
3 very much. Thank you for being here.

4 Next up we have Marilyn Hafling with the  
5 League of Women Voters -- I hope I said that  
6 right, ma'am, I apologize if I didn't -- Mary  
7 Pugh and then John Brysacz.

8 You are recognized.

9 MS. HAFLING: Thank you. I am Marilyn  
10 Hafling. I am a board member of the League of  
11 Women Voters of St. Petersburg. I've lived in  
12 Pinellas County since 1979, the last 31 years  
13 on Madeira Beach. I have appreciated hearing  
14 all of my fellow Pinellas County people speak  
15 so passionately today, and I really don't think  
16 there's a lot I could add to their eloquence.

17 I would certainly urge all of you to stop  
18 fighting Fair Districts. We worked very, very  
19 hard to get Fair Districts passed and it is  
20 what the citizens want, and I really am boggled  
21 that people think they can set aside what the  
22 voters have said they want with our money.  
23 That just blows me away that we as taxpayers  
24 pay both sides of lawsuits all the time. It  
25 happens in our little towns, it happens in our

1 county, it happens at our state, and I am  
2 really beginning to feel very victimized, and I  
3 am just asking that you get on with the  
4 business and draw up these districts the way  
5 they are supposed to be, the way the citizens  
6 asked it to be. As Mr. Hickman said, you took  
7 an oath to support our Constitution, and that  
8 includes the Fair District amendments, so  
9 please get on with it. Thank you.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

11 Next we have Mary Pugh, followed by John  
12 Brysacz and then Marg Baker.

13 MS. PUGH: I am Mary Pugh, just an  
14 ordinary citizen here in Pinellas County. I  
15 live in Florida. I want to thank you for  
16 hearing me.

17 I have to say that watching this, there is  
18 a huge and ominous disconnect between the  
19 Florida Legislature and its citizens, and I can  
20 see it in your body language in some of you.

21 As a citizen of the State of Florida, I  
22 would like to believe that my voice is my vote,  
23 and I need to protect that voice by insisting  
24 and demanding that my vote is counted  
25 accurately and fairly. We as citizens have the

1 right to expect that our Legislature follow the  
2 law as voted upon by the people and enshrined  
3 in the Florida Constitution. Florida  
4 politicians will be held accountable by  
5 citizens demanding the new districts will be  
6 drawn fairly and legally.

7 It is time that Florida citizens start  
8 choosing their leaders and stop politicians  
9 from choosing their voters.

10 Florida leaders must follow Amendment 5  
11 and 6 as voted on by 63 percent of the  
12 citizens. Florida politicians must address  
13 disfranchisement laws and census miscounts,  
14 which screws a lot of -- I mean, skews a lot of  
15 the -- it does that, too, but it skews a lot of  
16 the census and how this is followed up on.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: We have had a  
18 couple of Freudian slips today already.

19 MS. PUGH: Oh, yes. Well, we are angry,  
20 we are angry. We want fair districts. It begs  
21 the question that in a largely Democratic  
22 state, our Legislature is largely Republican.  
23 This is due to crafty legislative line drawing,  
24 and this is a conflict of interest and allows  
25 for politicians to design their own districts.

1 I am hurrying.

2 35.8 percent of the voters in Florida are  
3 registered Republicans, 42 percent are  
4 registered Democrats, but 63 percent of the  
5 House is Republican and 65 percent of the  
6 Senate is Republican. These numbers are  
7 possible due to the 1992 court-drawn maps.  
8 This move concentrated minority majority  
9 districts. Since then, there have only been  
10 three African-Americans and three Hispanics  
11 elected to Congress.

12 These maps diluted the Democratic  
13 congressional and legislative districts, thus  
14 allowing Republicans to control the Legislature  
15 and assume the majority since the mid 1990s.  
16 These court-drawn maps clearly favored one  
17 party over the other, so who is protecting my  
18 voice and my vote? Our elected officials are  
19 sent to the Legislature to protect the  
20 citizens' rights, not their seats. It is time  
21 to watch the watchers.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

23 Next up we have John Brysacz, I hope I  
24 said that right, sir, followed by Marg Baker  
25 and then Jason Smith.

1           MR. BRYSA CZ: I noted that for you  
2           phonetically. It is a Polish name, so I can  
3           understand why you may have difficulty with it.

4           My name is John Brysacz, and I am a  
5           profound skeptic. All types of interested  
6           parties, including the League of Women Voters,  
7           the Sierra Club, private citizens and various  
8           members of ethnic, agricultural and business  
9           communities have stated their desires and  
10          wishes regarding redistricting. In those  
11          statements, they hoped, prayed, encouraged,  
12          cajoled and treated, beseeched and even begged  
13          that our Legislature consider and pay heed to  
14          those during its upcoming and untimely  
15          deliberations. The language of supplication  
16          that characterizes citizen speakers at those  
17          forums has shown that there is little  
18          understanding about just who serves whom.

19          Let there be no mistake or confusion. You  
20          work for me. You work for us. A theater of  
21          the absurd has existed in these forums.  
22          Interest in and mindfulness of the statements  
23          and messages of the citizen speakers seems to  
24          be merely famed.

25          One gentleman speaker at Key West forum

1       nailed it when he stated that there's little  
2       need for such forums when computers could  
3       simply, with a legitimate and appropriate use  
4       of mathematical logarithms and geometric  
5       fractals, resolve any challenges accompanying  
6       fair redistricting, and in a completely  
7       non-partisan fashion.

8               A kind of sophistry permeates these  
9       forums.  Wikipedia refers to the definition of  
10      "sophism" thusly, quote, "Plato was largely  
11      responsible for the modern view of the sophist  
12      as a greedy instructor who uses rhetorical  
13      slight of hand and ambiguities of language in  
14      order to deceive or to support fallacious  
15      reasoning.  In this view, the sophist is not  
16      concerned with truth and justice, but instead  
17      seeks power," end quote.

18             What folly are these forums?  Let me  
19      iterate some reasons for my skepticism and  
20      discharge of --

21             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:  Sir, I'm  
22      going to have to ask you to wrap it up, too.

23             MR. BRYSA CZ:  "Despite the vote of the  
24      people, we, the Legislature, don't support  
25      certain amendments to the Florida Constitution

1       that call for fair, compact, contiguous  
2       redistricting, so we are going to fight you in  
3       the courts" is the mantra of the Florida  
4       Legislature. Too, "we don't believe in global  
5       warming" is a mantra among certain leading  
6       elements of a certain political party. One  
7       might glean from these two seemingly disparate  
8       statements two things. In the former, they  
9       don't believe the power of the people in a  
10      democratic society. In the latter, they don't  
11      believe in scientific fact and observation.  
12      Both are losing propositions.

13             Despite that, the Legislature has sent its  
14      minions among the populous to assert their  
15      beliefs as truths. They are sophists. They  
16      are --

17             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Brysacz,  
18      you are over three minutes, so I am going to  
19      have to ask you to stop.

20             MR. BRYSACZ: -- ancient Greece, they will  
21      employ --

22             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Brysacz,  
23      there's people behind you that need to have the  
24      opportunity to speak, sir. There's a lot of  
25      people here.

1           MR. BRYSA CZ:  -- to attempt to deter the  
2 inevitable.

3           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:  Please.  
4 Thank you, thank you for being here.  If you  
5 turn those in, we will get those in the record,  
6 okay?  Thank you, sir.

7           MR. BRYSA CZ:  We watched that guy for four  
8 minutes talk about some guy named Libby's map.

9           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:  Thank you,  
10 sir.  Thank you.

11           Okay.  Next up we have -- next up we have  
12 Ms. Marg Baker.  Marg, thank you very much.  
13 We've got Jason Smith after Marg, and then  
14 after Jason, we have Tom Tito.  And, please, we  
15 want to remind everybody to be respectful to  
16 people behind you that want to have an  
17 opportunity to speak.

18           Thank you for being here, Marg.  You are  
19 recognized.

20           MS. BAKER:  Thank you.  First of all, I  
21 would like to contend with the stated law that  
22 63 percent of the population voted for.  This  
23 is what I disagree with and think is  
24 unconstitutional.  Districts shall not be drawn  
25 to deny racial or language minorities.  The



1 State cannot change the Federal Constitution,  
2 which states, "We, the people of the United  
3 States," not we, the racial segments.  
4 Contiguous and physical boundaries seem to  
5 contradict. I can see why you guys are having  
6 so much trouble. There should not be anything  
7 to do with minorities or languages. All that  
8 we should be concerned with are contiguous and  
9 physical boundaries.

10 We are not a democracy. We are a republic  
11 which relies on law, not a few people. We're  
12 just one state trying to change, we, the  
13 people. There are non- -- there are no  
14 minorities referred to in our Constitution  
15 until we just voted this in.

16 Now we have language and minorities in --  
17 as an amendment of our Constitution. This  
18 needs to be deleted. There are no minorities.  
19 Citizens of the United States are all created  
20 equal. And English is Florida's constitutional  
21 language. Thank you.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
23 very much.

24 Next up we have Jason Smith, followed by  
25 Tom Tito and Craig Glaser. Mr. Smith.

1           MR. SMITH: Well, she just said there's no  
2 minorities, but I feel like a discriminated  
3 minority. I am a Union member.

4           On-line program maps, first of all, they  
5 are not practical, they are not user friendly  
6 and they are not our job. By law, only  
7 Legislators can submit a map. And I have no  
8 reassurances that if I do take the time to  
9 actually learn your software and draw your maps  
10 for you, are you really going to look at it, is  
11 that going in the trash can, are you going to  
12 cherry pick from a group of, you know, people  
13 who made maps that you wanted to make maps? I  
14 don't know what that is all about. That seems  
15 like a waste of our time.

16           Third party, we should have hired an  
17 independent firm to draw several versions of  
18 the maps for us to comment on and discuss  
19 during these hearings. It would have been  
20 really great to have something to bounce back  
21 and forth and actually have context with which  
22 to have a discussion. We are talking about  
23 stuff that, you know, we have no control over.

24           The interim session begins in September,  
25 and I know that you will take the time to focus

1 on career creation. Jobs are things that we do  
2 when we graduate from high school so we can pay  
3 for gas money. I would like to see careers  
4 that give educated adults a chance to live a  
5 middle-class life. I would ask you to spend  
6 your interim session working for all Floridians  
7 this time around and not squander it focusing  
8 on social issues and Union bashing on behalf of  
9 your corporate donors. Thank you.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Next up we  
11 have Tom Tito, followed by Craig Glaser and  
12 Darren Ayres.

13 MR. TITO: Thank you. I came here to make  
14 three points. First, I would like to see the  
15 maps. You have heard other people ask for  
16 that. It is not our job to make the maps.  
17 Please get on with that, let us discuss it, and  
18 in January, you can vote on it.

19 Second point, please respect our  
20 Constitution. Amendments 5 and 6 were voted by  
21 a lopsided majority. You really don't need a  
22 hearing to tell you what the people want. The  
23 people told you want -- if we want to amend  
24 that, we can.

25 Third point, please stop spending our

1 taxpayer money on a lawsuit suing the people of  
2 Florida, your constituents. It is a waste of  
3 money. We have people crying for tax relief,  
4 schools, medical care, Medicaid. There are  
5 needs that are greater than suing the people  
6 you represent.

7 I would like to tell you why I came today.  
8 I live in District 55, south St. Pete. You  
9 have heard some other folks talk about the  
10 discrimination we have suffered, the hardships  
11 in our neighborhood. Now we are being  
12 discriminated against through gerrymandering.  
13 I am in a district for State Senate and a  
14 district for the U.S. Congress in the Tampa  
15 district. And I think Senator Joyner is doing  
16 a fine job, I think Representative Kathy Castor  
17 is doing a great job for our people. I think  
18 they will do a better job if they didn't have  
19 to run across the Skyway Bridge and the Howard  
20 Frankland Bridge to attend a neighborhood  
21 meeting or to -- if they could learn -- build a  
22 relationship with a handful of city councils  
23 and county -- and one county commission instead  
24 of dozens, they could just do a better job. We  
25 have suffered discrimination. Please stop

1           that.

2           I think the Hispanic population is also  
3           gerrymandered. We have a county district, it  
4           is not something you are talking about today,  
5           but it is an example in Hillsborough County,  
6           cut the Hispanic population in the middle.  
7           Orlando, we have the Hispanic population that  
8           could be in a district, I think some of them  
9           are in the Jacksonville district. It doesn't  
10          make any sense.

11          Speaking of not making any sense, the year  
12          2000, Florida botched the election. We became  
13          the laughingstock of the United States. It was  
14          great for late night comedians. They started  
15          spelling Florida with d-u-h. Now, let's --  
16          let's do our jobs, gain the respect of the  
17          country, get these maps out, let us see them  
18          and let's, Florida, hold our heads high.

19          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thanks, Tom,  
20          we appreciate it.

21          Next up we have Craig Glaser, followed by  
22          Darren Ayres and Sandy Oestreich.

23          MR. GLASER: I am Craig Glaser, I am a  
24          resident of Treasure Island, and I am not a  
25          professional speaker, just a common working

1 class guy. I want to talk about the 8:00 a.m.  
2 start time of this. A lot of us had to take  
3 time off from work to be here, and we know how  
4 precious jobs are right now, and a lot of  
5 people that wanted to have their voice heard  
6 are not here because they want to keep their  
7 jobs. At this time, a job is a precious thing.  
8 A career, I mean, that is a dream at this  
9 point.

10 We, the people, have already spoken with  
11 our votes on Amendments 5 and 6. And I have  
12 been listening to the hearing here, and it  
13 seems about 80 percent of people are in  
14 agreement with two issues: Maps, where are  
15 they, we need something to work off of, and  
16 this lawsuit is just a waste of time. Please  
17 stop the lawsuit against the people. Many  
18 states have legislation that may contradict  
19 federal law. We voted, it is our Constitution.

20 As far as the maps go, we have nothing to  
21 work off of. It is just a fantasy right now.  
22 We have to have something to work off of. It  
23 is putting the cart before the horse.

24 And I want to thank you for letting my  
25 voice be heard. Let's get some maps and let's

1 stop the lawsuit.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

3 Mr. Ayres, you are recognized, followed by  
4 Ms. Sandy Oestreich, I hope I am saying that  
5 right, I apologize if I am not, followed by  
6 Glenn Paul.

7 MR. AYRES: Good morning, and thank you  
8 very much for all of you coming and being here  
9 and being a part of this. I do appreciate the  
10 transparency, and I appreciate the opportunity  
11 for us to have input into this process from the  
12 very beginning. It certainly gives a better  
13 impression that you haven't already created  
14 something that you want to force upon us, but  
15 you are giving us the opportunity up front to  
16 speak about this.

17 I have heard people come up here today and  
18 say, "This is your job, you should be doing  
19 this, we don't need to have these meetings,"  
20 and then in almost the same breath, they say,  
21 "You could hire an independent company to do it  
22 for you," or they say, "But if you don't want  
23 to do it, me and five or six or eight of my  
24 friends will get together and do it for you."

25 Seems somewhat contradictory for me to sit back

1       and listen to them as they say, "It is your  
2       job, but we would be happy to tell you how to  
3       do it," and that is what this meeting is all  
4       about, and I appreciate that, we can stand here  
5       and do this.

6               I have heard a couple of common themes  
7       today when they weren't just complaining, but  
8       the common themes I have heard about actual  
9       redistricting is community and commonality,  
10       community and commonality. I heard one person  
11       to say race isn't important, I heard another  
12       one say race is important. And then, again,  
13       you've got the Voting Rights Act that you must  
14       abide with, so that is important, and we have  
15       to understand that role that you have to fill  
16       there.

17              I have heard -- I think most of the people  
18       when they have talked about community and  
19       commonality, I don't know all the individuals  
20       here, but it seems like that many of them are  
21       talking about more the state positions as they  
22       looked and saw the different districts within  
23       Pinellas County itself, but when I attended the  
24       one up in Wesley Chapel that happened up there,  
25       I heard much the same thing that was really



1       addressing the U.S. Congress, commonality as  
2       they talked about the U.S. 19 and the people  
3       there who are more along the urban and the  
4       commercial as opposed to the agricultural  
5       community on the eastern side.

6               Commonality and community, and I hope that  
7       you really take that into consideration when  
8       choosing and laying out these lines, so that  
9       people are best represented by their  
10      individuals, and that there's not really strong  
11      divergent groups that are within that as well.  
12      Thank you for your time.

13             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:  Thank you,  
14      Mr. Ayres.  Good to see you, sir.

15             Next up we have Ms. Oestreich.  I hope you  
16      can make sure I am not saying that --

17             MS. OESTREICH:  Don't worry about it.

18             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:  Okay.  And  
19      then after --

20             MS. OESTREICH:  It is, oh, strike up the  
21      music.

22             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:  Oestreich, I  
23      like that.  And then we've got Glenn Paul with  
24      the ACLU after you, and then I believe  
25      Dr. Pamela Settlegood, if y'all could come down

1           and get ready.

2           Ms. Oestreich, thank you --

3           MS. OESTREICH: Okay. I am Sandy  
4           Oestreich, and I was Vice-Mayor in North  
5           Redington Beach and have the same interests  
6           that most people have expressed here.

7           I would like, if you don't mind, and  
8           respectfully ask that the two Chairs would  
9           grant me the opportunity -- clarifying one  
10          point by asking a question. Okay?

11          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You can ask a  
12          question.

13          MS. OESTREICH: Okay, thank you. And this  
14          -- the answers can be very, very brief, and I  
15          will try to be brief.

16          The question is, as one of the points that  
17          is made, when will we actually see, the public  
18          actually see and have input to the  
19          redistricting maps that you are ostensibly  
20          working on at present?

21          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Well, in the  
22          essence of time, in about 30 minutes, we are  
23          going to give Senator Gaetz and other members  
24          an opportunity to address that question and  
25          many others. So as opposed to getting in a

1 back and forth, we will answer that question.

2 MS. OESTREICH: Okay. I just thought it  
3 might clarify for everybody, and me included.

4 And I do want to just say the vote is  
5 terribly important to all of us and this does  
6 disenfranchise bunches of people, but it  
7 does -- and I agree with B. J. Star absolutely,  
8 it does work against women, and we did work  
9 very hard for the vote 50 years after all men  
10 were just given it. Okay. And I have nothing  
11 against men, I'm married to a wonderful guy.

12 So the second part of it is feeling this  
13 for the rest of us in an ongoing way so that  
14 women get put into the U.S. Constitution. We  
15 are not -- females are not mentioned in the  
16 U.S. Constitution in any way, shape or form.  
17 Men and their pronouns are mentioned 30 million  
18 times. We are not in the contract with our  
19 nation. That has great psychological and  
20 actual impact upon us. I, as you know -- may  
21 know, am spearheading the Equal Rights  
22 Amendment for -- ten years before the  
23 Legislature, you will hear from us again, and  
24 right here is our star, Senator Joyner, who  
25 sponsored that bill for many, many years, and

1 to our dismay, there are those here who are  
2 adamantly against equal treatment for men and  
3 women, including Representative Frishe,  
4 Representative Ahern --

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Ms.  
6 Oestreich, this is not an opportunity to have  
7 political statements.

8 MS. OESTREICH: Thank you.

9 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

10 Okay. Next we have Glenn Paul, followed  
11 by Dr. Pamela Settlegood and then Mary  
12 Griffith.

13 Glenn is with the ACLU. Glenn, thanks for  
14 being here.

15 MR. PAUL: Hello. I will try to keep this  
16 short. I am with the ACLU, but I am not  
17 speaking on behalf of the ACLU. This is just  
18 my opinion.

19 So I looked on the website the other day  
20 and found that the Florida House district is  
21 supposed to be approximately 156,000, Florida  
22 Senate districts, about 470,000, and U.S.  
23 congressional districts, 696,000.

24 Now, I am proposing something very basic  
25 that's said before, why can't we go out --

1 Florida is like an L-shaped state. We've got  
2 the Panhandle across its top and we've got the  
3 peninsula.

4 Why in the hell can't we just go -- the  
5 first 156,000, make up all the rectangles best  
6 you can, starting over in Escambia, by Alabama,  
7 cut it down, I don't care whose neighborhood  
8 you cut it through, whatever, that is the end  
9 of a district.

10 And then you need to go all the way over  
11 to Jacksonville, and at that point, because the  
12 state gets more populated, you go down the  
13 middle and you make rectangles on each side and  
14 let the chips fall where they may.

15 Now, I don't need to say anything about  
16 all the money spent and all that stuff has been  
17 said before. So let's -- basically my idea is  
18 to have basic rectangles, and as the years go  
19 by, we can be increased or decreased according  
20 to population, and we don't care about  
21 minorities or rich people or Naples or West  
22 Palm Beach or this district or whatever else,  
23 just make it blind boxes, rectangles. Okay.  
24 That is my point.

25 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you

1           very much, sir.

2           MR. PAUL: And I am not speaking for the  
3           ACLU there, I am speaking for myself.

4           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Sure. Thank  
5           you, thanks a lot.

6           Next up we have Dr. Pamela Settlegood. I  
7           hope I said -- is that right, Doctor?

8           DR. SETTLEGOOD: Yes, thank you.

9           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay, great.  
10          And after Ms. Settlegood, we have Mary Griffith  
11          and then Judy McSwine.

12          DR. SETTLEGOOD: Thank you. I am a fourth  
13          generation St. Petersburg resident, an  
14          educator. I serve on the ACLU Boards, Pinellas  
15          and Florida. I have some experience chairing  
16          committees and forums, and I have lived and  
17          been educated in other places. So this place  
18          is a mess. It is a mess. And in part of it,  
19          Mr. Weatherford and Mr. Gaetz, your cynicism  
20          and arrogance towards the voter is evident.

21          This hearing process is very interesting  
22          to me. It is very crafty. For example, take  
23          Mr. Gaetz' positions. I do think we need to  
24          have this public. He is a Senator and sharer  
25          of the Florida Leadership Alliance. That is

1 the organization that is funding the lawsuit  
2 against the people. He also chairs -- I  
3 noticed a grimace there.

4 SENATOR GAETZ: I will correct the record  
5 when you are done.

6 DR. SETTLEGOOD: He also chairs the Senate  
7 reappropriate commission, or committee.

8 Now, Amendments 5 and 6, now part of the  
9 Florida Constitution, and Chair Gaetz took an  
10 oath to defend the Constitution, not the goals  
11 of the alliance that he chairs, evidently Mr.  
12 Gaetz is determined to overturn the Fair  
13 Districts by suing the people of Florida. What  
14 is glaringly wrong with our government nowadays  
15 are individuals such as Chairman Gaetz.

16 SENATOR LATVALA: Mr. Chairman, I am not  
17 going to sit here and have you insulted in my  
18 district. We are not insulting the people that  
19 are coming and speaking, and I would ask you to  
20 not insult us.

21 DR. SETTLEGOOD: Point well taken.

22 These hearings were evidently an incumbent  
23 protection plan. They're designed to protect  
24 your power.

25 SENATOR GAETZ: And, Dr. Settlegood, if I

1           could you to wrap up just out of respect --

2           DR. SETTLEGOOD:   I am.

3           SENATOR GAETZ:   -- for the many people  
4           behind you --

5           DR. SETTLEGOOD:   Two more sentences.

6           SENATOR GAETZ:   Sure.

7           DR. SETTLEGOOD:   Floridians have spoken.  
8           We want fair districts.  So to use a phrase,  
9           "Let's get to work."  Thank you.

10          SENATOR GAETZ:   Thank you very much,  
11          Doctor.

12          DR. SETTLEGOOD:   Thank you.

13          SENATOR GAETZ:   And next we will hear from  
14          Mary Griffith with the League of Women Voters.

15          MS. GRIFFITH:    Good morning.  Nice to be  
16          here.

17          SENATOR GAETZ:   Hang tight for a second.  
18          And following Ms. Griffith, Judy McSwine and  
19          Wendy Risk, if you'd be on deck, please.

20          Ma'am, you are recognized.  Thanks for  
21          coming today.

22          MS. GRIFFITH:    Thank you.  My question has  
23          to do with the timeline of drawing districts.  
24          This process can simply and should occur long  
25          before the end of the legislative session, as



1 by the law, the courts and the Department of  
2 Justice have more than 90 days after passage to  
3 review maps.

4 Under the present timeline, these  
5 districts will not be reviewed and approved  
6 before the June 8th, 2012, deadline for the  
7 candidates to file papers, and elections  
8 supervisors will have insufficient time to  
9 prepare for elections. How will new candidates  
10 have time to organize and wage campaigns? Does  
11 this amount to an incumbent protection plan?  
12 Your own lawyer has said this will cause  
13 massive voter confusion. Voters will have no  
14 opportunity to learn about candidates, despite  
15 the fact you say there is nothing you can do as  
16 the Constitution requires the maps to be drawn  
17 during the session.

18 These maps could be the first order of  
19 business and voted on by the end of the  
20 session's first week, January 13th. This would  
21 provide double the time for review by the  
22 courts and the Department of Justice.

23 In the League's recent letter to the  
24 Committee, we asked for an October 3rd deadline  
25 for map presentation so that final passage can

1 occur by January 13th, 2012. This results in a  
2 fair consideration for Florida candidates and  
3 voters.

4 What is your intent? Will you commit to a  
5 reasonable and democratic timeline to protect  
6 the voting rights of the Florida citizens? It  
7 is really the right thing to do. Thank you  
8 very much.

9 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, ma'am.

10 And now we would like to hear from Judy  
11 McSwine, also with the League of Women Voters,  
12 and then Wendy Risk and then Ernie Bach, if Mr.  
13 Bach would be on deck.

14 Ms. McSwine, thank you for coming, and we  
15 are delighted to hear your testimony.

16 MS. McSWINE: Thank you. Thank you for  
17 the opportunity to speak.

18 I am the President of the League of Women  
19 Voters of North Pinellas County, with members  
20 from Largo, Clearwater, Dunedin, Palm Harbor,  
21 Safety Harbor and Tarpon Springs. And for many  
22 years, our League has joined the effort to work  
23 for passage of fair districting, and now I join  
24 the 3.1 million voters who voted for Amendments  
25 5 and 6 to ask where are the maps. The

1       Legislature has had all the information  
2       necessary to prepare these maps since March of  
3       2010, over five months ago, and during all of  
4       these 26 hearings, these expensive hearings,  
5       there are no maps available for citizens to  
6       review. It is the legislators'  
7       constitutionally mandated responsibility to  
8       draw these maps, and it has been the League's  
9       experience in many years past that when the  
10      League and other concerned groups have drawn  
11      maps, they have been totally disregarded, not  
12      considered. The bottom line, it is not our  
13      job, it is your job to draw these maps.

14            You have heard by now in previous hearings  
15      that other states finished this process because  
16      the maps were presented 30 days before final  
17      passage in order to provide an opportunity for  
18      public input. This has happened in Alabama,  
19      Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana,  
20      Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska and Nevada and  
21      Oklahoma. When will we have these maps in a  
22      timely manner so that they can be reviewed by  
23      voters long before the end of the legislative  
24      session?

25            Please respect the wishes of 3.1 million

1 voters and comply with a good timeline. Thank  
2 you.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
4 Ms. Risk.

5 Next up we have Ernie Bach, followed by  
6 Jim Lawrence and Dave Eggers.

7 MR. BACH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There  
8 are some tough acts that we have to follow  
9 here.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I'm sorry, I  
11 think I may have skipped someone. I'll tell  
12 you what, Wendy -- is Wendy Risk here?

13 MS. RISK: Yes, I ceded my time.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Oh, you did?  
15 Okay, all right. Well, thank you, I'm sorry.  
16 I didn't mean to miss you there.

17 Ernie, you are recognized, sir.

18 MR. BACH: I apologize for some of my  
19 redundancy, but my card was turned in with the  
20 speaker that spoke an hour and a half ago.

21 My name is Ernie Bach, and I am the State  
22 Chairman of the Independent Party of Florida,  
23 and you have not heard much from me or from the  
24 party recently in the past, but you will in the  
25 future.

1           If I may, Mr. Chairman, I am wondering how  
2           many people are registered as Independents or  
3           NPAs here? Just a few. All right. Well, we  
4           are looking for more. I rarely come to these  
5           meetings -- I could have --

6           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Apparently  
7           somebody already did.

8           MR. BACH: I rarely come to these  
9           meetings, because it is important -- yeah,  
10          right. These citizens' comments are very  
11          important, and as a rule, they're as pertinent  
12          and as on target as mine, which is why I don't  
13          show up at a lot of these, but we are at a  
14          point where the nonsense does have to stop. So  
15          I am here today to add my more than two cents'  
16          worth to this.

17          As to the point that these hearings are a  
18          waste of time, we are of the factual opinion  
19          that dragging this on the way you have not only  
20          could, but actually has already caused great  
21          confusion that affects potential candidates who  
22          wish to run next year but aren't even sure of  
23          which districts they are running. Candidates  
24          we are working with right now around the state,  
25          and we are looking for more, by not getting

1       this job done, there is a very real potential  
2       for those candidates missing their filing  
3       deadlines, and that concerns us. So we  
4       sincerely hope you get this dog and pony show  
5       back on the road, get finished and get to work  
6       on the actual job to be done.

7               Let's mention the money being spent on  
8       this wasteful effort, \$30 million set aside, \$3  
9       million already spent, with two and a half  
10      million spent on lawyers by the Legislature,  
11      that is you people sitting up there, attempting  
12      to defeat 5 and 6. How many citizens told you  
13      to do that? If you answer me, I'll be happy to  
14      distribute that answer to over two and a half  
15      million Independent and NPA voters in the state  
16      of Florida.

17             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Bach, I  
18      am going to have to ask you to put a bow on it  
19      for us.

20             MR. BACH: I have waited a long time here,  
21      Mr. Weatherford, and I've got about two more  
22      minutes, which I hope to finish.

23             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You don't  
24      have two minutes, because you've got about 35  
25      people behind you that also want to speak, so

1       you are over two and a half minutes, and that  
2       is all you've got.

3               MR. BACH: Remember -- and you are  
4       interrupting me, too, and using my time.

5               Remember that we have about two and a half  
6       million Independent voters --

7               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Sir, we are  
8       going to have to ask you to turn your comments  
9       in. You are over two and a half minutes, that  
10      is all we've got, and we've got 35 people  
11      behind you that want to speak, so, please.  
12      Ernie, come on, please. There's a lot of  
13      people who want to speak, sir, there's a lot of  
14      people who want to speak. I got it right here.  
15      Ernie, please. Thank you, sir. Have a good  
16      day. Have a good day.

17              Okay. Next up we've got the Mayor of  
18      Indiantown Shores, Mr. Lawrence. Mayor, thank  
19      you for taking the time to be here, sir. We  
20      appreciate you being patient with us as well.  
21      Following the Mayor, we have Dave Eggers and  
22      Mr. Darrell Flaherty.

23              Mayor, thanks for being here.

24              MAYOR LAWRENCE: You bet ya. I am Jim  
25      Lawrence, 18-year resident of Indian Shores,

1       the last 12 on the Town Council -- excuse my  
2       voice, I've got a little cold -- and my last  
3       six as Mayor.

4               During that 12 years, I have served in  
5       many capacities, many committees. I am  
6       currently the Secretary-Treasurer of the  
7       Pinellas Mayor's Council, and I serve on the  
8       Board of Directors of the EMS Advisory Council  
9       and the Tourist Development Council.

10              My job today is to speak to you as the  
11       immediate past President of the Barrier Islands  
12       Governmental Council, affectionately called the  
13       Big C. It is a non-legislative advisory  
14       council made up of 11 beach communities from  
15       Clearwater to St. Pete Beach. The goal of the  
16       Big C is to speak with one voice on county and  
17       statewide issues, such as tourism, insurance,  
18       beach nourishment and offshore oil rig  
19       drilling.

20              District 54 encompasses the Gulf shore  
21       area from north of Clearwater Beach down to  
22       Tierra Verde and mirrors the Big C  
23       representation. Our Senate representative also  
24       includes almost all of Big C territory. Past  
25       and current District 54 Reps and our Senate rep



1       regularly attend our monthly Big C meeting, and  
2       they have been our basic conduit to the State  
3       Legislature on the issues of import to the  
4       beach communities. It is our fervent hope that  
5       we can maintain that relationship and keep that  
6       district intact. Maybe you can add Mayor  
7       Peters, south St. Petersburg there, or South  
8       Pasadena. That is all I have, thank you.

9               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
10       Mayor. Thank you for your brevity and your  
11       service, too, sir.

12              After the Mayor, we've got Dave Eggers,  
13       followed by Darrell Flaherty.

14              MR. FLANERY: Flanery.

15              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Flattery, I  
16       apologize.

17              MR. FLANERY: Mike Flanery.

18              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I'm sorry,  
19       okay. Followed by Mike Flanery, and then  
20       Barbara Haselden.

21              Is Dave here? Well, Mike, you are next,  
22       my friend, so come on up. Thank you for being  
23       here. And after Mike, again, we have Barbara  
24       Haselden, if you could come forward, and then  
25       Robert Kinder.

1           MR. FLANERY:   Okay.   I am Mike Flanery.   I  
2       live on Venetian Point in Clearwater, and this  
3       is purely technical comments I am making.   If  
4       you know where Venetian Point is, you go down  
5       Edgewater Drive, and there's Sunset -- there's  
6       Stevenson's Creek, and because -- I tried to  
7       contact my Congressman, Gus Bilirakis, with a  
8       comment on the e-mail, and lo and behold, I  
9       couldn't because 33755-1752 did not seem to  
10      show up on his computer because -- although it  
11      is clearly on my I.D. card.   And I am asking  
12      that if you make these boundaries, make them  
13      clear enough that people can e-mail their  
14      Congressman.   It is -- you know, the computer  
15      rejects it if you are not in their district.  
16      So I couldn't get through, so I had to make one  
17      up whereby I knew I would be able to get to  
18      send an e-mail through.   Now, I am not saying  
19      who is at fault, I think it is a complicated  
20      system, but the computer automatically says  
21      "What's your ZIP code, you are not in my  
22      district," back it comes.   So I made up one for  
23      me and one for my wife.   That was just a  
24      comment, and it should be easy to fix, but it  
25      also shows how difficult the lines are, because

1       that straight line cuts off my point that I am  
2       on and puts me in the wrong district, and even  
3       the people that worked did not seem to pick  
4       that up. I am not blaming.

5               The second suggestion I have, I know I am  
6       sort of theoretical here, but it seems like we  
7       have the computer maps, we have the census -- I  
8       actually did censuses last year, and I know,  
9       knocking on doors, what's on those forms, and  
10      commonality and community are the two zingers  
11      in this thing. I don't know how to define  
12      those. I've heard 15 definitions today, but  
13      there is enough in those things that you could  
14      write simply a computer program that does these  
15      things, looks at the -- this is what is done  
16      all the time, and it would be wonderful if you  
17      could get out of all the arguments, just let  
18      the computer run it through. And what we  
19      should be discussing today is which weight we  
20      should give to community, commonality, race,  
21      being close to something else, instead of --  
22      well, or even all the politics we are today,  
23      and that is my comments. Thank you.

24              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
25      Mike. Thanks for coming today, sir.

1           Next up we have Barbara Haselden. I hope  
2           I said that right, Ms. Barbara, I apologize if  
3           I didn't. Following Barbara will be Robert  
4           Kinder and Toni Van Pelt.

5           MS. HASELDEN: Okay. Thank you. My name  
6           is Barbara Haselden, and I live in northeast  
7           St. Pete, and I just want to say that I thank  
8           you all so much, because anytime that we have  
9           an opportunity to speak to our Legislators, I  
10          think it is a great opportunity, especially  
11          when we see what is going on all around the  
12          world and how few people in the world get an  
13          opportunity such as we are all having today,  
14          whether we are happy or not happy. So I  
15          appreciate everyone's work.

16          And I just wanted to also say that it is  
17          my understanding that the process this year is  
18          actually earlier than it was done in the year  
19          2000 after the census, and that the process  
20          this year has been more transparent and orderly  
21          than after the 1990 census in which the  
22          Legislature, after several special sessions,  
23          simply passed a plan and adjourned, basically  
24          turning the entire final process over to the  
25          courts.

1           I want to thank Representative Weatherford  
2           and Senator Gaetz and Senator Joyner and let  
3           you know how much your efforts are appreciated,  
4           and to say that the congressional districts  
5           that are centered in Pinellas I think should be  
6           not overpowered by Tampa and -- because we  
7           really don't have that much in common with  
8           Tampa.

9           And I just want to finalize by saying that  
10          I personally was not happy when a doctor in  
11          Pinellas County challenged the Amendment 10  
12          last year and challenged the language on the  
13          ballot, and I also was not happy when it was  
14          challenged after Governor Scott turned down the  
15          high-speed rail. So I think we just simply  
16          live in the time when if people are unhappy,  
17          they are suing, and if they are feeling like  
18          things are not just, they are suing, and that  
19          is our right as Americans. So thank you very  
20          much.

21                 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
22                 very much.

23                 Next up we have Robert Kinder. Following  
24                 Robert, we have Toni Van Pelt, followed by the  
25                 Supervisor of Elections Deborah Clark.

1           MR. KINDER: Good morning, sir. I  
2           appreciate the opportunity to speak. I am a  
3           resident here for about ten years, and prior to  
4           that, about 50 years in different communities,  
5           and one of the things that I noticed over the  
6           period of time is that we have somehow tried to  
7           categorize America through our census reports  
8           year after year.

9           That is passé. We are people, one as  
10          Americans, and we should be treated as  
11          Americans. I am tired of listening to all this  
12          minority, plurality, whatever.

13          If you want to talk about a voting block,  
14          I am looking at the biggest voting block right  
15          here right now. You represent -- government  
16          personnel represent 30 percent of the voting  
17          people in the United States. Thirty percent  
18          you represent. That is one of the biggest  
19          voting blocks around. If you don't believe we  
20          have diversity, 40 -- 50 years ago -- I will  
21          get the right date. In 1952, I graduated from  
22          high school. They taught Latin and Spanish.  
23          In my high school today, they taught -- teach  
24          11 different languages. They speak over 40  
25          languages. This is unbelievable. You look

1       around today, if you don't believe there's  
2       diversity, go to the local fast food place,  
3       they got anything you want, and yet we are  
4       still trying to categorize people.

5               We need to draw maps that are simple, that  
6       are defined and can be left there until they  
7       have to be changed by law because of the  
8       population. Thank you.

9               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
10       sir.

11              Next up we have Toni Van Pelt. Toni,  
12       thank you very much for being here. Following  
13       Toni is Deborah Clark, Supervisor of Elections,  
14       and then Dawn Thompson.

15              MS. VAN PELT: My name is Toni Van Pelt.  
16       It is nice to be here.

17              I would like to ask why the Legislature  
18       won't commit in writing to prepare the maps  
19       now, debate them in the fall and pass them  
20       during the first week of the session. There  
21       can be no transparency when there are no facts  
22       on the table. You need to do your job.

23              We need more than a statement of intent.  
24       We ask the Legislature to publish and  
25       accelerate a timeline, adopt a rule requiring

1       that all maps should be filed by October 3rd,  
2       2011, adopt a rule requiring all committee  
3       action on redistricting plans to be completed  
4       by the end of 2011, and adopt a rule requiring  
5       that all plans be voted on during the first  
6       week of the 2012 session.

7               Why is the Legislature continuing to spend  
8       taxpayers' money on a court action to have  
9       Amendment 6 invalidated? Why won't you  
10      withdraw the lawsuit? We ask the Florida House  
11      to immediately withdraw from the lawsuit and  
12      respect the will of the 63 percent of the  
13      Florida voters who want the new redistricting  
14      standards to be applied.

15              Why won't the Legislature provide draft  
16      maps for public comment? We ask the Florida  
17      Legislature -- actually, we strongly suggest  
18      that the Legislators commit to holding another  
19      round of public hearings with real maps for  
20      citizens to comment on this fall.

21              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
22      very much.

23              Next up we have Ms. Clark, followed by  
24      Dawn Thompson and Vicky Imes.

25              Ms. Clark, thank you very much for your



1 public service to Pinellas County and for your  
2 patience today, and we are happy to have your  
3 here. Thank you, you are recognized.

4 MS. CLARK: Thank you. Thank you. I am  
5 glad to be here today, and thank you for the  
6 opportunity.

7 I won't be redundant. I know you have  
8 heard other supervisors speak at your different  
9 hearings around the state, and I know you are  
10 pressed for time. I do, however -- you know, I  
11 could just throw my notes out the window right  
12 now, because you have heard it all.

13 There can be no doubt in your minds how  
14 incredibly important people's right to vote is  
15 and how deeply they feel about the process and  
16 how much they want to be included in the  
17 process. Certainly you have heard that this  
18 morning.

19 As Supervisor of Elections, I proudly  
20 represent the voters here in Pinellas County,  
21 but I am also here today representing the  
22 Florida State Association of Supervisors. And  
23 we are public servants as you are. I work for  
24 the voters of Pinellas County, the supervisors  
25 work for their voters in their counties, and we

1       have worked with your legislative staff and the  
2       Census Bureau and we have made some progress.

3             Our main concern is time. And you have  
4       heard several people comment about how  
5       confusing it will be for candidates if we get  
6       those lines late next year, and it's happened  
7       before.

8             It is our responsibility as supervisors to  
9       conduct impartial and accurate elections for  
10      these folks and 11 million voters in Florida.  
11      But you have the authority to move that process  
12      along, to ensure that we get those lines in  
13      plenty of time so that we can prepare for and  
14      be ready for the fall elections. We are  
15      perfectly capable of doing that.

16            You heard a reference to the 2000  
17      presidential election. It would be shameful if  
18      Florida lost all the ground we have gained in  
19      the last decade with all the efforts that have  
20      been put into election reform, beginning with  
21      Senate Bill 1401 that was filed by Senator Jack  
22      Latvala back in 2002. It moved Florida in the  
23      right direction, we've kept moving in that  
24      direction, and the spotlight hasn't been in  
25      Florida, it is in other states now. You can

1 help us keep moving in the right direction.  
2 Successful elections are achieved by minimizing  
3 opportunities for failure, and we ask you to  
4 please help us with that.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
6 very much, Ms. Clark. We will take heed of  
7 your counsel and we appreciate your public  
8 service. Thank you very much.

9 Dawn Thompson?

10 MS. THOMPSON: Yes.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Good to see  
12 you, and you are recognized, but before that,  
13 we've got Vicky Imes and Karen Doering.

14 Also, it is about 10:36, and at about  
15 10:45 or so, we are going to have to allow  
16 members of the Committee to offer some input  
17 and suggestions, and also there have been a lot  
18 of questions asked, and we do not want to leave  
19 here without giving Senator Gaetz, my  
20 co-Chairman, the opportunity to address some of  
21 the very questions that you have asked from the  
22 public, so we will not get to every speaker.  
23 There are several who are here that we will not  
24 get to, and we apologize for that ahead of  
25 time. We will make sure and get your comments

1 in, but I just wanted everyone to know ahead of  
2 time we are going to have a couple more  
3 speakers and then an opportunity for the  
4 Committee to comment.

5 Dawn, you are recognized.

6 A VOICE: Move to extend time. Move to  
7 extend time.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Dawn, you are  
9 recognized. Thank you.

10 MS. THOMPSON: Okay. Good morning. My  
11 name is Dawn Thompson, and I live in Seminole.  
12 My husband and our eight children moved here  
13 three years ago, and the first thing I wanted  
14 to do is point out that -- what may be the  
15 obvious for many of us is that most of you here  
16 that have voted were not here to vote on the  
17 map that we currently have, but I look at this  
18 map and I see things that are all over the  
19 place. I come from Massachusetts, the Bay  
20 State, and others were talking about not --  
21 they are very concerned about their vote, their  
22 vote counting. And I can empathize greatly  
23 with that, coming from Massachusetts, where we  
24 have -- oh, I would say Democrats represented  
25 about 95 percent of the Legislators. I ran for

1       the State Senate in western Massachusetts back  
2       in '04, and other than feeling very much  
3       disenfranchised, we actually were  
4       disenfranchised, which I won't go into, on two  
5       different occasions by the Legislature. So I  
6       appreciate that.

7           I also very much appreciate the fact that  
8       the state of Florida is very much a 50/50  
9       state. I think that a Democrat or Republican  
10      has about as much opportunity to get elected in  
11      this state, and we have a large constituency of  
12      Independents.

13           And what I heard when I spoke with a lot  
14      of constituents here when I was campaigning one  
15      year ago and two years ago for the seat that  
16      Representative Ahern currently holds is that  
17      people are looking for equity. And so in one  
18      word what I hear from people that are speaking  
19      here today and those who I've spoke to in  
20      campaigning, they don't like the  
21      gerrymandering. They don't think that -- I  
22      will just use Kathy Castor -- sorry, Kathy,  
23      about this -- but Kathy Castor's seat, it is in  
24      three counties, it's been brought up multiple  
25      times, and that is probably the most extreme

1       example in this -- in this area. You shouldn't  
2       have to go over two bodies of water to get to a  
3       district. People want normal boundaries. They  
4       want something that works. Most of all, they  
5       went equity. Thank you.

6               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
7       very much, Dawn.

8               Next we have Vicky Imes. Following Vicki  
9       is Karen Doering, and after Karen we have Karl  
10      Nurse, who is a city council member for the  
11      City of St. Petersburg.

12              You are recognized.

13              MS. IMES: Thank you. I want to thank you  
14      all for being here today and coming to listen  
15      to our views as constituents prior to any  
16      decision on your redistricting.

17              I have three areas that are very simple,  
18      but I think important. One is that the people  
19      of Pinellas be represented by a Pinellas  
20      Senator, to keep districts in Pinellas as close  
21      to current as possible, and I would like to see  
22      the beaches remain together. Thank you.

23              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.  
24      Bonus points.

25              Next up we have Karen Doering. Karen,

1           thank you for being here. Karl Nurse is after  
2           Karen, and then Bambi Jones with the AARP.

3           You are recognized.

4           MS. DOERING: Thank you. My name is Karen  
5           Doering, and I just have a few brief comments.  
6           The reasoning and rationale behind my comments  
7           have been addressed previously. I think it  
8           should be obvious.

9           There can be no meaningful comment on  
10          redistricting without maps. We, the people,  
11          expressed our role about redistricting through  
12          Amendments 5 and 6, which set the legal  
13          parameters for how those districts must be  
14          drawn. Please show us the maps. This process  
15          -- this process has made a mockery of the  
16          Florida Constitution, the legislative process,  
17          and you are Florida Legislators.

18          Please stop, withdraw from the lawsuit to  
19          thwart the will of the people, accelerate the  
20          time table for this process, and please stop  
21          gerrymandering our vote for your incumbent  
22          protection plan.

23          Finally, if you wish to sue your  
24          constituents, go for it, absolutely go for it,  
25          but use your own money, not taxpayer money.

1 Thank you.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Next up we  
3 have Councilman Karl Nurse. Councilman, thank  
4 you for being here and thanks for your public  
5 service. Following Councilman Nurse, we have  
6 Bambi Jones.

7 COUNCILMAN NURSE: To the beach  
8 communities that weren't sure they had enough  
9 communication with St. Petersburg, we do take  
10 your sewage every day, so we hear from you.

11 It also is this: I would urge you all to  
12 think about chaos reduction next year. The  
13 later -- the later the process happens, the  
14 more likely it is to be chaotic, not just for  
15 candidates, but particularly for the voters.

16 And, you know, I want to reinforce the  
17 Supervisor of Elections' concerns. You think  
18 about when you want to have a primary next  
19 year, you back up 45 days to mail out the  
20 military ballots and 35 days to sort of mail  
21 out the others, you could be talking about  
22 finishing districts and mailing four or five  
23 weeks later. I mean, you really have the  
24 possibility of a very chaotic situation. So  
25 the earlier you can move that, the better.



1           And I would -- as somebody who lives in  
2       St. Pete, who lives in the doughnut, I live in  
3       the doughnut for the -- for a congressional  
4       seat that is essentially a Tampa Bay seat, the  
5       doughnut for State Senate seat that is  
6       essentially a Tampa seat, and then, of course,  
7       Darryl Rouson has the snake that snakes through  
8       several counties. That kind of thing is very  
9       confusing for voters.

10           And then finally, let me say, please, I  
11       urge you to limit the number of times you cut  
12       up precincts. It is -- that is very disruptive  
13       to a community, because you could have hundreds  
14       of people who were voting in one location  
15       today, and because the precinct has been  
16       re-carved, which happened many times in the  
17       last time, they are there and now suddenly  
18       voting in a whole different neighborhood, and I  
19       am saying that causes -- that is very chaotic.  
20       So chaos reduction, thank you.

21           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
22       sir.

23           Next up we have Ms. Bambi Jones. Is Bambi  
24       here? Okay, I don't think so. We have time  
25       for one more. Ms. Ann Beamah. Is Ann here?

1 I'm sorry I didn't give you more time. I  
2 apologize for that.

3 MS. BEAMAH: My point has been made over  
4 and over and over.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: All right.  
6 Thank you very, very much. We appreciate that.

7 Ellen Thompson. We have time for probably  
8 one more person, Ellen Thompson.

9 Okay. Wendy Paser? Thanks, Wendy, I'm  
10 sorry about that. But after Ms. Wendy, we are  
11 going to give members of the Committee an  
12 opportunity to respond and maybe answer some  
13 questions, and certainly I know Senator Gaetz  
14 has about 27 pages of notes over here, and so I  
15 think he would like to have an opportunity to  
16 respond as well.

17 Wendy, you are recognized. Thank you for  
18 being here.

19 MS. PASER: Thank you. I work with public  
20 school employees in Pinellas County. I work  
21 with them and I work for them. They are really  
22 concerned as we are bargaining with the little  
23 bit of money that the County received this  
24 year. They proposed exponential increases in  
25 healthcare benefits, they have already taken a

1       three percent reduction in the money that is  
2       available to them because of the contribution  
3       to the Florida Retirement System, and also they  
4       propose fuller days. I would like to know what  
5       I can tell them about how we can justify  
6       spending their tax dollars to fight what the  
7       voters have already accepted.

8               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
9       Ms. Paser, thank you for your comments, and I  
10      will make sure that -- I know Senator Gaetz  
11      will address that issue, so thank you for being  
12      here and thank you for your service to our  
13      children here in our community.

14             Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, I would like  
15      to give a few minutes -- if there are any -- we  
16      will start with House members. Are there any  
17      House members who would like to speak or offer  
18      a suggestion or contribution? We are going to  
19      have Senator Gaetz address some of the  
20      questions that were represented, but I don't  
21      want to take away anybody's opportunity to  
22      speak. I know we are running short on time.  
23      Is there any House member? Yes, Representative  
24      Ahern.

25             REPRESENTATIVE AHERN: Thank you, Chair

1       Weatherford and Senator Gaetz, for facilitating  
2       this meeting. I think it has been very  
3       productive for everyone here. I know I haven't  
4       seen this many members of the Legislature since  
5       the last session, so I think it does belie the  
6       importance of this matter, how important it  
7       truly is to us to get it right, and that it is  
8       of the utmost importance to get the public  
9       input so that we will have this when we vote on  
10      the maps during the session. And also that  
11      while we may not be able to please everyone  
12      each and every time, that we are able to serve  
13      each and every one of you in this community and  
14      in the state of Florida, and that this process  
15      is working. You know, it's been said  
16      democracy, republic. This connection to  
17      government when it comes to the people like  
18      this I think is important. In some ways, it  
19      may just be a pressure relief valve for those  
20      that want to be heard, and we really appreciate  
21      you coming out and expressing all your concerns  
22      to us today.

23                REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
24      very much, Representative Ahern.

25                Any other members from the House? Seeing

1 none, any members of the Senate that wish to  
2 offer any comments? Senator Latvala, you are  
3 recognized, sir.

4 SENATOR LATVALA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
5 I want to make two quick points.

6 The first one is that, you know, one of  
7 the themes that I hear today is how that  
8 there's got to be better people to do the  
9 redistricting process than the Legislature  
10 itself. And I am reminded also that someone  
11 mentioned today why in the world was St.  
12 Petersburg and my district, Senate District 16,  
13 why did that include both Pinellas and south  
14 Tampa. Well, the reason that included -- the  
15 original basis for putting south Tampa and  
16 Pinellas County together was by the Florida  
17 Supreme Court in 1993 when the Legislature  
18 could not resolve the issue and the issue went  
19 to the Court, and the Court is who put south  
20 Tampa in with Pinellas County in the district.  
21 And so you can't just sort of presume that the  
22 courts are going to do things some kind of a  
23 magical different way, because that is where  
24 that actually started.

25 The second thing I want to say is that,

1       you know, I was on this committee ten years ago  
2       and traveled the state, made more hearings than  
3       I have made this year, frankly, and I don't  
4       remember one single person anywhere in Florida  
5       complaining about having hearings, complaining  
6       about the Legislature going out and seeking out  
7       people's opinions. And, you know, I find it  
8       really very disconcerting to have our Chairmen  
9       criticized when I sat here at the table today  
10      and tried to calculate in my own mind how many  
11      hours that they have sat for hearings. In 26  
12      hearings, and in some cities more than one  
13      hearing in a day, I calculate at least 80 hours  
14      of their summer that our Chairmen have spent in  
15      hearings. Today -- no, I listened to you. I  
16      listened to you. I listened to you. Now you  
17      listen to me for a second.

18             Just today we had one gentleman question  
19      why do the meetings start at eight o'clock.  
20      Well, the reason the meeting started early  
21      today is because we have a morning hearing that  
22      started at eight o'clock, and then we will have  
23      another hearing in the Sarasota area, which  
24      will be over at eight o'clock tonight, and then  
25      our Chairmen have to get in their car and drive

1 to Naples for a hearing that starts at eight  
2 o'clock tomorrow morning. So I personally want  
3 to express my appreciation to the Chairmen for  
4 the way they have spent their summer vacation.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
6 Senator. I think Senator Jones had a quick  
7 comment. Senator Jones for a comment, and then  
8 we will come back to Senator Gaetz.

9 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: I will be very  
10 brief, but I might be the only one in this  
11 entire room that has gone through this process  
12 now for the third time. And I want to  
13 compliment the two Chairmen for having these  
14 public hearings. I can tell you, having done  
15 this the previous two times, that you could not  
16 go to Tallahassee and have committee meetings  
17 without having statewide public input first.  
18 And although you don't feel that your comments  
19 are important, as you go around the state, all  
20 these meetings are being videotaped, all your  
21 comments are being recorded for the record that  
22 will be reviewed by the court, and I would not  
23 minimize your input at these local hearings.  
24 Believe me, when you go back to Tallahassee and  
25 have a committee meeting, you are not going to

1       be able to be up there at these meetings. That  
2       is why your comments here at the local level  
3       are important and the Committee does take it  
4       seriously.

5               So, believe me, I am hoping this Committee  
6       can do their job and basically survive the  
7       initial review of the courts, because if you  
8       think the courts are going to spend this much  
9       time to draw maps, then you had better look at  
10      the courthouse they built.

11             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
12      Senator.

13             Listen, before we go, I want to give --  
14      Senator Gaetz, I was looking over earlier  
15      during the hearing, has got literally tons and  
16      tons of notes, page after page he has  
17      meticulously written down, lots of comments and  
18      questions. I think it would be appropriate to  
19      give him a chance to respond and to also answer  
20      and maybe, frankly, Mr. Chairman, to clarify  
21      some things that seem to have been in the  
22      bloodstream at every stop we go to, but I think  
23      the citizens would love to hear from you. So  
24      you are recognized.

25             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, and most of my



1 notes are the kind of notes that I make at  
2 every hearing. I am a former newspaper  
3 reporter, an editor, so even though there's  
4 videotaping of everything, this all goes in the  
5 record, I still like to make my own notes to go  
6 over later in every evening.

7 One thing I wanted to begin with,  
8 Mr. Chairman, was the persistent theme that we  
9 heard and I think very well spoken by  
10 representatives of the League of Women Voters  
11 as to why the Legislature, in their opinion at  
12 least, ought to draw maps and present them, and  
13 the public ought not to and the League ought  
14 not to. And I thought it might be useful to  
15 note that Leagues of Women Voters in different  
16 places in the country, and even in Florida,  
17 don't necessarily agree with each other. It  
18 sort of helps us understand the tension of this  
19 issue. For example, ten years ago, the League  
20 was the first group that developed maps and  
21 presented them. In Georgia, there the League  
22 of Women Voters this year, right now, not only  
23 prepared and publicized their own redistricting  
24 maps, they organized a map fair at the Georgia  
25 State Capitol to encourage members of the

1 public to present their own alternative maps.  
2 Quote, "Our goal throughout this whole process  
3 is to ensure that citizens have a voice," end  
4 quote, said the President of the League of  
5 Women Voters of Georgia, quote, "and what  
6 better way to do this than bringing people and  
7 maps to the Capitol," end quote. How right she  
8 is.

9 Let's go through some questions that were  
10 raised. We will try to provide, where we can,  
11 some factual answers. That great Democratic  
12 Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan said,  
13 "Everybody is entitled to their own opinion,  
14 but everybody is not entitled to their own set  
15 of facts." And I made a number of notes, we  
16 will get through some of them.

17 First, there were a couple of references  
18 to a \$30 million fund that the House of  
19 Representatives is allegedly using to fight  
20 Fair Districts. I would encourage you to go to  
21 the state website, which is  
22 transparencyflorida.gov. That way you can see  
23 exactly what the Legislature is spending on  
24 each program and each cost center. I think you  
25 will find that the \$30 million is the entire

1 reserves of the House of Representatives to be  
2 used for all purposes. So the \$30 million  
3 figure, it sounds good, it is a fun bumper  
4 sticker, it is just not a fact.

5 And then someone mentioned early in the  
6 hearing today if you do it right, there won't  
7 be any lawsuits. I wish that were true, and  
8 grasping the larger hope, I pray for that every  
9 night, but the representatives of some special  
10 interest groups have already testified before  
11 these hearings that there are going to be  
12 lawsuits. They have already said there will be  
13 lawsuits even before the Legislature has cast  
14 its first vote. So, sadly, I think those who  
15 feel that the best way to resolve this matter  
16 is in the courts have already indicated that  
17 there will be lawsuits. I sure hope there  
18 won't be many.

19 A question, will the public see the  
20 legislative maps before they are voted on? The  
21 answer is yes. Before any vote is taken, even  
22 in committee, the public will see any and every  
23 map.

24 Third, there was a comment made that there  
25 are 600,000 more Democrats, yet there are more

1       Republicans in the Legislature, how can this be  
2       true? Well, we have an interesting phenomenon  
3       in Florida. We have 40 Senate districts -- I  
4       will just use the Senate as an example. The  
5       House could be used as well. There are 40  
6       Senate districts, and currently 28 of them are  
7       held by Republicans, but eight of those  
8       Republican Senate districts voted for Barack  
9       Obama for President.

10               So you can look at this two ways. First  
11       you can say that the people in those eight  
12       districts were independent enough to view  
13       President Obama's campaign as more persuasive  
14       and more worthy of their votes, or you could  
15       view it this way, that there were eight  
16       districts in the state of Florida that solidly  
17       voted for Barack Obama, but yet in the opinion  
18       of those voters, the Republican candidates for  
19       the Senate had a more persuasive campaign or a  
20       better message for the voters.

21               Here's the thing that we really can't do:  
22       We can't force Republicans to vote just for  
23       Republicans, or Democrats to vote just for  
24       Democrats, and we surely don't know how the  
25       largest -- not the largest, but the

1 fastest-growing group of voters, Independents,  
2 are going to vote. So what we have found is  
3 people make up their own minds, and some  
4 Republicans vote for President Obama, and lots  
5 of Democrats voted for Republican Senate  
6 candidates.

7 The next question -- or the next comment  
8 came from a representative of the ACLU who said  
9 you don't want to see amateur maps, didn't come  
10 here to see maps drawn by schoolteachers. I'm  
11 sorry you feel that way about public input. We  
12 don't view the submissions from the public as  
13 being amateurish. Indeed, we have received  
14 submissions from Columbia University, from  
15 universities and groups of academics here in  
16 Florida, but, yes, we have received submissions  
17 from schoolteachers and we have also received  
18 submissions for 120 House districts from a  
19 13-year-old boy and his family last night. So  
20 what that suggests is that there is an  
21 opportunity to have input. And I would just  
22 tell you this: Please don't assume that the  
23 only people who ever have any good ideas are  
24 people in Tallahassee. That is not true. Your  
25 ideas -- your ideas -- sh, sh, sh, sh -- your

1 ideas and the ideas of schoolteachers and  
2 construction workers and 13-year-old boys and  
3 people from Columbia University and the  
4 University of Florida and University of South  
5 Florida are all valuable and will all be taken  
6 into account.

7 Then there were a number of questions  
8 about the time table, Mr. Chairman, and here I  
9 think a few facts could be useful. First, the  
10 Census Bureau does not release census data on  
11 which these maps have to be based, they don't  
12 release it all at once. They release it in  
13 groups or tranches. Now, Florida didn't get  
14 its census data last, but we were one of the  
15 last states to receive it. So several  
16 individuals mentioned states which received  
17 their census data months before Florida.

18 Now, why would they receive their data  
19 before we received ours? Well, one of the  
20 states mentioned was Louisiana. Well,  
21 Louisiana receives its census data earlier  
22 because they have their elections on  
23 odd-numbered years, not even-numbered years,  
24 like Florida.

25 Then there was a reference by a testifier

1 to the State of Illinois, and it is true, they  
2 got their maps done very quickly. They are a  
3 one-party state. They had a group of  
4 Legislators who literally did go into a back  
5 room, who came out, put the maps down, said,  
6 "Take it or leave it," the Legislature voted  
7 quickly and they all went home. Now, as  
8 Representative Frishe said when he started  
9 today, you know, sometimes representative  
10 government is a heavy lift. We chose to use a  
11 process that involves the public more than the  
12 State of Illinois did. Maybe we were wrong,  
13 maybe Illinois was right, but we chose to use a  
14 process that was much more interactive and  
15 involved.

16 Then also I would point out, as  
17 Representative Weatherford did at the beginning  
18 of our meeting, that we are accelerating the  
19 process as much as the Constitution allows. We  
20 can't vote -- the Constitution says can't vote  
21 until January. But there are those who  
22 testified today as if there were not going to  
23 be any votes taken, in some people's minds,  
24 they said, until March. Well, that's just not  
25 true. Votes can be taken as early as January,

1       and if you follow the public record of the  
2       other hearings, you know that our Democratic  
3       Leader in the Senate, Senator Rich, who is a  
4       member of our Committee, indicated that ten  
5       years ago when she happened to be in the House  
6       of Representatives then, she didn't even get a  
7       chance to present a map. She didn't -- she  
8       didn't get a chance to make a proposal, and she  
9       asked that the members of the minority party be  
10      able to do that. So the commitment that I made  
11      as Chairman of the Senate Reapportionment  
12      Committee is that at the first meeting that we  
13      will have, the first time we can have a meeting  
14      in September, the very first thing we will do  
15      after taking the roll and calling the meeting  
16      to order is to turn to Senator Rich and give  
17      her the chance that she didn't have ten years  
18      ago. It was unfair ten years ago that she  
19      didn't have a chance as a member of the  
20      minority party, and we are going to give her  
21      the first chance this year in September.

22               Then there was a comment made by a mayor  
23      from one of the beach communities that he  
24      wanted the beach communities to be kept  
25      together, and he acknowledged that that would



1 mean that they wouldn't necessarily be compact,  
2 because the beach communities are kind of long  
3 and skinny, because of the nature of the  
4 barrier islands, they are not necessarily  
5 compact. I only point this out because there  
6 is -- and you heard it today, there is some  
7 apparent tension between those who say "we want  
8 compact districts" and those who say "we want  
9 communities of interest or commonality to be  
10 able to be districts." There is some tension,  
11 or apparent tension there, and we just -- you  
12 know, we point that out so that you will know  
13 that this really isn't a bumper sticker issue.  
14 This is something that really requires us  
15 balancing these values. That is why these  
16 hearings are so important.

17 And then, Mr. Chairman, there was a  
18 question, you know, couldn't the Governor just  
19 veto all of this anyway? The answer is that  
20 under the Florida Constitution, the Governor  
21 does not have the veto power over legislative  
22 maps. The Governor can veto congressional  
23 maps, but cannot veto legislative maps. The  
24 veto or review of legislative maps is by the  
25 judiciary in our state.

1           And then there was a question -- there was  
2           an individual who said that the Senate  
3           President, Senator Haridopolos, posted a  
4           YouTube paid for by public funds. Again, you  
5           might hate the YouTube or you might like the  
6           YouTube. I thought the music was a little  
7           depressing in the beginning when I saw it last  
8           night, but I called the President, talked to  
9           him last night, and he gave me this  
10          information, which I pass on to you. Not one  
11          penny of state funds was used by President  
12          Haridopolos in producing or distributing that  
13          YouTube message that was released yesterday.  
14          He used his own funds.

15          Then there was a question -- or there was  
16          a comment that said you really won't do the job  
17          unless every district is competitive. Sounds  
18          good, but imagine, you've got areas in south  
19          Florida, for example, and areas here in the  
20          Tampa Bay area where there are very heavy  
21          concentrations of Democrats or Republicans who  
22          live in certain areas. So let me just take my  
23          area, for example. We have a very high  
24          registration of Republicans in my area. To  
25          make my district -- to ensure by law that my

1 district had to be competitive, we would have  
2 to draw my district all the way from Niceville,  
3 where I live, which is on the northwest Florida  
4 coast, all the way to Tallahassee, three hours  
5 away. And if you go to south Florida, if you  
6 insisted that some very heavily Democratic  
7 concentrations of voters not be allowed to be a  
8 district, but that they had to be competitive,  
9 you would have to draw those districts a  
10 hundred miles long. So it sounds good to say  
11 every district should be competitive, but that  
12 is why we provided you with the population data  
13 that is on the -- that is on the House and  
14 Senate websites, so that you can see that  
15 unless we force people to move and say that  
16 every district has to be competitive that way,  
17 which is pretty impractical, it would be hard.

18 Then, Mr. Chairman, the -- there was a  
19 mayor who said that she is a mayor of a  
20 community on the Intracoastal, not on the  
21 barrier islands, but on the Intracoastal. Her  
22 argument was we have more in common with the  
23 barrier islands, being an Intracoastal  
24 community, than we do with other areas that are  
25 further inland. So she said we have a

1 community of interest and we want the district  
2 lines to cross the water. Well, that is a  
3 legitimate and logical point of view. But you  
4 heard other people testify and say -- in fact,  
5 the very next speaker said, quote, "No crossing  
6 of any waterway." I only point this out to say  
7 that 160 members of the Legislature, Democrats  
8 and Republicans, we also have differences of  
9 opinion just as you do, and these values have  
10 to be balanced. It is not as easy as it might  
11 sound to some to just, you know, go there and  
12 vote for something that is compliant with 5 and  
13 6 when you have heard disparate comments here  
14 by people of good will, people who mean no  
15 harm, but make good, logical arguments on  
16 different sides.

17 Then there was an individual who said --  
18 and did an extraordinary job -- said consider  
19 the word "community" as important in your work  
20 as the words "compact" and "contiguous." We  
21 wish we could. In fact, Representative  
22 Weatherford and I tried to get the term  
23 "community of interest" into the Constitution  
24 along with Amendments 5 and 6, but the Supreme  
25 Court said they didn't want that there, they

1       struck that down. So sadly for those who have  
2       made eloquent arguments today for community and  
3       commonality, the Fair Districts folks did not  
4       include that language in the Constitution. So  
5       these are -- these, again, are values that are  
6       going to have to be very carefully balanced,  
7       because clearly we wouldn't be able to make  
8       both sides happy in that case.

9               There was a gentlemen who said drawing the  
10       process out to 2012 is very hard on candidates,  
11       and I surely agree, because I am a candidate.  
12       But the Fair Districts people can still change  
13       this. The Fair Districts folks, who did a  
14       great job with their campaign, raised an  
15       extraordinary amount of money, a great grass  
16       roots effort, they could have changed this in  
17       the Constitution so that we didn't have to vote  
18       in 2012, that we could begin voting in 2011.  
19       They, for some reason, chose not to accelerate  
20       the process with constitutional language. But  
21       I am considering as a sole member of the  
22       Senate, I have not talked to my colleagues  
23       about this, I am considering proposing a  
24       constitutional amendment that would allow the  
25       next redistricting process to occur in an

1       odd-numbered year so that we can get a year  
2       ahead in Florida. Now, we can't do it now  
3       because it is too late to change the  
4       Constitution at this moment, but we certainly  
5       could do it to make sure that that individual's  
6       concerns are addressed in future redistricting.

7               Mr. Chairman, I've just got a couple more.  
8       There was a gentleman who said, "Defining  
9       communities and preserving them is an essential  
10      ingredient of redistricting." Again, we  
11      couldn't agree more. Sadly, the Supreme Court  
12      would not allow that to be added to the  
13      constitutional language.

14             Someone said we ought to have an  
15      independent commission. Again, the Fair  
16      Districts folks could have included that in  
17      their amendment language, they chose not to,  
18      and so under the Florida Constitution, it isn't  
19      an independent commission. It is, instead,  
20      elected officials, who you can un-elect, and  
21      then judges who, depending upon your point of  
22      view, it is either easy or not very easy to get  
23      accountability from them for decisions they  
24      make, who have the last word.

25             Then there was an individual who made the

1 point that "When money takes over politics,  
2 only a shadow of democracy remains." Eloquent  
3 quote. Over \$9 million was contributed to the  
4 Fair Districts campaign. Vastly most of it  
5 came in large contributions, much of it from  
6 outside the state of Florida, but that was  
7 legal and that was appropriate. There was  
8 nothing wrong with that. There was nothing  
9 wrong with that. And if you follow the news,  
10 you know that President Obama has -- his  
11 campaign has already indicated that they intend  
12 to raise and spend more money than any  
13 presidential candidate in history. Nothing  
14 wrong with that. It is legal. There is  
15 nothing wrong with that.

16 Here is the question, here is the  
17 question: Will money be the only ingredient in  
18 decisions that are made in public policy? And  
19 the answer is, only if you allow it to be. And  
20 clearly, with a group like this and the groups  
21 that we are seeing across the state of Florida,  
22 you are expressing opinions that truly matter,  
23 you are having an effect that is, in my  
24 judgment, as equally as important as all of  
25 those people who contributed on both sides of

1 the Fair Districts campaign.

2 Someone said we should -- if we wait to  
3 finalize the maps until August, that would be  
4 wrong; if we wait to vote until March, that  
5 would be terribly inconvenient. That is not  
6 our plan. That is not our intent.

7 Now, there was someone -- a young lady who  
8 said, "We want a commitment from the  
9 Legislature when they will cut off maps, when  
10 they will cut off debate." Well,  
11 Representative Weatherford and I each get one  
12 vote. We don't get to vote for everybody else.  
13 There are 160 members of the Legislature, and  
14 believe me, there would be some in both parties  
15 who would stand up and scream from the rafters  
16 if we said we are going to cut off debate, we  
17 are going to cut off ideas, we are going to cut  
18 off your opportunity to improve or refine any  
19 proposal. So it is Representative  
20 Weatherford's and my intent, our desire, our  
21 plan, to move the process as we have expressed,  
22 as quickly as is logical, but we can't control  
23 what the other 118 members of the Legislature  
24 may want to do with their plans and proposals.

25 Then there was a -- the President of the



1       League of Women Voters said that she wanted to  
2       have some information about how much the  
3       hearings were costing. Please go to  
4       transparencyflorida.gov. You can see that. I  
5       think that the information in Mary Ellen Klas'  
6       story in *The St. Pete Times* and *Miami Herald*  
7       was probably pretty close, if not right on. It  
8       said that the House had spent something like  
9       \$48,000; the Senate, something like 8,000. I  
10      think the Senate spent more than that. I think  
11      by the end we will find that the House spent a  
12      little more, because there are more House  
13      members, 120 House members, and the House  
14      committee is larger.

15           And then the question was asked of me, and  
16      that is, am I funding the fight against  
17      Amendments 5 and 6. My wife I am sure is  
18      listening, and she probably wants to know if I  
19      am, too. Well, I am not. I am not. That is  
20      just not true. When the Fair Districts  
21      campaign was going on before the election,  
22      before these amendments became part of our  
23      Constitution, I joined thousands of other  
24      Floridians in making contributions based on my  
25      personal views. Frankly, I didn't think

1       Amendments 5 and 6 should have been ratified  
2       without commonality and communities of interest  
3       included, and so I did contribute money against  
4       them. But since they became the law, since the  
5       election and -- and since the election, I was  
6       appointed to this Committee by President  
7       Haridopolos, I have contributed nothing, no  
8       money, I have not been part of any lawsuit  
9       personally or publicly against Amendments 5 and  
10      6, and I won't be.

11           Then I guess there was another question,  
12      why can't the Legislature commit to a drop-dead  
13      date? I think I answered that. We certainly  
14      are going to try to move the process along. We  
15      are going to start by asking for presentation  
16      of maps at the very first committee meeting.

17           Last comment, and that is your Supervisor  
18      of Elections, Ms. Clark, encouraged that the  
19      process move along as much as we legally can.  
20      And, yes, we commit to do that.

21           Some of those who were concerned today,  
22      and properly so, with the process, we commit to  
23      you that we will do everything that we  
24      constitutionally can do in terms of voting on  
25      the floor, and as I indicated to you, we will

1       move forward at the very first Senate committee  
2       meeting, and we will give Senator Rich, the  
3       Democratic Leader, the chance she didn't have  
4       and should have had ten years ago, and I am  
5       considering proposing a constitutional  
6       amendment that would allow us to do this in the  
7       future in odd-numbered years instead of even so  
8       that we would never have to have that kind of  
9       concern or angst again.

10           I apologize for the length of my  
11       responses, but we had many, many, many good  
12       questions. This has been an extraordinary  
13       hearing. There's information about your  
14       communities and neighborhoods I could never  
15       have received if I would have just sat in an  
16       echo chamber in Tallahassee. This was well  
17       worth my time, and I thank you for your input.

18           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
19       very much. Thank you very much, Senator Gaetz,  
20       and thank you all for being here today.  
21       Senator Gaetz moves that we rise.

22           (Whereupon, the proceedings were  
23       adjourned.)

## 1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )

3 COUNTY OF LEON )

4 I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript  
5 is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned,  
6 and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting  
7 under my direction;

8 That the foregoing pages 2 through 23 represent  
9 a true, correct, and complete transcript of the tape-  
10 recording;

11 And I further certify that I am not of kin or  
12 counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the  
13 regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor  
14 am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

15 Dated this 30th day of November, 2011.

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

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Notary Public

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State of Florida at Large

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Commission Expires:

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November 13, 2014

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10 REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

11 TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2011

12 6:00 P.M.

13 NEW COLLEGE, HARRY SUDAKOFF CONFERENCE CENTER

14 SARASOTA, FLORIDA

15

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21 Transcribed by:

22 CLARA C. ROTRUCK

23 Court Reporter

24

25

1           T A P E D     P R O C E E D I N G S

2           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you all for being  
3 here this evening. The Joint House/Senate  
4 Redistricting Hearing is called to order.

5           We are pleased to be joined tonight by a  
6 number of members of the House of  
7 Representatives and the Senate, most of whom  
8 serve on the Redistricting Committee in the  
9 House or the Reapportionment Committee in the  
10 Senate, and in a moment, we will ask them to  
11 identify themselves and the area of the state  
12 that they represent so that you will know who  
13 you are sharing your views with.

14          We want to thank New College for allowing  
15 us to use this very helpful facility. We want  
16 to thank all of you for being here, especially  
17 members of the public who have come to share  
18 your comments and your recommendations to help  
19 shape congressional, Senate and House districts  
20 for the next decade.

21          My name is Don Gaetz. I am a member of  
22 the Florida Senate. My Senate district runs  
23 from Pensacola to Panama City in the Florida  
24 Panhandle, out where we have Central time, and  
25 I am pleased to be here tonight. I will be

1        chairing the meeting with my colleague, the  
2        Speaker Designate of the Florida House of  
3        Representatives, Will Weatherford, who is to my  
4        left. And the hearing tonight is being webcast  
5        statewide by The Florida Channel over the  
6        Internet. So before you get up to speak, make  
7        sure your hair looks good, check your makeup,  
8        straighten your tie, because everybody across  
9        Florida is watching you, and we welcome the  
10       thousands and thousands of Floridians who are  
11       joining us tonight by webcast.

12                I would like to begin, Mr. Speaker, by  
13       asking each of those members of the Legislature  
14       who are here if they would very briefly  
15       identify themselves by name and whether they  
16       are a Senator or a Representative and the part  
17       of the state that they are from.

18                Where are we? We are down at the far end.  
19       Representative, why don't you start?

20                REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Good afternoon,  
21       Chuck Chestnut, House Representative, District  
22       23, a portion of Alachua County and a portion  
23       of Marion County.

24                REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Good afternoon,  
25       State Representative Mack Bernard from West

1 Palm Beach, Florida.

2 REPRESENTATIVE STARGEL: Good afternoon,  
3 thank you for being here. Kelli Stargel, State  
4 Representative from District 64, which is north  
5 Polk County, mostly the City of Lakeland.

6 SENATOR NEGRON: Good evening, Joe Negron  
7 from southeast Florida. I serve in the Florida  
8 Senate.

9 REPRESENTATIVE PILON: Good evening,  
10 Representative Ray Pilon, District 69, which is  
11 right here, the northern part of Sarasota  
12 County and a small part of Manatee. Welcome.

13 REPRESENTATIVE FORD: Representative Clay  
14 Ford from Pensacola. I get the award for the  
15 farthest traveled.

16 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Hi, I am Jim Boyd,  
17 House member, District 68, which is the  
18 district just north of here, western Manatee  
19 County. Thanks for coming this evening.

20 REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Good evening, John  
21 Patrick Julien representing House District 104,  
22 which is in Miami-Dade County. My district  
23 encompasses North Miami Beach, North Miami,  
24 Miami Gardens, Opa-Locka, the City of Miami and  
25 unincorporated Miami-Dade County. It is a



1 pleasure to be here.

2 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: State Representative  
3 Peter Nehr. I represent District 48, which is  
4 in Pinellas County and parts of Pasco County.

5 REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: I am State  
6 Representative Jim Frishe, and I represent the  
7 beaches in Pinellas County.

8 REPRESENTATIVE HOOPER: I am Ed Hooper,  
9 representing Florida House District 50, which  
10 is a portion of Pinellas County.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS: I am Trudi  
12 Williams, Representative from District 75,  
13 which is portions of Lee and Collier County.

14 SENATOR JOYNER: I am Arthenia Joyner,  
15 State Senator, District 18, encompassing  
16 portions of Hillsborough, Pinellas and Manatee.

17 SENATOR DETERT: I am Senator Nancy  
18 Detert, and I am very proud to say this is my  
19 Senate district, Sarasota, a portion of Manatee  
20 and about 30 percent of Charlotte County.  
21 Thank you all for coming.

22 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Good evening, and  
23 welcome to Sarasota. I am Doug Holder. I  
24 represent House District 70, which is the south  
25 part of Sarasota County, and I would like to

1 welcome all of our delegates from across the  
2 state in the House and Senate to this beautiful  
3 place that we call home.

4 REPRESENTATIVE ROBERSON: Thank you for  
5 being here this evening. I am State  
6 Representative Ken Roberson. I represent parts  
7 of Sarasota, Charlotte and Lee County, and I  
8 represent the City of North Port in Sarasota  
9 County, which is now the largest city in  
10 Sarasota County. Thank you for being here.

11 REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: I am Kathleen  
12 Passidomo. I represent House District 76,  
13 which is in Collier County. It includes the  
14 City of Naples, the City of Marco Island and  
15 the City of Everglades City. Thank you.

16 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Good evening,  
17 I am State Representative Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed  
18 from Broward County. I represent seven cities  
19 in Broward County: Deerfield Beach, Pompano  
20 Beach, Oakland Park, Wilton Manors, Ft.  
21 Lauderdale, the northern quadrant, the Victoria  
22 park area, North Lauderdale and Tamarac.

23 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Good evening. I  
24 am Hazelle Rogers. I represent the -- one of  
25 the most diverse cities and counties in Broward

1 County, and that is representing over 1.8  
2 million residents. My district is 94, eight  
3 cities, which is Lauderhill, Lauderdale Lakes,  
4 Plantation, Oakland Park, Tamarac, Margate, the  
5 City of Sunrise. Thank you for being here.  
6 Looking forward to hearing your comments.

7 REPRESENTATIVE CRUZ: Good evening. My  
8 name is Janet Cruz, and I represent District  
9 58, which is a piece of central Tampa. Thank  
10 you very much for being part of this process  
11 this evening. We are happy to be here.

12 REPRESENTATIVE ADKINS: Good evening. I  
13 am Janet Adkins from State House District 12,  
14 which is Nassau, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Union  
15 and Duval Counties, rural northeast Florida.

16 REPRESENTATIVE BURGIN: Good evening,  
17 State Representative Rachel Burgin, District  
18 56, which is the City of Tampa and eastern  
19 Hillsborough County.

20 REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Good evening. My  
21 name is Mike Horner. I represent State House  
22 District 79 in south central Florida.

23 REPRESENTATIVE NUNEZ: Good evening. My  
24 name is Jeanette Nuñez. I represent House  
25 District 112, which consists of portions of

1 Dade, Broward and Collier County.

2 REPRESENTATIVE YOUNG: Hi there and  
3 welcome. I am Representative Dana Young, and  
4 my District is District 57, which is a large  
5 part of the City of Tampa and part of  
6 Hillsborough County.

7 REPRESENTATIVE CAMPBELL: Good evening.  
8 My name is Daphne Campbell, District 108, from  
9 Miami-Dade County.

10 REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: Good evening. I  
11 am Dennis Baxley, serving Ocala, Marion County,  
12 in the Florida House District 24.

13 REPRESENTATIVE ALBRITTON: Hello, thanks  
14 for coming out. My name is Ben Albritton. I  
15 serve in the Florida House. I represent  
16 southern Polk, Hardee and northwestern  
17 Highlands County.

18 SENATOR GAETZ: I think that has given all  
19 of our Senators and Representatives a chance to  
20 let you know who they are and where they are  
21 from.

22 Our purpose tonight is to hear from the  
23 public about how you believe the legal  
24 standards governing redistricting should be  
25 applied. Let me emphasize that. It is not

1       whether the legal standards should be applied,  
2       because Amendments 5 and 6 are part of the  
3       Constitution, but rather how they ought to be  
4       applied. And as you listen to each other's  
5       testimony, I think you will see that there are  
6       questions that we really need your input on.

7               Our procedures tonight are simple, but  
8       important. It is important that you sign in so  
9       that we can create an accurate public record of  
10      all attendees and speakers, and you may also  
11      opt to join our e-mail list so that we can keep  
12      you informed about how the redistricting  
13      process is proceeding. If you have not signed  
14      in, but if you would like to speak or if you  
15      have just come to listen, we still would like  
16      to know who you are so that we can stay in  
17      touch with you, so if you would like to speak  
18      or if you are just here as a listener and we  
19      have not had an opportunity to get your name,  
20      if you will raise your hand, we will make  
21      sure -- thank you, there is a young lady right  
22      here in the second row -- if you will raise  
23      your hand, we will certainly be sure to get a  
24      card. It is the same card whether you wish to  
25      speak or whether you are here simply to listen

1 to your friends and neighbors.

2 We also would ask you, even if you are  
3 RSVP'd that you were going to be here, and  
4 many, many people have, and we are so grateful  
5 for that, be sure that you do sign in so that  
6 we can call your name and give you an  
7 opportunity to speak.

8 Before we begin, the Chair will recognize  
9 the Speaker Designate, Representative  
10 Weatherford, to explain how today's hearing  
11 fits into the redistricting process and the  
12 redistricting schedule. Mr. Speaker.

13 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
14 very much, Mr. Chairman, and thank you all for  
15 taking time to be here. This is a great  
16 turn-out, and we are excited to be here in  
17 Sarasota County and excited to hear from your  
18 public testimony. In fact, I was just chatting  
19 with Representative Holder a minute ago, and I  
20 think this is home to the finest beach in  
21 America, if I am not mistaken, is that right,  
22 Siesta Key. So, as legislators, we sometimes  
23 have tough duty having to go into beautiful  
24 places like Sarasota, so thank you very much  
25 for welcoming us here.

1           I am going to walk you through just a  
2       brief -- give you an understanding about what  
3       we are here to do today and what we hope to  
4       accomplish. Every ten years, the Legislature  
5       is required by our Constitution to redistrict  
6       the state based on increases, decreases and  
7       movements in population. Because Florida has  
8       grown dramatically over the last ten years, we  
9       have actually picked up two new congressional  
10      seats. So instead of having 25 members of the  
11      House of Representatives, we will now have 27  
12      members of the House of Representatives.  
13      Because some parts of our state have increased  
14      and decreased disproportionately, many Senate  
15      and House Districts will change, either adding  
16      or losing in population.

17           When redistricting is completed,  
18      congressional districts must be equal in  
19      population and have 696,345 people, the 40  
20      Senate districts must also be nearly equal at  
21      470,000, and people in our 120 House districts  
22      must also be nearly equal at 156,700 people.

23           Now, we have displays at the very front of  
24      the room that will show you the current  
25      boundaries of the state, and more particularly,

1 the current boundaries in this area, and if you  
2 feel free at any point during the hearing, you  
3 can go back and get a look very closely at what  
4 they look like.

5 Equality in representation is not the only  
6 legal requirement redistricting plans must  
7 meet. The laws and the important court cases  
8 that govern redistricting are explained in  
9 detail in the House and Senate websites. Those  
10 websites are listed on the "Redistricting 2012"  
11 brochure that was available to you when you  
12 came in. Our "Redistricting 2012" brochure  
13 summarizes federal and state laws, and outlines  
14 topics that we hope we will be discussing here  
15 at today's hearing. If you did not get a copy  
16 of that brochure when you came in, they are  
17 available at tables outside the meeting, or our  
18 staff is more than willing to give you a copy.  
19 If you just raise your hand and give us a few  
20 moments, we will get a copy to you. Keep your  
21 hands up, and we will get them to you.

22 These websites also deliver to your  
23 fingertips all of the demographic information  
24 that will be used in drawing districts in the  
25 exact same computer programs that legislators



1       and professional staff will use when we draw  
2       districts. Any member of the public can  
3       participate in building plans or seeing maps  
4       submitted by legislators or other citizens.  
5       Before, during and after this hearing, Senate  
6       and House professional staff are available to  
7       show anyone the simple steps in going on-line,  
8       building districts and submitting maps now or  
9       in the weeks to come.

10           Recommendations from citizens and groups  
11       of citizens will be made immediately -- will be  
12       made public immediately. In fact, as of this  
13       morning, we've had 49 public submissions of  
14       partial or complete maps, and many other  
15       written ideas for maps available on the week,  
16       and I am sure that number will increase. In  
17       fact, Mr. Chairman, just last night, we were in  
18       Tampa Bay and a 13-year-old young man, student,  
19       actually has drawn an entire House district map  
20       for the entire state of Florida, and did it  
21       with -- he and his sister, and that is the kind  
22       of participation and the opportunity that you  
23       can get with the websites that we have, and so  
24       we hope that everyone here will also  
25       participate in that manner. The submission of

1       proposed maps that makes sense for your  
2       community is the single most effective way that  
3       you can communicate with this Committee and  
4       with the redistricting process.

5             The redistricting schedule under which we  
6       are operating is imposed by the State  
7       Constitution. Let me say that again. This  
8       always comes up every hearing. The  
9       redistricting schedule under which we are  
10      operating is imposed by the State Constitution.  
11      The Constitution does not permit the  
12      Legislature to act on state legislative maps  
13      before the second year after the census; in  
14      other words, before 2012. We have accelerated  
15      this process as much as we can by moving up the  
16      2012 legislative session from March to January,  
17      and by beginning our statewide hearings five  
18      months in advance of the 2012 session.

19            It has been suggested that the Legislature  
20      should draw maps first and then ask the public  
21      to comment. We believe that puts the answer  
22      ahead of the question. There should be no  
23      preconceptions created by politicians, but,  
24      rather, public testimony should be free and  
25      unrestricted. In fact, a principal author of

1 Florida's new redistricting standards and the  
2 Chairperson of Fair Districts campaign are both  
3 on record and in agreement with the notion that  
4 new maps should not be drawn until after they  
5 have received public comment.

6 Our intent is to use the recommendations  
7 made at these 26 hearings and through our  
8 Internet sites as the basis for drawing one or  
9 more options for district maps. We will  
10 discuss these options in open public meetings  
11 before any votes are actually taken on the  
12 maps, even in committee. In other words, what  
13 we are literally saying here is that if you  
14 look at the maps outside this room when you  
15 first came in and you walked through on your  
16 way into this room, and the ones that have been  
17 submitted to the Legislature by citizens just  
18 like you, we are literally saying that the  
19 legislative process is starting with those maps  
20 and those suggestions from the public. So if  
21 you want to know where we begin our  
22 deliberations, it is with those public  
23 submissions and the testimony from meetings  
24 that we have just like here this evening.  
25 Throughout the process, we will continue to

1       solicit additional public comment so that the  
2       proposed maps can mature with your public  
3       involvement and more input as we go through the  
4       process. Whatever the Legislature passes, it  
5       is then submitted from judicial review to  
6       ensure that the final maps meet every single  
7       legal requirement.

8               Because our purpose today is to hear from  
9       you, all the time now -- between now and  
10      9:00 p.m. will be used to ensure that every  
11      member of the public has an opportunity to  
12      speak. If after every citizen has had his or  
13      her say and there is time remaining on the  
14      schedule before adjournment, any member of this  
15      Committee may make any statement or any  
16      observation. Of course, any member of the  
17      Legislature may today, or, Mr. Chairman, at any  
18      time propose a map or a plan, and we will make  
19      it public immediately.

20             Mr. Chairman, I hope that this description  
21      gives us a starting point for the process, and  
22      I look forward to hearing from the citizens  
23      here in Sarasota County. Thank you.

24             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

25             The good news is that we have over 80 people

1       who have signed up to speak. That is  
2       excellent. But what that means is that all of  
3       those who signed up to speak -- in fact, more  
4       than 80, I am just handed a note. What that  
5       means is that those who do speak need to be --  
6       if we could ask you to be respectful of the  
7       fact that there are others of your friends and  
8       neighbors who would like to speak also. So in  
9       deference to them and out of respect for the  
10      many people who would like to share their  
11      views, we are going to ask those who speak to  
12      confine their verbal testimony to two minutes.  
13      Now, you can supply -- if you've got a script  
14      or you have some information that you have  
15      written down, you can supply that to the  
16      Committee, it will go in the record, every  
17      member of the Committee will receive it and  
18      have a chance to read it and review it. But we  
19      would like your verbal comments, if you could,  
20      to be short and to the point, because there are  
21      so many of you who would like to share your  
22      views with the Committee.

23           That being said, I am going to call about  
24      three names at a time and ask if you would come  
25      up to the center aisle and be ready, sort of in

1 an on deck circle, so that we could spend our  
2 time listening to your views as opposed to  
3 waiting for folks to work their way through the  
4 crowd.

5 Kathy Dent, the Supervisor of Elections,  
6 is our first speaker tonight, and follow is  
7 Ms. Dent, Karen Berman, and then Ann Hardy from  
8 the League of Women Voters, then Debbie Trice.  
9 So if those individuals will come forward, we  
10 will move expeditiously through the process.

11 And, Ms. Dent, thank you for being here  
12 and thank you for your service to the people of  
13 this county. You are recognized.

14 MS. DENT: Thank you very much, and I  
15 appreciate the opportunity to be here and I  
16 thank you all very much for being willing to  
17 make this tour of the state.

18 I racked my brain trying to come up with  
19 something that was not something you have heard  
20 a thousand times before, and it all boils down  
21 to two very simple things. Number one, the  
22 Supervisors of Elections, contrary to rumor,  
23 especially when I walked in this room tonight,  
24 do not already have the lines drawn. We are  
25 leaving it up to you.

1           And, number two, the two important things  
2           that I am asking you to take into  
3           considerations is the timing. We are going  
4           into 2012, and this is Florida. If we don't  
5           have enough time to get our ballots drawn, to  
6           get our polling places located, to notify the  
7           voters, to get our precincts approved by the  
8           Board of County Commissioners, we will be more  
9           likely to make a mistake and it could actually  
10          impact over 11 million voters in the state of  
11          Florida, which we don't ever want to have a bad  
12          name here again.

13          And the second part is I am imploring that  
14          you use the VTDs. Those are the Voting  
15          Tabulation Districts. The Supervisors of  
16          Elections -- and I think this is where the  
17          rumor comes in. Supervisors of Elections  
18          worked very hard in 2009 to make sure that  
19          communities of interest were isolated to make  
20          it easier for you all when you are looking to  
21          draw those lines, that if you remain within  
22          those communities of interest, you can't go  
23          wrong. It keeps, for example, the Palmer Ranch  
24          here in Sarasota County, The Villages, West  
25          Villages in North Port, who actually are

1           divided right now between Representative  
2           Roberson and Representative Holder. And we  
3           made a mistake even just a couple of years ago  
4           on a couple -- about 200 ballots, because it is  
5           that easy to do to make a mistake when you have  
6           all of these splits.

7           SENATOR GAETZ: And, Ms. Dent, I apologize  
8           profusely, but if you could wrap up, I would be  
9           very grateful.

10          MS. DENT: I sure will.

11          And one last thing I would like to say is  
12          history does repeat itself. I think that this  
13          illustrious body can look ten years down the  
14          road, you are all going to be term limited, and  
15          to look at some way of dealing with this time  
16          crunch that we have, constitutional amendment  
17          followed with special session, or get creative  
18          and just do some research --

19          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you.

20          MS. DENT: -- and not have this happen  
21          again.

22          SENATOR GAETZ: Yes, ma'am.

23          MS. DENT: Thank you again for the  
24          opportunity.

25          SENATOR GAETZ: And, Ms. Dent, we hope



1           that you will be able to stay until the end of  
2           the hearing, because a number of questions tend  
3           to get raised during the hearing, factual  
4           questions about timelines and other things, and  
5           the Speaker Designate, as well as other  
6           members, will be making copious notes. We will  
7           try to answer factual questions, not get into  
8           arguments about opinions, but answer factual  
9           questions if there's time at the end of the  
10          hearing. Thank you very much, Ms. Dent.

11                 And now, Karen Berman, thank you for  
12           taking some of your time tonight to come with  
13           us, and you are recognized.

14                 MS. BERMAN: Thank you. I came to implore  
15           you and say just do it, implement the Fair  
16           Districts amendments which we citizens voted  
17           for. Set fair boundaries according to the  
18           standards that are outlined. You know what  
19           they are.

20                 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much.

21                 And now Ann Hardy, representing the League  
22           of Women Voters, and behind Ms. Hardy will be  
23           Debbie Trice and Doug Heinlen and I believe it  
24           is Jutta Tolbert, and I apologize if I have  
25           mispronounced that.

1           Ms. Hardy, thank you for coming tonight,  
2           and you are recognized.

3           MS. HARDY: Thank you, Senator Gaetz.

4           Good evening, my name is Ann Hardy. I am  
5           on the Board of the League of Women Voters of  
6           Sarasota County, and thank you all for giving  
7           me this opportunity to speak.

8           I would like to address two issues this  
9           evening. First is the timeline for the  
10          redistricting process. Say the Legislature  
11          does not vote on the districts until March.  
12          After the mandatory review period by the courts  
13          and the Department of Justice and after  
14          resolution of probable lawsuits, we will very  
15          likely be hitting the filing deadlines for  
16          candidates. In addition to putting a huge  
17          strain on our Supervisors of Elections and  
18          designating new placings and preparing overseas  
19          and absentee ballots, this late date will give  
20          candidates inadequate time to mount credible  
21          campaigns, and most importantly, will give  
22          voters little time to get to know their  
23          candidates. Amendments 5 and 6 were in part  
24          adopted to give candidates a fair shot at  
25          presenting their case and getting elected.

1       Having a March date for passage of new  
2       districts flies in the face of this intent.  
3       Please set a deadline for proposed maps in  
4       early October. Allow a reasonable amount of  
5       time for the public to provide input on the  
6       maps and on subsequent amendments, and complete  
7       your committee review of the plans in December  
8       so that the final maps can be voted on the  
9       first week of session in January.

10           This brings me to my second and I think  
11       most important point. The citizens of this  
12       state approved Amendments 5 and 6 by  
13       63 percent. I ask that you take special care  
14       to respect the will of the voters. I have been  
15       watching these hearings across the state, and  
16       it is easy to see the frustration of citizens  
17       who feel the system has been manipulated. The  
18       Constitution now requires the districts be  
19       compact, contiguous, and use existing  
20       geographical and political boundaries. It also  
21       requires that districts not be drawn to favor  
22       incumbents or political parties. We can do  
23       this. We can make fair districts. As the  
24       Governor would say, let's get to work.

25           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,

1       Ms. Hardy. And, Ms. Hardy, I hope you can stay  
2       until the conclusion of the meeting as well,  
3       because I think you will get the same  
4       reassurance that we provided the League on  
5       numerous occasions about the timeline.

6               Next we will hear from Debbie Trice, and  
7       then Doug Heinlen, then Jutta Tolbert and then  
8       Keith Dibell.

9               And, Ms. Trice, thank you for coming  
10      tonight. You are recognized.

11              MS. TRICE: Thank you. Good evening.

12              Most Floridians know what county they live  
13      in. Most Floridians know what municipality  
14      they live in. Many can even identify where  
15      they live in relation to major roads or  
16      waterways. But few can tell you which  
17      legislative district they are in. Why does  
18      that matter? Well, of course, it matters  
19      during election season when candidates are  
20      soliciting campaign contributions and votes,  
21      but why does it matter the rest of the time?

22              Knowing what legislative district you are  
23      in is crucial to seeking services and  
24      assistance from your Representative. Getting  
25      the run-around after contacting the wrong

1 office is one reason for public anger with  
2 public servants. I am sure none of you wants  
3 to be voted out of office because what the  
4 office holder in the neighboring district  
5 failed to do.

6 Now, how relevant is that to this -- the  
7 topic of this public hearing? I want to convey  
8 to you how critical it is for district  
9 boundaries to be placed where they will be  
10 meaningful to the people who live in those  
11 districts. Use existing political and  
12 geographical boundaries as required by the  
13 Florida Constitution. Remember, these  
14 standards were supported by a two-thirds  
15 majority of Florida voters.

16 Now, on a slightly different note, it is a  
17 disservice to the people of Florida that these  
18 hearings are being held before your Commission  
19 has produced maps for the public to comment on.  
20 Only the people who live close to the proposed  
21 district boundaries can identify problems and  
22 offer solutions.

23 Now, in the absence of a proposed map, I  
24 will identify a problem with a piece of the  
25 current map of House District 70, which

1 Representative Holder serves.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: And, Ms. Trice, I am glad  
3 you have gotten to that point, but I would ask  
4 you to wrap it up just in deference to the  
5 people who are signed up behind you.

6 MS. TRICE: Okay. Very quickly, the  
7 northern boundary of the District is Clark  
8 Road, State Road 72, which is a major  
9 thoroughfare and exit off of I-75. That is an  
10 excellent boundary. The problem, however, lies  
11 in the exceptions. If you live north of Clark  
12 Road between the railroad tracks and I-75, you  
13 might be in District 70, but then again, you  
14 might not be. So I urge you not to include any  
15 meandering boundaries like this in drawing the  
16 new district lines.

17 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. That is  
18 exactly the kind of information we need.

19 And next we will hear from -- is it -- did  
20 I do it correctly, did I pronounce it  
21 correctly, Doug --

22 MR. HEINLEN: Heinlen.

23 SENATOR GAETZ: -- Heinlen?

24 MR. HEINLEN: Heinlen, that is right.

25 SENATOR GAETZ: Mr. Heinlen, thanks for

1 coming and give us some time tonight.

2 MR. HEINLEN: Good evening, Mr. Chairman  
3 and committee members. My name is Doug  
4 Heinlen, got that straight. I am a resident of  
5 Sarasota, and tonight I speak as Florida AARP  
6 State President, which is a volunteer position.

7 AARP Florida has 2.7 million members, and  
8 we serve the older adult community of Florida  
9 in many ways. Our Florida Tax-Aide volunteers  
10 prepared at no cost 230,000 tax returns last  
11 season. There were 48,000 graduates of our  
12 driver safety program, and 5,000 job seekers  
13 were served at 17 SCSEP sites in Florida with a  
14 placement rate of 74 percent, the highest in  
15 the country.

16 One of the areas that AARP Florida is most  
17 engaged in is advocacy. Our staff in  
18 Tallahassee is assisted by 200 active advocacy  
19 volunteers, and active they are, as  
20 demonstrated by the fact that Florida led the  
21 country in petitions to Congress about the  
22 recent suggestions to cut Social Security and  
23 Medicare, with 80,000 signatures collected from  
24 Florida AARP members in a very short time.

25 It is to advocate the AARP position that I

1 speak to you tonight, specifically a position  
2 on redistricting. Transparency, timeliness and  
3 trust, these principal elements of the  
4 redistricting process need to be adhered to.  
5 The voters of Florida have spoken, supporting  
6 the Fair District plan by almost two to one,  
7 about fair districts. But we are concerned the  
8 project is going to proceed without full  
9 disclosure and public presentation. The public  
10 needs the opportunity to comment and to have  
11 those comments be meaningfully considered. We  
12 ask you to post the proposed map designs in a  
13 timely manner so they can be reviewed by all.  
14 We ask for the posting of the proposed map  
15 designs to allow enough time for public review.

16 And, finally, I would like to take note of  
17 the tremendous effort by the Florida League of  
18 Women Voters on Fair Districts issues. They  
19 led this fight really. I remember my  
20 daughter's middle school civics club --

21 SENATOR GAETZ: And, sir, we are over two  
22 minutes, so if you could wrap it up, I would be  
23 very grateful.

24 MR. HEINLEN: A few more sentences.

25 -- working with the local League



1       collecting signatures for the first ballot  
2       initiative on Fair Districts at one of the  
3       Sarasota reading festivals. My daughter is now  
4       a senior in college, which goes to show you  
5       what a long-time, sustained effort the League  
6       put in. So thanks to the League and thanks to  
7       all of you for taking on this very difficult  
8       task.

9               SENATOR GAETZ: And thank you, sir, for  
10       your testimony, excellent testimony.

11              And now, Jutta Tolbert, and did I get that  
12       right, ma'am?

13              MS. TOLBERT: It's Jutta.

14              SENATOR GAETZ: Jutta Tolbert, I am so  
15       sorry. Thank you for coming tonight. And next  
16       will be Keith Dibell, or Dibell, and then  
17       Joseph Blais, I think, and then Earl Beckwith,  
18       if you would please line up in the on deck  
19       circle.

20              Ms. Tolbert, the floor is yours.

21              MS. TOLBERT: Thank you. My question is,  
22       as far as the committee meetings, is there a  
23       schedule already set for those that once we are  
24       done here and you guys go into committee, what  
25       is the schedule there?

1           SENATOR GAETZ: That is a great question.  
2           The Speaker Designate can answer that. The  
3           answer is yes, but he will be able to point you  
4           to a website so you can see what the  
5           Committee's schedule is.

6           MS. TOLBERT: Okay. And my other question  
7           is, how many of those present here will be on  
8           those committees?

9           SENATOR GAETZ: Again, we will answer  
10          those questions, but we want to give everybody  
11          a chance to speak first.

12          MS. TOLBERT: Sure. Thank you.

13          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, ma'am,  
14          for your testimony.

15          And next, Keith -- is it Dibell or Dibell?

16          MR. DIBELL: It is Dibell.

17          SENATOR GAETZ: Dibell. I had it wrong  
18          both ways.

19          MR. DIBELL: That's all right, I was in  
20          the military.

21          SENATOR GAETZ: Well, I understand. My  
22          name gets butchered from time to time, too.  
23          You are recognized, sir, and thanks for coming  
24          tonight.

25          MR. DIBELL: My name is Keith Dibell. I

1       am from Manatee County. I want to thank each  
2       and every one of you on this panel for being  
3       here.

4               One of the reasons that I am standing here  
5       is my vote does not count in Manatee County.  
6       That is not right. I work for the City of  
7       Bradenton. The policies that are set by y'all  
8       go to Pinellas County in Hillsborough County,  
9       not to the City of Bradenton.

10              Now, over it all, it all filters down  
11       throughout the state and gets to me eventually.  
12       I would like to have a direct result to the  
13       City of Bradenton about governing my county.

14              There are a number of Representatives,  
15       there are a number of Senators. Y'all set  
16       policy, y'all make laws. We, the voting  
17       public, gave you a mandate to correct this.  
18       Please do so.

19              The idea of having a map prior to a  
20       committee meeting. Gee, I am not really sure  
21       what I am commenting on other than I would like  
22       to know what you have done. Doing it in a  
23       timely manner would be welcome, because I will  
24       see you in Tallahassee, each and every one of  
25       you. Have a good evening.

1           SENATOR GAETZ: And looking forward to  
2 seeing you.

3           MR. DIBELL: Oh, no, you won't.

4           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
5 Keith. We'll look forward to seeing you in  
6 Tallahassee. I am at Senate 420.

7           MR. DIBELL: I know where your office is.

8           SENATOR GAETZ: Come on down.

9           Joseph Blais. Is it Blais, sir?

10          MR. BLAIS: Blais.

11          SENATOR GAETZ: And after Mr. Blais is  
12 Earl Beckwith, and then Monia, I think it is  
13 Joblin, with the Planned Parenthood  
14 organization, and then Glenda Wright, if you  
15 would be on the on deck circle, please.

16          Joseph, thank you for coming, and we are  
17 looking forward to your observations, sir.

18          MR. BLAIS: Good evening, everyone. I  
19 want to commend this body for the website. I  
20 think this is very important. Keep it current,  
21 keep it updated. We -- you know, if we don't  
22 look at it, it is our fault. You have made the  
23 effort, you have met us halfway.

24          I think the other thing, having this  
25 televised is incredible. To have this

1       communication to the people is essential. I  
2       mean, there shouldn't be any excuses. If you  
3       want to know what it is about, there's ways to  
4       find out.

5               My situation is I lived -- I have been in  
6       Florida for 20 years. I lived in Tampa Bay. I  
7       am used to a larger population. I moved to  
8       Charlotte County about close to six years ago.  
9       Unfortunately, Charlotte County has under  
10      250,000 population, approximately 160,000 in a  
11      vast, undeveloped -- we have a lot of land, and  
12      it's -- I think when I look at the maps  
13      currently, it is like you've -- whoever did  
14      this before -- because I have never been  
15      involved in anything like this before. This is  
16      my first time up at bat.

17             SENATOR GAETZ: You are doing well.

18             MR. BLAIS: Exactly. And I, for instance,  
19      there's the congressional districts. We've got  
20      three congressional districts in our county.  
21      And, you know, it is hard for us to go and  
22      meet, like we have to go to either West Palm or  
23      Naples or wherever Connie Mack -- because that  
24      is my Congressman, and then there is Buchanan,  
25      I believe. So we just feel that we are being

1 underserved, and we have regional concerns,  
2 because we are looking for Florida to grow  
3 again, because I think Charlotte County had a  
4 great plan, and the recession hit, the housing,  
5 so on and so forth, so our growth has been  
6 stunted, but we are making plans to grow again.  
7 So, you know --

8 SENATOR GAETZ: And if I could ask you to  
9 bring it in for a landing.

10 MR. BLAIS: Yes, I will.

11 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you.

12 MR. BLAIS: Whatever you can do, I know we  
13 are limited by our population, but please try  
14 to find common ground, because I really don't  
15 want this to go to the courts, because I am a  
16 taxpayer, and we pay the legal and we pay the  
17 price. So let's find a way to be bipartisan,  
18 like you are trying to do tonight, and let's  
19 find a solution that gets us more on a  
20 regional, cooperative basis. That is what I am  
21 looking for.

22 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you.

23 MR. BLAIS: Thank you.

24 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much for your  
25 testimony. And next we will hear from Earl

1 Beckwith, and following Mr. Beckwith, Monia  
2 Joblin from Planned Parenthood and then Glenda  
3 Wright and then Bill McGrath.

4 Mr. Beckwith, thank you for coming  
5 tonight. The floor is yours.

6 MR. BECKWITH: Thank you. I just want to  
7 know how much this lawsuit is going to cost the  
8 taxpaying public for something that is  
9 basically trying to thwart the will of the  
10 taxpaying public initiated by the House.

11 SENATOR GAETZ: We will certainly provide  
12 you any information we can at the conclusion of  
13 the hearing. Thank you, Mr. Beckwith.

14 And I apologize, is it Monia, Monia?

15 MS. JOBLIN: It's Monia.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Monia. Is it Joblin?

17 MS. JOBLIN: It is Joblin.

18 SENATOR GAETZ: Joblin, from Planned  
19 Parenthood. Thank you for coming and sharing  
20 your perspective tonight.

21 MS. JOBLIN: You're welcome. I am  
22 speaking on behalf of Planned Parenthood of  
23 Southwest and Central Florida, and it appears  
24 to us that the Legislature's timeline for  
25 drawing districts is extremely unfair to

1 Florida's voters. Florida's maps will be  
2 approved later than almost every other state in  
3 the nation, and our districts may not be  
4 finalized until August, just two months before  
5 the all-important 2012 elections. One can only  
6 think that the current timeline is designed as  
7 an incumbent protection plan.

8 And I agree with the previous speaker, why  
9 is the Legislature spending our precious tax  
10 dollars, over a million dollars so far, to  
11 oppose Fair Districts passed during last year's  
12 elections by 63 percent of the electorate? All  
13 of this money is being spent unnecessarily,  
14 while teachers are being fired, social services  
15 are being cut, fewer women are having access to  
16 health care. What the Legislature should be  
17 working to uphold, the constitutional  
18 provisions placed there by almost two-thirds of  
19 the electorate last November, not spending  
20 taxpayers' money to avoid the voters' will.  
21 You are spending our money -- it would seem you  
22 are spending our money to protect your own  
23 seats.

24 Now, there is something very suspicious  
25 and anti-democratic about the procedure that is



1       being followed, all of the do-it-yourself maps  
2       notwithstanding. Look, it leads us to believe  
3       that the real mapping is going on in back  
4       rooms. We call on the Legislature to heed to  
5       the voters. This issue is a test of our  
6       democracy and the will of the people of  
7       Florida. Thank you.

8               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much.

9               Next we will hear from Glenda Wright, and,  
10       folks, this is a public meeting, so you are  
11       welcome to applaud, you are welcome to emote,  
12       you do anything you want. Just bear in mind  
13       that the time we take is time that then folks  
14       won't be able to use to speak. No, no, no, no.  
15       I said you are welcome -- you are welcome to do  
16       it, but just understand that the laws of  
17       physics do pertain and you can't do two things  
18       at the same time.

19              Glenda Wright.

20              MS. WRIGHT: Hi, good evening. My name is  
21       Glenda Wright.

22              SENATOR GAETZ: Now, let's give Ms. Wright  
23       our attention, okay?

24              MS. WRIGHT: Thank you. My name is Glenda  
25       Wright, and I am speaking tonight as a private

1 citizen. I live in Manatee County and I work  
2 in Sarasota County. I believe I bring a unique  
3 perspective to the redistricting issue. I have  
4 worked for two members of Congress who have  
5 represented Sarasota and Manatee Counties.

6 During the redistricting process in 1990,  
7 and again in 2000, I was very involved in the  
8 debate regarding the lines of congressional  
9 districts, and became very familiar with both  
10 the process and the need for areas of similar  
11 interest to remain in one congressional  
12 district.

13 With that in mind, I would like to read  
14 into the record just a couple of excerpts from  
15 an article written by my -- one of my former  
16 bosses, Congressman Dan Miller, who could not  
17 be here this evening. This column appeared in  
18 *The Sarasota Herald-Tribune* on June 3rd of this  
19 year. Congressman Miller and I share the same  
20 view, that Sarasota and Manatee County should  
21 be combined into one congressional district.

22 Here are a few comments: "Manatee and  
23 Sarasota Counties have formed the heart and  
24 soul of our congressional district for 20  
25 years. There is compelling evidence that they

1           should continue to do so for another decade.

2           The state constitutional amendments passed by  
3           Florida voters last November were designed to  
4           produce honest, non-gerrymandered districts  
5           that serve the public's interest, and not the  
6           interest of incumbents or a political party.

7                     "It is less than 11 miles from downtown  
8           Bradenton to downtown Sarasota. The fabric of  
9           both communities is deeply interwoven.  
10          Separating them will tear apart years of  
11          economic and geographic collaboration. The  
12          relationship between Manatee and Sarasota  
13          Counties is far greater with the communities to  
14          the south and the north -- is far greater than  
15          with the communities to the south and north of  
16          our area. Keeping Bradenton and Sarasota  
17          together maximizes the influence of these two  
18          key cities in the halls of Congress. Keeping  
19          Manatee and Sarasota Counties together is the  
20          right thing to do for the people who live in  
21          the district and for the integrity of the  
22          process. Logic dictates the two counties  
23          should remain in the current district."

24                     Thank you.

25                     SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. And if you

1           have more -- Ms. Wright, if you had more that  
2           you were not able to get in --

3           MS. WRIGHT: I turned it in.

4           SENATOR GAETZ: Okay.

5           MS. WRIGHT: I turned it in.

6           SENATOR GAETZ: We would love to have it  
7           in the record.

8           MS. WRIGHT: Thank you.

9           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you for your  
10          testimony.

11          Next, Bill McGrath. And, Mr. McGrath, you  
12          will be followed by --

13          MR. GRANT: That is just Grant, G-r-a-n-t.  
14          That is a middle initial.

15          SENATOR GAETZ: Oh, okay.

16          MR. GRANT: First I want to thank you all  
17          for coming from all over the state here rather  
18          than make us drive up to Tallahassee.

19          I started the political business some 50  
20          years ago, and I can't say that we did, my  
21          generation, a great job. We have given you one  
22          enormous challenge. With our best big hearts,  
23          we instituted all these entitlement programs.  
24          The results, of course, have been catastrophic,  
25          as we see by the number of people --

1           SENATOR GAETZ: Sir, if we could -- no,  
2           no, no, no, no. If we could bring it back to  
3           redistricting, okay?

4           MR. GRANT: Okay. It is -- well, it is  
5           coming to redistricting.

6           SENATOR GAETZ: Well, let's get there  
7           soon. You now have a minute and 30 seconds  
8           left.

9           MR. GRANT: That is enough time.

10          The next couple of years are going to be  
11          very traumatic periods, a lot of challenges,  
12          and it is important that as we undergo these  
13          challenges, that all of our residents believe  
14          that they are represented. And to that extent,  
15          even though I am a little against the idea of  
16          trying to manipulate districts, I think it is  
17          important that minorities continue to be well  
18          represented in our state. So I would recommend  
19          that District 55, which under the files would  
20          say, hey, let's change that, not be changed.

21          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

22          Next, Patricia Benson -- I'm sorry?

23          MR. McGRATH: It is a little uncanny,  
24          there must have been two Bill McGraths in the  
25          hall, both of whom were recognized.

1           SENATOR GAETZ: Well, Bill McGrath, the  
2 second, you are recognized.

3           MR. McGRATH: Exactly, not a junior.

4           And my questions basically have already  
5 been asked, but I think one point probably  
6 needs to be reiterated. I think if these  
7 hearings are to be considered seriously by the  
8 public, why then at the same time has *The St.*  
9 *Petersburg Times* and *The Miami Herald* within  
10 the last week stated that the Legislature has  
11 spent over \$2.5 million in last year and this  
12 year alone challenging the Constitutional  
13 Amendments 5 and 6? If the Committee doesn't  
14 accept the *Times* and the *Herald* figure of \$2.5  
15 million, I think you could at least accept the  
16 figure that was given out by the House  
17 spokeswoman, Katie Betta, I believe is her  
18 name, who has already stated that this year  
19 alone, one-third million dollars has gone to --  
20 for the House challenge of Amendment No. 6.

21           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

22           And now -- just a moment -- Patricia  
23 Benson with the Democratic Women's Club of  
24 Manatee, and following Ms. Benson we will have  
25 Virginia Hitchcock, then Mildred Headdy with

1 the League of Women Voters and then Larry  
2 Grossman with Manatee County Democrats.

3 Ms. Benson, thanks from coming, and we are  
4 delighted to hear from you.

5 MS. BENSON: Thank you. Basically I just  
6 want to reiterate what everyone else has said  
7 in the past. I was a teacher for 33 years, and  
8 when we went before the community with changes  
9 within the school district, we came with the  
10 maps, the parents saw it, they then raised  
11 questions and we made changes, but we came with  
12 the maps. And as far as I am concerned, this  
13 is a waste of time and waste of money. Thank  
14 you.

15 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you.

16 Next, Virginia Hitchcock. Ms. Hitchcock,  
17 thank you for being with us tonight, and you  
18 are recognized.

19 MS. HITCHCOCK: Good evening. Please  
20 excuse my reading my statement.

21 SENATOR GAETZ: Not at all. Go ahead.

22 MS. HITCHCOCK: My family and I moved to  
23 Sarasota from Washington, DC, 12 years ago.

24 Thank you for taking the time and making  
25 the effort to get public opinion on this very

1       important issue. The long haul of 26 hearings  
2       is almost over for you.

3               Unlike many, I agree with your decision to  
4       get public input first, as this is an important  
5       first step in creating ownership of any process  
6       of change. If you had come with proposed maps,  
7       you would have had nothing but unhappy people  
8       asking why you didn't get their opinion first.

9               I have been so impressed by the My  
10       District Builder system. It was developed for  
11       state officials and offered to the public for  
12       input.

13              When you take all this input and opinions  
14       and begin to create your proposed districts, I  
15       hope you will follow certain principles. The  
16       most basic is to follow the wording of the  
17       amendments passed by 63 percent of our citizens  
18       to create compact, contiguous districts of  
19       approximately equal populations that follow  
20       county and city boundaries, as well as Voting  
21       Tabulation Districts and natural boundaries.

22              When I created my own U.S. congressional  
23       map, I thought it would be easy. Just combine  
24       counties of low populations or divide counties  
25       of large populations to arrive at the target



1 numbers. I was wrong. First of all, it is not  
2 that easy to create compact districts at the  
3 county level when some of our counties are  
4 definitely not compact. How did they come up  
5 with Lake County anyway?

6 My basic building unit was the Voting  
7 Tabulation District. Even though the  
8 redistricting software allows changes on the  
9 block level, I would hope that you would  
10 likewise leave the VTDs untouched. The 2002  
11 congressional district map did not respect the  
12 VTDs. I think local Supervisors of Elections  
13 must have the autonomy to create the districts  
14 that serve their populations best.

15 For areas south of the heavily developed  
16 I-4 corridor, I differentiated coastal urban  
17 areas from rural central ones. In these areas,  
18 the transitions between open land and dense  
19 housing developments are very distinct, and I  
20 think the inhabitants of each markedly has  
21 different issues and concerns. I suspect that  
22 the concerns of residents of rural areas have  
23 been overshadowed by those of the more densely  
24 populated coastal regions.

25 SENATOR GAETZ: And, Ms. Hitchcock, we

1       really appreciate your submission of a map, but  
2       if you could wrap it up in a sentence or two,  
3       that would be respectful to those behind you.

4               MS. HITCHCOCK:   Okay.   Okay.   I have not  
5       considered racial or ethnic makeups in the  
6       proposed districts.   I think it's time for  
7       Florida to have a system that is color blind  
8       and see how it works.

9               Several friends have asked --

10              SENATOR GAETZ:   Thank you.   Thank you very  
11       much.   And we really appreciate you becoming  
12       the 50th submitter of maps, and we will take  
13       your maps deeply into consideration and thank  
14       you very much.   We will put them on the  
15       Internet so that everyone can see them, and if  
16       you have extended remarks, please supply them  
17       for the record.

18              MS. HITCHCOCK:   I will.

19              SENATOR GAETZ:   Thank you very much.

20              MS. HITCHCOCK:   Thank you.

21              SENATOR GAETZ:   And now we will hear from  
22       Mildred Headdy with the League of Women Voters,  
23       and following Ms. Headdy, we will have Larry  
24       Grossman from the Manatee County Democrats,  
25       then Bonnie Hepburn.

1           So, Ms. Headdy, thank you for coming, and  
2           you are recognized.

3           MS. HEADDY:   Okay.   I am Millie Headdy,  
4           and I was going to address timing this evening.  
5           It has already been addressed, so for brevity,  
6           I give the rest of my time.   Thank you.

7           SENATOR GAETZ:   Thank you very much, and  
8           please stay if you can so that you will have an  
9           opportunity to hear some of the answers to the  
10          timeline questions at the end of the hearing.

11          MS. HEADDY:   Thank you.

12          SENATOR GAETZ:   Yes, ma'am.

13          MR. GROSSMAN:   My name is Larry Grossman,  
14          I live on Longboat Key, and by profession, I am  
15          a city planner, so I walk around with maps all  
16          the time.   I know it is damned if you do and  
17          damned if you don't.   If you had the maps  
18          already prepared, people would say, "That is a  
19          solution to what problem?   We haven't had any  
20          input."   And so now you are getting the  
21          opposite, "Where's the maps, where's the  
22          solution?"   And I think it is preferable for  
23          you to get the input from people to say -- cite  
24          problems they see, because that will help in  
25          your decision-making.

1           Okay, so here goes. I was very surprised  
2       -- I have only been here for a couple of years,  
3       so I am very surprised that Nancy Detert  
4       represents me, because I live on Longboat Key.  
5       I visited my friend in Punta Gorda recently,  
6       and now I can't believe that we are in the same  
7       Florida Senate District 23.

8           A VOICE: 76,000 thousand people.

9           MR. GROSSMAN: Right. And then, lastly  
10       perhaps, I think that -- so one of the things I  
11       do want to look at, you know, District 21, 23,  
12       and rearrange the geographics there.

13           The other point is that I think the  
14       barrier islands should all be in one district,  
15       and I think they are not. And I think they  
16       have more to do with each other than -- because  
17       they have issues of beach re-nourishment and  
18       tourism and all kinds of other stuff, so they  
19       should be together. And, lastly, you know, the  
20       House District 55 looks really strange, because  
21       it just hits a lot of different jurisdictions,  
22       it should be more compact. Thank you.

23           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much. That  
24       is exactly the kind of input we need.

25           And now we will hear from Bonnie Hepburn,

1           and following Ms. Hepburn, Robert -- I think it  
2           is Waechter, Waechter, with the Sarasota  
3           Manatee Airport Authority, and then Sarah  
4           Hernandez, and then if David Matthews would be  
5           ready.

6           Ms. Hepburn, thank you for coming tonight,  
7           and we are anxious to hear your testimony.

8           MS. HEPBURN: Thank you. I am a Sarasota  
9           resident, and I heartily endorse the comments  
10          made by the Supervisor of Elections and the  
11          representatives of Planned Parenthood, League  
12          of Women Voters and many of the previous  
13          speakers.

14          I am particularly interested in a comment  
15          made in the Tampa -- quoted in *The Tampa*  
16          *Tribune* today by Speaker Designate Weatherford  
17          from the meeting last night at Jefferson High  
18          School in which Speaker Designate Weatherford  
19          agreed, committed even, to get final maps out  
20          in time for candidates to qualify to run. And  
21          I am very, very adamant that that should work  
22          for non-incumbents as well as incumbent  
23          candidates, and that steps taken -- would be  
24          taken that are necessary so there would indeed  
25          be time to put together viable campaigns for

1 non-incumbents.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
3 ma'am, and the Speaker Designate will have a  
4 chance to restate his position at the  
5 conclusion of the meeting tonight if we have  
6 time.

7 Let me -- let me recognize -- and I  
8 apologize, would you pronounce the last name,  
9 sir?

10 MR. WAECHTER: It is Waechter.

11 SENATOR GAETZ: Waechter. Well, Senator  
12 Detert is whispering in my ear, and I should  
13 have listened to her.

14 MR. WAECHTER: You should always listen to  
15 Senator Detert.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: I know. She chairs two  
17 committees I am on, she controls my  
18 legislation.

19 Mr. Waechter, thank you for being here,  
20 and you are recognized, sir.

21 MR. WAECHTER: Thank you, Chair, and thank  
22 you, all of you, for giving me the opportunity  
23 to do this. I am going to read this in the  
24 interest of brevity.

25 My name is Bob Waechter, I serve as

1 Chairman of the Sarasota Manatee Airport  
2 Authority and I am speaking to you in that  
3 capacity this evening. I am addressing only  
4 the congressional districts in this appeal from  
5 the airport authority.

6 The airport authority is a special  
7 district straddling the county line dividing  
8 Sarasota and Manatee Counties. We have a good  
9 relationship with our host communities and  
10 enjoy strong support in both of them. This  
11 fact is evidenced by the recent pledge of both  
12 counties to contribute 200,000 in support of  
13 our attempt to secure a small community air  
14 service grant from the Federal Aviation  
15 Authority to solicit new air service for the  
16 airport, thereby benefiting the business and  
17 residential communities of both our counties.

18 When dealing with federal agencies that  
19 oversee airport authorities, it is imperative  
20 that we have a strong voice in Congress  
21 representing our interest. We have that strong  
22 voice now in the person of Congressman Vern  
23 Buchanan. We are concerned that any proposed  
24 redistricting that would divide our two  
25 counties between congressional districts would

1       adversely impact our representation at the  
2       federal level. Bifurcation of the district  
3       along the county line would actually divide the  
4       airport into two separate congressional  
5       districts, as the county line goes through the  
6       center of the airport property. This could  
7       lead to having two congressional  
8       representatives taking opposite positions on an  
9       aviation matter, especially if one district has  
10      another competing airport in the district, a  
11      likelihood.

12           We strongly recommend that any  
13      redistricting map retain both Sarasota and  
14      Manatee Counties in one congressional district.  
15      At the August board meeting of the airport  
16      authority, we voted to authorize me to express  
17      to you our belief that our region will be  
18      better served if Manatee and Sarasota Counties  
19      continue to be within a single district with a  
20      unified voice as they are now. I thank you for  
21      this opportunity.

22           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

23           Next, Sarah Hernandez. Ms. Hernandez, are  
24      you here? Thank you so much for being here,  
25      and the floor is yours. And following



1 Ms. Hernandez, David Matthews, if you will be  
2 ready, and then Manuel, and I think it is  
3 Chepote, UnidosNow, and then Peggy Simone.

4 Ms. Hernandez, thanks for being here.

5 MS. HERNANDEZ: Thank you for the  
6 opportunity to speak to you here today.

7 I want to speak to three issues. The  
8 first one, which has been mentioned before, has  
9 to do with the current lawsuit. My comment in  
10 relation to that, it seems to me that that  
11 lawsuit should be left to be done by a private  
12 citizen who might not have agreed with the  
13 citizens' vote. It is the responsibility for  
14 legislators to support and defend that law as  
15 the voters voted for it.

16 The second point you have heard enough  
17 about has to do with the timing for these so  
18 that we have enough time for candidates to come  
19 forward and run their campaigns.

20 The third item had to do with District 55.  
21 I live here in Sarasota, and I notice that the  
22 way in which my own neighborhood is affected,  
23 it is affected by my neighbors east of where I  
24 am on the west side of 41. It seems to me that  
25 having that representation for aspects that

1       affect the development in District 55, which is  
2       my next-door neighbor, that also impact me. So  
3       having us be together makes a lot more sense,  
4       because we will be supporting each other.  
5       Thank you.

6               SENATOR GAETZ: Thanks, that is very  
7       helpful testimony, very useful.

8               David Matthews is next, and following  
9       Mr. Matthews, Manuel, and I believe it is  
10      Chepote, and then Peggy Simone, former  
11      Representative Simone, and then Rita Ferrandino  
12      with Arc Capital Development.

13              Mr. Matthews, we are looking forward to  
14      your testimony, and you are recognized.

15              MR. D. MATTHEWS: Good evening. Welcome  
16      to the Manatee/Sarasota area. My name is David  
17      Matthews. I was born in Sarasota and grew up  
18      here. I currently live in Manatee County in  
19      the City of Bradenton. Thank you for coming  
20      today and listening to our concerns and our  
21      comments.

22              One of the things that you have heard a  
23      lot lately is the need to follow Amendment 5  
24      and 6 by drawing compact, contiguous districts  
25      that don't do things like split up cities and

1        counties. That doesn't sound bad, but I was  
2        curious and did some research on what some city  
3        boundaries actually look like. As you can see  
4        here -- as you can see here, the -- this is a  
5        map of Bradenton where I live. If you will  
6        notice, Bradenton is not compact, and it is  
7        actually not even entirely contiguous. If  
8        you -- if you look at -- there is a ward over  
9        here and then there's separation with county  
10       and then a ward here, so you don't have compact  
11       and you don't have contiguous, which begs the  
12       question, how can you do things like make  
13       compact districts that follow city lines when  
14       you have to follow boundaries like Bradenton's  
15       that don't qualify as compact or contiguous? I  
16       am sure there are some cities where there is a  
17       -- where that is the case, but there are many  
18       cities like Bradenton in our state that have  
19       the same jagged boundaries that people dislike  
20       about legislative districts. If you follow  
21       city boundaries, I fear the districts will not  
22       meet the compactness requirements of Amendment  
23       5 and 6, and that residents may actually be  
24       just as upset at what the districts look like  
25       as they are now.

1           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
2           We -- you have used your time, and if you could  
3           leave any additional comments you have, we  
4           would be happy to have the Committee consider  
5           them. Thank you very much.

6           MR. D. MATTHEWS: Okay.

7           SENATOR GAETZ: And our next -- thank you.  
8           Our next speaker is Manuel -- and I apologize,  
9           is it Chepote?

10          MR. CHEPOTE: You did it right, thank you.

11          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, sir, for being  
12          here. And you represent UnidosNow?

13          MR. CHEPOTE: UnidosNow.org.

14          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. Please go  
15          forward. You are recognized.

16          MR. CHEPOTE: Thank you very much.

17          I would ask you to respect the voters'  
18          wish with 63 percent of them voting on  
19          Amendment 5 and 6. Please do not waste our  
20          hard-earned tax dollars.

21          Number two, do it timely so we can have  
22          those maps ahead of time, and not to waste time  
23          and give the chance to everyone.

24          And the third item, please consider the  
25          tremendous growth of the Hispanic population in

1 the counties of Sarasota and Manatee.

2 Thank you.

3 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

4 And now the Honorable Peggy Simone, former  
5 State Representative. Representative, thank  
6 you for being with us, and thanks for your  
7 service to the State of Florida. You are  
8 recognized.

9 MS. SIMONE: Thank you, Senator. I want  
10 to compliment all of you for serving on this  
11 committee. It is very difficult. It is almost  
12 impossible to do a fair job with the two  
13 amendments that passed on the ballot. But  
14 those I did not support, and I will tell you  
15 why. I sat on this redistricting committee in  
16 '90 to '92, and we got a lot of minority  
17 districts, and you are going to lose minority  
18 districts if you do compact districts.

19 I will give you my comments here after --  
20 after I list them. I did not confer with  
21 anybody about the congressional district  
22 Manatee and Sarasota County, but I have -- that  
23 is my number two hope, that the congressional  
24 seat that we have in Manatee County be combined  
25 with Sarasota County as it is now.

1           Also, my number one priority is two  
2       Florida House seats in Manatee County, plus the  
3       remainder of the population needed based on the  
4       districts, what you have, 156,000, Manatee  
5       County has 322,000 people, so you need about  
6       10,000 more, and you could get those from  
7       eastern Sarasota County, which would take in  
8       the community of interest of Lakewood Ranch.  
9       Or if you don't do that, put Hardee County back  
10      with Manatee again, that's about 10,000 people.

11           The third priority -- my third priority is  
12      that a Florida Senate seat be based in Manatee  
13      County and that a Florida Senate seat be based  
14      in Sarasota County.

15           And I hope -- wish you the best of luck.  
16      I'm sorry that you are going to lose a lot of  
17      minority districts if you go to compact  
18      districts, because we made sure in 1992 that we  
19      got a lot of minority districts, and I am just  
20      going to be sorry to see them go. Thank you  
21      very much.

22           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Representative.

23           Next, Rita Ferrandino with Arc Capital  
24      Development, and then Bruce Brunette, please,  
25      then Michael, I believe it is Verbil, and then

1 Richard Jackson.

2 Thank you so much for being here tonight,  
3 and we are looking forward to anything you  
4 might have to share with us.

5 MS. FERRANDINO: Well, hello there. I am  
6 Rita Ferrandino. I am almost never brief, but  
7 I will make an exception this time --

8 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you.

9 MS. FERRANDINO: -- because many of my  
10 fellow Sarasotans have spoken up, and I just  
11 want to urge the committee to take the vote --  
12 the voters were really clear. They want fair  
13 districts. They want to be connected to their  
14 government. And I would like to just reiterate  
15 how important that is for us here in Sarasota  
16 to feel that the will of the voters are being  
17 heard. And as you move forward, we would like  
18 you to move quickly so that we are able to have  
19 everyone understand the districts so that we  
20 are able to have fair elections. So thank you  
21 very much.

22 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, and you get  
23 extra points for brevity.

24 Bruce Brunette, and then after Bruce,  
25 Michael, I think it is Verbil -- if I've

1 mispronounced it, please accept my apologies --  
2 then Richard Jackson and then Jack Wetherson  
3 with the Venice Duplicate Bridge Club. I am  
4 sure there is a relationship to redistricting.

5 Bruce, you are recognized, and thanks for  
6 being here.

7 MR. BRUNETTE: Thank you. I am a Venice  
8 resident, a business owner, a member of the  
9 Chamber. Thirty million dollars, Legislature  
10 has set aside \$30 million to fight the will of  
11 the people. You have already spent one to two  
12 million dollars in a year when we really don't  
13 -- can't afford it and we've got lots of cuts.  
14 Why are you doing that? I don't get it. This  
15 is supposed to be a government by the people  
16 and for the people, not by the politicians and  
17 for the politicians.

18 In 2008, you fought the Supreme Court  
19 approval of a law. In 2010, you tried to go to  
20 court again and get it knocked out. That  
21 didn't work. In 2007, since you couldn't do  
22 that, you came up with this fake Amendment 7 to  
23 try to get around it. That got thrown out.  
24 When are you ever going to learn? This is what  
25 the people want. Drop the lawsuit and stop



1 fighting the will of the people.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: And, Bruce -- Bruce, I  
3 hope you can stay for the end of the hearing.  
4 Sometimes things get put in the bloodstream and  
5 we begin to think that they are true because  
6 they get repeated a lot. The Speaker  
7 Designate, I think, will have some good  
8 information for you that might to some extent  
9 help reassure you.

10 Next is -- how do we pronounce your last  
11 name, sir?

12 MR. VERBIL: Verbil.

13 SENATOR GAETZ: Verbil.

14 MR. VERBIL: Michael Verbil, I am a  
15 resident of north Sarasota County.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much for  
17 being here. You are recognized.

18 MR. VERBIL: Thank you all for your  
19 service. Though we all may come from different  
20 political parties, I know that I don't have to  
21 remind anybody that you are all representing  
22 everyone in your constituency.

23 That said, Sarasota and Manatee Counties  
24 are unique in their concentrations of arts  
25 organizations, institutes of higher learning,

1       such as New College here. Under the mandate of  
2       the citizens to make the districts compact, I  
3       would ask that this special area not be divided  
4       in any separate districts. I understand that  
5       this there is a possibility that having two  
6       Representatives representing one area may make  
7       it easier to get something done in Congress and  
8       legislation, but I think that this is a special  
9       area that should stay together.

10           That said, I have been looking at District  
11       Builder. I started working on it. I have  
12       learned a little bit about it. Then I found  
13       last night that there was a 13-year-old who did  
14       it, and I said, "Well, who am I if a  
15       13-year-old can do it?" But you as our elected  
16       Representatives are being paid to do this work.  
17       You are the experts. I have to ask why you are  
18       not doing it. I think it was a mistake. I  
19       think this process of not having the maps first  
20       is flawed. Rather than discussing your maps  
21       and getting the work done before the legal vote  
22       is allowed, I think that we are all being asked  
23       to work in a vacuum. And we are not experts.  
24       We are really working in the dark here.

25           I understand the legislation can't be

1       voted on before 2012, but there is no time to  
2       prepare for the 2012 elections if we wait until  
3       March 2012 for a final vote.

4               Here is what I want to see happen: You as  
5       a body publish your ideas for maps now. We can  
6       debate them and refine the maps before and  
7       during the fall session, with two-way input  
8       from the media using interactive media, all in  
9       the sunshine. Then when voting is allowed, the  
10      lion's share of the work will be done, and then  
11      we can get the vote done at the earliest  
12      possible legal date rather than wait until the  
13      last possible date.

14             One question I would like to ask, I would  
15      like to hear answered tonight by the panel:  
16      After all of the hearings you have conducted,  
17      what concrete changes, improvements to your  
18      ideas, have you each made based on the public  
19      input you have heard?

20             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, and we will  
21      certainly give folks a chance to respond to  
22      that.

23             MR. VERBIL: Can I have one more minute?  
24      Can I have one more second?

25             SENATOR GAETZ: If you can wrap it up just

1 in --

2 MR. VERBIL: It will be very quick. It is  
3 only a comment.

4 SENATOR GAETZ: Sure.

5 MR. VERBIL: We have little enough time  
6 before you. I am only speaking to a minority  
7 of the people on the panel. If you didn't come  
8 here to hear us and would rather spend time on  
9 your cell phone or doing e-mail, please don't  
10 insult us by ignoring our presence. Thank you.

11 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, sir.

12 Next, Richard Jackson. Mr. Jackson?  
13 Richard Jackson? Richard Jackson, then Jack  
14 Wetherson from the bridge club, and then  
15 Rochelle Wetherson from Temple Beth-El and then  
16 Fred Falkner.

17 Mr. Jackson, thank you for being here,  
18 and, please, the floor is yours.

19 MR. JACKSON: Thank you. Most of my  
20 comments have already been made, but if you  
21 will take Manatee County and draw a line from  
22 north to south, you will wind up with two  
23 Representatives. Within a couple thousand  
24 people, you will be right there. If you did  
25 the same thing with Sarasota County, went out

1 to the eastern edge, lopped off 50,000 people,  
2 you could have two more House members. So you  
3 could have four House members, it would be  
4 easily done.

5 If you wanted to make a Senate district  
6 out of that, you could keep the two -- let me  
7 get my directions right now. You could get the  
8 two -- you could get the two western counties  
9 -- I'm sorry, the western Representatives in  
10 those districts and take one of the other two.  
11 You could also take Manatee and Sarasota County  
12 and make one U.S. House district. And that  
13 is -- the numbers add up. It is compact, it is  
14 contiguous, it is consistent economically,  
15 socially and culturally.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very, very much.

17 MR. JACKSON: You're welcome.

18 SENATOR GAETZ: Very helpful.

19 Jack Wetherson? Jack? Jack went home and  
20 had to play bridge.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: He is waving.

22 SENATOR GAETZ: He is waving. Are you,  
23 are you ceding your time, sir?

24 MR. WETHERSON: I am.

25 SENATOR GAETZ: Well, thank you very much.

1 I was really looking forward to your testimony.

2 Rochelle Wetherson. You are not going to  
3 talk either? Well, you could correct Jack if  
4 you spoke.

5 Fred Falkner is next, and then Casey  
6 Welch, and following Casey Welch, Tom Walker  
7 and then Tina Steele. And I'm sorry we didn't  
8 give you as much time to work your way down,  
9 but Fred Falkner, then Casey Welch, then Tom  
10 Walker and then Tina Steele.

11 Fred Falkner? Fred? Going once, twice,  
12 three times.

13 Casey Welch? Mr. Welch, thank you for  
14 coming, and we are delighted to have your  
15 testimony this evening.

16 MR. WELCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
17 Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you,  
18 Representatives and Senators. Welcome to  
19 Sylvan, Sarasota County. Appreciate you all  
20 being here tonight.

21 I am speaking as a private citizen here  
22 tonight. I am a seventh-generation Floridian,  
23 and my three-week-old son, born in Sarasota  
24 Memorial Hospital, is the eighth. So bear with  
25 me, I have been on diaper duty, so I will be

1       brief.

2           I just want to talk for a few minutes --  
3       excuse me, two minutes about the communities of  
4       interest in this area. As growing up in the  
5       rural parts of this -- of Sarasota and Manatee  
6       County, and now living in the urban section of  
7       Lakewood Ranch, there are distinct communities  
8       of interest in this area. The areas of Myakka  
9       Head, Old Myakka and Myakka City, while they  
10      are pronounced and spelled differently, they  
11      are communities of interest, they are rural,  
12      they have a lot more in common with south Polk  
13      County, eastern Hillsborough County, Hardee  
14      County and DeSoto Counties than with the urban  
15      areas. And talk about the urban cluster of  
16      Lakewood Ranch, it is divided by Manatee and  
17      Sarasota County, but it is a community of  
18      interest. That is where I live. We should be  
19      represented by one State Representative, one  
20      State Senator and one U.S. Congressman. And  
21      that is all I have to say.

22           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much. And  
23      good luck with the two o'clock feeding.

24           Next we will hear from Tom Walker, if  
25      Mr. Walker is here.

1           MR. WALKER: Yes.

2           SENATOR GAETZ: And, Ms. Steele, don't go  
3 away, because we want to hear from you, too.

4           Mr. Walker, you are recognized, and thanks  
5 for being here tonight.

6           MR. WALKER: My concerns have already been  
7 expressed by the previous speakers, so I won't  
8 say much, except to ask you to respect the  
9 intent of the legislation and do the right  
10 thing as you know it in your own hearts. Thank  
11 you very much.

12          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, sir.

13          And now, Ms. Steele, we are glad you are  
14 here, but behind you, if Charlie Clifton will  
15 be ready, and then Diane Desenberg and then  
16 Henry Jorgensen.

17          Ms. Steele, you are recognized.

18          MS. STEELE: Thank you very much. Good  
19 evening. Thank you for all being here. You  
20 are hearing the will of the people tonight by  
21 the cheers, by the jeers and by the applause.  
22 Amendments 5 and 6 were passed by us. We are  
23 the people, and you need to listen to us.

24          There is another reason I am here tonight,  
25 and that is because I am always a poll watcher



1 at the elections, and I also represent the  
2 disabled. You need to get those districts  
3 drawn, and drawn now. We have a hard enough  
4 time with people showing up at the polls who  
5 have not got the right district, they don't  
6 have the right polling station. There is going  
7 to be confusion in spades if you don't get your  
8 job done and get it done now. Thank you.

9 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, and thanks for  
10 your work as a poll worker.

11 Charlie Clifton? Charlie Clifton?

12 MR. CLIFTON: Right here.

13 SENATOR GAETZ: Mr. Clifton, thank you for  
14 coming. We are delighted you are here, and you  
15 are recognized.

16 MR. CLIFTON: Thank you for the  
17 opportunity. I will be brief since a lot of my  
18 ideas have already been stated, but one thing I  
19 would like to reiterate is the -- I think a lot  
20 of people here feel that the \$30 million that  
21 you are using to defend -- challenging the will  
22 of the electorate should be used for a better  
23 purpose, like maybe it could be given to  
24 education instead. Thank you.

25 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. And, Charlie,

1 I appreciate your time so far, but if you can  
2 give us a little bit more time and stay to the  
3 end of the hearing, I think you may get some  
4 facts about that that either would reassure you  
5 or at least give you a better sense of what the  
6 real numbers are.

7 Next we have Diane -- is it Desenberg?

8 MS. DESENBERG: Desenberg.

9 SENATOR GAETZ: And following Diane, Henry  
10 Jorgensen and then Betsy Roberts and then Ruth  
11 Brandwein with the National Association of  
12 Social Workers.

13 Diane, thank you for coming, and we are  
14 looking forward to your testimony.

15 MS. DESENBERG: Thank you. Normally I am  
16 a big fan of getting public feedback before  
17 making government decisions. In this case, I  
18 think that your request for lots of feedback  
19 before drawing maps is entirely disingenuous.  
20 You already have public feedback. We spent a  
21 lot of time getting a citizen amendment on  
22 there for Amendments 5 and 6. You know what  
23 the public thinks. We want compact,  
24 contiguous, respecting political boundaries and  
25 geographic boundaries. So draw up your maps.

1       We are looking forward to making comments on  
2       that.

3               That said, the only thing we really have  
4       that we can make comments on is the timing, and  
5       I think it is really important to get this done  
6       more quickly than more slowly. Getting it all  
7       voted on and finalized by the beginning of the  
8       session in January I think should be your  
9       paramount concern, and I think in order to do  
10      that, you guys have got to get your maps drawn  
11      now. There is no reason not to get anything  
12      out by the end of September, I would say, get  
13      it through your committees in a few weeks, and  
14      then you need to spend time getting feedback  
15      from the public.

16             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very, very much.

17             Henry Jorgensen. Henry, thank you from  
18      coming by tonight and giving us some time. You  
19      could have been somewhere else, but you came  
20      here, and thank you for that.

21             MR. JORGENSEN: Thank you. I am from  
22      Venice. We don't see any maps here. That  
23      means the dollar has been spent to divert this,  
24      and more millions planned on it. Doesn't give  
25      me a very confidence in this body. It is

1       really dirty politics, period. I am one vote,  
2       and I don't want to feel like a pawn in a  
3       shuffle board game of dirty politics. Fair  
4       districting, that is a no-brainer if you take  
5       the dirty politics out. You don't understand  
6       what fair is, go back to kindergarten.

7                SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. And next is  
8       Betsy Roberts, and following Ms. Roberts, Ruth  
9       Brandwein from the National Association of  
10      Social Workers, then Marilyn Harwell, and then  
11      if Rosalie Shaffer will be on deck, and she as  
12      well is with the League of Women Voters.

13               Ms. Roberts, thanks from coming, and we  
14      look forward to your testimony.

15               MS. ROBERTS: Okay. Thank you for being  
16      here.

17               This should be a non-partisan issue. I am  
18      not sure it is. And someone mentioned earlier  
19      that there are a lot of -- there would be a lot  
20      of unhappy people if we saw the maps ahead of  
21      time. Well, I am hearing a lot of unhappy  
22      people because we did not see the maps ahead of  
23      time, and we have no idea what you are thinking  
24      and what is ahead.

25               And we just have to stop gerrymandering.

1           This map on the front shows what the  
2           gerrymandering has done. So let's get good,  
3           compact districts and stop this silly lawsuit.  
4           Thank you.

5           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, ma'am.

6           Is -- Ruth, are you here?

7           MS. BRANDWEIN: Yes.

8           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much for  
9           being here and for representing NASW.

10          MS. BRANDWEIN: Thank you. My name is  
11          Ruth Brandwein. Thank you for the opportunity.  
12          I am the new Legislative Chair for Sarasota  
13          NASW. I will be seeing a lot of you,  
14          Mr. Holder, and some of the rest of you.

15                I moved here a year ago as a resident, and  
16          the first thing I did was I signed up,  
17          registered to vote, and have been involved, and  
18          I am pretty surprised at some of the politics  
19          going on here, but -- and I come from New York,  
20          which is -- you know.

21                But two-thirds, 63 percent of the voters  
22          voted for fair, contiguous and equitable  
23          districts. I would hope that that would be  
24          respected, and also that it would not -- as the  
25          amendment says, that without regard for

1       partisan politics or for incumbency. And I  
2       know you all are incumbents, and I know that  
3       your first job is to get reelected, but that is  
4       not what this is about. This is about fairness  
5       and representing the people.

6               I will be very brief. A lot of good  
7       comments have been made, and I support what the  
8       first League of Women Voters speaker suggested  
9       in terms of timing. You have had these  
10      hearings, we can't undo that, but I would hope  
11      that you would go back and have your staff do  
12      the work. It is not up to us to do it. You  
13      are getting paid and your staff are getting  
14      paid to do the work. Present something in  
15      October so that we can have another opportunity  
16      to give you feedback before a final vote, and  
17      it does need to be sooner than March. Thank  
18      you.

19             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Ruth.

20             Is Marilyn -- are you Marilyn Harwell?

21             MS. HARWELL: I was when I walked in, yes.

22             SENATOR GAETZ: Well, good. Well, I can  
23      guarantee you this --

24             MS. HARWELL: Yes.

25             SENATOR GAETZ: -- you will be Marilyn

1 Harwell when you walk out.

2 MS. HARWELL: Well, I sure hope so.

3 SENATOR GAETZ: And behind you -- behind  
4 you will be Rosalie Shaffer with the League of  
5 Women Voters, and then Frances Rice and then  
6 Lois Congdon with the Manatee Democratic Party.  
7 Ms. Harwell.

8 MS. HARWELL: Okay. If these hearings are  
9 for the purpose of learning how to redraw  
10 districts, it begs the question why you don't  
11 all just go in a corner, read Amendments 5 and  
12 6 and -- you know, those are the amendments  
13 that were approved by the Florida Supreme  
14 Court, the Justice Department, of course  
15 overwhelmingly by the voters of Florida. Those  
16 amendments give you the framework within which  
17 to satisfy the voters. Simply stated, they  
18 require you to draw lines based on factors  
19 unrelated to party and incumbency within  
20 contiguous territory. Who but people in  
21 Tallahassee would know how to do that best?  
22 Certainly not me or the other people sitting  
23 here.

24 What these hearings confirm is that  
25 Tallahassee does not want to comply with these

1       amendments. Tallahassee -- Tallahassee  
2       politicians do not want to give up the power to  
3       draw districts that benefit themselves. You  
4       proved this by spending our tax money to fight  
5       the new redistricting standards in court, and  
6       now while you have cut billions from the  
7       education and social services 2012 budgets, you  
8       have set aside tens of millions of dollars to  
9       mount still more legal assaults on these  
10      amendments.

11             The perception is you only want to draw  
12      districts that will preserve your own seats.  
13      It is a perception which counts more than  
14      reality. You know that if Amendment 5 and 6  
15      rules are followed, the districts that have  
16      guaranteed the reelection of just about every  
17      incumbent during the last ten years will no  
18      longer be safe.

19             SENATOR GAETZ: And, Ms. Harwell, you --

20             MS. HARWELL: I will finish.

21             SENATOR GAETZ: Excuse me, you are making  
22      some great points, but I would like to ask you  
23      to summarize, because we have a whole bunch of  
24      people.

25             MS. HARWELL: I have one sentence, and if



1           you hadn't interrupted, I'd be sitting down.

2           SENATOR GAETZ: Go for it. Go for it. Go  
3           on.

4           MS. HARWELL: These hearings have no  
5           purpose other than to derail the process. You  
6           should not be wasting our time and money this  
7           way. Just imagine if you had spent all these  
8           hours --

9           SENATOR GAETZ: Now, that is -- you're on  
10          to your third sentence.

11          MS. HARWELL: -- talking about job  
12          creation, look what you could have done.

13          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Harwell.

14          Next is Rosalie Shaffer with the League of  
15          Women Voters. Ms. Shaffer. Thank you very  
16          much for being here tonight, and your time is  
17          running.

18          MS. SHAFFER: Hi, I am Rosalie Shaffer,  
19          and I am representing the League of Women  
20          Voters of Manatee County.

21          First I want to tell you what we don't  
22          want. What we don't want is what we have in  
23          Manatee County, which are two U.S.  
24          Representatives, three State Senators and four  
25          State Representatives. They are in some very

1       strangely shaped districts, and many of the  
2       office holders only have slight slivers of  
3       Manatee County, so we don't really see them too  
4       often in our county. So we are looking forward  
5       to districts drawn according to the new Fair  
6       Districts rules.

7               Gerrymandering is what happens when the  
8       office holders choose their voters rather than  
9       the other way around. Hopefully that is an end  
10      to that.

11             And along with so many who have told you  
12      this tonight, we are asking you to drop your  
13      lawsuits against Fair Districts. This is not a  
14      good use of state taxpayers' money. And to  
15      make it even more ludicrous, in one of the  
16      suits, the Secretary of the State is a  
17      Defendant, and the Legislature is -- has joined  
18      the suit against. So the taxpayers are  
19      defending both sides of the suit, to sue and  
20      defend. The Legislature should stop trying to  
21      get out of following the new Fair Districts  
22      rules, and apply them as the voters intended.  
23      Thank you very much.

24             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, ma'am.

25             Frances Rice. Next we will hear from

1 Frances Rice, and then Lois Congdon with the  
2 Manatee Democratic Party and then Carole Malone  
3 and then Roy Sorenson with IATSE Local 412.

4 Ms. Rice, thank you for being here, and  
5 you are recognized.

6 MS. RICE: Good evening. Thank you so  
7 much for giving me a chance to speak. I am a  
8 retired Army lieutenant colonel and I am a  
9 lawyer, and I hope -- I hope no one here wants  
10 to adhere to Shakespeare's admonition to kill  
11 all the lawyers.

12 I have lived in Sarasota County for 11  
13 years. People have been expressing concern  
14 about the cost of lawsuits, and being a lawyer,  
15 I am also concerned about lawsuits, and they  
16 have a right to be concerned about how our tax  
17 dollars are being spent, but I think they may  
18 be missing the point. The best way to prevent  
19 lawsuits is to have an airtight contrast where  
20 everything is defined and nothing is ambiguous,  
21 because where confusion exists, lawsuits  
22 follow, meaning judges get to decide who is  
23 right and who is wrong, and what one thing  
24 means or doesn't mean. I am afraid that we are  
25 in for a lot of lawsuits, because Amendments 5

1       and 6 are filled with vagueness and lawsuit  
2       justifications waiting to be decided in court.  
3       Key words such as "compact" and "existing  
4       political boundaries" are undefined, and then  
5       other words, like "predictable" and "feasible"  
6       are used, which are too subjective. Five and 6  
7       also say an incumbent cannot be disfavored,  
8       but --

9               SENATOR GAETZ: And I'd ask you to bring  
10       it in for a landing.

11              MS. RICE: Yes, indeed, sir.

12              In a situation where two incumbents are  
13       forced to run against one another, could they  
14       sue for being disfavored? And I am going to  
15       wrap it right up now. Amendments 5 and 6 are  
16       subject to interpretation that I can't imagine  
17       a scenario that is not ripe with lawsuits. As  
18       a taxpayer, that concerns me. I would rather  
19       see my money being used for something more  
20       important than paying for a bunch of lawyers,  
21       myself included. So, legislators, please be  
22       careful in drafting these districts so we don't  
23       waste the money on tons of lawsuits.

24              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. Thank you.

25       And thank you for your service to our country.

1           Next, Lois Congdon with the Manatee County  
2           Democratic Party. Ms. Congdon, thank you.

3           MS. CONGDON: I thank you for listening to  
4           us --

5           SENATOR GAETZ: Of course.

6           MS. CONGDON: -- before you draw the maps  
7           so that we can give our ideas. I especially am  
8           interested in making sure that the districts  
9           are compact, and as much as possible, follow  
10          political lines. I am the precinct captain in  
11          precinct 46, which includes both the House  
12          District 55 and House District 68, and that can  
13          lead to a lot of confusion, even for a  
14          hard-working, marvelous Supervisor of  
15          Elections.

16          In 2008 -- you see, part of Bradenton  
17          Tropical Palms is in one district, and part is  
18          in the other. And in 2008, they sent us all  
19          the primary ballots for absentee ballots for  
20          District 55. So I had to call Mr. Sweat and  
21          say, "I am not in District 55," and that dear  
22          man came by on a Saturday afternoon and  
23          exchanged something like 27 ballots for the  
24          right ones.

25          Now, that shouldn't be. That District 55

1       is compact up in St. Petersburg and the  
2       northern part of Manatee County, and if you can  
3       find some other areas right next to it that can  
4       preserve the minority-majority, that would be  
5       great. But that tail comes that all the way  
6       down Route 41 the whole length of Manatee  
7       County way over into Newtown in Sarasota County  
8       is not compact. You need -- the part that  
9       adjoins 68 should go to 68, and the part that  
10      adjoins 69, one of you represents, should go to  
11      69. The people from Newtown shouldn't have to  
12      go all the way to St. Pete to see their  
13      Representative. So I hope that you will keep  
14      them compact.

15                SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, ma'am.  
16      That is very helpful testimony and right to the  
17      point.

18                Next we will hear from Carole Malone and  
19      then Roy Sorenson and then Charles Smith with  
20      the Southern Christian Leadership Conference  
21      and then Joe Gruters.

22                Ms. Malone, thank you.

23                MS. MALONE: Good evening, and I am so  
24      happy I am here.

25                I believe that if you say something often

1       enough, people will start to really believe  
2       you, and I think you have heard a lot tonight  
3       about the \$30 million, and I would like to  
4       repeat that. We don't need to spend that, we  
5       taxpayers don't need to spend that. And what  
6       really, really concerned me was on the heels of  
7       all those devastating cuts that Florida just  
8       went through, then we read that you have set  
9       aside \$30 million for these lawsuits, and I am  
10      appalled.

11             SENATOR GAETZ: And thank you. And,  
12      Ms. Malone, Ms. Malone -- Ms. Malone, please --  
13      no, that is okay. Please hang in there with  
14      us, because I -- you are right, sometimes when  
15      things get repeated often enough, people  
16      actually think they are facts. So we are  
17      going to -- we are going to give an opportunity  
18      for some information to be provided tonight so  
19      that you can decide for yourself -- sh, sh, sh.  
20      We are going to provide an opportunity tonight  
21      for Democrats and Republicans on the Committee  
22      to respond to that specific point. So thank  
23      you for making it and putting it at the top of  
24      our list.

25             Next we will hear from Roy Sorenson, and

1 following Mr. Sorenson, Charles Smith and Joe  
2 Gruters, and then if Kelly Kirschner would be  
3 on deck.

4 You are recognized, sir, thank you for  
5 coming.

6 MR. SORENSON: Thank you, Senator and  
7 legislators. Welcome to Sarasota. We got  
8 democracy here, and we are very proud of it,  
9 and we are very glad you came down to be part  
10 of this process.

11 I do have the same concerns that you have  
12 heard all night long about you not producing  
13 maps that we can compare the maps that we had,  
14 or the time frame, which is going to put many  
15 of the new candidates behind -- in a  
16 disadvantaged situation.

17 I have lived here for 30 years in Sarasota  
18 and Manatee. If you travel from south Sarasota  
19 County up to northern Manatee, you are still  
20 within more or less the same community of  
21 interest, but you are going through three  
22 congressional districts, you are going through  
23 several Senate districts and four different  
24 House districts. That is not right.

25 I would suggest that you take



1 Congressional District 13 and not use DeSoto  
2 and Hardee County as part of it, that you make  
3 that district -- that congressional district  
4 both Sarasota and Manatee County, that the  
5 district north of here that Representative  
6 Castor represents, that that not be part of  
7 our -- that it become part of that  
8 congressional district and not be part of the  
9 one north of us. If you look at the body of  
10 water that we have north of us, there are so  
11 many different like jigsaw puzzles around it.  
12 I would suggest you use that body of water to  
13 divide the districts fairly.

14 And back when you talk about the money  
15 that you've put away for fighting this,  
16 whatever amount of money it is, it is not  
17 right. It should be used for you to hire  
18 consultants and demographers and cartographers  
19 to get this process in the fair way it should  
20 be. Thank you.

21 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. Thank you very  
22 much, sir.

23 Next, Charles Smith with the Southern  
24 Christian Leadership Conference, then Joe  
25 Gruters, then Kelly --

1           MR. SMITH: Charles --

2           SENATOR GAETZ: Just a second, please.

3           Then Kelly Kirschner, if you would be on deck,  
4           and then Charles Dudley.

5           Mr. Smith, you are recognized, and we are  
6           delighted you are here.

7           MR. SMITH: I am Charles Smith, the  
8           President of Manatee/Sarasota County Chapter of  
9           the SCLC and national board member of SCLC and  
10          national director of chapters.

11          I am here to support Amendments 5 and 6.  
12          For Manatee and Sarasota County, it is simple.  
13          The congressional seats should remain in  
14          Manatee and Sarasota County. Your State  
15          Representative and Senate seats can easily be  
16          divided in Manatee and Sarasota County. A  
17          combined population of about 700,000. You say  
18          the seats need to be estimated at 150,000. You  
19          can draw four State Representative seats in  
20          Manatee and Sarasota County. So for the  
21          residents here, it is simple. And with the  
22          population of just Latinos and  
23          African-American, not counting other, you've  
24          got an estimated 100,000 population from that  
25          standpoint. They be combined to one different

1        area, you would know your Representative. Make  
2        no mistake, we have fine Representatives in  
3        Mr. Darryl Rouson and Sister Joyner. They have  
4        represented us well. But when -- 5 and 6 was  
5        kind of a shock for me, support it, but our  
6        organization has took a firm position that we  
7        are going to support 5 and 6. That means if we  
8        have to go to court, we are going to court. We  
9        are prepared to do that also through civil  
10       disobedience anyway. We need to be more  
11       concerned about not who is a Republican and  
12       Democrat, we need to be concerned about people.  
13       And so I encourage you to take issue to  
14       providing cited representation and keep it  
15       compact and 5 and 6, and I thank you very much.

16                SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, sir.

17                Joe Gruters? Mr. Gruters? Did he give up  
18       on us?

19                Okay. Then Kelly Kirschner, and Kelly  
20       will be followed by Charles Dudley and then  
21       Jackie Fountaine, or Fountaine, and then  
22       Mitchell, I think it is Zavon or Zavon.

23                Kelly, thank you so much for being here,  
24       and we are delighted to have your testimony  
25       tonight.

1           MR. KIRSCHNER: Thank you, Senator Gaetz,  
2           Joe Gruters ceded his time to me. We are  
3           former classmates at Cardinal Mooney High  
4           School, and --

5           SENATOR GAETZ: Well, Joe can cede his  
6           time, but you've got two minutes.

7           MR. KIRSCHNER: All right. I see you are  
8           listening to Senator Detert again.

9           SENATOR GAETZ: Yeah. It is a good thing  
10          I do from time to time.

11          MR. KIRSCHNER: I appreciate the  
12          opportunity to speak. Coming in here with the  
13          folks in the parking lot, it actually looked  
14          like a college football game, so I think at  
15          least it is stimulating conversation that  
16          everybody is obviously excited about.

17          I am here representing a relatively new  
18          nonprofit organization, it is called UnidosNow,  
19          that is specifically working in the southwest  
20          Florida area mobilizing and engaging our  
21          Hispanic population to start participating at  
22          much greater levels in our local democracy. I  
23          just stepped down as Mayor of the City of  
24          Sarasota in May. Twenty percent of Sarasota's  
25          population now is Hispanic, yet only two

1       percent of our registered voters are Hispanic.  
2       If you contrast that with the Pew Hispanic  
3       Center that says conservatively 70 percent of  
4       our Hispanic residents are legal citizens, you  
5       can appreciate that we have a fundamental  
6       problem right now with franchising this  
7       population and actually participating and  
8       contributing to the vibrant fabric of our  
9       democracy.

10           And I think what is concerning about  
11       tonight and what you read about last evening in  
12       Tampa and what you all have heard throughout  
13       the state is that the perception is here that  
14       the game is fixed. And so instead of us  
15       talking about -- instead of us talking about  
16       Latin America and Banana Republics and Latin  
17       America, what we are talking about is,  
18       unfortunately, that sense of mistrust with  
19       government in our hometown, in our home state  
20       and our own communities with the people that we  
21       elect.

22           I think a hallmark of vibrant democracy,  
23       which is what we want to take place, is  
24       competition, and when you have competition, I  
25       think it breeds an honesty in the process. And

1        what Charles Smith just said from SCLC from  
2        Manatee County, I think probably for the entire  
3        Hispanic community in both counties would be  
4        the exact same type of testimony that we would  
5        want to give to you, and for the entire state,  
6        create a competitive marketplace where ideas  
7        matter and gerrymandering doesn't, and I think  
8        the state of Florida is going to benefit for  
9        it.

10            SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Mayor,  
11        thank you for your service.

12            Next we will hear from Charles Dudley, and  
13        after Mr. Dudley, Jackie Fountaine, then  
14        Mitchell Zavon, or Zavon, and then Donna  
15        Cubit-Swoyer with the Sarasota Alliance for  
16        Fair Elections.

17            Mr. Dudley, thanks for being here, and  
18        you've got the floor.

19            MR. DUDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My  
20        suggestion is directed to congressional  
21        redistricting. As you noted, the ideal  
22        population of a district is 696,345. To  
23        provide some flexibility and to make greater  
24        use of county boundaries, we could allow the  
25        deviation of one percent above and below the

1 ideal number; in other words, from 689,382 to  
2 703,308.

3 Two examples using this population range  
4 are, one -- and this should not be a  
5 surprise -- combining the populations of  
6 Sarasota and Manatee Counties, 702,281;  
7 grouping Collier, 82,387, from south Lee,  
8 Monroe, Hendry, Glades, Okeechobee, Highlands  
9 and DeSoto Counties will give you 702,665. A  
10 marginal case involves Escambia, Santa Rosa,  
11 Okaloosa, Walton and west Bay, 10,489,  
12 counties. That gives you a total of 695,345.  
13 However, given the small portion from Bay  
14 County, and to keep this as uncomplicated and  
15 simple as possible, it might be better just to  
16 lump this in with the Bay County group, which  
17 would result in the total incidentally of  
18 702,980, but would leave the Escambia grouping  
19 with 684,856.

20 In summary, Mr. Chairman, don't be too  
21 fascinated with the famous number of 696,345.  
22 Do not try to slice and dice these districts  
23 into tiny parts.

24 For the record, I would like to submit a  
25 congressional redistricting plan based on the

1           one percent deviation described --

2           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir,  
3           for that information.

4           One of the -- one of the frustrations of  
5           this process is -- for some people is the  
6           federal court rulings on exactly the question  
7           you have raised. So I hope you can stay,  
8           because that will be one of the facts that we  
9           will try to provide you tonight. We really  
10          appreciate the submission of maps that you  
11          made.

12          And now, Jackie Fountaine. Is it  
13          Fountaine or Fountain?

14          MS. FOUNTAINE: Well, originally it was  
15          Fountain, and my husband's father didn't like  
16          that, so he put on an E.

17          THE COURT: Is that right? Well, ma'am,  
18          tonight you may have it either way you want.

19          MS. FOUNTAINE: It doesn't matter.

20          SENATOR GAETZ: And you are recognized.  
21          Thanks for coming tonight.

22          MS. FOUNTAINE: Thank you. I just have  
23          three items. Okay. Are you honestly  
24          serious --

25          SENATOR GAETZ: Ma'am, just so that



1           everybody can hear your comments -- there we  
2           go. Now you are much closer.

3           MS. FOUNTAINE: Are you honestly serious  
4           about finishing redistricting in time for the  
5           2012 elections?

6           SENATOR GAETZ: And I think you will hear  
7           an answer to that question --

8           MS. FOUNTAINE: Good.

9           SENATOR GAETZ: -- at the end, just like  
10          you heard at the beginning, but go ahead.

11          MS. FOUNTAINE: Why is Florida one of  
12          seven states that does not automatically give  
13          ex-felons the right to vote? They should be  
14          able to walk out of prison or jail and go and  
15          register to vote, because they have been  
16          punished.

17          And my last comment, if you do the right  
18          thing, you will be reelected regardless of what  
19          district you are in in 2012.

20          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much.

21          Is it Zavon, Zavon?

22          MR. ZAVON: Correct.

23          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much for  
24          being here and --

25          MR. ZAVON: I thought you had lost me. I

1           came first.

2           SENATOR GAETZ: Well, you came 52nd,  
3           actually, but --

4           MR. ZAVON: Well, I signed up before it  
5           opened.

6           SENATOR GAETZ: I understand. You are  
7           recognized. We are glad to have you.

8           MR. ZAVON: Thank you for coming. I am a  
9           health physician and occupational physician,  
10          have worked as a consultant for the federal and  
11          state governments.

12          A majority of the voters who voted for the  
13          amendments, and I am being redundant, to  
14          eliminate the gerrymandering, I expected to  
15          have you and the staff to have developed proper  
16          for the next elections the establishment of the  
17          state and federal retiring. At that, I could  
18          have made opinion including Newtown as directly  
19          part of Sarasota, for example, not a division  
20          of parts. You have failed. If part of a  
21          corporation of whom I also worked over 57  
22          years, you would be more now failed and no part  
23          of the job. I would have failed you for not  
24          doing.

25          As years 88, I live long enough for the

1       2012 election, I expect to vote strongly out  
2       for anyone that is taking our money out of the  
3       budget to kill our action against the members  
4       voting to use -- contradict what our majority  
5       voted to certify the amendments, and to  
6       eradicate the gerrymandering. Enough.

7               Briefly, I stated I believe that the use  
8       of the election for -- of the state and federal  
9       should compact geographically, where possible,  
10      each city and county should be compact by  
11      population, both compact and graphically and  
12      feasible transportation as possible.

13              SENATOR GAETZ: And, sir, we would be  
14      happy to take the rest of your comments in  
15      writing.

16              MR. ZAVON: It is over.

17              SENATOR GAETZ: We have a whole bunch of  
18      folks.

19              MR. ZAVON: Thank you very much.

20              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. Thank you very  
21      much. Thank you very much, sir.

22              And next, Donna Cubit-Swoyer, I believe,  
23      with the Sarasota Alliance for Fair Elections,  
24      and then Ted Mackie, Frank, and I believe it is  
25      Hedy, and then Tess Canja, if I have it

1           correctly, and Arthur Levin.

2           Ma'am, you are recognized, and we are  
3           delighted to have your testimony this evening.

4           MS. CUBIT-SWOYER: Thank you. I do want  
5           to thank all of you for being here. I sat  
6           through half of Tampa last night until now, and  
7           I am sure you must be weary.

8           SENATOR GAETZ: No, no.

9           MS. CUBIT-SWOYER: I was -- well, some of  
10          you look a little weary, regardless of what you  
11          say.

12          SENATOR GAETZ: Which ones?

13          MS. CUBIT-SWOYER: And I do thank you for  
14          being so courteous.

15          SENATOR GAETZ: Of course.

16          MS. CUBIT-SWOYER: Nevertheless, I have to  
17          say --

18          SENATOR GAETZ: I knew this was going  
19          somewhere.

20          MS. CUBIT-SWOYER: I knew you knew.

21          I have to say that Monia said it all for  
22          me, and I thank her for saying it so well, so I  
23          am not going to repeat all of the things that  
24          she said.

25          I do want to say you should have the maps

1           here, it is your job, not our job, and it is  
2           incumbent on you to make maps in a fair and  
3           timely manner, and it is incumbent on all of us  
4           to remember what happens come election time,  
5           because we still have power, we still have the  
6           power, so remember. Thank you.

7           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much.  
8           Thank you very much.

9           Next is Ted Mackie. Is Ted here?

10          MR. MACKIE: Tad.

11          SENATOR GAETZ: Or Tad, I'm sorry. And  
12          then Frank, I think it is H-e-d-y.

13          MR. HEDY: Yes.

14          SENATOR GAETZ: And then Tess Canja, I  
15          believe, if I have it correctly.

16          Tad, thank you for being here, and you are  
17          recognized.

18          MR. MACKIE: Sure, Tad Mackie, I have been  
19          in Sarasota for 45 years, just John Q. Public.

20          In the U.S. Constitution, it says you are  
21          supposed to count us every ten years. It  
22          doesn't say you are supposed to count us by  
23          color, doesn't say you are supposed to count us  
24          by race, creed, demographics of any kind. It  
25          says you are supposed to count us, just

1 numbers, just people.

2 District 55 starts up someplace in  
3 Clearwater or St. Pete and comes all the way  
4 down to Fourth and 301. That is like 45 miles.  
5 That is absurd. It is absolutely absurd.

6 Now, on the other hand, we have these  
7 amendments that say it is supposed to be fair.  
8 Now, I don't know about your definition of  
9 "fair" is different than his definition of  
10 "fair" is different than his definition of  
11 "fair." Nobody knows what "fair" really means,  
12 not really. But I submit to you that "fair"  
13 means nobody has an advantage, nobody. Okay.  
14 If you can take -- we have most of our  
15 population on the coast, and if you can take a  
16 little small slice on the coast and go deep  
17 inland, you have covered everybody. You've  
18 covered the rich folks on the coast, you've  
19 covered the poor folks in the middle, you've  
20 covered the middle folks out there in rural  
21 whatever. Why do we need to separate us by all  
22 these different demographics? All you do is  
23 separate us. We are supposed to be one nation.  
24 We are supposed to be the melting pot. We are  
25 not supposed to be divided by all this

1 nonsense, okay.

2 And I understand the lawsuit. I don't  
3 have a problem with that. You got to test it  
4 ahead of time. I really don't have a problem  
5 with that.

6 I also understand we don't have a  
7 democracy, we have a republic. I don't have a  
8 problem with that.

9 I also understand why you don't have your  
10 maps here, because you don't know what they are  
11 supposed to be, and you want to hear from us  
12 first, and I appreciate that. I really do  
13 appreciate that.

14 So that is basically it. All I am asking  
15 you to do is make it so that nobody has an  
16 advantage. There's no reason for the beaches  
17 in St. Pete to have their own Representative  
18 when they can go all the way across. Okay.

19 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. Your time has  
20 elapsed, and we appreciate your testimony.

21 Frank -- and I apologize, it is not your  
22 handwriting, it is my eyes. Would you  
23 pronounce your last name?

24 MR. HEDY: My name is Frank Hedy.

25 SENATOR GAETZ: I got it right, by golly.

1       You are up, and then following you, Tess, I  
2       think it is Canja, then Arthur Levin, and then  
3       if Marcella Levin would be on deck.

4             Frank, thanks for coming, and the floor is  
5       yours, sir.

6             MR. HEDY: Thank you very much. My name  
7       is Frank Hedy, I am an Air Force Vietnam  
8       veteran, and after 41 years I have -- they say  
9       I have been diagnosed with Agent Orange  
10      exposure. That is the government we have.

11            My question is about redistricting  
12      tonight. I just want everybody here -- we are  
13      Americans first. Why don't all the Democrats,  
14      Republicans, work together for the good of our  
15      country, our state and our nation and all the  
16      people that is in it, wherever they came from?  
17      We shouldn't be over here arguing about  
18      districting this, districting that. We should  
19      all work together. I hope the State Senators  
20      and State Reps all work together for the good  
21      of our state. And I have the same basically  
22      speech that Frances Rice had earlier, and I  
23      want take anymore of your time, but I just hope  
24      everybody works together in Tallahassee and we  
25      do the right thing for everybody in our state,



1           and I hope this U.S. Congress, U.S. Senators  
2           and the President can work together instead of  
3           always arguing about everything. We are sick  
4           and tired of all this arguing. Have a good  
5           night.

6           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. Thank you,  
7           sir.

8           Tess, are you here?

9           MS. CANJA: I am here.

10          SENATOR GAETZ: Well, thank you for  
11          coming, and behind you will be Arthur Levin and  
12          then Marcella Levin and then Martha G. King.  
13          And is it Canja?

14          MS. CANJA: Canja, that's very well done.

15          SENATOR GAETZ: Canja. Thank you for  
16          coming, and we are delighted to have your  
17          testimony on the record tonight.

18          MS. CANJA: Thank you so much. Thank you  
19          for the opportunity to speak today. My name is  
20          Tess Canja. I live in Charlotte County, which  
21          basically is within Congressional District 16.

22          CD 16 is so gerrymandered that it starts  
23          on Florida's Gulf Coast, spreads north across  
24          the state's agricultural center and ends on the  
25          other coast. It was districts like ours that

1 brought about such an overwhelming vote for  
2 fair districts, compact and contiguous.

3 Now, I recognize that a congressional  
4 district is at least four times as large  
5 population wise as Charlotte County. What we  
6 need for fairness is to be joined in a  
7 congressional district with other coastal areas  
8 so that our problems, our concerns and our  
9 needs are similar, with Sarasota County, for  
10 example, or parts of Lee. All three counties  
11 are working together for connected  
12 transportation, and a Congressman would not  
13 have to travel four hours to see his  
14 constituents. So my first request is to keep  
15 Charlotte County in one congressional district  
16 on the southwest coast.

17 My second request is to make Charlotte  
18 County one State House district. Right now, it  
19 is parts of three. Our county has a population  
20 of approximately 160,000. That is 3,000 more  
21 than a population needed for a State House  
22 district. So we have more than enough for one  
23 district, and it certainly could be compact.

24 My third request is that our Florida  
25 Senate district be a Charlotte/Sarasota

1 connection for the reasons previously given.  
2 Our county is represented in the State  
3 Legislature by three Senators. None of them  
4 live in Charlotte County.

5 I couldn't help thinking, given these  
6 realities, that Charlotte County must have  
7 looked to the mapmakers like an unfrosted  
8 cookie that could be broken up and passed  
9 around. It would be easy for us in the county  
10 to feel disenfranchised.

11 SENATOR GAETZ: And, ma'am, you are  
12 getting -- you are over time, so if you could  
13 wrap it up in fairness to the people behind  
14 you.

15 MS. CANJA: I will. You know, I pray that  
16 you all will do better. My hope is that you  
17 will quickly get the maps drawn for public  
18 review, and that we will be pleasantly  
19 surprised and grateful that our testimony has  
20 not been in vain, and I thank you.

21 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. Thank you so  
22 much. Very useful testimony. That is exactly  
23 the kind of information we needed.

24 And now, Arthur Levin, followed by  
25 Marcella Levin, and they appear to be related,

1           or at least they are in the same house.

2           MR. LEVIN:   For sure.

3           SENATOR GAETZ:   And then Martha King and  
4           then Susan Brainerd.

5           Mr. Levin, thank you for coming, and be  
6           careful now, because your wife does have the  
7           opportunity to correct whatever you may say.

8           MR. LEVIN:   She's already done that.

9           Thank you for having me.   My name is  
10          Arthur Levin.   I am a resident of downtown  
11          Sarasota.

12          Since you have not put forward any  
13          criteria of your own which I might comment on,  
14          I am here to offer to you a set of rules you  
15          should follow in establishing a reapportionment  
16          plan that will not only comply with the spirit  
17          of the recent redistricting amendments, but  
18          which will also cover the will of the people  
19          who supported them in historic numbers.

20          Wherever possible, a district should be  
21          contained within a single county.   This fosters  
22          communication up and down the layers of  
23          government, and increases the probability of  
24          working toward common goals driven by local  
25          interests.

1           Wherever possible, whenever a district  
2 spans a county line, the population drawn from  
3 each county should be approximately equal.  
4 This will reduce the prospect of one group's  
5 interests overwhelming those of the other.

6           Further, when a district must span a  
7 county boundary, a consideration of existing  
8 relationships and common interests within the  
9 affected communities should govern the  
10 selection of which counties and which  
11 communities to combine. For example, Sarasota  
12 and Manatee share many cultural, civic, service  
13 and religious facilities, as well as a common  
14 labor market. If it were necessary to go  
15 beyond the boundaries of Sarasota County, it  
16 would be reasonable to combine Sarasota and  
17 Manatee into a common district.

18           Finally, there is one critical rule that  
19 must be applied in any reapportionment plan:  
20 Apportionment factoring, factoring in party  
21 registration in any form must be forbidden.  
22 Thank you.

23           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

24           And now we will hear from the upper  
25 chamber of the house of Levin.

1 MS. LEVIN: That is right.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: And, Ms. Levin, behind you  
3 will be Martha King and Susan Brainerd and then  
4 Marilyn Jacobs.

5 And you are recognized, ma'am. Thank you  
6 for coming.

7 MS. LEVIN: Good evening and thank you for  
8 coming to Sarasota to listen to us.

9 As was stated previously, the 2010 census  
10 entitled Florida to 27 congressional districts,  
11 each district averaging 696,000 plus people.  
12 The combined population of Sarasota and Manatee  
13 County is 702,000 plus, which is, as you heard,  
14 a one percent differential. You have to start  
15 redistricting someplace, you have to start the  
16 mapping someplace, and, therefore, I propose  
17 that redistricting of congressional districts  
18 begin with this area. Combine Sarasota,  
19 Manatee, a community of interest, and that  
20 we -- and I propose that we be accorded a  
21 Congressperson of our own.

22 As for redistricting the Florida House of  
23 Reps and the Senate, I propose that you follow  
24 the law. All districts must be compact and  
25 contiguous. I don't mean to pick on you,

1 Representative Rouson, but your current  
2 district of 55 is contiguous only because of a  
3 bridge. This is a good example of what not to  
4 do in redistricting. The redistricting must  
5 conform to Fair District amendments as decided  
6 by 63 percent of the Florida electorate.

7 And, finally, I am outraged that you could  
8 find and set aside millions in the state budget  
9 to defend redistricting plans that do not yet  
10 exist. I'm sorry to say it seems that the  
11 size -- that the size of the set-aside seems to  
12 be intended to intimidate organizations that  
13 might want to challenge the final maps.

14 Thank you.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you. I  
16 would point out that it appears that  
17 Representative Rouson is feeling sorry for  
18 himself because he's been picked on so much  
19 tonight, so we'll all feel sorry for you, we  
20 will buy you dinner, Representative Rouson. He  
21 is a good man. He didn't draw that district,  
22 so we are not going to blame him.

23 Next up, we have Ms. Martha King. After  
24 Ms. King, we have Susan Brainerd and then  
25 Marilyn Jacobs.

1           You are recognized, ma'am.

2           MS. KING: Thank you very much, and I  
3 would like also to thank all of you for being  
4 here. We've applauded our local  
5 Representatives, but those of you who had to  
6 travel a long way, we are very appreciative of  
7 that as well.

8           One of the real benefits, if we have our  
9 way with Amendments 5 and 6, is that maybe many  
10 of you will not have to do the amount of  
11 traveling that you do now to cover your  
12 districts, and it will give you a chance to get  
13 to know your voters and they will get to know  
14 the people who represent them, and that is, of  
15 course, a very, very ideal view.

16          Because -- public perception is that  
17 redistricting -- or districting favors one  
18 party over another because of gerrymandering.  
19 And this "Redistricting 2012" little pamphlet  
20 that you handed out is just -- if you look at  
21 it, there are so many wonderful examples.  
22 There is actually the salamander up here at the  
23 top, there is a donkey down on the left, and  
24 there is actually a sea horse and a dragon and  
25 who knows what else. So it is wonderful, and



1       you couldn't have chosen a better map to put on  
2       the cover, because it makes our case.

3               Let's hope that you consider the will of  
4       the people and not the strict letter of the law  
5       if there is some vagueness. It is still very  
6       clear that what people want is one voter and --  
7       you know, one citizen and one vote, and so  
8       please do that.

9               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. Thank you  
10       ma'am. Thank you very much. And, Ms. King, we  
11       are not -- we are not creative enough to do all  
12       those animals. Those were done by legislators  
13       in the past. We are sort of into more boring  
14       geometry. So maybe you can help us pin the  
15       tail on that donkey.

16               Susan Brainerd is next and --  
17       Ms. Brainerd?

18               Marilyn Jacobs, then Norma Dayton and then  
19       Catherine Rodriguez.

20               Marilyn Jacobs, thank you for being here  
21       this evening. You could be other places, but  
22       thanks from spending some time with us.

23               MS. JACOBS: Thank you, and thank you for  
24       your patience. My name is Marilyn Jacobs, and  
25       I am a resident of Port Charlotte. And I know

1       you have heard this from Tess, but this is what  
2       I deal with.

3               Congressional District 14, Collier,  
4       Charlotte and Lee County; Senate District 23,  
5       Charlotte, Manatee and Sarasota; House District  
6       71, Charlotte, Lee and Sarasota. What we would  
7       like is Charlotte County to be in one place --  
8       we are in one place -- one district in every  
9       way, shape and form. We are a little -- around  
10      160,000, but either put us with the Lee or  
11      Sarasota, but don't divide us. That is it.  
12      Thank you very much.

13              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very, very much.  
14      Thank you, that is very helpful.

15              Next is Norma Dayton and then Catherine  
16      Rodriguez and then Carol -- I think it is  
17      Dunkak-Dunekirchen.

18              Norma Dayton, thanks for coming.

19              MS. DAYTON: Hi. I just want to say thank  
20      you very much for having these.

21              I do support the comments of the League of  
22      Women Voters and Planned Parenthood. My major  
23      concerns are the maps that we don't have and  
24      the timing. The timing is very important for  
25      candidates who want to run for office and don't

1 know what district they are in. So please  
2 speed this up as much as possible. Thank you.

3 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, ma'am. And,  
4 Ms. Dayton, if you can hang with us until the  
5 end, I think you will get some information that  
6 either -- that might reassure you or at least  
7 give you some additional data.

8 Catherine Rodriguez, Ms. Rodriguez, and  
9 then, I apologize, my eyes again, not your  
10 handwriting, Carol -- is it Dunkak-Dunekirchen?  
11 Close enough for government work. You are  
12 next, and then John Else and then Gregory  
13 Stone.

14 Ms. Rodriguez, you have the floor, ma'am.

15 MS. RODRIGUEZ: I beg you to drop the  
16 lawsuit and get to work on the redistricting as  
17 the Florida voters have asked you to do. You  
18 work for us, and we want you to do that. Get  
19 to it.

20 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. Ms. Rodriguez,  
21 we give extra credit points for brevity and  
22 making your points succinctly, and so far, you  
23 win tonight.

24 Carol, can you help me with your name,  
25 please, ma'am?

1 MS. DUNKAK-DUNEKIRCHEN: It is  
2 Dunkak-Dunekirchen.

3 SENATOR GAETZ: I thank I almost got that.

4 MS. DUNKAK-DUNEKIRCHEN: You were very  
5 close, yes.

6 SENATOR GAETZ: Well, thank you for being  
7 here, and we are anxious to hear your  
8 testimony, ma'am.

9 MS. DUNKAK-DUNEKIRCHEN: Thank you for  
10 having me. I am a resident of Port Charlotte.  
11 I live in congressional -- U.S. Congressional  
12 District 16, which as you have heard, begins on  
13 the west coast with part of Charlotte County  
14 and ends on the east coast, beginning with St.  
15 Lucie County and runs down the coast. It is an  
16 excellent example of gerrymandering. My  
17 Florida State House District 72 includes DeSoto  
18 and parts of Charlotte and Lee Counties.  
19 Finally, my Florida Senate District 23 consists  
20 of parts of Charlotte, Manatee and Sarasota  
21 Counties.

22 I know that you have heard this before.  
23 Despite the good efforts of Senator Detert, all  
24 of Charlotte County should be in one district.  
25 Since it does -- it may not meet the minimum

1 standards for numbers in population in some of  
2 the areas, it could be combined with more  
3 community -- communities of interest. You  
4 know, eastern Charlotte County is very rural,  
5 so is DeSoto County, okay. We have the coastal  
6 -- coastal areas that could be similar to Lee  
7 or Sarasota. But I think you really need to  
8 take all of that into consideration, and above  
9 all, do not divide Charlotte County. Thank  
10 you.

11 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much.

12 And John Else, E-l-s-e, how did I do on  
13 that?

14 MR. ELSE: Else, like anything else.

15 SENATOR GAETZ: I was -- I had a little  
16 bit of Norwegian going in there. John, thank  
17 you for being here, and your testimony is  
18 welcomed. Following you, we will hear from  
19 Gregory Stone and Rosemarie Myerson, if you  
20 will be on deck, and then John Eddins.

21 Mr. Else, thank you for coming.

22 MR. ELSE: I don't think the law -- the  
23 amendment is confusing, in spite of my  
24 colleague's statement. I lived for 23 years in  
25 the state of Iowa, which is generally regarded

1       as one of the -- has one of the fairest and  
2       least contentious systems for redistricting,  
3       and it's been in place for 30 years, and it  
4       uses many of the same terms that are in the  
5       amendments. The responsibility for creating  
6       the map is with the Legislative Service Bureau,  
7       a non-partisan body connected to the  
8       Legislature, and they create that by computer  
9       models where the assumptions are all put in.  
10      So it is a very objective system. They have an  
11      advisory committee of two Democrats, two  
12      Republicans, and the Chair selected by the  
13      majority of those four. The principles are  
14      much the same, as I said. The results in Iowa,  
15      which passed -- made its reapportioning this  
16      year, was that four of the five incumbent  
17      Congressmen ended up in the same district with  
18      another incumbent. So two of them moved into  
19      -- were combined with two others. In this  
20      case, two of them moved into other districts.  
21      So that is a possibility, too, for you who are  
22      incumbents.

23           I think it is a good idea for you to get  
24      input before you make the maps, but then I  
25      think the maps have to be drawn, and there is

1 no reason they can't be drawn within a month if  
2 you use computer systems. And that you can  
3 then have another round of these hearings going  
4 on the maps in October and November, and into  
5 December if you need to. So I just think your  
6 job has been set and you have the possibility  
7 of really doing something for us.

8 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very, very much,  
9 sir.

10 Gregory Stone, is Gregory Stone still with  
11 us? Mr. Stone?

12 How about Rosemarie Myerson? Ms. Myerson,  
13 following your testimony, we will hear from  
14 John Eddins and then Ina Rae Levy and then Joy  
15 Davis.

16 Ms. Myerson, thank you for coming tonight,  
17 and the floor is yours.

18 MS. MYERSON: Thank you for inviting me.  
19 I am delighted to be here.

20 I didn't come to tell you exactly how to  
21 do it. I think the two amendments gave the  
22 ground rule of fair, compactness and getting  
23 rid of gerrymandering. And as I listened to  
24 what each one of these Representatives and  
25 Senators represented, I clearly heard how not

1 to draw the map. I only try to keep track of  
2 Collier and Lee Counties, and I heard at least  
3 five of you represent pieces of Collier and Lee  
4 Counties, and I don't think the population is  
5 that big there. All right, so that's it.

6 The other thing I wanted to address is the  
7 seriousness of this law case. I have followed  
8 Betty Castor, who originally had one amendment  
9 to get rid of gerrymandering in this state, and  
10 it was thrown out at the courts in the end  
11 because they said there should have been two  
12 amendments, one addressing the federal  
13 government redistricting, and the other  
14 addressing the state. So now we drew up a  
15 second one, and then everybody crying about  
16 race representing or whatever, and they put in  
17 all these other things, which now we hear a  
18 lawyer saying, "Oh, that doesn't make any sense  
19 whatsoever." Well, I think you people  
20 understand the intent, and that Amendments 5  
21 and 6 went right through the courts before they  
22 were allowed to go on the ballot, and they were  
23 declared legal all the way up, I think, to the  
24 Supreme Court. I do not understand. I am not  
25 going to discuss how much money you are



1       spending. I don't care. I mean, I do care,  
2       but I can't understand at this stage, at this  
3       time, when we need to choose candidates, we  
4       need two new federal candidates, we have no  
5       idea what the districts are in the whole state  
6       are going to be, if they are going to be fair,  
7       compact, contiguous, I can't understand your  
8       taking this to the courts when it's already  
9       been through the courts, and I hope you will  
10      explain what courts you are going to and why.  
11      And I -- I applaud all the wonderful things  
12      that have been said here. I think Monia Joblin  
13      said it for me very well.

14             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Myerson.  
15      And I think, if you are able to stay, the  
16      Speaker Designate will explain to you how the  
17      law requires us to go to the Supreme Court and  
18      the federal courts.

19             Next is John Eddins. John Eddins, are you  
20      here, sir? If not, we will go to Ina Rae Levy,  
21      Ms. Levy, and following Ms. Levy, Joy Davis and  
22      then Theresa Perkins and then Cheryl Brown.

23             Ms. Levy, you are recognized, and thank  
24      you so much for being here this evening.

25             MS. LEVY: Good evening, and thank you for

1       this opportunity. But I would like to ask the  
2       panel, have you heard the people tonight? Have  
3       you heard what the feelings are in your  
4       communities? Well, I am sort of getting blank  
5       looks. I am wondering --

6               SENATOR GAETZ: Now, if you are asking if  
7       the -- if you are asking if the loudspeaker is  
8       working, it is working fine, thank you, but  
9       please go ahead.

10              MS. LEVY: What the loudspeaker is -- how  
11       the loudspeaker is working and how the brains  
12       are taking it in are two different things.

13              I don't think there's any reason for me to  
14       go over again the maps. Of course, you  
15       understand clearly the feeling of the people.  
16       The fact that it was passed by 63 percent, the  
17       amendment, that is clearly understood by  
18       everyone.

19              The only thing I want to say is I wonder  
20       how many of you know that a camel is a horse  
21       put together by a committee. And if we have  
22       hundreds of thousands of people drawing maps,  
23       who is going to examine them, who is going to  
24       make them? Just get to work and do it now.

25       Thank you very much.

1           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much.

2           MS. DAVIS: My name is Joy Davis.

3           SENATOR GAETZ: Hold just a second. I  
4           just want to make sure that folks are lined up  
5           behind you: Theresa Perkins, Cheryl Brown and  
6           Deborah Livingston.

7           And now, Ms. Davis, you have the floor.

8           MS. DAVIS: Thank you. My name is Joy  
9           Davis, and I have been a life-long Republican.  
10          I have lived here in Sarasota for over 20  
11          years. I am a teacher, and sitting in the  
12          front row, I have observed all evening who is  
13          paying attention and who isn't. I don't care  
14          how old you are, it is over two hours and we  
15          all have our limit on listening. I want to let  
16          you know that I appreciate those of you who  
17          have really made an effort, and I have watched  
18          you. I have contacted you by eye to listen to  
19          each and every one of us. This is serious  
20          business. I am not up here as a teacher, but I  
21          am up here as a voter, and you have listened to  
22          the people, and the people have told you what  
23          they want.

24          SENATOR GAETZ: Great classroom voice,  
25          too.

1           MS. DAVIS:  How -- excuse me, I know you  
2           are trying to be very suave, and yes, you --  
3           you and the one next to you are in charge of  
4           this lawsuit to begin with.  I am not impressed  
5           with your smooth comments, sir.

6           How dare you use the taxpayer money for  
7           your benefit and ignore the voters' wishes.  
8           Obvious, it's been done.  Get busy.  It is like  
9           you are a bunch of children in a classroom and  
10          I can't get you to get your work done.  Stop  
11          the fighting.  I would separate you, because  
12          you aren't -- you aren't any better than a kid.  
13          Do your responsibility to the State of Florida  
14          and to your voters and get busy and do your  
15          job.

16          SENATOR GAETZ:  And, ma'am, your time is  
17          up, thank you.  Still a good classroom voice.

18          Theresa Perkins and then Cheryl Brown,  
19          then Deborah Livingston and then Murray  
20          Blueglass.

21          Theresa Perkins, thank you for being with  
22          us tonight, and you are recognized.

23          MS. PERKINS:  Thank you for coming  
24          tonight, and I am Pastor Perkins from the  
25          Newtown/Sarasota community, and what we -- the

1 District 55, when you redistrict, please  
2 maintain Newtown in north Sarasota in the House  
3 District 55. This district is very important  
4 to us in our black community, because it let us  
5 elect a Representative of our choice, we share  
6 the same concerns with the other communities in  
7 this district, and I also believe that not  
8 keeping us in the district would violate the  
9 Amendment 5, which was passed by over  
10 60 percent of the vote. I also urge you to  
11 also allow our area to be in a minority  
12 district in the State Senate and in the  
13 Congress. We want to be empowered, all levels  
14 of government. Thank you.

15 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, ma'am.

16 Next, Cheryl Brown, and then Deborah  
17 Livingston, please, and then Murray Blueglass  
18 from the Longboat Key Democratic Club and then  
19 Jim Hunter would be on deck.

20 Ms. Brown, you are recognized, and we are  
21 delighted to have your testimony.

22 MS. BROWN: Thank you. Good evening.  
23 Thank you for listening tonight. My name is  
24 Pastor Cheryl Brown, and I am a citizen who  
25 have lived actually in the Sarasota area for

1 over 40 years now. I am now living in Manatee  
2 County, Lakewood Ranch, Florida.

3 I am here tonight to ask you to keep  
4 Newtown and north Sarasota combined with  
5 Manatee, Hillsborough and Pinellas County in  
6 House District 55. This is a seat that gives  
7 us an opportunity to elect a Representative of  
8 our choice. If you do not keep us together, we  
9 will lose our representation, and we are  
10 concerned that we will be represented by  
11 someone else who does not know our needs. This  
12 is the law of Florida, so following the law  
13 shouldn't be difficult.

14 Also, we would like you to give us  
15 additional opportunities to elect candidates of  
16 our choice in the State Senate and in the U.S.  
17 Congress. Thank you very much.

18 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, Pastor.  
19 Deborah Livingston, then Murray Blueglass,  
20 then Jim Hunter, then William Grant.

21 Ms. Livingston, you are recognized, ma'am.

22 MS. LIVINGSTON: Good evening. I was born  
23 in Sarasota. Welcome to Sarasota, and thank --  
24 thank you for being here to listen to our  
25 concerns today.

1           On behalf of the black community here in  
2           Sarasota County, I am here to say that we like  
3           being with St. Petersburg, Palmetto, Bradenton,  
4           in House District 55. Our community is small,  
5           and being united with other similarity  
6           communities gives us the opportunity to elect  
7           Representatives of our choice. This request  
8           shouldn't be considered a favorite or a special  
9           treatment, but simply following the law passed  
10          last November by 60 percent of the voters. Not  
11          doing this will weaken our position as minority  
12          voters and violate the law. Thank you again  
13          for your time.

14                 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
15          ma'am.

16                 And now, Murray Blueglass, if Murray  
17          Blueglass is here from the Longboat Key  
18          Democratic Club, and following Mr. Blueglass,  
19          Jim Hunter and then William Grant, and if Wade  
20          Matthews would be on deck, please.

21                 Mr. Blueglass, thank you for coming, and  
22          the floor is yours.

23                 MR. BLUEGLASS: Thank you very much.  
24          Thank you for -- all of you for being here this  
25          evening. What an array of our Legislature to

1       take the time to come around the country -- or,  
2       excuse me, come around the state and to listen  
3       to us.

4               First of all, I would like to say thank  
5       you to all the people in the audience. Last  
6       year I watched town halls across this country  
7       on TV. I was shocked by the lack of civility  
8       that was displayed across the country. The  
9       people in this audience really deserve a round  
10      of applause, and I think you ought to give  
11      yourselves one. Only in Sarasota/Manatee,  
12      Florida, can such civility, good response and  
13      positive feeling be felt. Thank you.

14              And, Senator Gaetz, I disagree with  
15      somebody who spoke recently, just a couple of  
16      speakers ago. I think you have handled this  
17      with aplomb, with great patience and great  
18      determination, and you have kept it on track.  
19      Bipartisan politics, thank you for running a  
20      good meeting.

21              Amendments 5 and 6 didn't just appear  
22      mid-air. They were created because of a need.  
23      Everybody at this table understands that. The  
24      people in this county, the people in Manatee,  
25      indeed, the people across the state were



1       determined that in the next redistricting in  
2       2012, it would be fair and consistent. We need  
3       you to understand that. That is bipartisan  
4       politics. That makes good sense. We didn't  
5       need the amendments. We don't need all the  
6       fighting. We need to understand how important  
7       it is to represent the people. Sarasota,  
8       Manatee, that is a winning combination. Sorry,  
9       Ray, but it is an absolute winning combination  
10      to combine Sarasota and Manatee into a  
11      district.

12           As you work across the state and you hear  
13      other people, contiguous districts that don't  
14      run from sea to sea will be so, so important.  
15      Contiguous districts with common interests and  
16      fair number of people represented by you is all  
17      we are asking for.

18           So we thank you very much for coming  
19      tonight. Remember, we, the people of these  
20      United States, isn't that what we are all  
21      about? Thank you.

22           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

23           Jim Hunter, Mr. Hunter, and then William  
24      Grant, then Wade Matthews for the Better  
25      Government Association of Sarasota County and

1           then John Bellantoni, please.

2           Mr. Hunter, you are recognized, and we are  
3           delighted you are here.

4           MR. HUNTER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, thank you  
5           very much, and members of the Committee, thank  
6           you for attendance tonight.

7           I am a retired businessman. I have been a  
8           resident of Sarasota for over 35 years. This  
9           is the first time I have ever even heard of a  
10          hearing on redistricting. I am glad we are  
11          having one.

12          If we can end gerrymandering, we have  
13          certainly accomplished something in the history  
14          of our state. And if we can respect the  
15          boundaries of cities, counties, neighborhoods,  
16          that would be a major accomplishment. We need  
17          to drop the lawsuits, we need to save our tax  
18          dollars, and I hope that our next hearing will  
19          be on campaign finance reform.

20          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much.

21          Is William Grant here? William Grant? He  
22          already talked?

23          SENATOR GAETZ: Ah, slid in early, did  
24          you?

25          Wade Matthews. Mr. Matthews, you will be

1 followed by John Bellantoni and by Lois Regan.

2 And you are recognized, sir.

3 MR. W. MATTHEWS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 I put Better Government Association down  
5 because I am co-President of it, but I am not  
6 here to represent them. I have talked,  
7 however, with the members that I have been able  
8 to see of that and about the other ten or so  
9 other organizations that I am either on a Board  
10 of Directors with or an officer of, and they  
11 all have the same general consensus of the  
12 great majority view of what we have heard here  
13 tonight.

14 I just want to address -- I was going to  
15 address those things, but I just want to take  
16 two quick points. One, it seems fairly easy to  
17 form the districts compactly with contiguous,  
18 not favoring or disfavoring any political party  
19 or incumbent. There were two issues that were  
20 brought up, though, about the idea of following  
21 existing city, county and geographical  
22 boundaries. One case of the City of Bradenton,  
23 for example, it says here "where feasible" in  
24 this law. So where it is not feasible as that  
25 sort of case, you ignore it -- don't ignore it,

1       you do it to the extent you can, but you don't  
2       do it otherwise.

3               The other case that came up is the idea of  
4       not denying racial or language minorities  
5       and -- the opportunity to participate and elect  
6       Representatives. It says "not deny." It  
7       doesn't say you have to have the complete  
8       ridiculous gerrymandering that we have. And  
9       I -- I have spoken with Representative Rouson  
10      here. I personally believe that he could be  
11      elected in almost any district with his -- with  
12      his eloquence and his diplomatic approach to  
13      things, whether it is a black district, a white  
14      district or whatever. I think he is a fine,  
15      fine person. However, I don't think he needs a  
16      district all his own in order to do it, and  
17      that would completely -- you cannot have that  
18      done as equal to the other cases. You don't  
19      need -- you will not be denying racial or  
20      language minorities if you follow a system of  
21      doing that away. We have the entire state of  
22      Florida, which has elected one -- one Senator  
23      who is Hispanic, and has one now who is  
24      Hispanic. You have had -- in Sarasota County,  
25      you have -- there's very few blacks in the

1 county district represented by one black member  
2 of the county commission. You have --

3 SENATOR GAETZ: Could I ask you to put a  
4 bow on it pretty soon?

5 MR. W. MATTHEWS: Absolutely. I am  
6 finishing up right now.

7 You have a President of the United States  
8 who considers himself black who was elected by  
9 all the people, and I am convinced that black  
10 Representatives can have their representation  
11 and elect people without having this sort of  
12 gerrymandering.

13 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much.

14 John Bellantoni. Mr. Bellantoni, are you  
15 here, sir? If not, we will pass you.

16 Lois Regan, or Regan, then Craig -- I'm  
17 sorry, my eyes again, C-e-r-r-e, I think, t-a,  
18 at Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance, and then  
19 Ida Culbertson.

20 Lois Regan. Thank you for coming,  
21 Ms. Regan, and we are delighted to have your  
22 testimony on the record tonight.

23 MS. REGAN: I would like to go on the  
24 record thanking you for having the meeting and  
25 agreeing with the things that were said here,

1           and what I would like to -- just look at my  
2           notes a little bit.

3                   SENATOR GAETZ:    Sure.

4                   MS. REGAN:   I feel that having this  
5           meeting without having concrete maps to look at  
6           is really having the cart before the horse.  
7           You have the material, you have the fair act,  
8           voting act, to go by as your guidelines.  You  
9           have a lot of information about demographics  
10          and everything that you need that we citizens  
11          don't have.  So the input that the citizens  
12          could give would be after you gave some kind of  
13          outline for us to look at based on the Fair  
14          District Act and based on all the tools that  
15          you have, like the gentleman who talked about  
16          Iowa and what is available.  So I feel that it  
17          is very hard for us to really give sufficient  
18          input without having a concrete thing before  
19          us.

20                   As far as the suit goes, I don't know what  
21          the amount of money is that is being used in  
22          this suit, but I feel that we have so many cuts  
23          for urgent things that our citizens need, that  
24          I think taking any money to use for a suit  
25          against what 63 percent of the people voted for

1       is a misuse of taxpayer funds. I feel that it  
2       is totally inappropriate for you to do that.

3           And I really feel that, just to summarize  
4       it, that if you could give us something  
5       concrete within a reasonable time and have  
6       meetings for us to look at -- there are many  
7       people who don't have computers. If you showed  
8       me something with a map on a computer, I would  
9       really have a problem with it. So if you  
10      really want input, you need a public meeting  
11      with some format that you are presenting to us,  
12      and we need it in a timely manner so absentee  
13      ballots could get out, all the -- Kathy Dent  
14      could do or any of the Supervisors could get  
15      their things done. And people who are not  
16      incumbents, who are not known in their  
17      districts, whatever their party is --

18           SENATOR GAETZ: May I ask you to  
19      summarize, ma'am?

20           MS. REGAN: Yes, okay.

21           -- that they have time to know where they  
22      are running and to do their campaign fairly.

23           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much. Very  
24      good testimony.

25           And now Craig -- is it Cerreta?

1 MR. CERRETA: Cerreta.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Cerreta. Mr. Cerreta with  
3 the Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance, and then  
4 Ida Culbertson and then John Hoover and then  
5 Emmalou Kirchmeier, who says she is  
6 representing the Methodist church.

7 Mr. Cerreta, thank you for being here, and  
8 you are recognized, sir.

9 MR. CERRETA: Okay. Thank you very much  
10 for having me.

11 For those of you Representatives who are  
12 not familiar with Lakewood Ranch, it is a  
13 little 33,000-acre development about six miles  
14 directly east of here. It is a community. It  
15 is a residential community and a business  
16 community. I am here representing about 469  
17 businesses that make up that business  
18 community, from individual realtors to  
19 businesses that have 600 employees or more.

20 From our perspective, obviously just like  
21 all the residents, we want to work very closely  
22 with our representation. Good, close  
23 relationships help to get things done. To do  
24 so, we feel that recognizing communities,  
25 whether they are county communities or smaller



1 communities like ours that are not  
2 incorporated, are very important when you are  
3 drawing these lines.

4 So we cross county boundaries, similar to  
5 The Villages that does. We don't want to see  
6 Lakewood Ranch split up at the House -- at the  
7 state level and have us divided in our efforts  
8 as we are trying to get representation. So we  
9 ask that when you are drawing the lines, you  
10 take into consideration that it is not just  
11 county lines, it is not just major roads, it is  
12 not just those other geographic boundaries.  
13 Communities make up a very important component,  
14 regardless of those other boundaries.

15 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, sir.

16 Next is -- I think it is Ida Culbertson.  
17 Is that correct, ma'am?

18 MS. CUTHBERTSON: Cuthbertson.

19 SENATOR GAETZ: Cuthbertson, I am very  
20 sorry, it is my eyes. You are recognized, and  
21 thanks for being here tonight.

22 MS. CUTHBERTSON: Thank you for the  
23 opportunity.

24 This voter and millions more across  
25 Florida spoke loudly and clearly last year

1       about redistricting this state. You know what  
2       the voters instructed the Legislature to do.  
3       Legislators can ignore the voters and even  
4       fight them in the courts, but you do so at your  
5       own peril. My advice to the legislators is to  
6       heed the message from the voters from last  
7       year, drop the lawsuit, but do redistrict into  
8       compact districts.

9               You have also offered no draft maps for  
10       citizens to look at. In my mind, that is a  
11       rather strange circumstance. So I urge you to  
12       place Sarasota and Manatee Counties together in  
13       the same district for the U.S. Congress,  
14       Representative and for the Florida State seats.  
15       Thank you.

16              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
17       ma'am.

18              And next, John Hoover, please, Mr. Hoover,  
19       and following Mr. Hoover, Emmalou Kirchmeier  
20       and then Glenda Williams and if -- I think it's  
21       Logan Bartholomew, if Mr. Bartholomew will also  
22       be on deck.

23              Mr. Hoover, thanks for being here, and  
24       fire away.

25              MR. HOOVER: Thank you all for coming out.

1       We appreciate it. Thanks for holding these  
2       hearings.

3           As I understand, you all have received a  
4       certain amount of skepticism. Please excuse  
5       your constituents, but we have been misinformed  
6       time and again by politicians who have told us  
7       one thing and done another.

8           Fair Districts mean fair to all, and I  
9       think there is some wiggle room for compact  
10      districts in ensuring minority representation.  
11      We in the past have seen redistricting be the  
12      spoils of electoral success by majority party  
13      and/or incumbent. Now that Amendments 5 and 6  
14      have passed, Floridians have a high hope for  
15      districts that reflect regional commonalities.

16           Reports in the news that both State House  
17      and Senate have tens of millions of dollars  
18      stashed to fight challenges to the new  
19      districts support citizen skepticism. Please  
20      prove us wrong. Please don't be Lucy and us be  
21      Charlie Brown. Thank you.

22           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much.

23           Just previews of coming attractions, we  
24      are getting close to the nine o'clock hour. A  
25      number of you have asked that members of the

1       Committee respond to certain questions you have  
2       asked. We are going to try to do that. Those  
3       that -- you know, the good news is that 109  
4       people indicated their desire to provide input,  
5       and if we aren't able to get to you tonight,  
6       that doesn't mean we are not going to be able  
7       to get to you. It just means that you can  
8       submit your comments in writing. You can send  
9       it to us by regular mail or by e-mail or you  
10      can give them to us this evening if we don't  
11      get a chance to get to you, but we are grateful  
12      for everyone who has hung with us.

13             And now, Ms. Kirchmeier, it says here you  
14      represent the Methodist church, and --

15             REVEREND KIRCHMEIER: Well, I put that  
16      down because I have to, I am a reverend, and --

17             SENATOR GAETZ: Well, Pastor, thank you.

18             REVEREND KIRCHMEIER: It is kind of odd  
19      not to.

20             SENATOR GAETZ: Pastor, thank you very  
21      much for being here.

22             REVEREND KIRCHMEIER: Thank you. But I  
23      actually came here with the Bible in one hand  
24      and a flag in the other, if you understand.  
25      And I think that is the way most of us feel

1       about where we are and who you are. You  
2       represent our government. Now, whether we like  
3       you or not, it depends on how you vote, and,  
4       you know, if you want us to like you, and you  
5       are not being liked, change your vote.

6               I came here to save my husband's life 16  
7       years ago to Myakka, and I learned about  
8       eating, you know, those things that go on the  
9       ground and have long tails and I never get  
10      their names right -- alligators, and my  
11      grandchildren were surprised I ate it for  
12      Thanksgiving. And my husband lived seven years  
13      instead of just the six months they talked  
14      about.

15             So when it comes to Florida, I usually  
16      only have good things to say, but Myakka and  
17      Old Myakka and the way this other gentleman  
18      talked about it, you have to know the  
19      cattlemen's association, you got to go out  
20      there and fish and, I mean, you've got to know  
21      when the water comes up and you've got to move  
22      the herd, what is going to happen to their  
23      hoofs, you know, if they are in the mud. I  
24      mean, you got to know all those things about  
25      country living. And I just loved it all, and

1           then I moved to Bradenton when my husband died  
2           and I became a democratic committeeman for  
3           District 59, and then I did the census for  
4           District fifty -- sixty -- 69, and I learned  
5           about what they need -- they needed sewers,  
6           okay, terrible situation, and I learned about  
7           city government. And then I got very, very  
8           upset, because if there's one thing I am  
9           constantly fighting for, it is women's rights,  
10          children's rights and black Americans' rights.  
11          That is me, okay. And if somebody is in their  
12          way, God help them when they are in my way.  
13          And sometimes that is what you are doing. You  
14          are getting me so angry I can't understand how  
15          some of you got elected.

16                 SENATOR GAETZ: Well, blessed are the  
17          merciful, Pastor, and we are running a little  
18          short on time, so if I could ask you to get to  
19          the --

20                 REVEREND KIRCHMEIER: Well, what I am  
21          going to say to you --

22                 SENATOR GAETZ: -- three points in the  
23          palm of the sermon.

24                 REVEREND KIRCHMEIER: -- tonight is that  
25          the 14th Amendment made a lot of promises to

1           us, and you are not keeping them.

2           SENATOR GAETZ:   Thank you.

3           And now, is it Logan Bartholomew?   Logan  
4           Bartholomew, you are up, and then is David  
5           Miner?   Then Rodger -- I think it is Skidmore,  
6           and then Tammy Cabrera.

7           Mr. Bartholomew, thank you for coming, and  
8           you are on.

9           MR. BARTHOLOMEW:   Thank you, sir, good  
10          evening.   I am a native of Boynton Beach,  
11          Florida, over on the southeast coast, but I go  
12          here to New College, I am a fourth-year  
13          student, just for reference, Congressional  
14          District 19, State Senate District 30, and  
15          State House District 89, which I can't draw,  
16          which is a problem for me.   At least in South  
17          Florida, I think that is what is going to make  
18          or break the maps, especially when it comes to  
19          the courts, because the way at least the  
20          congressional districts are currently drawn, it  
21          is drawn by socioeconomic strata with the  
22          ultra-rich on the coast, the poor people  
23          slightly more inland, and then obviously we get  
24          richer as we go farther west.

25          I would ask that the Committee please draw

1       the lines east/west along the major grid  
2       roadways in southeast Florida so that we get  
3       more representative districts, that we get  
4       districts that listen to ideas rather than race  
5       or culture or any other -- we need better  
6       ideas, sir. Thank you.

7               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much.  
8       Appreciate your testimony.

9               And now, David Miner, followed by Rodger  
10       Skidmore, and Tammy Cabrera will be our last  
11       speaker this evening. David.

12              MR. MINER: Chairman, I am Dave Miner, I  
13       am from Manatee County, I work and live there.  
14       I was born in Florida. I am a Marine Vietnam  
15       veteran, proud to be here with y'all, and I  
16       have some -- a lot of concerns about --

17              SENATOR GAETZ: Now, excuse me, Mr. Miner.  
18       We have listened to everyone respectfully  
19       tonight. If you would like to have a  
20       conversation, that is fine, but would you  
21       please take it out in the hall? This gentleman  
22       is a veteran of our military services. He has  
23       come here to share his opinions. Let's give  
24       him our attention.

25              Mr. Miner.



1           MR. MINER: Thank you, sir.

2           One of the concerns I have is about the  
3           attitudes of our country's people toward their  
4           government. And in preparation for speaking  
5           tonight, I talked with the Supervisor of  
6           Elections' office. I had a contact, see how  
7           many people actually voted the last time that  
8           we had a general election, and it was  
9           55 percent of the registered voters in Manatee  
10          County. That comes down to about 42 percent of  
11          the actual people who could vote, because not  
12          everybody is a registered voter.

13          And I have talked with a lot of people  
14          over time why they don't vote, and many of them  
15          say, "Well, you know, I got other things to  
16          do." A lot of them say, "It doesn't make any  
17          difference." That is the main theme. It is a  
18          cynicism that seems to pervade our populous  
19          here in Florida and I think in this country.  
20          And why are people cynical? And that is why I  
21          ask them, and they say, "Well, it doesn't make  
22          any difference. People get elected, and they  
23          are just going to do what the money tells them  
24          to do, what the leaders say to do, not what the  
25          people tell them what to do." I don't think

1 cynicism is good for our country. It is not  
2 what I fought for. I think that you all need  
3 to take that into account when you do things.  
4 I think that you need to act to reduce that  
5 cynicism. I think you need to act to restore a  
6 little more faith in our political process.  
7 And I think two ways that you can possibly help  
8 is that when you get to Tallahassee, remember  
9 what happened here. Another thing is to  
10 remember that it is important that you follow  
11 the Constitution that you take an oath to, and  
12 that oath includes Amendments 5 and 6. This  
13 oath says that you are not supposed to do  
14 something to favor political parties or  
15 incumbents. And how do you enforce that?

16 SENATOR GAETZ: And, sir, out of respect  
17 for you, I have given you a little extra time  
18 because you were interrupted, but, please, if  
19 you could bring it to a conclusion.

20 MR. MINER: Okay, two things. I think you  
21 ought to make it an ethics violation if any  
22 member of the House or Senate talks with  
23 another member and says, "Hey, I want a favor,  
24 I want you to take into special consideration  
25 my district or what I want to run for," and

1           then have harsh sanctions.

2           And, too, I think you ought to -- or  
3           number three, whatever money you are spending  
4           -- and I know the Constitution says that you --  
5           or Florida Supreme Court has to approve any  
6           final districting. I don't have any problem  
7           with that lawsuit.

8           SENATOR GAETZ: Sir, I am going to have to  
9           ask you to conclude.

10          MR. MINER: Okay. But if you are spending  
11          money, you know, to fight 5 and 6, I don't  
12          think that helps diminish cynicism, it  
13          increases it. And I don't think that helps our  
14          country, and I think you ought to change your  
15          minds about that. Thank you very much.

16          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you for your service  
17          to this country.

18          And now, Rodger Skidmore, if you will come  
19          forward, and then Tammy Cabrera, if you could  
20          be on deck. Mr. Skidmore, you are recognized,  
21          sir.

22          MR. SKIDMORE: Thank you. I would like to  
23          thank you all for bringing so many very, very,  
24          very concerned citizens together in one room.

25          Earlier you said that we could go ahead

1       and applaud, but there is no real way to  
2       quantitatively or qualitatively decide how much  
3       impact we have with you, and we would like to  
4       have a record of that. So I have created a  
5       Petition that I would like to pass around,  
6       people can sign it and let others sign it since  
7       I've only got 100 of them.

8               The amendments state that the districts  
9       will have to be compact and utilize existing  
10      political and geographical boundaries. Very  
11      simply, this means that one cannot for  
12      political expediency take a region of Florida  
13      and create four districts with a 60 percent  
14      majority of one party's voters, and one  
15      district packed with 95 percent of the other  
16      party's voters or of minority members, that  
17      thus ensuring a four to one majority vote for  
18      that one party in Tallahassee. I understand  
19      the law on minorities, I agree with it, but you  
20      don't have to pack so many of them into one  
21      place and take them out of their local areas  
22      where they can vote on local ideas.

23             And, actually, the above example is not  
24      fair to voters of any party, not just because  
25      the second party will do the same if they get

1       into power, but because it also gives too much  
2       party -- too much power to party bosses. We  
3       have seen that local representatives of the  
4       party in power wanting to vote the way they  
5       feel their constituents would like them to vote  
6       have been told to vote the party line or lose  
7       funding on needed projects --

8               SENATOR GAETZ: And, sir, I am going to  
9       have to ask you to conclude with one more  
10      sentence, and then please feel free to pass  
11      around the Petition.

12             MR. SKIDMORE: -- and if they vote wrong  
13      too often, to have their districts  
14      gerrymandered out of existence in future years.

15             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir,  
16      and please feel free to pass it around.

17             Tammy Cabrera, is it --

18             MS. WILLIAMS: My name is Glenda Williams.  
19      You called my name one time, then you haven't  
20      called it since, so --

21             SENATOR GAETZ: I'm sorry, is Tammy  
22      Cabrera there? Ms. Cabrera, you are up, and we  
23      are delighted to have you with us this evening,  
24      and you are recognized.

25             MS. CABRERA: Legislators, welcome and

1       thank you for coming to Sarasota. I would like  
2       to ask you to consider leaving District 55  
3       largely the way it is from south St. Pete to  
4       northern Sarasota. Though it only covers a  
5       small part of our county, it allows us to be  
6       united with other similar communities.

7               I hope that with the Amendment 5 and 6  
8       passing, you will also be able to look at  
9       additional opportunities for us to elect  
10      representatives to the State Senate and  
11      Congress. We relate to the community and know  
12      our needs. Thank you.

13              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
14      ma'am. I appreciate your comments.

15              A number of you asked tonight that before  
16      we concluded, that some specific questions be  
17      answered or observations be made by members of  
18      the Committee, and so I am going to turn to the  
19      Speaker Designate at the end to answer any  
20      questions that hadn't been answered. He made a  
21      list of them. But let me begin first with  
22      members of the House of Representatives,  
23      Democrats or Republicans. Any of you have any  
24      comments that you would like to make before we  
25      go to the Speaker D?

1           Yes, sir, you are recognized,  
2       Representative Rouson.

3           REPRESENTATIVE ROUSON:  It is hard to sit  
4       here -- first of all, I am very grateful to the  
5       number of people that came out tonight.  It is  
6       a testament to our Republic and to our  
7       democracy.

8           It is hard to sit here hearing after  
9       hearing after hearing and take some shots, but  
10      we were elected for just that, to do the best  
11      that we could, understanding that we will not  
12      be able to please everybody.  But it is  
13      important to be heard.  I think that to hear  
14      from you and then go back and try and draw  
15      something after having heard you over and over  
16      and over again helps us, and I, for one, would  
17      have been very distraught -- in fact,  
18      Mr. Speaker Designee and Mr. President, tell me  
19      if y'all got some maps somewhere.  I want to  
20      know.  I want to see them.  But this part of  
21      the process is so that we can take back.  And I  
22      want you to know, I am taking it back.  I ain't  
23      scared of no ghost.  And we will make sure that  
24      what is done is fair.  My daddy taught me one  
25      lesson, he said, "Son, ain't no fairness.

1       There's only justice in the end." There is no  
2       fairness truly when human beings are behind it,  
3       but as much as possible, we seek fairness while  
4       we expect justice.

5               Thank you for coming out tonight.

6               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Representative,  
7       well spoken.

8               Other members of the House who wish to  
9       offer any comments? Please, Representative  
10      Frishe.

11              REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: First of all, full  
12      disclosure, I am not running for reelection to  
13      the House. Ms. Davis, I hope I paid attention,  
14      I hope I met your threshold, but you weren't  
15      watching me, were you?

16              So we have been told to follow Amendment 5  
17      for legislative districts, but the question I  
18      would like somebody to come up and tell me  
19      after we adjourn is do we then split Lakewood  
20      Ranch or not? Because we have heard both  
21      arguments here tonight. Do we split the  
22      airport or not, because the county line runs  
23      down the middle of it, or not? But we have to  
24      follow Amendment 5. So it is going to be a  
25      problem.



1           The congressional seats, we heard  
2       testimony that said we should keep Charlotte  
3       and Sarasota together because they are a  
4       community of interest, but Amendment 6 doesn't  
5       allow for communities of interest. And we also  
6       heard we should keep Sarasota and Manatee  
7       together because they are a community of  
8       interest, but, once again, we can't consider  
9       communities of interest under the law.

10           So we are going to try and follow the law  
11       and keep Representative Rouson's District 55  
12       for those who want it, and get rid of it for  
13       those who don't. Now, I am really trying to  
14       pay attention here, folks, so hang on. Darryl,  
15       behave yourself. Now -- and I don't really  
16       mean to be all that humorous about that, but  
17       what I want to point out is that issue,  
18       especially at the congressional level, may well  
19       be out of our hands, because the Federal Voting  
20       Rights Act, as enforced by the federal courts,  
21       are going to give us guidelines that we cannot  
22       deviate from, just like the population of a  
23       congressional district doesn't have a one  
24       percent variation, it has a plus or minus one  
25       person variation. So try drawing that

1 congressional district on the software, folks,  
2 because I got to tell you, it took me two hours  
3 to draw the first one, and I started in the  
4 Panhandle, and that is easy up there because  
5 there's lots of open space and small families.

6 The maps are out in the lobby. That is  
7 what we are going to start with. If you've got  
8 some changes to them, go tell us what they are.  
9 Tell us what -- there are a couple of them,  
10 pick your favorite one. There is one I happen  
11 to like out there. But take a look at the  
12 maps, reference the number, tell us what  
13 changes you would like to see, because we are  
14 going to start with the will of the people.  
15 That is what we are elected to do.

16 There are a couple other things out  
17 there -- that were said tonight that I think  
18 are going to get answered, but we get paid to  
19 get beat up. That is why they pay us the big  
20 bucks, both of them.

21 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much.  
22 Other members of the House? If not, Senator  
23 Detert, you are recognized.

24 SENATOR DETERT: It is probably not in my  
25 best interest to tell you what I think, but,

1       frankly, I am very disappointed in our  
2       community. If you recall last year, we spent  
3       about a half a million dollars to promote  
4       civility, and for this woman in the front to  
5       stand up and say, "Stop, the child is  
6       fighting," this is our half of the table. This  
7       is my good friend, Senator Joyner, from a  
8       gerrymandered district, my good friend, the  
9       Democrat. Nobody on this side of the table is  
10      fighting. None of this group is fighting over  
11      districts or anything else. We came to listen.

12           I thank the Representatives, look at the  
13      size of the crowd that came here today, they  
14      came early, they took a tour of the Ringling  
15      Museum. I was hoping they would be impressed  
16      with our community, because they all get to  
17      vote on our budget, things like this  
18      university, things that we want for our  
19      community. This is an opportunity to showcase  
20      the community. It is also an opportunity to  
21      participate in your government. Now, you can  
22      either have tons of paranoia run rampant and  
23      you can protest, or you can pull up a chair and  
24      you can participate.

25           In the past, districts were gerrymandered.

1       No one at this table probably drew any of the  
2       districts, the salamander, the this, the that,  
3       the whatever.

4               The best testimony we had today was this  
5       morning in Largo at 8:00 a.m. from an  
6       84-year-old woman who was probably the smartest  
7       woman in the room. She's seen lots of  
8       redistricting. And she referred to one map as  
9       the bug splat. Peggy Simone, you probably did  
10      that, for crying out loud. So it is not like  
11      gerrymandering is new.

12             This is the most open, transparent  
13      situation you will ever see up until now,  
14      thanks to things like technology, the Internet.  
15      There are no maps in the back room that we are  
16      all going to run back there and arm wrestle  
17      over. In fact, I have to congratulate our  
18      Chairman, Senator Gaetz. The very first  
19      meeting we ever had -- and he told this to me,  
20      frankly, in private, he said, "I don't even  
21      want to know where anybody on the Committee  
22      lives." And you know what? I don't want to  
23      know where anybody on the Committee lives  
24      either.

25             I think -- I did participate in

1       redistricting in the year 2000. I personally  
2       drew District 70. I think it is compact. I  
3       think it is a community of interest. You have  
4       to hit the numbers. There are certain rules.  
5       And for you all to stand up and read us the  
6       rules, guess what, we know the rules. We have  
7       read the amendments, and we did not start out  
8       this meeting by saying we have no intention of  
9       keeping any of the rules.

10               So, frankly, I am a little disappointed in  
11       the lack of civility. I think we have been as  
12       polite on our side of the table as we can be.  
13       We intend to be fair, and, really, you probably  
14       won't know until we do produce the maps, and  
15       then you will -- and then you will be --

16               SENATOR GAETZ: Ma'am, ma'am, ma'am --

17               SENATOR DETERT: And I thank you all for  
18       staying this late, because you will hear some  
19       of your questions answered by Representative  
20       Weatherford, who I turn over the mike to now.

21               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, and with that,  
22       I will recognize the Speaker Designate, and  
23       he's made a list of some of the questions that  
24       have not been responded to, and we will ask him  
25       to respond to those questions now, and please

1           give him your attention.

2           Mr. Speaker.

3           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
4           very much, Mr. Chairman. It's been a great  
5           hearing, and thank you all for staying so late  
6           and sitting through this entire hearing and  
7           giving us an opportunity to talk to you and to  
8           respond to some of the questions, a lot of the  
9           questions that probably need to be clarified.  
10          And so I am going to do my best to do that, but  
11          first I did want to say there was one  
12          gentleman, Mr. Chairman, who complimented your  
13          ability to chair this hearing, and I stole one  
14          of the band-aids from Darryl Rouson, I just  
15          think you should have one yourself, too. So  
16          feel free to partake.

17          But I want to say there were a lot of  
18          things mentioned tonight, and I am going to try  
19          to go through them systematically. One person  
20          I thought had an interesting question, the  
21          first time I have heard this, Mr. Chairman, in  
22          probably over 1,000 people who have spoken  
23          before this committee, maybe 2,000, and that  
24          question was this: What have you learned since  
25          hearing all this public testimony? And we have

1       probably had 70 hours plus of public testimony  
2       thus far. And I thought that was a very  
3       interesting question, and so I am going to  
4       briefly tell you a couple of things I think I  
5       have learned.

6             The first thing I have heard and I have  
7       learned is I have heard from every Supervisor  
8       of Elections that has talked to us about the  
9       efforts you have put in in putting the VTDs  
10      together, and to make sure, since you put all  
11      that detail into work, that we utilize that and  
12      honor that in our process, and I hear you loud  
13      and clear, we hear all of you loud and clear, I  
14      want to thank you for that. That has been  
15      very, very helpful.

16            The other thing we have heard a lot about  
17      is I have heard several people talk about  
18      transportation corridors; in other words, talk  
19      about how far it takes for them to get from  
20      where they live to maybe the district office of  
21      the person who represents them. And so  
22      transportation matters, and roads and bridges  
23      and railroad tracks and things that get you  
24      from A to Z actually matter. And so I have  
25      learned a lot about that, and I didn't know

1 much about Sarasota and Manatee except for the  
2 few times I have driven through here or come to  
3 visit some of my friends, and so we are  
4 learning as we are sitting here about the  
5 different transportation needs and corridors of  
6 your community. I have learned a lot about  
7 that today and about our state, and that has  
8 been very helpful to me as well.

9 The last thing I have heard a lot about  
10 that I think I didn't recognize until this  
11 process started is that the Federal Voting  
12 Rights Act mandates that the Legislature  
13 analyze where cohesive minority communities  
14 exist, and we have received tremendous  
15 information, both in Orlando and in Miami and  
16 in Tampa, on this exact issue. We have heard a  
17 lot about it in regards to District 55 just  
18 here tonight, and that has been very helpful,  
19 too. So that was a great question. I could  
20 probably go on for a long time about things I  
21 have learned. Those are a couple of things,  
22 but I hadn't heard that yet, and I wanted to  
23 make sure I responded to it.

24 Something we hear everywhere we go -- so I  
25 started with something I never hear, and now I



1       am going to start with something I hear  
2       everywhere we go. Something we hear everywhere  
3       we go, and there were several comments made  
4       tonight about it, was the timeline. And I  
5       stated this in my opening, but in case anybody  
6       missed it, I want to say it one more time. The  
7       Constitution of the State of Florida is very  
8       clear. We cannot -- we cannot vote on  
9       legislative maps until 2012. We cannot do it.  
10      It is illegal.

11             Okay. Now, that being said, the question  
12      is, what are we going to do with the time  
13      leading up to that, right? Well, we have  
14      already moved session from March to January,  
15      that is a start. So what are we going to do  
16      with the six or seven months before that? We  
17      were one of the last states, not the last  
18      state, one of the last states to get our census  
19      data in the entire country. Okay. Now, we  
20      have started since session got out on what we  
21      are calling a listening tour. We started in  
22      Pensacola. We are working our way all the way  
23      down the state. This is our last week. You  
24      are one of our last meetings that we are  
25      having. We are going to spend -- we have spent

1 the entire summer listening to people just like  
2 you, over 1,000 people thus far. And then we  
3 are going to spend the fall months analyzing  
4 the information that you have given us and  
5 utilizing it to put it into action, into  
6 drawing maps. And then when we get into  
7 session, we are going to vote on maps. Ladies  
8 and gentlemen, that is the process. That is  
9 the timeline. We are not slowing down  
10 anything. That is what we are going to do, and  
11 I hope you hold me accountable to that, because  
12 that is exactly what the Chairman and I plan on  
13 doing going forward.

14 The other thing I want to mention in  
15 regard to the timeline is that Fair Districts  
16 could have easily addressed this. In other  
17 states, they have constitutional requirements  
18 about when they can vote on their maps, just  
19 like we do. If this was such a big problem,  
20 and if everybody recognized that we should have  
21 sped up the timeline, why didn't we include in  
22 the Fair District amendments the timeline and  
23 made it an off-cycle amendment? They could  
24 have easily said, "Let's vote on maps in 2011.  
25 That way, we will have a year and a half to

1       decide who we are going to vote on and get all  
2       this stuff out of the way."  Somebody who was  
3       crafting those amendments specifically chose  
4       not to do that, and I can't tell you what the  
5       reasons are, but my point is it wasn't  
6       important a year and a half or two years ago,  
7       but now it seems to be the most important  
8       thing.

9               We are dealing with the timeline that we  
10       have.  Our Constitution says what it says, and  
11       we are going to follow it and do it as quickly  
12       as we possibly can.

13              Another question was Ms. Hepburn asked are  
14       we going to be done in time for qualifying.  I  
15       can assure you there are deadlines that we  
16       have, like we have to pass maps before session  
17       is out in the first week in March.  That is a  
18       deadline.  We have no plan or hope to go that  
19       late in the process.  We want to pass the maps  
20       as quickly as we can possibly can.  But, also,  
21       something we have no control over is what the  
22       Supreme Court will do or what the Department of  
23       Justice will do.  And so I hope, as you are  
24       telling us to speed up our timeline, that you  
25       will spend as much time and effort in reminding

1       those branches of government to speed up their  
2       timeline as well.

3               Lastly, Senator Gaetz -- in regard to the  
4       timeline, Senator Gaetz this morning brought up  
5       something that I thought was very interesting,  
6       and I hadn't heard this yet and I still want to  
7       think it over, but he said -- we had heard so  
8       much about the timeline and the confusion about  
9       the timeline, he said, "Why don't we have a  
10      constitutional amendment so that ten years from  
11      now we won't have the exact same problem? We  
12      will just say you have to draw the maps in  
13      2011, or what now would be 2021, and we won't  
14      have this problem anymore." And I think that  
15      is a very interesting suggestion and something  
16      that this Committee should consider going  
17      forward.

18             Another question we hear everywhere we go:  
19      Where are the maps, big question mark. Where  
20      are the maps? Why haven't you brought the maps  
21      to us? This is a chicken versus the egg debate  
22      that we hear in every town hall meeting that we  
23      have, and I want -- I want to articulate it  
24      this way first: In politics, probably the  
25      biggest criticism I get when I go to have town

1        hall meetings in my district or when I speak to  
2        groups is they ask us why we voted on certain  
3        things or why we made decisions without  
4        listening to the citizens first. Senate Bill  
5        6, I cannot tell you how many people over  
6        Senate Bill 6 said, "Why didn't you listen to  
7        us first? Why didn't you ask the teachers  
8        first? Why didn't you spend time with your  
9        constituents first?" Ladies and gentlemen,  
10       this is a big deal. We are changing the  
11       political landscape in Florida for the next ten  
12       years. Wouldn't it be prudent of us to come  
13       and to listen to people first and to give us  
14       some thoughts and some guidance before we draw  
15       maps?

16                Next, the Chairwoman of Fair Districts --  
17       of the Fair Districts campaign spoke before a  
18       joint committee of House members, Senators,  
19       Republicans, Democrats, and stood at a podium  
20       and told us she would not even attempt to draw  
21       maps unless she had heard from the public  
22       first, and that is the lady who crafted and  
23       pushed and campaigned for the Fair District  
24       amendments, which everyone in here has said  
25       they are in support of.

1           Lastly, everywhere we go, the League of  
2       Women Voters has talked about how important it  
3       is that we draw maps now and that we don't ask  
4       for public input. And I think the League of  
5       Women Voters has done some unbelievably  
6       tremendous things for our country, fighting for  
7       women's suffrage, making sure that we do have  
8       fair districts in this process across the  
9       country. However, there seems to be some  
10      inconsistencies within the League of Women  
11      Voters when it comes to map making, and I want  
12      to give you one example.

13           In Georgia, as of the last week, there the  
14      League of Women Voters not only prepared and  
15      publicized its own redistricting maps, it  
16      organized a map fair at the Georgia State  
17      Capitol and encouraged members of the public to  
18      present their own maps. "Our goal" -- and I  
19      quote, "Our goal throughout this process is to  
20      ensure that citizens have a voice," said the  
21      President of the League of Women Voters of  
22      Georgia, "and what better way to do this than  
23      to bring people and maps down to the Capitol?"  
24      If it works for the League of Women Voters in  
25      Georgia, I am a little bit confused as to why

1       it doesn't work for the League of Women Voters  
2       in Florida. That is a very important thing to  
3       mention as well.

4               Litigation, we have heard about the  
5       litigation, and people -- there's a lot of  
6       confusion around litigation. I want to be very  
7       clear about this. Litigation is going on. It  
8       is only going on in regard to Amendment 6. So  
9       the amendment that deals with the legislative  
10      maps, House and Senate maps, there is no  
11      litigation in regard to that amendment.  
12      Amendment 6 that deals with congressional maps,  
13      there is litigation going on with Amendment 6.  
14      The litigation was originally filed by a  
15      Republican Congressman from Miami and a  
16      Democratic Congresswoman from Jacksonville.  
17      They were the ones who originally filed the  
18      amendments. And it is going to have an effect  
19      at some point, but myself, the Chairman and  
20      every member of the Legislature has sworn an  
21      oath to protect and defend the Constitution of  
22      the United States and the Constitution of  
23      Florida, and that means, to me, that Amendments  
24      5 and 6 are the law, and we will follow every  
25      single word. You have our word on that.

1           The indication that there is a \$30 million  
2       fund for litigation, that somehow the  
3       Legislature or the Florida House has set aside  
4       a \$30 million fund to fight Amendments 5 and 6  
5       is simply not true. Senator Gaetz said that  
6       sometimes things get in the bloodstream, and  
7       there was an article and there was one  
8       newspaper who seems to think that it was true.  
9       It is their opinion, it is not fact. And if  
10      you do not believe me, if you do not believe  
11      me, you can go onto a website, and the website  
12      is called [transparencyflorida.org](http://transparencyflorida.org), and  
13      Transparency Florida will show you every dollar  
14      that is being spent by state government, and I  
15      will implore anyone who can show me a  
16      \$30 million pot of money that is set aside  
17      specifically for redistricting and lawsuits.  
18      It does not exist, ladies and gentlemen, that  
19      is not true.

20           A VOICE: How much has been --

21           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I tell you  
22      what, I don't have that number. There was an  
23      article that was written, and I think the  
24      number that they threw up that had been spent  
25      on litigation was somewhere in a couple hundred



1       thousand dollars, but, sir, to be honest with  
2       you, I will get that number to you, we will  
3       make that available and we will put it on our  
4       website, on floridaredistricting.org. We will  
5       find a number that has been spent, we will do  
6       our due diligence, we will put it up there so  
7       you can see it. Okay. We will do that.

8               I am not going to get into get into --  
9       hold on. Ladies and gentlemen, we have been  
10      listening for three hours, I am going to wrap  
11      this up, and I will be here afterwards if you  
12      want to ask questions, please.

13             There was a question about have we put out  
14      the schedule yet for the fall. The answer to  
15      that question is, no, we have not put the  
16      schedule out for the fall. But if you go to  
17      our website, floridaredistricting.org, or the  
18      Senate website, you can get that information,  
19      it will be forthcoming in the coming weeks.

20             The other question they had was were there  
21      members on the Committee, will they all be --  
22      are the members here all on the Committee?  
23      Most of them are, but we encourage all members,  
24      whether they are on the Committee or not, to  
25      participate in the process.

1           A couple of things, and I am going to end.  
2       There's a lot of tension involved in this  
3       process. Some people here said, "We made our  
4       voices clear when we voted for Amendments 5 and  
5       6, just do your job." That is a fair  
6       assessment, and I respect that position, but  
7       let me point out a couple of things. I heard  
8       some people show up here today and say that  
9       minority seats should be the number one  
10      priority and making sure there's no  
11      retrogression whatsoever, no matter what. I  
12      heard some people show up today and say that  
13      compactness should rule the day, and that  
14      Sarasota and Manatee County should be together,  
15      no matter what. I heard some people come up  
16      and tell me that county boundaries were the  
17      most important thing, and some counties aren't  
18      as compact as others. I heard some come and  
19      say that the communities of interest, whether  
20      it was the western end of the county or the  
21      eastern end or the agricultural community or  
22      the industrial community, was the most  
23      important thing. I had some folks talk about  
24      political boundaries and roads and bridges. I  
25      had -- I think you get my drift in that this is

1 not easy. And the reason is amendments 5 and 6  
2 has a lot of standards, and a lot of them --  
3 and they are good standards, and we should have  
4 standards. But we should also hear from you  
5 about what you think about the -- what you  
6 think about them and the legal requirements  
7 that come with them.

8           There was a comment about congressional  
9 maps and whether or not they had to be exactly  
10 the same. I think Senator Detert addressed  
11 that, but just to be clear, 15 years ago we  
12 drew them with only one person deviation. If  
13 we do more than that, we do put ourselves in a  
14 situation where the federal government could  
15 reject our maps, and so we have to be extremely  
16 careful. I don't want to say we can't have any  
17 deviation, but we have to be extremely careful  
18 about that.

19           There was a gentleman who asked us, do we  
20 go to the courts again, and why do we go to the  
21 courts again. I think it was a lady that asked  
22 why are we going to the courts again. Ladies  
23 and gentlemen, it is mandated by the  
24 Constitution, it has to go to the courts, it  
25 also has to go to the Department of Justice,

1           and they will both look at these maps once they  
2           are passed.

3           The last thing I will leave everyone with  
4           is this: We want to get this right. We are  
5           all here, we are here to listen to you, we are  
6           here to hear a great amount of public  
7           testimony. The last thing I want to do is do  
8           this wrong. My mother always told me that she  
9           would tell me when something was fair, she  
10          would let me know if something was fair, and my  
11          guess is you will let us know if it's fair when  
12          we put it out there. So do me a favor, hold us  
13          accountable. Continue to follow what we are  
14          doing. Go to our websites, learn more about  
15          what we are doing. Your input tonight has been  
16          tremendous, and I thank you for that and thank  
17          you for your attention and for your civility.  
18          And, Mr. Chairman, thank you for a great  
19          hearing. Thank you all very much.

20                 SENATOR GAETZ: And with that,  
21          Representative Weatherford moves we rise.

22                 (Whereupon, the proceedings were  
23          concluded.)

24

25

## 1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )

3 COUNTY OF LEON )

4 I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript  
5 is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned,  
6 and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting  
7 under my direction;

8 That the foregoing pages 2 through 168  
9 represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of  
10 the tape-recording;

11 And I further certify that I am not of kin or  
12 counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the  
13 regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor  
14 am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

15 Dated this 28th day of November 2011.

16

17

18

19

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

20

Notary Public

21

State of Florida at Large

22

Commission Expires:

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November 13, 2014

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REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

11

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2011

12

6:00 P.M.

13

VETERANS PARK RECREATION CENTER

14

LEHIGH ACRES, FLORIDA

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

Transcribed by:

22

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

23

Court Reporter

24

25

1 T A P E D P R O C E E D I N G S

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you all. You may be  
3 seated. The Joint Senate/House Redistricting  
4 Hearing is called to order. We are pleased to  
5 be joined tonight by members of the House of  
6 Representatives Redistricting Committee and the  
7 Senate Reapportionment Committee.

8 We will ask them to identify themselves so  
9 you will know with whom you are sharing your  
10 ideas. We really thank the Lee County and Lee  
11 County Parks and Recreation Department for  
12 allowing us to use this wonderful facility.

13 We are very grateful to them and grateful  
14 to you for being here, especially those who are  
15 here to share their observations, share their  
16 ideas and their comments, and especially those  
17 who have come with specific assistance for us  
18 and guidance for us on neighborhoods and  
19 communities in this area and how and where they  
20 ought to be districted.

21 My name is Don Gaetz. I serve in the  
22 Florida Senate. My Senate district stretches  
23 from Pensacola to east of Panama City. That is  
24 way up in the Florida Panhandle in the Central  
25 Time Zone, so I am an hour later -- you're an

1 hour later than I am, I am an hour earlier, so  
2 I am not nearly as tired as you are.

3 My House colleague, Representative John  
4 Legg, will be co-Chairing this evening's  
5 hearing with me, which is being broadcast  
6 tonight by The Florida Channel statewide over  
7 the Internet.

8 So if you are going to speak tonight, be  
9 sure to check your makeup, your hair,  
10 straighten your tie, because you will be on  
11 statewide TV.

12 Our sole purpose tonight is to hear from  
13 the public about how you believe the legal  
14 standards governing redistricting ought to be  
15 applied in your community so that you are  
16 represented in Washington and Tallahassee  
17 fairly, equitably and sensibly. Let me  
18 reemphasize that.

19 The question is not if our legal  
20 standards, both state and federal, are going to  
21 be applied. That is not debatable. What we  
22 have come to ask for your guidance on is how  
23 those standards, state and federal, ought to be  
24 applied in your community, and we hope to get  
25 some very substantive testimony this evening.



1           Before we go any further, I would like to  
2           ask our House and Senate members if they would  
3           identify themselves, indicate what House you  
4           serve in and also what part of the state you  
5           are from.

6           And maybe we can begin, if we can turn the  
7           mike on and it doesn't feed back, with Senator  
8           Benacquisto.

9           SENATOR BENACQUISTO: Thank you, Chairman  
10          Gaetz. Good evening, everyone. Thank you so  
11          much for coming. I am Lizbeth Benacquisto, and  
12          I have the absolute incredible privilege to  
13          represent Senate District 27, and I welcome all  
14          of my colleagues in the House and Senate to my  
15          district this evening, and I am glad to have  
16          the opportunity to share some time with you  
17          all, such a wonderful group of community  
18          leaders who have come tonight to share your  
19          opinions on how we should draw the maps and how  
20          it relates to your particular community.

21          So thank you all for coming, and we look  
22          forward to a great evening tonight.

23          SENATOR JOYNER: Good evening. My name is  
24          Arthenia Joyner. I am State Senator from  
25          District 18 encompassing portions of

1 Hillsborough, Pinellas and Manatee Counties,  
2 Tampa, St. Petersburg and Bradenton, and  
3 welcome and thank you for coming.

4 SENATOR NEGRON: Good evening. My name is  
5 Joe Negron. I represent Senate District 28,  
6 which is southeast Florida, northern Palm Beach  
7 County and parts of Okeechobee County. And if  
8 we have a little time after 9:00, we can have a  
9 little pickup basketball game if anybody is  
10 interested.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS: Good evening. I  
12 am Trudi Williams. I represent District 75,  
13 which is Lee and parts of Collier County, and  
14 thanks for everyone being here, it is much  
15 appreciated.

16 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Good evening.  
17 My name is Chuck Chestnut, House District 23.  
18 That is a portion of Alachua County and Marion  
19 County.

20 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Good evening. My  
21 name is State Representative Mack Bernard, and  
22 since we are moving closer to my district, I  
23 represent the cities of Belle Glade, Pahokee  
24 and South Bay.

25 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: Good evening. I am

1 State Representative Mia Jones, representing  
2 District 14 in Jacksonville, Florida.

3 REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: Good evening. I  
4 am Dennis Baxley, serving in the Florida House,  
5 District 24, from Ocala and Marion County,  
6 Florida.

7 REPRESENTATIVE CAMPBELL: Good evening.  
8 My name is Daphne Campbell, State House  
9 District 108 from Miami-Dade County.

10 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Good evening.  
11 I am State Representative Gwyndolen  
12 Clarke-Reed, serving Broward County, House  
13 District 92, serving seven cities: Deerfield  
14 Beach, Pompano Beach, Oakland Park, Wilton  
15 Manors, a little bit of north Ft. Lauderdale, a  
16 little bit of North Lauderdale and Tamarac.  
17 Glad to be here and good to see you.

18 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Good evening,  
19 Hazelle Rogers representing District 94, eight  
20 cities in Broward County, one of the most  
21 diverse counties in the state of Florida,  
22 boasting 1.8 million in population. My cities  
23 for District 94: Lauderdale Lakes, Lauderhill,  
24 Margate, Tamarac, Sunrise, Oakland Park and  
25 Plantation. Thank you very much, listening --

1       here to listen to you. This is my 24th  
2       meeting, Mr. Chairman.

3               SENATOR ALTMAN: Senator Thad Altman,  
4       District 24, which encompasses Brevard,  
5       Seminole and Orange County, better known as the  
6       Space Coast, runs from the Space Center to Palm  
7       Bay over to Orlando.

8               REPRESENTATIVE BURGIN: Good evening,  
9       State Representative Rachel Burgin from  
10      District 56, which is Tampa, Riverview,  
11      Brandon, Gibsonton, eastern Hillsborough County  
12      area. It is wonderful to be here with you this  
13      evening.

14              SENATOR STORMS: Good evening. I am  
15      Senator Storms and I represent District 10,  
16      which is Hillsborough County. If you think of  
17      I-75, I am a little bit to the east of Tampa,  
18      the Tampa community. I include a little bit of  
19      Pasco County, which is Zephyrhills, and a  
20      little bit of Polk County, a little part of  
21      where Publix' headquarters is off of Wabash in  
22      Lakeland, and I am so glad to be here. You all  
23      have a high bar to set.

24              We left Naples, and those folks there,  
25      even when they disagreed with us, were so kind

1       when they -- we felt loved on after they took  
2       us to the woodshed. So I am really looking  
3       forward to hearing from you all and seeing if  
4       you can outdo in civility what Naples did for  
5       us. Thank you very much for being here.

6               REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Good evening. I  
7       am John Patrick Julien, representing House  
8       District 104, which is in Miami-Dade County.  
9       House District 104 encompasses the cities of  
10      North Miami Beach, North Miami, Miami Gardens,  
11      Opa-Locka, Miami and a large chunk of  
12      unincorporated Miami-Dade. It is a pleasure to  
13      be here.

14             REPRESENTATIVE ROBERSON: Good evening. I  
15      am State Representative Ken Roberson. I  
16      represent parts of Charlotte, Sarasota and Lee  
17      County. District 71 runs from the City of  
18      North Port in southern Sarasota County down to  
19      North Ft. Myers. Thank you for coming.

20             SENATOR RICHTER: Greetings, my name is  
21      Garrett Richter. I represent portions of  
22      Collier and Lee County, and I want to extend my  
23      appreciation to each and every one of you for  
24      giving up your evening gear to come and be a  
25      part of this public process. Thank you all

1 very much for being here tonight.

2 REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: I am Kathleen  
3 Passidomo, and I represent House District 76,  
4 which is Collier County, City of Naples, City  
5 of Marco Island, City of Everglades City, and I  
6 am thrilled to be here. Thank you.

7 REPRESENTATIVE CALDWELL: Good evening,  
8 representative Matt Caldwell in the Florida  
9 House, and happy that we are able to have this  
10 meeting here tonight in my hometown here in the  
11 district. Thank you very much. And I am  
12 confident that this community will prove  
13 Senator Storms correct and that we can  
14 out-civil the community of Naples here this  
15 evening. Thank you all very much for being  
16 here.

17 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Tough act to follow.  
18 I am Representative John Legg, I represent west  
19 Pasco County.

20 SENATOR GAETZ: And joining us tonight,  
21 and none of what we discuss tonight is his  
22 fault, unless we get into deep water and then  
23 we do plan to blame him, is someone I think  
24 many of you know very well, the former  
25 Lieutenant Governor of the State of Florida,

1 the Honorable Jeff Kottkamp. Governor, it is  
2 great to see you.

3 Folks, our procedures tonight -- I'm  
4 sorry, a late addition.

5 REPRESENTATIVE AUBUCHON: Thank you. My  
6 name is Gary Aubuchon, and I represent the  
7 western side of Lee County and parts of  
8 Charlotte County, and from 1985 to 1989 was a  
9 resident of Lehigh Acres.

10 SENATOR GAETZ: Getting the hometown  
11 advantage.

12 Ladies and gentlemen, our procedures  
13 tonight are simple, but they are important. It  
14 is important that you sign in so that we can  
15 create an accurate public record of all  
16 attendees and all speakers. And, also, if you  
17 sign in, you will be on our e-mail list so that  
18 we can keep you informed about the progress of  
19 redistricting as it goes forward.

20 If you have not signed in and you want to  
21 designate that you were here tonight, and we  
22 hope you will, please raise your hand, and  
23 somebody will get to you with one of these  
24 cards.

25 It is the same card to sign in just to be

1       here and watch your friends and neighbors as it  
2       is if you wish to speak. So if you wish to  
3       speak, and even if you told us by e-mail last  
4       week or two weeks or three weeks ago that you  
5       intended to be here, if you want to speak  
6       tonight and you haven't filled out one of these  
7       cards, it would be very helpful if you would  
8       raise your hand, and one of our professional  
9       staff will get to you, because we don't want to  
10      miss a word of your testimony or a single  
11      person who wants to testify tonight.

12               Before we begin, the Chair will recognize  
13      Representative Legg on behalf of the House  
14      Redistricting Committee to explain how today's  
15      hearing fits into the redistricting process and  
16      the schedule. Representative.

17               REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Thank you,  
18      Mr. Chairman. Every ten years, the Legislature  
19      is required by our Constitution to redistrict  
20      the states based on increases, decreases and  
21      movements in population. Because Florida has  
22      grown more than other states in the last ten  
23      years, we will move up from 25 to 27 members of  
24      the U.S. House of Representatives. Because  
25      some parts of our states have increased or



1       decreased disproportionately in population,  
2       many Senate and House districts will change,  
3       either by adding or losing population.

4               When redistrict is completed,  
5       congressional districts must equal in  
6       population containing 696,345 people. The 40  
7       Senate districts must also be nearly equal at  
8       about 470,000 people, and our 120 House  
9       districts must also be nearly equal at about  
10      156,700 people. We have displays at the front  
11      of the room showing the current boundaries of  
12      the districts in the area of the state and the  
13      numbers of persons which must be added or  
14      subtracted from the current districts to  
15      achieve that equal population.

16             Equality of representation isn't the only  
17      legal requirement redistricting plans must  
18      meet. The law and important court cases  
19      governing redistricting are explained in detail  
20      on the House and Senate websites. Those  
21      websites are listed on the "Redistricting 2012"  
22      brochure that was available when you came in.

23             Our "Redistricting 2012" brochure  
24      summarizes federal and state laws, and outlines  
25      topics we hope you will discuss here at today's

1 meeting. If you did not get a copy when you  
2 came in, they are available on the table  
3 outside the meeting. Our staff will be happy  
4 to get you a copy of the brochure if you need  
5 it.

6 The brochure also lists House and Senate  
7 websites. The websites are packed with  
8 information about redistricting Florida,  
9 including an explanation of the laws and  
10 important court cases governing redistricting.  
11 The two websites are complementary and are  
12 updated frequently. Visit both and check back  
13 often.

14 It is a great way to stay current about  
15 how your new congressional, new State Senate  
16 and State House districts are taking shape.

17 The websites also deliver to your  
18 fingertips all the demographic information that  
19 will be used in drawing districts, and the  
20 exact same computer programs that legislators  
21 and their professional staff will use.

22 Any member of the public can participate  
23 in building plans or seeing maps submitted by  
24 legislators or other citizens. Before, during  
25 and after this hearing, Senate and House

1 professional staff are available to show anyone  
2 the simple steps to getting an outline,  
3 building districts and submitting a plan now or  
4 in the weeks to come.

5 Recommendations from citizens and groups  
6 of citizens will be made public -- will be made  
7 publicly available. In fact, as of this  
8 afternoon, 50 public submissions of partial or  
9 completed maps and many other written ideas for  
10 maps are available on the Web.

11 And during the time that we drove from our  
12 meeting in Naples this morning to this evening  
13 here, we received three more public  
14 submissions. After this week, I am sure those  
15 numbers will increase dramatically.

16 The submission of the proposed maps that  
17 makes sense for your community is the single  
18 most effective form of public participation in  
19 this redistricting process.

20 The redistricting schedule under which we  
21 are operating is imposed by the State  
22 Constitution. The Constitution does not permit  
23 the Legislature to act on state legislative  
24 maps before the second year after the census;  
25 in other words, before 2012. We accelerated

1       this process as much as possible by moving up  
2       the 2012 legislative session from March to  
3       January, and by beginning our statewide  
4       hearings five months in advance of the 2012  
5       session.

6             It has been suggested that the Legislature  
7       should draw the maps first and then ask for  
8       public to comment. We believe that is putting  
9       the answer ahead of the question.

10            There should be no preconceptions created  
11       by politicians, but, rather, public testimony  
12       should be free and unrestricted.

13            In fact, the principal author of the  
14       Florida's new redistricting standards and the  
15       Chairperson for the Fair District campaigns are  
16       on record and in agreement with the notion that  
17       no new maps should be -- be not drawn until  
18       after the public has an opportunity to comment.

19            Our intention is to use the recommendation  
20       made at the 26 public hearings and through our  
21       Internet sites as the basis for developing one  
22       or more options for district maps.

23            We will discuss those options in an open  
24       public meeting before any votes are taken, even  
25       in committee.

1           In other words, what we are literally  
2       saying is if you look at those maps outside  
3       this room, the ones actually submitted by the  
4       Legislature -- to the Legislature by Florida  
5       residents, we are literally starting the  
6       legislative process with those maps and other  
7       suggestions from the public.

8           So if you want to know where we will begin  
9       our deliberation, it is with those public  
10      submissions, testimonies from these meetings  
11      and other public input.

12           Throughout the process, we will solicit  
13      additional public comment so that proposed maps  
14      can mature with the public involved, all before  
15      the Legislature approves the final map.  
16      Whatever the Legislature passes then is  
17      submitted for judicial review to ensure that  
18      the final plans meet every single legal  
19      requirement.

20           Because our purpose today is to hear from  
21      you, all the time between now and 9:00 p.m.  
22      will be used to ensure that every member of the  
23      public who is here and wishes to speak will  
24      have the time to present testimony and be  
25      listened to respectfully without interruption

1 or argument.

2 If after every citizen has had his or her  
3 say there is time remaining before our  
4 scheduled adjournment, any member of the  
5 Committee may make any statement or offer any  
6 observation. Of course, any member of the  
7 Legislature may today or at any time propose a  
8 map or a plan, and we will make it available to  
9 the public.

10 Mr. Chairman, I hope this description of  
11 our schedule and process helps set the stage  
12 for a successful and productive meeting  
13 tonight.

14 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Representative,  
15 and you will notice that many of us will be  
16 making notes during the hearing tonight. There  
17 will be also a video record made of the hearing  
18 so that everything that everyone says will be  
19 on the record. We can refer back to it as we  
20 are deliberating in Tallahassee, but, also, at  
21 the end of the hearing, we are going to ask  
22 members of the Committee to answer any  
23 questions, offer any observations, make any  
24 suggestions that they might want to make or if  
25 the spirit moves them to make a statement of

1       some sort. We have done that at every single  
2       hearing.

3               And then if there are questions of fact  
4       that come up, and that has happened at every  
5       hearing, we will try, time permitting, to  
6       answer any questions of fact, because once in a  
7       while, things get in the bloodstream that  
8       aren't quite factual, and this is an  
9       opportunity -- everybody is entitled to their  
10      own opinion, but this is an opportunity for all  
11      of us to leave here at least with the same set  
12      of facts.

13             Now, we -- the good news is we have a  
14      large number of people who would like to  
15      testify tonight, and we want to hear every one  
16      of them. That means that in fairness and  
17      respect to your friends and neighbors who have  
18      come to testify, we are going to ask everyone  
19      to limit their verbal comments to about three  
20      minutes.

21             Now, if you've got a longer script, we  
22      would love to have it all. If you have  
23      additional comments that you would like to make  
24      and time doesn't permit it, then just provide  
25      those comments to one of the members of our

1 professional staff.

2 All of what you would submit tonight in  
3 writing or verbally will be in the record and  
4 distributed to all the members of the House and  
5 Senate committees, whether they are here or  
6 not, and made available as a part of the public  
7 record for all members of the Florida public,  
8 all citizens.

9 What I would like to do is call three  
10 names at once, and we have -- over here on my  
11 left in the front row, we've got an on deck  
12 circle.

13 So if I call you, please come forward and  
14 get in the on deck circle. That way, you can  
15 move right up and speak and we won't waste time  
16 waiting for folks to wind their way through the  
17 audience. Instead we will be able to get to  
18 everybody, hopefully, who would like to chat  
19 this evening.

20 We are starting with Curtis Hamilton,  
21 representing the AARP, and Mr. Hamilton,  
22 following your testimony, we would like to hear  
23 from Lorenzo Tindal, and then if Kevin Shea  
24 will come. Lorenzo and Kevin Shea, if you will  
25 take your place in the on deck circle.



1           Mr. Hamilton, thanks for starting us off  
2           tonight, and the floor is yours.

3           MR. HAMILTON: Thank you. Good evening,  
4           Chairman, committee members, and visiting  
5           legislators. My name is Curtis Hamilton. I  
6           live in Cape Coral. I am pleased to speak as  
7           an AARP volunteer and as President of the Cape  
8           Coral AARP chapter.

9           AARP is a strictly nonpartisan  
10          organization that seeks to improve the quality  
11          of life for all of us as we age. It has over  
12          39 million members nationally and almost three  
13          million here in Florida.

14          Transparency and timeliness are key  
15          elements of the redistricting process and must  
16          be followed. The voters of Florida we feel  
17          have spoken clearly about redistricting by  
18          decisively passing Amendments 5 and 6 and I  
19          want to compliment you for your 26 statewide  
20          hearings, which have gone forward with full  
21          disclosure and public input.

22          The public needs not only the opportunity  
23          to comment, but to have those comments  
24          meaningfully considered and not cast aside as  
25          part of a political game. We expect our

1       Legislature to act with integrity and honor for  
2       the citizens of Florida, and not to end up with  
3       a gerrymandered mess that is left to the courts  
4       to decide.

5               The timeliness of the process is crucial.  
6       The procedural steps, both legislative and  
7       non-legislative, must be achieved in order for  
8       there to be timely qualification of the 2012  
9       election candidates with new districts and for  
10      campaigns prior to voters casting their  
11      ballots.

12             So you need, obviously, to complete this  
13      project sooner rather than later. We ask you  
14      to post your proposed maps, of course, as soon  
15      as possible, which you have indicated you are  
16      willing certainly to do.

17             In conclusion, I want to say thank you for  
18      your really excellent website. I hope that you  
19      keep your focus on my favorite comment about  
20      government, "Of the people, by the people and  
21      for the people," which makes Fair Districts not  
22      just a choice, but a necessity. Make Florida  
23      proud of you. Thank you.

24             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very, very much.  
25      Excellent testimony.

1           And now, following Mr. Tindal and  
2           Mr. Shea, if Jim Roach would come forward and  
3           take his place in the on deck circle.

4           Mr. Tindal, thank you very much for coming  
5           here tonight. You could be other places, sir,  
6           and we appreciate your giving us some time.

7           MR. TINDAL: Thank you, Chairman Gaetz,  
8           and thank you all the Representatives from the  
9           State of Florida for attending our fair city of  
10          Lehigh Acres in southwest Florida.

11          I am sure there are many concerns here  
12          tonight about the redistricting, and many  
13          people, you know, who are not going to be able  
14          to speak, you know, have concerns. My main  
15          concern is that there may be a dilution of the  
16          minority vote due to the -- due to the  
17          redistricting.

18          And I have a question, you know, for the  
19          Chair and Senator Benacquisto and  
20          Representative Caldwell, who represent our  
21          area: Is there a map currently drawn of the  
22          proposed redistricting?

23          And in just closing, I would like for the  
24          entire body here to keep with the spirit of the  
25          state and federal standards, and I am asking

1 all of you to truly consider the framework of  
2 Section 2 and 5 of the Voting Rights Act when  
3 you are reviewing the redistricting public  
4 input. Thanks.

5 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
6 Appreciate your testimony.

7 Now we will hear from Kevin Shea, and when  
8 Mr. Shea is finished, Jim Roach and then Ben  
9 Nelson from the City of Bonita Springs.

10 Mr. Shea, thank you for coming tonight.  
11 We are grateful for your testimony.

12 MR. SHEA: Mr. Chairman, Vice-Chair,  
13 members, ladies and gentlemen, I am Kevin Shea  
14 from Lehigh Acres. I have been very interested  
15 in the issue of redistricting for 50 years. I  
16 started studying intensely this issue in 1960  
17 when I was in high school and subsequent  
18 college and university. I have also done two  
19 stints with the Department of Commerce, Bureau  
20 of Census.

21 I was in the 2000 census, the area group  
22 leader for Lehigh and the greater area of this  
23 county. I have -- I am a retired federal  
24 administrative hearing officer, and I have  
25 studied this issue from history, political

1 science and law.

2 When this thing was adopted, as an  
3 analyst, it appeared to me that things had  
4 gotten a little too clever by two. However,  
5 the proponents of this did not realize the  
6 legal significance of the U.S. Supreme Court  
7 case of Bartlett v. Strickland, which declared  
8 that Section 2 of the CRA was not applicable in  
9 certain ways.

10 What we need here is to think in terms of  
11 Florida as a unified state of people working  
12 together to solve our problems, not split into  
13 a variety of competing ethnic clashes and so  
14 forth. Miami-Dade has like 19 subgroups of  
15 Hispanics.

16 We do not need ethnic warfare in this  
17 state, ethnic gerrymandering, which is just as  
18 bad as incumbent self-protection racket, which  
19 has been the standard for redistricting for  
20 multiple census.

21 The structure should follow natural  
22 geographic and county lines per Section 21 of  
23 Article III. However, I have listened to  
24 numerous testimony in these meetings, and there  
25 seems to be a repetition about community

1 interest.

2           However, community interest is not the  
3 defined constitutional standard, although I  
4 realize there was an attempt to propose such a  
5 supplemental amendment during this last  
6 election.

7           What is the natural process here locally  
8 is to end the gerrymandered districts that we  
9 already have, such as Senate District 27.  
10 Also, on the east coast where Boynton Beach is,  
11 it has an infamous reputation as one of the 20  
12 most gerrymandered districts in the United  
13 States.

14           SENATOR GAETZ: Mr. Shea, I need to ask  
15 you if you could put a bow on it just because  
16 we have so many people behind you.

17           MR. SHEA: Thank you very much.

18           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, sir.

19           MR. SHEA: The natural demarcation line is  
20 the western boundaries of Palm Beach, Broward  
21 and so forth, and to go north from that, the  
22 natural three structures.

23           I will volunteer my analytics. If you  
24 wish to, you can ask me for some analysis and  
25 write-ups, and I would be most happy to do that

1 work.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

3 We appreciate your testimony and your offer.

4 MR. SHEA: Thank you very much, sir.

5 SENATOR GAETZ: Our next speaker is Jim  
6 Roach, and following Jim is Ben Nelson and then  
7 Brian Farrar with the Bonita Springs Chamber.

8 Mr. Roach, appreciate your taking time to  
9 come tonight, and the floor is yours.

10 MR. ROACH: Good evening, Senator and  
11 Representatives. Thank you for coming to  
12 Lehigh for taking our input. My name is Jim  
13 Roach. I live in Cape Coral, but I come out to  
14 Lehigh quite often, and I think Lehigh is a  
15 good place to have this hearing. If you go  
16 back ten years and look at the lines and you  
17 look at the community of Lehigh, we have a  
18 Senate district -- State Senate district that  
19 divides Lehigh in half, north and south, and we  
20 have a House district, two districts, that  
21 divide it east and west.

22 So Lehigh being a community, as you draw  
23 the maps this next time, would be nice to leave  
24 us as a community here. I think that is  
25 important.

1           I would also like to talk a little bit  
2       about what we have heard a lot in the media  
3       about providing us maps to talk about first,  
4       and I think we have heard often enough, "Show  
5       us the maps," and walking in today, I did see  
6       the maps you have printed out from other  
7       submissions, and that is a very good start.  
8       But for the average voter, the average one of  
9       us to look at that software and draw complete  
10      state maps is a little difficult. We don't  
11      have the resources you do. I am glad to see 50  
12      people did submit maps. I think that is  
13      important.

14           My question for our local Representatives,  
15      Caldwell and Aubuchon, and Senator Benacquisto,  
16      now that we have maps, and you had mentioned in  
17      the opening that you were going to use those to  
18      start from, do you plan on having public  
19      meetings this fall so that we can come and talk  
20      to you about the maps that have been submitted?  
21      I think that would be an excellent way for us  
22      to give you input based on something we can see  
23      instead of something we might not see.

24           Let's see, a couple of other things just  
25      on the general topic of what I think about when



1 I looked at those maps. I have to go back. My  
2 father was in World War II, received a Purple  
3 Heart, I was in Vietnam, received a Bronze  
4 Star, fighting for our right to vote and  
5 fighting, not only for that, but for our right  
6 -- for our votes to count.

7 So if I can leave you with one thing as --  
8 and most of you know I am a candidate for  
9 Congress in an unnamed district in 2012, but  
10 what I would like you to think about is what I  
11 think about every day, and that is that my  
12 country is more important than my party, and  
13 the people of southwest Florida are more  
14 important than my party, and the truth is more  
15 important than my party. Please think about  
16 that when you draw the lines. Thank you very  
17 much.

18 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir,  
19 and thank you for your service to our country.

20 And now we would -- we will recognize Ben  
21 Nelson from the City of Bonita Springs, then  
22 Brian Farrar from the Chamber, and then Donald  
23 Eslick, if you would come forward and join the  
24 on deck circle.

25 Mr. Nelson, thank you for coming, and you

1 are recognized, sir.

2 MAYOR NELSON: Thank you very much. It  
3 is good to be recognized somewhere.

4 I want to thank all of you, first of all,  
5 for putting on this forum, for being here  
6 tonight, and we really appreciate that.

7 It is really easy for us to kind of  
8 critique the shape of the existing districts as  
9 they are, it is real easy, as a matter of fact,  
10 but one thing that I cannot do is discredit  
11 your service. You have all served us very  
12 well. For the City of Bonita Springs, on  
13 behalf of our City Council and the 45,000  
14 citizens, thank you so much for being  
15 assessable for us, thank you so much for being  
16 there for us and for representing us and -- the  
17 best you can. You have always been there for  
18 us.

19 We've provided your staff with a map. We  
20 -- having invited us to tell you what to do, we  
21 decided to tell you what to do. Isn't that  
22 nice?

23 SENATOR GAETZ: Good man.

24 MAYOR NELSON: No problem. It is our  
25 pleasure. And in a -- as a matter of fact, we

1       have our good neighbors here from Estero, we  
2       agree on this subject. And is their  
3       representative from Ft. Myers Beach here?  
4       Seeing none, they agree with us, too. My City  
5       Manager is going to have me for this, but --

6               SENATOR GAETZ: Are you sure you are not a  
7       candidate for Congress?

8               MAYOR NELSON: Not at all, sir, not at  
9       all.

10              But, anyway, I think that you will find  
11      that our suggestion here, I won't go through  
12      what it is there, but I think that you will  
13      find them to be geographically compact, I think  
14      you will find them to be concise, I think the  
15      numbers add up, and I think that our  
16      communities, more so over than that, we have so  
17      much in common.

18              Our good friends here in Estero, ourselves  
19      and Ft. Myers Beach, we share the Estero Bay  
20      Aquatic Preserve, we share our watershed, we  
21      share the DRGR. There are so many things we  
22      have in common. We think that we are just --  
23      all of these communities that you represent are  
24      wonderful communities, but I think that this  
25      speaks exactly to what this legislation ought

1       to reflect, and that is common need, common  
2       good, common borders and good geographical  
3       sense.

4               And I would thank you for your  
5       consideration, and if you have any questions  
6       during this process, especially -- especially  
7       when you start to try to paste all of these  
8       comments together, I have all the greatest  
9       respect for that process, I have no idea how  
10      you are going to do that, but we are there for  
11      you. If you need some additional comments from  
12      the communities and from municipalities, it is  
13      our pleasure to comment. So thank you very  
14      much, and, please, we are there for you. Thank  
15      you.

16             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, and  
17      thanks so much for the submission. That will  
18      be included in the considerations that the  
19      Committee takes under advisement. We are very  
20      grateful. This is the kind of information we  
21      could not get otherwise.

22             Brian Farrar from the Bonita Springs  
23      Chamber, then Donald Eslick, and then Marilyn  
24      Edwards, if you would come forward.

25             And, Mr. Farrar, thanks for being here

1           tonight. The floor is yours, sir.

2           MR. FARRAR: Thank you very much. Thank  
3           you, Mr. Chairman and all the committee members  
4           that are here this evening. My name is Brian  
5           Farrar. I am here on behalf of the Bonita  
6           Springs Area Chamber of Commerce.

7           We are essentially a business  
8           representative community that covers southern  
9           Lee and part of northern Collier County, and we  
10          see Mr. Richter here, thank you very much. But  
11          we want to be here tonight to speak on behalf  
12          of the City's recommendation. We support the  
13          Mayor and the maps that the City of Bonita  
14          Springs has provided to you all.

15          As a member of the Corkscrew Regional  
16          Ecosystem Watershed Land and Water Trust Board,  
17          I am a member of that as well, having that all  
18          within one district as well means something to  
19          me and the southern drainage of this whole  
20          southern Lee area.

21          Beyond that, I will be brief and allow  
22          everyone else to speak. Thank you very much.  
23          Have a good evening.

24          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir,  
25          excellent testimony, and we look forward to

1       considering the information that you have  
2       provided to us.

3               And Donald Eslick with the -- I think it's  
4       -- is it Estero, sir?

5               MR. ESLICK:   Yes.

6               SENATOR GAETZ:   Estero Council of  
7       Community Leaders.   And we very much appreciate  
8       your taking time to be with us.

9               MR. ESLICK:   Do you want to announce the  
10      other backup here?

11              SENATOR GAETZ:   Sure.   Marilyn Edwards.  
12      That is -- you're moving around.   And then  
13      Philip Douglas with Brooks Concerned Citizens.  
14      Mr. Eslick, thank you very much.

15              MR. ESLICK:   Thank you, Mr. Chairman.   I  
16      am Dan Eslick.   I Chair the Estero Council of  
17      Community Leaders.   Estero is a community,  
18      unincorporated Lee County, and the Council of  
19      Community Leaders is a network of all the  
20      communities within that community.   We have  
21      about 25,000 registered voters, about 40,000  
22      people.   We tripled in size in the last decade,  
23      so we've understood a little bit about growth.

24              Three or four major points I would like to  
25      make.   One is that the people of southwest

1 Florida deserve to have their own voice  
2 represented by people from southwest Florida.  
3 We don't need anymore cross-state districts.  
4 We've had four of them this last decade. That  
5 -- it is unfair. It is unfair to the  
6 Representatives and the Senators, and it is  
7 unfair to the citizens on the east coast, as  
8 well as it is to those on the west coast. That  
9 is especially down here in the southern part of  
10 the state where you have the Everglades in the  
11 middle. It just doesn't make a whole lot of  
12 sense. So that is a key point that I would  
13 like to make, and I hope you will carry that  
14 back.

15 Secondly, Estero, like Bonita, is in the  
16 southern end of Lee County. We are an  
17 unincorporated community in Lee County, so our  
18 government is Lee County government, so we want  
19 to be in a Lee County district. We work  
20 closely with our neighbors in Bonita Springs.  
21 I like to identify with the maps that the Mayor  
22 has just presented, both of which are all Lee  
23 County, House and Senate districts, very, very  
24 important.

25 The community of interest aspect of Estero

1       is very important. We have a community plan  
2       for the entire community adopted by the county  
3       board. Everything that we have done in  
4       managing our growth over this last decade was  
5       guided by that, so everybody in the community  
6       really identifies with what we have been doing.  
7       So it is very important for the whole thing to  
8       be together.

9               The real key to the problem in -- as it  
10       relates to the State Senate district if you  
11       have west coast and east coast districts is how  
12       you deal with the district to our south. I  
13       would recommend that the Collier County Senate  
14       district go up and include Hendry, Glades and  
15       Highlands Counties. That would make -- it is  
16       almost a perfect fit for that Senate district,  
17       and that allows Lee County then to have four  
18       House districts and an entirely -- an entire  
19       Senate district with about 150,000 people left  
20       over to move into another one.

21              So very much appreciate the opportunity to  
22       talk to you tonight. Good luck in your  
23       deliberations. We look forward to working with  
24       you.

25              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very, very much.



1           And, Ms. Edwards, you are up next, Philip  
2           Douglas and then Douglas Patterson.

3           Ms. Edwards, thank you for coming tonight,  
4           and we are looking forward to your testimony.

5           MS. EDWARDS: Thank you very much, Mr.  
6           Chairman. I am Marilyn Edwards. I am the  
7           coordinator for the Brooks Concerned Citizens,  
8           representing Spring Run and The Brooks.

9           I am here to ask you, and join the chorus,  
10          that you eliminate cross-state legislative  
11          districts; in particular, our district, State  
12          Senate District 27. By doing this, you would  
13          be meeting your redistricting objectives of  
14          contiguity and preservation of communities of  
15          interest.

16          The residents of southeast coast of  
17          Florida face issues far different from the  
18          issues facing those of us on the southwest  
19          coast. Both of us need and deserve our own  
20          Senate -- single Senator who can address our  
21          unique concerns. Our community supports the  
22          maps presented by Bonita Springs Mayor Ben  
23          Nel- -- did I say the wrong thing?

24          SENATOR GAETZ: No, ma'am. You are live,  
25          you are good, you are doing well.

1 MS. EDWARDS: We ask that Estero and  
2 Bonita Springs be included in all Lee County  
3 legislative districts, the House, the Senate,  
4 as well as the -- along congressional lines, as  
5 we all work closely together and share common  
6 goals. Thank you for listening.

7 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, ma'am.

8 After Douglas Patterson, our next  
9 presenter would be Kimmie Correll.

10 And so Mr. Douglas, Philip Douglas, we  
11 thank you for being here tonight, sir, and  
12 honored to hear your testimony.

13 MR. DOUGLAS: Thank you very much,  
14 Senator. It is a pleasure to be here. And I  
15 wanted to reaffirm what Mayor Nelson said and  
16 the two speakers following him. We do not want  
17 cross-state districts. That is emphatic. I  
18 cannot be more emphatic that that is something  
19 that is not wanted in south Lee County and in  
20 Lee County. We want to be represented by a  
21 single Senator and a single Representative.

22 I also would like to say that recently  
23 passed Constitutional Amendments 5 and 6, which  
24 were not embraced by lot of members of the  
25 Legislature, need to be followed, and if they

1       are followed, the community of interest for  
2       south Lee County will be included properly.

3               Now, nobody is questioning the process,  
4       but if we see gerrymandered cross-state  
5       districts when the Legislature convenes and  
6       puts these out for final disposition, we will  
7       know two things:

8               One, you have failed to listen to the  
9       residents here tonight; and number two, I hate  
10      to unfortunately say this could be termed a  
11      charade. I am not saying that, but the proof  
12      is in the pudding. Hopefully you will hear us.

13              Thank you very much for your hard work,  
14      and appreciate your time.

15              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much.

16              And for another dose of pudding, Douglas  
17      Patterson, and following Mr. Patterson is  
18      Kimmie Correll and then Gary Verwilt with the  
19      Realtor Association of Greater Ft. Myers.

20              Mr. Patterson, thank you for being here,  
21      sir.

22              MR. PATTERSON: Thank you, Chairman and  
23      Representatives.

24              SENATOR GAETZ: And may we ask you to hold  
25      the mike a little closer to you so we can get

1 every word.

2 MR. PATTERSON: Sure. Thank you.

3 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you.

4 MR. PATTERSON: Thank you, Chairman and  
5 Representatives. First of all, I would like to  
6 make a statement and say that it is Lehigh  
7 Acres, not Lehigh. And I want to thank you for  
8 considering the valuable input of our citizens  
9 in the redistricting plan and the procedure  
10 that is following.

11 My comments basically are set up for House  
12 District 27. I feel with 159.6 percent  
13 population increase in our area, that we need  
14 to increase House District 27 to reflect that  
15 so that we will have a fair representation in  
16 our area. That's basically all I have to say.

17 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

18 Ms. Correll, did I get that correct?

19 MS. CORRELL: You did, thank you.

20 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, and  
21 after Ms. Correll, we have Gary Verwilt and  
22 then -- this one is a little bit more  
23 challenging for me, Ita Neymotin or Neymotin --  
24 Neymotin, I'm sorry. Thank you very much.

25 Ms. Correll, you are recognized.

1           MS. CORRELL: Good evening to you all. I  
2           am appreciative of being here and having the  
3           opportunity to speak. This is the first time I  
4           have ever done something of this nature. My  
5           background is interior decorating, so this is  
6           nothing like that.

7           I am a native of Florida, born in Miami,  
8           Florida, raised there for the first two decades  
9           and went off to college in Alachua County, and  
10          then moved over here to Lee County. I spent  
11          the years raising my children in Lee County,  
12          down in Marco Island and Collier County, and  
13          now am retired in Charlotte County. Now that  
14          the -- I -- as a retired citizen of the state  
15          of Florida, I understand now how important it  
16          is that we pay attention to what is going on  
17          within the politics, and so I am thankful to  
18          have the opportunity to be a part of this.

19          It is important to me that District 16  
20          that stretches from the east coast to the west  
21          coast be modified so that it is more beneficial  
22          to the people living in the areas. I feel that  
23          Charlotte County has grown enough that it can  
24          support a district of its own, and I understand  
25          that the center of the state, though the

1 residents are very diversified and spread out,  
2 need to be either grouped with the east coast  
3 or the west coast.

4 I think for some reason it seems as though  
5 from Interstate 95 east you seem to have a lot  
6 of congestion, and, therefore, the population  
7 supports one district, whereas we on the west  
8 coast here are still in the growth of the area  
9 and possibly could blend in with the center of  
10 the state better. I believe that the  
11 agriculture areas in the middle of the state  
12 usually seem to work more with the west coast  
13 than they do with the east coast.

14 So if those comments can be of any help, I  
15 am thankful to be here and I will be watching  
16 and I will get on the maps and do what I can.

17 SENATOR GAETZ: Good. Thank you so much.

18 MS. CORRELL: Thank you all.

19 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, ma'am.

20 Following Mr. Verwilt is -- try me again  
21 on this -- Neymotin, Ita Neymotin, and then  
22 Pete Quasius, or Quasus.

23 Mr. Verwilt, you are recognized, and  
24 thanks for coming here on behalf of the  
25 realtors.

1           MR. VERWILT:  Senator -- let me try that  
2           again a little bit further back.  Thank you.  
3           Senator, thank you very much for having us, and  
4           I would like to welcome you all and thank you  
5           for all of your interest, energy and  
6           enthusiasm.  It certainly is well noted, and we  
7           appreciate you being here this evening to  
8           listen to us.

9           For those of you who do not know me,  
10          again, my name is Gary Verwilt.  I am President  
11          of the Realtor Association of Greater Ft. Myers  
12          and the Beach.  Our association is currently  
13          over 4,500 strong, and we are greatly  
14          interested and involved in the political  
15          processes that take place here locally and at  
16          the state and on the national levels.

17          We are looking forward to this  
18          redistricting process and know how difficult it  
19          is.  Right now, Lee County has three state  
20          Senate districts:  21, 27, 37.  We also have  
21          five State House districts, these being 71, 72,  
22          73, 74 and 75.  As such, our association  
23          believes that it would be a real disservice to  
24          our members to dilute this type of excellent  
25          representation.  Others have alluded to the

1 same issue in many of your other hearings.  
2 This type of representation is critical for  
3 southwest Florida.

4 We do agree with the fact that cross  
5 district -- cross-state districts must be  
6 eliminated, and we are going to take it one  
7 step farther by saying the coastal areas --  
8 first, we have diverse communities within our  
9 own region. The coastal areas of Sanibel,  
10 Captiva and Ft. Myers Beach are quite different  
11 than the more rural areas of Alva, Olga,  
12 Buckingham, parts of Lehigh Acres and over to  
13 Hendry, Glades and the western portions of Palm  
14 Beach County.

15 These locations have a rural texture with  
16 large farms, citrus groves, large equestrian  
17 lots and communities, and their needs are much  
18 removed from those coastal areas, which is why  
19 it doesn't make sense to lump these areas all  
20 together. It also doesn't make sense to  
21 aggregate these coastal communities, as well as  
22 Cape Coral, with inland communities.

23 Our realtors are community experts, and  
24 just as realtors specializing in Cape --  
25 Captiva waterfront development wouldn't be the



1 expert to selling Buckingham farmland, we  
2 shouldn't expect our elected officials to have  
3 expertise for every area, and we feel these are  
4 best left separated as they are presently  
5 configured. This would be in keeping with the  
6 preservation of community interests and the  
7 preservation of cores of prior districts.

8 We ask that you look into this regrouping  
9 in such a manner as keep -- keeping the  
10 communities in separate districts, and I thank  
11 you for the opportunity to speak to you this  
12 evening, sir.

13 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very, very much.  
14 Very useful testimony.

15 And is it Ida or Ita? Ita?

16 MS. NEYMOTIN: It is Ita, yes. Thank you,  
17 Mr. Chairman.

18 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, and you are  
19 recognized, and following Pete Quasius is  
20 Council Member Thomas Leonardo, the City of Ft.  
21 Myers.

22 Ita, you are recognized. Thanks for  
23 coming.

24 MS. NEYMOTIN: Thank you. Good evening,  
25 and thank you for taking time to listen to all

1       of us here today. My name is Ita Neymotin, and  
2       I am an attorney. I have lived here in Lee  
3       County for about 10 years. I have worked as a  
4       prosecutor in both Hendry and Glades County.

5               Having seen the problems and having met  
6       the people in all three counties, I can tell  
7       you there is a great deal of common areas of  
8       interest between Ft. Myers, LaBelle, Moore  
9       Haven, and even Alga and Olga. I know we  
10      Floridians are all hard-working people and we  
11      all care about Florida. But we all have  
12      individual concerns as well.

13             Ft. Myers Beach and other beach  
14      communities are more concerned with tourism and  
15      offshore drilling. We in the inland  
16      communities are more concerned with the job  
17      market and with the agricultural industry.

18             As it stands now, District 27 is  
19      contiguous and compact. We are currently  
20      represented by 7.5 percent in Tallahassee  
21      through our legislators, and I ask that you  
22      please not dilute our representation. I  
23      likewise ask that you keep communities of  
24      interest together.

25             Thank you for your time.

1           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
2           ma'am. Very helpful.

3           Mr. Quasius, thank you for being here  
4           tonight, and we are delighted to hear your  
5           testimony, look forward it.

6           MR. QUASIUS: Thank all of you for your  
7           service. I understand that this is not an easy  
8           job. It is one that will dictate for the next  
9           decade what kind of representation we have.

10          I represent the Caloosahatchee Citizens  
11          Association, and I think I will add my refrain  
12          to the common cause you are hearing: We want  
13          our representatives to represent our community,  
14          to understand what our concerns are, to share  
15          them and hopefully to adequately represent  
16          them. We were delighted with the cross  
17          country -- or cross-state district we have,  
18          because Ms. Benacquisto decided to see the best  
19          side and move over to the west coast, so that  
20          was to our advantage. And it is a hard job, we  
21          understand that. It makes little sense to have  
22          someone representing and living on the east  
23          coast trying to understand the issues that we  
24          have here in Lee County. I think we need to  
25          have our own representation. I think we need

1 to have people who are living and working and  
2 growing up in our communities to represent us,  
3 and I look forward to seeing maps that  
4 represent that.

5 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, sir.

6 Following Council Member Thomas Leonardo  
7 from the City of Ft. Myers, we have Joseph  
8 Russo and then Bill, and I believe it is either  
9 Dakos or Dakos.

10 Mr. Leonardo, council member, first thank  
11 you for your service to your community and to  
12 the people of the State of Florida, and you are  
13 recognized.

14 COUNCILMAN LEONARDO: Thank you,  
15 Mr. Chairman. Good evening, all honorable  
16 elected officials, and welcome to beautiful Lee  
17 County. My name has been mentioned, Tom  
18 Leonardo, I am a city councilman for the City  
19 of Ft. Myers, representing Ward 6, the newest  
20 and eastern most of our city's six wards.

21 Our city has been described as the last  
22 great city in Florida. We are the county seat  
23 for Lee County and the urban center for  
24 southwest Florida. Once the recession ends,  
25 our city and Lee County will continue to grow

1       in population and prominence in the life of our  
2       state.

3           I am here tonight to speak in favor of  
4       maintaining the current boundaries of Senate  
5       District 27 so ably represented by Senator  
6       Lizbeth Benacquisto. There are many reasons  
7       for this, and let me share a few of these  
8       reasons with you.

9           Currently the City of Ft. Myers benefits  
10      from Lee County being represented by three  
11      State Senators and five State Representatives.  
12      This fact has provided us with multiple  
13      benefits, and obviously we would not like to  
14      see this changed.

15          The way Senate District 27 is now  
16      configured, we believe that we share many  
17      interests with other communities within the  
18      district, even though the district spans a  
19      cross-section from the east to the west coast.

20          We are not a coastal community, as has  
21      been previously mentioned, and thus we share  
22      more in common with inland communities than  
23      with the community -- coastal communities of  
24      Sanibel, Captiva and Ft. Myers Beach, as an  
25      example.

1           Historically, Ft. Myers has always been  
2           linked to the inland communities of southwest  
3           Florida. As in the past, as it is today, we  
4           are the commercial hub for these inland  
5           communities, and we will remain so far into the  
6           future.

7           Thank you for the process which allows for  
8           public input and complete transparency. You  
9           mentioned the law that disallows any  
10          predetermined map. We appreciate that law. It  
11          would be like -- if that was allowed, it would  
12          be like a judge making a decision without  
13          hearing the evidence.

14          I wish you continued success in your  
15          public outreaching, and thank you again for  
16          listening to us.

17          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
18          Councilman.

19          Mr. Russo, nice to see you, and we  
20          understand that you have a map to show us as  
21          well, is that right, sir?

22          MR. RUSSO: Yes, I do. It is very nice to  
23          see you again, Senator Gaetz, and everyone  
24          else. My name is Joseph Russo. I am here  
25          today as a student from Florida Gulf Coast

1 University where, among other things, I study  
2 political science, and actually, my newest  
3 professor is actually Mr. -- Representative  
4 Caldwell right there where I take his course on  
5 redistricting, so --

6 SENATOR GAETZ: Now, wait a minute.

7 MR. RUSSO: -- maybe this will get me some  
8 extra credit.

9 SENATOR GAETZ: Wait a minute. At the  
10 last hearing, you were trying to suck up to a  
11 different professor.

12 MR. RUSSO: I am trying to do as much with  
13 my grades as in due time.

14 SENATOR GAETZ: Now, are you a student or  
15 are you running for office?

16 MR. RUSSO: Give me a few years and we  
17 will see.

18 Over here I wanted to talk about the  
19 congressional districts in southwest Florida.  
20 Since everyone is seemingly talking about the  
21 State House and the State Senate districts, and  
22 they are very knowledgeable, I want to bring  
23 over a perspective of the congressional  
24 districts in southwest Florida.

25 Obviously, due to the census, we have

1       grown over 20 percent in the southwest Florida  
2       area, so we pretty much need another  
3       congressional district, and this is my proposal  
4       here for how that would best be solved.

5               In the north, you have in Manatee and  
6       Sarasota Counties Congressional District 13,  
7       currently seated with Vern Buchanan. In the  
8       south, you have Congressional District 14,  
9       currently seated with Connie Mack, and that  
10      goes up with Lehigh Acres and just over in Ft.  
11      Myers, just south of Colonial is the boundary.  
12      And then you have Charlotte County, Cape Coral  
13      and all of the interior counties taking up the  
14      new district of 27 that I have numbered there.  
15      But that is my proposal of how a district would  
16      be set up in a southwest Florida area.

17             And I know there's been a lot of talk  
18      about the east-west coast districts. I think  
19      this kind of goes along with what everyone was  
20      saying with that. And with the interior  
21      counties all composed into one district, there  
22      would be a lot of like representation in that  
23      as well.

24             But, again, I would like to thank everyone  
25      here for hearing me speak once again, and I



1       wish you the best to your trip in Clewiston  
2       tomorrow on your clubhouse turn tour here, and  
3       I think you very much for representing the  
4       State of Florida and I hope to one day probably  
5       be in your seat, but --

6                SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. Thank you,  
7       Mr. Russo. I have no doubt.

8                Bill Dakos -- is it Dakos?

9                MR. DAKOS: It is. Better than any  
10       telemarketer.

11               SENATOR GAETZ: And then following  
12       Mr. Dakos, Mark Castellano with the Teachers  
13       Association of Lee County, and then Craig  
14       Briscoe, if you will be in the on deck circle.

15               Mr. Dakos, thank you for coming tonight,  
16       and you are recognized.

17               MR. DAKOS: Thank you so much for being  
18       here tonight, and thank you for serving the  
19       greatest state in the nation.

20               I would like to just re-elaborate what  
21       Mr. Russo said actually, because I do feel that  
22       we need another Representative here from  
23       Congress. Living here for 22 years, I have  
24       seen the growth, and it cannot be denied that  
25       this area has grown tremendously over the past

1           ten years. I hope that you consider that, and  
2           thanks again for being here.

3           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, sir, very, very  
4           much. Appreciate it.

5           And next, Mark -- Mark Castellano,  
6           representing the Teachers Association of Lee  
7           County. Thank you very much for being here,  
8           sir, and we are anxious to hear your testimony.

9           MR. CASTELLANO: Thank you, Senator. I  
10          appreciate the opportunity, all the legislators  
11          here today.

12          Very simple, I don't have -- I wish -- I  
13          don't have a plan or anything to offer you. I  
14          do want to share just a couple of thoughts. I  
15          think that you have heard the majority of  
16          people talking about the lack of cross-state  
17          districts. Senator Benacquisto, I want to  
18          share with you, your predecessor, Senator  
19          Aronberg, used to describe your district, which  
20          I consider the poster child for gerrymandered  
21          cross-state districts, he used to describe it  
22          beautifully, he would say, "Oh, I represent  
23          Palm Beach and I represent Lee County and I  
24          represent some of the bass swimming in Lake  
25          Okeechobee." We always loved that.

1           Basically I would say that you have heard  
2           from a number of people and you are going to  
3           hear from me that we want districts that  
4           represent us fairly, and that are not -- and  
5           the word "gerrymandered" has been used so much,  
6           but basically that is the sentiment that many  
7           of us have, and we have had for decades, and I  
8           would urge you to please consider that, making  
9           communities, local areas -- respecting the  
10          counties more so than what is currently the  
11          practice.

12           I think the last thing I want to share  
13          with you is this thought: It is very  
14          frustrating, and it has been for years, that in  
15          Florida we tend to -- we feel compelled  
16          oftentimes to legislate or to govern through  
17          the Constitution, through constitutional  
18          amendments. Amendments 5 and 6 were very  
19          heartfelt amendments, and they passed rather  
20          overwhelmingly. And we ask you to please  
21          represent that, and I would -- I am so longing  
22          for the day that we don't have to try to  
23          legislate this state through constitutional  
24          amendments, and that gives you -- that puts the  
25          onus on you. That puts the onus on you to do

1 the right thing.

2 As a teachers --representative of the  
3 teachers in this county, you know, class size  
4 amendment is near and dear to my heart. I  
5 don't mean to get off on it, but I've always  
6 felt that the class size amendment was not  
7 necessary if the Legislature had ever done what  
8 I believe would have been the right thing to  
9 do.

10 So this is another example, in my opinion,  
11 of that. The reason that those amendments were  
12 passed was because fair districting needed to  
13 have been done. Thank you very much.

14 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

15 And next Craig Briscoe, please, and  
16 following Mr. Briscoe, Brenda Skupny and then  
17 Cristina Cook.

18 Mr. Briscoe, the floor is yours, sir.

19 MR. BRISCOE: Thank you. I do want to  
20 thank you for the opportunity of listening to  
21 us this evening. Granted, there has been  
22 critics of the process by various  
23 contingencies; however, since we are a republic  
24 and not a democracy, I have the full faith and  
25 confidence that you, elected officials, will

1 draw the districts which best serve the  
2 constituents that you serve, regardless of your  
3 party affiliation. With that said, it is my  
4 sincere hope, however, that Lee does get its  
5 own Senate seat.

6 And finally, I do want to thank you for  
7 the resources that you've made available  
8 on-line. I watched this morning in Naples and  
9 am here this evening, and you guys have done a  
10 fantastic job of making this information  
11 available, not only in the streaming, as well  
12 as the documentation of the meetings and  
13 agenda, and for that, I am very proud to have  
14 many of you as my representative.

15 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

16 Is it Skupny? Thank you very much for  
17 being here, Ms. Skupny, and we are delighted to  
18 have your testimony.

19 MS. SKUPNY: Thank you for having me.  
20 Thank you for being here. I appreciate you  
21 taking your time to visit us. And, again, my  
22 name is Brenda Skupny. I live in Cape Coral.  
23 I recognize a lot of faces here in front of me,  
24 and thanks for being here and representing us.  
25 I think you do a great job.

1           I personally have many concerns regarding  
2       redistricting, particularly since the law under  
3       Amendments 5 and 6 appear to conflict with the  
4       Federal Voters Rights Act of 1965. I am sure  
5       that lawsuits are unavoidable. I feel that  
6       Amendment 5 and 6, that was the intent behind  
7       some of the proponents of that. But I ask that  
8       you take into careful consideration the cost to  
9       taxpayers when you draft the new districts.

10           In 2010, Ft. Myers/Cape Coral metropolitan  
11       area ranked sixth in population in the state of  
12       Florida. We have over 700,000 people. Yet we  
13       are the minority constituency in our State  
14       Senate districts. In fact, in District 21,  
15       Senator Bennett's district, we share him with  
16       five other counties. I respectfully request  
17       that in drawing Senate districts, that Lee  
18       County is given the considerations due by  
19       virtue of our population for a Senate district  
20       contained with the majority of population Lee  
21       County. Thank you again for being here, and I  
22       appreciate all you do.

23           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much.

24           And next we will hear from Christina Cook,  
25       and then following Ms. Cook, Gary Lee and then

1 Charles Dauray.

2 Ms. Cook, thank you so much for coming  
3 this evening.

4 MS. COOK: Thank you for having me and  
5 providing all of us with this opportunity. You  
6 all have a very challenging task ahead of you,  
7 and I would like to add my voice to those you  
8 are hearing this evening and respectfully  
9 request that you give serious consideration,  
10 given the population of Lee County, of the  
11 importance of having most, if not all, of Lee  
12 County represented by one Senate district.  
13 Thank you very much.

14 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
15 ma'am.

16 After Gary Lee and Charles Dauray -- and I  
17 hope I have that right -- John McNamara, please  
18 come into the on deck circle.

19 Mr. Lee.

20 MR. LEE: Mr. Chairman, thank you very  
21 much for the invite, and also for being here to  
22 represent the Legislature. I am going to stick  
23 to the first rule that was adopted this morning  
24 and how you are counting brevity. I understand  
25 you get bonus points for brevity.

1           SENATOR GAETZ: We give extra credit  
2 points, bonus points, and you get a free piece  
3 of pie at Perkins.

4           MR. LEE: Thank you. I praise the effort,  
5 the transparency which you are doing on behalf  
6 of the state. The public input that you are  
7 doing is absolutely fabulous.

8           I have been a student of redistricting,  
9 reapportionment, since 1972. I played a role  
10 in '72, '82, '92, 2002 and now 2010, and a lot  
11 has happened in the evolvement of the court  
12 cases and so on that have come down by the  
13 Supreme Court of the United States, by the  
14 Voters Rights Act of 1965.

15           I am going to hand up to the Committee, if  
16 I may, and not read the full resolution which  
17 the Lee County Republican Party adopted this  
18 past Saturday unanimously. May I give you the  
19 guts of it, which says, "Now, therefore, be it  
20 resolved that Lee County Republican Committee  
21 calls upon the Florida Legislature to adopt a  
22 redistricting and reapportionment plan that  
23 protects the integrity of counties, cities and  
24 other common interest, and provides for true  
25 representation for resident citizens in



1 southwest Florida." That was adopted  
2 unanimously by our committee on behalf of  
3 160,000 Republicans in Lee County.

4 Three or four other points, if I may. We  
5 prefer north-south districts has been  
6 represented here by previous testifiers. We  
7 hope you will do away with the east-west axis  
8 for representation. For 20 years, Lee County  
9 has been bifurcated, trifurcated, and not given  
10 the representation that we should have for the  
11 population in particular that we have achieved.  
12 The Lee population has grown enormously in the  
13 last ten years. When you combine it with  
14 Charlotte and Collier County, you are looking  
15 at a million two, a million three hundred  
16 thousand people.

17 Next point that I would make is that we  
18 prefer that we have a consolidated  
19 congressional district as much in Lee County as  
20 possible. We would like at least one and a  
21 half or three quarters State Senate seats in  
22 Lee County, which our population would justify.  
23 And if you look at the House of  
24 Representatives' representation, we should be  
25 entitled to at least another seat that would

1           give us four members in the House of  
2           Representatives.

3           I think your good efforts, again, are  
4           laudable. The compliance problems you will  
5           have with 5 and 6 will be enormous. If we were  
6           betting people tonight, I am sure we would bet  
7           that this will end up in the courts, which  
8           means that a Special Master ends up drawing  
9           those districts, bringing it back to the  
10          Legislature for affirmation or ratification. I  
11          hope that doesn't happen, but when I have read  
12          carefully 5 and 6, I don't see how you can meet  
13          the criteria.

14          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you.

15          MR. LEE: And it is interesting that the  
16          advocates of that have not -- have failed not  
17          to draw seats that I think you had asked them  
18          to do.

19          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

20          MR. LEE: Yes, sir. Thank you very much.

21          SENATOR GAETZ: Appreciate your testimony.

22          And next, Mr. Dauray, could you help me  
23          with the pronunciation?

24          MR. DAURAY: Dauray.

25          SENATOR GAETZ: Say again, sir.

1 MR. DAURAY: Dauray, Charles Dauray.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Very good. Thank you,  
3 sir, and thank you for your testimony.

4 MR. DAURAY: Thank you, Senator. Thank  
5 you, Senators and Representatives.

6 When this meeting began tonight, you  
7 outlined and listed the communities from whence  
8 you came. And I would venture to say, with all  
9 due respect to some of the communities on the  
10 east coast, which are wonderful communities,  
11 that many of the people in the audience haven't  
12 the slightest idea where you are coming from.  
13 They haven't visited your communities. They  
14 know little or nothing about you. Conversely,  
15 some of you know little or very little about  
16 the west coast, and that is understandable, but  
17 yet we are joined. We are joined by what I  
18 like to call political contrivance, political  
19 manipulations, so that the west coast ends up  
20 being an appendix to some perceived or real  
21 power centers on the east coast, and we are  
22 kind of tired of that over here on the west  
23 coast, I want you to know that. We have  
24 matured, we have a powerful power base, we are  
25 common sense people and we are looking for home

1 rule. Thank you very much.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, sir.

3 Following Mr. McNamara, Ray Rodriques,  
4 please, and then if Terry Miller will come  
5 forward and join us in the front row.

6 Mr. McNamara, delighted to have you here,  
7 and the floor is yours.

8 MR. McNAMARA: Thank you, sir. Good  
9 evening. My name is John McNamara, I am from  
10 Cape Coral.

11 SENATOR GAETZ: And could we get you to  
12 speak just a little closer into the mike?

13 MR. McNAMARA: I'm sorry.

14 I voted in my first election at the age of  
15 18 in 1986 as part of the voter uprising in  
16 Alabama that elected the first Republican  
17 Governor since reconstruction. My earliest  
18 political memories, having my father sit me  
19 down in January of 1977 to watch Jimmy Carter  
20 be sworn in as President because he was from  
21 neighboring Georgia. I've participated in our  
22 democracy for a long time. I have been an  
23 observer of politics for even longer.

24 I stand before you tonight because I fear  
25 for the future of our democracy. While

1       gerrymandering is not new, it dates back to at  
2       least 1812, we have taken it to new heights.  
3       Only four times since 1970 has the re-election  
4       rates for incumbents in Congress been less than  
5       90 percent. Most Representatives run in such  
6       safe districts they no longer have to answer to  
7       the general public. All they have to do is win  
8       their primary election. This means many  
9       elected officials have to convince primary  
10      voters, who are normally the most partisan of  
11      people, that the candidate deserves the seat.  
12      What we end up is not divided government, but  
13      divisive government.

14           While a nation itself might be slightly  
15      center right in its view of the world, the  
16      elected leaders end up being either hard left  
17      or hard right. This leaves a huge goal, which  
18      as the most recent hissy fit over the debt  
19      ceiling showed, is difficult, if not  
20      impossible, to bridge. And while the extreme  
21      left and extreme right shouts at each other,  
22      the large number of us in the middle are  
23      ignored. We don't have a voice. We aren't  
24      given a choice. We aren't stuck with  
25      dysfunctional government, we are stuck with

1           dysfunctional politics.

2           But in Florida, we have an answer to the  
3           problem. In 2010, even as electing a very  
4           large number of conservative voter candidates,  
5           more than 60 percent of Floridians backed two  
6           amendments which would outlaw gerrymandering.  
7           More people supported these amendments than  
8           supported Rick Scott or his opponent.

9           Ladies and gentlemen, the voters of  
10          Florida have clearly spoken. They want these  
11          protected districts to end. They want the  
12          freedom to choose their representatives, not  
13          have one forced on them by the minority of  
14          voters. They want to have their voices  
15          restored.

16          This redistricting process is an  
17          opportunity for everyone. It is an opportunity  
18          for Florida to take the lead and serve as an  
19          example to the rest of the country on how  
20          civility can be restored to our politics by  
21          bringing back the center, it is an opportunity  
22          to restore choice to thousands of  
23          disenfranchised Floridians, and it is an  
24          opportunity for our lawmakers to become  
25          something more than just politicians. You can

1       become leaders, you can become statesmen and  
2       stateswomen for the State. You were elected to  
3       carry out the will of the people. In 2010,  
4       they let you know what that was. Please, I am  
5       asking you to just carry out your duty to the  
6       state and its citizens. Thank you.

7               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
8       Excellent testimony.

9               Following Ray Rodriques and Terry Miller,  
10       if Tom Martin would come forward and be ready  
11       to testify.

12              Mr. Rodriques, thank you very much, sir,  
13       for being here, and we would love to hear what  
14       you have to share with the Committee.

15              MR. RODRIGUES: Thank you. My name is Ray  
16       Rodriques, and I am the Vice-Chair of the Lee  
17       County Republican Party, and I want to thank  
18       you for coming to Lee County tonight. I know  
19       that the summertime is the time that you get  
20       generally your break from session and you get  
21       to come home, take care of your business and  
22       your families, and I appreciate the fact that  
23       all of you have volunteered to take on this  
24       challenging assignment of redistricting and  
25       spend your summer going all over Florida, and

1 we are happy that you are here tonight.

2 I have been a resident of Lee County for  
3 17 years. In my time here, I spent a decade  
4 working for GE corporate as a manager, and  
5 during that time, I learned project managing  
6 the GE way. And the GE way for project  
7 managing was to identify a problem, gather the  
8 data. After all the data had been gathered,  
9 analyze the data, and then when you had  
10 finished the analysis, then prepare a proposed  
11 solution. I believe by coming here tonight  
12 without maps, you are following that process.  
13 You are gathering the data from across the  
14 state in order to identify what your potential  
15 solutions will be, and I thank you for doing  
16 that and respecting the citizens of Florida  
17 enough to get our input before you make your  
18 decisions.

19 Ten years ago, Amendments 5 and 6 did not  
20 exist. Today they are part of the state's  
21 Constitution. The Fair Districts people led a  
22 statewide effort, they collected \$9 million in  
23 contributions and they ran a great campaign to  
24 get these amendments passed. But now that they  
25 have what they want, they are suddenly quiet



1           when it is time to do the real work, rolling up  
2           your sleeves and implementing 5 and 6. Now,  
3           normally silence wouldn't be a problem, except  
4           for the fact that so many of the words in  
5           Amendments 5 and 6 are ambiguous. Can someone  
6           please explain the phrase, "denying or  
7           abridging the equal opportunity of racial or  
8           language minorities to participate in the  
9           political process or diminish their ability to  
10          elect representatives of their choice" in the  
11          concept of drawing districts? How far should  
12          the Legislature go to do things that will  
13          ensure minority voters have the ability to  
14          elect representatives of their choice? Should  
15          you split up a city? Should you split up a  
16          county? Or even multiple cities or multiple  
17          counties?

18                 I appreciate the fact that folks have  
19                 brought maps here for you to see, and I  
20                 encourage all of us to do that. What  
21                 disappoints me is you are near the end of this  
22                 process and no one from Fair Districts has  
23                 showed up and given you a proposal on how to  
24                 implement the amendments that they advocated  
25                 that we support. It is time for them to step

1 up and do the right thing and give you some  
2 guidance. I think by being silent they are  
3 dropping the ball and not finishing the job  
4 when it comes to implementing 5 and 6. And  
5 here's where I am coming from: I believe in  
6 the Constitution. The Constitution is giving  
7 you, the Legislature, the authority to do  
8 redistricting. And my fear is this is nothing  
9 but a back-door attempt to get it out of your  
10 hands and put it in the courts where it does  
11 not belong.

12 You have a very difficult job ahead of  
13 you. I thank you for taking it on. Good  
14 night.

15 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

16 Terry Miller, Tom Martin and then Governor  
17 Kottkamp. We will hear from Governor Kottkamp  
18 tonight, that is great.

19 Mr. Miller.

20 MR. MILLER: Thank you. Again, my name is  
21 Terry Miller, and I live in Cape Coral, and I  
22 want to welcome you all here this evening and  
23 thank you for giving us the time to bring our  
24 input to you and take it into consideration in  
25 that.

1           I think you all have your work cut out for  
2       you. The job ahead of you is daunting, and I  
3       do not envy you whatsoever. But my comments  
4       tonight are going to be a little different than  
5       what we have heard thus far this evening and  
6       probably what you have heard throughout the  
7       course of your travels through the state.

8           A lot of people have spoken about  
9       east-west districts, north-south districts, and  
10      while I believe we need to get rid of the  
11      east-west districts, I want to talk about  
12      following city lines as required by 5 and 6.

13          Five and 6 require that districts be  
14      compact and they use the boundaries that are  
15      naturally formed by cities. The problem with  
16      this is that many city boundaries are not  
17      compact, which means if you try to use the  
18      boundaries to draw legislative districts, you  
19      will not achieve the compactness as required by  
20      5 and 6. While many of the cities in Lee  
21      County may have compact lines, that is not the  
22      case for the rest of the state of Florida.  
23      Take a look at cities like Tampa, Orlando and  
24      some of the other large cities throughout this  
25      state, and you are going to find cities with

1       very uncompact lines, and I want you to tell me  
2       how you can produce a compact district that  
3       meets the requirements of 5 and 6. These  
4       districts will be anything but compact.

5               To me, it seems you are going to have to  
6       split many cities across the state in order to  
7       draw these compact districts. That, or you  
8       will have to follow some other sort of  
9       political boundary lines to achieve the  
10      required result.

11             I am concerned that just -- by just trying  
12      to follow those wordings of these amendments,  
13      you are going to result in your proposed maps  
14      going to the court, just like Mr. Rodriques  
15      spoke of, and it is important to point this out  
16      now especially as it relates to municipal  
17      boundaries. Thank you.

18             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

19             Next, Tom Martin, then Governor Kottkamp,  
20      and then Victor -- I think it is -- is it  
21      Dotres, Datres?

22             Mr. Martin, thank you for being here, and  
23      the floor is yours, sir.

24             MR. MARTIN: Thank you for your time, and  
25      thank you, all of the Representatives and

1       Senators, for being here. I am a 25-year  
2       resident of the area, and I just want to harp  
3       on one point while I am here, and that is the  
4       explosion of growth that has taken place during  
5       my lifetime here in southwest Florida area. I  
6       think that as a result of that, we definitely  
7       deserve a representative district at the DC  
8       level more so than currently exists, and I will  
9       go off of the naïvety of youth and allow that  
10      to happen by way of demographics and so on, but  
11      that is all that I have to say.

12             SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
13      Mr. Martin. That is not naïve at all.

14             And, ladies and gentlemen, it is a  
15      pleasure to welcome the Honorable Jeff  
16      Kottkamp, former Lieutenant Governor of  
17      Florida. Governor.

18             LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR KOTTKAMP: Thank you,  
19      Mr. Chairman and members. Welcome, again, to  
20      southwest Florida. Having served on the  
21      redistricting committee ten years ago, I am  
22      very mindful of the time commitment that each  
23      of you have made, the effort of your staff, you  
24      put so much time into this, and it's just  
25      begun.

1           I was asked to speak briefly about a  
2           little historical context to the conversation  
3           you are hearing here tonight about diluting the  
4           county and splitting the county.

5           Ten years ago, as you will, we debated the  
6           maps and debated the maps and debated the maps,  
7           and voted and voted and voted. When we got  
8           down to the final vote, we actually operated  
9           under a motion to limit debate, five minutes  
10          for, five minutes against. Not surprisingly,  
11          the five minutes for was debate conducted by  
12          the majority party, Republicans. But what may  
13          surprise you is that most of the time in  
14          opposition to the maps was also done by  
15          Republicans; in particular, Representative  
16          Bruce Kyle from right here in Lee County, and  
17          his argument was Lee County is in the top ten  
18          in population, but it is the only county in  
19          Florida in the top ten in population that  
20          doesn't have a Senate seat with the majority of  
21          the population comprised from that county. So  
22          that is why you are hearing this over and over.  
23          This has been a long-standing issue for this  
24          community.

25          I will say that we are enormously proud of

1 the members of our legislative delegation.  
2 They are talented and they care deeply about  
3 this region, and we are grateful for their  
4 service, but I wanted to share that historical  
5 perspective, because I think it is important to  
6 know this is not a new idea here in southwest  
7 Florida. Thank you for your service and thank  
8 you for being here.

9 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Governor.

10 Is it Dotres?

11 MR. DOTRES: Dotres, you had it right --

12 SENATOR GAETZ: Dotres, I had it right the  
13 first time, okay. And following Victor's  
14 testimony, Geri Gallagher with Planned  
15 Parenthood, and then Lora Greenwell with IUPAT,  
16 Local 2301, if you would please come forward.

17 Victor, the floor is yours.

18 MR. DOTRES: Thank you, sir.

19 SENATOR GAETZ: You are following the  
20 Governor.

21 MR. DOTRES: I know, that is the big time.

22 Good evening, Senator. Good evening, all  
23 the members on the panel. I want to thank you  
24 for being here. My name is Victor Dotres.

25 As I was driving here today and when I

1       came in through the door and I saw all these  
2       people in the gymnasium, I thought to myself,  
3       wow, what a great country we live in if you  
4       think about it. I mean, there's a lot of other  
5       countries that people are not able to assemble  
6       like this like we are, and I see all these  
7       people here, and any one of us can come to this  
8       microphone and we can grab the mike and we can  
9       express ourselves freely, we can give our  
10      comments, share our ideas, and, you know, we  
11      can even give our critiques, like you have  
12      heard tonight, you know. But then I think to  
13      myself, you are going to have people who are  
14      not going to be happy, you are going to have  
15      some people who are going to complain about  
16      certain things, and you have heard across the  
17      state you will have a few people who are going  
18      to file lawsuits, but, you know, in the end,  
19      when all this is done, in the end, there will  
20      not be one map, no matter who draws it up,  
21      okay, no matter who draws up the map, there  
22      will not be one map who is going to make every  
23      single person happy, no matter what. But I  
24      think the most important -- the most important  
25      part is how this process and how these maps are



1       being created. That is the most important part  
2       to me. And I believe, and I think I can speak  
3       for many people here, most people here, if this  
4       process is done openly, fairly and honestly,  
5       that is the most important part. I want to  
6       thank you all for your service to our state.  
7       God bless you.

8               SENATOR GAETZ: God bless you, sir, and  
9       thank you.

10              Now, Geri Gallagher from Planned  
11       Parenthood. Is Geri Gallagher here? If not,  
12       we will pass Geri and go to Lora Greenwell.  
13       Lora Greenwell, are you here, please?

14              I'm sorry, Richard Jones, I don't give you  
15       much of a warning, but if you are here,  
16       Mr. Jones. Are you here, sir? All right,  
17       thank you very much. I'm sorry that I didn't  
18       give you much of a chance to get down here.  
19       Then Edd Weiner with the Lehigh Acres Economic  
20       Development Board, and then Armor Persons.

21              Mr. Jones, we are very pleased to have  
22       your testimony, and you are recognized, sir.

23              MR. JONES: Thank your, sir, and thank you  
24       for this opportunity, and I will keep it short.  
25       I kind of have just a real quick question. I

1           was wondering why, after the voters -- 60  
2           percent of the voters voted for Amendments 5  
3           and 6, why the Florida House would appropriate  
4           \$30 million to overturn those amendments.  
5           Furthermore, to me, that would seem like if we  
6           are spending 30 million to overturn it, we  
7           would have to spend another 30 million to  
8           defend it. So the State is essentially  
9           defending itself, and I just don't understand  
10          that after that kind of vote. Thank you.

11                 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much. And,  
12          Mr. Jones -- Mr. Jones, I hope your time  
13          tonight -- thanks for giving your time so far.  
14          I hope you will have a chance to stay, because  
15          you have asked a question, we have had a number  
16          of other questions asked, and we are going to  
17          give members of the House and Senate an  
18          opportunity to speak to those questions when  
19          you are finished with public testimony. So  
20          thank you, Mr. Jones.

21                 Next is Edd Weiner. Is that correct, sir?

22                 MR. WEINER: Yes, sir, it is.

23                 SENATOR GAETZ: And, Mr. Weiner, you are  
24          recognized, and then after you speak is Armor  
25          Persons and then Joan A. Lewis Patterson.

1           Mr. Weiner.

2           MR. WEINER: Thank your, Senator. On  
3           behalf of the Lehigh Acres Chamber of Commerce,  
4           I want to welcome you all to Lehigh Acres. I  
5           am a member of the Board, and I am appreciative  
6           for Representative Caldwell and Senator  
7           Benacquisto to using their baseball bats to  
8           convince you that Lehigh Acres is the place to  
9           hold this meeting.

10           On behalf of -- on behalf of Lehigh Acres  
11           Community Council, I am the President of the  
12           Community Council, we welcome you to Lehigh  
13           Acres. On behalf of the Lehigh Acres Community  
14           Planning Panel, I am the President of that, and  
15           we welcome you to Lehigh Acres. And because I  
16           am bored and have absolutely nothing to do with  
17           my time, I am the CEO of Economic Development  
18           in Lehigh Acres and again welcome you to Lehigh  
19           Acres.

20           There are two things I want to get out  
21           before I talk about Lehigh Acres specifically.  
22           I was many hundreds of thousands of years ago  
23           an elected official on the east coast in  
24           Plantation. Representative Rogers, good to see  
25           you again. And we had the same discussion many

1        years ago about connecting Broward County and  
2        Collier County with dissimilarities. I would  
3        suggest to you, ladies and gentlemen, that  
4        connecting east coast and west coast is a  
5        totally dysfunctional thing. There is  
6        absolutely nothing in common since I have lived  
7        on both coasts with the east coast and the west  
8        coast, and I would suggest that you need to use  
9        your north-south districts as your planning  
10       areas.

11           I have heard several comments made on a  
12       single Senator in Lee County. That is a  
13       wonderful idea, except that the Senate district  
14       is 470,000. We have 680,000 people in Lee  
15       County. Do the math, 200,000 people fall off,  
16       and the way things have gone in previous years,  
17       Lehigh Acres is probably one of the areas that  
18       would fall off the radar when you put that  
19       Senate district together. So I would suggest  
20       to you that maybe Lee County needs two Senators  
21       equally representing the east side of the  
22       county and the west side of the county.

23           On to Lehigh Acres specifically, we are a  
24       community of 86,000 people, 86,724 people. We  
25       are identical to Cape Coral. Well, Cape Coral

1 needs to catch up a little bit, but we are  
2 identical to Cape Coral, because we are an  
3 unplotted community as Cape Coral is. The  
4 difference between Cape Coral and Lehigh Acres  
5 is they are a city and we are not. We find  
6 ourselves in the unenviable position of  
7 bringing businesses to Lehigh Acres and having  
8 to go through Lee County government.

9 I have spent the last two years trying to  
10 work with the State of Florida, with Lee County  
11 government, with other agencies, to see how we  
12 can progress in Lehigh Acres. I would urge  
13 you -- and I have produced some maps for the  
14 House district and the Senate district.  
15 Unfortunately, I am technologically challenged  
16 --

17 SENATOR GAETZ: And, Edd, we are out of  
18 time, so if you could bring it in for a  
19 landing.

20 MR. WEINER: Very well. Thank you, sir.

21 I will distribute these. I will work with  
22 Jason to get them on your computers. That is a  
23 good way to get rid of me. But I would suggest  
24 to you, sir, that Lehigh Acres needs to be  
25 represented by its own House district and by

1       its own Senate district following the  
2       interstate to the east of Interstate 75. Thank  
3       you for your time.

4               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much.  
5       Thanks, and we would be delighted to have the  
6       maps that you have provided.

7               Next, Armor Persons and then Joan A. Lewis  
8       Patterson and then Michelle Guerin, please.

9               Mr. Persons, thank you for being here, and  
10       we are delighted to have your testimony.

11              MR. PERSONS: The -- there you go. I  
12       appreciate as just a resident, not official or  
13       anyone --

14              SENATOR GAETZ: We are going to let you  
15       start over. We want to get every single golden  
16       word.

17              MR. PERSONS: Testing.

18              SENATOR GAETZ: Hang on just a second. Is  
19       there a doctor in the house?

20              MR. PERSONS: Okay.

21              SENATOR GAETZ: You're good. Thank you.

22              MR. PERSONS: Thank you. I just want to  
23       thank each of y'all for just letting a simple  
24       resident of the Bayshore community -- I am not  
25       representing any organization or anything. We

1       are a -- I live in a rural equestrian community  
2       that is in Senate District 21 right now, and I  
3       have been hearing all this talk about the east,  
4       west. I would actually prefer being in an  
5       east-west like Senate District 27, only because  
6       so much of that area is a rural area. It to me  
7       would make a lot more sense as the  
8       Representative to have someone that is a lot of  
9       area that is the same that I could talk to  
10      rather than all of Lee County that represents  
11      the beaches and the incorporated cities, we  
12      would be lost. So I think the inner counties  
13      and the western parts of Lee and of -- I'm  
14      sorry, the eastern parts of Lee County and the  
15      western part of Palm Beach is well represented  
16      by that district, and I would like, it if it  
17      would be possible, that Bayshore -- we run  
18      right up next to District 27, Senate District,  
19      and I would love to have that included in  
20      there.

21           For the record, Bayshore is defined as  
22      from, on the east side, State Road 31, on the  
23      north, the Lee County line, on the west, I-75,  
24      and on the south, the Caloosahatchee River.  
25      Thank you.

1           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
2           Very helpful.

3           Next, Ms. Patterson, are you here? Thank  
4           you so much for being here this evening, ma'am,  
5           and we are anxious to hear your testimony.

6           MR. PATTERSON: Greetings to all of you.  
7           I am going to speak in a very limited basis for  
8           Lehigh Acres. I have lived here 21 years --

9           SENATOR GAETZ: And could you speak a  
10          little closer to the mike, ma'am?

11          MR. PATTERSON: I have lived here 21  
12          years. I have lived in the county 31 years.  
13          This will be my 17th election, and I want to  
14          break down our precincts here in Lehigh.

15          We have 15 precincts, and they are sliced  
16          and diced in many ways. For instance, House 72  
17          will have nine, 73 will have six. The Senate,  
18          27 has 11, Senate 21 has four. We are  
19          fortunate, I guess, that all 15 are in U.S.  
20          House District 14.

21          We have been sliced and diced vertically  
22          to the east, vertically to the west and right  
23          down the middle in the times that I have lived  
24          in this county, and we have never been a  
25          collective unit except under Connie Mack's



1 district, which includes all Lee County  
2 basically.

3 So my plea is that when you look at areas  
4 like this, that if you are doing a better way  
5 than splitting us across the state, which I  
6 don't think works well for all of us in Lee  
7 County, I would hope you would consider that.

8 But I also have heard a lot tonight, and  
9 it's about what I intended to talk about, but I  
10 would like to mention that Ms. -- Senator  
11 Benacquisto is not the only one that has a  
12 district that runs across the state. I believe  
13 U.S. House 16 also has that problem of crossing  
14 the state, going down into Immokalee and  
15 picking up little groups of voters along the  
16 way, and it was very gerrymandered. And for  
17 you that have been a long as long as I have,  
18 you might remember how we got rid of that guy  
19 that was an incumbent. And I would like to see  
20 the east-west end as long as that it is for the  
21 good of the communities and the way you draw  
22 your lines, and I recognize that it is a hard  
23 job and I appreciate your efforts. Thank you.

24 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
25 ma'am.

1           Next, Michelle Guerin, and following  
2           Ms. Guerin, Arthur Wells and then Steve Sherman  
3           with the NAACP.

4           Ms. Guerin, thank you so much, and we are  
5           looking forward to what you might have to share  
6           with us.

7           MS. GUERIN: Thank you very much for  
8           having me here tonight and for listening to all  
9           of us, we really appreciate it, and I will try  
10          to remain as respectful as possible, but I am a  
11          little annoyed.

12          The people spoke back in 2009 when myself  
13          and hundreds of volunteers worked thousands of  
14          hours collecting 150,000 signatures on  
15          petition. The people spoke again in 2010 when  
16          over 60 percent, close to 63, of registered  
17          voters in Florida instructed the legislation  
18          that we wanted fair districting. We were tired  
19          of the gerrymandering that was going on.

20          Now you are asking the people to speak  
21          again. This time I hope you are listening. We  
22          want you to follow the amendments that were  
23          passed back in 2010, Amendments 5 and 6, and we  
24          want you to draw maps and present them to us  
25          for comment in a timely fashion. We want to

1       make sure that our elections in 2012 will be  
2       fair, that each voter in Florida has the right  
3       to vote. One person, one vote. Thank you.

4               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. Very good  
5       testimony.

6               We have more good news. The good news is  
7       that we have had as we have progressed through  
8       our hearing twice as many people sign up to  
9       speak as we had at the beginning. That is the  
10      good news. In order to make sure we hear them  
11      and also give time so that we answer some of  
12      the factual questions that people want answers  
13      to tonight and questions they asked, we are  
14      going to have to be a little tighter on the  
15      time limit. Everybody's been pretty good so  
16      far, but now I apologize, just in order to show  
17      respect to all of those people now who have  
18      signed up and still want to speak, I would like  
19      to ask if you could hold your verbal comments  
20      to two minutes, and then if you have written  
21      information, we will take that beyond the two  
22      minutes.

23              And with that, Mr. Wells, we are delighted  
24      to have your testimony.

25              MR. WELLS: Senator Gaetz, I am thrilled

1           that you and the other Senators and  
2           Representatives are here. My name is Arthur  
3           Wells. I have been a resident of Lee County  
4           for 12 years. I am a Korean era veteran. And  
5           this expressive democracy is why I served my  
6           country in that particular way. God bless  
7           America.

8           SENATOR GAETZ: God bless you, sir, for  
9           your service.

10          MR. WELLS: I've voted in every election  
11          since 1956 when I was 21. I voted for  
12          President Eisenhower. In 2008, I appeared on a  
13          panel with Susan Eisenhower, the granddaughter  
14          of the President, on behalf of President Obama.

15          Members of my family have been devoted to  
16          the Republican party since 1863 when my  
17          great-grandfather was freed as a slave. Again,  
18          I voted for President Eisenhower in 1956.

19          I changed my resident -- my registration  
20          to Democrat early this year because I was so  
21          offended by the rhetoric in Tallahassee and in  
22          Washington. I, like Mr. Ramirez, was a manager  
23          at General Motors -- at General Electric. In  
24          fact, I was the first -- among the first  
25          African-American personnel managers in a

1 commercial business in General Electric.

2 Recently I -- I normally dress better than  
3 this, but recently I suffered a monstrous  
4 financial loss because of the lack of  
5 enforcement of regulations in governing by  
6 ideology and pledges --

7 SENATOR GAETZ: And, Mr. Wells, I am very  
8 respectful of your service and your family's  
9 history, but I would ask you --

10 MR. WELLS: May I have 30 seconds?

11 SENATOR GAETZ: Yes, sir.

12 MR. WELLS: May I have 30 seconds?

13 SENATOR GAETZ: Please put a bow on it.

14 MR. WELLS: Okay, rather than common  
15 sense, what I'd like to speak to is Amendments  
16 5 and 6, which the citizens of Florida have  
17 demonstrated overwhelmingly they favored. And  
18 the House of Representatives and the State of  
19 Florida is using my taxes to defeat something  
20 that over 60 percent of the citizens of the  
21 state of Florida voted in favor of, and that is  
22 unconscionably wrong.

23 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, sir. And,  
24 again, thank you for your service.

25 Steve Sherman with the NAACP, and then

1 Clara Anne Graham, President of the League of  
2 Women Voters of Lee County, then Dr. Pat Fish  
3 with the League of Women Voters and then Laura  
4 Miller with the League of Women Voters and then  
5 Lloyd Fish with the League of Women Voters. So  
6 we will get a -- we will get a good recitation  
7 from the League this evening.

8 Mr. Sherman, thank you for being here, and  
9 you are recognized.

10 MR. SHERMAN: Thank you. Thank you for  
11 your service and holding this meeting this  
12 evening.

13 My name is Steve Sherman. I am the  
14 Political Action Chairman for the NAACP Chapter  
15 5110 here in Lee County. We come to you this  
16 evening to ask you to speed up the process as  
17 much as possible by addressing redistricting at  
18 the beginning of the legislative session, and  
19 also providing as much time for public hearing  
20 after the maps are produced as there is now.  
21 This will provide a much smoother process and  
22 also be of substantial savings to the citizens  
23 of Lee County and make the jobs for our  
24 supervisors of voting much easier. Thank you.

25 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, sir.

1           And now we will hear from Clara Anne  
2           Graham, President of the League, and then  
3           Dr. Pat Fish with the League and Laura Miller  
4           with the League, please be on deck.

5           Ms. Graham, thank you for coming and thank  
6           you for your service to the League of Women  
7           Voters.

8           MS. GRAHAM: Thank you. Good evening. My  
9           name is Clara Anne Graham, President of the  
10          League of Women Voters of Lee County, a former  
11          state board treasurer for eight years,  
12          currently a member of the League of Women  
13          Voters of the United States 11-member Climate  
14          Change Task Force, and a practicing accountant.

15          As you are aware, the League of Women  
16          Voters was instrumental in the passage of the  
17          constitutional redistricting Amendments 5 and  
18          6. This effort was a culmination of 30-year  
19          commitment to bring fairness into the  
20          redistricting process, and the fifth campaign,  
21          with many roadblocks along the way. The  
22          voters, all voters, whom you are to represent,  
23          have spoken.

24          We are concerned with what we perceive as  
25          a lack of and concern for prudent and fiscal

1 responsibility by utilizing taxpayer dollars  
2 for a lawsuit to try to circumvent the voters'  
3 voice. In previous public hearings, the  
4 Committee has stated that the entire  
5 redistricting process will be 100 percent  
6 transparent. Will you please tell us the  
7 amount of taxpayer dollars that have been spent  
8 in a full written disclosure in detail,  
9 including the total lawsuit monies?

10 Also, Representative Weatherford, will you  
11 as Chair of this Committee recommend to the  
12 Speaker Cannon that the House drop its  
13 participation in the lawsuit fighting  
14 Amendments 5 and 6?

15 My League button is purple, an equal  
16 blending of Republicans, red, and Democrats,  
17 blue. We urge you to comply with Amendments 5  
18 and 6.

19 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, ma'am. Thank  
20 you very much.

21 And next we will hear from Dr. Pat Fish  
22 with the League, then Laura Miller with the  
23 league and then Dr. Lloyd Fish with the League.

24 Dr. Fish, thank you very, very much for  
25 being here.



1 DR. P. FISH: Thank you. I am a retired  
2 chemistry professor, but after retirement, I  
3 got -- had time then to become more involved in  
4 voting, which has been through the League of  
5 Women Voters. And I have a number of  
6 questions, but the one I would like to ask now  
7 is if you think that June of 2012 is going to  
8 be soon enough for people to qualify for  
9 districts for which they don't even know where  
10 they exist, or is this really just going to be  
11 another stalling tactic? Thank you.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
13 Doctor. And I hope, Doctor, that your schedule  
14 will permit you to stay, because I think there  
15 will be some useful and hopefully reassuring  
16 information for you about the schedule.

17 And now we would be delighted to hear from  
18 Laura Miller, then Dr. Lloyd Fish and then Rick  
19 Murphy, the Superintendent of Hendry County  
20 Schools.

21 Laura Miller representing the League.

22 MS. MILLER: Thank you for this  
23 opportunity to have input in the redistricting  
24 process. My name is Laura Miller, and I am a  
25 past President of the League of Women Voters of

1 Lee County. I have been a member of the Lee  
2 League for 25 years. Also, in my other life, I  
3 was a university professor.

4 Some of us were in Tallahassee ten years  
5 ago when redistricting was being considered the  
6 last time, and we heard comments from a number  
7 of legislators from both political parties. I  
8 heard at least three Republican legislators in  
9 a variety of venues volunteer the comment that  
10 the Democrats have done this -- have done it  
11 their way for years, and now it is our turn.  
12 Since the League is nonpartisan -- a  
13 nonpartisan organization, and our members  
14 habitually look at both sides of an issue  
15 before taking a position, we find such partisan  
16 remarks distressing.

17 My question is this: In the current  
18 redistricting process, can you assure us that  
19 legislators are thinking of what is best for  
20 the voters of Florida? Partisanship should not  
21 have a place in a matter that involves all of  
22 us, and we hope that neither party is  
23 practicing it now.

24 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
25 Ms. Miller.

1           And next we will hear from Dr. Lloyd Fish,  
2           then Rick Murphy, Superintendent Murphy, and  
3           then Tonda Soisson-Lawson.

4           DR. L. FISH: Good evening, gentlemen and  
5           ladies.

6           SENATOR GAETZ: Good evening, sir.

7           DR. L. FISH: I am Lloyd Fish, and I am  
8           the Secretary of the League of Women Voters of  
9           Lee County, although I am a male. And as a  
10          matter of fact, you laugh, but there are  
11          20 percent of our chapter that are males, so it  
12          is in name only. We have both genders.

13          I guess two things that I would like to  
14          say briefly. One, that I would second what Jim  
15          Roach said earlier in the evening, and two, I  
16          would disagree what Mr. Rodriques said insomuch  
17          as he stated that it was the responsibility of  
18          the fair elections committee, the people that  
19          promoted 4 and 5 -- 5 and 6, pardon me,  
20          amendments, to draw the lines. I feel that  
21          actually it is your job, that is what you were  
22          elected to do. You are the people that have to  
23          draw the lines. We are not the experts, but --  
24          and I guess the second part of that question is  
25          when are you going to come back to us and have

1 another setting where you can show us what the  
2 lines are so that we can make meaningful  
3 comments? That's all.

4 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much,  
5 Dr. Fish.

6 Mr. Superintendent, having once played a  
7 superintendent on television, I appreciate the  
8 good work that you do, and we thank you for  
9 your service to the people of the county and to  
10 the children and families and employees of your  
11 school district. You are recognized, sir, with  
12 our gratitude.

13 SUPERINTENDENT MURPHY: Thank you, Senator  
14 Gaetz, and it is a pleasure seeing you and some  
15 of the committee members again. I will see you  
16 in Clewiston bright and early in the morning, I  
17 take it. I think you will enjoy the trip.

18 First of all, I would like to thank you  
19 for all coming out, spending your time. Our  
20 time is very valuable. I found that out later  
21 in life, serving as a public servant.

22 Clewiston and LaBelle are two cities that  
23 we have in Hendry County. We have outlying  
24 areas, of course. Hendry County is about  
25 39,000 plus people on record. A year ago,

1 unemployment was 20.6 percent. Right now in  
2 July, we are the highest in the state, 16.2  
3 percent.

4 One thing we do have, we have plenty of  
5 land, plenty of natural resources, plenty of  
6 water, clean air, some great people, a lot of  
7 room from growth, and I welcome anything we can  
8 do to promote growth and education. We want  
9 growth in many ways.

10 Currently, the 27th District has served us  
11 well. Aronberg was a great Senator,  
12 Ms. Bullard is a great Senator. Congressional,  
13 Alcee Hastings, one of the best,  
14 congressional -- Congressman Rooney is doing a  
15 great job. Grimsley is, of course, one of the  
16 best. And so whatever we do -- whatever we do,  
17 we want to represent Hendry County the fairest  
18 way.

19 My idea, and it is only my idea speaking,  
20 27th District is not going to work in the  
21 future. I feel that since we have two cities  
22 spread apart in a vast rural area, I think that  
23 on Clewiston's side, I think the county could  
24 be better served with a east coast majority, on  
25 the LaBelle side, the west coast majority.

1           I do serve on the Southwest Educational  
2       Alliance Board, and also the Work Force Board.  
3       I deal with a lot of issues on both sides. It  
4       is always hard to get service on both sides of  
5       the county. I have fought the university  
6       system to get dual enrollment in our high  
7       schools. I think that needs to be considered  
8       also.

9           You have some great plans, I've looked at  
10      them, I've liked some of them, but I would like  
11      that to be considered, because Hendry County is  
12      a great place to have growth, and we are going  
13      to have it, we welcome that change.

14           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
15      Mr. Superintendent.

16           SUPERINTENDENT MURPHY: Thank you.

17           SENATOR GAETZ: Tonda Soisson-Lawson, and  
18      then Larry Hart and then William Jennings,  
19      followed by Ruby Daniels.

20           Thank you so much for being here, and you  
21      are recognized, ma'am.

22           MS. SOISSON-LAWSON: Thank you. First of  
23      all, thank everyone for coming and listening to  
24      us, and I am here as a Lehigh Acres resident  
25      since 1997. I have seen all the growth that

1       has happened since, and am anticipating and  
2       looking forward to all the growth in our  
3       future.

4               My head is spinning after all this  
5       information, I know you all are as well, so I  
6       am just going to get to my third point. With  
7       everything that you have heard here tonight  
8       about the communities or the city lines or the  
9       populations, I am going to just remind you that  
10      we are people, and we have -- this is our  
11      community, and not even Lee County, I am just  
12      speaking to -- from Lehigh Acres. We have  
13      eighty -- almost 87,000 people. We are split  
14      in half. We are trying to grow for the future.  
15      We do not want to, as city councilman said from  
16      Ft. Myers, rely on Ft. Myers being our economic  
17      hub for the inland. We are going to be our own  
18      economic hub out here in the future, okay. And  
19      we need one Representative that is going to  
20      advocate for us and help us grow and help us be  
21      a great part of Lee County, but our own part of  
22      Lee County. Thank you.

23               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, ma'am.

24               Larry Hart. Thank you, Mr. Hart, for  
25      being here, and we recognize you.

1           MR. HART: Thank you so much. For the  
2 record, my name is Larry Hart. I had the  
3 privilege of being born and raised in the city  
4 of Ft. Myers, and let me thank each and every  
5 one of you for what you do every day. But we  
6 are at a critical point, and I believe in the  
7 five Bs: Be brief, baby, be brief, because it  
8 is going to be a long night if we are not.

9           We need to understand that this is the  
10 state of Florida first, and we need to  
11 understand that you have a responsibility to  
12 the state of Florida. I cannot draw your map  
13 for you, but I can give you input when you  
14 bring the map back to us.

15          I would ask you to consider the  
16 communities and consider our needs and not  
17 yours. I would ask you to continue to do the  
18 great job, because I do not know a Senator that  
19 represents us, or a Representative, that I am  
20 not proud of. I don't know one that I have not  
21 had the privilege of visiting in Tallahassee,  
22 did not welcome me with open arms, and believe  
23 me, I spent a lot of time up there.

24          I had the privilege of serving this  
25 community for 22 years in law enforcement and



1       six years as a police chief, I continue to  
2       serve this community in a government capacity,  
3       has made my government service over 32 years.  
4       I want you to do one thing for me, and that is  
5       very simple: Do the right thing.

6               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very, very much.

7               Next -- next we will hear from William  
8       Jennings. Mr. Jennings, are you here, sir? In  
9       that case, Ms. Daniels, we are delighted to  
10      have you step forward. And Pat, I think, and I  
11      apologize, it is not your handwriting, it is my  
12      eyes, Pat Carnevale, with the Democratic  
13      Women's Club, and then David Lindsay with the  
14      water control district, if you will come  
15      forward.

16              Ms. Daniels, it is all yours.

17              MS. DANIELS: Thank you. Good evening.  
18      My name is Ruby Daniels. I am the President of  
19      ALVA, Inc., and our name stands for A Living  
20      Vision of Alva, Incorporated. We are a  
21      relatively new organization in a very old  
22      community in northeast Lee County. We are very  
23      rural. And our focus for organizing was  
24      community planning. We have developed a  
25      community plan that will go before the Lee

1 County Board of County Commissioners at the end  
2 of September for adoption, and we are now  
3 beginning to work on developing the land  
4 development codes to underwrite our community  
5 plan.

6 In another year or so, our community  
7 planning efforts will be pretty much finalized,  
8 and we realize that while we plan for ALVA, we  
9 are a part of the larger Lee County community.

10 Our concern is that we are a part of House  
11 District 72, which seems to always be held by  
12 someone who lives in Punta Gorda, Charlotte  
13 County. That person is naturally more attuned  
14 to representing the needs of his constituents  
15 in Charlotte County than in the small number of  
16 Lee County residents. Being so far apart  
17 geographically, there is rarely any  
18 communication between our community and our  
19 Representative. Further, we feel more closely  
20 aligned to Lee County and its issues than  
21 Charlotte County.

22 As we look to the future, we believe our  
23 interests would be better served by someone who  
24 lives in Lee County and is subject to the daily  
25 ebb and flow of what happens locally and is

1 familiar with our local issues. Also, a local  
2 Representative would be more accessible to us.  
3 We respectfully request that you pull us into a  
4 House district that will require a Lee County  
5 resident to serve as our Representative in  
6 Tallahassee.

7 We are also in Senate District 27 and face  
8 the same set of circumstances with the House  
9 district: Isolation, lack of communication,  
10 geographic distance. Senator Benacquisto and  
11 her predecessor, Senator Aronberg, have both  
12 made efforts to overcome this problem, and we  
13 are appreciative of that.

14 SENATOR GAETZ: And, ma'am, because of  
15 time and the many people lined up behind you,  
16 if you could wrap it up, I would be grateful.

17 MS. DANIELS: Thank you. We support a  
18 movement to have a senatorial district for Lee  
19 County and that we be a part of it. Thank you  
20 for giving me the opportunity to speak.

21 SENATOR GAETZ: Of course. Thank you  
22 very, very much, Ms. Daniels.

23 And I believe -- I apologize, Pat  
24 Carnevale, Carnesvale -- all right -- with the  
25 Democratic Women's Club, 213 Radcliff Avenue.

1           Okay, I'm sorry.

2                     David Lindsay with the East County Water  
3           Control District, then Michael Swords and then  
4           Cheryl Byrd.

5                     MR. LINDSAY:   Good evening, everybody.   It  
6           is good to see so many people from our Lee  
7           County delegation on this committee.   That is  
8           fantastic.   I am the district manager of the  
9           East County Water Control District that is  
10          based in Lehigh Acres.   I know you have heard  
11          tonight that Lehigh Acres boasts a population  
12          of 87,000 people, which would serve as a great  
13          population center for a House district.

14                    Lehigh Acres is not incorporated.   We  
15          receive a lot of our general services from Lee  
16          County, but we do have two -- two governments  
17          in Lehigh Acres that are based in Lehigh Acres:  
18          The East County Water Control District and the  
19          Lehigh Acres Fire District.   The East County  
20          Water Control provides the drainage, and, of  
21          course, the fire district with the fire.   And I  
22          believe, and I think a lot of people believe  
23          that the best government is the government that  
24          is the closest to the people, and I think that  
25          is very important.   So I think that if we can

1       get a House district drawn around Lehigh Acres  
2       and drawn around our fire district and our  
3       water control district and around Matt  
4       Caldwell, who is our resident here in Lehigh  
5       Acres, that would be fantastic.

6             And also we have a district -- a Senate  
7       District drawn around both of the two districts  
8       in Lehigh Acres that would also have a Lee  
9       County Senator in that district, we would  
10      greatly appreciate it. Thank you.

11            SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, sir.

12            Michael -- is it Swords, is that correct,  
13      sir?

14            MR. SWORDS: Swords, yes, thank you.

15            SENATOR GAETZ: Swords. And I apologize,  
16      sir, I don't know what LAEDB means, but that is  
17      who you are representing, according to this  
18      card, and maybe you can tell us about them.

19            Then Cheryl Byrd and then Nathan, I  
20      believe it is Stovall, or Stovix, S-t-o-v --  
21      Stout, Stout, okay. You should have been a  
22      doctor, Nathan.

23            Michael, you are recognized, and thank you  
24      so much for being here.

25            MR. SWORDS: Thank you. And that acronym

1 stands for the Lehigh Acres Economic  
2 Development Board.

3 SENATOR GAETZ: Great. Thank you so much.

4 MR. SWORDS: Distinguished Senators and  
5 Representatives, thank you for coming to Lehigh  
6 Acres, Florida, our community, a community that  
7 is approximately 100 square miles with a  
8 population of 87,000, as you have heard  
9 tonight, according to the 2010 census.  
10 Delegates, please note that our community is a  
11 young community, approximately 60 years old.  
12 We are one of the fastest-growing communities  
13 in southwest Florida. Lee County, with  
14 approximately 640,000 in the county, Lehigh  
15 Acres is the second-largest community in the  
16 county by land mass and population.

17 Our community began as a bedroom community  
18 approximately 60 years ago. Approximately ten  
19 years ago, we had a population between thirty  
20 to 35,000, and in ten years, you have heard the  
21 numbers, we are almost 87,000. That is a  
22 phenomenal growth. Based upon previous growth  
23 and homes available here in our community, we  
24 anticipate that in the next ten years, our  
25 community could reach the target population of

1       a community -- a complete community that  
2       qualifies for its own Representative.

3               While we are an unincorporated community  
4       today, please recognize that Lehigh Acres is a  
5       sleeping giant in the making. We are evolving  
6       into a major city in the state of Florida, and  
7       we believe within the next ten years, we may  
8       very well be a city.

9               We ask that based upon these  
10       considerations, that you consider Mr. Weiner's  
11       request for two Senators for our community, in  
12       addition for a Representative for Lehigh Acres.  
13       We have tremendous needs, we have a tremendous  
14       land mass here and we have a tremendous  
15       population that needs representation. Thank  
16       you.

17              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

18              Cheryl Byrd is our next testifier,  
19       followed by Nathan and then followed by Dennis  
20       Holland, and if Michael Neven would be prepared  
21       to come forward.

22              Ms. Byrd, thank you, and we are delighted  
23       to hear your testimony.

24              MS. BYRD: Good evening. I am Cheryl  
25       Byrd, a two-year resident of Cape Coral.

1 Previously I was a 19-year resident of Dare  
2 County, North Carolina, where I served as a  
3 county commissioner for eight years. While  
4 living there, I actively participated in public  
5 input processes for county redistricting in  
6 1992 and state redistricting in 2002.

7 I urge you to seek help from groups in  
8 other states such as North Carolina and  
9 Virginia, which went through the same  
10 experience after the 2000 census, and now have  
11 legislative and congressional districts which  
12 are regarded as fair by most residents of those  
13 states.

14 An essential characteristic of a good  
15 district is that residents who live in it know  
16 who represents them and have some reasonable  
17 ability to meet with their Representatives. I  
18 think our -- many of our current districts  
19 don't satisfy that criteria.

20 Districts which split up cities, small  
21 counties and even unincorporated areas that are  
22 active, identifiable communities discourage  
23 citizen participation in their state and  
24 federal government. They also create confusion  
25 when voters see campaign signs or literature



1       for a person they like, only to discover that  
2       the person's name is nowhere to be found on  
3       their ballot on election day.

4               Finally, they also create unnecessary work  
5       for county election boards, which are charged  
6       with keeping track of who resides in every  
7       district you create. Errors are almost  
8       guaranteed when you split up local voting  
9       jurisdictions.

10              Draw districts which -- first ignore the  
11       question of adequate representation of our  
12       minority populations. Then look and see if our  
13       minorities don't have a better chance of  
14       electing someone who more closely identifies  
15       with them than the current voting district  
16       plans. Zoo-shaped districts, which give a  
17       district to minority populations outright while  
18       preserving many more districts for non-minority  
19       incumbents, are no favor to anyone. That is  
20       why the voters so overwhelmingly voted for the  
21       Fair District amendments to the Florida  
22       Constitution. Other states have found that if  
23       enough districts provide a reasonable --

24              SENATOR GAETZ: And, ma'am, again, in  
25       deference to those behind you, could I ask if

1           you might summarize, please?

2           MS. BYRD:   Okay.   I will just finish this  
3           last -- this one point, and I will pass these  
4           comments on to you.

5           SENATOR GAETZ:   Thank you.

6           MS. BYRD:   Other states have found that if  
7           enough districts provide a reasonable chance  
8           for a person from a minority group to be  
9           elected, their plans have passed through  
10          federal review process successfully.   The  
11          districts do not have to be more than  
12          50 percent minority.

13          And I have a few other comments, so --

14          SENATOR GAETZ:   We will be happy to take  
15          them for the record, pass them out to our  
16          members.   Thank you very much, ma'am.

17          Next, Nathan Stout.   Mr. Stout?

18          MR. STOUT:   You got that right, thank you.

19          SENATOR GAETZ:   Absolutely.   Are you a  
20          physician?

21          MR. STOUT:   No, I -- no, I am a --

22          SENATOR GAETZ:   Are you a teacher?   That  
23          is a classroom voice.

24          MR. STOUT:   No.   I am a certified public  
25          accountant.

1           SENATOR GAETZ: Well, I am going to listen  
2 to you.

3           MR. STOUT: Yeah.

4           SENATOR GAETZ: You have the floor, sir.

5           MR. STOUT: Thank you very much, and I  
6 welcome you here and I welcome everyone here,  
7 and certainly Senator Benacquisto and Senator  
8 Richter and my good friend, Gary Aubuchon, and  
9 come back more often, Gary. And we are so  
10 proud of Representative Caldwell. And I can  
11 tell you right now, I have lived in this town  
12 for 30 years, I am a fourth-generation Lee  
13 Countian, and I have never seen this much power  
14 east of the interstate in my life. So thank  
15 you for coming.

16           I am Chairman of the East County Water  
17 Control District, I am also on the Board of the  
18 Chamber of Commerce, and you have heard  
19 everything about our community, how it is  
20 growing. We are going to grow and continue to  
21 grow. We will be 300,000 people, close to  
22 that, some day. So we need to start now with a  
23 Representative that works this area solely. I  
24 don't care who you attach us to, but put all  
25 80,000 people in Lehigh Acres in one district.

1           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you.

2           MR. STOUT: We are going to continue to  
3 grow, and so we need that. And, again, I want  
4 to thank everyone for coming out tonight.

5           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very, very much,  
6 sir.

7           Dennis Holland, and following Mr. Holland,  
8 I believe it is Michael Neven and then Jerry D.  
9 Carrick and then Pete Burkert.

10          Mr. Holland?

11          MR. HOLLAND: Yes.

12          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you.

13          MR. HOLLAND: My name is Dennis Holland.  
14 I have lived in Lee County since 1980. I would  
15 like to say I am a retired design engineer, but  
16 I am an unemployed design engineer.

17          You folks are sitting here listening to us  
18 to give testimony on a job that you are to do.  
19 You've got staff. There is a program out  
20 there. My main question, show of hands would  
21 be a simple thing, how many of you have  
22 actually used the program that is out there on  
23 the Web right now for redistricting? How many  
24 people in the audience have? They outnumber  
25 you.

1           You folks should have had maps. You  
2           should have had something laid out so that  
3           people have something to talk about other than  
4           what I saw in the lobby, which was a good first  
5           start.

6           Your deadline is a little too long. You  
7           need to shorten it up. It should be shortly  
8           after the first of this year, not in June, to  
9           get your work done. If you can't get it done,  
10          say so to the public, and then we will do what  
11          we have to do in order to get maps made up.

12          That is my comment. Have a nice week.

13          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, sir.

14          MR. NEVEN: Hi, there. I am a little loud  
15          normally.

16          SENATOR GAETZ: You woke us up.

17          MR. NEVEN: I just want to make sure you  
18          are not sleeping, that is all.

19          SENATOR GAETZ: We are not anymore.  
20          Thanks, Michael.

21          MR. NEVEN: My name is Mike Neven. First  
22          of all, I want to say thank you for being here  
23          tonight. I think it is wonderful you chose  
24          Lehigh to have this forum. This is something  
25          that is good for our image.

1           First of all, I would like to let you  
2           know, I am a small businessman, I am a realtor,  
3           and I am a chamber board member, but I am here  
4           to speak for myself and not for them. I have  
5           been living in the community of Lehigh Acres  
6           for 27 years, and you notice I said the word  
7           "community." Lehigh Acres is not, due to  
8           manufactured fear and ignorance, a city yet.  
9           We will be some day. We need to be.

10           I also am a member of what we call the  
11           dumbbell district, and it is very well named  
12           because of the fact that we have nothing in  
13           common with the other end of the dumbbell or  
14           the bar. Lehigh is part of Lee County, and  
15           Lehigh is all part of Lehigh. My -- I am here  
16           to say keep Lehigh together and keep Lehigh  
17           part of Lee County where I pay my taxes and do  
18           my entertaining. That is all I have to say.  
19           Thank you.

20           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much.

21           Next is Jerry Carrick and then Pete  
22           Burkert, and then Ken Thompson, if you would be  
23           ready, please.

24           MR. CARRICK: Good evening, and thanks to  
25           the delegation. Welcome to Lehigh Acres, the

1 fastest-growing community in southwest Florida,  
2 saying that with a lot of excitement, I am a  
3 business guy here for the last seven years.

4 Lehigh is a great community. We need to  
5 be one district. We need to hold our community  
6 together. We are fast growing, we have a lot  
7 of challenges, and when we are split, it just  
8 polarizes all the efforts that we do when we  
9 need to come to you for help. We need a  
10 Representative who we know him so we aren't  
11 split so we have one common goal.

12 So thank you very much for coming, and  
13 thank you for bringing Jason along out there.  
14 He has helping me try to rig those maps out  
15 there, I am lost, but he is going to aid me  
16 this week and we will get an accurate map in to  
17 you. So --

18 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much.  
19 Thanks for your submission of a map.

20 Pete Burkert. Is it Burkert?

21 MR. BURKERT: Yes, it is, sir. Thank you  
22 very much.

23 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you for being here.

24 MR. BURKERT: Good evening, everyone,  
25 Senators and members of the House. My name is

1       Pete Burkert, I am a local attorney, been a Lee  
2       County resident for 34 years.

3           I think what has become relatively  
4       apparent from all the conversation is that the  
5       Fair Amendments passed in a year that was  
6       arguably very difficult for these kind of  
7       amendments, which makes its victory even that  
8       much more impressive, meaning that the  
9       63 percent that occur generally would have been  
10      perhaps higher in other years, which means that  
11      the public meant it when they passed it and  
12      they really wanted these amendments. And I  
13      think as those of you who are going to be  
14      responsible for the outcome of this, you ignore  
15      the amendments, you work around the amendments  
16      at your peril, and you should be cautious of  
17      whatever you do and whatever comes out, that it  
18      clearly meets the test of these amendments.

19           I believe that looking at the wording of  
20      the amendments, there are two things that are  
21      really clear, that when you start this from  
22      your computer, that the drawing of these  
23      district lines must be totally blind and  
24      totally neutral in these two areas: One, the  
25      voter registration by party of the people



1       involved. You cannot know when you start this  
2       process off how many Democrats, how many  
3       Republicans, are in each district. That  
4       violates the Fair Amendment -- Fair Amendments.

5               Secondly, you can't put in the address of  
6       incumbent members. That violates it. If it is  
7       determined later on that your computer program  
8       has those two components as part of the initial  
9       setting of the districts, I believe you will  
10      have violated the Fair Amendments. This --  
11      those two elements need to be completely  
12      excluded of it.

13             Going beyond that, I believe the most  
14      important sub-unit for use in setting these  
15      districts is the county. The county is used by  
16      Florida in a variety of ways, whether it is  
17      water management districts, judicial circuits.  
18      The county needs to be the focus.

19             In order to try to make an effort, a  
20      strong effort, to preserve minority districts,  
21      I think you should work from the core of urban  
22      areas and outwards. In other words, there's  
23      got to be a place to start when you build a  
24      district, isn't it? You could start in  
25      Pensacola and work down, you can start in Key

1 West and work up, you can pick a county and  
2 start there, but I believe the starting point  
3 ought to be the core areas, the core urban  
4 areas, and work out from there somehow, paying  
5 attention to these county lines, first of all,  
6 and in counties that are big enough that have  
7 more than one district, you go down to city  
8 lines.

9 SENATOR GAETZ: And, sir, you've made some  
10 very good points, but in deference to those  
11 behind you, I did let you run a little over --

12 MR. BURKERT: Thanks.

13 SENATOR GAETZ: -- and if you could  
14 summarize, I would be grateful.

15 MR. BURKERT: Fifteen seconds.

16 As a recent candidate for State Senate, as  
17 Senator Benacquisto knows, and who ran for  
18 District 27, it is my view as well that  
19 District 27 ought to fall apart completely. It  
20 does not meet the test of compactness. Pure  
21 and simple, it should fall, and Lee County  
22 deserves its own seat. I said that in my  
23 campaign, and I stick with that tonight.

24 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, sir. Thank you  
25 very much.

1           Ken Thompson? Ken Thompson is next and  
2           then we have -- this individual already  
3           spoke -- Cathy Michiels, and then Dena  
4           G-e-r-a-g-h-t-y with the drug courts.

5           So, Ken Thompson, do we have Ken Thompson  
6           here? We will pass him.

7           Cathy Michiels? Is it Michiels?  
8           Ms. Michiels, we really -- I'm sorry I didn't  
9           give you more notice, but thanks -- no, you are  
10          doing fine. Thanks so much for being here, and  
11          you are recognized, ma'am.

12          MS. MICHIELS: Thank you, and thank you  
13          all for coming here and giving me this  
14          opportunity to speak.

15          Pretty much everybody has said, you know,  
16          a lot of what I had written and wanted to say,  
17          so I am just going to reiterate a couple things  
18          and point out something that hasn't been said.  
19          And, again, 63 percent of Lee County voted for  
20          this 5 and 6 amendments, 60 percent of Florida  
21          voters. It is not 50, 51 percent, it is over  
22          60. It is a great majority.

23          You need to not make this a charade that  
24          it is purported to be, and the millions of  
25          dollars of our taxpayer money that you are

1        spending regardless of, again, the semantics of  
2        how you are going to defend it, it is our  
3        taxpayer money, you are fighting for what we  
4        wanted. In the meantime, you are firing  
5        people, policemen, teachers, firemen, to spend  
6        the money on this. Are you kidding me? No,  
7        that -- it is beyond ridiculous.

8                And the other thing I would like to point  
9        out is we are spending trillions, trillions of  
10       dollars and our civilian population to give the  
11       right to vote in Iraq and Afghanistan, and you  
12       are going to sit here and go back to  
13       Tallahassee and take our rights away.

14                SENATOR GAETZ: Ma'am, we are -- could we  
15       keep it to Florida redistricting?

16                MS. MICHIELS: I get that, but my point  
17       is --

18                SENATOR GAETZ: Because we don't control  
19       Afghanistan --

20                MS. MICHIELS: I understand.

21                SENATOR GAETZ: -- so bring it back down  
22       to us.

23                MS. MICHIELS: Okay. But you get the  
24       point. We are fighting for our rights, for our  
25       right to have fair districts here, and our

1 taxpayer money should not be used to  
2 disingenuously take away our rights. And we  
3 are onto you, we smell what you are cooking,  
4 and we will be back with more petitions if you  
5 try and take our rights away.

6 SENATOR GAETZ: And, ma'am --

7 MS. MICHIELS: Mark my word.

8 SENATOR GAETZ: Time. Thank you so much.

9 MS. MICHIELS: Thank you.

10 SENATOR GAETZ: Appreciate your being  
11 here. The louder you talk, the more applause  
12 you get, now you keep that in mind.

13 And, ma'am, could you please let us know  
14 -- sh, sh, sh, hey, in the back, be nice now to  
15 this lady. Tell us how to pronounce your name,  
16 ma'am.

17 MS. GERAGHTY: Geraghty.

18 SENATOR GAETZ: Geraghty. And,  
19 Ms. Geraghty, would you pull the microphone  
20 close to you so we can get every word?

21 MS. GERAGHTY: Yes, sir. Yes, sir. Thank  
22 you very much.

23 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to  
24 the legislative delegation that is present. We  
25 appreciate your work, and we know the time and

1 effort that you have put in.

2 I am a native Floridian, I am rather proud  
3 of that, and I have lived in Lee County in the  
4 city of Ft. Myers for 42 years. We have  
5 enjoyed a great deal of growth in this area,  
6 and while there has been a great deal of talk  
7 about the cross-state districts not being  
8 totally representative of the people, I believe  
9 it is through the efforts of this cross  
10 districts and the other representation that we  
11 have had from our wonderful delegation that has  
12 taken us from a sleepy little Florida community  
13 into contiguous, diverse, productive  
14 communities that can hold hands and go forward  
15 in progress. Thank you.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much,  
17 Ms. Geraghty.

18 And I apologize, Damon -- I believe it is  
19 Sheldon or Shellon -- Shelor. And is there --  
20 there is. And following his testimony, we will  
21 hear from Lucille -- and now, Lucille lives at  
22 104, I think, Ortona Street in Lehigh Acres,  
23 but, Lucille, I apologize, I am sure it is my  
24 eyes, but if it is Moffatt or something like  
25 that. And then following Lucille, Kenneth

1 Taylor.

2 Thank you very much, sir, and you are  
3 recognized and we're delighted to have your  
4 testimony.

5 MR. SHELOR: Thank you very much. A lot  
6 of people slaughter my name, so that is okay, I  
7 am used to it.

8 But, once again, thank all of you all for  
9 coming out here to our community. This is -- a  
10 comment was made, this is probably the most  
11 power we have seen out east of I-75, and I  
12 believe that is true. I am a 36, 37-year  
13 resident of Lehigh Acres, seen a lot of  
14 changes. When I moved here, there was less  
15 than 10,000 people and no traffic lights and no  
16 McDonald's or fast food places. So we have  
17 seen lots of change. Southwest Florida has  
18 seen a lot of change. We have seen a lot of  
19 growth.

20 The point I want to make, and I am not  
21 going to reiterate a lot of things that were  
22 made here tonight, points that were made here  
23 tonight, but essentially you can look at Lee  
24 County, look at a lot of the unincorporated  
25 areas of Lee County, which we have a lot in

1 common east of I-75, and it creates a very  
2 nice, compact, contiguous House district. I  
3 think you need to seriously consider that. And  
4 I think that is the main thing that you are  
5 hearing tonight is to not have -- and I won't  
6 use the word "gerrymandering," but I just did,  
7 but stretched out, odd-shaped, snake, curly Qs  
8 for districts. We need to have good contact  
9 with our Representatives. This is a  
10 representative community, and it is important  
11 not only for the people, but also their  
12 Representatives to be in an area, know the area  
13 and have contact with the people they  
14 represent.

15 And so, again, I thank you. I will be  
16 brief, hopefully I will get that piece of pie  
17 for being brief, and thank you for coming out  
18 tonight.

19 SENATOR GAETZ: Just sign Representative  
20 Legg's name to the slip, you'll have a piece of  
21 pie. Thank you very much.

22 And now my deep apologies, Lucille.  
23 What's your last name, ma'am?

24 MS. MOFFATT: Moffatt.

25 SENATOR GAETZ: Moffatt, I got it right.



1 MS. MOFFATT: Moffatt, yes, M-o-f-f-a-t-t.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Okay. Well, you are  
3 recognized, and we are delighted to have you  
4 here tonight.

5 MS. MOFFATT: Yes. Well, good evening,  
6 everyone. We are happy in Lehigh Acres to have  
7 you here. It is a long time that we need to  
8 see something like this happening in Lehigh. I  
9 am an old Wall Street girl, and after I  
10 retired, I came to Lehigh, such a beautiful  
11 place, and we try our very best to have it as a  
12 very nice community.

13 We listen every year to all the  
14 legislators coming in and speaking to vote for  
15 them, which we all get together, because we  
16 need improvement in Lehigh Acres, but the  
17 moment we do so, first, some of them, when we  
18 vote, we don't know them, and it is worse when  
19 they get through, we are left in the dark.

20 Right now in Lehigh Acres, although we are  
21 under one umbrella, we have a lot of Carribean  
22 folks living here. We have the Spanish people  
23 living here. And what I want to know, when we  
24 regroup, who does it benefit? Does it benefit  
25 Lehigh Acres? Does it benefit the legislators?

1       Many of us are laypeople. We do not understand  
2       about this sharing up of the county -- or of  
3       the districts, but we want to know -- one thing  
4       we want to know, that Lehigh Acres -- sometimes  
5       we can't even see it on the map, even when the  
6       weather report is going out, our name is not  
7       there, and that is the truth. So we want to be  
8       on the map. And we understand the reason why  
9       we are not getting things is because we have no  
10      power. But, believe me, we are going to get  
11      power now, because when the Representatives  
12      come, they promise us Jesus. Only Jesus they  
13      don't promise us. Everything in the world.  
14      But, believe me, if we don't get what we want,  
15      we are going to give them Father, Son and holy  
16      ghost. So --

17           SENATOR GAETZ: Well, before you take up a  
18      collection, if you could wrap up, your time is  
19      limited.

20           MS. MOFFATT: We will have to go to the  
21      legislators for the collection, because we are  
22      all broke.

23           SENATOR GAETZ: At every -- Ms. Moffatt,  
24      at every single hearing, somebody has the best  
25      line, and tonight, by acclamation, you get the

1 prize, and that -- that, Ms. Moffatt, is pie a  
2 la Mode on Representative Legg at Perkins.  
3 Thank you for your testimony.

4 And now Kenneth Taylor, Mr. Taylor, and  
5 following Mr. Taylor, Woody Hanson and then  
6 Joseph Whalen.

7 MR. TAYLOR: Thank you, sir. I speak for  
8 two constituents tonight, first for the armed  
9 forces veterans of southwest Florida. I am a  
10 retired Navy officer with 23 years service to  
11 my country, and I would like to state very  
12 emphatically that the veterans of southwest  
13 Florida, of which there are thousands, one of  
14 the most populous areas in the state for  
15 retired veterans, we are very keen on  
16 Amendments 5 and 6 and protecting our rights.  
17 As you know, thousands -- hundreds of thousands  
18 of Americans have died to protect those rights,  
19 and I ask you to consider the fact that we are  
20 talking about basic democracy here. We are  
21 talking grass roots level ability of the public  
22 to influence our legislation to be fairly  
23 represented, which we certainly have not been.  
24 The barbell thing, everybody has talked  
25 about it enough, when I retired down here, I

1       was appalled to see that that was actual fact,  
2       and I cannot in any conscience figure how the  
3       State could have let that happen. That is  
4       absolutely outrageous and unconscionable and  
5       does not represent Lee County at all.

6               Lee County has over 680,000 people. We  
7       are growing rapidly. You have heard that. We  
8       have a lot to be thankful for. We deserve a  
9       U.S. Congressman in Lee County. We deserve to  
10      have better representation in the House. It is  
11      ludicrous to have five Representatives dividing  
12      up this county. That means no Representative  
13      has a majority part of the county that he is  
14      concerned about. We need better  
15      representation. It is absolutely insane to  
16      have five House members in -- that touch on Lee  
17      County, some of them just barely.

18             I also want to speak quickly, I am  
19      Vice-Chairman of the Democratic Party of Lee  
20      County. My counterpart spoke, so I thought I  
21      should say the same. Over 70 percent of the  
22      Democrats in -- the 106,000 Democrats in Lee  
23      County voted for Amendments 5 and 6. We are  
24      passionate about it, as one of the other  
25      Democrats said. We worked very, very hard,

1 thousands and thousands of hours for these  
2 amendments. We expect the Legislature to do  
3 the right thing, to follow the will of the  
4 people, to not play games with us, because as  
5 many speakers have said, we are certainly  
6 watching.

7 And, finally, I want to say one thing: I  
8 learned something tonight that I didn't know  
9 and I should have known being Vice-Chairman.  
10 That \$30 million of our public funds have been  
11 appropriated by the State Legislature to defeat  
12 the will of the people. That is an outrage,  
13 okay. It is our money. Thank you.

14 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. And,  
15 Mr. Taylor, first of all, thank you for your  
16 service to our country. Everybody here  
17 appreciates that. And, secondly, I hope you  
18 can stay until the end, because every once in a  
19 while, something gets in the bloodstream that  
20 is not quite true, and I think we will have a  
21 chance to at least provide some factual  
22 information, and then that way, everyone can  
23 make judgments about those facts. Thank you,  
24 sir, and thanks again for your service.

25 Woody Hanson. Mr. Hanson, followed by

1 Joseph Whalen, followed by Linda Carter.

2 MR. HANSON: Good evening, my name is  
3 Woody Hanson, for the record, and thank you for  
4 being here, and I think most importantly, I  
5 thank everybody for being here and making us  
6 feel part of a community that cares.

7 My family got here quite a while ago. My  
8 mama's side got here in 1866 and my dad's side  
9 got here in 1884. I used to think that was  
10 important, but what really is important is that  
11 we are here tonight.

12 And what I really want to speak to is an  
13 issue that I believe that is near and dear to  
14 each and every one of us, and that is water. I  
15 grew up on the Caloosahatchee River, and I've  
16 watched that river just go to hell. And  
17 there's a lot of straws in the ground in Lehigh  
18 Acres, and there's a lot of straws in the  
19 ground in Cape Coral that are going to be real  
20 concerned about the quality of their water.

21 SENATOR GAETZ: And, sir, I would love to  
22 chat with you after the hearing about water  
23 quality, but if we could keep it to  
24 redistricting or bring it back to  
25 redistricting.

1           MR. HANSON: I cannot thank you enough,  
2 because that takes me right there.

3           SENATOR GAETZ: Great.

4           MR. HANSON: The river, if you did not  
5 know, runs east and west, and that is why I am  
6 here for a cross-state representation, because  
7 of that geometry, and I cannot thank you,  
8 Senator, for bringing that point more clear --

9           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you.

10          MR. HANSON: -- than what you just did.

11          SENATOR GAETZ: Great. Thank you very  
12 much, Mr. Hanson.

13          Joseph Whalen, followed by Linda Carter,  
14 and followed by Thomas -- I think it is  
15 Bruzzesi, and I apologize, sir, if I have your  
16 name wrong.

17          Mr. Whalen, you are recognized. We are  
18 delighted to have you here tonight.

19          MR. WHALEN: Thank you, Senator Gaetz.  
20 Also, thank you, Senator Benacquisto,  
21 Representative Caldwell, my partner, Lehigh  
22 Acres resident. I am the current President/CEO  
23 of the Lehigh Acres Chamber of Commerce. That  
24 having been said, I am not speaking to you  
25 tonight as the President/CEO of Lehigh Acres

1 Chamber of Commerce, most notably because that  
2 will no longer be my title in about 30 days and  
3 four hours and -- not that I am counting,  
4 because I am moving on to bigger and better  
5 things.

6 But, anyway, I am here to speak for my  
7 family. And I know all of you -- I would  
8 assume all have family. I try as much as  
9 possible to, whenever I speak with you  
10 personally one-on-one or to you as a group, to  
11 do your best. I know it is very, very  
12 difficult in Tallahassee to do what you have to  
13 do, what you have been elected to do. This  
14 obviously is one of those instances. I  
15 sincerely appreciate the fact that you are  
16 bringing this to the people, the redistricting,  
17 and I think it is a very admirable effort, and  
18 I certainly hope that it is going to shine the  
19 light upon the people that it is intended to  
20 do. In fact, I have heard Representative  
21 Caldwell speak on redistricting two times now,  
22 and he is an aficionado on redistricting and  
23 the history of it, and I am not just giving him  
24 props and love, I am just saying it really is  
25 amazing what he does.



1           But getting back to my original point, I  
2           am the current executive for the Lehigh Acres  
3           Chamber of Commerce, but more importantly than  
4           that, I am a husband to Jennifer. Jennifer  
5           teaches fifth grade at Lehigh Elementary. My  
6           daughter just started kindergarten at Lehigh  
7           Elementary. My son is going to be three on  
8           September 17th, which I just found out is  
9           actually Constitution Day. Did you guys know  
10          that? That is actually when they signed the --  
11          yeah. So my son was born on Constitution Day,  
12          okay, enough about that. I will get to the  
13          point about my family.

14                I strongly believe that this community,  
15                this county, needs our own representation. I  
16                am a strong believer in the closer you have  
17                your representation to home, the better you are  
18                represented. Obviously, we have heard about  
19                Senate District 27, and I am a firm believer  
20                that we need to bring it all over here on the  
21                west coast.

22                SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you.

23                MR. WHALEN: Thank you.

24                SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

25                MR. WHALEN: Appreciate your time. Thank

1           you.

2           SENATOR GAETZ:   And next, Linda Carter.

3           Ms. Carter, thank you for coming tonight.  You  
4           could have been anywhere else, but you came to  
5           hang out with us, and we are grateful for your  
6           testimony.

7           MS. CARTER:   Yes, I am Linda Carter, and  
8           one of the things that I want to bring to you  
9           that is a national problem, as we looked at  
10          disaster preparedness, we have -- this county  
11          has five Representatives.  Lehigh Acres is 143  
12          square miles, the size of Orlando.  With five  
13          different people representing Lee County, if we  
14          get hit with a natural disaster like they got  
15          hit up north with Irene and the rest of them,  
16          are we going to get all five of them to agree  
17          on what we need in Lehigh?  We need a unified,  
18          consolidated disaster preparedness plan and all  
19          of you working together to protect this  
20          community of 143 square miles in case we have a  
21          natural disaster.  If we don't do it now, we  
22          cannot wait until Katrina and -- or Andrew and  
23          everything in the past.  We need to prepare now  
24          and look to the future for our children, their  
25          children and do it now.  Thank you.

1           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very, very much.

2           And our final speaker this evening, and I  
3 apologize that I don't -- I am not able to  
4 divine his name. I am sure it is my eyesight.  
5 Thomas J. -- is it Bruzzesi?

6           MR. BRUZZESI: Very good pronunciation, by  
7 the way.

8           SENATOR GAETZ: All right. You are  
9 recognized, sir, for two minutes.

10          MR. BRUZZESI: How are you doing, folks?  
11 I appreciate having the opportunity to speak in  
12 front of you. I've listened to everybody  
13 tonight, and before I wanted to get up here and  
14 speak, I wanted to listen to everybody.

15          This what you all are doing here is a very  
16 good thing tonight. A government is supposed  
17 to be of listeners, not lecturers, okay, of  
18 citizens, not elitists, and of change and not  
19 stand still. By you giving everybody the  
20 opportunity to get up here and speak like  
21 myself tonight, this is a great display of  
22 that, and I really appreciate that.

23          But I want to say that when we talk about  
24 redistricting here, in each and every one of  
25 these districts, folks, we have a huge, huge

1       problem, okay, we have a huge problem of  
2       unemployment. You are all elected officials.  
3       As you know, I have put on there, I am a 2012  
4       Republican candidate. I am stepping up for the  
5       American people to put people back to work.  
6       You have an entire federal government can't  
7       create one job.

8               SENATOR GAETZ: Well, sir, we need to  
9       bring it back to redistricting in Florida.

10              MR. BRUZZESI: I will. Inside these  
11       districts, folks, we have a lot of people  
12       unemployed, and every one of you officials need  
13       to step up, bring this message to Washington  
14       and say, "Hey, we got to get people back to  
15       work," and that is what needs to happen. Okay.  
16       So I'm am asking you all tonight, each and  
17       every one of you in your district, okay, to get  
18       out there, go back to Washington and say, "Hey,  
19       we got a big problem here, we need to change  
20       it." If you can't -- if you can't do it, ask  
21       me and I will tell you how.

22              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

23              MR. BRUZZESI: Thank you very much.

24              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you for your  
25       testimony.

1           Ladies and gentlemen, we have had 64  
2           individuals come forward and provide their  
3           input tonight, and I don't know about other  
4           members, but I have made nine pages of notes,  
5           and we are also going to have a written  
6           transcript and a video transcript of everything  
7           that all of you said. But we have reached the  
8           part of our hearing tonight where you have  
9           asked a number of specific questions, we are  
10          going to give members an opportunity to make  
11          any comments they wish to make, and I will turn  
12          to Representative Legg on behalf of the House  
13          for any comments he might wish to make, and  
14          then I have made a few notes on questions that  
15          I will try to make sure we get covered.

16                So let me start first with members of the  
17          House of Representatives who are here who would  
18          like to offer any comments or answer any  
19          questions. Members of the House? Wow, enjoy  
20          the moment. It is not going to last.

21                Representative Caldwell.

22                REPRESENTATIVE CALDWELL: Just quickly, I  
23          wanted to give all my colleagues a chance if  
24          they wanted to, but thank you all very much for  
25          coming out here this evening and sharing your

1 thoughts and your concerns, for keeping this a  
2 very civil evening, and I know that the body  
3 here will leave very impressed with the civic  
4 engagement that we have here in this community  
5 and appreciate everything that you have brought  
6 here this evening. Thank you very much.

7 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
8 Representative. Any other members of the House  
9 wish to offer any comments?

10 If not, members of the Senate who are on  
11 the Senate Reapportionment Committee, any  
12 comments from members of the Senate?

13 Senator Storms.

14 SENATOR STORMS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
15 appreciate your leadership, and I appreciate  
16 folks being as kind as you -- we've only had  
17 one little incident of veins popping out of  
18 people's necks and foreheads, and so that was  
19 really good, I appreciate that.

20 I did want to address this sort of  
21 overarching message sometimes that I have  
22 heard, and that is that this is a charade and  
23 that we are all, I don't know, engaging in  
24 something. And I just have to say that I  
25 have -- I am a registered Republican for those

1 of you who don't know, so -- and I was  
2 appointed to this committee. I've done my due  
3 diligence. I thought that I worked very hard  
4 in trying to listen and trying to go back to my  
5 district. I had staff come down and train me  
6 how to do District Builder, and I am training  
7 my own office and I got my own office staff on  
8 how to do that, but for people -- you know, I  
9 just want to say to you that for this Senator,  
10 and I think that everybody on the Committee  
11 agrees that we're spending our own time to come  
12 and do this. For instance, yesterday I was in  
13 the pediatrician's office with my two kids at  
14 three o'clock, we had an appointment. At 5:09,  
15 I was still in my pediatrician's office and I  
16 hadn't been seen yet. So I had to call my  
17 husband and say, "Come relieve me in the  
18 pediatrician's office," so I could get down to  
19 the next meeting in Sarasota that I needed to  
20 get to. When I finished that meeting at nine  
21 o'clock at night, I had to drive back to  
22 Ellington to get my clothes, because I didn't  
23 take them to the pediatrician's office. My  
24 aide met me there. And so then I drove to  
25 Naples. And I don't tell you this so that you

1       can feel sorry or bad about it, but that is a  
2       lot to go through for a charade that nobody  
3       knows much about, you know. I mean, usually if  
4       you are engaging in a charade, you do it in  
5       front of an audience, but I was by myself  
6       driving down I-75 to get to Naples in the  
7       morning and then to drive over here to Lehigh  
8       Acres.

9               So I am saying to you, I don't know about  
10       any massive part of a charade or a conspiracy,  
11       but as far as the members of this committee are  
12       concerned, we are taking this seriously. We  
13       appreciate the right to vote. Some of us went  
14       to jail for civil rights on this committee, and  
15       they have a long history in battling for  
16       people's right to vote. So everybody here is  
17       taking that seriously, myself included, and I  
18       just thought that that was appropriate to say  
19       that for the record.

20              So thank you for your service here tonight  
21       in holding us accountable, and thank you for  
22       those of you who disagree with the districts,  
23       saying that in a civil manner, too. I, for  
24       one, sincerely appreciate that.

25              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,



1 Senator Storms.

2 Other members of the Senate? Senator  
3 Benacquisto.

4 SENATOR BENACQUISTO: I just want to say  
5 in closing for us as members of this  
6 delegation, thank you so much for coming out  
7 this evening and for sharing your heartfelt  
8 concerns about your community and what you want  
9 to see happen in the future. The pride in  
10 Lehigh Acres is entirely evident in your  
11 comments, and for those commenting on Lee  
12 County as a whole, we hear that pride as well  
13 and we take it to heart. So thank you for your  
14 participation.

15 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much.

16 I would like to turn to Representative  
17 Legg, our Speaker Designate of the Florida  
18 House. Representative Weatherford typically is  
19 here and co-Chairs meetings. He has done  
20 yeoman's service and been at hearing after  
21 hearing, and tonight he had to go home for a  
22 family issue, to be with his young family, so  
23 Representative Legg is representing the House  
24 of Representatives tonight.

25 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Thank very much,

1       Senator Gaetz. I just want to say on a  
2       personal note, thank you very much. This was a  
3       very informative meeting. As someone that  
4       comes from north Tampa, Pasco County, I know  
5       very little about this part of the state, and I  
6       know the Senator has nine pages of notes, he  
7       must have took a little -- few more notes than  
8       me, I have about seven pages of notes. But it  
9       is something that we just don't get in  
10      Tallahassee. We don't get the details and we  
11      don't get the logistics and the nuances of the  
12      districts of what you put here today, and I  
13      know it helps me as we go into and we start to  
14      put these maps together in a couple of weeks  
15      when we go to committee weeks. Without a  
16      doubt, it was instrumental to inform me, and I  
17      know many of our House colleagues absolutely  
18      who are not from this part of the state needed  
19      this information.

20             You know, as the Senator said earlier, and  
21      he is probably going to go over a couple of  
22      questions, I just wanted to highlight a couple  
23      of issues or a couple of topics that were  
24      stated that may have been off the mark just a  
25      little bit and provide a little bit of clarity

1       and a little bit of information as sometimes  
2       our friends in the press may not get everything  
3       exactly right and it kind of snowballs from  
4       that point.

5               There was a couple of statements about a  
6       20 to 30 million dollar slush fund that is used  
7       to -- for lawsuits to fights amendments. That  
8       is simply not accurate. The Florida House --  
9       and Senator Gaetz would know this better than  
10      anyone else. The Florida House has  
11      \$30 million, but it is set aside for reserves  
12      for building maintenance, for computers, for  
13      all sorts of House infrastructure. If there  
14      was \$30 million set aside, I am confident that  
15      the Senate would have taken it from us and put  
16      it in other categories during the budgeting  
17      process. So there is no \$30 million dedicated  
18      to some sort of lawsuit out there.

19             Now, what -- you don't have to take my  
20      word for it. I heard some individuals out  
21      there say, "Well, give us a list, give us a  
22      breakdown." Well, I will give you the  
23      breakdown. If you would like, you can pull it  
24      up for yourself so you can look and verify and  
25      pull all the facts up. If you go to

1       www.transparencyflorida.gov, all of Florida  
2       House's expenses are on that website. So you  
3       can pull it up for yourself, you can look at  
4       it, you can see it, you can double-check it,  
5       you can see where the money is being spent and  
6       how it is being appropriated.

7               And I just want to say something for  
8       myself, and I am sure some of my fellow  
9       colleagues would agree with this, is that  
10      regardless of what happens in the court system,  
11      regardless of what happens, when I was elected,  
12      I put my hand on the Bible and I was sworn to  
13      uphold the Constitution of the United States  
14      and the Constitution of the State of Florida  
15      and whatever is in that. That is Amendment 5  
16      and Amendment 6, and that is what I am going to  
17      do and that is what we are going to do in this  
18      process. We are going to do it to the best of  
19      our ability.

20             Now, there's folks in here that I am sure  
21      got a little upset and get angry saying you've  
22      got to do it exactly. If you look at that, it  
23      is a complex issue. We are going to do a good  
24      faith effort and try our darnedest to do  
25      everything possible to uphold 5 and 6, because

1 I believe in this country, I believe in the  
2 Constitution, the voters passed that, we swore  
3 we would uphold it, and that is exactly what  
4 the House and I am sure that the Senate is  
5 going to do when we go into session.

6 So with that, Mr. Speaker, Mr. President,  
7 you did an amazing job, especially on this  
8 tour, and I am sure you have other things to  
9 kind of highlight.

10 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
11 Representative Legg.

12 I made a list of specific questions or  
13 data points that came up so that as that great  
14 Democratic Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan  
15 said, "Everyone is entitled to their opinion,  
16 but not everyone is entitled to their own set  
17 of facts." So in that spirit, the gentleman  
18 from AARP who started our evening off, and did  
19 so well, talked about a timeline. Let me  
20 mention a couple of facts that relate to the  
21 timeline that might give you some more  
22 information.

23 First, the census information upon which  
24 we are legally obliged to base redistricting  
25 comes from the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

1 Florida was not the last state to get our  
2 census data from the federal government, but we  
3 were one of the last states. Other states get  
4 their census bureau data before Florida. Now,  
5 why is that? Because there are a number of  
6 states that have their elections on  
7 odd-numbered years. Louisiana was mentioned  
8 tonight. Louisiana has its elections on  
9 odd-numbered years, so they get their census  
10 data first. The census data doesn't come all  
11 at once to every state. It comes in groupings.

12 Secondly having to do with the timeline,  
13 the state of Illinois was mentioned. Well, we  
14 could have done it like Illinois did it. They  
15 are done. The way they did it -- they are a  
16 one-party state. The way they did it was they  
17 had a committee of legislators who literally  
18 went in a back room, who developed a set of  
19 maps, who came to the floor of the Legislature  
20 without any public hearings, and the maps were  
21 voted on, the Legislature left town. We could  
22 have done that, and there are those who might  
23 have wanted to do it that way. It used to be  
24 done that way in Florida. But our Senate  
25 President and our House Speaker said that we

1       would do it the hard way, which was to cut  
2       after we had measured, and that meant going  
3       first to the people of Florida and asking for  
4       criticism, for input, for suggestions, and we  
5       have received all kinds of comments about  
6       process, but we have also received hundreds of  
7       specific suggestions of the kind we got  
8       tonight. Representative Legg is right. We  
9       couldn't have heard the information that was so  
10      local and so specific to Lee County and Lehigh  
11      Acres and this area sitting in an echo chamber  
12      in Tallahassee only listening to politicians.  
13      We had to get that information from you,  
14      because you live here, you work here, your  
15      economic units are here, your schools are here,  
16      and you made it very clear what you wanted.

17           We have accelerated the process as much as  
18      constitutionally we are able to do so.  
19      However, any legislator at any time can present  
20      a map for discussion, any citizen can, any  
21      special interest group can. We have now over  
22      -- I think we have 51 maps now. Many of them  
23      are outside for you to look at. All of them  
24      are on the Internet for you to look at. And at  
25      every single meeting, we invite Democrats or

1       Republicans to provide us with any additional  
2       information they have.

3               I Chair the Senate Reapportionment  
4       Committee. Here is what we are going to do at  
5       our first meeting, which is on September 22nd.  
6       We are going to call to order, we are going to  
7       take roll, do a little housekeeping details,  
8       and then we are going to try to right a wrong  
9       that was done ten years ago. The Democratic  
10      Leader of the Senate, Senator Nan Rich, was in  
11      the Legislature as a House member ten years  
12      ago, and ten years ago she was told as a  
13      Democrat, "We don't even want to look at your  
14      maps. We don't need to look at your maps."  
15      She wasn't allowed to present one. Nobody  
16      apparently cared about her proposals as a  
17      member of the minority. We can't unwind  
18      history, but we can make sure that we don't  
19      make the same mistake. So the very first thing  
20      we will do in our meeting on the 22nd of  
21      September is to turn to the minority party and  
22      give them the first chance to provide any maps  
23      or any input, and then we will go to options  
24      that come out of our hearings and come out of  
25      the input that we have received from all of



1       you, options that may be articulated by  
2       Democrats or Republicans. But the first turn  
3       at bat will come for those who were turned away  
4       and told they would not be welcome ten years  
5       ago, and that is the members of the minority  
6       party in this state.

7               Now, let me mention a couple of other  
8       things, and that is there was an individual who  
9       said that his major concern was a dilution of  
10      minority seats, and is there a map, he said,  
11      that has been developed that would prove that  
12      there is no dilution of minority seats. He  
13      puts his finger on a key issue here that seem  
14      -- Amendments 5 and 6 aren't a bumper sticker  
15      issue. It is, as Representative Legg said, an  
16      issue where there is some values that some  
17      people might think have tension between them or  
18      competition between them.

19             The notion of ensuring that there is no  
20      regression of minority districts, no reduction  
21      in minority districts, as is required by the  
22      Federal Voting Rights Act may in some people's  
23      minds, in some people's minds, be at some odds  
24      with having compact districts. So there is a  
25      tension there.

1           The district -- the congressional district  
2       in this state that is used as the poster child  
3       for gerrymandering is the Third Congressional  
4       District. It is the salamander district. It  
5       was ordered by the federal courts in order to  
6       preserve minority rights. Wasn't developed by  
7       the Legislature, it was ordered by the federal  
8       courts. So there is going to be tension there  
9       that we are going to have to resolve. And that  
10      individual who testified and asked about  
11      that -- about that tension and asking for  
12      assurance that minority districts would be  
13      protected has put his finger on probably one of  
14      the biggest issues we are going to have to  
15      resolve.

16           Then there were seven different references  
17      tonight from seven different testifiers using  
18      the term "community of interest," a community  
19      that is together economically, together  
20      culturally, together geographically. It could  
21      be a coastal district, in some cases there was  
22      a reference to that, or an inland district.  
23      Well, Representative Weatherford and I and  
24      others tried to get the term "communities of  
25      interest" included in the Constitution when

1       Amendments 5 and 6 were being debated. The  
2       Supreme Court wouldn't let us do it. And so  
3       what we have to tell you tonight as a factual  
4       matter, not to argue, but as a factual matter  
5       is the term "communities of interest" is not in  
6       Amendments 5 and 6. So, again, there is  
7       tremendous value in the testimony we heard  
8       about communities of interest, but that in some  
9       people's minds may be at some odds with some of  
10      the requirements for compact districts or  
11      districts that may not necessarily be a  
12      community of interest. If you develop lines  
13      for districts along county lines or city  
14      borders, that could divide communities of  
15      interest, we have heard that testimony. So I  
16      just ask you to appreciate that tension and ask  
17      you to give us the kind of guidance you gave us  
18      tonight, because those will be serious debates.  
19      Not everybody will be happy as that gets  
20      resolved. But communities of interest is  
21      important, it is valid, but we lost the fight  
22      to get it into the constitutional language.

23             And then time after time after time  
24      tonight, we heard the importance of Lehigh as a  
25      community, and believe me, that -- we got that

1       one loud and clear, loud and clear. But we  
2       couldn't have gotten it just sitting in  
3       Tallahassee. All of you wouldn't have come to  
4       Tallahassee. All of you wouldn't have had the  
5       time, you might not have been able to put gas  
6       in the car to get there. So the fact that we  
7       got this information so many ways from people  
8       who live and work here is something that is  
9       special, that made this well worth my time  
10      coming all the way from northwest Florida.

11           Then there was an individual who said,  
12      "Well, the average voter can't draw complete  
13      state maps." Well, factually, that is not  
14      true. There is a 13-year-old, he and his  
15      sister drew 120 House districts and they  
16      presented them, and they look pretty good.  
17      Now, he was a precocious 13-year-old, but he  
18      was 13. And there are people from all over the  
19      state, from different races, different  
20      backgrounds, different groups, who have made  
21      proposals. But it is not a requirement that  
22      you draw a statewide map. What we are  
23      interested in is what you gave us tonight, and  
24      that is tell us about your community, show us  
25      where you think the lines ought to be drawn

1           here.

2           Now, if you want to draw a map that goes  
3           all the way to Pensacola, have at it, but you  
4           don't need to. You only need to give us your  
5           advice and guidance about the area in which you  
6           live. And lots of people have done that. So  
7           it is just not true that the average voter  
8           can't draw maps.

9           Question: Will there be other  
10          opportunities for input later as more maps are  
11          drawn? Yes, there will be. First,  
12          Representative Weatherford, Speaker Designate,  
13          and I intend to ask members of our committees,  
14          and we intend to ask the Speaker and the  
15          President of the Senate to ask all legislators  
16          to hold town hall meetings or tele-town halls  
17          once we get a little further into the process  
18          and either we have more maps or less maps or we  
19          boil it down to some options so that we can  
20          have another round of input from you.

21          Now, obviously, we couldn't take both  
22          committees around for 26 more hearings, or we  
23          would then really violate what our friends of  
24          the League of Women Voters don't want us to  
25          violate, and that is the timeline. But I think

1        what we can do is provide other ways for input  
2        by town hall meetings, tele-town hall meetings,  
3        and we are considering videoconferencing and  
4        other ways that we can make sure that there is  
5        input opportunities further into the process.

6            Another question that was raised, we don't  
7        want cross-state districts, and we had people  
8        who clapped for that, and we had people who  
9        told us the reasons why that is a bad idea.  
10       Then the very next person stood up and said on  
11       behalf of at least one part of the business  
12       community, we want a cross-state district.  
13       Now, obviously we are not going to be able to  
14       make both parties happy there. One way or the  
15       other, there's going to have to be lines drawn,  
16       and at that point, there may be somebody who is  
17       slightly dissatisfied. But I will tell you  
18       this: There is nobody on this panel who drew  
19       the districts that they are in. I am in a  
20       Senate district that was drawn by people who  
21       are long gone from public office, and any work  
22       that I do, term limits are going to bounce me  
23       out, I will be long gone before the next  
24       redistricting. So there is no pride of  
25       authorship here, and we are as interested in

1        resolving some of these geometric anomalies as  
2        you are, maybe more so. But we won't be able  
3        to make both sides happy in keeping a  
4        cross-state district and not keeping one. That  
5        will be hard to win that argument and get  
6        everybody happy.

7                There were several people who said, and  
8        with great eloquence and great passion, 5 and 6  
9        got 63 percent of the vote and they need to be  
10       followed. Representative Legg spoke on behalf  
11       of the House. Let me speak on behalf of the  
12       Senate.

13               I take the same oath that House members  
14       take, and all of the Senators take that oath,  
15       too. Personally, I voted against Amendments 5  
16       and 6 because they should have included the  
17       term "communities of interest" or "commonality"  
18       so that we could have taken into account some  
19       of the values that were expressed tonight. I  
20       thought it was deficient in not including  
21       communities of interest. So I went in the  
22       voting booth and I cast a secret ballot, which  
23       is now not so secret, against Amendments 5 and  
24       6. But the minute that they became law and I  
25       was appointed to this committee, then my oath

1 to preserve, protect and defend the  
2 Constitution of the United States and of the  
3 State of Florida trumps any political opinion I  
4 might have. The Senate will fully and  
5 completely implement Amendments 5 and 6. The  
6 question is not if. The question, as we have  
7 talked about some of these issues where there  
8 is tension between people of good will taking  
9 different sides, both believing that they  
10 support Amendments 5 and 6, the question is not  
11 if, the question is how we do this in the most  
12 just and equitable fashion possible.

13 The representative for the realtors said  
14 that more representatives provide more  
15 strength. Other people said no, no, no, no,  
16 no, fewer representatives who have more focus  
17 provide more strength. Again, both arguments  
18 are valid arguments and sincere. We are not  
19 going to be able to make both sides happy. So  
20 bear that in mind. That is going to be  
21 something we are going to be debating about,  
22 and we need your further input.

23 Then from the City of Ft. Myers, there was  
24 a representative who said keep Senate District  
25 27 as it is now configured, because it provides



1 a community of common interest. As I have  
2 mentioned, communities of common interest are  
3 not in the Constitution. We are going to have  
4 to -- we are going to have to balance those  
5 values.

6 Ms. Skupny pointed out that there were  
7 conflicts inherent in Amendments 5 and 6 with  
8 the Federal Voting Rights Act. Now, we hope  
9 that is not true. We presented Amendments 5  
10 and 6 for a pre-clearance, the House and Senate  
11 did, not the Governor, the House and Senate  
12 presented 5 and 6 for pre-clearance to the  
13 Federal Justice Department, and we made the  
14 argument that we believe that there is a  
15 balance that can be struck between the Voting  
16 Rights Act and Amendments 5 and 6. There are  
17 some people who think there is an inherent  
18 conflict, but this is going to be a serious  
19 issue, but we believe that there is a balance.  
20 It won't make everybody happy, but we believe  
21 there is a balance and we can fulfill 5 and 6  
22 without violating the Voting Rights Act.

23 There were a couple of folks who said, oh,  
24 well, this is going to end up at the courts  
25 anyway. And it will, because the law says

1 after we do our work, we have to take our work  
2 product to the Florida Supreme Court, and then  
3 there will be all sorts of people who will  
4 intervene and they will say, "yes, but," or  
5 "no, doggone it," in their intervening in the  
6 Florida Supreme Court. Then it has to go to  
7 the federal level, either to the federal  
8 judiciary or the Federal Justice Department.  
9 So it will -- it will by law wind up in court.

10 But I have to tell you this, again, as a  
11 fact, it is not a good fact, I don't like this  
12 fact: Representatives of special interest  
13 groups, members of special interest groups,  
14 have already testified in these hearings,  
15 before the first vote is taken, before the  
16 first district is decided upon, they have  
17 already told us they are taking all of this to  
18 court. And you as the taxpayers, I am a  
19 taxpayer, sadly, we are going to wind up paying  
20 for it. So I think going to court is  
21 inevitable, but we are going to try to work  
22 very hard to make sure that as we go to the  
23 Supreme Court of Florida and to the federal  
24 level, that we can say, "Look, we went across  
25 the state of Florida. The districts we

1       developed were not developed based on  
2       Tallahassee talk, but based upon specific  
3       testimony that came from hearings like this."  
4       We are going to quote you, you are going to see  
5       your own words, because that is the best way to  
6       armor ourselves up and say that whatever we  
7       take would have less of a chance of being  
8       challenged, although the court challenges, I  
9       think, are inherent.

10           Then another individual asked -- from the  
11       League asked is June of 2012 soon enough for  
12       qualification for the 2012 election cycle.  
13       Well, June better be, because for the last  
14       seven election cycles, qualification has  
15       occurred in either June or July. So  
16       qualification date is probably not going to  
17       change. There is nothing in the law, there is  
18       nothing in any plan I have seen to change the  
19       qualification date.

20           Then a representative of the League,  
21       Dr. Fish, Mr. Dr. Fish, said, quote, "It is not  
22       the League's job to draw lines." That is true.  
23       It is the Legislature's job to draw lines and  
24       propose those lines to the courts. The  
25       question is, what comes before the Legislature

1 proposes to the courts? Well, in 2002, it was  
2 the League of Women Voters who devised the  
3 first set of maps. And interestingly, in  
4 Georgia, there the League of Women Voters this  
5 week not only prepared and publicized their own  
6 redistricting maps, but the League of Women  
7 Voters of Georgia this week organized a map  
8 fair at the Georgia State Capitol to encourage  
9 members of the public to present alternative  
10 maps. Quote, "Our goal throughout the whole  
11 process is to ensure that citizens have a  
12 voice," said the President of the League of  
13 Women Voters of Georgia, quote, "and what  
14 better way to do this than bringing people and  
15 people's maps down to the Capitol." So even  
16 within the League of Women Voters, there's not  
17 entire agreement on this. In Georgia, the best  
18 thing in the world was for League members to  
19 encourage others to draw maps and engage in the  
20 process. In Florida, not so much this time,  
21 but it was exactly the right thing to do the  
22 last time. So you can see that even people of  
23 good will have sometimes some difficulty in  
24 agreeing with themselves even within the same  
25 organization.

1           Then there was another comment from  
2           somebody who said you ought to seek help from  
3           groups in other states, and they mentioned  
4           Virginia, the Carolinas, Texas and I think  
5           another one. We want to let you know first  
6           that we have met with representatives from  
7           those other states and others to share ideas  
8           about the redistricting process and how to move  
9           it forward. In fact, the State of Florida is  
10          providing assistance to other states now in the  
11          development of the kind of websites that we are  
12          using in Florida, websites which are at the  
13          cutting edge and are unprecedented anywhere in  
14          the United States. So we are sharing  
15          information back and forth, and that was an  
16          excellent suggestion.

17          There was another comment made by a League  
18          representative who said, "Shorten the deadline  
19          so that you are not voting in June." As far as  
20          I know, there is -- there is no requirement  
21          that the Legislature vote in June. Instead, we  
22          have moved the legislative session up two  
23          months, we have moved committee weeks up two  
24          months, we began to have these hearings five  
25          months before the session would start, and

1 Representative Weatherford and I plan to do  
2 everything we can not to cut off debate, not to  
3 tell people they can't have another idea, but  
4 to try to move the process as responsibly as we  
5 can. There is no effort or intention to drag  
6 it out to the last day. If everybody uses --  
7 everybody in this process, the Legislature, the  
8 Attorney General, the Florida Supreme Court and  
9 the Federal Justice Department, if everybody  
10 uses all the time that they legally can, we  
11 could be in a two-minute drill at the end. The  
12 point is we should use only that time that we  
13 necessarily have to use. So thanks for making  
14 that point to us. Join us in making that point  
15 to the Attorney General of Florida, the Florida  
16 Supreme Court and the Justice Department, not  
17 to hurry it up, but to only use the time they  
18 need for review so that we can get these maps  
19 out.

20 And then an individual who had been a  
21 Senate candidate made an excellent point. He  
22 said, "If you use Republican and Democrat  
23 registration data, and if you use incumbents'  
24 addresses in preparing these maps, you will  
25 have lost faith with the people." Let me tell

1       you, in the Senate software, we are not using  
2       any political registration data. We are using  
3       all kinds of descriptors provided by the Bureau  
4       of the Census. But we made the decision that  
5       we will not show ourselves or anybody else how  
6       many Republicans or Democrats are in a proposed  
7       district. Instead, we want to use the criteria  
8       that are in Amendments 5 and 6 and are in the  
9       Federal Voting Rights Act and in the federal  
10      court cases, not how many Democrats or  
11      Republicans are there. That ought to be beside  
12      the point.

13             And both Chairman Weatherford, Speaker  
14      Weatherford, and I have given instructions to  
15      our professional staff. We don't want to see a  
16      single map that shows the address of a single  
17      incumbent. I don't know and don't want to know  
18      where the members of the Florida Senate,  
19      Democrat or Republican, live. It won't show up  
20      on the map. And I would suspect before it is  
21      over you are going to have members of Congress  
22      and members of the Senate and members of the  
23      House of Representatives who will wake up and  
24      discover that districts have been drawn to be  
25      equitable and sensible and lawful, and they are

1 not in them. But we are not here to protect  
2 incumbents' addresses. We are here to have  
3 lawful, equitable, sensible districts.

4 Then -- two more comments. I don't want  
5 this to become a hostage situation. Two more  
6 comments. Someone talked about strangely  
7 shaped districts. That is an extremely  
8 generous term for what some of these districts  
9 look like. Let me reassure you again that we  
10 didn't draw the districts we are in. It was  
11 drawn by other people, and in some cases, drawn  
12 by the courts. More than one person tonight  
13 stated his concern or her concern about  
14 districts that cross several counties,  
15 including those that run nearly coast to coast.  
16 We appreciate the input, but here is a fact for  
17 you: Let's take House District 112, for  
18 example. For the last ten years, House  
19 District 112 has gone from Collier County all  
20 the way across the state to Miami-Dade and  
21 Broward Counties. Here is the dirty little  
22 secret. The Legislature didn't draw that  
23 district. The Legislature drew a different  
24 district that did not go coast to coast. A  
25 federal court ordered that District 112 include



1 Hispanic communities in Collier County, because  
2 Collier County is subject to review of Section  
3 5 of the Federal Voting Rights Act, and a  
4 federal court drew that district.

5 So the point is simply that sometimes the  
6 strangely shaped districts come from, if you  
7 will pardon the expression, court-ordered  
8 gerrymandering. And so we have to be very  
9 careful as we draw these districts that we  
10 don't run afoul of court orders or obvious  
11 court decisions, but we've also got to cut the  
12 rattails off some of these districts, I will  
13 tell you. I live in Congressional District 2,  
14 my wife, Vicki, sitting over there and I, and  
15 we are in a little tiny rattail. Four or five  
16 blocks of our community are in a congressional  
17 district where until recently the congressman  
18 lived a couple, three hundred miles away. And  
19 it was done solely, in my view, for political  
20 purposes back in 2002. So I understand it, I  
21 am -- I am insulted by it myself in my own  
22 congressional district, and many of us feel  
23 this way and we are going to do everything we  
24 can to fix it.

25 Last comment. I was so pleased, I was

1 personally pleased to discover that someone  
2 said that a community 60 years old is young. I  
3 am personally delighted to have 60 described as  
4 young.

5 Thank you very much and thanks for your  
6 attention tonight. And with that,  
7 Representative Legg moves we rise.

8 (Whereupon, the proceedings were  
9 concluded.)

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## 1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )

3 COUNTY OF LEON )

4 I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript  
5 is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned,  
6 and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting  
7 under my direction;

8 That the foregoing pages 2 through 165  
9 represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of  
10 the tape-recording;

11 And I further certify that I am not of kin or  
12 counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the  
13 regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor  
14 am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

15 Dated this 5th day of December, 2011.

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

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Notary Public

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State of Florida at Large

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Commission Expires:

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November 13, 2014

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REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

11

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2011

12

8:00 A.M.

13

NAPLES DAILY NEWS COMMUNITY ROOM

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NAPLES, FLORIDA

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Transcribed by:

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

23

Court Reporter

24

25

1 T A P E D P R O C E E D I N G S

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Good morning.

3 Thank you all for being here this morning. My  
4 name is Will Weatherford, and I have the honor  
5 of chairing this meeting today with my  
6 co-Chairman, Senator Gaetz, and the Joint  
7 Senate/House Redistricting hearing is called to  
8 order.

9 We are pleased to be joined by several  
10 members of the Florida House and Senate today.  
11 In a moment, I am going to ask each and every  
12 one of them to introduce themselves to you so  
13 that you have an understanding of who you are  
14 talking to. We have people from all over the  
15 state and everywhere from the Panhandle down to  
16 the Florida Keys, and we want to give them an  
17 opportunity to introduce themselves to you.

18 We want to give a special thanks to the  
19 *Naples Daily News* for allowing us to use this  
20 wonderful facility, and we also want to thank  
21 you all for being here. It is a great turnout  
22 already, and I am sure people will continue to  
23 spill in, but we are glad to hear your comments  
24 and your recommendations that will help us  
25 shape the congressional, Senate and House

1       Districts for the next decade.

2               Again, my name is Will Weatherford, and  
3       our sole purpose here today is to hear from the  
4       public about how you believe the legal  
5       standards governing redistricting should be  
6       applied in your community so that you are  
7       represented in Washington and Tallahassee  
8       fairly, equitably and sensibly.

9               Our procedures today are very important,  
10       but they are also simple, and so it is very  
11       important that you sign in so we can create a  
12       public -- an accurate public record of all the  
13       attendees and speakers, and if you opt to join  
14       our e-mail list, we can also keep you informed  
15       about the redistricting process in the months  
16       ahead. If you have not signed in, please raise  
17       your hand, and a staff member will give you an  
18       attendance card. So if we've got a couple of  
19       hands up, just keep them up for a moment. And  
20       if you wish to speak today and you have not  
21       filed out an attendance card, also raise your  
22       right hand or left hand, depending on which  
23       side you want to come from, and raise your hand  
24       and we will get a card for you and we will make  
25       sure that you get your public testimony heard.

1       It is the same attendance card to check in or  
2       to speak.

3               So before we begin, I am going to ask  
4       Senator Gaetz -- we do this at every hearing,  
5       and I think it is important and it kind of sets  
6       the tone for the hearing, but I am going to ask  
7       my co-Chairman, Senator Gaetz, to give us a  
8       little bit of a perspective about some of the  
9       history in redistricting, a little bit about  
10      the legal standards that we have to follow and  
11      a little bit about what we hope to get out of  
12      the public testimony from you today. We have  
13      had many hearings around the state of Florida.  
14      We are happy to be in Collier County, it is a  
15      beautiful part of the state, and we are excited  
16      about today's hearing. And so with that, I am  
17      going to turn it over to my co-Chairman,  
18      Senator Don Gaetz.

19              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, Mr.  
20      Speaker.

21              Every ten years, the Legislature is  
22      required by our State Constitution to  
23      redistrict the state based on increases,  
24      decreases or movements of population within the  
25      state. Because Florida has grown more than

1       many other states in the last ten years, we  
2       picked up two new members of the U.S. House of  
3       Representatives. So we go from 25 to 27  
4       members of the U.S. House. New York lost two,  
5       Florida picked up two. Part of the job of this  
6       process is to locate where those two new  
7       congressional districts would be.

8               Because some parts of our state have  
9       increased or decreased disproportionately in  
10      population, many Senate and House districts  
11      will change. In fact, Chairman Weatherford and  
12      I believe that all of them will change, either  
13      adding or losing population or moving their  
14      borders.

15             When redistricting is completed,  
16      congressional districts must be equal, and they  
17      must contain 696,345 people. That is a hard  
18      number. The 40 Senate districts in the state  
19      must also be nearly equal at 470,000 people.  
20      There can be a little bit of variation there.  
21      And our 120 House districts must also be nearly  
22      equal at about 156,700 people. There are  
23      displays that you saw when you came in today  
24      showing the current boundaries of districts in  
25      this area and the number of persons who have to



1       be added to or subtracted from current  
2       districts in order to achieve equal  
3       representation.

4               But equality of representation, while  
5       important, is not the only legal requirement  
6       that redistricting plans have to meet. The  
7       laws and the important court cases governing  
8       redistricting are explained in detail on the  
9       House and Senate websites, and we hope you will  
10      go to those websites. The websites are  
11      explained on the "Redistricting 2012" brochures  
12      that were available to you when you came in,  
13      and we would certainly make them available to  
14      you as you leave today if you would like to  
15      pick them up. That brochure summarizes the  
16      federal and state laws, and outlines topics  
17      that we really need your advice on and your  
18      input on at today's hearing. If you didn't get  
19      a copy when you came in, as I said, pick up a  
20      copy when you leave.

21             The websites -- the House and Senate  
22      websites are packed with information about  
23      redistricting in Florida, including an  
24      explanation of the laws and important court  
25      cases governing redistricting. The two

1 websites, the Senate and House website, are  
2 complementary, they are updated frequently, and  
3 it is a great way to stay current on plans that  
4 are presented and yet have an opportunity to  
5 see the schedule, see how the redistricting  
6 process is moving forward.

7 The websites also deliver to your  
8 fingertips all of the demographic data that  
9 will be used in drawing districts and the same  
10 computer programs that legislators and  
11 professional staff will use. That way, if you  
12 want to, if you want to, any member of the  
13 public can participate in building a plan for  
14 your neighborhood or your community or your  
15 part of Florida, or for the whole state if  
16 you'd like, and you can also see all of the  
17 maps that have been submitted so that you can  
18 determine how they might affect your area. And  
19 a large number of maps have already been  
20 submitted.

21 Before, during and after this hearing,  
22 House and Senate staff will be available to  
23 show anybody the simple steps to getting  
24 on-line, to building districts and moving lines  
25 around if you want to do that, and if you want

1 to submit a plan, House and Senate staff can  
2 show you how to do that. Don't be afraid of  
3 that process. It is pretty simple. I am  
4 techno stupid. It took them about 15 minutes  
5 to show me how to use the software, the same  
6 computer programs, the same software that  
7 professional staff and the courts and also  
8 legislators are using.

9 Recommendations from citizens and groups  
10 of citizens will be made publicly available  
11 immediately as soon as we see them. In fact,  
12 as of this morning, 50 public submissions of  
13 partial or completed maps and many -- over a  
14 hundred other written descriptions for maps are  
15 available on the Web, and many of them are  
16 available in the lobby as you came in. So the  
17 maps are there, and we would love to have you  
18 look at the maps and then in your testimony  
19 today say "the map that" -- and you can use the  
20 name of the individual or group that has  
21 submitted it, "that map works for us" or  
22 "doesn't work for us, here is why, here is how,  
23 here is how it ought to be changed." We have  
24 received, in fact, a new map this morning  
25 already from a Naples resident. And after our

1 final hearing in Clewiston, I am sure that  
2 those numbers will increase. The submission of  
3 proposed maps, the submission of your ideas  
4 that makes sense for your community is the  
5 single most effective form of public  
6 participation in the redistricting process.

7 Now, the redistricting schedule under  
8 which we are operating is imposed by the State  
9 Constitution. That is important. There has  
10 been a little bit of -- I wouldn't say  
11 misinformation, but a little bit of confusion  
12 about the timeline and the process. The  
13 Constitution of Florida does not permit the  
14 Legislature to act on state legislative maps  
15 before the second year after the census; in  
16 other words, 2012. Now, we have accelerated  
17 the process as much as we are legally able to  
18 do this year. We have moved up the 2012  
19 session from March, when it would usually  
20 start, until January, we have begun our  
21 statewide hearings five months in advance of  
22 the 2012 session, and we have moved up our  
23 committee meetings from December to September  
24 so that plans can be considered immediately in  
25 September and there can be voting in committees

1 as soon as any committee wants to go forward.

2 I might mention that one of the things we  
3 have learned in this process is that ten years  
4 ago, the person who is now the Democratic  
5 Leader of the Senate, Senator Nan Rich, she was  
6 in the House of Representatives ten years ago,  
7 and she was not even permitted to present a  
8 map, she said, ten years ago, which was  
9 absolutely unfair and it was wrong. And so the  
10 commitment that I have made as Chairman of the  
11 Senate Reapportionment Committee is that at our  
12 first meeting in September, right after we call  
13 the meeting to order, we are going to give  
14 Senator Rich the chance as Democratic Leader  
15 that she did not have ten years ago that she  
16 should have had to take the floor first and  
17 present any maps that she wants to present  
18 alongside the other maps that are already  
19 available and that might be available by that  
20 time.

21 Now, it's been suggested that the  
22 Legislature ought to draw maps first and then  
23 say to the public, "Here they are if you have  
24 any comments." We believe that that puts the  
25 answer ahead of the question. We think there

1       ought to be no preconceptions created by  
2       politicians, but, rather, public testimony  
3       should be free and unrestricted. In fact, a  
4       principal author of Florida's new redistricting  
5       standards and Ellen Freidin, the Chairperson  
6       for Fair Districts, both have provided  
7       information, Ellen Freidin testified before a  
8       joint committee of the Senate and the House  
9       saying that there is no way that maps should be  
10      drawn until public comment is heard first. And  
11      we certainly agree with her.

12             In Georgia, the League of Women Voters not  
13      only prepared and publicized its own  
14      redistricting maps, but it organized a map fair  
15      at the Georgia State Capitol to encourage  
16      members of the public to present their own  
17      alternative maps. Quote, "Our goal throughout  
18      the whole process is to ensure that citizens  
19      have a voice," said the President of the League  
20      of Women Voters of Georgia, quote, "and what  
21      better way to do this than bringing people and  
22      maps to the Capitol." And we would certainly  
23      agree with Ellen Freidin from Fair Districts  
24      and the President of the Georgia League of  
25      Women Voters that it is very, very important to

1       listen first, to have the public present their  
2       ideas and have an open process throughout.

3               Our intent is to use the recommendations  
4       made at these 26 public hearings and through  
5       our Internet sites and through the testimony  
6       that you provide in meetings in Tallahassee and  
7       any input you provide your own legislators as  
8       the basis for developing one or more options  
9       for district maps. And it was suggested at a  
10      recent hearing by one of the testifiers that a  
11      county had gone through its own redistricting  
12      and had established six options, and then based  
13      on those six options, put those out so that  
14      everyone saw them before the first vote was  
15      taken. And Speaker Weatherford and I think  
16      there is some value to that. So probably what  
17      will happen is that based on all the  
18      information we are getting from these hearings,  
19      we will put out several options drawn from the  
20      testimony in these hearings, and then those  
21      options will be publicly available, you will  
22      see them, and before any vote is taken, we will  
23      have public testimony and any vote will be  
24      taken -- will be taken in public. In other  
25      words, what we are saying is, if you look at

1       the maps outside of this room submitted by  
2       people across the state, if you look at what  
3       the League of Women Voters has done so well in  
4       Georgia, if you look at the advice given by the  
5       Chair of the Fair Districts campaign, then the  
6       maps submitted by people across the state of  
7       Florida ought to and will form the basis for  
8       the legislative process going forward. So if  
9       you want to know where we will begin our  
10      deliberations, if you want to know where are  
11      the maps, it is the maps that we receive from  
12      the public and the maps that are generated  
13      through the legislative process that we will be  
14      using as the basis for our recommendations to  
15      the full Legislature. Throughout the process,  
16      we will also solicit additional public comment  
17      so that proposed maps can mature with the  
18      public involved, all before the Legislature  
19      approves any final maps.

20           And then the Legislature doesn't get to  
21      finally decide what the lines or the maps or  
22      the districts ought to look like. That is  
23      subject to judicial review. It is a  
24      requirement of law that any -- any proposals  
25      that come out of the Legislature then have to



1 be submitted to the courts at the state level  
2 and it has to be submitted for judicial review  
3 at the federal level before there can be a  
4 final map or maps.

5 Because our purpose today is to hear from  
6 you, as soon as I conclude, Mr. Speaker, all  
7 the time between now and 11:00 a.m. will be  
8 used to ensure that as many members of the  
9 public as possible can share their testimony  
10 and be listened to respectfully.

11 If after our citizens here have an  
12 opportunity to have their say, if there is time  
13 remaining before adjournment, and we hope there  
14 might be, then any member of the Committee,  
15 Republican, Democrat, House member, Senator,  
16 may make any statement, answer any question,  
17 offer any observation, and, of course, any  
18 Democrat or Republican member of the Committee,  
19 if they feel so moved, can present any map at  
20 any time for consideration.

21 Mr. Chairman, I hope that this description  
22 of our schedule and our process helps set the  
23 stage for a successful hearing.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
25 very much. Thank you very much, Senator Gaetz,

1           and before we move into the public testimony,  
2           we are just going to take about two minutes to  
3           go around the room here very briefly for the  
4           members to get the opportunity to introduce  
5           them to you, and for you to know exactly who  
6           you are talking to. I think we've got  
7           everybody here, so I will start right here with  
8           our friend from southwest Florida,  
9           Representative Aubuchon.

10                 REPRESENTATIVE AUBUCHON: Thank you,  
11           Mr. Speaker, and I am just -- I represent  
12           District 74 just to the north, and I am a proud  
13           member of the southwest Florida delegation.

14                 REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: Good morning,  
15           everybody. Kathleen Passidomo, District 76,  
16           which is Naples, Marco Island, Everglades City.  
17           I am so thrilled to be home after spending the  
18           entire summer on the road, to be back with my  
19           friends and family here in Naples. I would  
20           like to point out, our favorite former  
21           Representative is sitting over there in the  
22           corner. Dudley Goodlette, do you want to just  
23           raise your hand? Thank you for coming.

24                 REPRESENTATIVE NUNEZ: Good morning. My  
25           name is Jeanette Nuñez, and I am proud to

1 represent House District 112, which consists of  
2 portions of Collier, Broward and Dade County.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS: Good morning. I  
4 am Trudi Williams. I represent District 75,  
5 and that is the northern portions of Collier  
6 County and southern parts of Lee County. Thank  
7 you for coming.

8 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: John Legg, I  
9 represent Pasco County.

10 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Steve Precourt,  
11 west side of Orlando, portions of Orange, Lake  
12 and Osceola Counties.

13 REPRESENTATIVE CORCORAN: Richard  
14 Corcoran, I represent Pasco County and Pinellas  
15 County. I just want to say at the onset, too,  
16 that I will probably stand on the side a lot.  
17 It is not because I am not completely  
18 captivated and tired, it is because I have five  
19 children and my third daughter, who is eight,  
20 she said she wanted to go horseback riding, so  
21 Dad thought it would be good to take them all  
22 horseback riding and, well, now, after a  
23 bruised tailbone, I spend a lot of time  
24 standing. I'd also like to thank the *Naples*  
25 *News* for the hardest chair so far.

1           REPRESENTATIVE CAMPBELL: Good morning.

2           My name is Daphne Campbell, District 108 from  
3           Miami-Dade County.

4           REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Good morning, my  
5           name is Hazelle Rogers. I am from Broward  
6           County, representing 1.8 million residents. My  
7           District is 94. This is my 23rd hearing. It  
8           is good to be here this morning. I hail -- my  
9           cities are Lauderhill, Lauderdale Lakes,  
10          Margate, Tamarac, Oakland Park, Plantation,  
11          Sunrise, and, of course, my home city is  
12          Lauderdale Lakes.

13          REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: Thank you. I am  
14          Dennis Baxley, serving in the Florida House  
15          from District 24, Ocala, Marion County. Good  
16          to be with you.

17          REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Good morning,  
18          State Representative Mack Bernard, District 84,  
19          West Palm Beach, Florida.

20          REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Good morning,  
21          Chuck Chestnut, State Representative, House  
22          District 23, a portion of Alachua County and a  
23          portion of Marion County.

24          REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Good morning,  
25          State Representative Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed,

1       representing the northeast part of Broward  
2       County, starting in Deerfield Beach, Oakland  
3       Park, Pompano Beach, Wilton Manors, North  
4       Lauderdale, a little bit of Tamarac and a part  
5       of Ft. Lauderdale. Glad to be here.

6               REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Good morning, John  
7       Patrick Julien representing House District 104,  
8       which is in Miami-Dade County. It is a  
9       pleasure to be here.

10              SENATOR LATVALA: Thank you. I am Jack  
11       Latvala. I represent the 16th Senatorial  
12       District, Pinellas and Hillsborough, and I  
13       apologize to you for being in my shirt sleeves,  
14       but I had a little wardrobe malfunction and I  
15       am a long way from home.

16              SENATOR NEGRON: Joe Negron, I am Senate  
17       District 28, southeast Florida.

18              REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: State Representative  
19       Peter Nehr. I represent District 48 in  
20       Pinellas County.

21              REPRESENTATIVE JONES: Good morning, Mia  
22       Jones, State Representative, Jacksonville,  
23       Florida.

24              SENATOR DETERT: Good morning. I am State  
25       Senator Nancy Detert from Sarasota. I

1 represent parts of Charlotte County, Sarasota  
2 and Manatee, and it is great to be here.

3 SENATOR JOYNER: Good morning. My name is  
4 Arthenia Joyner. I am State Senator from  
5 Hillsborough, Pinellas and Manatee. That is  
6 Tampa, St. Pete and Bradenton.

7 SENATOR BENACQUISTO: Good morning,  
8 everyone. My name is Lizbeth Benacquisto.  
9 Thank you all for being here this morning. I  
10 am proud to represent Senate District 27, which  
11 covers wonderful communities in Lee County,  
12 Glades County, Hendry County, Charlotte County  
13 and Palm Beach County.

14 SENATOR RICHTER: Good morning. I am  
15 Garrett Richter, and I would like to thank you  
16 all for joining us today. This is my district,  
17 and I join Kathleen Passidomo when we welcome  
18 our wonderful colleagues in both the House and  
19 the Senate. And to Phil Lewis, thank you, to  
20 the Naples daily newspaper, for making this  
21 facility available for our public meeting, and  
22 this is what it is all about is to hear from  
23 you, and I just want to thank you all very,  
24 very much for getting up and showing your  
25 interest in our government. Thank you all.

1           SENATOR GAETZ: And my Senate district is  
2           in coastal northwest Florida from Pensacola to  
3           east of Panama City.

4           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: All right. I  
5           think we got everybody. Thank you all.

6           We are planning on adjourning at  
7           11:00 a.m., so we're going to spend the next --  
8           from now until 11:00 hearing public testimony.  
9           Because we have probably close to 50 folks who  
10          have already signed up to speak, we are going  
11          to try to limit comments to about three  
12          minutes. We run on a point system, and those  
13          points are given based on brevity, so those of  
14          you who are creative in finding ways to deliver  
15          messages quickly, we give bonus points. But,  
16          no, we want to hear from you, we want to listen  
17          to you, we want to give you the opportunity and  
18          the respect that you deserve to have your  
19          comments heard, you will get that, and we just  
20          ask that you also show the same respect and  
21          courtesy to the Committee. So thank you all  
22          for being here.

23          I am going to probably read out three or  
24          four names at a time. We also have a  
25          spill-over room, and so as this room continues

1 to fill up, there may be folks in the  
2 spill-over room. We want to give them enough  
3 time to come over and have an opportunity to  
4 speak.

5 So our first up is the Collier County  
6 Supervisor of Elections, Ms. Jennifer Edwards.  
7 Ms. Edwards, thank you for being here and thank  
8 you for the service here in Collier County.  
9 And after Ms. Edwards, we are going to have  
10 Michael Reagen and then William Poteet,  
11 followed by Chuck Mohlke.

12 MS. EDWARDS: Good morning.

13 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Good morning.

14 MS. EDWARDS: I am Jennifer Edwards, and  
15 welcome to Collier County and a special hello  
16 to our delegation members.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Ms. Edwards,  
18 I may need you to get a little closer to the  
19 microphones.

20 MS. EDWARDS: Okay. Is this better?

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: That is  
22 perfect.

23 MS. EDWARDS: Great. Well, as you know, I  
24 am an election administrator, and in doing so,  
25 I join my colleagues across the state in urging



1       you in helping us to provide great service to  
2       our voters. You change election law, and  
3       administrators like me implement those changes.  
4       In addition to following the state and federal  
5       election laws, election administrators and our  
6       great staff have a passion to provide an  
7       excellent service to our voters.

8               I want to share with you, and the screen  
9       is behind you, the three requests that you can  
10      grant that will assist election administrators  
11      and our staff to provide continued outstanding  
12      service to voters.

13             Number one, please respect voter  
14      tabulation districts, or VTDs, to the extent  
15      possible. Number two, avoid irregular  
16      boundaries to the extent possible. These have  
17      a tendency to split neighborhoods. And number  
18      three, please adopt maps early in the  
19      legislative session to avoid election and voter  
20      confusion in 2012.

21             We have a few examples to share with you  
22      to show you some of the irregular boundaries in  
23      Collier County. Here is Congressional District  
24      25, and next we have Senate District 39. You  
25      can see this demonstrates irregular boundaries

1 in our communities. And next we have House  
2 112, and then we have a representation here of  
3 Golden Gate City. This shows a split in  
4 representing House 101, as well as 112. And  
5 Golden Gate City is also a census-designated  
6 place, so here is a community that is split  
7 down the middle.

8 The final slide, we have taken the liberty  
9 of using, of course, your timeline and  
10 depicting it in a colorful way, pink at the  
11 top -- doesn't look like pink this morning, but  
12 it is pink, and it is the length of your  
13 session. Yellow is the number of days that you  
14 have allotted for the review by the Attorney  
15 General's Office, and blue is the number of  
16 days for the review by the Florida Supreme  
17 Court, and orange is the 60 days for the U.S.  
18 Justice review. And as you can see, with our  
19 -- with our primary being scheduled  
20 August 14th, qualifying is the first week of  
21 June, which is that green line near the bottom,  
22 and if it takes U.S. Justice the full 60 days,  
23 we won't get their approval until a week after  
24 qualifying. And, in addition, election  
25 administrators under federal law are required

1 to mail the military and overseas ballots 45  
2 days before the election, which is June 30th.

3 I know that the time it will take the  
4 other agencies to review your district  
5 timeframes is totally out of your control.  
6 However, this timeline emphasizes the  
7 importance of my earlier stated third request:  
8 Please adopt maps early in the legislative  
9 session to avoid election and voter confusion  
10 in 2012, to aid election administrators and our  
11 staff across the state in being prepared and  
12 providing good service to all of our voters.  
13 And on behalf of the voters of Collier County,  
14 thank you.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
16 Ms. Edwards. Ms. Edwards, I will just say we  
17 have heard from a lot of supervisors, but that  
18 was the most detailed and probably informative  
19 presentation I have seen thus far, and in a  
20 very quick manner. Thank you very much.

21 Next up which have Mr. Michael Reagen with  
22 the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce,  
23 followed by William Poteet and Chuck Mohlke.

24 Mr. Reagen, you are recognized, sir.

25 MR. REAGEN: Thank you very much,

1       Mr. Chairman. Good morning. Everything I say  
2       this morning is on behalf of the Chamber of  
3       Commerce, the Collier building industry, Naples  
4       Board of Realtors and the Economic Development  
5       Council of Collier County, and everything that  
6       we say this morning has been put together with  
7       the close collaboration of the Supervisor of  
8       Elections' offices. I've got four maps and one  
9       graph, and I've got five and a half minutes to  
10      share them with you.

11             Number one, map number one, looking at the  
12      southern area of our state, we see the issue as  
13      it stands today. Several districts criss-cross  
14      the entire east-west expanse of the state.  
15      Legislators in these districts are put in the  
16      position of representing several diverse  
17      population. The current maps, frankly, seem to  
18      hold limited regard for compactness, political  
19      subdivisions and communities.

20             Map number two, here we take a closer look  
21      at the southern section of our state. Collier  
22      County is currently divided among five  
23      legislative districts. District 75 holds a  
24      portion of Collier's northwest corner.  
25      District 77 holds a small portion of Collier

1 County north of Main Street and Immokalee and  
2 extends north to Highlands. District 101 holds  
3 a large section of Collier County, extends  
4 across the state into Broward County. District  
5 112, similar eastward expansion to District  
6 101, runs clear across the state to Dade County  
7 and the city of Durrell. And District 76 is  
8 the only district that lies completely within  
9 Collier County and represents the largest  
10 portion of the western coastal community.

11 As we look to create a solution to this  
12 challenge, the following three things are  
13 terribly important: One, new boundaries should  
14 keep Collier County districts intact locally to  
15 the greatest extent possible; number two, new  
16 boundaries should ensure the proposed districts  
17 clearly are compliant with the standards of the  
18 Voting Rights Act; third, new boundaries should  
19 permit Collier County voters to elect  
20 Representatives of their choice to the greater  
21 extent possible.

22 The third map we have is a proposed  
23 solution. It divides Collier County among  
24 three legislative districts, as opposed to  
25 five, allowing communities of interest to

1       remain better intact. The new district lines  
2       are also better attuned to existing political  
3       subdivisions. District 75 in the north  
4       acquires an additional section of Collier, then  
5       extends into Lee County. District 101 contains  
6       a large portion of Collier County with a  
7       western section of Dade County. District 76  
8       compacts land-wise in the west, but remains the  
9       only district held entirely within Collier  
10      County.

11             Our fourth map shows representatives of  
12      the same solution, but highlights which  
13      sections in each county that lie with the  
14      specified legislative districts. All of the  
15      proposed district lines are respectful of  
16      Collier County communities of interest, as  
17      reflected in the Voter Tabulation Districts --  
18      precincts, if you will -- submitted to the  
19      Census Bureau by our Supervisor of Elections.

20             Graph. This solution achieves an equal  
21      population for criteria of redistricting as  
22      well. As you know, the ideal total population  
23      per district is 156,678 people. Districts 75,  
24      101 and 112 must lose populations. Districts  
25      76 and 77 must gain populations.

1           The population counts for the three  
2       districts that we are suggesting would be as  
3       follows: District 75 would have 156,992  
4       people, and would represent 38.4 of the  
5       district's total population. District 76, 56,  
6       82 with 100 percent of the population of  
7       Collier County. District 101 would have  
8       155,126 people, with Collier residents  
9       representing 67.4 percent of the district's  
10      total population. And Districts 77 and 112  
11      would no longer hold sections of Collier  
12      County.

13           Mr. Chairman, thank you, sir.

14           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
15      very much. You beat me to the punch. That was  
16      very detailed. Thank you very much, and thank  
17      you for what the Chamber does here in Collier  
18      County. We appreciate that, sir. Very good  
19      information.

20           Next up we have Mr. Poteet, followed by  
21      Chuck Mohlke, and then I believe it is Liza  
22      McClenaghan, or McLendon, I apologize if I am  
23      mispronouncing that, but I think you know who  
24      -- did I lose my mike there? Do we have a  
25      malfunction? Okay. And we are back. Okay.

1 All right. We've got Mr. Poteet --  
2 Mr. Poteet, followed by Chuck Mohlke and then  
3 Liza.

4 Mr. Poteet, you are recognized, sir.

5 MR. POTEET: Good morning. I thank you  
6 for the opportunity to speak before you, and I  
7 am here on behalf of myself and no other  
8 organizations, I want to make that clear.

9 I agree with Mr. Reagen on a number of  
10 points that he had. I don't have a map. I  
11 don't have a magic number of the number of  
12 Representatives, but I do know more is better.  
13 We currently have five State Representatives  
14 that cover Collier County, two Senators, and  
15 with that we get more coverage and more voice  
16 in Tallahassee.

17 If you reduce the number, we are going to  
18 have less voice, we'll have less people on the  
19 committee structure, which is vitally important  
20 for getting any of the bills through, and so,  
21 you know, we are not going to be -- we are a  
22 small county, so we need more voice. And when  
23 we get people like Chairman Grimsley who covers  
24 just a little piece of Immokalee, but also  
25 represents the interests of Collier County and



1 is here on a regular basis, that is a very good  
2 thing for our community.

3 And so I just say when you take into  
4 consideration and you look at the east-west  
5 districts, a lot of people would like to cut  
6 them out. I have talked to Representative  
7 Nuñez and Representative Hudson, and both of  
8 them like traveling and visiting us on a  
9 regular basis and do a fine job and they give  
10 us representation, a voice in our legislation  
11 and also a voice in the other representative --  
12 or other county districts, so they know what  
13 Collier County wants. And so more is better.  
14 Thank you.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
16 very much. We appreciate those comments.

17 Next up we have Chuck Mohlke, and then we  
18 have Liza and then Shari Monetta.

19 Mr. Mohlke, thank you, sir.

20 MR. MOHLKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
21 Thank you, Senator Gaetz.

22 I appear here for three purposes. One, to  
23 support unreservedly the comments of our  
24 Supervisor of Elections, and hope that the  
25 Committee will support the ideas presented to

1           you by Mr. Michael Reagen.

2           Second, I want to compliment Senator Gaetz  
3           on his opening remarks and on the recent  
4           reported comments that he made in several of  
5           the newspapers that indicate the great  
6           flexibility of you, Senator, and the other  
7           members of the panel in respect to how you are  
8           going to proceed to inform the public about  
9           your final decisions regarding redistricting.

10          And, third, this expedited procedure that  
11          you are on I think is in the public's interest.  
12          We are so pleased that you have such a  
13          representative panel here today to hear these  
14          remarks, and we thank you very much for your  
15          participation and for your -- we welcome you on  
16          behalf of Collier County. Thank you.

17                 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
18                 very much.

19                 Next up we have Liza, and, Liza, I am  
20                 going to ask you to say your last name just so  
21                 we get it on the record the right way.

22                 MS. McCLENAGHAN: Good morning, Liza  
23                 McClenaghan.

24                 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: McClenaghan.  
25                 I'm sorry that I didn't say that right. And

1       after Ms. Liza, we have Shari Monetta and then  
2       Michael Lyster, followed by Chris Straton. You  
3       are recognized.

4               MS. McCLENAGHAN: Good morning, Chairman,  
5       members of the redistricting committees. I  
6       would like to begin with some praise for the  
7       present, move quickly to the future and then  
8       review some lessens learned from past  
9       redistricting.

10              Congratulations to you and your staff on  
11      the creation of My District Builder. With this  
12      software, the Legislature has created a  
13      superior geographical information system for  
14      the public use to provide our own submissions,  
15      as well as to review proposals of the  
16      legislative committees and other organizations.  
17      In 2001, the Florida Legislature deployed  
18      FREDS. That was an envy of many states. With  
19      this track record, you know how to create the  
20      tools needed to accomplish your task in an  
21      unimpeded fashion.

22              Many states have already completed their  
23      redistricting, and at least two states have  
24      completed the review with the U.S. Department  
25      of Justice for pre-clearance under Section 5.

1           The responsibilities and timeline of the  
2       Legislature to reapportion and redistrict the  
3       legislative seats and redistrict the  
4       congressional seats following the release of  
5       decennial census needs to be clarified and  
6       expedited. Even as the current redistricting  
7       process is unfolding, it has become obvious  
8       that the voters may not know the districts in  
9       which they will be eligible to cast their  
10      ballots, and candidates may not know which  
11      districts they will contest by June 2012 for  
12      the August 2012 primary.

13           Submitted for your consideration is  
14      proposal to amend the Florida Constitution to  
15      begin the reapportionment/redistricting process  
16      the year of the decennial census release and  
17      complete it by the end of the year. Voters and  
18      candidates can then be prepared for the  
19      election season in the second year following  
20      the census, along with the Division of  
21      Elections and the Supervisors of Elections. I  
22      have submitted this language to your staff.

23           Article III, Section 16, and Article X,  
24      Section 8, require only minimal language  
25      changes. If necessary, you should consider a

1 special redistricting session so that the  
2 Legislature's budget process is not impacted.  
3 The cost every ten years would be not as great  
4 compared to the upheaval caused by this  
5 extended process. All current steps would  
6 remain in Section 16, but the Florida  
7 institutions' portion must be completed by  
8 December 31st of the year following the  
9 decennial census. In Article X, if necessary,  
10 the effective date of the census can be moved  
11 forward. While the issue of redistricting is  
12 still on our minds, please bring these  
13 amendments to the ballot.

14 Another key component of the redistricting  
15 process is the creation of the Voter Tabulation  
16 Districts, or VTDs. The U.S. Census timeline  
17 has a submission of these precinct-like units  
18 early in the decennial census process.

19 I ask that you involve the public in the  
20 review at the county level to assist in  
21 identifying communities of interest and any  
22 changes in any political subdivisions. This  
23 will make your task easier and allow for the  
24 public input at a critical time in the process.

25 Ten years ago, the Democratic party and

1 Republican parties of Collier County came  
2 before a similar body and asked that you not  
3 draw districts across the Peninsula from east  
4 to west. I make that request again today.  
5 There is little that eastern Collier County  
6 shares with western Broward and Miami-Dade for  
7 legislative and congressional representation.

8 Here is a quick review of what we learned  
9 in 2002. Please respect minority districts.  
10 In 2002, your districts plowed right through  
11 the census-designated places of Immokalee and  
12 Golden Gate, which our Supervisor of Elections  
13 shared with you in a map earlier. Please  
14 respect political subdivisions. In a midnight  
15 drawing exercise, you divided the city of  
16 Everglades City in two when you found State  
17 Road 29.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Ms. Liza, I  
19 know we are about three and a half minutes in.  
20 I would like to try to get to put a bow on it,  
21 if you could, and then we will also take your  
22 statement in whole and make sure it is part of  
23 the record.

24 MS. McCLENAGHAN: Sure. I have submitted  
25 it, thank you.

1           Please respect communities of interest as  
2 shown in Senate 37 and 39, and then please note  
3 that we had a lot of confusion, we, voters,  
4 when we have split precincts.

5           Interstate 75 is a man-made obstacle, and  
6 last time one committee took the east side of  
7 the road and one took the west side of the road  
8 and sometimes you drew it down the middle,  
9 creating populations with no -- districts  
10 within populations.

11           In closing, I would like to -- in closing,  
12 I would like to remind the Committee that  
13 Collier County is a covered jurisdiction under  
14 the Voting Rights Act, and we wonder why you  
15 are holding this meeting at eight o'clock in  
16 the morning when the people impacted by that  
17 portion are at work. Thank you for your time.

18           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
19 very much. Thank you very much.

20           Ladies and gentlemen, I don't know who it  
21 was that shouted. I will handle it with the  
22 timing, and we appreciate that. We want to  
23 give everybody a chance to speak, but we do --  
24 we've got 50 people to speak. I don't know  
25 where Vi Steffan is in this room. Vi, are you

1           here? You are the last person on my list right  
2           now. I want to make sure I get you a chance to  
3           speak, so if everyone would be respectful of  
4           Vi, we will try to get to her as well.

5           So, Shari, you are recognized. Thank you  
6           very much for being here today.

7           MS. MONETTA: Good morning, members.  
8           Thank you for visiting Naples today.

9           My name is Shari Monetta. I am here as a  
10          private citizen. I have lived in Collier  
11          County for 15 years today. I have been  
12          following your listening tour since June, and  
13          am frustrated when I hear special interest  
14          groups at every stop attack a process that  
15          gives citizens the ability to tell their  
16          legislators what we want them to do when they  
17          draw the new district lines. I am talking  
18          about groups like the League of Women Voters,  
19          who are heavily involved in the political  
20          process and who promote civic participation.  
21          Getting involved with redistricting is very  
22          important, yet the League has decided to  
23          criticize you rather than offer any substantial  
24          ideas of its own. It is funny this is  
25          happening, because a decade ago, the League was



1       the first group to publicly submit a  
2       redistricting plan. I am not sure what  
3       accounts for this change of heart, except for  
4       the fact that now Amendments 5 and 6 are part  
5       of the state's Constitution.

6             The League, which supports these  
7       amendments, knows the wording of these  
8       amendments is so vague that it will be  
9       impossible for you to fulfill their  
10      requirements. That is why the League refuses  
11      now to show its hand and offer any ideas on how  
12      you should draw -- redraw the district  
13      boundaries. I am disappointed the League and  
14      their allies have taken this position, but it  
15      comes as no surprise, given that Amendments 5  
16      and 6 are so ambiguous.

17            I don't envy the position of this  
18      Committee. It is unfortunate that these  
19      amendments will result in multiple lawsuits  
20      being filed against any plan you ultimately  
21      pass. I urge you to work as hard as you can to  
22      draw good maps. Don't listen to criticism from  
23      groups who have no interest in seeing this  
24      Committee succeed in its work. Thank you for  
25      allowing me to speak this morning.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
2           Shari, we appreciate your comments.

3           Next up we have Michael Lyster. Following  
4           Michael will be Chris Straton and then David  
5           Easlick.

6           Mr. Lyster, thanks for being here, sir.  
7           You are recognized.

8           MR. LYSTER: Good morning. I am Mike  
9           Lyster, I am here as a private citizen. I want  
10          to thank you all for taking the time to have an  
11          open and transparent process via the website  
12          and these hearings. As representatives of the  
13          citizens, it is refreshing to see you go out  
14          and listen to the opinions of the citizens  
15          prior to your decision-making.

16          I am a resident of Collier County. I have  
17          been a resident for 12 years. Our son,  
18          daughter-in-law, grandson and granddaughter are  
19          residents of Collier County. Our youngest son  
20          is a resident of Miami-Dade. So I have a keen  
21          interest in the future of Florida and your  
22          activities.

23          The growth in the -- as you said, Senator,  
24          the growth in Florida gives us two more  
25          Congressmen, and Collier County has shared in

1       that growth and we would like to see you give  
2       us our own representation.

3               Amendments 5 and 6 require contiguous,  
4       compact districts. Good luck on that. As you  
5       know, there are many municipal boundaries that  
6       are not compact and contiguous, and so it is  
7       going to be left to your best judgment to come  
8       up with meeting Amendment 5 and 6 and  
9       supporting the efforts of everybody you hear  
10      from.

11             Finally, let me just echo the words of our  
12      Supervisor of Elections. As a clerk in a  
13      voting precinct for the last six elections, I  
14      appreciate your expedited process and I wish  
15      you best of luck to get that out as soon as you  
16      can so that we can get our election processes  
17      prepared and all the citizens notified so we  
18      have an efficient and effective election.  
19      Thank you.

20             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
21      very much.

22             Next up we have Chris Straton.  
23      Ms. Straton. And then following Ms. Straton,  
24      David Easlick and Jacob Winge, I believe, or  
25      Winge, yes, I believe is what it is, and then

1           Joyce Fletcher.

2                   You are recognized. Thank you.

3                   MS. STRATON: Thank you. Good morning.

4           My name is Chris Straton, and I, too, am here  
5           as a private citizen.

6                   What I have in my hand are the five maps  
7           that the county commission boundaries have been  
8           drawn up and shared with the public. The  
9           public has an opportunity to react to those in  
10          a timely fashion. Even now when we anticipate  
11          the Board of County Commissioners will be  
12          approving these maps and deciding which map to  
13          accept on September 13th, candidates who have  
14          already announced for the Board of County  
15          Commission seats are very concerned that this  
16          decision be made quickly, because it will  
17          affect who their constituents will be, who will  
18          be voting for them.

19                  The timeline that Mr. Gaetz explained  
20          early did not state that the Committee would  
21          work to come up with maps immediately. He did  
22          not tell us when you would be having the maps  
23          presented to the legislators to vote on. It is  
24          critical that the people that want to run for  
25          office be informed quickly so that they have

1 the opportunity to campaign effectively.

2 The Supervisor of Elections talked about  
3 the concern of not having voter confusion and  
4 wanting you to move quickly. We agree with  
5 that, but the other side of the coin is the  
6 voters are entitled to know who is going to be  
7 possibly running for office.

8 Failure to move up the schedule to early  
9 in your session is nothing more than making it  
10 easier for the incumbents, and we all know that  
11 when Amendments 5 and 6 were passed, the  
12 electorate in Florida said we want compact,  
13 contiguous and districts that do not -- excuse  
14 me, I have to check my words -- do not favor  
15 any party or incumbent, and failure to have  
16 these -- your maps drawn up and approved  
17 quickly in the legislative session is nothing  
18 more than favoring the incumbents. Thank you.

19 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
20 Ms. Straton. I hope you can stick around also,  
21 Ms. Straton, because I believe that Senator  
22 Gaetz and the members of the Committee at the  
23 end will have an opportunity to address some of  
24 the questions in regard to the timeline and the  
25 maps. And sometimes things get out into the

1           bloodstream about the direction or the timeline  
2           that we have had, and I think we can clarify a  
3           lot of the questions that you had. So if you  
4           can, please stick around to the very end.

5           And after that, next up, we've got  
6           Mr. David Easlick --

7           MS. STRATON: Excuse me, I think that is  
8           important that everybody be informed of, and  
9           not just at the end of the session.

10          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
11          very much.

12          Next up we've got David Easlick.  
13          Mr. Easlick, thank you for being here, sir,  
14          followed by Jacob Winge and then Joyce  
15          Fletcher.

16          You are recognized, sir.

17          MR. EASLICK: Good morning, committee  
18          members. I am glad to see you here in Naples.  
19          I am David Easlick, and I have been here about  
20          ten years. My parents came down in 1972, and  
21          it took me a while to find them.

22          But my main concern is it is basically,  
23          guys, KISS, keep it simple, stupid, because  
24          this is going to be a horrible mess. I am a  
25          member of the Michigan State Bar Association

1       for 35 years, and I know the legal fraternity  
2       is going to be out there just tearing this  
3       thing apart. Amendments 5 and 6 created a  
4       terrible disaster, and I think that the -- you  
5       know, the faster you can get this thing done,  
6       the simpler you can get this thing done.  
7       Jennifer is going to have an impossible job,  
8       but she has given you some good help there, and  
9       I think you ought to take a good look at it,  
10      and Mr. Reagen from the Chamber of Commerce is  
11      good, and, you know, if we don't do any  
12      gerrymandering, if we look at this thing  
13      compactly and get it done. Thank you.

14                REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
15      very much, sir.

16                Next up we have Jacob Winge, followed by  
17      Joyce Fletcher with the League of Women Voters,  
18      and then Cosme Perez.

19                Jacob is -- it says he is with the Collier  
20      Youth Political Activists. Welcome for being  
21      here, sir.

22                MR. WINGE: Yes, good morning,  
23      Representatives and Senators. Thank you for  
24      allowing me and other members of the public to  
25      speak to you in this very important process.

1           I, first of all, would like to echo the  
2       words of our Supervisor of Elections and others  
3       in saying to please do this process as quickly  
4       as possible. There is a time when you have to  
5       put politics aside and put principle and people  
6       first on either side, Democrats, Republicans,  
7       non-party, because if you don't do this process  
8       effectively and quickly, it is going to affect  
9       all sides, state, county and even city level  
10      politics, as far as candidates running for a  
11      variety of offices.

12           I also want to say, just coming from a  
13      history perspective, I am on the Board of  
14      Directors of the Collier County Museum, I don't  
15      believe that you can represent both sides of  
16      the State of Florida, which is culturally and  
17      historically different, effectively and  
18      efficiently, not good or bad, effectively and  
19      efficiently. I live in Congressional District  
20      25 and I live in House District 112, and it is  
21      not -- I am not pointing any fingers, saying  
22      good or bad job, but it is about effectively  
23      and efficiently representing the people, and I  
24      don't see how you can do that when both sides  
25      of the state are completely different in



1 history and culture. Thank you so much.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
3 Mr. Winge.

4 Next we have Joyce Fletcher, and following  
5 Joyce Fletcher is Cosme Perez, followed by  
6 Estela Perez.

7 Joyce, thank you very much for being here.

8 MS. FLETCHER: Good morning. Thank you  
9 all for coming to Naples and being here and  
10 giving us this opportunity.

11 My name is Joyce Fletcher. I am  
12 Vice-President of the League of Women Voters of  
13 Collier County, and was a local coordinator to  
14 help pass Amendments 5 and 6.

15 I have been requested by one of our  
16 legislators to not repeat the message you have  
17 heard about maps from the League of Women  
18 Voters at every stop. While I will not belabor  
19 this point, I must insist that you get maps out  
20 to the public. Now that you have heard what  
21 the public has to say, we must see what you are  
22 proposing and truly have an opportunity to  
23 comment, not in Tallahassee or by e-mail, but  
24 all over the state and face to face.

25 We know the Constitution mandates that you

1 complete the State Legislature redistricting in  
2 2012, and we believe there should be no reason  
3 that you could not have maps, true public  
4 comment and be ready to vote the first week of  
5 session in January.

6 Here in Collier County, we have been  
7 forced to live with our county being divided  
8 into five State House districts since 2002.  
9 How can Collier and its history and -- truly be  
10 represented in such a design? The 2010 census  
11 reported 321,520 citizens in Collier County.  
12 This would entitle us to just over two  
13 Representatives. Please look at how to keep  
14 the most of Collier County in two districts, no  
15 more districts reaching from the Atlantic to  
16 the Gulf.

17 While we do not have enough citizens to  
18 have a Senator to represent just Collier  
19 County, we do need to continue to have a one --  
20 to have most of the county in one Senate  
21 district, perhaps with southern Lee County.

22 I, too, Representative Weatherford, had  
23 trouble with My District Builder, but, you  
24 know, the Constitution requires that you draw  
25 the maps, not the citizens. Besides, we don't

1       have all the input that you have gleaned from  
2       the meetings you have held all over the state.  
3       Please do draw the maps now and distribute them  
4       through every media possible. Give us time and  
5       face-to-face ways to comment so you can be  
6       ready to vote on the maps in early January.  
7       Thank you.

8               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
9       very much.

10              Next up we have Cosme Perez and Estela  
11       Perez. Now, I am guessing perhaps that Mrs.  
12       Perez is your wife?

13              MR. PEREZ: Yes, I think she is declining.

14              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Are you sure  
15       you don't want her to go first? I don't want  
16       to get you in trouble back home, so --

17              MR. PEREZ: Only because she is declining.

18              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay, okay,  
19       all right. Good to see you, Ms. Perez. Mr.  
20       Perez, you are recognized to speak. Thanks for  
21       being here, sir.

22              MR. PEREZ: Thank you very much for  
23       letting me -- thank you for being here. First,  
24       my name is Cosme Perez, and I came here -- I am  
25       going to read it, because I came here with my

1 wife to this county in 2002, and ten years  
2 later, we are retiring now here. We have two  
3 kids that are grown up, raised up in Miami and  
4 they are okay. First we wanted to sell the  
5 house in Miami and then come to Naples for our  
6 dream house and retire here. We participated  
7 in many community events without regards of  
8 ethnic or racial concern, but noticed that  
9 there was a leadership gap in the Hispanics.

10 In 2003, we participated -- we joined a  
11 fraternity, and this fraternity conduct a  
12 Columbus Day parade in Golden Gate City. We  
13 helped organize this parade to bring to  
14 Hispanics to participate for the first time.  
15 That is a big group here in this county. This  
16 resulted in the church that produced this  
17 parade activated a scheduled mass in Spanish  
18 with a Spanish priest that we still have now in  
19 two churches. So the Hispanic groups here are  
20 50 percent -- 57 percent increase, and Collier  
21 County has its share about that. And there is  
22 no -- I know that this may not be what about  
23 the map, but listen to this. We have held --  
24 even Jennifer with the elections campaign,  
25 trying to work on the polls, but the Hispanics

1       don't vote, don't vote. There is a very low  
2       turnout of Hispanic votes in this county, and  
3       it is because probably the sign of this areas  
4       and the concern they have, you know, who is  
5       representing them.

6               As a part of the Hispanic -- I was part of  
7       the Hispanic -- I was a member of the Hispanic  
8       Advisory Board of Collier County Commission for  
9       six years, and no one recommendation was ever  
10      submitted to the Board by this Commission, by  
11      this Board. And it is important, because the  
12      issues discussed there month after month, the  
13      Hispanics and the public didn't come to this  
14      public session to listen to what we were  
15      discussing.

16             Now, we can talk about dividing the  
17      Florida map into 120 -- 200 congressional  
18      districts.

19             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Perez, I  
20      am going to have to ask you to help me wrap it  
21      up a little bit.

22             MR. PEREZ: Yes. But we need leader of  
23      Hispanic background to help get the Hispanic  
24      vote out. And I want you to consider those  
25      areas. There is no Hispanics here -- there are

1       Hispanics here, but not fifty -- 25 percent as  
2       should be, and I think that they should have  
3       this type -- this type of conference available  
4       to them, too, so they can understand the system  
5       so they can vote and be concerned. Right now,  
6       they are not concerned.

7               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
8       very much, Mr. Perez. I do think it is  
9       important to point out that Collier County is a  
10      Section 5 county. What that means is that it  
11      is federally protected by the Department of  
12      Justice, and that any changes to the districts  
13      have to be cleared by the Department of Justice  
14      for that very reason. And so I thank you for  
15      your comments, sir.

16             I apologize, because Ms. Perez was not  
17      speaking, I kind of fell behind here, so I am  
18      going to announce somebody's name that probably  
19      was not prepared, but Annisa Karim. Ms. Karim,  
20      I'm sorry I didn't give you more time to  
21      prepare. Following Ms. Karim, we've got Jim  
22      Burke, and after Mr. Burke, we have Patricia  
23      Forkman and then Neville Williams.

24             Thank you very much for being here.

25             MS. KARIM: Thank you very much. My name

1       is a Annisa Karim. I am the President of the  
2       Collier County Democratic Club, but today I am  
3       here as an individual speaking on my own  
4       behalf.

5               I want to thank you for coming to Collier  
6       County. I would say beautiful Collier County,  
7       it is kind of overcast today, but usually --

8               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: It is not  
9       just because the Legislature is in town, too.  
10       I just wanted to point that out for the record.

11              MS. KARIM: I thought it was because the  
12       legislators are in town -- no.

13              I want to thank you for coming here, and  
14       although these are comments you may have heard  
15       across the state over and over, I think it is  
16       important to make them again, because these are  
17       the voices of the citizens.

18              This is the first time that I have  
19       actually been paying attention and involved in  
20       a redistricting process. And, of course, you  
21       know that we are doing this concurrently. In,  
22       you know, Collier County we are redrawing our  
23       Board of County Commissioner districts and our  
24       school board districts and, of course, we are  
25       going through this redistricting process with

1       you, and it is very different.

2               Our Supervisor of Elections, I have to  
3       congratulate her, I have to give her a big  
4       thumbs-up, because her and her staff have done  
5       an amazing job. They have given us five  
6       different maps on which to comment. Not only  
7       that, but they have actually given us the  
8       opportunity on more than one occasion to  
9       comment on these maps. We are able to make  
10      substantive comments. Not only do we want  
11      these maps to be fair to the citizens, but we  
12      want to be able to look at a map and say, "You  
13      know, I think District 4 is not right here. I  
14      think District 1 here, you know, does not  
15      respect community boundaries." And so we are  
16      able to, as citizens, give substantive  
17      comments. And that is really what I was hoping  
18      for from the Legislature.

19             Given that we do not have maps, I do urge  
20      you to adopt early in your session a map, maybe  
21      by early January, so that we, as voters, one,  
22      may have the opportunity to maybe know who  
23      might be representing us, and, two, may, as  
24      voters, know maybe where our district  
25      boundaries are.



1           This is not a political -- this is  
2           actually a non-partisan process. It doesn't  
3           matter whether you are Democrat or Republican.  
4           This is going to affect the state and all of  
5           the decisions made within the state in the next  
6           ten years.

7           So I urge you -- thank you for coming to  
8           Collier County. Thank you for hearing us.  
9           Please give us maps that we can make  
10          substantive comments on and stop spending  
11          taxpayer money on fighting Amendments 5 and 6  
12          that the Collier County -- or, rather, the  
13          state voters overwhelmingly approved. So thank  
14          you very much. Have a great day.

15          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
16          very much. Great testimony.

17          Next up we have Jim Burke, Commissioner  
18          from the North Naples Fire District, followed  
19          by Patricia Forkman, Neville Williams and then  
20          Charles Willits.

21          Commissioner, good to see you.

22          COMMISSIONER BURKE: Thank you. First of  
23          all, panel, thanks for the opportunity to  
24          speak, and secondly, I want to commend you on  
25          the job you are doing in bringing this out to

1       the public. I do not envy the job you have in  
2       front of you.

3               But I am not here with maps or demographic  
4       breakouts. I am more concerned with the  
5       language you are dealing with. As an example,  
6       the district has to be compact. Well, I am  
7       sure everybody in this room has a feeling about  
8       what compact is. Let me give you mine. I grew  
9       up in a Catholic parish of 15,000 people. We  
10      could all walk to Mass on Sunday. That is  
11      compact. Be careful with that.

12             The other one is political boundaries.  
13      What does that mean? City, county commission,  
14      fire districts, of course, and things like  
15      that. That is a delicate issue.

16             But the third piece of language you are  
17      dealing with that I really like is -- I am  
18      having a senior moment -- practicable. Wow,  
19      that is a good one. I can't figure that one  
20      out. But my concern is you've got to deal with  
21      it, thank God not me, but you are dealing with  
22      it, be careful with it, get yourself some  
23      definitions. Let's not end up in court with  
24      every one of these. So thanks for the time.

25             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you

1           very much, Commissioner. It is good to see  
2           you.

3           Next up we have Patricia Forkman. Ms.  
4           Forkman, thank you very much for being here,  
5           followed by Neville Williams, Charles Willits,  
6           and Steven Hemping.

7           MS. FORKAN: Thank you. My name is  
8           Patricia Forkan.

9           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I'm sorry  
10          about that.

11          MS. FORKAN: That is fine. We moved here  
12          a year ago from Maryland. We were quite used  
13          to having a close relationship with our member  
14          of Congress. Imagine our surprise when we went  
15          to vote and learned that our member of Congress  
16          was living in Miami.

17          We are living in the Lely Resort area. It  
18          has been -- how shall I say kindly --  
19          gerrymandered, and we understand that it is a  
20          situation having to do with the voters' rights.

21          So one of the suggestions that I have and  
22          a number of us that live in Lely that would  
23          like to be brought back into the Naples family  
24          is -- Representative Passidomo's district  
25          includes us and Senator Richter's district

1 includes us. So we would like you to look at  
2 those particular situations. There is one  
3 Hispanic group that -- a small group that is  
4 part -- that is south of where we live that  
5 apparently has caused justice to go in and  
6 scoop out many more of us than are part of the  
7 Hispanic voting block. So that is the primary  
8 thing that I am here to talk about and hope  
9 that you will consider.

10 The other thing that I am quite interested  
11 in, but I don't know really how you would look  
12 at this, I worked in Washington, DC, for a  
13 number of years, and I have to compliment you.  
14 I have never been to a hearing in Washington  
15 where there were this many people on the  
16 committee who are here and staying. Normally  
17 most of you would have left by now. So it is  
18 really kind of great to see --

19 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Those are all  
20 members of the Sergeant's office that won't let  
21 us leave, so we are good.

22 MS. FORKAN: I came down here with a  
23 strong belief that we should protect the  
24 Everglades. And when I look at how one member  
25 of Congress has, at least in this area, the

1 whole of the Everglades, it would be  
2 interesting to look at, when you are doing the  
3 congressional district, to look at whether we  
4 could get two Congressmen who could represent  
5 Florida more vigorously, let's say, for the  
6 Everglades. So that was the other thing I  
7 wanted to bring up, that one person is  
8 enough -- is not enough, really, as long as you  
9 can possibly get it out to like say Route 29 or  
10 something like that where there is more of an  
11 interest on the members' part that would be  
12 representing this as congressional district.  
13 Thank you very much.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
15 very much, Ms. Forkan. We appreciate that.  
16 Very good, substantive advice, and we will take  
17 it to heart.

18 Next up we have Neville Williams, followed  
19 by Charles Willits, Steven Hemping and then  
20 Norine Hemping.

21 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you for coming  
22 and for listening. And I just want to endorse  
23 what my wife just said, because I can't say it  
24 better. So I waive most of my time, other than  
25 to say --

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You are one  
2 smart man, sir.

3           MR. WILLIAMS: But I don't think that the  
4 Representative of District 25, U.S. Congress,  
5 really wants all those alligators in his  
6 district just so he can have a small piece of  
7 voting block over here. And I feel -- I really  
8 want to go on record as a protest that we feel  
9 unrepresented. As my wife said, we could --  
10 our Congressman was Chris Van Hollen, we could  
11 see him anytime we wanted. I have no idea how  
12 to get ahold of the Congressman over in Miami.  
13 It does seem strange and really needs to be  
14 addressed. Thank you.

15           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Very good  
16 point. Thank you, sir.

17           Next we have Charles Willits.  
18 Mr. Willits, thank you for being here, sir, and  
19 I hope I said that last name right.

20           MR. WILLITS: You sure did, thank you.

21           I am a native Floridian and a resident of  
22 Collier County for 18 years. I am speaking on  
23 my own behalf, and my only interest in coming  
24 today is to comment on the irregular boundaries  
25 that have been mentioned already, Golden Gate

1 City, the area around Lely. And had I known  
2 that our Supervisor of Elections had presented  
3 the wonderful slide show saying the exact same  
4 thing, I wouldn't need to come here today. So  
5 I yield the rest of my time.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: All right,  
7 smart man. Thank you very much. As I said, we  
8 are giving bonus points out for brevity, sir.  
9 You are leading the charge there, Mr. Willits,  
10 so thank you very much.

11 Now, Steven, I see that you are planning  
12 on going before your wife. Now, is that a  
13 smart decision on your part? I just -- I want  
14 to give you every opportunity --

15 MR. HEMPING: That decision was made  
16 outside.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay. All  
18 right. Okay, you got to ask first.  
19 Mr. Hemping, good to see you, sir, and you are  
20 recognized.

21 MR. HEMPING: Good to be here this  
22 morning. I am really representing myself as a  
23 citizen of Collier County and Florida, but I am  
24 past Chair of the Democratic party, so most  
25 people probably know that here already. But I

1 appreciate you being here, and I would like to  
2 get at the issue, and it is the unspoken word,  
3 the gerrymandering issue. I mean, we are all  
4 dealing with that here. Both major political  
5 parties deal with this across the United  
6 States. But here in Florida, it is an issue  
7 that we have to take up, and voters of Florida  
8 are really fed up with gerrymandering, you  
9 know. The reason the Amendments 5 and 6 passed  
10 with 63 percent majority really represented the  
11 citizenry saying, hey, it is time for us to do  
12 the job and make sure that all Floridians are  
13 represented, not just one political party who  
14 happens to be in control at this point. So  
15 voters want fair, compact, contiguous district  
16 lines drawn, we have already heard that, but  
17 that is the goal.

18 If you could bear with me, I would like to  
19 have some statistics brought forward to this  
20 meeting this morning showing how negative  
21 gerrymandering really is to the citizenry of  
22 the state of Florida. We have -- 41 percent of  
23 our registered voters in Florida happen to be  
24 Democrat, 36 percent are registered Republicans  
25 and the rest are NPAs or other, which is



1           23 percent.

2           If you look at our existing congressional  
3           makeup, we actually have 19 Republicans,  
4           whereas we probably should have ten if you look  
5           at the pure statistics, and we only have six  
6           Democrats in Congress. This is a perfect  
7           example of how to do gerrymandering, okay, and  
8           how one political party has over the last 20  
9           years taken control of the state, unfairly for  
10          really the majority of the populous in Florida.  
11          So I suggest that this is an issue that needs  
12          to be taken up. I know it is a challenge, I am  
13          not saying it isn't, and I know you've got  
14          pressures, but we have pressures, too, and we  
15          are voters and we would like to be represented  
16          like everyone else.

17          If I could just keep going a little bit,  
18          if you look at the State House and State  
19          Senate, in the State Senate, we have 40 seats.  
20          There are 28 Republicans, which is a 70 percent  
21          majority, and 12 Democrats. When 41 percent of  
22          the voting population is Democrat, I can't  
23          understand why there's only 12 Democrats  
24          elected. I do know why, because we have been  
25          gerrymandered here for a long time.

1           So just looking purely at the numbers, you  
2           can see that we really don't have a represented  
3           democracy, and I would like to commend you on  
4           your effort here, but I would also like to  
5           challenge you to really look at gerrymandering  
6           in a big way.

7           If I have another minute?

8           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You don't  
9           have another minute, but you've got about a  
10          sentence and a half.

11          MR. HEMPING: Okay, all right. Let me  
12          just say one thing about our community here,  
13          and it's been brought up before. We have  
14          Representative Passidomo here, who really is  
15          the only one of our nine represent -- people  
16          that represent us in State House, Congress and  
17          State Senate, and we really need more people  
18          focused on Collier County. We really don't  
19          want Miamians supporting us, they don't know  
20          our needs. And we don't really want people  
21          in --

22          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
23          Mr. Hemping.

24          MR. HEMPING: Okay. Thank you for --

25          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Whatever you

1 missed, I am sure that Ms. Hemping is going to  
2 get. So thank you very much.

3 Dr. Hemping, thank you very much for being  
4 here, and I feel sorry for your husband that he  
5 went before you. I know you are going to take  
6 it out on him later.

7 DR. HEMPING: Don't feel sorry for him.  
8 In 2011, we are a team and we are co-equals.

9 MR. HEMPING: Good.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Amen.

11 DR. HEMPING: My name is Dr. Norine  
12 Roberts Hemping. I am a first-generation  
13 American. Both my parents came to this country  
14 with their parents seeking the American dream.  
15 My parents had little of this world's material  
16 goods, but they gave me something more  
17 precious, the values which have made us a great  
18 nation: Belief in the common good, respect for  
19 one another, love of learning, participation in  
20 a representative government. My parents are  
21 buried a couple hundred miles north of here in  
22 Clearwater, Florida, where they lived for 30  
23 years of their retirement.

24 My uncles, though immigrant kids, all  
25 served in the U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force in

1       World War II. One of the greatest strengths of  
2       this, the greatest generation, was their  
3       unselfish willingness to work together. They  
4       put aside their differences to achieve uncommon  
5       goals from victory against Hitler to building  
6       highways, providing housing for returning  
7       veterans, to supporting quality public  
8       education for all.

9               As a nation and state, we are again facing  
10       immense challenges. Millions of Americans are  
11       anxious, worried and angry. As state  
12       legislators, will you take your responsibility  
13       seriously and work to strengthen our political  
14       process by ending the unjust practice of  
15       gerrymandering? Or will you choose to take us  
16       further down the path to despair by destroying  
17       what is left of our representative democracy?  
18       The Boston Tea Party was never about cutting  
19       and avoiding taxes. It was always and only  
20       about the tyranny of being taxed while being  
21       denied representation.

22              You are public servants. What do those  
23       two words mean to you? Are you using the power  
24       and influence of the office you hold to blindly  
25       serve one ideology, one political party? Will

1       you make choices pleasing only to your base?  
2       Will you make decisions which serve only to  
3       further enrich the millionaires and  
4       billionaires and hope for enough crumbs from  
5       their corporate tables --

6               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:   Doctor, we  
7       would like to keep the comments focused on  
8       redistricting, if we could.

9               DR. HEMPING:   -- to buy your reelection?  
10       Or do you believe that being in public office  
11       is a sacred trust with all the people that you  
12       must honor and never break?   Will you rise  
13       above divisive partisan politics and meet your  
14       obligation to present fairly drawn  
15       redistricting reapportionment maps to the  
16       people of Florida in a timely fashion, or will  
17       you behind closed doors collude with cynical,  
18       mean-spirited partisans to draw gerrymandered  
19       district maps that destroy any last hope of the  
20       people for representative democracy, thus  
21       further disenfranchising millions of us  
22       Floridians?

23               Will you find the courage to use  
24       taxpayers' dollars to pay impartial IT  
25       professionals to draw up district maps which

1       are fair, compact and contiguous, or will you  
2       keep spending more millions of taxpayers'  
3       dollars in misguided efforts to undermine the  
4       express will of nearly two-thirds of Florida  
5       voters by fighting Fair Districts Now?

6               When one party gains a super majority in  
7       the State Legislature, you are at risk to act  
8       like the schoolyard bully just because your  
9       numbers are bigger. Like schoolyard bullies,  
10      you can hurt others just because you can.  
11      Gerrymandering is --

12             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Dr. Hemping,  
13      I am going to have to ask you to try to help us  
14      wrap it up here.

15             DR. HEMPING: Sure. I urge you to turn  
16      away from the extremist ideologies. I urge you  
17      to listen to your better angels. Give us fair  
18      reapportionment maps. This is the best and  
19      only way to restore the people's faith and  
20      competence in the Democratic party. You do not  
21      have 160 choices, you have but two. Number  
22      one, either you lift high the lamp that gives  
23      us --

24             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Ms. Hemping,  
25      we are about a minute over. I would really

1           like to ask you to help us wrap it up.

2           DR. HEMPING: -- fair districts, or number  
3           two, slam shut the golden door in our faces by  
4           gerrymandering again. Thank you.

5           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.  
6           And for those -- for those who -- if we run  
7           over, what we will do is if you've got a  
8           written statement, we will take that. It will  
9           go into the record. It will be just as  
10          valuable and utilized as if you had a chance to  
11          speak it out right here into the microphone.  
12          So we will give -- everything that you want to  
13          say will go on the record and will be a part of  
14          the process. We just want to give everybody an  
15          opportunity to speak.

16          Ellie Cantor is next. Ms. Cantor, I don't  
17          know if I gave you enough of a heads-up. I  
18          apologize for that. That is my fault. She is  
19          with the Collier County Democratic Executive  
20          Committee.

21          Following Ms. Cantor, we have Randal Long.  
22          Following Randal Long, we have Joe Russo and  
23          then James Kelly.

24          Ms. Cantor, I'm sorry about that.

25          MS. CANTOR: That is quite all right.

1           Very good, I need it. Thank you, and I am glad  
2           to be here.

3                   I am urging you to adopt a timeline for  
4           redistricting that makes sense for Florida.  
5           Failure to approve the maps in early January of  
6           2012 will assuredly delay final approval of new  
7           districts until close to election day. Vote on  
8           the final plans on the floor by no later than  
9           the end of the first week of session, if you  
10          can do this by Friday, January 13th. The  
11          schedule -- and I won't go into the schedule  
12          for presenting this to the courts. However,  
13          the Legislature does send the plans to the U.S.  
14          Department of Justice, who has 60 days to  
15          review, and if they take all that time, the  
16          districts will be finalized June 18th. The  
17          problem with that is obvious and been stated  
18          before today. We need you to revise your plan.  
19          While this may be presented by June 18th,  
20          candidates, however, must register to run by  
21          June 8th. And so, again, it is an issue of not  
22          knowing what their district is, nor  
23          constituents being well-informed of who their  
24          Representatives are.

25                   I had an opportunity to serve on the New



1        York State Senate Redistricting Committee as a  
2        member of senior staff up in Albany, New York,  
3        and so I really did learn firsthand what  
4        reapportionment means, though our mechanics  
5        were somewhat different a few years ago. I  
6        have lived in Florida now for 20 years, but  
7        while I know that 63 percent of the people  
8        voted for Amendments 5 and 6, our Fair  
9        Districts amendments, which says districts must  
10       be contiguous unless otherwise required, must  
11       be compact, as equal in population as feasible,  
12       and where feasible, must make use of existing  
13       city, county and geographical boundaries, but  
14       what we all know and I learned firsthand by  
15       experience is that the party that is in power  
16       is the one that draws the lines and they have  
17       the final say. And so, as you know, you have  
18       this responsibility, and what I am asking  
19       primarily at this point is to honor a schedule  
20       that will allow for fair districts. Thank you.

21                REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
22       very much. Thank you for your comments.

23                Next we have Randal Long, Mr. Long.  
24       Following Mr. Long is going to be Joseph Russo,  
25       followed by James Kelly and then Jeff

1 Dentinger.

2 MR. LONG: Good morning, panel. I am  
3 Randy Long. I am a citizen of Collier County,  
4 have been here for 13 and a half years. I was  
5 born and raised in Coral Gables, so I know both  
6 sides of the state. I have worked in central  
7 Florida and I have worked in Palm Beach area,  
8 and Broward, and so I have a pretty good sense  
9 of the state.

10 As Mr. Willits said, I think that you have  
11 received a mandate. You have received a clear  
12 picture of what the desire -- I would just ask  
13 you to be bipartisan, to be as a group that  
14 cares for the entire state, no matter what your  
15 particular ideology is, and please represent  
16 Florida in the very best sense. I was so  
17 embarrassed with our Congress and our President  
18 in the whole process that we just experienced  
19 this summer. Our country needs to stand up,  
20 and Florida is the fourth-largest state, we  
21 need to be the leaders in this country. And  
22 please do the right thing for us and for our  
23 country. Be the leaders. Thank you.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you for  
25 those words of inspiration. We appreciate

1           that.

2           Joseph Russo? Is Mr. Russo here? Good to  
3           see you, Joseph. Followed by James Kelly, Jeff  
4           Dentinger and James McDonald.

5           MR. RUSSO: Good morning, Representatives  
6           and Senators. I know you are all thinking, who  
7           is this kid here that is probably the youngest  
8           person to speak today. My name is Joseph  
9           Russo. I am a student at Florida Gulf Coast  
10          University where Professor Bergerson here, one  
11          of the smartest men that I probably know, is  
12          one of my teachers over there and --

13          A VOICE: Suck up, suck up.

14          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: There are no  
15          easy As in his class, I can tell by looking at  
16          him.

17          MR. RUSSO: I got to try, come on.

18          Anyhow, I am here today to speak to you as  
19          somebody that has been politically active since  
20          eight years old when my dad took me out  
21          canvassing in his city council election. I  
22          have been very involved in the political  
23          atmosphere of this state. But I am here mainly  
24          to talk about the southwest Florida region and  
25          its respects to gaining another congressional

1 seat.

2 With over 20 percent growth in the past  
3 ten years, it is quite obvious that southwest  
4 Florida, being one of the fastest growing and  
5 one of the most prestigious areas in our state,  
6 could very well deserve and outright needs  
7 another congressional district. If we look  
8 right now, we have Collier and southern Lee,  
9 and that district that we have, 14 and 13. If  
10 we can look at the maps, we can clearly see  
11 that there is another opportunity to put a  
12 congressional district right between the two.  
13 Personally, I would propose Collier and  
14 southern Lee be linked up in the current  
15 district we have here, and then Manatee and  
16 Sarasota County keep their other district up  
17 there, and we plop District 27, the new seat  
18 that we have gained, right in between in  
19 northern Lee and in Charlotte County. And in  
20 that, we can also group that district with the  
21 interior and the rural counties of Hendry,  
22 Glades and all the others.

23 But I want to again thank you very much  
24 for having this transparent process and  
25 allowing me to come speak here today. I know

1       it is a great opportunity for myself to address  
2       all of you, and thank you very much for being  
3       our representatives and for doing this process  
4       very, very well. Thank you.

5               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
6       very much, Mr. Russo, and good luck in your  
7       political future. I think everybody --  
8       everyone on this Committee, we know young  
9       talent when we see it, so good luck to you,  
10      buddy.

11              Next up we've got James Kelly, and  
12      following Mr. Kelly, Jeff Dentinger and then  
13      James McDonald.

14              Good to see you, sir.

15              MR. KELLY: Thank you very much. I am a  
16      member of the Southwest 9/12 Project, and also  
17      a citizen of the country, although my -- I have  
18      a party and I have affiliations and I have  
19      interests, I am just a citizen speaking about  
20      citizens being represented. So I want to thank  
21      you for being here. I have been in the county  
22      for a few years. I really appreciate your  
23      taking the time. I had a printer malfunction,  
24      so I am reading from an iPhone. I apologize  
25      for that.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:  God bless  
2           technology.

3           MR. KELLY:  I am embarrassed to say it was  
4           a backup.

5           Anyway, this morning I speak about my  
6           feelings towards Amendments 5 and 6.  As I read  
7           these amendments, I realized that they are  
8           actually very open to interpretation because of  
9           so many terms that are not well-defined, and  
10          that gives me great pause.  I don't understand  
11          how the words "practicable," "feasible," can be  
12          interpreted, for instance, meaning -- when  
13          their meaning varies so much from person to  
14          person.  How can you draw maps that will use  
15          lines that seem practical and feasible as our  
16          18 million Floridians who might define those in  
17          their own way?

18          Another one that's been mentioned already  
19          is "compact."  I think words like "compact" are  
20          also fairly relative and they are not  
21          specifically defined in the amendments.  My  
22          question is, is there one standard for  
23          compactness that you all as Representatives and  
24          Senators will use when drawing your new lines?  
25          What is the standard?  I think it is important

1           that you have a specific standard.

2                   Finally, the amendments stated that you  
3           need to follow existing political boundaries.  
4           They don't specify what those boundaries are.  
5           Are they city boundaries, are they existing  
6           state -- lines in State House, State Senate,  
7           congressional districts? Or are they  
8           census-designated places like Naples Park and  
9           Lely?

10                   My point in raising these questions is  
11           that the open-endedness of these amendments  
12           will most likely mean that tax dollars will be  
13           spent on endless lawsuits over whatever maps  
14           are drawn. I don't want -- I don't want that,  
15           and I don't want judges to draw the maps. I  
16           want you to draw the maps. While this process  
17           may be -- while this process may be a sincere  
18           attempt to get the maps drawn without the court  
19           system, I haven't heard a clear explanation --  
20           hopefully, I will -- of what you are doing to  
21           prevent that. Is there a clear objective  
22           standard that you are aiming that, if achieved,  
23           will show overwhelming evidence that the  
24           Legislature has met the standard required by  
25           both state and federal law?

1           A couple of comments that I would like to  
2       make is there's two young gentlemen that stood  
3       up today who were the youngest speakers, and  
4       they make the most sense because they speak  
5       common sense. And I think that is something  
6       that we can all grab ahold of as left and  
7       right, whatever party we have, you know, that's  
8       the way it is. I think as citizens of the  
9       U.S., that is what makes us great. However,  
10      elections do have consequences, and that is for  
11      the majority and the minority. I lived in  
12      Texas when the minority moved to Oklahoma to  
13      avoid this process. I'd like a show of hands  
14      from the minority who say they won't do that.  
15      No, I'm sorry, I am just trying to make light.

16           Anyway -- and I would also like to echo  
17      one more comment --

18           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: It is a long  
19      ride to Georgia from here.

20           MR. KELLY: Did I say Georgia? I mean  
21      Texas anyway. Oh, no, you're right, it is  
22      Oklahoma, Georgia. Okay. I am from Georgia,  
23      you threw me off.

24           Anyway, the last thing I would like to say  
25      is there's a person that has been mentioned on



1 both sides of the issue, and that is our  
2 Supervisor of Elections, outstanding. She is  
3 -- I think she would be a great asset to you  
4 guys in your deliberations. So thank you for  
5 being here and thank you for --

6 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
7 sir, thanks for your comments.

8 Next we have Jeff Dentinger. Mr.  
9 Dentinger, I hope I said your last name right  
10 there, sir. Thanks for being here. And then  
11 we have James McDonald and then Ms. Linda  
12 McDonald, and if I was James McDonald, I would  
13 at least offer Ms. Linda the opportunity to go  
14 first, and then Mary Kniaz, I believe. I hope  
15 I said that right.

16 You are recognized, sir.

17 MR. DENTINGER: Hi, legislative members.  
18 My name is Jeff Dentinger, and I have two  
19 suggestions for priorities on redistricting.  
20 One is military. We are in a financial crisis.  
21 To protect our state sovereignty, we need  
22 independence. To supply our fuel needs for the  
23 military and our people, I suggest making an  
24 environment for corporate refining of oil. Any  
25 area willing to build a refinery should be --

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:  Sir, these  
2           are -- I hope -- is this going to be focused on  
3           redistricting?  Okay, good.

4           MR. DENTINGER:  -- northwest Florida.

5           Two, education.  This year, budget  
6           appropriations for education come down to a  
7           midnight meeting in the Capitol.  Resulting  
8           education funding for graduate studies was  
9           increased, and undergraduate studies was  
10          decreased.

11          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:  Mr.  
12          Dentinger, I don't like to ever interrupt  
13          anybody speaking, but this hearing is about  
14          redistricting and not about -- there's a lot of  
15          town hall meetings and opportunities to talk  
16          about education and oil and everything else.  
17          We would like to --

18          MR. DENTINGER:  If you could come down --  
19          if it comes down to making a decision about a  
20          district, if you could lean towards public  
21          schools, I would appreciate it.  If you could  
22          have a little bit of mandering towards public  
23          schools, that would be fine, just no  
24          gerrymandering.  Thank you.

25          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:  Okay.  Thank

1           you very much, sir. We appreciate that.

2           Next up we have Mr. James McDonald.

3           MR. McDONALD: I yield to the Chair's  
4 wisdom and send my wife.

5           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You are a  
6 smart man, Mr. McDonald.

7           MS. McDONALD: You know, I used to be  
8 tall.

9           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Ms. McDonald,  
10 it is great to see you. Thank you for being  
11 here, and your husband is one smart man.

12          MR. McDONALD: Yes, he is.

13          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You are  
14 recognized to speak.

15          MS. McDONALD: Thank you. My name is  
16 Linda McDonald. I am here representing mostly  
17 myself. Wait, you can't have that. We have to  
18 know who you are. However, I am also the Chair  
19 of Collier TIGER, which is Together in  
20 Government and Education Reform, and represents  
21 the teachers and non-instructional personnel in  
22 the public school here in Collier County.

23          First of all, the teachers weren't too  
24 thrilled about the timing of this, but since I  
25 retired last year after 40 years, I am here.

1           So my big concern is we all know Democrats  
2           and Republicans throughout our history have  
3           done gerrymandering. The people of Florida  
4           just voted and said stop. All of us said stop.  
5           So that is what we need to do, we need to have  
6           fair and -- oh, my goodness, I don't envy you  
7           this job, because I looked at that and I  
8           thought, oh, it is -- you know, it is not an  
9           easy job. So nobody in their right mind is  
10          going to expect it to be perfect for everyone.  
11          Please, what we are asking is that you do it as  
12          fairly as you can.

13                 Now, I happen to personally know a  
14          Republican on this group that I know is a fair  
15          man, because I grew up -- helped his kids grow  
16          up in our church. Yes, that would be the  
17          Senator, Mr. Richter, who does still live here  
18          as far as I know. Did you move? Thank you.

19                 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Now, did you  
20          say fair? Isn't he a banker? I am just  
21          kidding, I am just kidding. We love Senator  
22          Richter.

23                 MS. McDONALD: He is a banker, he is a  
24          banker, but he is really a good man. So this I  
25          know personally, not politically, I don't know,

1 but, yeah, I pretty much do. He is a good  
2 human being and he will be fair.

3 All I am asking is that the rest of you  
4 please remember that we're not asking you to be  
5 perfect. We are asking you to give it your  
6 best shot, to not think, oh, wait, if I go in  
7 there, I will get more Republican votes, or if  
8 I go in there, I will get more Democratic  
9 votes. Whatever side you are on, please -- I  
10 live in District 101. The people in Broward  
11 really don't have all the same, yeah, problems  
12 or concerns that I have here. So I would like  
13 to not have 101 include half of the coast, and  
14 a lot of people have said that.

15 And I also just have to say how incredibly  
16 wonderful Jennifer Edwards is and the work she  
17 has done for this community. Thank you.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.  
19 And, Ms. McDonald, we have to agree with you  
20 that Senator Richter is a good man, and much  
21 like Mr. McDonald, the reason he is a good man  
22 is because he married way up, so he is a  
23 good --

24 MR. McDONALD: Thank you, I appreciate  
25 that.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You are  
2 welcome, sir. You are recognized.

3           MR. McDONALD: I appreciate that. I came  
4 with 12 pages of notes today, and I am down to  
5 this. So everything that I felt I needed to  
6 say today has been said, except I want to echo  
7 the welcome and appreciation to all of you for  
8 being here. It is very impressive that you  
9 would travel across the state, down the state,  
10 up Airport Road, to be here today and to hear  
11 what we have to say. I may not have voted for  
12 many of you, but I respect the offices that you  
13 hold and I accept the will of the people who  
14 elected you to office, feeling that you were  
15 the best candidates to represent all of us, not  
16 just Republicans who may have put you in office  
17 or Democrats who may have put you in office,  
18 but all of us. I accept that and I respect you  
19 for being in that position.

20           And I ask today that you respect the voice  
21 of the people who supported Amendments 5 and 6,  
22 that said, you know, 200 years of  
23 gerrymandering, we're tired of it, let's go  
24 ahead and clean it up and do it right. So I  
25 ask you to do that. Thank you very much.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
2 very much, sir. We appreciate those comments.

3           Next up we have Mary --

4           MS. KNIAZ: Kniaz.

5           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: -- Kniaz.  
6 Thank you very much. I'm sorry, I was  
7 struggling with that.

8           After Ms. Kniaz, we have Lydia Galton.  
9 Following Ms. Galton, we have Douglas Wilson  
10 and then Doug Fee.

11          You are recognized, ma'am.

12          MS. KNIAZ: Hi. My name is Mary Kniaz. I  
13 am a new Florida resident. I currently live in  
14 Lely Resort, plan to stay there the rest of my  
15 life. I was really surprised, as were my  
16 neighbors who spoke here earlier today, to  
17 discover that I was represented by a  
18 Congressman whose office is on the other side  
19 of the district, and whose district extends way  
20 over to Miami. I moved to Naples because I  
21 thought Naples was wonderful, and I don't think  
22 it has a lot in common with Miami.

23          Lely Resort is comprised entirely in  
24 precinct 155. Right next door to us is  
25 precinct 157, which I think is a majority

1       Hispanic community, and that is the reason that  
2       Lely has been cut off and put all the way over  
3       with Miami in a congressional district. We are  
4       represented by Kathleen Passidomo and by  
5       Senator Richter, and actually there are two  
6       senatorial districts in Lely Resort, I believe,  
7       divided by Wildflower Drive.

8               I am here to ask that Lely Resort be  
9       placed in one congressional district, in the  
10      congressional district that covers the rest of  
11      Naples with whom we have a common newspaper,  
12      common beaches, common banks, common businesses  
13      and just a common sense of community. We have  
14      nothing whatever in common with Hialeah or  
15      Miami. So I would ask that if you feel that  
16      you need to put precinct 157 in with what is  
17      considered to be a community of interest,  
18      perhaps a Hispanic community of interest,  
19      although I don't quite get that, because  
20      precinct 157, I believe, is majority Mexican  
21      Hispanic, whereas Miami is Cuban Hispanic, and  
22      it is kind of like saying Brazil and Portugal  
23      should elect the same Representatives, that  
24      they have more in common than they do with  
25      their immediate neighbors, but if you feel that



1           it is necessary to cut out that one  
2           neighborhood and put it with -- as it is now I  
3           think in Representative Nuñez' District, go  
4           ahead and do that, but Lely Resort belongs in  
5           Naples, and I would ask that you put it in a  
6           Naples congressional district. Thanks.

7           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
8           very much.

9           Next we have Ms. Lydia Galton with the  
10          League of Women Voters of Collier County,  
11          followed by Douglas Wilson, Doug Fee and then  
12          Scott Duval.

13          MS. GALTON: Good morning, legislators. I  
14          just want to assure you that I am not here to  
15          criticize your committee. I just -- as the  
16          President of the League of Women Voters of  
17          Collier County, I want to make some suggestions  
18          to you to make the process better.

19          The timeline that you have currently  
20          published is really unrealistic. As our  
21          Supervisor of Elections has already pointed  
22          out, she will be unable to mail absentee  
23          ballots by September 21, because the courts  
24          could still be hearing redistricting  
25          challenges. Your timeline gives candidates for

1 office insufficient time to qualify by  
2 June 8th. The districts could still be in the  
3 courts, and the challengers won't even know  
4 whether they live in the districts, so how in  
5 the world could they run?

6 Very importantly, your timeline gives the  
7 electorate very little time for review. You  
8 have to -- your maps won't be unveiled, as you  
9 currently plan it, till late in January, and we  
10 will have very little time to comment on it.

11 You are charged by the Constitution to  
12 create these maps, and you are charged by  
13 Amendments 5 and 6 to create them in accordance  
14 with the rules of those amendments. So I urge  
15 you, please, file all your maps by October 3rd.  
16 Make them available to the electorate so that  
17 we can comment on them, whether you do this  
18 electronically or any other way, but make them  
19 available to us. Hold the floor vote on the  
20 legislative districts on January 13th. As you  
21 very well know, the congressional districts  
22 could be drawn today and voted on tomorrow if  
23 you wanted to.

24 On election day 2012, the Department of  
25 Justice could still be reviewing totally drawn

1 districts. If so, can you assure me that our  
2 votes will count? Will we let the United  
3 States Supreme Court decide another  
4 presidential election because of the sloppiness  
5 of Florida's legislators? Let's not be fodder  
6 for Saturday Night Live. Thank you.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
8 very much. And, Ms. Galton, I hope -- I know  
9 you probably plan on sticking to the end. I  
10 think you bring up some great points, and I  
11 know that Senator Gaetz is taking copious  
12 notes, he's probably got seven pages of notes  
13 already, and he will address some of the very  
14 questions you asked, so thank you.

15 MS. GALTON: Thank you very much.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes, ma'am,  
17 thank you.

18 Next up we have Doug Wilson with the ACLU,  
19 thank you very much for being here, Mr. Wilson,  
20 followed by Doug Fee, Scott Duval and then  
21 Peter Simmons.

22 MR. WILSON: Good morning. It is a  
23 pleasure to be here.

24 I would like to say at the outset that I  
25 listened carefully to Senator Gaetz' opening

1        remarks, and I was very gratified by what I  
2        heard. Others have expressed and you all have  
3        received a letter from several leading  
4        organizations of the Fair District coalition  
5        which expressed concern about the timeline.  
6        Senator Gaetz said in considerable detail that  
7        it was his commitment to ensure that the  
8        timeline would be moved as far back towards the  
9        present as possible in order to respond to  
10       those concerns. And, Senator, if you are able  
11       to deliver on that, you will have earned our  
12       gratitude and our respect, and I thank you for  
13       that.

14                The -- of course, Amendments 5 and 6 were  
15       about gerrymandering, and Steve Hemping has  
16       spoken eloquently and with statistics about the  
17       evils of that. And what he didn't say was that  
18       the way that it works is that gerrymandering  
19       seeks to spread out the votes of the majority  
20       over a lot of districts and concentrate the  
21       minority in a few districts, and that is how,  
22       in a state with a five to four preponderance of  
23       one party over the other, it is the minority in  
24       registration which has two-thirds of the  
25       electoral districts. Well, there is the Tea

1 Party influence in the last election, yeah, the  
2 majority did a great job of selling in some  
3 districts that they might not otherwise have  
4 won. But this is an evil that is against our  
5 democracy. It is an evil that has been  
6 practiced by both parties, this is not a  
7 partisan thing. And it is something that will  
8 be remedied by observing and following in good  
9 faith Amendments 5 and 6.

10 In that regard, I want to mention  
11 something else. These amendments are not new  
12 and strange and radical. I was at the Collier  
13 County redistricting hearing just Monday night  
14 on our own local county redistricting process.  
15 Amendments 5 and 6 don't cover county  
16 redistricting, but the criteria the County  
17 staff displayed were almost verbatim with  
18 Amendments 5 and 6. And what they explained  
19 was that these concepts are common in every  
20 jurisdiction in the country -- almost every --  
21 that has seemed to eliminate gerrymandering.  
22 These are not something radical that you are  
23 going to have to really cope with. There is a  
24 large body of experience in the country in how  
25 to implement that, and all we ask is that you

1       proceed to do that in good faith, and in  
2       that -- in so doing, you will fulfill the  
3       promise that democracy gives us all, and that  
4       is that the majority does rule and that the  
5       public has fair input into that process.

6               Now, as an ACLU person, we will be  
7       watching, and the districts -- the maps that  
8       you draw will be -- and I want to say this to  
9       you, I completely support the idea of multiple  
10      maps. Our County staff had five of them, they  
11      were discussed at length, they presented  
12      various options, and the fact that you present  
13      multiple maps will indicate a good faith  
14      attempt to look at different solutions in  
15      applying these criteria. That itself will be  
16      evidence of your good faith. And the --

17             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Help me --  
18      help me wrap it up, sir. I don't want to  
19      interrupt you, but --

20             MR. WILSON: All right. I have delivered  
21      my message the best I can, and I thank you for  
22      your attention.

23             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
24      very much.

25             Okay. Next we have Mr. Doug Fee. Is Doug

1       here? Thank you, sir, thank you, and you are  
2       just trying to steal those bonus points, right,  
3       to be the quickest. We know what you are  
4       doing, great job. No, thank you very much for  
5       being here, Mr. Fee, we appreciate it.

6               And after Mr. Fee, we've got Scott Duval.  
7       Mr. Duval, thanks for being here. Peter  
8       Simmons is after Scott, and then Roger Brown  
9       and Ms. Sandra Brown, and we will let them  
10      figure out which order they want to come in.

11             MR. DUVAL: Good morning. My name is  
12      Scott Duval. I am a resident of Collier  
13      County, but I am also here as a member of the  
14      Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce  
15      Government Affairs Committee, and I can't make  
16      the meeting tonight in Lehigh Acres, so I am  
17      here to offer my preemptive approval of the  
18      maps that are going to be submitted this  
19      evening by the City of Bonita Springs.

20             One of our main issues is the bifurcation  
21      of the city of Bonita Springs. This happens  
22      with just the odd boundaries that are present  
23      in Collier County as well, the very odd  
24      boundary of House District 112, House District  
25      75, and then the Florida Senate District 27 and

1       37 are the districts that bifurcate the city of  
2       Bonita Springs. So we just ask for you to use  
3       wisdom in coming up with fair and logical  
4       boundaries, using political subdivisions or  
5       geographic boundaries, not man-made boundaries  
6       like I-75.

7               So thank you very much for your time.  
8       Really appreciate all of your efforts, and God  
9       bless your efforts.

10              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
11              very much, Mr. Duval.

12              Next we have Mr. Peter Simmons with the  
13              Simmons Group, and then Roger Brown, Ms. Sandra  
14              Brown, and then we've got former  
15              Representative, Mr. Dudley Goodlette.

16              MR. SIMMONS: Good morning. My comments  
17              are brief as well. Peter Simmons from Bonita  
18              Springs, and I would concur with the last  
19              comments just made here to keep Bonita Springs  
20              intact, and also, what a nice problem that  
21              Florida has, we are actually gaining  
22              representation in the United States Congress.  
23              Many of the communities up north and states up  
24              north and other places don't have that luxury.  
25              They are trying to figure out how to draw



1 districts with less representation, so I  
2 applaud all of your efforts.

3 We -- what won't change are the state  
4 districts, that number will not change, but in  
5 the congressional representation, I also urge  
6 expanded representation for southwest Florida.  
7 Applaud your efforts, I know you have been  
8 around the state, and I would applaud everybody  
9 that is here and involved to realize this is  
10 not the end of the process, this is the  
11 beginning of the process, it will continue in  
12 Tallahassee and please keep up the good fight.  
13 Thank you very much.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.  
15 We have Mr. Roger Brown.

16 MR. BROWN: (Inaudible) support it.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.  
18 He said supports Ms. Edwards' presentation in  
19 the beginning. You are another proud member of  
20 the Jennifer Edwards fan club, which I am  
21 noticing is quite large here in Collier County,  
22 so -- great job.

23 Now, Ms. Sandra Brown, are you also a card  
24 carrying member of the club? Would you like to  
25 speak? Great, her comments has been covered,

1           very nice. Thank you very much.

2           Now we would like to turn it over to  
3           former Representative Dudley Goodlette. Mr.  
4           Goodlette is, in my opinion -- and this is just  
5           my opinion, I won't speak for the whole  
6           Committee, but when I think of former statesmen  
7           in the Legislature, I think of Dudley  
8           Goodlette. He was a great leader for the State  
9           of Florida, so thank you.

10           MR. GOODLETTE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
11           Thank you for reducing the size of the mike  
12           here too. I will be short.

13           First of all, let me say welcome to many  
14           of you -- many of you I have had the pleasure  
15           of working with or working for when I was in  
16           the Speaker's office, and I applaud you for  
17           your public service. I also want to just sort  
18           of focus for a couple of minutes on what -- on  
19           the important constitutional issues that you  
20           are about in this redistricting and  
21           reapportionment process.

22           Obviously, reapportionment springs from  
23           our founding fathers. I would urge you to read  
24           Federalist Paper No. 58, written by James  
25           Madison in February of 1788, 223 years ago, and

1       he spoke and underscored the importance of the  
2       census and the periodic review and  
3       reapportioning districts to ensure  
4       representation in this representative democracy  
5       that we are so proud of.

6               I would also in that vein like to  
7       congratulate your staffs. I think that the  
8       letter that you -- that was sent to the  
9       Department of Justice on March the 29th of this  
10      year outlining some of the issues that need to  
11      be dealt with, particularly for counties like  
12      Collier that are in pre-clearance counties,  
13      that has been alluded to before and I won't  
14      take anymore of my time to dwell on those  
15      issues, but it was -- the letter from your  
16      staff was very well stated, the issues were  
17      very thorough, and particularly as it relates  
18      to the subject of retrogression. And I know  
19      Congressman Diaz-Balart addressed this group  
20      and spoke about that, and I applaud his  
21      thoughts, and I know that you are going to be  
22      deliberate in that process.

23             And, finally, I would like to say that I  
24      do applaud and I think that they're the  
25      laudable goals in the passage of Amendments 5

1       and 6, and I do think that it does make the  
2       challenge that you face a little bit more  
3       difficult than the challenge we faced ten years  
4       ago when I was sitting in -- privileged to sit  
5       in one of the seats that you are occupying now.  
6       But I would urge that the proponents,  
7       successful as they were, 63 percent of the  
8       people in Florida voted for those amendments,  
9       and I think that was a strong message, I would  
10      suggest that -- and hope that the proponents of  
11      that -- and my good friend, Dan Gelber, their  
12      counsel, would offer up to you some guidelines  
13      for clarification as to what the intent of the  
14      drafters of that language might have been, and  
15      I think -- I think that they can do that and I  
16      am confident that they will do that.

17             And, finally, I would just want to wish  
18      all of you well. I know that, as just  
19      indicated, this process is evolving. It will  
20      conclude -- it will begin to conclude when you  
21      are in the committee meetings beginning next  
22      month and the legislative session that begins  
23      on January the 10th. We are very fortunate to  
24      have a quality representation from southwest  
25      Florida, and I know because of my years in

1 Tallahassee that the representation from around  
2 this state is outstanding.

3 Thanks to each one of you. Thank you very  
4 much, Mr. Chairman.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
6 very much, Representative. Always good to see  
7 you, and please give Mrs. Goodlette our best.

8 Next up we have -- I'm sorry, I kind of  
9 blew through that because we had some folks who  
10 didn't speak, I did not give you enough time  
11 here, but Gregory Gargan. Gregory, are you  
12 here, sir? Thank you very much for being here,  
13 you are next. And following that, we have  
14 Ms. Marlene Gargan. So we have Gregory and  
15 Marlene, and we will let y'all decide who wants  
16 to go first, and then following the Gargans, we  
17 have Colleen MacAlister and then Jasper Medici.

18 Mr. Gargan.

19 MR. GARGAN: Thank you all. Thanks for  
20 being here. Welcome to Collier County and  
21 Naples. My name is Greg Gargan. I am a  
22 resident of Naples and a six-year resident of  
23 Florida.

24 I would like to start by saying I am both  
25 discouraged and encouraged when I come here. I

1       was originally discouraged because I saw the  
2       original or the current Florida legislative  
3       district map, and after seeing that, I know why  
4       the Fair Districts amendment passed by nearly a  
5       two-thirds approval vote.

6               However, I am encouraged also and a little  
7       spoiled -- first of all, I am encouraged by  
8       your presence here. I didn't realize I would  
9       be addressing the whole group. This is like a  
10      joint member of -- you know, a joint session of  
11      Congress I am talking to here, and I appreciate  
12      that and the openness of this exchange. But I  
13      am also encouraged and spoiled because of the  
14      fine job done by the Collier County  
15      redistricting team who drew and presented  
16      options for the Collier County Commissioners'  
17      districts and school board districts this past  
18      week, and I only hope that those drawing the  
19      state districts are as unbiased and talented.

20             Now, I realize you are here to listen, and  
21      in some respects you are just the messengers.  
22      So please be aware that none of my remarks are  
23      directed toward any of you personally. If they  
24      are perceived as negative, it is not my  
25      intention. They are meant to be constructive

1       and to illustrate a point. And I apologize,  
2       because I have some redundancy in my  
3       presentation, but I have to go that route even  
4       though some of my remarks might have been said  
5       before.

6               Now, I am fairly -- I have a fairly strong  
7       sense that you have a fair idea of the meaning  
8       of "fair districts" in the Fair District  
9       amendments, but I would like to go over a  
10      couple of the elements intrinsic to those  
11      amendments just on to make sure that we are on  
12      the same page. As a help in communication, I  
13      have also prepared some visual aides to assist  
14      in overall understanding. These are  
15      technically old.

16             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: May we get  
17      somebody to help out Mr. Gargan there? We've  
18      got about 23 speakers to go after you, so I  
19      don't want to rush you, but we have to kind of  
20      stay on the timeline, so --

21             MR. GARGAN: Okay. I can just hold -- I  
22      can just hold these up.

23             "Contiguous," it is a big word that in  
24      this context refers to how two or more parts of  
25      a district are joined together. I don't think

1 we should have a problem with that, but bear  
2 with me.

3 Joining sections A and B of this district  
4 makes them contiguous if they are joined like  
5 this, with a fairly long common boundary. Next  
6 slide. Joining sections A and B in this  
7 district makes them non-contiguous, or not  
8 contiguous. Fair Districts requires contiguous  
9 boundaries, and the current map is why I am a  
10 little upset about it and why I bring this  
11 point up. We should stay with contiguous.

12 Now, I know that there are many  
13 constraints, the boundaries -- besides  
14 boundaries being contiguous, things like  
15 boundaries must contain the exact correct  
16 population count, boundaries should be natural  
17 boundaries when appropriate, et cetera, et  
18 cetera.

19 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Gargan,  
20 we are -- I don't want to rush you. We are  
21 familiar with a lot of these terms, and I don't  
22 want to interrupt you, but everybody's got to  
23 get a chance to speak, and we are going to be  
24 very tight to getting to the very end, so  
25 please kind of get to it.



1           MR. GARGAN:   Okay.   Once you have drawn  
2           the boundaries, I want you to step back and  
3           take a look at the silhouettes of those  
4           boundaries, okay, like you did when you were a  
5           kid and laid in the grass, looked up at the sky  
6           and saw the cloud formations, okay, you see the  
7           silhouettes, that looks like George  
8           Washington's profile, whatever.   Well, if what  
9           you have drawn, if the silhouettes look  
10          anything like these, okay, a kitchen utensil --

11          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:   Mr. Gargan, I  
12          think we get your point, and I hear it loud and  
13          clear, I think everybody does, and what we will  
14          do is we will find a way to put those out so  
15          that as everyone is leaving today, they can  
16          look at each and every one, but I want to give  
17          your wife an opportunity to speak and the other  
18          23 people behind you.

19          MR. GARGAN:   Okay.

20          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:   But your  
21          point is well taken, sir, I can assure you.

22          MR. GARGAN:   I would recommend sticking  
23          with some basics.

24          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:   With that.

25          MR. GARGAN:   Yeah, where at all possible.

1 I know that is not possible.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: We get it.

3 Thank you very much.

4 MR. GARGAN: These -- these -- things like  
5 these --

6 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Gargan, I  
7 got to keep moving, sir, I'm sorry.

8 MR. GARGAN: I am coming to a close.

9 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You are way  
10 over. You are way over by two minutes, I'm  
11 sorry.

12 MR. GARGAN: Really?

13 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes, you had  
14 a great presentation, it was very entertaining  
15 and I didn't want to interrupt it because of  
16 the slides, but we've got to move forward out  
17 of respect to the 23 people who have not had a  
18 chance to speak yet. We've got to keep going.

19 Ms. Gargan, you are recognized. If you  
20 want to finish his presentation for him, you  
21 are welcome to do so.

22 MS. GARGAN: I had thought of that, but I  
23 have to speak -- I am Marlene Gargan. Most  
24 everybody calls me Mickey. I do have to speak  
25 as a representative, the Chairperson of the

1 Collier County Democratic Party.

2 I reiterate everything Jennifer Edwards  
3 said. She has got to be the -- among the top,  
4 fairest, most transparent Supervisor of  
5 Elections ever. She is just really helpful to  
6 everybody.

7 It is important to move that timeline up.  
8 It is unfair to have the maps drawn after the  
9 date that the people have to declare candidacy.

10 The east-west boundary districts just do  
11 not give proper representation. Again, Miami  
12 and Dade County do not have the same economic  
13 values, population statistics, everything, as  
14 just -- it is too diverse. It needs to be --  
15 we need to have a Collier County district.

16 There is also a need to -- for you to  
17 encourage the state party leaders, the state  
18 leaders, to not spend anymore money fighting  
19 Fair Districts Florida. If trends need to be  
20 more logical or more spelled out, then do that,  
21 but stop spending the taxpayers' money for  
22 that. And, again, do use districts 5 and 6 in  
23 good faith requirements.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

25 Okay. Yes, ma'am, thank you, we are honored to

1 be here.

2 Next up we have Colleen MacAlister  
3 Ms. MacAlister, who is on her way down. Next  
4 after Ms. MacAlister, we have Jasper Medici,  
5 John McCullough, and Francis Schwerin.

6 You are recognized.

7 MS. MacALISTER: I had waived, but since  
8 you called me, I will just reiterate what has  
9 been said by so many people about the timeline,  
10 I think it is a concern. I consider open and  
11 transparent to be open and transparent with  
12 respect to the maps as well, and I would hope  
13 that this Committee would figure out a way --  
14 and the League seemed to indicate that on-line  
15 was okay. On-line is not okay for everybody.  
16 I would hope that you would invite this kind of  
17 comment after you have the maps, I would hope  
18 that you would have some alternatives for us to  
19 look at, and even if you have to combine some  
20 of these hearings so that we travel 30 minutes,  
21 that is okay. I would just like your timeline  
22 to include the open and transparent review and  
23 discussion of the maps. Thank you.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

25 Jasper Medici. Mr. Medici, thank you for

1           being here, sir. I hope I said that name  
2           right, and then John McCullough, Francis  
3           Schwerin, or Schwinn, and then John Sorey, I  
4           think is what it is, from the City of Naples.  
5           I hope -- I am not sure I got that right. But  
6           you are recognized, Mr. Medici.

7           MR. MEDICI: Okay. The name is Jasper  
8           Medici.

9           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Medici.

10          MR. MEDICI: Medici.

11          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes, sir.

12          MR. MEDICI: Like the Medicis over in  
13          Italy.

14          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes.

15          MR. MEDICI: Okay. Thank you for coming  
16          to Naples. I appreciate the opportunity to  
17          talk to you. I am a resident in Collier  
18          County, I have been here two years. I have  
19          been coming down here for about 15 or 16 years,  
20          visiting a friend of mine who I have known  
21          since the third grade, about 76 years now, so  
22          we are pretty good friends, and I know Collier  
23          County and Naples since then.

24                 I know you have heard a lot about the Fair  
25          Districts amendments on your listening tour.

1       You have heard from many people who want you to  
2       follow city boundaries so that communities  
3       won't be split up, so that districts will be  
4       compact. However, I wanted to point something  
5       out to you. Have you taken a look at many of  
6       the city boundaries across the state? If you  
7       look at these municipal lines, you will see  
8       what the problem is. They are not compact.  
9       Sometimes they are barely contiguous. How will  
10      you follow Amendments 5 and 6, which tell you  
11      to make compact districts, that use things like  
12      municipal boundaries when these boundaries  
13      themselves aren't compact? Districts will look  
14      bizarre if you do that, and many times will be  
15      neither contiguous nor compact. I am not sure  
16      you will be able to follow the Fair Districts  
17      amendments under circumstances like this. This  
18      is just one of the problems with the  
19      amendments.

20           The amendments say you can follow existing  
21      political boundaries, but doesn't specify what  
22      those are. I don't know if these -- those  
23      refer to a line such as census-designated  
24      places or current state legislative district  
25      lines, or if there are some other form of lines

1       you could choose to follow, because the  
2       amendments just don't clarify what you are  
3       referring to. I hope you will be able to draw  
4       these maps that will benefit the state for the  
5       next decade. Thank you.

6               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
7       sir. Mr. Medici, thank you very much. We  
8       appreciate that.

9               Next up we have John McCullough,  
10       Mr. McCullough here. After Mr. McCullough, we  
11       have Francis Schwinn, Schwerin -- Schwerin, I'm  
12       sorry about that, and then John Sorey, the  
13       Councilman from City of Naples, and you are  
14       recognized, sir, thank you.

15              MR. McCULLOUGH: John McCullough, citizen,  
16       Florida native, Ocala, West Palm Beach, Collier  
17       County. I have also lived across America. I  
18       came through Florida's segregated schools, and  
19       you have no idea how proud I am to see so many  
20       people of our minorities join us up here. It  
21       is a wonderful growth to see.

22              The Constitution does not mention  
23       political parties or special interest. The  
24       republic charges you to be responsible to the  
25       people, not to the parties. I think those are

1           very important.

2           I have come through the gerrymandering of  
3           the state of Florida, and it has been a total  
4           insult to the intelligence of mankind to see  
5           what our legislators have done to us. So  
6           finally we have these amendments that have been  
7           passed. Now is the time for you to prove  
8           yourselves. I look at the maps that we have in  
9           the back, and I still see in the major  
10          population areas some very, very strange  
11          configurations. Now, I think the people of the  
12          state of Florida have matured enough so that we  
13          can take care of our whites, our blacks, our  
14          Latinos.

15          So please keep that in mind. We do not  
16          need this gerrymandering. We need the shapes  
17          that the people of Florida voted for. Thank  
18          you.

19          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
20          very much.

21          We have Francis -- there we go --

22          MR. SCHWERIN: Frank.

23          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Frank, okay,  
24          that's true, sorry about that. I'm sorry I was  
25          butchering your last name there, too, I



1 apologize.

2 MR. SCHWERIN: That is --

3 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Good to see  
4 you, and after Frank, we've got John Sorey and  
5 Tom Menaker and then Ray Lenardson. Good to  
6 see you, Frank.

7 MR. SCHWERIN: I just want to thank you  
8 for coming, Mr. Chairman and Senator, and also  
9 Garrett and our own Representatives and  
10 Representative Nuñez. I would just like to say  
11 that this is an open, transparent process. I  
12 want to commend you for your strong advocacy of  
13 Amendments 5 and 6, and that you are going to  
14 be -- not advocacy, but your pledge to adhere  
15 to that -- those two amendments that were  
16 overwhelmingly passed by the population.

17 I just want to give us a brief history  
18 lesson. I sort of feel like this is student  
19 government. And the reason I say that is we  
20 can all talk like this, we have all our input,  
21 but really what happens is that there is  
22 judicial review and there is review by the  
23 Florida Supreme Court and that then they get  
24 reviewed by the Justice Department. So  
25 whatever we decide in all the hours and months

1 of testimony will be compressed in very short  
2 weeks. And so the Amendment 5 and 6 have had  
3 the paradoxical effect of reducing public  
4 input, because the judges could just -- could  
5 just outline their own district, and how much  
6 time are we going to have to testify or how  
7 many people will testify.

8 Now a history lesson. We are one of five  
9 counties. Why is that? Why in 2011 do we  
10 still adhere to a 1964 Voting Rights Act? And  
11 I just want to remind everyone that back then,  
12 Collier County had 20,000 residents, it was  
13 100 percent Democrat, we were a Confederate  
14 state, we had segregated schools. We are now  
15 living the -- we are now living a remedy for a  
16 problem that existed under Democrat rule, under  
17 the Confederacy, now 50 years later. We need  
18 to change that. But since we have to adhere to  
19 that, I am calling it student government.

20 So please do your best, but I understand  
21 whatever you do may just be totally torn up and  
22 shredded by the five or six judges that are  
23 going to look at it. So thank you very much.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

25 Councilman Sorey, thank you for being

1       here, sir, and thank you for your patience.  
2       After the councilman, we will have Tom Menaker,  
3       Roy Lenardson and Charles Van Meter.

4               COUNCILMAN SOREY: Thank you,  
5       Mr. Chairman, and thank you for being here and  
6       thank you for taking your time out of your  
7       schedule to go around the state and listen to  
8       our citizens.

9               I am here today to speaking on myself, not  
10       as a member of city council, because we haven't  
11       taken a position on that yet, and one of the  
12       things, Mr. Chairman, that I learned from the  
13       private side is to be brief and not repeat  
14       what's already been said, but just three or  
15       four quick things.

16              Number one, I think it is very clear, the  
17       citizens here, how they feel about certain  
18       things. Amendment 5 and 6, you are going to  
19       have to have the wisdom of Solomon to decide  
20       how to take those nine variables and make  
21       districts. I am a big fan of Jennifer Edwards  
22       and what she has done as far as our voting. I  
23       have served on the canvassing board, and I know  
24       how dedicated we are to be sure all our  
25       citizens are properly represented. A number of

1 items that we have talked about as far as the  
2 way we redistrict, I support the chamber  
3 process as far as trying to get all of Collier  
4 County properly drawn.

5 So I thank you for being here and thank  
6 you for all of our citizens and for this  
7 process.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Councilman,  
9 thank you, sir, and thank you for the service  
10 to this community and our state.

11 Next we have Tom Menaker. Is Tom here?

12 MR. MENAKER: My concerns have been well  
13 expressed, and I pass.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
15 very much. We appreciate that.

16 Next we have Roy Lenardson, Mr. Lenardson,  
17 and after Mr. Lenardson, we have Charles Van  
18 Meter, followed by Vi Steffan.

19 MR. LENARDSON: Thank you very much.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Vi, I'm  
21 sorry. You should have told me that two hours  
22 ago. I would have got it right then.

23 MR. LENARDSON: My name is Roy Lenardson,  
24 and I live in eastern Collier County, actually  
25 in Florida's newest community, in Ava Maria.

1           I think you have been handed a tremendous  
2       problem. I agree with many of the things that  
3       I heard. However, words like "compact,"  
4       "feasible" and "practical" are being presented  
5       as the Holy Grail. I really think they are a  
6       meal ticket for lawyers and partisan  
7       fundraisers, and so I am very concerned about  
8       where that is going to go. I hope that -- or I  
9       would defer to the folks like Jennifer Edwards  
10      more than those people I just mentioned, so I  
11      would encourage you to do that.

12           I had the opportunity to work on two  
13      different redistricting commissions in my home  
14      state where I am originally from, 1990 and  
15      2000. We have all of these rules, we have a  
16      bipartisan commission that votes, we have  
17      all --

18           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Would you  
19      tell us what state that is, by the way?

20           MR. LENARDSON: Maine.

21           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Maine.

22           MR. LENARDSON: And we have a tremendous  
23      problem where we have two congressional  
24      districts. I would just like to give you a  
25      very brief history here. We have all of the

1 words that they are presenting, we have a  
2 bipartisan commission, it is a two-thirds  
3 majority required, and then it gets the  
4 signature of the voter and then it goes to the  
5 Governor. It goes to the courts every single  
6 ten years, and that is to divide up two  
7 congressional districts of 100 percent white  
8 people. So I would encourage you to really  
9 listen to what the folks have said here today  
10 and not expect to be handed a Holy Grail.  
11 Thank you very much.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.  
13 And what I wouldn't pay to have the geography  
14 of Maine and make things a lot easier, right?  
15 But I am glad I don't have their weather,  
16 right? So, anyway, thank you very much for  
17 being here, sir. We appreciate that.

18 Next we have -- let's see here. Make sure  
19 I get this right. That was Mr. Lenardson,  
20 right? Yes, sorry. Charles Van Meter.  
21 Charles, thank you for being here, and then we  
22 have Vi Steffan, and then following Ms.  
23 Steffan, we have Luis Bernal and then Laurel  
24 Paster.

25 MR. VAN METER: Good morning, I am Zac Van

1       Meter. I have been a resident of Collier  
2       County for five, going on six years. I live  
3       here with my wife and my baby, and I plan to  
4       live here as long as the good Lord lets me.

5               Thank you for being here today to gather  
6       input. You have heard a lot of criticism today  
7       from various interest groups about not having  
8       maps for us to comment on. I want you to know  
9       that I disagree with these groups. I think  
10      being a good legislator means listening to your  
11      constituents, then taking the appropriate --

12             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Charles, let  
13      me ask you to step a little closer to the mike,  
14      too.

15             MR. VAN METER: Okay. I think being a  
16      good legislator means listening to your  
17      constituents and then taking the appropriate  
18      course of action.

19             The supporters of Fair Districts did a  
20      really great job gathering petitions, raising  
21      \$9 million, getting Amendments 5 and 6 passed  
22      with I think it was a 63 percent vote, if I am  
23      correct there. However, I think that they have  
24      only done half of the work. Now that these  
25      amendments are part of our Constitution, the

1 supporters of Fair Districts should explain  
2 what the language of the amendments actually  
3 means by providing you with at least, and I  
4 mean at least, a legal brief. They should  
5 offer maps to show what a fair district  
6 actually looks like, the shape of and -- or  
7 whatever they are talking about. I really  
8 would like to see an example of that.

9 The amendments also contain this vague,  
10 fuzzy, very misconstrued language like  
11 "compact," "feasible," I think one was  
12 "practicable," I didn't even know that was a  
13 word, which Fair Districts knew, and they knew  
14 this, that they would make this basically  
15 impossible to implement. Since these  
16 amendments will be so difficult to implement, I  
17 mean very difficult, the courts are going to  
18 wind up drawing these new districts, which is  
19 going to do one thing, it is going to weaken  
20 the power of the Legislature, and the entire  
21 purpose of Fair Districts, it is going to  
22 weaken that as well.

23 Please know that many of us here in  
24 Collier County appreciate your efforts and  
25 don't want the courts to draw the new maps. I



1       hope this outcome doesn't come to pass, but my  
2       -- and I hope you will be able to draw good  
3       maps for our state. Thank you for your  
4       service. I appreciate your time this morning.

5               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
6       very much, sir. We appreciate that.

7               Vi, thank you very much for your patience,  
8       and we got to you and we've got some folks  
9       after you, so thank you very much.

10              MS. STEFFAN: Yes, you did, yes,  
11       congratulations. Thank you for the opportunity  
12       to speak before this group on this very  
13       important issue, and I also want to thank every  
14       single one of you for being here today.  
15       Everyone here in Collier County and the state  
16       of Florida appreciates your attendance here  
17       before us today.

18              My name is Vi Steffan, and now sometimes I  
19       will be known as V. I am from -- I am a member  
20       of the League of Women Voters.

21              In 2010, 63 percent of the electorate  
22       voted in favor of the Fair Districts Amendments  
23       5 and 6 to our State Constitution. That is an  
24       essential part and requirement of this whole  
25       redistricting process. The State Legislature

1        attacked the language of Amendments 5 and 6 and  
2        lost at the Supreme Court level. Having now to  
3        face the mandate of the electorate to follow  
4        the rational, non-political method of shaping  
5        the state and federal districts, the State  
6        Legislature is spending taxpayer money in suing  
7        to invalidate Amendment 6 and declare it  
8        unconstitutional, putting the citizens of  
9        Florida in a very unique position of actually  
10       suing themselves over an issue in which  
11       63 percent of us approve. The citizens want  
12       the Legislature to implement the Fair Districts  
13       standards required by the constitutional  
14       provisions passed by two-thirds of the  
15       electorate last year.

16                I was pleased to hear Senator Gaetz'  
17       description of the process that will be  
18       undertaken, and I urge the Legislature to  
19       seriously consider the recommendations offered  
20       by the public. Sadly, that hasn't always been  
21       the case, specifically in 2002 redistricting  
22       process in which we've ended up with the  
23       gerrymandered maps that we now have. But I  
24       also want to urge the Legislature on behalf of  
25       the Florida citizens to immediately withdraw

1 the expensive Amendment 6 lawsuit and respect  
2 the will of Florida voters who want the new  
3 Fair Districting standards in that amendment to  
4 be applied. Thank you for your time.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
6 very much. We appreciate that, Vi. And  
7 although you may have a short-term nickname  
8 that is new, I can assure you, Senator Gaetz,  
9 people have been much more creative in  
10 nicknames for the two of us over the last six  
11 weeks, so we appreciate you allowing me to mess  
12 up your name.

13 Next up we have Laurel Paster. Ms.  
14 Paster, thank you very much for being here --  
15 actually, I'm sorry, Ms. Paster, I think I may  
16 have skipped someone. Luis Bernal? I had Mr.  
17 Bernal first and then Ms. Paster. Mr. Bernal  
18 is with the Council for Hispanic Business  
19 Professionals, then Ms. Paster, followed by  
20 Alexander, I believe, Grantt and Steve Hart.

21 MR. BERNAL: Good morning, Senators and  
22 Representatives. Good morning, everybody. My  
23 name is Luis Bernal. I am a board member of  
24 the Council for Hispanic Business  
25 Professionals, an organization created by the

1 Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce. I am a  
2 resident of north Naples for six years now. I  
3 was born in Columbia and become a citizen of  
4 the United States in 2005.

5 I want to thank you -- to thank all of you  
6 on the Committee for being here and for  
7 listening to us citizens before drawing your  
8 district maps.

9 I am here today to remind you a little bit  
10 about minority representation. Collier County  
11 is one of the only five counties in Florida  
12 whose entire electoral system is monitored by  
13 the United States Department of Justice under  
14 Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act because of  
15 past discrimination against Hispanics. We  
16 demand change to ensure that southwest Florida  
17 Hispanics have the ability to elect their  
18 Representative of our choice today and for  
19 years to come.

20 You may be aware that in the past ten  
21 years, the Hispanic population in Collier  
22 County has increased by 69 percent. Whether we  
23 like that or not, that is a trend that is being  
24 like that for years to come, it is being across  
25 the country. And Hispanics today are

1       26 percent of the county population, the  
2       largest minority in Collier. Hispanics are  
3       here, not only in Miami. I used to live in  
4       Broward County, my son was born there, so I  
5       know Hispanics in both parts of the swamp, but  
6       we are here.

7               Currently, portions of Collier County are  
8       part of the -- of a district based in  
9       Miami-Dade County, which evidently raises  
10      strong questions to common southwest  
11      Floridians. I live, as I said, for five years  
12      in Broward, and moved to Naples for a number of  
13      reasons that are shared today by many Hispanics  
14      living now in southwest Florida.

15             Southwest Florida got its name for a  
16      reason. It is not just south Florida. This  
17      vertical boundary between Collier and Broward  
18      Counties is like that for some reason. We are  
19      living in a distant part of our state which  
20      should not be regarded as an appendix of any  
21      other region. The five-county area of  
22      southwest Florida includes counties other than  
23      Miami-Dade or Broward. It just makes sense.  
24      Nonetheless, a principal position of the maps,  
25      the district -- the different districts, the

1 maps show different shades that reflect very  
2 little the daily concerns of southwest  
3 Floridians, especially those residents like  
4 myself who live here year-round.

5 With all my respect, I urge you to make  
6 sure Hispanic representation is commensurate  
7 with a current demographic trend across the  
8 state and the country. Most importantly, I  
9 invite you and all elected officials to  
10 overcome prejudice and be aware of the rise  
11 in -- raise in economic, cultural and political  
12 influence of Hispanics in Florida and elsewhere  
13 in the United States, and adjust your political  
14 strategies accordingly.

15 Thank you for visiting Naples, and please  
16 come more often. Thank you.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

18 Next up, Ms. Paster, thank you for your  
19 patience, ma'am, and we look forward to hearing  
20 from you, and then following you will be  
21 Alexander Grantt, Steve Hart and Matthew  
22 Coppers.

23 MS. PASTER: Yeah, thank you so much for  
24 coming. If I were you, I would be completely  
25 zoned out by now, I think, after hearing so

1 many speakers and the repetition.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: We are  
3 building up an endurance with all these  
4 meetings around the state, so --

5 MS. PASTER: Good for you.

6 I am interested, as many of the speakers  
7 have been, to see redistricting in Florida that  
8 will represent all constituencies. I am also  
9 concerned about the timeline that legislators  
10 are planning to follow to complete the  
11 redistricting. I am not going to repeat the  
12 Amendments 5 and 6 and the gerrymandering  
13 parts, because you've heard it all.

14 If the legislators follows their present  
15 plan, though, districts will not be finalized  
16 before said deadline, which will make it more  
17 difficult or impossible for any challenger to  
18 mount an effective campaign. I am hoping that  
19 you will make the final plans by Friday,  
20 January 13th, 2012, so that people who want to  
21 run for office will know which district they  
22 will be running in and the boundaries of that  
23 district before the qualifying deadline. If  
24 fair elections are to exist, the time necessary  
25 for the various segments of the process, which

1 Jennifer Edwards outlined so carefully, they  
2 must be acknowledged and respected. For  
3 Florida to become respected as a responsible  
4 and fair state once again, after our history,  
5 we need to have this occur. Thank you.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
7 very much.

8 Next we have Alexander Grantt, followed by  
9 Steve Hart, Matthew Coppers and Douglas Rankin.

10 MR. GRANTT: Yes, good morning, Alexander  
11 Grantt. A little background: I was on the  
12 original incorporation committee for the City  
13 of Bonita Springs, so I did do six districts  
14 for city council when I was on there. I always  
15 -- I was on the local planning agency for the  
16 City the first time for four years, and I was  
17 on the city council for four years. From my  
18 educational background, I have a Master's  
19 degree from North Carolina State University,  
20 that's 40 years ago, but I minored in  
21 statistics in that -- for that Master's degree,  
22 and even though it was for pigs and horses, et  
23 cetera, but people, it is the same situation,  
24 okay, just put people instead of pigs.

25 Okay. Now, we have -- in Lee County, we



1       have 635,000 permanent residents. We have  
2       325,000 permanent residents in Collier County.  
3       That is 960,000 people. State Senate, you have  
4       480,000, roughly, in each State Senate  
5       district. Take the 960,000 people in Lee and  
6       Collier County, the southern portion of Collier  
7       -- of all of Lee -- Collier County, southern  
8       portion of Lee County, one State Senate  
9       district, one State Senate district for the  
10      rest of Lee County, and that takes care of two  
11      State Senate districts.

12             For the House District 75 -- I am from  
13      Bonita Springs. We want to have all of Bonita  
14      Springs in one State House district. Simplest  
15      thing to do, to put all of the city of Bonita  
16      Springs, all of town of Ft. Myers Beach, all of  
17      Estero Fire District, all of the San Carlos  
18      Park Fire District and the South Trail Fire  
19      district in one State House district. That  
20      takes care of your 160,000 people for that  
21      House district.

22             On the U.S. Senate -- U.S. Senate -- U.S.  
23      Congress, sorry. U.S. Congress, you have -- in  
24      order to have two U.S. Congressmen representing  
25      southwest Florida, you need 1,400,000 people.

1       Okay. So that is 700,000 people per U.S. House  
2       district. You have to have -- what I would  
3       recommend is to have Collier, Lee -- all of  
4       Collier County, all of Lee County, all of  
5       Charlotte County, that would give you 160,000  
6       people -- 1,160,000 people in those three  
7       counties for two congressional seats. If you  
8       include DeSoto, Glades, Hendry and Highlands  
9       County, you could probably wind up with another  
10      200,000 people.

11           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Grantt,  
12      this is great information, but I am going to  
13      have to ask you to wrap it up.

14           MR. GRANTT: Okay. But that is how I  
15      would separate this into two U.S. House  
16      districts.

17           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you for  
18      that counsel. That is very good -- very good  
19      advice. Thank you.

20           Next up we have Steve Hart, followed by  
21      Matthew Coppers and then Douglas Rankin. Hart  
22      waiving? Okay. Thank you very much, sir,  
23      thanks for being here. Both physically waving  
24      and figuratively waiving, thank you, that is  
25      good.

1           Next we have Matthew Coppers.

2           Mr. Coppers, you are here, and then finally we  
3           have Douglas Rankin. After Mr. Rankin goes, we  
4           are going to give members of the Committee an  
5           opportunity to ask -- to offer any insight or  
6           ask any -- or offer some solutions or answer  
7           some questions, and then finally, Senator Gaetz  
8           was on 15 pages of notes an hour ago, I don't  
9           know how many he has now, but he's got a lot of  
10          answers for questions that have been asked. I  
11          want to give him time to address the audience  
12          as well, let you hear from him.

13          So, Mr. Coppers, you are recognized to  
14          speak, sir.

15          MR. COPPENS: First off, I want to  
16          apologize for my horrible handwriting. It is  
17          actually Matthew Coppens.

18          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: No, it is  
19          probably my eyes, don't worry.

20          MR. COPPENS: I have a lot of doctors and  
21          lawyers in my family, so I get their  
22          handwriting.

23          I am actually a former member of student  
24          government, and I could say what is happening  
25          here today is not student government. This is

1       actually Florida democracy in action, and what  
2       happens here today does actually represent all  
3       Floridians and for the next ten years. So the  
4       person that said that before me really was  
5       wrong.

6             A lot of what has been said before is what  
7       I really do want to echo. I am a member of  
8       the -- pardon me -- of the Greg Gargan fan  
9       club. I love on how easily drawn out it was.  
10      Please try to implement something similar to  
11      that. I have seen it done before. Alabama  
12      already has theirs drawn out. We would love to  
13      see something like that here.

14            Floridians did want fair, compact and  
15      contiguous districts throughout the state, and  
16      the passage of Amendments 5 and 6 sent a  
17      message that we no longer care for  
18      gerrymandering, pretty simple. Three point one  
19      million Floridians supported this -- these two  
20      amendments, and that is something that I do  
21      want to impress on you guys. This is something  
22      that the Floridians do want, and we just ask  
23      that you do implement it in a fair and timely  
24      manner. Thank you.

25            REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you

1           very much, Mr. Coppens. I'm sorry I misspoke  
2           on your name.

3                   Last, but certainly not least, sir we have  
4           Mr. Douglas Rankin.

5                   MR. RANKIN: Right, and while I am a  
6           Republican party official, since we have  
7           approved nothing, I am here as an individual.

8                   I have lived in Florida my entire life,  
9           except for a few months. My family has been on  
10          the lower west coast of Florida since 1925.  
11          And I will tell you from a number of situations  
12          that the west coast is not the east coast, and  
13          please keep it that way. All you have to do is  
14          go look at the true color Landsat photograph up  
15          in St. Petersburg Aquarium, you will see our  
16          coast is green, and theirs is asphalt and  
17          concrete. No offense, but that is what the  
18          photograph shows.

19                  Historically, I-95, or before that, U.S. 1  
20          migrated to the east coast and before it became  
21          full and like that, and then I-75, or U.S. 41  
22          before that, migrated to the west coast. They  
23          are entirely different situations. I have been  
24          here in Naples for 28 years. This is not the  
25          east coast. We have been very lucky with some

1       good east coast representation, but I don't  
2       want to rely on luck. I want to have a  
3       continuous matter.

4               As far as some of the comments I heard  
5       earlier, it is not your fault that the ultra  
6       liberal Democratic party left so many of its  
7       constituents, resulting in the voting that you  
8       heard before. I grew up in Florida most of my  
9       life under Democratic rule, and I will tell you  
10      that you are doing a yeoman's fair, honest job  
11      compared -- far and above what they did, that  
12      is for sure. They invented the word  
13      "gerrymandering," and I won't even discuss  
14      their record on --

15             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Just try to  
16      keep the comments focused on the redistricting.  
17      I don't want to get too partisan here, all  
18      right.

19             MR. RANKIN: -- how they treated  
20      minorities. But I am very proud that the  
21      Republican party is doing the right thing  
22      and --

23             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Well, I will  
24      just say this: I hear you and I appreciate  
25      those comments, but I will tell you, we work

1       very closely with our Democratic colleagues  
2       that are on this committee and we are all  
3       working together in this.

4               MR. RANKIN:   And I don't mean to be that,  
5       but --

6               REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:   I understand,  
7       I understand.

8               MR. RANKIN:   -- I had to put something on  
9       the record.   Historically it is called a boll  
10      weevil Democrat, it is a conservative Democrat,  
11      their party left them and that is probably why  
12      you are seeing the voting, it is not because of  
13      anything you did.   And -- but please keep the  
14      west coast, the west coast, and I thank you  
15      very much for your time.

16              REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:   Thank you,  
17      Mr. Rankin.   Thank you, sir.   Oh, good, we have  
18      another -- we have another speaker, and it is a  
19      public official, Commissioner, Commissioner Tom  
20      Hanny.   Commissioner, thank you very much for  
21      being here, sir.   Look, you are just the man  
22      with impeccable timing, right, you just swoop  
23      right in here at the end.   And we are happy to  
24      have you, and we are grateful for your service  
25      to Collier County.   You are recognized.

1           COMMISSIONER HANNY: Mr. Chairman, thank  
2           you very much. Actually, I did fill out a  
3           speaker slip long ago, along with a friend of  
4           mine that wasn't recognized, but, anyway, I  
5           want to welcome you to our great community.  
6           Thank you for your time. I know these are a  
7           lot of extra efforts that you have made to  
8           serve the public, and for that, maybe we can  
9           find a banker to buy you lunch or something  
10          like that.

11          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Maybe we can  
12          get him to give me a loan.

13          COMMISSIONER HANNY: This process and the  
14          comments that you are hearing today is no  
15          different than the last redistricting that we  
16          had here in southwest Florida about having  
17          district lines drawn up against the east coast  
18          and the west coast. From what I recall in  
19          working with former State Representative Mike  
20          Davis, those were actually decided by the  
21          courts. It wasn't decided by the legislators.  
22          We do want to have representation of southwest  
23          Florida. We are more like Lee County than the  
24          east coast of the state of Florida, but I can  
25          tell you, I have worked very close and enjoyed



1       the working relationship I have had with  
2       Representative David Rivera, now Congressman  
3       David Rivera, and Representative Nuñez has done  
4       an outstanding job and will always represent  
5       our community.

6           I do want to read something from a speaker  
7       who signed up, Cheryl Couture, who is a  
8       founding member of Southwest Florida 9/12.  
9       Cheryl had to work this morning, and she would  
10      like to take this -- to thank the legislators  
11      for the hearing. She also would like to  
12      express her concern for the open  
13      interpretations of the Amendments 5 and 6 that,  
14      like the words "practical" and "feasible," the  
15      citizens have an interest in decisions  
16      regarding representation that is made by --  
17      decisions made by the courts, and want to thank  
18      you again for giving the citizens the  
19      opportunity -- for sharing their concerns. The  
20      amendments were ambiguous, in my opinion, and I  
21      think former Senator -- former Representative  
22      Dudley Goodlette said it well is the  
23      legislators can clarify that in the Florida  
24      Statutes. And, again, I want to -- I want to  
25      thank you for your time in our great community.

1 I do speak on -- by myself and not the Board of  
2 Commissioners. Thank you.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
4 very much, Commissioner. We appreciate that,  
5 and we apologize for missing you early on, but  
6 it was good to have you here.

7 Ladies and gentlemen, that is all for the  
8 speakers who signed up to speak. What we would  
9 like to do at this moment, we've got a few  
10 minutes left, is to ask for members of the  
11 Committee, if they have any suggestions or  
12 comments, and we will start off with House  
13 members and then Senators and then we will turn  
14 it over to Senator Gaetz.

15 Yes, Representative Williams for a  
16 comment. If we could get the microphone to  
17 her.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS: Having been to a  
19 dozen of these or so over the past couple of  
20 months, I have to say that this has been the  
21 most enjoyable group we have had the pleasure  
22 to listen to.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS: Thank you so  
25 very much for your grace and civilness. You

1       would not believe what we have endured over the  
2       past several weeks, and God bless  
3       Representative Weatherford and Senator Gaetz,  
4       because they have been to just about every one  
5       of these. So thank you, and it's been a  
6       pleasure to be here and listen to you folks.

7                REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
8       Representative Williams.

9                Any other comments from members from the  
10       house? We've got a quiet bunch today. How  
11       about members of the Senate? Any Senators who  
12       would like to speak? Give them your speech  
13       last night, maybe you could --

14               SENATOR DETERT: Yes, I had to yell at my  
15       own community last night, and I am from  
16       Sarasota, and they are generally a lot more  
17       polite and classy than they were last night.  
18       So we were kind of loaded for bear this  
19       morning, and everybody -- when you said  
20       welcome, you acted like we are at your home.  
21       We are sitting here, my Democratic and  
22       Republican friends here, and just very  
23       impressed with really the civility in your  
24       community. So thank you for being  
25       participants, because the way to make your

1 government work the way you want it to work is  
2 to participate, and you did that in such a  
3 lovely civil way, and I thank you.

4 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Any other  
5 members from the higher chamber that would wish  
6 to speak? We have to say that as House  
7 members, we have to call them the higher  
8 chamber. Yes, Senator Richter, former House  
9 member, I would like to point out.

10 SENATOR RICHTER: Yes, I would like to  
11 echo my comments and tell each and every one of  
12 you in this room how very, very proud I am to  
13 represent you in Tallahassee. Thank you for  
14 your input. Thank you for your good ideas. It  
15 is clear to me in this meeting that there's  
16 significant concern over the timeline and the  
17 fair districts, and that message came through  
18 rather loud and clear, and I thank you for the  
19 repetitive message and the different variance  
20 on that message, but thank you all very much.  
21 I am very proud to represent each and every one  
22 of you. Thank you.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
24 Senator.

25 Okay. Now is the time we are going to

1       turn it over to my esteemed colleague, Senator  
2       Gaetz, and allow him to speak on some of the  
3       questions that were asked, maybe provide some  
4       clarity on some things that have kind of gotten  
5       into the bloodstream. And, again, I just want  
6       to thank everyone for being here, for providing  
7       a hearing that I think was both civil,  
8       informative and very helpful to us as members  
9       of this committee. So thank you all very much,  
10      and I will turn it over to Senator Gaetz.

11               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
12      Mr. Speaker, and as is my want, because I am a  
13      former reporter, even though we -- we make  
14      electronic recordings of every word that is  
15      said and there is a record that all of us can  
16      go back to, I still tend to trust my own notes,  
17      and I make them at every hearing, and what I  
18      did today was also try to write down some of  
19      the questions that were asked and some of the  
20      factual points that we could just provide, not  
21      get into any disagreement with anybody who  
22      testified, one side or the other, but, rather,  
23      when there were factual matters, try to make  
24      sure we all leave here with the same data.

25               First of all, the timeline, which I think

1       was the -- a theme that many people echoed,  
2       starting with Supervisor Edwards. Let me give  
3       you just a couple of facts that might help you  
4       understand where we are and why we are in the  
5       circumstance we are.

6               First of all, we're not able to do  
7       anything until we get census data from the  
8       Bureau of the Census. Now, Florida was not the  
9       last state to get census data, but we were one  
10      of the last. The census -- Bureau of the  
11      Census does not disgorge all population data to  
12      all states at once. Instead, it is in tranches  
13      or groups. And as I said, we weren't the last,  
14      but we were one of the last, and as soon as we  
15      got the data, we immediately put it on-line,  
16      and then as soon as the session was over, we  
17      immediately began having these hearings. But I  
18      wanted you to know that the data that some of  
19      the states that you have heard about, the data  
20      that they received was months ahead of ours.

21             Secondly, there were a couple of folks in  
22      hearings yesterday and today who mentioned  
23      states that have concluded their redistricting  
24      process already, and that is true. But, for  
25      example, Louisiana, which was mentioned,

1 Louisiana is a state which holds its elections  
2 not on even years, but on odd years, and so the  
3 Bureau of the Census then responds to that by  
4 giving them their census data before they give  
5 their census data to those of us who do our  
6 elections on even years. So that is why you  
7 will see some states already finished, not  
8 because there is a nefarious plot somewhere,  
9 but because the Census Bureau stages its data  
10 release and because some states have elections  
11 earlier than others.

12 And then there are other states who do  
13 things a little differently than Florida.  
14 Illinois, for example, is a one-party state,  
15 and they got their redistricting done in record  
16 time. I think they may -- they may have set  
17 the record for redistricting in this cycle. It  
18 is a one-party state. They had a group of  
19 legislators who literally went into a back  
20 room, drew maps, came out, said, "Take it or  
21 leave it," went to the floor, did a vote, they  
22 were in, they were out, they were gone. There  
23 were no public hearings. That is one way to do  
24 it, and it has been done that way in Florida,  
25 you know, years and years and years ago.

1           Speaker Weatherford and I and our  
2       presiding officers chose to do something  
3       different. We took a risk, and as the Speaker  
4       has said from time to time, it is a  
5       chicken-and-egg argument, but we took the risk  
6       of listening first, and drawing after we  
7       listened, but I wanted you to understand part  
8       of the reason why we have the schedule we do.

9           But the schedule we have is an accelerated  
10      schedule, and Supervisor Edwards' excellent  
11      testimony, I would want to point out one thing,  
12      and that is that, perhaps it was our fault, but  
13      the timeline that she was referencing was a  
14      timeline that was published, but a timeline  
15      that now pertains is the one that is functional  
16      after the passage of the elections legislation  
17      that we passed in this session of the  
18      Legislature, which does provide a more  
19      accelerated timeline. And she made three  
20      suggestions, and I can only speak for myself,  
21      but I can tell you that the VTDs have been on  
22      our minds from the very beginning in terms of a  
23      building block for districts. Our committee in  
24      the Senate has been observant of the VTD  
25      process from the very first time that our



1       committee got together in an organizational  
2       meeting.

3               She said avoid irregular boundaries where  
4       possible. We sure agree with that. As I will  
5       point out in a moment, there are some  
6       circumstances in which the courts are deciding  
7       on the irregular boundaries, not us, but to the  
8       extent that we can, we will take her advice.

9               And then third, she said do everything you  
10       can to move the process without delay, and that  
11       is absolutely true, and that is why Speaker  
12       Weatherford and I are committed to making sure  
13       that we go forward with committee meetings, not  
14       in December, which is the usual schedule, but  
15       in September, and I have committed that at the  
16       very first meeting in September, which is the  
17       week of September 19th, that is the first time  
18       that we can meet based on the call of our  
19       presiding officers, we will immediately turn to  
20       the Democratic Leader because, as I mentioned  
21       in my opening comments, ten years ago she was  
22       told, "No, thanks, we don't want to hear your  
23       maps, don't want to even see your maps." Well,  
24       I think -- you can't go back and redo what was  
25       done ten years ago, but I think you can start

1       on the right foot by saying that the minority  
2       has rights, and we are going to start with the  
3       Democratic Leader, and then we are going to go  
4       to all of the other maps that have already been  
5       presented and maps that will be presented, and  
6       those will all be available for discussion and  
7       debate beginning with our first meeting, which  
8       will be on September -- the week of  
9       September 19.

10               The second thing I wanted to mention,  
11       Mr. Speaker, was in response to the fine  
12       testimony from the Chamber of Commerce  
13       representative, who talked about the need to  
14       have maps based on communities of interest.  
15       Well, there was a reference made to the fact  
16       that the Legislature tried to get some language  
17       in the constitutional amendments and we failed.  
18       That is true. Representative Weatherford and I  
19       and others tried to get the term "communities  
20       of interest" into the constitutional language  
21       dealing with Fair Districts. The Supreme Court  
22       said no. So although "communities of interest"  
23       was mentioned many times today, many times in  
24       all of our hearings, it is not included in the  
25       constitutional language, I wish it were, and

1       so, therefore, we are going to have to try to  
2       balance that very legitimate value with the  
3       fact that it is just not included in the  
4       constitutional language that the Fair Districts  
5       folks brought to the voters and did a great job  
6       in getting passed.

7               Then third, there was a comment made that  
8       more representatives in Tallahassee is better.  
9       Well, that is a debate and a tension we have  
10      heard in this meeting and in all the other  
11      meetings. Is it better to -- I happen to live  
12      in Okaloosa County, which is way up in  
13      northwest Florida, and we have -- we have two  
14      Senate districts that bisect Okaloosa County.  
15      I have parts of five counties, and my  
16      counterpart, Senator Evers, has parts of those  
17      same five counties. He's got the northern  
18      tier, I've got the southern tier. They are  
19      divided by a military reservation. And is that  
20      a good idea or a bad idea for Okaloosa to have  
21      two Senators? Some say, well, if you've got  
22      two Senators, you've got two chances, you know.  
23      You know, if Gaetz drops the ball, and he is  
24      subject to doing that, at least we got Evers.  
25      But on the other hand, there are people who

1       have testified today and said, "We want  
2       somebody who is dedicated solely to our  
3       community. We don't want them to have divided  
4       interests." So I only mention that to say  
5       that, well, while it is easy to say implement  
6       Amendments 5 and 6, you also have to balance  
7       these two very legitimate points of view that  
8       we have gotten in today's hearing, and that is,  
9       is it better for Collier County to have more  
10      voices in Tallahassee, or is it better for  
11      Collier County, for example, to have fewer  
12      voices, but have those voices dedicated more  
13      directly to Collier County. We are delighted  
14      to have heard your input on that issue.

15               Then there was an individual who asked a  
16      very good question: Why have an 8:00 a.m.  
17      meeting? Well, frankly, we ended last night at  
18      9:00 p.m. in Sarasota, and we will be having a  
19      meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. today in Lehigh  
20      Acres. Tomorrow morning, we will be at I think  
21      8:00 a.m. in Clewiston. So we have had  
22      meetings in the morning, in the afternoon and  
23      in the evening, and that is the only way we  
24      could do it. We didn't decide to single out  
25      Naples for torment and make you get up early.

1       It just worked out that way. So if anybody is  
2       to blame, Senator Richter.

3             A very good question, a very good  
4       question: When is the first time that maps  
5       will be presented in the legislative process?  
6       The answer is, the week of September 19th.

7             The next question -- now, I will say this:  
8       That is not the last time. That is -- the  
9       question was, when is the first time? We have  
10      160 members of the Legislature representing a  
11      wide spectrum of political beliefs, and,  
12      obviously, as you can see, all over Florida.  
13      Now, if we were to say that here is the drop  
14      dead date beyond which you cannot speak, you  
15      cannot offer an additional thought, you cannot  
16      try to improve on what somebody has already  
17      proposed, there would be Democrats and  
18      Republicans standing on their desks, screaming  
19      their lungs out that it would be an unfair  
20      process. So what I can tell you is in the  
21      Senate, we will begin in the week of  
22      September 19th looking at any and all maps that  
23      are presented at that time. However, I cannot  
24      guarantee you that some of my Senate colleagues  
25      won't come in later and say, "You know, looking

1 at what is presented and then going back and  
2 reflecting on what we heard at 26 hearings,  
3 I've got an improvement on that," or "I've got  
4 a better idea." I can't stop that, and  
5 candidly, in a representative assembly, you  
6 shouldn't stop that. Representative  
7 Weatherford and I don't have that kind of  
8 authority, and we shouldn't have that kind of  
9 authority.

10 Then we heard some very useful comments  
11 from spokespersons from the League of Women  
12 Voters, and they made two comments that I would  
13 like to just make sure we have some facts on.  
14 First, they -- the representative said the  
15 Legislature should draw the maps first. Again,  
16 it is a chicken-and-egg argument. Should we  
17 listen first and should we then try to collate  
18 the information we have gotten from people  
19 around the state and say what seems to make  
20 sense, or should we come in and say, "Here are  
21 the maps," and then as somebody said today, we  
22 would be accused of already making up our minds  
23 and just trying to shove something down  
24 people's throats.

25 I would only say that the League itself

1       can't decide, because in Georgia, the League of  
2       Women Voters says maps should be drawn by the  
3       public first. Ellen Freidin, the person who  
4       led the Fair Districts campaign, testified  
5       before the Senate and House and said wouldn't  
6       dream of drawing maps until first there was  
7       public hearing and public comment. So even  
8       within the League of Women Voters, an  
9       outstanding organization, there's not really a  
10      unanimity of feeling about that.

11             Then there was a very useful comment made  
12      by the President -- I believe this individual  
13      was the President of the Democratic Club, and  
14      talked about the local maps, county commission,  
15      school board maps, and said that in that case  
16      here, five different options were presented for  
17      discussion. And Speaker Weatherford and I have  
18      talked about that, and I think that is an  
19      excellent suggestion. There's not going to be  
20      a map that is going to be presented in the  
21      Senate. I can guarantee you that with the  
22      divergence of opinion that Senators have on  
23      these topics, there will be several different  
24      options presented so that there will be an  
25      opportunity maybe to take parts of different

1 options and try to meld them together. So  
2 there won't be a map, and I think it was an  
3 excellent suggestion to have five options,  
4 somebody else said six options, that could be  
5 presented and debated.

6 Then I am really glad to learn about the  
7 Lely Resort community. You see, this is the  
8 kind of information we could never get in an  
9 echo chamber in Tallahassee, just listening to  
10 each other. If you hadn't presented that  
11 testimony today, I think it came from three  
12 different people who live in that community, we  
13 wouldn't have that information, and the Lely --  
14 the first person who spoke from Lely said  
15 divide the Everglades because one person, one  
16 Representative, is not enough. The very next  
17 speaker took the opposite view. The only  
18 reason I make that point is that there is a  
19 legitimate tension between those who say that  
20 an area ought to have one Representative, and  
21 those who say, no, we would like to have more  
22 than one voice, and we have to work on  
23 balancing that. That is why your testimony was  
24 so important.

25 A comment was made about irregular



1 boundaries. I think that is the politest  
2 description of some of those boundaries that I  
3 have heard, irregular. Two comments. First,  
4 we didn't develop them. The Senate seat that I  
5 ran for was drawn by other people, and so I  
6 have no pride of authorship in the Senate seat  
7 that I have and in the boundaries that I have  
8 now. Neither does anybody else here. We want  
9 to improve on them. And let me just say this:  
10 Some of us are among the insulted. I happen --  
11 I happen to live in a rattail of a  
12 congressional district. My -- the  
13 congressional district I am in, which is  
14 Congressional District 2, starts way over near  
15 Tallahassee and then comes over all the way to  
16 my little community of Niceville, which is on  
17 the Gulf Coast, and I am in a little -- a  
18 little rattail of that district. So, believe  
19 me, there are those of us who want to solve  
20 those problems as much as we can possibly.

21 There was a very useful comment made by  
22 someone who said there are more Democrats than  
23 Republicans in population, yet Republicans have  
24 more Representatives in the Legislature, and  
25 unless you fix that, it won't be Fair

1       Districts, it will be proof of gerrymandering,  
2       that testifier said. Well, here's our problem:  
3       Our problem is -- I will just take the Senate  
4       districts, for example. There are 40 Senate  
5       districts. Twenty-eight are currently held by  
6       Republicans. But eight of the districts held  
7       by Republicans voted for Barack Obama  
8       overwhelmingly. So now we are left with the  
9       riddle. Do we have a circumstance in which  
10      you've got Republican Senate districts that  
11      were persuaded that President Obama had a  
12      better message, a better campaign, would be a  
13      better President, or do we have a whole bunch  
14      of people who were inclined to vote for Barack  
15      Obama, but then who looked down ballot and  
16      said, "You know, doggone it, the Republican  
17      candidate for State Senator seems to have a  
18      better message or a better campaign or  
19      resonates more with my values"? See, the fact  
20      is that it may not be proof of gerrymandering.  
21      It may be proof of the independence of our  
22      voters. We can't force Republicans to vote for  
23      Republicans, or Democrats to vote for  
24      Democrats, and the fastest-growing group of  
25      voters in this state are Independents and

1 non-affiliated voters, and we sure as the  
2 dickens can't predict who they are going to  
3 vote for.

4 So it probably won't turn out to be  
5 something perfect where the exact percentage of  
6 Republicans or Democrats is what is reflected  
7 in the Legislature, because we have Democrats  
8 voting for Republicans, and Republicans voting  
9 for Democrats. So I would just ask you to keep  
10 that in mind, getting a perfect arithmetic  
11 balance may not be possible. This isn't the  
12 old Soviet Union. You know, people have an  
13 independent view of how they are going to vote.

14 And then there was someone who made a good  
15 comment and said, you know, we ought to pay  
16 impartial IT professionals to draw the maps.  
17 Well, I am looking for the first impartial  
18 person I can find in this process. I think  
19 even IT professionals have opinions. But I  
20 will say this: Both the House and the Senate  
21 have employed IT professionals, and I don't  
22 know what their party affiliations are, and I  
23 don't intend to inquire, but they are  
24 professionals, they are geeks, they are nerds,  
25 they have green eyeshades, we keep them in

1       offices where there are literally no windows,  
2       and they are the ones -- they are the ones who  
3       will work the technical side of this. But the  
4       Constitution says that elected representatives,  
5       people that you -- that you can reach out and  
6       elect or un-elect, our Constitution says we are  
7       the ones who have to -- who have to actually  
8       draw the lines at the end of the day and  
9       propose them to the judicial branch of  
10      government. So we can't -- we can't offload  
11      the constitutional responsibility unless we  
12      amend the Constitution.

13           Then we had a person who said that she  
14      worked on the New York State redistricting  
15      process, and I made a note here, she is hired  
16      here. So see me later. And she said, you  
17      know, we ought to vote on final plans on  
18      January 13th, which is three days after the  
19      Legislature goes into session. What I want to  
20      know is, in New York, did you vote on your  
21      reapportionment and redistricting plans three  
22      days after you went into session? See, we may  
23      be able to, because we have been in all these  
24      hearings, really come in with your voices  
25      ringing in our ears. But the vast majority of

1       the Senate and the House have not been at these  
2       hearings. So when we come in and make our  
3       report and offer our recommendations, those  
4       individuals who you may have also spoken to in  
5       town hall meetings or in their offices or run  
6       into them at church or at the grocery store and  
7       talked to them about your views, they are going  
8       to want to have something to say, they are  
9       going to want to engage in debate, and believe  
10      me, in the Senate, and I know in the House,  
11      too, they are going to want to ask a lot of  
12      questions about -- to us about what we have  
13      heard. So it would be nice to vote on  
14      January 13th, but it would be, I think,  
15      unlikely to be able to shut down debate three  
16      days after the legislative session starts. But  
17      we sure will want to vote as soon as we  
18      reasonably can.

19           Then there was -- there were several  
20      people who said, you know, gosh, there was a  
21      mandate for Amendments 5 and 6, and they ought  
22      to be adopted and they ought to be implemented,  
23      and they will be, believe me. Everybody up  
24      here has taken an oath to preserve and protect  
25      the Constitution of the United States and of

1       the State of Florida. Those two provisions are  
2       in the Constitution, whether some people like  
3       them or not, and we are going to implement  
4       them. But the question is not whether we are  
5       going to implement them, but how they should be  
6       implemented, and we have seen today some  
7       tension between the definitions of  
8       "compactness" or making sure that minority  
9       districts don't regress. Are we going to use  
10      city boundaries when city boundaries in some  
11      cases look like a Rorschach blot? So there are  
12      tensions as to how, but there is no debate that  
13      we will implement them. But that is why these  
14      hearings have been so valuable.

15           And then, Mr. Speaker, a question, is  
16      there one standard for compactness? Life would  
17      be simpler if there were. It is a fact that  
18      Florida is the first state, maybe we won't be  
19      the last, but we are the first state to have  
20      all of the features included in Amendments 5  
21      and 6 placed into a State Constitution. We are  
22      the first state. So in a lot of ways, we are  
23      going to be charting new ground, and when you  
24      chart new ground in this world, you wind up,  
25      sadly, sadly, charting that ground, in many

1 cases, in court. So I would predict to you, it  
2 is not my hope, but it is my prediction that  
3 the definitions of "compactness" will arise out  
4 of case law in this state and in other states.

5 Now, we did have some mathematicians  
6 testify before us, and they said the most  
7 compact geometric figure is a circle, the next  
8 most compact is a square, the third most  
9 compact is a rectangle. Have you looked at the  
10 map of Florida? We are not a square or a  
11 circle or a rectangle, and so the definitions  
12 of "compactness" will probably be sort of built  
13 in flight and then reviewed by the courts.  
14 That is probably what is going to happen.

15 Then there were three testifiers who said,  
16 "How do we prevent lawsuits? How do we prevent  
17 this dragging on and on and on into the courts?  
18 Is there some template that we could use that  
19 would give us armor against lawsuits?" No. I  
20 wish there were. First, remember, we are the  
21 first state to have all of these requirements  
22 at one time placed on our Constitution.  
23 Secondly, members of special interest groups,  
24 who have every right to do so, have already  
25 testified before the first vote has been taken

1       that there will be lawsuits and they intend to  
2       file them. So I think that it may be the case  
3       that some people intended from the beginning  
4       that this matter would have to go to the  
5       courts. That is their right, but -- but it  
6       doesn't give us an easy answer to how to  
7       prevent lawsuits.

8               But while there is -- while there is no  
9       sure protection against lawsuits, I think a  
10      good approach is to do what Speaker Weatherford  
11      and I and our members have been doing, and that  
12      is to listen first, develop a record based on  
13      what people are saying. It is fine to talk  
14      about the process, we have heard a lot of  
15      process discussion, but it is even more  
16      valuable to hear the very specific direction  
17      and guidance we have gotten from so many people  
18      today and around the state about neighborhoods  
19      and communities, how they ought to be bounded,  
20      how they ought not to be divided. That is  
21      probably the best armor, if there is any armor,  
22      knowing that ultimately we are probably going  
23      to wind up in court, no matter what plan is  
24      devised.

25             The other thing I think that you can do to



1       try to avoid unnecessary lawsuits is to make  
2       sure that the minority is represented and  
3       respected, and that this -- certainly we do  
4       have a Republican majority in the Legislature,  
5       but there are minority members, Democratic  
6       members, on this Committee, and as several  
7       people have mentioned, Senator Detert, we work  
8       closely with our minority members, even though  
9       I happen to be a Republican, and a sign, I  
10      think, of good faith will be turning first to  
11      our minority members and our Democratic Leader  
12      at our first meeting and saying, "Ten years  
13      ago, you didn't get a chance to offer your  
14      maps. By golly, you are going to get your  
15      chance first, along with everybody else. You  
16      are not going to be discriminated against."

17             Then another member of the League raised  
18      an excellent question about is the timeline  
19      unrealistic. It could be. The timeline could  
20      be unrealistic if everyone in the process takes  
21      all the time they legally can instead of taking  
22      only the time that they need. So Speaker  
23      Weatherford and I and our members, our  
24      presiding officers, are committed, as we have  
25      shown, to moving up the session, moving up

1 committee weeks, moving up hearings, proceeding  
2 as quickly as we legally can and practically  
3 can. However, we would urge you to talk with  
4 and communicate with the other players in the  
5 process and urge them to take only the time  
6 they need, the Attorney General, the Supreme  
7 Court of Florida, the federal justice  
8 department, let's get this job done, you know,  
9 not too fast, let's measure twice and cut once,  
10 this is important for the next ten years in our  
11 state. But let's not let the other players in  
12 the process elongate the process anymore than  
13 is absolutely necessary as well. And that is  
14 why we would again urge our good friends in the  
15 League of Women Voters to do what they did in  
16 2002, to do what their brothers and sisters are  
17 doing in Georgia, and that is move from being a  
18 critical but useful observer to being a  
19 participant and providing direct guidance to  
20 assist us in how to go forward.

21 And then the League representative said,  
22 "Could this all result in a circumstance in  
23 which our votes don't count in the 2012  
24 precedential election?" Well, here's the good  
25 news. The boundaries of Florida are not going

1       to change as a result of the redistricting  
2       process. We are not going to be able to invade  
3       Alabama. We are not going to lose any  
4       territory to Florida. And so -- well, we might  
5       invade Alabama, but -- but -- so the  
6       presidential election is not going to be  
7       affected, and everybody ought to be sanguine  
8       about that.

9               There was a -- several comments made about  
10       the east-west boundary districts and how  
11       unfortunate it is that they exist and the fact  
12       that they make little sense, and a number of  
13       you referenced your thoughts about aligning  
14       Collier County districts with communities in  
15       Miami-Dade and Broward. But here it is  
16       important to reiterate what others have  
17       mentioned, and that is that districts in  
18       Collier County, because they are a Section 5  
19       county, have to be pre-cleared by federal  
20       authority for compliance with the Federal  
21       Voting Rights Act.

22               Now, here is how this process can go.  
23       House District 112 was actually drawn based on  
24       a court order in federal court ten years ago.  
25       The Legislature drew the district one way, but

1       it was a federal court that ordered that  
2       District 112 be drawn the way that it has been  
3       drawn. So I only mention this so that you will  
4       understand factually, we don't get the last  
5       word. The salamander district, which is  
6       Congressional District 3, the one that is the  
7       poster child for gerrymandering, was not drawn  
8       by the Legislature, it was drawn by the federal  
9       courts. So we just need to keep that in mind.

10           Then the question was made, will we invite  
11       comments after all maps have been presented?

12       Well, it could probably be difficult and cause  
13       concern for those who want to move the process  
14       along to go back out and have two and a half  
15       months of additional hearings after the  
16       Legislature has gone into session, but we are  
17       considering videoconferencing, we are  
18       considering other methods of making sure that  
19       people who would like to have an opportunity to  
20       comment on additional maps, including the 50  
21       maps we already have, that they get that  
22       opportunity without having to go to the expense  
23       of coming to Tallahassee. Not everybody can  
24       come to Tallahassee. Usually we see too many  
25       lobbyists, too many people with \$1,000 suits

1           and \$300 shoes, and not as many people of the  
2           kind that we are seeing in today's meeting.

3           And then the comment that was made by Vi,  
4           or as we now call her, V. She asked about the  
5           lawsuit against Amendment 6, and here is where  
6           Vi has done us a real service. She made it  
7           clear she was talking about the lawsuit against  
8           Amendment 6. Here is where the bloodstream has  
9           gotten -- has gotten really poisonous. There  
10          is no lawsuit having to do with Amendment 5.  
11          There is no lawsuit that's yet been filed by  
12          anybody having to do with legislative  
13          redistricting. The only lawsuit, as Vi  
14          indicated, that has been filed was filed by a  
15          Democratic Congresswoman and a Republican  
16          Congressman having to do with the congressional  
17          redistricting process.

18          Now, it is true that there is a lawsuit,  
19          it is true that there's all kinds of discussion  
20          about it and people are involved in it.  
21          Doesn't have anything to do with any of our  
22          districts. But here is what Speaker  
23          Weatherford has said at every single hearing.  
24          He said we are not going to be distracted by  
25          that lawsuit. Our job is to implement 5 and 6.

1       Our job is to be consistent with the federal  
2       court cases and the other legal requirements  
3       that we have, and unless a court tells us  
4       differently, we are going to go forward and  
5       implement Amendments 5 and 6 and the other  
6       legal requirements that we have. The question  
7       is not whether, but as I pointed out before,  
8       the question is how. And you have given us --  
9       you have given us testimony that in some cases  
10      disagrees with other testimony as to how, but  
11      you have given us very thoughtful insights that  
12      we can use to try to balance those competing  
13      and very legitimate values.

14             This has been the most valuable public  
15      hearing we have held anywhere in the state of  
16      Florida, and it has been because of you. Thank  
17      you very much.

18             REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
19      Chairman Gaetz, and thank you all for being  
20      here today, and with that, Senator Gaetz moves  
21      that we rise.

22             (Whereupon, the proceedings were  
23      concluded.)

24

25

## 1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )

3 COUNTY OF LEON )

4 I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript  
5 is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned,  
6 and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting  
7 under my direction;

8 That the foregoing pages 2 through 163  
9 represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of  
10 the tape-recording;

11 And I further certify that I am not of kin or  
12 counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the  
13 regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor  
14 am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

15 Dated this 5th day of December, 2011.

16

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

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Notary Public

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State of Florida at Large

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Commission Expires:

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November 13, 2014

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REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

11

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

12

8:00 A.M.

13

CLEWISTON, FLORIDA

14

HENDRY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

15

16

17

18

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Transcribed by:

21

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

22

Court Reporter

23

24

25



1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Good morning, ladies and  
3 gentlemen. Thank you very much from being  
4 here, and we would ask if you are here for the  
5 hearing on redistricting and reapportionment  
6 that you take your seats. If you are a member  
7 of the Committee, please find a spot.

8 The Joint Senate House Redistricting  
9 hearing is called to order. We are pleased to  
10 be joined today by several members of the  
11 Florida House of Representatives and the  
12 Florida Senate, who serve on those chambers'  
13 respective redistricting committees, and in a  
14 moment we are going to ask them to indicate who  
15 they are and whether they serve in the House or  
16 the Senate and the area of the state they come  
17 from just so you will know who you are sharing  
18 your opinions with.

19 We want to thank the Hendry County  
20 Department of Health for allowing us to use  
21 this facility. This is not my first time here.  
22 I was here about a year ago where we met with  
23 folks from this county to talk about primary  
24 care issues, and many of the things that were  
25 said in this room turned out to influence

1 healthcare legislation that we passed this past  
2 year in the Florida Legislature.

3 We particularly want to thank those who  
4 have come here to share their comments and  
5 their recommendations to help share  
6 Congressional, Senate and House Districts for  
7 the next decade.

8 I am Don Gaetz. I am a member of the  
9 Florida Senate. My District runs from  
10 Pensacola to east of Panama City. I serve the  
11 five coastal counties of northwest Florida's  
12 Gulf Coast, and I will be chairing today's  
13 hearing which is also being webcast statewide  
14 by the Florida Channel over the Internet, and  
15 here is what that means.

16 It means that you are on television. So  
17 before you stand up to testify, check your  
18 makeup, check your hair, straighten your tie,  
19 because there are typically thousands of people  
20 across Florida who are following each one of  
21 these hearings on the webcast.

22 Our focus today is to hear from the public  
23 about how you believe the legal standards  
24 governing redistricting should be applied in  
25 your community.

1           The question is not if those standards  
2           will be applied. The question is not if  
3           Amendments 5 and 6 will be followed. The  
4           question is how, and as we have learned in each  
5           one of the hearings from testimony, there are  
6           differences of opinion among people in  
7           communities, people of goodwill as to some of  
8           the fine points of how the Federal standards  
9           ought to be applied or State standards ought to  
10          be applied. So we are interested in your views  
11          on that question.

12          Our procedures today are simple but  
13          important. It is important that you sign in so  
14          that we create an accurate public record. We  
15          have a little form for you to sign. This just  
16          shows that you are here, but it is the same  
17          form if you want to speak.

18          So if you have not signed in or if you  
19          just want to observe or if you want to speak,  
20          please raise your hand. We will get you one of  
21          these forms and make sure that you have an  
22          opportunity to share your views with the  
23          members of the House and the Senate this  
24          morning.

25          Why don't we at this point take a moment

1       so that you will know who you are talking with  
2       this morning, and let's pass the microphone and  
3       let's start if we can with Representative  
4       Denise Grimsley.

5               We are in Grimsley world here and want to  
6       thank you very much for allowing us to be in  
7       your part of Florida.

8               REPRESENTATIVE GRIMSLEY: Thank you,  
9       Mr. Chairman, and good morning, and members,  
10      welcome to District 77, one of the sweetest  
11      towns in America. We appreciate you being  
12      here, and for you of the community, thank you  
13      very much for coming out today. I see  
14      Commissioner Toller out there as well.

15              I have talked to a lot of I and I know it  
16      was early, but I really appreciate you guys  
17      coming out to offer your testimony today and  
18      welcome, members welcome.

19              You are in a great town, stop and spend a  
20      little money over here and get to know some of  
21      the residents.

22              REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: I am Kathleen  
23      Passidomo, House District 76, which is Collier  
24      County. I represent the City of Naples, the  
25      City of Marco Island and Everglades City and I

1 am so thrilled to be here. Thank you.

2 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Good morning, I am  
3 Hazelle Rogers from Broward County, a large  
4 base. It is approximately 1.8 million  
5 residents, the most diverse county in the State  
6 of Florida. I represent District 94, eight  
7 cities, Lauderdale Lakes, Margate,  
8 Oakland Park, Tamarac, Plantation, Sunrise and  
9 it is good to be here to listen to what you  
10 have to say. Thank you.

11 REPRESENTATIVE CAMPBELL: Good morning, my  
12 name is Daphne Campbell, District 108, which  
13 includes four cities, North Miami, Miami  
14 Shores, (inaudible) Biscayne Park. Welcome.

15 REPRESENTATIVE ALBRITTON: Good morning.  
16 My name is Ben Albritton, I serve in the  
17 Florida House. I represent south Polk, Hardee  
18 and northwestern Highlands counties.

19 REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Good morning, my  
20 name is John Patrick Julien, representing House  
21 District 104, which is in Miami Dade County.

22 House District 104 represents the cities  
23 of North Miami Beach, North Miami, Miami  
24 Gardens, Opa Locka, Miami and unincorporated  
25 Miami-Dade. It is a pleasure to be here.

1           SENATOR NEGRON: Good morning, I represent  
2           District 28 in the Florida Senate. That is the  
3           Treasure Coast and northern Palm Beach County,  
4           a little bit of western Palm Beach County and  
5           Okeechobee.

6           A VOICE: Do you have a name?

7           SENATOR NEGRON: Joe Negron.

8           REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Good morning, my  
9           name is Mack Bernard. Since we are in the  
10          sweetest county in the -- in Florida I  
11          represent the sweetest cities in Florida, which  
12          includes the cities of Belle Glade, Pahokee and  
13          South Bay, and also it is good to be in Taylor  
14          country, and I want to welcome everyone who is  
15          here because I represent the districts right  
16          down the street.

17          REPRESENTATIVE CALDWELL: Good morning, my  
18          name is Matt Caldwell. I represent District  
19          73, which is just a little west of us, Lehigh  
20          Acres, Ft. Myers, down into rural Corkscrew.

21          SENATOR JOYNER: Good morning, I am  
22          Arthenia Joyner, I represent Senate District  
23          18. That is Hillsborough, Pinellas and  
24          Manatee, St. Petersburg and Bradenton and I am  
25          happy to be here this morning.

1           REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Hello, everybody.  
2           My name is Martin Kiar. I represent District  
3           97 in the Florida House, which is located  
4           solely within Broward County. Thank you all so  
5           much for coming out today to share your input  
6           with us.

7           REPRESENTATIVE REED: Good morning, I am  
8           State Representative Gwyndolen Clarke- Reed. I  
9           represent House seat 92 in Broward County,  
10          representing seven cities, and this is my 26th  
11          hearing.

12          So I have had the distinct honor of  
13          traveling with Senator Gaetz all the way.  
14          Welcome this morning. Looking forward to  
15          hearing from you.

16          REPRESENTATIVE THURSTON: Good morning, I  
17          am Perry Thurston and I represent House  
18          District 93, and it is a pleasure to be in your  
19          area this morning.

20          REPRESENTATIVE JONES: Good morning, I am  
21          State Representative Mia Jones, representing  
22          Jacksonville, District 14.

23          REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Good morning.  
24          My name is Chuck Chestnut, House District 23.  
25          That is a portion of Alachua County and a

1           portion of Marion County. Glad to be here.

2           REPRESENTATIVE TRUJILLO: Good morning, my  
3           Nam is Carlos Trujillo. I represent Florida  
4           House District 116 which is southwest Miami  
5           Dade County.

6           REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS: Good morning, I  
7           am Trudi Williams, House member from District  
8           75, which is Lee and Collier, parts of Collier  
9           County. Glad to be here.

10          SENATOR GAETZ: Joining me in chairing  
11          today's hearing is the former Speaker Pro Temp  
12          of the Florida House of Representatives, and  
13          now back serving his community, Representative  
14          Dennis Baxley, and Representative Baxley and I  
15          will be working together today.

16          You may see me having to leave a little  
17          bit early to catch my transportation all of the  
18          way back to the central time zone in northwest  
19          Florida, but I can assure you that if I do miss  
20          any testimony that I will look at the video  
21          record of the testimony so that I hear every  
22          single word that every single person here  
23          testifies with.

24          And before we go any further I would like  
25          to ask Speaker Baxley if he would explain how



1       today's hearing fits into our redistricting  
2       process and into the schedule.

3               Mr. Speaker.

4               REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: Thank you,  
5       Chairman Gaetz. Every ten years the  
6       Legislature is required by our Constitution to  
7       redistrict the state based on increases,  
8       decreases and movements of the population.

9               Because Florida has grown more than other  
10      states in the last ten years we will move up  
11      from 25 to 27 members of the U.S. House of  
12      Representatives.

13              Because some parts of our state have  
14      increased or decreased disproportionately in  
15      population, many State and House Districts will  
16      change, either adding or losing population.

17              When redistricting is completed,  
18      Congressional Districts must be equal in  
19      population and contain 696,345 people. The 40  
20      Senate Districts must be nearly equal at about  
21      470,000 people and our 120 House Districts must  
22      all be nearly equal to about 156,700.

23              We have displays at the front of the room  
24      in the entrance foyer showing the current  
25      boundaries of districts in this area of the

1 state and the number of persons which must be  
2 added to or subtracted from current districts  
3 to achieve this equal representation.

4 The quality of representation isn't the  
5 only legal requirement redistricting plans must  
6 meet.

7 The laws and important court cases  
8 governing redistricting are explained in detail  
9 on the House and Senate websites. Those  
10 websites are listed on the Redistricting 2012  
11 brochure that was available to you when you  
12 came in or you can pick one up as you leave.

13 Our Redistricting 2012 brochure summarizes  
14 the Federal and State laws and it outlines the  
15 topics we hope to discuss here at today's  
16 hearing.

17 If you did not get a copy when you came  
18 in, they are available on the tables outside  
19 this meeting room in the foyer. Our staff will  
20 be happy to get you a copy of the brochure if  
21 you need it.

22 The brochure also lists the House and  
23 Senate websites. These websites are packed  
24 with information about redistricting in  
25 Florida, including explanation of laws and

1 important court cases governing redistricting.

2 The two websites are complimentary and are  
3 updated frequently. Visit both and check back  
4 often. It is a great way to stay current about  
5 how your new Congressional State Senate and  
6 State House Districts are taking shape.

7 The websites also deliver to your  
8 fingertips all of the demographic information  
9 that is used in drawing districts and the exact  
10 same computer programs that Legislators and  
11 professional staff will be using.

12 You, the public, can participate in  
13 building plans or seeing maps submitted by  
14 Legislators or citizens. Before, during and  
15 after this hearing Senate and House  
16 professional staff are here available to show  
17 anyone the simple steps to getting online,  
18 building districts and submitting a plan now or  
19 in the weeks to come.

20 Recommendations from citizens and groups  
21 of citizens will be made publicly available on  
22 this website. In fact, as of this morning, 51  
23 public submissions of partial or complete maps  
24 and new ideas for maps are available on that  
25 website.

1           After this week I am sure those numbers  
2           will increase and you can follow the process.  
3           The submission of proposed maps that makes  
4           sense for your community is the single most  
5           effective form of public participation in this  
6           redistricting process.

7           The redistricting schedule under which we  
8           are operating is imposed by the State  
9           Constitution. The Constitution does not permit  
10          the Legislature to act on State legislative  
11          maps before the second year after the census,  
12          in other words, not before 2012.

13          We accelerated this process as much as  
14          possible by moving up the 2012 legislative  
15          session from March to January, and I don't  
16          think that has ever been done before, and by  
17          beginning our statewide hearings five months in  
18          advance of the 2012 session.

19          It has been suggested that the Legislature  
20          should draw maps first and then ask the public  
21          for comment. We believe that that puts the  
22          answer ahead of the question.

23          There should be no preconceptions created  
24          by politicians, but rather public testimony  
25          should be free and unrestricted. In fact, a

1 principle author of Florida's New Redistricting  
2 Standards and the chair person for Fair  
3 Districts Campaign are on record in agreeing  
4 with us the notion that new maps should not be  
5 drawn until after the public has had an  
6 opportunity to comment on this process.

7 Our intent is to use the recommendations  
8 made at these 26 public hearings and through  
9 our internet sites as the basis for developing  
10 one or more options for District maps.

11 We discuss those options in open public  
12 meetings before any votes are taken in any  
13 committee.

14 In other words, what we are literally  
15 saying is if you look at those maps to our  
16 right, your left, the ones actually submitted  
17 to the Legislature by Florida residents, we are  
18 literally starting the legislative process with  
19 those maps and other suggestions from the  
20 public.

21 So if you want to know where we will begin  
22 our deliberations, it is with those public  
23 submissions, testimony from these meetings and  
24 other public input.

25 Throughout the process we will solicit

1 additional public comment so that proposed maps  
2 can mature with the public involved, all before  
3 the Legislature approves the final maps.

4 Whatever the Legislature passes then is  
5 submitted for judicial review to ensure that  
6 the final plans meet every legal requirement.

7 Because our purpose today is to hear from  
8 you, all of the time between now and the close  
9 of this meeting at 11:00 will be used to ensure  
10 that every member of the public who is here and  
11 wishes to speak will have time to present  
12 testimony, be listened to respectfully without  
13 interruption or argument.

14 If after every citizen has had his or her  
15 say there is time remaining before our  
16 scheduled adjournment, then any member of the  
17 committee may make any statement or offer any  
18 observation and, of course, any member of the  
19 Legislature may today or at any time propose a  
20 map or plan and we will make it available to  
21 the public.

22 Mr. Chairman, I hope this description of  
23 our schedule and process helps set the stage  
24 for a very successful hearing.

25 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,

1 Representative Baxley. We, the good news is we  
2 have a goodly number of people who have already  
3 signed up to speak, and if this hearing is like  
4 other hearings, during the hearing there will  
5 be people coming in or people who are in the  
6 audience now who hadn't planned to speak, but  
7 the spirit will move them and they will decide  
8 they would like to speak, and if so, we want to  
9 hear from you.

10 So what we have done in each one of our  
11 hearings is to be fair to the people who are at  
12 the back end and haven't signed up to speak yet  
13 or who may be coming in a little bit late in  
14 the hearing, on their way now and the people  
15 who are at the end of those who have already  
16 signed up, we try to have a little time limit  
17 out of respect for those people who are going  
18 to come later, your friends and neighbors who  
19 also want to testify.

20 So what I am going to do is call out three  
21 names at a time so you know that you are on  
22 deck. If I call you out, be ready if you can  
23 so that you can be ready to come forward,  
24 because we don't want to miss a single word of  
25 what you might want to share with us.

1           And we are going to hold to a time limit  
2           of about three minutes. If you run two or  
3           three or four seconds over, I am not going to  
4           get upset, but if you sort of kind of roll on  
5           like a preacher we used to have at my church,  
6           we may -- we may point out to you that there  
7           are others behind you who would like to speak.

8           Our first speaker is Joshua Deese and then  
9           Brian Whitehall and then Clayton Williams.

10          So Joshua Deese with the Hendry County  
11          Young Democrats, you are up. We are delighted  
12          to have you begin our hearing this morning and  
13          the floor is yours, sir.

14          MR. DEESE: Thank you. Good morning,  
15          everyone. My name is Joshua Deese, I am a  
16          senior at Clewiston High School and a pre-law  
17          student at Edison State College. I am here  
18          representing the Hendry County Young Democrats.

19          SENATOR GAETZ: And if I could just ask  
20          you, the microphone is sort of off center  
21          there. If you wouldn't mind speaking as  
22          directly as you can into the mike.

23          MR. DEESE: Sure.

24          SENATOR GAETZ: Thanks, Joshua.

25          MR. DEESE: Okay. So I thank you for



1       allowing me this opportunity to voice my  
2       opinion.

3               With Congressman Thomas Rooney, I along  
4       with many other people in this community feel  
5       that he has neglected us in his constituency.

6               He hardly comes here and he has made it  
7       quite clear that we are -- that he is slightly  
8       interested in representing our constituency.

9               I among the others feel that he represents  
10      his sole community in Palm Beach, Wellington  
11      and Stuart, which are more upscaled  
12      communities.

13              There are people here in Clewiston, Moore  
14      Haven and Labelle, they do not contain a large  
15      population of people with a high socioeconomic  
16      status.

17              It has been my understanding that  
18      Representative Hastings has wanted to draw into  
19      our constituency. It would be easier for him  
20      to do so, apart from us being represented with  
21      Congressman Rooney, as the line divides  
22      straight through Clewiston and Belle Glade.

23              This would not only boost Representative  
24      Hastings' population to a more ideal standard  
25      to whether he would like to boost his

1       population up, but it would also give both  
2       racial minorities and minorities of lower  
3       socioeconomic statuses a better feel to be  
4       represented by their constitu -- in their  
5       constituency.

6               So I -- I hope that you would take into  
7       consideration to allow Congressman Hastings to  
8       be joined into our District. I yield the rest  
9       of my time. Thank you.

10              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, and  
11       thanks so much for coming here today and for  
12       your leadership as a high school student. I  
13       mean, hey, as a State Senator you would be  
14       highly articulate.

15              As a high school student you are doing  
16       really great. Let's give this guy a round of  
17       applause.

18              And next if we could hear from Brian  
19       Whitehall and following Mr. Whitehall, Clayton  
20       Williams and then Mayor Paul Puletti from the  
21       City of Labelle.

22              Mr. Whitehall, thank you for coming, and  
23       you are recognized.

24              MR. WHITEHALL: Thank you. Brian  
25       Whitehall, City Administrator from your

1 neighbors to the north, Okeechobee, and we  
2 bring greetings today.

3 I am representing not only the City but  
4 the County, as we have no other representation  
5 here.

6 I am like the prior person, I think we are  
7 well represented from Senator Joe Negron and  
8 our other Representatives and Senators.

9 We have kind of a unique situation in  
10 Okeechobee inasmuch as we have an influence  
11 from the Treasure Coast area, but we also have  
12 our roots predicated in agriculture and central  
13 Florida values.

14 And so the uniqueness presents a dilemma I  
15 think for redistricting inasmuch as we would  
16 prefer to have representation from the Treasure  
17 Coast and central Florida.

18 Our current districts are set up perfectly  
19 in our estimation, and I think as I said, our  
20 Representatives and Senators do a great job  
21 representing us. So it is short and sweet  
22 message that I wanted to deliver today, that is  
23 it.

24 And I also want to, if it is possible, to  
25 present you with a resolution from the City of

1 Okeechobee that articulates that.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Please do, please do.

3 Thank you very, very much.

4 Now, Clayton Williams, we are delighted to  
5 have him here, representing the City of  
6 Okeechobee, and then following Mr. Williams,  
7 Mayor Puletti and then if Janet Taylor from the  
8 Hendry County Commission will be on deck.

9 Mr. Williams, the floor is yours and we  
10 are looking forward to your testimony.

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
12 and members of the Committee. Clayton  
13 Williams, City Council, Okeechobee. We enjoy  
14 our representation that we have from Senator  
15 Negron, Senator Alexander and Mike Horner and  
16 Dr. Berman.

17 Like the City Manager just said, we are  
18 kind of unique. We are part Treasure Coast  
19 part, center part of the state. I personally  
20 serve on the Central Florida Regional Planning  
21 Council and we enjoy this representation and we  
22 appreciate your consideration.

23 I just want to say also, nothing against  
24 the sweetest town in the country, but we have  
25 low calorie speckled perch. We are the home of

1 the speckled perch in Okeechobee.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: I see where this hearing  
3 is headed.

4 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, so -- so come to  
5 Okeechobee some time and we will feed you some  
6 speckled perch.

7 SENATOR GAETZ: Sounds like --

8 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you for coming.  
9 Thank you very much. Appreciate it. And now,  
10 Mr. Mayor, if you are here we would be  
11 delighted to hear from you, followed by  
12 Commissioner Taylor, and then I think it is Mel  
13 Karau. Mel Karau, I apologize.

14 Mr. Mayor, thanks for your service to the  
15 city and the community and you are recognized,  
16 sir.

17 MR. PULETTI: And thank you for the  
18 opportunity to be here. What I would like to  
19 speak on is our legislative, our Florida  
20 legislative lines.

21 There are three main issues that the City  
22 of Labelle is concerned with. One is that  
23 Hendry County remain whole in whichever  
24 District we end up in.

25 Secondly we prefer State House District 77

1 to retain its characteristics of representing  
2 the central portion of the state.

3 And the third issue that the residents of  
4 Labelle and the city government of Labelle is  
5 concerned with is, we would prefer our Senate  
6 District, we are currently in Senate District  
7 39 and it is very hard for us to find  
8 commonality.

9 I represent a city of 4,800 people who  
10 share with Miami-Dade County, and we would  
11 prefer to be not included with Miami-Dade  
12 County, but be included in a Senate District  
13 that represents the interior portions of the  
14 state.

15 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
16 Mayor.

17 MR. PULETTI: Thank you.

18 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, sir.

19 MS. TAYLOR: Good morning.

20 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much for  
21 allowing us to be here, and if everybody who is  
22 new to this area, I visited here before, but if  
23 you turn around you will see the Janet B.  
24 Taylor name and picture on the back of this  
25 room, and Commissioner, thank you for letting

1       us come to your house today. You are  
2       recognized.

3               MS. TAYLOR: We are more than glad to have  
4       you and you have to forgive my voice. I had  
5       surgery, but we really welcome you to Hendry  
6       County and we have been pleased with our  
7       representation that we have had.

8               But, you know, Hendry County is one of the  
9       five pre-clearance counties by the Department  
10      of Justice for election laws and we are hoping  
11      when you are doing the redistricting that you  
12      will remember that, and some of what the young  
13      Democrat said is quite true.

14              We are now split with two Representatives  
15      from Congress for our little small town and I  
16      don't know that it is an advantage or a  
17      disadvantage for us to have two  
18      Representatives, but when you are doing your  
19      redistricting maps we hope that you would take  
20      into consideration that we do want to remain  
21      whole, whole as a community and the  
22      representation from Congressman Hastings I  
23      think that would do us well.

24              Again, we thank you for coming and just  
25      please remember that we want to stay whole here

1 in our county.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very, very much,  
3 Commissioner, and Mel Karau is next and  
4 following Mr. Karau, Robert Rense, and then  
5 Terry Koopman.

6 Mr. Karau, thank you for being here, sir,  
7 and the floor is yours.

8 MR. KARAU: Thank you for allowing me to  
9 be here today. I am Chairman of the Republican  
10 Party in Hendry County and I will echo much  
11 what our Mayor said, Paul Puletti.

12 We would like to remain whole as a county  
13 and we don't feel that we are getting the  
14 representation from the east coast that we  
15 deserve and we are quite happy with the  
16 representation of our Representative Grimsley  
17 and Tom Rooney. They represent us well.

18 And if we could stay within the central  
19 part of Florida, I think that represents our  
20 county best as opposed to splitting it up with  
21 the east coast.

22 And I would just like to add that Labelle  
23 is the home of the famous armadillo race that  
24 is put on by Rotary.

25 SENATOR GAETZ: We are going to hear more



1       about this. I know that. Thank you,  
2       Mr. Chairman.

3               Next, Robert Rense, Mr. Rense, and  
4       following Mr. Rense, Terry Koopman and then if  
5       Donna Storter, Glades County Commissioner, will  
6       be ready to speak as well.

7               Mr. Rense, we are very pleased, you could  
8       have been someplace else this morning. You  
9       came to spend time with us and we are grateful.

10              MR. RENSE: And thank you for coming too,  
11      Mr. Chairman, Representatives. My name is  
12      Robert Rense, and I am the President of the  
13      Glades Area Minestorial Association which  
14      consists of the western Palm Beach County,  
15      Okeechobee and Hendry county.

16              And I am just coming to say that the most  
17      important thing to us is that we have the  
18      districts drawn up so that you have one voice  
19      and one vote, and that the power vote of those  
20      who are minorities of those are not diminished  
21      by redrawing the districts in such a way that  
22      they do not have an impact.

23              We also are concerned about making sure  
24      that when you draw those districts, that you  
25      consider communities of interest, that those

1       who have common interest are together in those  
2       districts so that they can be represented very  
3       well.

4               But again we look forward to seeing what  
5       your districts will end up looking like and  
6       give our support when it is drawn in such a way  
7       that all citizens have an equal right or equal  
8       voice in the voting process. Thank you.

9               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, great words,  
10       sir. We really appreciate that. And next,  
11       Terri Koopman, Ms. Koopman and then  
12       Commissioner Storter and then Teresa Jenkins,  
13       if you could be ready.

14              Ms. Koopman, thank you for taking time  
15       from your day and we look forward to your  
16       testimony.

17              MS. KOOPMAN: Good morning, my name is  
18       Terri Koopman, I live in beautiful Lake placid  
19       and part of District 77.

20              I am here this morning to talk about the  
21       fact that I want my county to be altogether.

22              Representative Albritton you are a really  
23       nice man, but he has this little hunk of  
24       Highlands County and we want Highlands County  
25       to be of a piece. So please, the people in

1       Avon Park really want to be part of the rest of  
2       us.

3               The other thing is, the voters of this  
4       state overwhelmingly approved Amendments 5 and  
5       6, and I would ask in the strongest possible  
6       terms for you to withdraw your lawsuit in a  
7       time when you are spending money that our  
8       schools need your money.

9               It is our money, and as far as the  
10       Congressional Districts are concerned, I am  
11       sorry, I live in Highlands County and it is a  
12       rural area, it is a beautiful rural area. We  
13       have nothing in common with the high rise  
14       condos in Palm Beach or the people on the Gulf  
15       Coast either.

16              So please, put us with people that have  
17       more of our interest, with Glades County, with  
18       Desoto county, with Hardee County. Keep us  
19       together with people of similar interest,  
20       because essentially our rural interests are not  
21       well represented by someone who has way more  
22       constituents on the coast.

23              The other thing is, thank you so much for  
24       coming and for listening to us. My husband  
25       gave his life to defend our rights for liberty,

1           and I want representative government.

2                   I want to be able to vote for those people  
3           who will represent me well and not have  
4           Representatives choose who the voters are.

5                   Thank you.

6                   SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, and, ma'am,  
7           thank you for the service and sacrifice of your  
8           husband.

9                   Next we will have Commissioner Storter, we  
10          appreciate you being here, Commissioner, then  
11          Teresa Jenkins and then Martha Hoover from the  
12          League of Women Voters.

13                  Commissioner, you are recognized and we  
14          are delighted you are here.

15                  COMMISSIONER STORTER: Thank you. I am  
16          delighted to be here. I recognize Mr. Negron,  
17          Mr. Caldwell and Ms. Grimsley, Senator  
18          Benacquisto is not here. Oh, she just came in.  
19          I didn't see you come in, Liz, thank you.

20                  I am one of five County Commissioners in  
21          Glades County. It is probably the fourth  
22          smallest in the state. I had a lot of problems  
23          finding user friendly census data, but we are  
24          physically constrained, you know what that  
25          means. We are (inaudible), which is a real

1 area of critical economic concern and yet  
2 Glades County has no debt. We do have certain  
3 issues though.

4 Senator Benacquisto's District, if you  
5 look at it on a map, it looks like a salamander  
6 squated on the map.

7 We are not happy with that.  
8 Twenty-three percent of the voters in Glades  
9 County live in my District, so obviously we are  
10 going to have to make some District changes  
11 from the Commission level.

12 It includes Old Town and north Labelle,  
13 but 72 percent of my voters have a Hendry  
14 County zip code. At the other geographical end  
15 of Glades County is Buckhead Ridge where  
16 26 percent of the Glades County voters reside  
17 and all of them have an Okeechobee County zip  
18 code.

19 There are other out of county zip codes in  
20 Glades County, residences for Clewiston mailing  
21 addresses, and Venice, and that is Hendry and  
22 Highlands County.

23 A total of 47 percent of the voters  
24 registered in Glades County have an out of  
25 county zip code. So it is probably safe to

1       assume that the total household population  
2       follows those same ratios.

3               So basing legislative representation on  
4       addresses could result in very unfair  
5       representation with Glades County, so please  
6       consider that.

7               We have felt very well represented by our  
8       Congressman Rooney and especially by  
9       Representative Denise Grimsley, but we are  
10      divided by those Senate Districts and we would  
11      like to have that whole.

12              Also we are a part of other Heartland,  
13      Florida consertions, cooperatives. We identify  
14      better as the previous speaker spoke, with the  
15      interior rural counties such as Hardee, Desoto,  
16      Okeechobee and Highlands and even Hendry  
17      County. We do not want to be divided.

18              You have heard that again and again I want  
19      to thank you for this, for not drawing those  
20      maps until you did hear from us. Thank you.

21              SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
22      Commissioner, and Commissioner, before you  
23      leave, the problem, the anomaly you have  
24      described about the voting addresses, would you  
25      be sure you talk with either Alex Kelly or John

1 Guthrie from our staff to make sure we have a  
2 complete understanding of the -- of that issue,  
3 how many people are involved and where they  
4 are, so that we do not neglect that issue.

5 Thank you very much, Commissioner.

6 Next we will hear from Teresa Jenkins and  
7 then Martha Hoover from the League of Women  
8 Voters and then Jean Finks from the League of  
9 Women Voters.

10 Ms. Jenkins, thank you for coming. The  
11 floor is yours.

12 MS. JENKINS: Well, good morning, and  
13 thank you, Mr. Chairman, Representatives. I  
14 thank you for the opportunity to speak.

15 I also represent the League of Women  
16 Voters. We are from Charlotte County, so we  
17 were on the road at the crack of dawn this  
18 morning to come here to speak about this  
19 important issue.

20 The League has a couple of concerns, one  
21 of which is the Legislature's published  
22 timeline for drawing the District maps.

23 What the League believes is that we feel  
24 that these, the timelines are unfair to our  
25 Florida voters, to our Supervisors of

1 Elections, as well as to potential candidates.

2 The published timeline seems to wait to  
3 finalize the District maps until the end of  
4 session which is March 2012, and then the  
5 courts, of course, the Justice Department have  
6 their time to review the passage of the maps  
7 and then review them.

8 And under the present timeline it seems  
9 highly unlikely that the districts will be  
10 approved before June 8, which is the deadline  
11 for candidates to file their papers to run for  
12 office.

13 So as it is, Florida districts may not be  
14 finalized until August. So we understand that  
15 the legislature's own lawyer has been quoted as  
16 saying take the timeline will cause massive  
17 voter confusion and we believe that as well.

18 We are concerned about our Supervisors of  
19 Elections. They need to have sufficient time  
20 to prepare for the elections and we are  
21 concerned about challengers.

22 We are concerned about new candidates who  
23 need to have sufficient time to mount an  
24 effective campaign.

25 And so while the Legislature will hold



1       interim committee meetings from September  
2       through December, perhaps that time could be  
3       used to draw district maps. Then allow the  
4       public to comment and then prepare the final  
5       plans to submit to the full House and Senate  
6       before the Legislature convenes.

7               The uncertainty as to what a district is  
8       going to look like helps incumbents. It  
9       doesn't help challengers, and these incumbents  
10      are already known to the voters.

11             So these efforts to protect incumbents  
12      perhaps, seem to undermine our fair competitive  
13      elections, and some citizens have come  
14      demanding that the timeline be accelerated, and  
15      in response we understand that you intend to  
16      bring the maps to the floor for a vote in  
17      January, but still we don't believe this is  
18      acceptable.

19             So what we are asking is for a published  
20      accelerated timeline to adopt a rule requiring  
21      all maps to be filed by October 3rd of 2011.  
22      Adopt a rule requiring all committee action on  
23      redistricting plans be completed by the end of  
24      2011, and adopt a rule requiring that all plans  
25      be voted on during the first week of 2012

1 session.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: I am sorry. I apologize.

3 MS. JENKINS: Thank you for your time.

4 SENATOR GAETZ: Yes, and Ms. Jenkins, I  
5 hope since you came so far that you will have a  
6 chance to stay until the end of the hearing.  
7 Senator Negron and Representative Baxley will  
8 give you some information I think that may  
9 provide some reassurance.

10 I think it may be possible that the League  
11 is operating off of an a old schedule that you  
12 are troubled by. So I hope you can hang out  
13 until the end of the hearing.

14 MS. JENKINS: That would be wonderful.  
15 Thank you so much.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: All right, sure, thank you  
17 so much, Ms. Jenkins.

18 And next we will hear from Martha Hoover,  
19 representing the League, and then from Jean  
20 Finks, representing the League and then from  
21 Joseph, I am sorry, we already heard from  
22 Joseph. You were there twice you were so good.

23 Then we are going to hear from Ashley  
24 Tripp with the LORE Alliance.

25 And so Ms. Hoover, you are recognized and

1 think you for being here.

2 MS. HOOVER: Well, thank you. My name is  
3 Martha Hoover and I live in Port Charlotte, and  
4 I do represent the Charlotte County League of  
5 Women Voters.

6 We are concerned about three specific  
7 issues relative to redistricting reform.

8 First, the timeline for drawing district  
9 maps is unfair to Florida voters. The plan to  
10 wait to finalize district maps until at least  
11 the end of the session results in Florida's  
12 maps not being finalized until August of 2012.

13 The primary election is August 14th. Your  
14 own lawyer rightfully says that this will cause  
15 massive voter confusion and Election  
16 Supervisors will have insufficient time to  
17 prepare for elections.

18 Challengers and new candidates will have  
19 little or no time to mount their campaigns and  
20 voters will be voting for candidates they do  
21 not know.

22 We therefore ask the Legislators to debate  
23 and pass maps during the first week of session,  
24 holding interim committee meetings from  
25 September through December.

1           Commit to prepare and file district maps  
2           by October the 3rd, 2011. Adopt a rule  
3           requiring all committee action on redistricting  
4           plans be completed by the end of 2011, and  
5           requiring that all plans be voted on during the  
6           first week of 2012 session. The current  
7           timeline is simply an incumbent protection  
8           plan.

9           Our second concern relates to spending  
10          taxpayer money to oppose fair districts. Over  
11          \$1 million of taxpayer money is already spent  
12          hiring lawyers to fight the will of the Florida  
13          voters, with another 30 million set aside for  
14          future court battles.

15          The Florida House is using taxpayer money  
16          to attack and invalidate a provision of our  
17          State Constitution that was supported by  
18          63 percent of Florida voters.

19          All of this money is being spent while  
20          teachers are being laid off and social services  
21          are being cut.

22          We ask the Florida House to immediately  
23          withdraw from the lawsuit and respect the will  
24          of the 63 percent of Florida voters who want  
25          the new redistricting standards applied.

1           Our last point is where are the maps  
2           provided by the Legislature? We had hoped that  
3           you would provide sample maps for public  
4           comment during these hearings. With 26  
5           hearings we have not seen a single map from the  
6           Legislature.

7           We demand that the Legislators commit to  
8           holding another round of public hearings with  
9           real maps that we can see which the citizens  
10          can comment on.

11          So I thank you for your time and on behalf  
12          of the Charlotte County League of Women Voters,  
13          thank you very much.

14          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
15          ma'am, and I hope for the same reasons -- I am  
16          sorry, I am not quite sure how to make this  
17          work.

18          I hope you will have a chance to stay  
19          until the end of the hearing because again I  
20          think it may be possible that the scripts were  
21          written before some events occurred that may  
22          give you some reassurance.

23          MS. HOOVER: I hope so.

24          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, ma'am.

25          Next, Jean Finks from the League of Women

1 Voters.

2 MS. FINKS: Good morning, and thank you  
3 for the opportunity to speak, Mr. Chairman. I  
4 am from Charlotte County now, but I used to  
5 live in Volusia County in Deland, and also in  
6 Tallahassee. So I see some of my  
7 Representatives, former Representatives here.

8 Mr. Chairman, thank you for telling us  
9 that it is not if, but how, but my question to  
10 you is, how much.

11 In the name of transparency can you tell  
12 us how much all of these hearings have cost us,  
13 the taxpayers, and we don't have a map to show  
14 for it? We don't think the Legislature should  
15 be spending our money needlessly.

16 Although there have been good comments at  
17 this hearing and I am sure you are hearing them  
18 from some of the others, we could have done  
19 that by e-mail.

20 The Legislature shouldn't be spending  
21 money on opposing fair districts and the  
22 lawsuit that is presently pending is another  
23 waste of our tax dollars.

24 We are on both sides of that lawsuit and  
25 we are spending money on both sides. All that

1 money could be set aside as our people have  
2 said, for more schools, more arts in the  
3 schools, more science in the schools. We think  
4 this is a poor waste of our tax dollars.

5 It is very clear that you are asking to  
6 protect your own incumbencies and you are  
7 trying to fight new people who might have new  
8 ideas.

9 The Legislature should be working to  
10 uphold the constitutional provisions that two  
11 thirds of us have already approved. So we ask  
12 the House to immediately withdraw from the  
13 lawsuit and respect the will of the people in  
14 letting fair districting go forward in a more  
15 expeditious and hopefully not as tax --  
16 unworthy a process. Thank you.

17 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
18 ma'am, for being here this morning.

19 And next, Ashley Tripp, if Ms. Tripp is  
20 here, followed by Joseph Spratt, then Kevin  
21 McCarthy.

22 Ms. Tripp, thank you for taking the time  
23 to be with us and the floor is yours.

24 MS. TRIPP: Good morning. Thank you for  
25 the opportunity to speak. I appreciate the

1           opportunity. I think it is important that we  
2           do have this opportunity to share with you our  
3           thoughts.

4                   Again, I am with the Lake Okeechobee  
5           Regional Economic Alliance of Palm Beach  
6           County.

7                   We are really working hard to improve the  
8           economy in that region, but one thing that we  
9           have in common all the way around the lake is  
10          that we have Lake Okeechobee at the center and  
11          the heart of our industries.

12                  I would like to propose that when you look  
13          at your redistricting that you encompass Lake  
14          Okeechobee in the Senator, the Florida Senate  
15          as well is the Florida House congressional maps  
16          and the congressional maps because of our  
17          common interest.

18                  I have heard several times from many of  
19          the different speakers this morning was  
20          commonalities, commonalities, and then as our  
21          agriculture industry, our tourism industry as  
22          well as Lake Okeechobee and we need greater  
23          representation, strong, stronger representation  
24          in this whole region of south Florida and  
25          central Florida.



1           We are the Belle Glade, Pahokee and South  
2 Bay is part of the Freddie district, the  
3 Florida rule heartland and it is great, we fit  
4 into that because of our lifestyles yet it  
5 often works against us because we are in a  
6 metropolitan county and metropolitan  
7 districting.

8           So we would just like for you to consider  
9 when you do the redistricting to consider the  
10 commonalities that the communities around Lake  
11 Okeechobee and all of the different counties  
12 around there have in place.

13           So I thank you for your time, and anything  
14 I can ever do for you, please let me know.

15           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. Thank you very  
16 much for that very useful testimony. Joseph  
17 Spratt is next, following Mr. Spratt, Kevin  
18 McCarthy and then Dr. Deborah Misotti, if I  
19 have that name pronounced correctly.

20           Mr. Spratt, thank you very much, and you  
21 are recognized, sir. We are glad to have you.

22           MR. SPRATT: Mr. Chairman and members.  
23 First let me welcome you to Hendry County, and  
24 thank you very much for coming here to listen  
25 to our request and our concerns.

1           Our House District has worked well for 30  
2 plus years. We have been blessed to have very  
3 well-qualified and dedicated Representatives,  
4 at least for the last 16 years, okay, okay,  
5 for the last eight. Thank you, Representative  
6 Grimsley.

7           This is because it has been comprised of  
8 like communities, the like interests and we  
9 have had Representatives that have walked the  
10 walk, talked the talk. They are part of our  
11 communities that understand our people, their  
12 jobs and their industries, their problems and  
13 the solutions thereto.

14           We are a rural agricultural based district  
15 comprised of hard working, caring, God fearing  
16 and conservative people. Our Senate district  
17 on the other hand has always been attached to  
18 the coast one way or another, and they have  
19 very different problems, ideas and solutions.

20           We are kind of like a flea on the dog's  
21 back. Mainly, just a nuisance, sometimes  
22 getting a scratch. In fact, today our Senate  
23 District runs from where you sit to Key West.

24           Senator Bullard, and I served in the House  
25 with Senator Bullard and she is a good friend,

1 represents us well. However, I do not believe  
2 that you can fairly represent a district with  
3 such diversity that is over seven hours from  
4 one end to the other.

5 We have nothing in common with the  
6 majority of the constituents in this district  
7 and we feel we need a more level playing ground  
8 when it comes to our State Senate District.

9 I have invested most of my adult life in  
10 representing and fighting for the people in  
11 this county, as well as this district on rural  
12 and agricultural issues.

13 First as a City Commissioner, then a  
14 County Commissioner, and as a Senate  
15 Representative. These people are the very core  
16 of our society, working every day, providing  
17 jobs, producing food and fiber and thus  
18 contributing to the economic stability of this  
19 state no matter what the circumstances.

20 I strongly urge you to seriously consider  
21 drawing a House District much as it has been  
22 for the past 30 years, and that our Senate  
23 District be drawn to one of like communities  
24 with like interest and like problems looking  
25 for like solutions.

1           Let's preserve Florida's Heartland with  
2           proper representation and not draw us to  
3           coastal communities where our voices will not  
4           be heard.

5           Again, thank you for being here and  
6           listening to us, you have a daunting task. May  
7           God speed.

8           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. Thank you,  
9           Representative, for your great service to this  
10          community.

11          Next we will hear from Kevin McCarthy,  
12          then Dr. Deborah Misotti, and then Margaret  
13          Shaw, please.

14          Mr. McCarthy, thank you for being here,  
15          and we welcome your testimony.

16          MR. MCCARTHY: Thank you, and I want to  
17          thank you for being here and coming out and  
18          listening to the people, particularly here in  
19          the Glades.

20          I have been a private business owner for  
21          24 years, spent six years on the City  
22          Commission in Clewiston and eight years on the  
23          County Commission, and from a congressional  
24          standpoint I think we have been very fortunate.  
25          I think we are well represented by Congressman

1       Rooney and we are well represented by  
2       Congressman Hastings, but I think that  
3       primarily is because he was born out in the  
4       Glades and he has a real appreciation and I am  
5       very grateful for his representation of our  
6       area.

7           I am a little afraid of what might happen  
8       if we have a new election with somebody else  
9       representing that has the same problem as our  
10      Senate District. Our Senate District does not  
11      get represented in this area.

12           A lot of times in our legislative  
13      delegation meetings our Senator doesn't show  
14      up. We have Senator Benacquisto here, before  
15      her, Senator Aronberg who doesn't have a single  
16      voter in Hendry County. They cut across the  
17      lake, they are at our legislative delegation  
18      meetings.

19           I think it is very important that we have  
20      a Senate that represents our area, represents  
21      the center part of the state, the rural areas.  
22      Ashley Tripp made mention of the Freddie  
23      region, also in the reset region they get  
24      pulled next the tri cities in Palm Beach County  
25      and we go up into the center of the state and

1           it makes a lot of sense.

2           We have a lot in common but our Senate  
3       District does not represent us and does not  
4       represent us well. So I would ask you that  
5       when you start drawing those lines that you,  
6       you remember that, and draw us a Senate  
7       District that makes sense.

8           Our House of Representatives seat has been  
9       great and Joe went back 16 years, but I think  
10      we go back long before that with Burt Harris,  
11      we have been well represented for a long time.

12          I have been in Tallahassee every year for  
13      the past 24 years, spent six trips up to D. C.  
14      and it is very welcoming when you walk in and  
15      you make those appointments and you go see your  
16      Representative as opposed to when you make your  
17      appointments and you see a staff member and you  
18      see the staff members because they don't think  
19      we are important.

20          You see the Representatives because they  
21      know who we are and they want to represent us.  
22      So I think it is important, it is important for  
23      the people that are here.

24          Once again, thank you for coming out and  
25      seeing the people. I think it is so much

1 better than an e-mail. So thank you so much.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, sir. We  
3 appreciate your comments.

4 Dr. Misotti, did I have that name  
5 pronounced correctly, ma'am?

6 DR. MISOTTI: Yes, yes, you did.

7 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much for  
8 being here and the floor is yours, ma'am.

9 DR. MISOTTI: Okay, I would like to say  
10 that I have lived in this area for almost nine  
11 years now, and the one thing that I have  
12 noticed is the great divisiveness in the area  
13 simply because there is not the proper  
14 representation for the demeanor and the  
15 economic stature of the people in this area.

16 I would like to reiterate exactly what  
17 Mayor Paul Puletti said. We need  
18 representation for the entire county with the  
19 same Representative. I strongly, strongly  
20 recommend that we follow the District 77.

21 Denise Grimsley, our Representative, has  
22 been wonderful. She has stepped into local  
23 situations. She was easy to speak with. I --  
24 my lifestyle is very different from most  
25 people's. I run an educational primate

1 sanctuary.

2 I have people come in from all over the  
3 world to study the apes and monkeys that I work  
4 with. We ran into a very difficult situation  
5 with the State Senate when they were going to  
6 incorporate into the Everglades clean up bill a  
7 \$10,000 bond that was going to be required for  
8 a sanctuary and because we were a 501-C3, that  
9 was very difficult for us.

10 I attempted to contact my State Senator 11  
11 times, never received one return phone call.  
12 When I finally reached one of her actual staff  
13 members and spoke to them, she said that the  
14 Senator didn't have time for such small issues,  
15 which I really did not appreciate.

16 I went to Representative Grimsley. She  
17 put me in touch with Senator, former Senator  
18 Dave Aronberg, and though he was not my  
19 Senator, he went to the Senator, Senate floor  
20 to speak on behalf of our sanctuary, and I  
21 greatly appreciated that.

22 And the reason he did that is because he  
23 understood the people in this area, he  
24 understood the impact that various things have  
25 on this area, and when you are redistricting I



1       would greatly appreciate it if you could keep  
2       Hendry County whole and you could give us  
3       representation for the people who actually live  
4       here and not those in Miami-Dade County who  
5       have a complete socioeconomic difference from  
6       us. Thank you.

7               SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Doctor, very  
8       much. I was going to say, we would provide  
9       everybody with Representative Grimsley's cell  
10      phone number, but it sounds like you already  
11      have it.

12             Our next speaker is Margaret Shaw.  
13      Ms. Shaw, if you are here, and then following  
14      Ms. Shaw, Janice Grove. Margaret Shaw?

15             Thank you for taking time to be here today  
16      and we are very grateful for your testimony,  
17      ma'am.

18             MS. SHAW: Yes, I am here representing  
19      myself as a citizen. I belong to three  
20      political organizations, and I do want to say  
21      that I am proud to say that Denise Grimsley is  
22      my rep and will hopefully be Senator.

23             And I do empathize this -- let's see, with  
24      Joe Spratt and the Commissioner that spoke  
25      about how the city like Okeechobee is divided,

1           this is divided. Avon Park used to be divided  
2           down Main Street.

3           We had Joe on this side and Adam Putnam on  
4           this side. And so these things happen and that  
5           was in a delegate District. I am proud to say  
6           that Highlands County carried Joe Negron over  
7           the top when he ran for Representative.

8           So we do have little pieces and parts of  
9           our county that belong to other districts that  
10          we are not voting as a whole, so I don't know  
11          how to fix that.

12          I look at maps and I don't know how to fix  
13          it, but we are -- it is necessary that we do  
14          combine and put a lot of emphasis on what is  
15          the rural economy and the tourism and  
16          everything.

17          And I do think that some of the testimony  
18          I have heard here today is amazing and I just  
19          want to thank you for the opportunity that we  
20          get our two cents' worth in that we would like  
21          to see the Senate Districts and things that are  
22          hurting these other people thought out real  
23          well, but don't go over board and don't lose  
24          Ms. Grimsley and Paul Rooney as their districts  
25          are now proposed. Thank you very much.

1           SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
2           ma'am, for being here this morning. We are  
3           very grateful to you.

4           Now Janice Grove, please, Ms. Grove. We  
5           are very, very pleased to -- that you took time  
6           to be with us today, and we are all anxious to  
7           hear your testimony, ma'am. You have the  
8           floor.

9           MS. GROVES: Well, I am just speaking for  
10          myself. I live out in the sticks. I leave on  
11          a dead end dirt road. No neighbors can see my  
12          house and I can't see any of my neighbors'  
13          houses and I love it.

14          There are 16 deer that come through my  
15          area on a regular basis that we see them and we  
16          even had between fawns this year, so we are  
17          delighted, not too happy about the hogs and the  
18          armadillos, but that is all right, we can't do  
19          much about that. We get what we got.

20          I have been very, very pleased. I am a  
21          native Miamian and we escaped to the real  
22          Florida in 1979, gratefully, and have been  
23          very, very happy with the representation that  
24          we have had.

25          Both on the State and the Federal level,

1 we can always contact the people we need to  
2 contact and they listen to us. I gave up on  
3 e-mails some time ago.

4 It is so impersonal and people can't get  
5 the nuances of what you are really saying and  
6 the tone of your voice when you send an e-mail.  
7 It is just there in print and so I am so very  
8 grateful that you all do come out and listen to  
9 us, because that is important.

10 I am politically active. I try to support  
11 the Constitution and vote for the people I  
12 think will do the best jobs. We have certainly  
13 been blessed with Denise Grimsley and we do  
14 want her to be our Senator, definitely.

15 Please see that those districts that we  
16 stay there so we can get her elected, because  
17 she does, not just work for us, but she works  
18 for the State of Florida and for the goodness  
19 of the people.

20 SENATOR GAETZ: Would you please come down  
21 now?

22 MS. GROVES: I really, really think that  
23 yes, we are primarily rural areas, and, yes, we  
24 do have some areas that are larger. Sebring is  
25 a larger area of population that some of you do

1 not have, but we are still not gigantic.

2 We are not Palm Beach and we are not Tampa  
3 and we do think we are people that care about  
4 what is going on in our area, and that is what  
5 we need.

6 Our county is divided. We do have a small  
7 area up in Avon Park that is in a different  
8 Representative District. If that can be  
9 changed I think that would probably be good,  
10 and we do thank you for being here and letting  
11 the little people actually have something to  
12 say.

13 I have never been elected to anything and  
14 nor do I care to be, thank you very much, but I  
15 do care and I will get up and say what I think.  
16 Thank you.

17 SENATOR GAETZ: And you said it well.  
18 Thank you very much, ma'am. And now we have  
19 someone who came all of the way from Orlando to  
20 be with us, Stephen Garrett.

21 Mr. Garrett, thanks for the long drive and  
22 we look forward to your thoughts.

23 MR. GARRETT: Good morning, and welcome, I  
24 thank you for the welcome. Ladies and  
25 gentlemen of our Legislature, I have only lived

1 in Florida for about three years, but in that  
2 time my Congressional District has been  
3 represented by three different persons of two  
4 different political parties.

5 However, I don't consider this a bad  
6 thing. I did attend two earlier hearings in  
7 this series without commenting. I heard many  
8 concerns that redistricting respect and honor  
9 our Federal Civil Rights laws and that respect  
10 and honor the wishes of the voters for compact  
11 districts. I would like to echo those  
12 concerns.

13 I also heard concerns that these bills  
14 were in conflict. I urge you to recognize that  
15 this is a false dichotomy, meaning both goals  
16 may be more challenging than treating them  
17 either/or, but meeting both goals is assurable  
18 possible.

19 But beyond that I challenge you to honor  
20 the diversity within your districts that you  
21 draw, not diversity of age or race or any  
22 demographic, but rather the diversity of ideas.

23 Our nation is in desperate need of  
24 intelligent considerate civic debate and the  
25 surest way to squelch that is to craft

1 districts in which the outcome of the general  
2 election is a foregone conclusion.

3 Uncompetitive districts deface the value  
4 of each and incremental vote and renders it  
5 virtually meaningless. Competitive districts  
6 raise up the value of the incremental vote and  
7 encourages participation.

8 Uncompetitive districts teach our children  
9 that those in power can act to protect their  
10 own interest at the expense of the peoples.

11 Competitive districts place the people's  
12 interest first, encourage our children and all  
13 citizens to reflect on what truly constitutes  
14 their interest.

15 Uncompetitive District breed distrust,  
16 cynicism and apathy. Competitive districts  
17 enliven debate, engage voters and bring  
18 accountability to the floor.

19 Many may say these are foreign ideals but  
20 they will choose and strive to create districts  
21 to protect your own security in office.

22 My friends, subsequently can reflect  
23 another false dichotomy. I suggest that  
24 securing an office is completely compatible  
25 with competitive districts.

1           I submit to you the true job security for  
2           a public servant rests on consistent delivery  
3           of exemplary public service, and that this is  
4           what makes it possible for her or him to  
5           consistently win vibrant, competitive  
6           electorial elections.

7           Ladies and gentlemen, your own willingness  
8           to craft competitive electoral districts would  
9           be the fairest possible evidence of your own  
10          suspicion that you are running for office. It  
11          would indicate that you would not, you think  
12          would not, you think you would not win a tough  
13          well contested election in a competitive  
14          district.

15          I feel that you may instead to choose to  
16          craft districts which, if you will forgive me  
17          saying so, in a jack-ass or respectively  
18          pachyderm could vote.

19          Show your belief in your own worthiness  
20          and show your belief in your constituents who's  
21          government this is. Craft districts which are  
22          respectful, honorable, legal, compact and  
23          competitive.

24          SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much.

25          Thank you, sir. This concludes the individuals



1       who had signed up to speak or who, during the  
2       course of the hearing, felt the spirit moved  
3       them to speak.

4               We appreciate all of the information we  
5       have received. Let me just say before I yield  
6       the chair to Senator Negron because I said that  
7       I wanted to stay for everybody who wanted to  
8       speak but I have to dash now to get my  
9       transportation back to the central time zone.

10              Let me say that the kind of information  
11       that you provided today is the kind that would  
12       be very difficult to get if all we did was just  
13       check our e-mail.

14              The information we have gotten from these  
15       hearings about specific neighborhoods and  
16       communities and how those communities should or  
17       should not be boundaried or divided is the kind  
18       of thing we can't get from an echo chamber in  
19       Tallahassee and we can't get, I don't think  
20       just by checking the mail.

21              You got to get it by talking to people,  
22       listening to people who live in the  
23       neighborhoods and who live in the communities  
24       and you have given us that information.

25              This has been extraordinarily helpful to

1 me as somebody who lives far, far away to get  
2 firsthand the input that tells me how you feel  
3 these districts ought to be drawn.

4 With that, Representative Baxley, I will  
5 yield the Senate chair to Senator Negron and  
6 thank you all for being here today.

7 Senator Negron and Representative Baxley  
8 and the other members of the Committees will  
9 now have a chance to react, offer any thoughts  
10 they have, answer any questions and to sum up.  
11 Senator Negron.

12 SENATOR NEGRON: Okay, we are now at the  
13 portion of the meeting I will now offer any  
14 House members an opportunity to make any  
15 comments or ask any questions or respond in any  
16 way to the comments that we have heard.

17 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Thank you,  
18 Mr. Chair, and I want to thank the citizens for  
19 coming out today.

20 There are two things that I think we can  
21 agree on, Mr. Chair, and that is the testimony  
22 from our citizens.

23 When we hear and do what they say,  
24 democracy works best when we do what our  
25 citizens ask us to do.

1           The other thing I wanted to do, and I  
2           think we can agree on, Mr. Chair, is the fact  
3           that with this being our last meeting, I just  
4           want to commend our staff, I want to commend  
5           the Sergeant's office for their work.

6           I mean, we know that this is a difficult  
7           process. We have gone to 26 different  
8           locations and they have done an outstanding job  
9           of making sure we had the information, they  
10          were here and I would like to do something  
11          special for them and let them know that we  
12          really appreciate the work that they have done.

13          I also wanted to thank the Florida  
14          Channel, they have been here, they have been  
15          streaming, they haven't missed a beat for the  
16          most part in making sure that this information  
17          is published out into the public.

18          So with that I know, Mr. Chair, this is  
19          our last meeting, but I wanted to make sure  
20          that those good folks are recognized for their  
21          outstanding work. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22          A VOICE: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and again,  
23          being the humble gentleman that I am I let  
24          Representative Taylor from Volusia County go  
25          first, but he basically said exactly what I

1           wanted to say.

2           Being one that attended each and every  
3           single one of the meetings, and I tend to like  
4           to get to places early, because if you are not  
5           early, you are late, that is my belief, and  
6           being one that tends to leave places a little  
7           bit later because I like to talk to  
8           individuals, I, too, want to commend the staff  
9           of the great State of Florida, because what we  
10          have seen is dedication exemplified and  
11          executed in a perfect and flawless manner.

12          The Sergeant's office and everybody else,  
13          the Florida Channel, I have talked to you all  
14          because you get here before us, and you leave  
15          after us, and it truly is an honor to be able  
16          to say that I am a co-worker of yours.

17          And I look forward to the rest of this  
18          process in making sure that ever comment that  
19          we have heard throughout these hearings that we  
20          go back and we do the will of the people.  
21          Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22          SENATOR NEGRON: Thank you very much. Any  
23          other members of the House wish to speak? We  
24          will pass the microphone.

25          A VOICE: Thank you very much for coming

1 out this morning. I know it is early and for  
2 those of us who have been to all 26 hearings,  
3 as I have been, it has truly been an honor to  
4 hear from the public and to hear what you have  
5 to say about this process.

6 I -- this is my first time going through  
7 redistricting here in the State of Florida, but  
8 as an elected official in New York when I lived  
9 there I went through redistricting where they  
10 had my living room in one District and my  
11 kitchen in another.

12 So I understand what redistricting is all  
13 about, and I will intently look over the  
14 information that I have taken down and what I  
15 have received so that I will make sure that we  
16 get the best maps out for everyone. Thank you.

17 SENATOR NEGRON: Okay, are there any other  
18 House members that wish to make any comments?  
19 And I think before we turn to, let's see if  
20 there is any members of the Senate that wish to  
21 comment.

22 We had one other member of the public who  
23 has traveled to be here today and we certainly  
24 want to hear his testimony and input, and that  
25 is Joe Thomas. Is Mr. Thomas here?

1           If he is still here we will open public  
2           testimony back up to have an opportunity for  
3           him to speak if he still wishes to speak.

4           A VOICE: I think he left.

5           SENATOR NEGRON: Okay, we wanted to, we  
6           wanted to -- I would rather err on the side of  
7           caution. I think he may have had some vehicle  
8           issues, but if we have a member of the public  
9           that says they want to speak I want to make  
10          sure that we give them that opportunity.

11          So now we will turn it over, are there any  
12          members of the Florida Senate that wish to make  
13          any comments or speak?

14          A VOICE: Well, the only person that we  
15          left out, the only people we left out are the  
16          interpreters, and let me just tell you, their  
17          fingers have been flying.

18          They have been some very fired up people  
19          and they have had to say some things that maybe  
20          they would not like to interpret, or maybe they  
21          would, because some of them were calling us  
22          names. So maybe they were like, oh, this is  
23          great, anyway, thanks for coming.

24          SENATOR NEGRON: Okay, are there any other  
25          members of the Senate that wish to comment? If

1 not, I am going to turn over the floor to  
2 Representative Baxley who is the House co-chair  
3 to make some closing comments and answer any  
4 questions if he wishes to, and then I will wrap  
5 up.

6 REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: Thank you,  
7 Chairman. Just so I might pick up any Mojo  
8 left in the room, the high regard for Chairman  
9 Grimsley, I wanted to share a factoid.

10 Many years ago when I was a small child,  
11 my father who was my pastor, conducted the  
12 wedding ceremony for her parents. So I get  
13 part of the credit for my family for her being  
14 here.

15 So she was kind enough to invite me back,  
16 my father had passed away and let me be there  
17 as a part of their 50th wedding anniversary.

18 I share that because I just want to touch  
19 base with you that these are real people  
20 devoting their real lives to try to make a  
21 difference just like you are doing today by  
22 spending time here for your community, and on  
23 that note, today is my 39th wedding  
24 anniversary. So thank you for letting us out  
25 early so I can go home and celebrate that great

1 victory with my wife, five children and seven  
2 grandchildren.

3 So that is just a personal aside that I  
4 just want to thank all of the attendees. Each  
5 of you bring unique perspectives that provide  
6 information to us about Hendry County,  
7 Okeechobee, Glades, Highlands and the other  
8 nearby counties.

9 We could not be successful in this process  
10 without your explanation of how it is that you  
11 would implement these State and Federal  
12 redistricting laws, and to that end and in  
13 response to the points that were raised this  
14 morning about the Legislature's expenditures,  
15 in particular, the cost of having these  
16 meetings, you can visit our site.

17 We truly offer transparency. It is  
18 [www.floridatransparency.gov](http://www.floridatransparency.gov), [www.florida](http://www.florida)  
19 [transparency.gov](http://transparency.gov) and you can examine every  
20 dollar of your tax money that the Legislature  
21 spends, including the investment in these  
22 hearings.

23 I really think that the investment in  
24 doing these meetings is well worth it, because  
25 it reminds us that this is your government. We



1       don't have seats in the Legislature.

2               They are your seats, particularly with  
3       term limits. We go and sit in them for you to  
4       represent you there as Senators and House  
5       members, and so it is an honor to come before  
6       you.

7               I would also like to share as a returning  
8       member, I left the Legislature with term limits  
9       and came back. I am probably one of the few  
10      people in this room that actually has been  
11      through this process as a member of a  
12      redistricting committee.

13              I probably shouldn't say that given the  
14      appearance of the map, but I was a freshman  
15      then.

16              So Joe and Senator Joyner were there, and  
17      of course, they have gone on to the Senate and  
18      so I don't remember any time in our history  
19      that as far as the timeline that we moved the  
20      Legislature's meeting up.

21              That was a record event, and so I think we  
22      have done a lot of things to try to create  
23      adequate time for this process to be effective,  
24      and the League of Women Voters did file maps  
25      last cycle, the last time we did this.

1           They didn't file them until January. We  
2           still got done on time, and incumbents, they  
3           don't know where their districts are yet  
4           either. We don't even know what we are running  
5           for yet.

6           So we are all in this together, but I  
7           thank you for the time that you have invested  
8           and I certainly want to reiterate that I think  
9           it is well worth the cost to hear from you, the  
10          people, and with that I will turn it over to  
11          you, Senator Negron.

12          SENATOR NEGRON: Thank you, thank you,  
13          Chairman Baxley, for those comments, and I just  
14          want to offer up a couple of observations in  
15          response to some of the comments that were  
16          made, and again, there are not right opinions  
17          or wrong opinions on how we ought to do this.

18          They are just different points of view,  
19          and in response to one of the comments from the  
20          Charlotte County League representative talking  
21          about, you know, where are the maps, where are  
22          the real maps.

23          Well, I would argue that these are real  
24          maps. These are maps that are drawn by the  
25          citizens of the state of Florida, and in one of

1       our hearings earlier in the week we had a  
2       13-year-old boy who, along with his sister,  
3       drew a map of all 120 House Districts, and I am  
4       sure many members of the Committee, I have  
5       looked at the map, this was something that a  
6       lot of thought was put into and it is something  
7       that we will take into consideration.

8               So we consider the over 54 or partial maps  
9       that have been submitted, those are real maps  
10      and we do take them into consideration.

11             Also with this issue about, you know, we  
12      should have had maps now. I would argue that  
13      if we came here with maps I don't know, here is  
14      what my response would be.

15             I happen to be a lawyer. When I go to  
16      court I would like the Judge to hear the  
17      evidence before she or he makes a ruling, and  
18      so to me if we came in with maps already drawn  
19      I think citizens would have the right to scream  
20      to high heaven and say, let me understand this  
21      process.

22             You did the work product and now you are  
23      coming to listen to us, this is a charade. I  
24      think the opposite argument would be made. I  
25      think it is much more preferable for us to

1 listen to testimony from the public and then do  
2 our work.

3 And I want to just follow up briefly on  
4 what Chairman Baxley said about the information  
5 that we have received.

6 Last night we were in Lehigh Acres. I  
7 have heard of Lehigh Acres. I have seen it on  
8 a map. I have not spent a significant amount  
9 of time there. I got there early, had dinner  
10 there, talked to some people. Apparently there  
11 was an issue with one of your banks yesterday.  
12 One of your banks was surrounded with police  
13 tape and officers. I think there had been a  
14 little incident there, but I didn't know Lehigh  
15 Acres well, but after we spent time there, we  
16 listened to people, there were specific things  
17 that we would never know but for having been  
18 there.

19 And I am just going to give one example  
20 from the hearing today of something. I grew up  
21 in West Palm Beach and we came to Belle Glade  
22 and Clewiston it and Pahokee, so I know this  
23 area, I was here a year ago with the healthcare  
24 tour that we did, but Commissioner Storter had  
25 the comment about the percentage of people

1 registered to vote here, but their addresses in  
2 another location.

3 I don't mind admitting it, I did not know  
4 that. I was not aware of that, and that is  
5 something that we need to take into  
6 consideration to make sure that when did we do  
7 the reapportionment that we take that into  
8 consideration.

9 So I think the fact that we are here, I  
10 think the most important thing Legislators can  
11 do is listen, and I think there are things that  
12 we have learned today that are very valuable.

13 With regard to the timeline, it is our  
14 goal to make sure that this process is done in  
15 an orderly manner. There is no intent to wait  
16 until the last minute to create confusion, but  
17 I will say this.

18 The legislative process has rules that are  
19 designed to protect the majority and the  
20 minority parties, because those parties change  
21 from time to time, and members have rights to,  
22 there are members that aren't on the  
23 Reapportionment Committee that are going to be  
24 hearing this for the first time in September  
25 when we have our first hearing in the Senate

1           and I think the House has a hearing scheduled  
2           also for September or October.

3           So members have a right to look at the  
4           maps, to file amendments, to say we don't like  
5           the way this is done, we don't think this is  
6           best for our community, and when the  
7           Legislature convenes in regular session in  
8           January, the League has talked about passing it  
9           out the first week.

10          Well, it is up to the presiding officers  
11          to set the schedule, but if you are a House  
12          member or a Senator that has not spent the last  
13          several months talking to voters and getting  
14          this information, don't those House members and  
15          Senators have a right to put their proposals  
16          out, to debate them, to argue their points of  
17          view.

18          So I think that we will do everything we  
19          can to conclude the process in an orderly way,  
20          but there are certain procedures that are set  
21          up not to delay, but to protect all of us and  
22          make sure there is meaningful input.

23          And I know all of you know this, but just  
24          a quick reminder, that we are only one part of  
25          the process. Once this is approved by the

1       Legislature, the Attorney General has a period  
2       of time to review, and then the maps go to the  
3       Florida Supreme Court, and then into the  
4       Federal system to have the Attorney General's  
5       Office look at the maps, especially for those  
6       counties that are a part of previous court  
7       orders.

8               So there are a number of participants in  
9       the process, but it is our intent to have this  
10      done in plenty of time so that there is a  
11      seamless transition into our electoral  
12      process.

13              And then I just want to mention one other  
14      thing just as maybe a point of interest to  
15      those of you who took the time to come this  
16      morning. We really appreciate it. There has  
17      been some talk and discussion, I think Senator  
18      Gaetz initially brought it up, and I know  
19      Chairman Weatherford indicated that he was  
20      going to consider it, that maybe for the next  
21      time we do this in ten years, that perhaps we  
22      want to amend our Constitution or give you, the  
23      voters, the opportunity to potentially amend  
24      our Constitution to, if we did it this cycle,  
25      to do this in 2011, so it is completely done by

1       the end of 2011 so that we are not quote,  
2       unquote, cutting it so close, but you have our  
3       assurances that we are going to do everything  
4       we can within the rules.

5               We can't vote on the plan until 2012.  
6       That is in our Constitution, but maybe we want  
7       to give the voters an opportunity to say, how  
8       about we do it a little earlier than our  
9       current rules provide. So that is one of the  
10      things that, that we are going to look at and  
11      possibly consider for the future.

12             Again, I want to thank everyone for your  
13      time, for your interest, I have taken three  
14      pages of notes. I have a file that I keep all  
15      of my notes, from Lehigh Acres last night, from  
16      being in Naples, as we have gone all over the  
17      state, to Key West, to Miami.

18             Every community is different, and just to  
19      show you the kind of issues that have to be  
20      worked out, we have heard in communities where  
21      there is a line down the middle, for instance,  
22      let's say Okeechobee, because that is in my  
23      Senate District.

24             Okeechobee, half of Okeechobee I represent  
25      and half is J. D. Alexander. Well, there are



1       some folks who say, that is pretty good,  
2       because J. D. Alexander is the Chairman of the  
3       Appropriations Committee, frequently ranked as  
4       the number one or number two, at least in the  
5       top three ranked Senators in the State of  
6       Florida, so that is good, and then we have, you  
7       know, a rookie coming along trying to carry his  
8       part of the load, too.

9               So it is actually good for us to have two  
10       people, but then we heard today from some  
11       citizens that they would rather be represented  
12       by one person.

13              They feel like it is better to have focus  
14       rather than numbers. It is not that one side  
15       is right or wrong. They were just differing  
16       opinions of people with Good Will.

17              So those are the things we are going to  
18       work through and I noticed that there seemed to  
19       be some strong opinions particularly in the  
20       State Senate District that being tied into a  
21       District that goes all the way to South  
22       Florida, that doesn't appear that the majority  
23       of the people here today don't want that.

24              So that carries a lot of weight with me  
25       when we look at the maps, because that is what

1       we are go -- those are the factors that, that  
2       we are going to use.

3               So we really, really appreciate the time  
4       that you took to be here today. Any other  
5       House or Senate members?

6               I think Representative Grimsley should put  
7       on a workshop for all of us, because I have  
8       been to quite a few of these hearings and she  
9       has gotten more shout outs and more compliments  
10      than anybody.

11              So we are all doing the best we can, but  
12      we can learn from you. So we will applaud your  
13      service to this community and we appreciate  
14      everything that you do and even those of us who  
15      live closer to the east coast of Florida, where  
16      I live in Stuart, believe me, we know about  
17      this part of Florida.

18              A lot of my constituents don't. They  
19      think that Florida is just Orlando, theme  
20      parks, gated communities and golf courses. I  
21      actually know that this is Florida. This is  
22      the original Florida, and that meat does not  
23      show up at Publix wrapped in saran wrap, that  
24      someone actually has to have cattle and grow  
25      food for us to eat, and we appreciate this part

1 of Florida.

2 We care about this part of Florida. We  
3 think it is just as important as every other  
4 part of Florida and that is one of the reasons  
5 we chose to come to Clewiston.

6 So with that, Representative Baxley moves  
7 we rise.

8 (Whereupon, the proceedings were  
9 concluded.)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )

3 COUNTY OF LEON )

4 I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript  
5 is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned,  
6 and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting  
7 under my direction;

8 That the foregoing pages 2 through 76 represent  
9 a true, correct, and complete transcript of the tape-  
10 recording;

11 And I further certify that I am not of kin or  
12 counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the  
13 regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor  
14 am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

15 Dated this 5th day of December, 2011.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
CLARA C. ROTRUCK

20

Notary Public

21

State of Florida at Large

22

Commission Expires:

23

November 13, 2014

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