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HOUSE REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2011

Transcribed by:

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

Court Reporter

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

2 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: (In progress)

3 suggestions the public gave for drawing  
4 districts.

5 Today we are going to summarize what was  
6 heard in our first -- in the first four regions  
7 we visited this summer, including written input  
8 about those same four regions and any partial  
9 maps that have been submitted which impact  
10 those regions. In our first meeting in  
11 October, we will cover the fifth region,  
12 southwest Florida, and any complete or near  
13 complete maps submitted by the public.

14 Before we get into that, I want to share  
15 some directions and suggestions that Chairman  
16 Weatherford just provided us in the  
17 Redistricting Committee meeting held just  
18 before this meeting.

19 First, the bulk of the work during the  
20 next couple of months will be done by the three  
21 redistricting subcommittees, specifically us.  
22 At this point in the process, our subcommittee  
23 will begin digesting all of this information so  
24 that members may react, make suggestions and  
25 mesh these ideas with the legal requirements of

1 federal and state redistricting laws.

2 Over the last few months, we have heard  
3 from approximately 5,000 people who came to the  
4 26 meetings. Approximately 2,000 of them  
5 presented their ideas at the meetings. We are  
6 in receipt of 64 partial or complete maps from  
7 the public, and to give you some frame of  
8 reference, ten years ago, the Legislature only  
9 received four maps. We are also in receipt of  
10 more than 200 additional unique suggestions for  
11 maps that came via social media, e-mails,  
12 letters, faxes, the public meetings and even a  
13 postcard. Based on this public input, our  
14 subcommittee should have more than enough  
15 information to prepare committee proposals in  
16 addition to any individual member bills that  
17 are offered.

18 Chairman Weatherford's request of us is  
19 that our subcommittee pass at least three maps  
20 for the full Redistricting Committee to  
21 consider. In other words, he is asking that we  
22 give the full Committee three options for the  
23 State House map, the state of Florida. Exactly  
24 how each subcommittee meets that goal is up to  
25 the members of that subcommittee. We can do

1           that through PCBs, member bills or a  
2           combination thereof.

3           To meet that goal, we need to set some  
4           goals of our own in terms of the time line.  
5           Chairman Weatherford has requested that members  
6           who wish to file redistricting bills do so  
7           before the November 14th to 18th interim  
8           committee week. He also noted that  
9           November 14th is his birthday, just for the  
10          record. You are certainly welcome to use the  
11          full time line allowed for filing legislation  
12          to file your redistricting maps as bills, but  
13          practically speaking, anything filed after  
14          November 14th will probably have to be  
15          considered as an amendment. We say this  
16          because it should be expected that our  
17          subcommittee will workshop redistricting maps  
18          so that any redistricting maps that get voted  
19          on have time to both mature in the legislative  
20          process, be compared to other options and also  
21          give ample time for public input. In other  
22          words, it is preferred that votes taken on maps  
23          reflect more than one committee meeting in  
24          which that map was discussed.

25                 For the public, Chairman Weatherford is

1 recommending that members of the public submit  
2 any additional suggestions for maps before  
3 November 1st. That gives you, the members,  
4 approximately two weeks to study those  
5 submissions before your own suggested  
6 deadlines. Of course, we will accept comments  
7 and suggestions from the public throughout the  
8 process, but, again, practically speaking,  
9 anything received after November 1st and  
10 thereafter will have to be viewed as comments  
11 and reactions to the maps that are already  
12 working their way through the legislative  
13 process.

14 Recording expectations for each of us  
15 individually, members who would like to present  
16 maps or amendments in this subcommittee will be  
17 given as much courtesy as possible to get their  
18 ideas on an agenda to be presented. However,  
19 it is important to note, and please note this,  
20 that members will be expected to explain in  
21 detail how they developed their maps or  
22 amendments. Even if you opt to file a map that  
23 a member of the public offered line for line,  
24 be ready to explain your map district by  
25 district, if necessary.

1           And just one last note before I turn it  
2           over to any questions that you may have. In  
3           the next day or two, Chairman Weatherford will  
4           be sending out a memo to you and all 120  
5           members, refreshing everyone about how -- some  
6           of the procedural items for redistricting that  
7           we discussed last April in our initial  
8           committee meetings.

9           With that said, are there any additional  
10          questions? Are there any questions?

11          Seeing no questions, all right. Now,  
12          before we go forward with today's  
13          presentations, just as a reminder, our staff  
14          are here to help answer technical questions, to  
15          provide analysis of the public input, to help  
16          us craft options for these maps, and when  
17          necessary, to get us the additional resources  
18          that we may need to come to a decision. They  
19          are not here to answer the overarching policy  
20          questions that are, frankly, more appropriate  
21          for us as members to debate. So if you find  
22          that your questions are about bigger, broader  
23          issues of legislative discretion, redistricting  
24          time line, things of that nature, I am going to  
25          ask that you direct those to me rather than our

1 staff.

2 With that said, Ben Fairbrother is going  
3 to give us a brief update as to what is new  
4 with our websites and other public information.  
5 Now that the public meetings are over, we are  
6 entering the next phase of this process.

7 Mr. Fairbrother, you are recognized.

8 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 This afternoon I will be presenting a  
10 brief update regarding some of the new features  
11 to floridaredistricting.org and the other  
12 committee's websites. As you can see on the  
13 screen, I have pulled up  
14 floridaredistricting.org, and although the site  
15 is mainly familiar to you, there have been some  
16 significant changes over the past several  
17 weeks. So first let's talk about what is on  
18 the left side of the page. If we scroll down  
19 on the left here, you will see "Legislative  
20 Headlines," and this section is the one that  
21 changes the most frequently. All the latest  
22 news and updates on redistricting are located  
23 here. For example, the materials from today's  
24 meetings are already posted here. Your  
25 constituents will also find all the latest

1 updates and information on where we are in the  
2 process, and it will likely be here if you  
3 receive any questions by those folks.

4 The next set of links that you will look  
5 at is the "Public Participation" headline here.  
6 There are several documents that will be  
7 helpful to your constituents and your staff in  
8 helping your constituents kind of digest this  
9 process and any questions they may have as  
10 well. The most frequently requested document  
11 in this section is actually the concepts and  
12 terminology document, and that is the one that  
13 explains the different vocabulary and the  
14 overall redistricting process. There are also  
15 some other helpful handouts that kind of just  
16 make this easy to understand.

17 The next section you will see is the  
18 "Legal Concepts" section, and this one has not  
19 changed significantly from last year, but I  
20 will note that the legal presentations that you  
21 received in committee last April are available  
22 under this section here.

23 Looking over to the right side of the  
24 page, you will see the "Additional Resources"  
25 section. This -- this right here is -- you can



1           actually find a number of -- an answer to a  
2           number of different questions, including the  
3           population that certain districts are over or  
4           under, you can find the current map of Florida  
5           as to House, Senate or congressional districts,  
6           and you can also just look at the individual  
7           districts in that section.

8                         Scrolling up to the right side of the  
9           page, at the top you will see a number of  
10          different buttons. The "Public Hearing Videos"  
11          is the first button I would like to show you.  
12          This button used to be called the -- used to be  
13          called "Watch Meetings Live" during the summer  
14          when we were doing the public meetings, and  
15          since that button was such a popular button  
16          then and it still is now, we have turned it  
17          into an archives site where you can have quick  
18          access to the video archives of all those  
19          meetings.

20                        Below the "Blog" button, you will see the  
21          "Meeting Records" button, and that will bring  
22          you to the page that has links to all the  
23          videos, podcasts and action packets from the  
24          past redistricting committee meetings. I will  
25          go ahead and pull that up for you so you can

1 see it. On this page, you can see different --  
2 it is a blog-style page, and you can see  
3 different entries here. The first one is --  
4 for an example is posts designed to give the  
5 public a greater insight into the process and  
6 the transition between the summer and the  
7 interim. Moving to the middle of this page,  
8 you will see where your constituents can find  
9 in-depth answers regarding the process, and  
10 then to the right of the page, you will see all  
11 of the links to our -- back to our  
12 floridaredistricting.org and our other social  
13 media sites, for example. And we will go back  
14 to floridaredistricting.org.

15 The final button that I will show you is  
16 the "Public Submissions" button. This is the  
17 -- if you click on this button, it will bring  
18 up another blog-style page that includes every  
19 public map submission, as well as the written  
20 testimony submitted to the Redistricting  
21 Committee. These map submissions can be  
22 searched in a number of different ways. You  
23 can search by type of map, congressional,  
24 Senate or House, you can search by county or  
25 even by name if you know the name of the

1 constituent that posted the map. Each public  
2 submission of a map includes a summary of the  
3 submission, the statistics relevant to the plan  
4 and the PDF file -- the PDF file of the plan,  
5 and then the ability to open the plan in My  
6 District Builder using the KMZ file. And if --  
7 the KMZ file I will explain. If while you are  
8 reviewing these maps you see a certain map that  
9 you would like to explore in detail or enhance  
10 using My District Builder, you can do so by  
11 opening it through the KMZ file. And let me  
12 run through how to do that really quick.

13 Let's say that you like this plan up on  
14 the top left, Mr. Ed Wendell's plan, and it  
15 looks like it is a single State Senate  
16 district. What you are going to do is you are  
17 going to find the KMZ file link here and you'll  
18 click on that and you will go ahead and save  
19 this file to your desktop. So I will click  
20 "Save," "Yes," and now that file is saved to  
21 your computer. Then what we will do is open up  
22 My District Builder, and My District Builder is  
23 here, and then we will go to the "File" tab and  
24 then click "Open," "Yes," and then it will open  
25 up your desktop here and you will select that

1 plan that you just saved, "Open," and this box  
2 right here just tells you that it will take --  
3 it might be a bit of a delay because the files  
4 are very large. Especially if you load a  
5 complete House, Senate or congressional plan,  
6 it could take a few minutes. This plan is  
7 relatively small, so it should load quickly.  
8 And then once you do that -- I will go to full  
9 screen to make it easier to view -- you will  
10 scroll down here and you will see that that  
11 plan has actually loaded into My District  
12 Builder.

13 So if you would like a more detailed  
14 review of this process or what -- the changes  
15 made to our website, we will be happy to make  
16 staff available to you one-on-one or answer any  
17 questions you may have. And, of course, as  
18 additional changes are made, we will let the  
19 Committee know as soon as possible.

20 Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I  
21 would be happy to answer any questions.

22 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Members, are  
23 there any questions? Not a very inquisitive  
24 bunch today, okay.

25 Now, members, regarding the packet you

1 have in front of you, this is the same packet  
2 of information that the Redistricting Committee  
3 and other subcommittees will receive today, and  
4 this will be the subject of what our staff,  
5 specifically Jeff Takacs, is presenting today.

6 The first four tabs relate to the four  
7 regions we are discussing. The fifth tab which  
8 we have included for you is summary level data  
9 regarding the first 63 maps that have been  
10 submitted by the public. Note, all of this  
11 information will also be available on  
12 [www.floridaredistricting.org](http://www.floridaredistricting.org) for anyone in the  
13 public to review.

14 What I would suggest is that since this  
15 packet covers four regions of the state, and I  
16 think that what we will do is ask Jeff to  
17 present one region at a time, and then I will  
18 open it up to any questions or comments that  
19 you may have about that region.

20 With that said, Mr. Takacs, you are  
21 recognized to begin the presentation.

22 MR. TAKACS: Thank you very much, Mr.  
23 Chairman. If I could just get my computer set  
24 up here, we will get ready.

25 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Take your time.

1 And, Jeff, we are starting off with the  
2 northwest, is that correct?

3 MR. TAKACS: Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr.  
4 Chairman.

5 Before we get started, I just want to talk  
6 a little bit about what you see in front of you  
7 as we look through the four regions of the  
8 state that we are going to examine today.

9 I am not actually going through every  
10 example that is in the big book that you have  
11 in front of you. The ones I am going to be  
12 going through are going to be House-specific,  
13 and even some of the House-specific ones will  
14 not be mentioned here this afternoon for the  
15 sake of time. So if you have a question about  
16 any of the issues that are in this big book,  
17 you can feel free to ask me, but I may not  
18 cover all of them in the presentation this  
19 afternoon. I will just have to use the mouse  
20 instead of the clicker.

21 First we are going to start in the  
22 northwest Florida area, which was the first  
23 week of meetings that we had.

24 Before I get started and talk about this  
25 issue of nesting, you will notice at the top

1 left portion of the screen where it says  
2 "NW-2." If you want to follow along in the  
3 book -- again, since I am not going in order,  
4 you can kind of skip ahead and follow me in the  
5 book if you would like, or you can just follow  
6 the screen, but since we are not going in  
7 order, if you look to that upper left-hand  
8 corner of what's on the screen, you can follow  
9 it in the book and all of the verbiage that is  
10 in there explaining what this issue is.

11 So the first example that was -- one of  
12 the first examples that was brought to us in  
13 the Tallahassee meeting is the concept of  
14 nesting. And what nesting is is that if you  
15 took a Senate district, you could then neatly  
16 fit or nest three House districts into that  
17 Senate district. Or, conversely, what you  
18 could do is take three House districts and then  
19 nest a Senate district within those three  
20 districts. This issue was actually brought up  
21 several times as we traveled around the state  
22 and, you know, just as a suggestion of how the  
23 districts could be drawn.

24 Thinking of this issue and maybe some  
25 questions I would want to be asked if this was

1 something that the subcommittee wanted to  
2 explore is which would come first? Would the  
3 Senate districts be drawn first and the House  
4 districts nested within them, or vice-versa,  
5 the House districts drawn first and the Senate  
6 districts drawn around them? That would be a  
7 policy question that you would have to answer.

8 Also, thinking about in this process, if a  
9 county or city were split within a Senate  
10 district, let's say we were going to do Senate  
11 districts first and then nest three House  
12 districts within that one Senate district, if a  
13 county or municipality was split in that Senate  
14 district, there would be no way to avoid that  
15 splitting again. You would have to replicate  
16 that splitting of that county or that  
17 municipality if you were to use the nesting  
18 concept.

19 The next issue here is the concept of  
20 linking northeast Gadsden County in a State  
21 House district to northern Leon County. You  
22 will see on the screen this was actually  
23 submitted to us by a member of the County  
24 Commission in Gadsden County, and he actually  
25 -- he didn't submit a map formally through the



1 My District Builder and the process that we  
2 have in that version. What he brought with him  
3 was actually a highlighted map of what he  
4 defined as northeast Gadsden County, and that  
5 is what you see before us here. We replicated  
6 that here in My District Builder. So that was  
7 his testimony saying that northeast Gadsden  
8 County should be linked with northern Leon  
9 County. It is important to note for this  
10 specific example, if you are following along in  
11 the book, north Leon County was not defined in  
12 his testimony. We kind of -- trying to give  
13 you a visual split, Leon County, using I-10 as  
14 the dividing line between north and south, but,  
15 again, that was not specifically written about  
16 in the testimony or talked about in the  
17 testimony, so we just did that for you.

18 The next issue here is keeping the City of  
19 Monticello whole. As we traveled around the  
20 state, as you know, we heard from a lot of  
21 residents of specific cities saying, "I would  
22 like to keep my city whole in this  
23 redistricting process. We are split into two  
24 or three districts, and it is confusing for the  
25 members of our small city," or, you know, "My

1 city has no Representative from my city, and I  
2 would like to change that," or those sorts of  
3 things. So the first example here would be  
4 keeping the City of Monticello whole. You can  
5 see it there on the screen.

6 An issue that comes up with a lot of -- a  
7 lot of cities across the state, if you were to  
8 make that city a whole district, as you can see  
9 there, that district would have some holes in  
10 it that would need to be filled within a  
11 district for it to be a complete district.  
12 Also, too, sometimes with municipalities, their  
13 lines may not be contiguous, which would  
14 present a problem drawing a legislative  
15 district.

16 The next issue here is linking Wakulla and  
17 Leon Counties. Someone from Wakulla County  
18 testified that they thought they had a lot of  
19 similar interests to Leon County and they  
20 should be linked together, so we showed you  
21 what those whole counties would look like  
22 together. It is important to note with this  
23 specific example, and there are other examples  
24 throughout the map, but if a district like this  
25 were to be drawn, thinking about the whole

1 state and the Panhandle, you are land-locking  
2 yourself. And what I mean by that is that any  
3 district to the west of a district that was  
4 drawn like this on the screen would have to  
5 meet the ideal population, because if it  
6 doesn't, you have locked yourself here and you  
7 would have to then divide into that drawn  
8 district to be able to meet the ideal  
9 population of the districts as you continue to  
10 move east across the state.

11 Moving along, this was one of the biggest  
12 issues that came out of the meetings in the  
13 Panhandle region. We heard testimony in  
14 Pensacola, in Ft. Walton Beach, as well as  
15 Panama City, and that is the issue of drawing  
16 horizontal districts versus vertical districts.  
17 This issue kind of takes on, for lack of a pun,  
18 better -- takes different shapes as you look at  
19 the House map versus the Senate map and the  
20 congressional map. Obviously, with the  
21 congressional map, there are bigger districts,  
22 there are a lot more people, they cover a lot  
23 more land, whereas a House district can be  
24 smaller, and thinking about horizontal and  
25 vertical, isn't as prevalent as you would see

1 in the Senate and the congressional districts.

2 But the main arguments on both sides, just  
3 to kind of highlight, the folks who would argue  
4 on behalf of horizontal districts talked about  
5 similar communities, communities that had a lot  
6 of things in common with each other, whether it  
7 is their economy, tourism in the example of  
8 horizontal districts, agriculture to the north,  
9 the more, you know, beach communities,  
10 tourism-related communities to the south. The  
11 folks on the other side of the argument -- and,  
12 again, there were a lot on both sides in all  
13 three of those meetings -- a lot of those folks  
14 argued that, you know, we should follow county  
15 boundary lines, that the whole county should be  
16 included into one district as opposed to  
17 divided into two. Other thoughts were that,  
18 you know, we are all one county, we should all  
19 be together within a district and not divided.

20 Another thing to think about as you kind  
21 of envision the Panhandle, if you were to draw  
22 horizontal districts, thinking north to south,  
23 or even south to north, what you could have is  
24 if you were to draw a northern district,  
25 thinking of drawing horizontally, that district

1 would be a lot bigger, would go a lot longer,  
2 because it is less populated to the north of  
3 those counties in the Panhandle versus the  
4 south. You could also draw a thin, long  
5 district along the beaches in those communities  
6 if you chose to do so, which would create  
7 smaller counties to -- smaller districts to the  
8 north. So that would be something that would  
9 have to be considered.

10 This next one is talking about putting the  
11 communities of Wedgewood and Lincoln Park into  
12 current House District 3. What you see on the  
13 map in front of you is actually the current map  
14 for House District 3. The folks who testified  
15 stated that the communities of Wedgewood and  
16 Lincoln Park were strong African-American  
17 communities and wanted to be linked with the  
18 other African-American communities in the City  
19 of Pensacola, so they asked that they be linked  
20 together in the current House District 3.

21 Again, similar concept to what we saw in  
22 Monticello, and, again, we saw this in a lot of  
23 cities across the state, this would be keeping  
24 the City of Destin whole within legislative and  
25 congressional districts. Again, you can see

1           there would be some holes that would have to be  
2           filled within that district if you chose to go  
3           that way.

4                     Here's a little bit of a different  
5           example. You know, like we heard, a lot of  
6           counties wanted to be a whole, a lot of cities  
7           wanted to be whole, with this specific  
8           testimony, the person asked that south Walton  
9           County be kept together into a district,  
10          meaning they didn't mind as much if Walton  
11          County were to be split into two, but they  
12          wanted to make sure their community was kept  
13          together in south Walton County. It is also  
14          important to note in this example they actually  
15          didn't define the parameters of south Walton  
16          County, but to provide you a visual, what we  
17          did was, again, using Interstate 10 as a  
18          dividing line, we drew everything south of  
19          I-10.

20                    The next issue is having one  
21          Representative or multiple Representatives in  
22          Bay County. There was some differing opinions  
23          in the Panama City hearing that we heard, you  
24          know, but basically both sides of the argument.  
25          On one side, folks would say, "I want to know

1           who my Representative is, I want to be able to  
2           go to them, there is no confusion in my county  
3           as to who represents me, I have my go-to person  
4           for my issues."  Conversely, there were some  
5           folks who argued on the other side that said,  
6           "I like having multiple voices in Tallahassee  
7           and I like having multiple chances of getting  
8           my issues heard before a Representative in my  
9           county, so I would like to be split."  It is  
10          important to note, and we will address this a  
11          little bit later, but thinking of drawing Bay  
12          County as a whole, as all of one district, the  
13          population of Bay County would lead to a  
14          deviation of 7.8 percent on the high side of  
15          that district, and a deviation of 7.8 percent  
16          would be a higher deviation than we saw in any  
17          of the districts from the 2010 map.  So that  
18          would be something to consider moving forward.

19                 Again, thinking of kind of the other side  
20          of the coin, we received testimony regarding  
21          Jackson County.  What you will see on the map  
22          here are the current districts as it relates to  
23          Jackson County, but there was some testimony in  
24          support of maintaining two House districts in  
25          Jackson County, those folks liked to be split;

1 again, thinking of the multiple voice concept.  
2 Thinking about the current districts, House  
3 District 5, which is to the north, is -- needs  
4 to gain 2,663 people, while District 7, which  
5 is the southern district there in Jackson  
6 County, actually needs to lose 12,632 people.

7 Moving forward, this was not a map.  
8 Obviously you see a chart here in front of you.  
9 This was provided to us by a citizen, Ed  
10 Winkelseff, who without drawing the districts,  
11 proposed how Districts 1 through 7 in the State  
12 House could be addressed in the Florida  
13 Panhandle. You will see two districts in  
14 Escambia County, one in Santa Rosa, one in  
15 Okaloosa. District 5 would have four counties  
16 within it, Bay County would be whole, and then  
17 District 7 started with Calhoun and Gulf County  
18 and keep working east, he did not complete that  
19 district. If you look in your books there, I  
20 won't go through all of them, but if you look  
21 through the books there, Districts 1 through 6  
22 were the ones he completed in this chart. They  
23 all have varying deviations that would need to  
24 be looked at ranging from 15.4 percent to 3.4  
25 percent, so that would have to be addressed if



1 that were to be considered.

2 Again, coming back, this is the --  
3 allowing Bay County to be kept whole, we did  
4 hear that quite a lot in that Panama City  
5 meeting. That is what Bay County whole would  
6 look like in a legislative district. And I  
7 already mentioned the deviation of that county  
8 there.

9 And the last issue I want to go over with  
10 you this afternoon for the northwest region  
11 deals with Franklin County and other rural  
12 communities and counties. As you can see here,  
13 this is Franklin County on the map in yellow,  
14 and they requested that they be connected with  
15 other rural communities in that area.

16 And that is the end of that region, Mr.  
17 Chairman.

18 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Thank you, Jeff,  
19 great job.

20 Any questions on the northwestern region  
21 of the state? Representative Bernard, you are  
22 recognized.

23 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Thank you, Mr.  
24 Chair.

25 I am trying to remember -- in one of the

1 meetings there was some questions in regards to  
2 removing Gulf Breeze out of I think either  
3 District 2 or District 3. Were there any --  
4 did you take a look at that?

5 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: You are  
6 recognized, sir.

7 MR. TAKACS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 I am going to have to go back and look at  
9 specifically the notes that we took from that  
10 specific meeting. I know that a lot of folks  
11 talked about that issue as far as Gulf Breeze  
12 being connected with House District 3, and then  
13 thinking about those other two communities that  
14 were not within District 3. I would have to go  
15 back and see if we actually received -- what we  
16 tried to do in creating these maps is if we  
17 received an instruction of we would like to see  
18 Gulf Breeze removed or we would like to see  
19 this done -- sometimes folks brought up issues  
20 without giving us that instruction, if that  
21 makes any sense, but I would have to go back  
22 and look in my notes, but that was -- that was  
23 talked about as a potential issue, thinking  
24 about Gulf Breeze being connected to Pensacola  
25 in House District 3.

1           REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Do you have a  
2 follow-up question, sir?

3           REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: No follow-up.  
4 Thank you.

5           REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Any other  
6 questions?

7           Great job. Moving on to the northeastern  
8 portion of our state.

9           MR. TAKACS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10           We are going to talk about the northeast  
11 and north central part of the state now, and  
12 this first issue here deals with House District  
13 19. This is the first example in the  
14 presentation here this afternoon about using a  
15 roadway as a dividing line between districts.  
16 There was a request made by a few folks in the  
17 Jacksonville meeting that said, "We would like  
18 to bring House District 19 down to where I-295  
19 would be the dividing line for that district,  
20 while keeping the communities of Mandarin and  
21 Fleming Island whole and together," and you can  
22 see there on the map, that big red arrow points  
23 to where 295 is located. It is important to  
24 note, obviously, when you make any kind of  
25 change like that, you are talking about

1 population, it is not just talking about land  
2 and having it how it looks. We have to meet  
3 ideal population.

4 Thinking about that particular district as  
5 it currently sits, House District 19 is  
6 actually roughly 8,000 short of its ideal  
7 population. So if we were to move that  
8 district down, we would be removing more people  
9 from that district, so they would need to be  
10 gained -- that district would need to gain  
11 people in other areas to meet that ideal  
12 population for a State House district.

13 Moving along, this is keeping Nassau  
14 County whole. You can see here, this is what  
15 Nassau County looks like. It is a bit unique  
16 in that, obviously, we can't go to the north in  
17 this district. As much as we might like to, we  
18 can't actually redistrict into Georgia, so you  
19 have to go south into Duval County or west into  
20 Baker County if you were to keep that county  
21 whole in this process. So that is what keeping  
22 Nassau County whole would look like.

23 Again under the concept of keeping  
24 counties whole, we heard testimony from the  
25 folks in Clay County requesting the same thing,

1           that Clay County be kept whole. Their main  
2           concern was thinking about they are so close to  
3           Jacksonville, there was a fear that if they  
4           were included into a Jacksonville district,  
5           that the Jacksonville Representative would just  
6           kind of -- the issues would go all to  
7           Jacksonville, and they would feel left out in  
8           this process. So they wanted to have a unique  
9           Representative for their unique county. It is  
10          important to note, thinking of the population  
11          of Clay County at 190,865, it is too large to  
12          have a whole State House district within it and  
13          would need to be divided at least once, but  
14          just something to think about moving forward.

15                 Under that same concept, keeping Baker  
16          County whole, they had a little bit of a  
17          different spin on it. Similar to other  
18          communities in the Big Bend, they requested  
19          that they be connected with other rural  
20          counties in the region and be kept whole in  
21          this process. Obviously, Baker County, a small  
22          populated county, would need to be connected  
23          with other counties in the region to create a  
24          State House district.

25                 Moving forward, looking at State House

1 District 12, we received testimony in  
2 Jacksonville asking that the precinct that is  
3 in Duval County that is in House District 12 be  
4 removed from that district. You can see there  
5 where the red arrow is on the screen, that is  
6 pointing to where that precinct is. Thinking  
7 about the current district, current House  
8 District 12 is roughly 2,700 over the ideal  
9 population of a State House district.

10 Moving along, this was some testimony we  
11 heard a lot in the St. Augustine meeting,  
12 keeping St. Johns County whole, and if that  
13 wasn't possible, linking St. Johns and Flagler  
14 Counties together. We heard that a number of  
15 times from a number of folks in that St.  
16 Augustine meeting. The map here in front of  
17 you is all of St. Johns County. It is  
18 important to note that the population of St.  
19 Johns County is too large for its own House  
20 district, so it would need to be split into at  
21 least two districts, and where those districts  
22 would go, north, west or south, would be the  
23 policy decision, but they are asking if when  
24 you do split us, please link us with Flagler  
25 County as opposed to Duval County to the north

1 or counties to the west.

2 Again, thinking about another  
3 municipality, the City of Deltona, they asked  
4 that they be kept whole. Several folks  
5 testified on behalf of this saying that Deltona  
6 is the largest municipality in Volusia County,  
7 and they asked that they be kept whole within a  
8 legislative district. So that is what the City  
9 of Deltona would look like there. Again,  
10 thinking about when municipalities are kept  
11 whole, oftentimes there are holes or  
12 non-contiguous territories of land that would  
13 have to be addressed in order to complete that  
14 district moving forward.

15 This was a little more specific. The City  
16 of Ormond Beach requested that they be kept  
17 whole in House District 26. Currently the vast  
18 majority of the City is within House District  
19 26. They just asked that the rest of the City  
20 be grabbed into House District 26. A couple of  
21 things to note: House District 26 currently is  
22 actually over in its population by 20,905, so  
23 this district as a whole needs to lose  
24 residents. Another interesting point here, if  
25 you look on the screen, in that purplish color

1 is the city limits of Ormond Beach. A little  
2 bit harder to see, but just to the south of the  
3 City of Ormond Beach is the city limits to  
4 Holly Hill. So if you were to want to keep  
5 Ormond Beach whole and not draw a district that  
6 then bled over into Holly Hill, you would have  
7 to be very careful to do that and you would  
8 also have to actually split Voter Tabulated  
9 Districts to do so. Of course, Voter Tabulated  
10 Districts are the districts that were drawn by  
11 the Supervisors of Elections across the state,  
12 thinking about keeping neighborhoods whole,  
13 thinking about trying to minimize voter  
14 confusion, thinking about, you know, common  
15 roadways and things of that sort, you know.  
16 Just about every meeting, a Supervisor of  
17 Elections officer or the actual supervisor  
18 themselves testified asking us to not split  
19 those Voter Tabulated Districts. So that would  
20 be something to keep in mind as you move  
21 forward, again, kind of balancing the  
22 recommendations of two different entities.

23 Again, under the guise of keeping counties  
24 whole, Flagler County, we received testimony  
25 from several folks, some on the county



1           commission, as a matter of fact, asking that  
2           Flagler County be kept whole within a  
3           legislative district, so that is what Flagler  
4           County would look like.  Currently the county  
5           is too small to have a district all to itself,  
6           so it would have to be linked with another  
7           community or communities within a county to  
8           create a district.

9                        Moving on to the meeting in The Villages,  
10           this was testimony that we heard quite often in  
11           The Villages meeting, and that was keep The  
12           Villages whole within a legislative district.  
13           You can see here on the map that this is  
14           what -- roughly what The Villages would look  
15           like in a district, and I say roughly because  
16           to actually create this visual for you, what we  
17           did was looking at census-designated places  
18           within Marion and Sumter County -- keep in mind  
19           that The Villages is right at the border of  
20           three different counties, and actually has  
21           parts of three different counties, Marion,  
22           Sumter and Lake County, all within it -- so  
23           using the census-designated places, and we  
24           actually also looked at some maps from EDR,  
25           that was how the Marion and Sumter County

1 portions of The Villages was drawn here. To  
2 the right-hand side there on the Lake County  
3 portion, we used all of the City of Lady Lake  
4 to be built into this district. Again, you can  
5 see there are holes, potentially non-contiguous  
6 areas of land there in keeping The Villages  
7 whole.

8 Thinking about Lake County, there was a  
9 request made to keep what is called the Golden  
10 Triangle, which is the Cities of Mt. Dora,  
11 Eustis and Tavares, whole and together within  
12 this process. That is what it would look like.  
13 It does, you know, basically look like a  
14 triangle. Thinking about the population of  
15 this district, it is about 45,000 short of what  
16 a State House district would look like, so more  
17 communities would be needed to add to it, and,  
18 of course, looking at that map, some holes  
19 would need to be filled and potentially  
20 non-contiguous land, again, would have to be  
21 addressed to complete that district.

22 Moving forward, keeping Gilchrist and Levy  
23 Counties together and linking them with Alachua  
24 County, we received that testimony in the  
25 Gainesville meeting, and you can see what that

1 looks like there. That district, again,  
2 keeping all of those counties together and  
3 whole, has a population of 305,000, roughly,  
4 which is well over the population of a State  
5 House district. So in some way, shape or form,  
6 that district as you see in front of you would  
7 have to be divided at least once. Where that  
8 would be would be up to you.

9 Again under the guise of keeping counties  
10 whole, this is Columbia County. They asked  
11 that they be kept whole within this process,  
12 and they actually said here, as I am looking at  
13 my notes here, that they are currently divided  
14 between four Representatives in Tallahassee was  
15 the testimony, so they wanted to be  
16 consolidated so they could have one  
17 Representative that they could talk to and work  
18 with in the Legislature.

19 Moving back to Lake County, there was some  
20 testimony in favor of basically reducing the  
21 number of legislators that represent their  
22 county. Obviously, Lake County is too large to  
23 have just one member, and that community knew  
24 it, and obviously there are multiple  
25 legislators from that county now, so the

1 request was made to reduce the number of  
2 representation here. You can see in the  
3 testimony that they gave, they suggested kind  
4 of the bits and pieces of two districts. There  
5 on your screen, you can see the yellow district  
6 is kind of a northern district, while the other  
7 purple color, obviously two non-contiguous  
8 areas of land which would have to be connected  
9 using Sumter County or other communities to the  
10 west, thinking about The Villages portion of  
11 Lake County and then connecting it with  
12 southern Lake County.

13 This was a proposal that we received that  
14 relates to four different House districts, 25  
15 through 28. What they did here, this was a  
16 specific testimony by Mr. Hoyt in Daytona  
17 Beach. This was actually written sub- --  
18 written testimony that we received. What he  
19 was trying to do essentially was keeping cities  
20 within that community whole as opposed to some  
21 of the splits that are currently in the map in  
22 the House districts.

23 Again, thinking about Volusia County, the  
24 Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce made some  
25 recommendations on how they would like to be

1 represented. We are going to see a very  
2 similar recommendation to this when we get to  
3 Palm Beach County, but what they were talking  
4 about is the number of districts they would  
5 like to see that has a majority of their county  
6 within it. They know that their county is too  
7 large and that they have to be split, so they  
8 made some requests. Thinking about the State  
9 House, they would like three majority Volusia  
10 County districts within their county. They  
11 know that they could be divided. Their current  
12 delegation is six, as it says there in the  
13 chart, and they would like to see three House  
14 members have the majority of their district be  
15 in Volusia County.

16 Kind of moving back up towards the Big  
17 Bend area of the state, this relates to House  
18 District 10. What you see in front of you was  
19 the person who testified wanted to see -- this  
20 was actually an e-mail that we received. They  
21 wanted to see District 10 kind of more squared  
22 off. They talk about removing Wakulla and  
23 Franklin Counties, and then thinking about all  
24 of Jefferson County and then parts of Columbia  
25 and Dixie and also taking out Levy County from

1 that district. Some of the counties that they  
2 wanted within this district they weren't real  
3 clear about as far as their testimony, so,  
4 again, just to give you a visual, we created  
5 that map there that is in front of you there.

6 Up next is actually a partial submitted  
7 map that we received from a member of the  
8 public. This is a district that is a northern  
9 Lake County district, as you can see. Just one  
10 area of note, I am going back to some previous  
11 testimony that we heard about. This district  
12 would have all of the Lake County portion of  
13 The Villages within it, but would not have any  
14 of the Sumter or Marion County portions within  
15 that, so that community would be divided, but  
16 that is what a northern Lake County district  
17 would look like. I should note that the  
18 deviation on that actual district drawn by the  
19 member of the public was 377 people, so well  
20 done by them.

21 Moving on is another publicly submitted  
22 map. This one creates two House districts,  
23 thinking of a northern Lake County district and  
24 a southern Lake County district here. You will  
25 see that in this particular map, the person

1           made an attempt to grab the Sumter County area  
2           of The Villages. You will see that little  
3           finger kind of stick out of Lake County and go  
4           into Sumter. We believe that is their attempt  
5           to try to grab The Villages portion of Sumter  
6           County into this district. And then they drew  
7           a southern district as well. Thinking about  
8           the deviations of this district, the northern  
9           district has a deviation of 945 people, while  
10          the southern district has a deviation of 276  
11          people.

12                   And that's the last map that I have for  
13                   that region, Mr. Chairman.

14                   REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Members, are  
15                   there any questions on the northeastern and  
16                   north central portions of the state?

17                   Seeing none, we will move on to the  
18                   central region. Take a second and grab some  
19                   water there. You are doing good work, bud, I  
20                   got to tell you.

21                   MR. TAKACS: Thank you, I appreciate it.  
22                   Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23                   Yes, moving on to central Florida,  
24                   testimony that we received in the Lakeland  
25                   meeting talked about keeping the Cities of

1 Winter Haven and Lakeland and northeast Polk  
2 County separate from the rest of the county.  
3 The person made the argument that they believe  
4 that Lakeland and Winter Haven and the  
5 northeast area of the county was more of the  
6 metropolitan areas of the county, the more high  
7 population growth area, and they wanted to keep  
8 that separate from what they called the  
9 agricultural areas of the county, thinking  
10 about House districts.

11 What this graphic here before you is, it  
12 kind of shows -- thinking about the concept of  
13 northeast Polk County, that wasn't clearly  
14 defined in the testimony. So what we tried to  
15 do was to create that red line, as you can see,  
16 that grabs the City of Lakeland and the City of  
17 Winter Haven and then what we thought might be  
18 northeast Polk County there. I should also  
19 note that, thinking of northeast Polk County,  
20 there is a city within that area, which is  
21 Haines City. That particular municipality  
22 wasn't mentioned in the testimony, and as you  
23 can see in that -- kind of that red line, we  
24 kind of drew it right through the middle of  
25 Haines City, so that would be divided if a



1 district that looked kind of like that would  
2 look like, they would be divided. So that  
3 would be something to consider in this process.

4 This was testimony that we received in the  
5 Wauchula meeting. This was, again, thinking  
6 about a roadway as a -- either an artery or a  
7 boundary for a district, and this was actually  
8 looking at U.S. 17. Starting in Bartow, going  
9 south on U.S. 17 to Arcadia, then thinking of  
10 the communities west, thinking about eastern  
11 Hillsborough, eastern Manatee, Sarasota and  
12 eastern Charlotte Counties, what they were  
13 saying is that all of those segments of those  
14 counties are all agricultural and should be  
15 included into a district that had all of the --  
16 those cities that I just listed along U.S. 17  
17 into a district all to itself. I should note  
18 that it wasn't clearly specified whether U.S.  
19 17 would be the eastern boundary of a district,  
20 or if that would actually be the heart of a  
21 district. Thinking about the testimony and  
22 agricultural lands, you could make the argument  
23 that east of U.S. 17 also may have agricultural  
24 lands that could be included into a district of  
25 that sort, but, again, it wasn't specified.

1           Moving on to Pasco County, we received a  
2 lot of testimony in Pasco County, as you may  
3 remember, about thinking about east and west  
4 and even central Pasco County. A lot of --  
5 there were basically two arteries,  
6 transportation arteries, that were mentioned as  
7 potential dividing lines, one being the  
8 Suncoast Parkway, the other being I-75. What  
9 this map before you looks like is basically  
10 thinking of those two -- those two roadways,  
11 folks mentioned that there could be a western,  
12 a central and an eastern portion of Pasco  
13 County drawn into districts, so that's what  
14 that would look like. It is important to note  
15 that the western district, the green district  
16 there, is actually over the population for an  
17 ideal House district by quite a bit, by 97,000,  
18 roughly, and the central and the eastern  
19 districts are both under. So that is just what  
20 that would look like using those major roadways  
21 as dividing lines.

22           We received specific testimony actually on  
23 both sides of the argument about House  
24 Districts 45 and 61 and their non-Pasco  
25 populations. We received a number of folks who

1 testified specifically in House District 61,  
2 but a little bit in 45 as well, that  
3 Hillsborough County should be removed from that  
4 district, and that district should be more of  
5 a -- have more Pasco -- you know, bring it up  
6 into Pasco County. There were folks on the  
7 other side of the argument who said, you know,  
8 we -- in the New Tampa area of Hillsborough  
9 County, we have a lot in common with those  
10 folks that live in western Pasco County, and  
11 similarly, the folks in eastern -- I'm sorry,  
12 western Hillsborough having things in common  
13 with the folks in western Pasco. So there were  
14 arguments on both sides of the argument there.  
15 You can see where the red arrows are. Those  
16 are the non-Pasco portions of both of those  
17 House districts as they currently sit.

18 Again thinking about Pasco County, there  
19 was testimony asking that the four precincts  
20 that are in Pasco County that are in House  
21 District 44 be removed. You know, kind of  
22 taking House District 44 out of Pasco County,  
23 you can see there, again, where that red arrow  
24 is is where those precincts lie if they were to  
25 be removed from Pasco County.

1           Next we are moving on to Orange County.  
2           This was an example, and we see this to some  
3           extent in central Florida and to some extent in  
4           south Florida as well, where they may not live  
5           in an incorporated city or a municipality, but  
6           they say, you know, "I want you to keep my  
7           community whole." In this instance, it is the  
8           community of Orlovista in Orange County there  
9           where 408 and 435 meet, roughly. You can see  
10          it there on the map where it says "Orlovista."

11           In the testimony, they did not define the  
12          parameters of what their community would look  
13          like, so that is why you don't see a map here  
14          in front of you. There were not roadways given  
15          to us as far as what would define that  
16          community, but we did want you to see where it  
17          was on the map, thinking about keeping that  
18          community whole.

19           Next is -- there were some folks that  
20          testified, again, in Orange County, thinking  
21          about the concept of keeping an east Orange  
22          County seat all to itself that would not link  
23          to another community, being Brevard County to  
24          the east. You can see there on the graphic  
25          before you is the pink district that kind of

1 has a swooping effect there is State House  
2 District 32, which has both Orange and Brevard  
3 Counties in it. If you look in your book, what  
4 we actually did was -- again, without defining  
5 the parameters of east Orange County within the  
6 testimony, we, just to give you a visual, used  
7 State Road 417, the vertical portion of 417, as  
8 a dividing line between east and west Orange  
9 County to create a district there so you could  
10 see what that would look like, but, again, they  
11 are just asking that an exclusive east Orange  
12 County seat be drawn for the State House.

13 Next here is keeping the Four Corners  
14 region whole. The Four Corners area is  
15 actually the intersection of Polk, Orange,  
16 Osceola and Lake Counties. It is a well-known  
17 community called the Four Corners area. If you  
18 look on the map, it is a little hard to see on  
19 the screen, but if you look in the book there,  
20 I put a little circle around it so you could  
21 see where those four counties meet. Again,  
22 thinking about the testimony that we received,  
23 there was not a specific parameter definition  
24 of how to define the Four Corners region, so  
25 that is why you don't see a map here in front

1 of you. Thinking about roadways or, you know,  
2 rivers, lakes, things of that sort, there were  
3 no geographic boundaries that were outlined as  
4 to define that community.

5 Next would be to connect the City of  
6 Apopka with the City of Winter Garden and west  
7 Orange County. You can see what those two  
8 cities look like here. You can see that they  
9 are actually -- there's a little bit of a  
10 distance there between the two of them, and  
11 actually creates kind of a choice here if you  
12 were to decide to go that route. If you were  
13 to connect those two cities to the east of Lake  
14 Apopka, just to the south of Apopka and to the  
15 north of Winter Garden is the City of Ocoee.  
16 If you were to connect Apopka and Winter  
17 Garden, you would have to either include all of  
18 Ocoee, or split Ocoee into more than one -- two  
19 or more districts. Obviously, another option  
20 would be to go all the way around Lake Apopka  
21 and go to the west of that lake, and you could  
22 link those two cities that way. Again,  
23 thinking about municipalities, again, holes  
24 would have to be filled, potentially  
25 non-contiguous land would have to be filled and

1 continued as well.

2 Also, too, just as an aside, thinking  
3 about what we said earlier about VTDs and Voter  
4 Tabulated Districts, oftentimes if you want to  
5 draw a district that follows the city boundary,  
6 oftentimes you will have to split VTDs as well  
7 in that process, so it is something that you  
8 would have to weigh as you are creating a  
9 district.

10 Next is removing Brevard County from House  
11 District 80. The folks in southern Brevard  
12 County testified saying, you know, that "The  
13 Representative from this district lives in  
14 Indian River County, not in my community. I  
15 would prefer to have a Brevard County  
16 Representative in my district." So they  
17 requested that House District 80 be removed  
18 from Brevard County.

19 Thinking about south Brevard County, this  
20 is keeping the City of Palm Bay whole within a  
21 House district. Just thinking about  
22 populations, the population of the City of Palm  
23 Bay is 103,190, not quite enough for a State  
24 House district, so it would need to be linked  
25 with other communities within that area.

1           Next we received some testimony as it  
2 regards to House District 29. You can see it  
3 there on the map, we put the red box around it  
4 there. The actual district itself is in brown.  
5 It goes from the City of Titusville in northern  
6 Brevard County to the Indian River/St. Lucie  
7 County line to the south. There were folks  
8 that testified -- you know, thinking about the  
9 distance that it would take to travel to see  
10 their legislator, there were folks who  
11 testified thinking about the legislator in this  
12 district has to have two district offices  
13 because the district is so long, that it would  
14 be difficult to represent the people of both of  
15 those communities. Interestingly enough, we  
16 only received one -- it is in your book here,  
17 too. We only received really one suggestion on  
18 how to redraw that district, and that is in the  
19 book there in front of you, but that is what  
20 House District 29 currently looks like, and,  
21 again, folks just thought that the distance to  
22 travel to their legislator was too far.

23           Moving on, we are back into Orange County  
24 now, and thinking about State House districts  
25 for blacks and Hispanics, there was testimony



1           that said that in Orange County, there is  
2           enough space for two State House districts with  
3           a heavy voice for the black community as well  
4           as the Hispanic community, two each. You can  
5           see here on the graphic here what we did. This  
6           actually is just the Hispanic voting age  
7           population of 30 percent or higher. The  
8           graphic in your book has also the same thing  
9           for black members of that community as well.  
10          It is important to note, thinking about the  
11          testimony that was given, they didn't define  
12          the phrase "heavy voice," so we don't know what  
13          that means as far as, you know,  
14          majority-minority seats, minority access seats,  
15          et cetera, but that is what those  
16          concentrations of populations would look like.

17                 Interestingly enough, thinking about the  
18          folks who testified asking for an eastern  
19          Orange County seat, this is kind of the flip  
20          side of that coin, and some folks from northern  
21          Brevard County asked that they not be linked  
22          with areas within Orange County that would then  
23          produce a district that would have a  
24          Representative from Orange County, from the  
25          Orlando area, because they -- you know, again,

1 thinking about distance to travel, thinking  
2 about things that they have in common with  
3 their legislator, things of that sort, so they  
4 asked that they not be linked in a district  
5 that would likely to produce a candidate from  
6 Orlando. Also important to note just for a fun  
7 fact, this is actually the very first public  
8 submission that we received in the  
9 Redistricting Committee, so it is pretty  
10 exciting.

11 Next is a partial map that we received by  
12 a member of the public. This has four State  
13 House districts. This is actually in line with  
14 a lot of testimony we received in the Melbourne  
15 meeting. A lot of folks in that area asked  
16 for -- thinking about State House districts,  
17 they asked for a northern, central and southern  
18 district within their county, that's kind of  
19 what this map achieves. You will note,  
20 thinking about Brevard County, it is too big to  
21 have three members of the Legislature within  
22 it, so it has to have at least four, so this  
23 accomplishes that by having four, and you will  
24 notice that the northern area of Brevard County  
25 is split basically on an east/west line with

1 the Titusville area and that area of north  
2 Brevard linked with Volusia County to the  
3 north.

4 Kind of jumping all around the map here, I  
5 apologize for that. We're going back to Pasco  
6 County here. This is a publicly submitted map  
7 for five State House districts. You will see  
8 they kind of -- thinking about that map that we  
9 talked about earlier for Pasco County, thinking  
10 about I-75 and the Suncoast Parkway, they tried  
11 to use or come close to using that area as well  
12 in defining east, west and central Pasco  
13 County. As you can see for both the central  
14 and eastern districts, they had to go both  
15 north -- well, the eastern district had to go  
16 both north and south, whereas the central  
17 district just went south into Hillsborough. So  
18 that is what that would look like there. You  
19 can see that the Hernando-based seat to the  
20 north does not come into Pasco County, which  
21 would be similar to the testimony that was  
22 received earlier about that district not being  
23 in Pasco County.

24 Again, this was a partially submitted map  
25 from a member of the public. This is thinking

1 about a State House district that is based in  
2 Indian River County. What you will see is that  
3 they used the western part of Indian River  
4 County, the western part of Brevard County, as  
5 well as linking it with Okeechobee and Osceola  
6 and even maybe portions of Polk County as well.  
7 So the thought process there was maybe that  
8 they were trying to create an  
9 agricultural-based district. They didn't say  
10 when they submitted the map, but that could be  
11 ascertained from that. The deviation of that  
12 district is 251 people for a State House  
13 district.

14 Mr. Chairman, that is my last map for that  
15 region.

16 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Any questions on  
17 the central region of the state?

18 Representative Bernard, you are recognized for  
19 a question, sir.

20 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Thank you, Mr.  
21 Chair.

22 I know you haven't addressed the southeast  
23 portion yet. Was -- is District 29 also in the  
24 southeast portion?

25 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: You are

1 recognized to answer that.

2 MR. TAKACS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 For the purposes of the way we had our  
4 hearings, it was not. It is not in the --  
5 well, I guess -- well, thinking about Indian  
6 River County, I guess there could be some  
7 bleed-over between the central area and the  
8 southeast area, just thinking about how we had  
9 our meetings. We did have a meeting in Stuart,  
10 so I guess it could be theoretically that  
11 someone from Indian River County may have  
12 traveled to Stuart to testify in that meeting.  
13 I would have to go back and look and see if  
14 that actually happened.

15 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Okay. Thank you.

16 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Any follow-up  
17 questions?

18 Seeing none, we will move on to our fourth  
19 and final region of the state today, the  
20 southeastern region. Jeff, you are recognized.

21 MR. TAKACS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22 The first issue within this region is the  
23 community of Indiantown, which is in western  
24 Martin County. It has roughly 6,400 residents.  
25 Actually, an employee of the Supervisor of

1 Elections' office testified, asking that  
2 Indiantown be kept whole within a legislative  
3 district. It is actually currently split  
4 between three House districts. You can see  
5 there Indiantown is not a municipality, it is  
6 more of a community, so it is circled there on  
7 the map. We didn't receive specific parameters  
8 as to what would define Indiantown, but you can  
9 see on the map that that's where that is about,  
10 and, again, they asked that that community be  
11 kept whole in the redistricting process.

12 Thinking about being kept whole, we  
13 received testimony asking that all of Martin  
14 County be kept whole within a single House  
15 district. That's what that would look like  
16 there. It is important to note with Martin  
17 County's population of 146,318, it is a bit too  
18 small to have a House seat unto itself, so it  
19 would have to be connected to another county or  
20 to another community to it to meet that ideal  
21 population for a State House district.

22 Next was actually -- this was kind of  
23 interesting. We received specific testimony on  
24 how to draw a map. They didn't actually submit  
25 the map to us, but they gave us specific

1           verbiage on how to draw two House districts in  
2           the Martin County/Treasure Coast area. The  
3           district to the west, they said that if you  
4           used the Turnpike there in Martin County as the  
5           dividing line, putting all of west Martin  
6           County into a district with all of Okeechobee  
7           and Highlands Counties, that could be a State  
8           House district, and they talked about it being  
9           maybe a more rural or agricultural district in  
10          that region of the state. It is important to  
11          note that that population deviation is 284  
12          people, or .2 percent of a deviation.

13                 Thinking about the next district there on  
14          this map to the east, what they said was  
15          basically what is not in that western portion  
16          west of the Turnpike in Martin County, the rest  
17          should be within its own district, all of  
18          eastern Martin County. They also talked about  
19          coming south as far as the City of Tequesta.  
20          What we did here was -- this is all of east  
21          Martin County within a district. We did not go  
22          down into Palm Beach County, because the City  
23          of Tequesta kind of comes right up there on the  
24          border, so we just kind of stopped it there at  
25          the Martin County line. Thinking about that

1 second district, it would have to go further to  
2 the south or to the north because it doesn't  
3 meet the ideal population for a House district.  
4 That district there is currently roughly  
5 128,700. So that is how that district would  
6 look, those two districts would look.

7 Again, thinking about keeping cities  
8 whole, we received a lot of testimony in  
9 southeast Florida about keeping municipalities  
10 whole within this process. This is the example  
11 of the City of Boca Raton asking to be kept  
12 whole in this process. It is important to  
13 note, thinking about this more from a global  
14 perspective, if you are in a county and you  
15 have several or many municipalities asking to  
16 be kept whole within this redistricting  
17 process, more likely than not, that is not  
18 going to be able to happen for all of those  
19 municipalities, thinking about meeting ideal  
20 populations, especially for a State House  
21 district. If you were thinking about a Senate  
22 or a congressional district, you might be able  
23 to achieve that, because you have to grab more  
24 people, but with a State House district with it  
25 being the size that it is, you may not be able



1 to keep every municipality whole that you would  
2 like to in this process, and a policy decision  
3 would have to be made as to which  
4 municipalities would be split up. This is an  
5 example of where, obviously, feedback from  
6 members and your constituents would be  
7 important hearing about which municipalities  
8 should be kept whole and not in this process as  
9 we move forward.

10 Next was testimony that we received by the  
11 Coalition of Boynton West Residential  
12 Associations, which is a coalition of  
13 neighborhood associations within that  
14 community. What they did was they asked for  
15 basically the parameters of their coalition to  
16 be kept together within a single House  
17 district, and you can see that on the graphic  
18 above. They gave some specific, you know,  
19 geographical marks to create a district that  
20 would look like this, and this was about what  
21 we thought that would look like. So you can  
22 see that that district there in the west  
23 Boynton Beach area, that district before you  
24 has roughly 111,000 people, so it is a bit too  
25 small for a House district, so we need to be --

1 more communities would need to be added to it.

2 This particular example talks about the  
3 community of Wynmoor, which is currently split  
4 between House Districts 95 and 92. They asked  
5 that they be kept whole within District 95, and  
6 that District 95 be solely housed within  
7 Broward County. So that is what the current  
8 map looks like there. You can see kind of the  
9 circle area. Again, thinking of some of these  
10 communities, we didn't receive what the  
11 parameters of that community would look like,  
12 so that circle is kind of a guesstimate as to  
13 what that community would look like. And,  
14 again, it is currently split between the two  
15 House districts, and that's what that looks  
16 like on the current map.

17 Conversely, this is an example of a  
18 community that gave us the exact parameters of  
19 what their community looks like, and this is  
20 the community of Eastgate within Lauderdale  
21 Lakes. This was actually the first person to  
22 testify in the Dania meeting. And you can see  
23 here on the -- where that rounded square is,  
24 that is exactly what they said was the  
25 parameter of Eastgate, and what they said was

1 they would like to be kept all within House  
2 District 94.

3 Again thinking of the concept of keeping  
4 cities whole, this is the City of Cooper City,  
5 and they asked to be kept whole in this  
6 process. And although it is not in my  
7 PowerPoint presentation, it is important to  
8 note that there were some folks who actually  
9 testified that the City of Cooper City should  
10 be connected with Dania as well, so that is  
11 something to consider as we move forward.

12 Moving into Miami-Dade County, this is the  
13 community of Kendall. They asked that they be  
14 kept whole in this process as well, again,  
15 similar to other communities across the state.  
16 In the testimony, we didn't receive exact  
17 parameters of what that community would look  
18 like, so we didn't want to blindly draw a  
19 district to capture what they were saying, and,  
20 again, where feedback from constituents would  
21 be welcomed. And, again, this is keeping the  
22 community of Kendall whole within a House  
23 district.

24 The next is testimony that we received  
25 asking that we create opportunities for Palm

1 Beach Hispanics within the State House. You  
2 can see here on the map what we did was we got  
3 to the VTD level and showed some concentrations  
4 of Hispanic persons that are voting age  
5 population. What you see on the screen are  
6 folks that are 30 percent or more within that  
7 concentration of that VTD. It is important to  
8 note that as a whole, Palm Beach County has a  
9 Hispanic voting age population of 17 percent.

10 Kind of along similar lines, we received  
11 testimony that said that we should not dilute  
12 Hispanic representation for Broward County.  
13 You can see here in that purple outline there,  
14 that is the county boundaries for Broward  
15 County. This is the -- this is actually the --  
16 I think that is actually the congressional map  
17 on your screen, but what they noted is thinking  
18 about diluting Hispanic representation, it is  
19 important to note that Broward County currently  
20 has two Hispanic members in the State House, so  
21 that is -- they are asking to not basically  
22 dilute or reduce that number.

23 The folks of Coconut Creek asked that  
24 their current levels of representation be  
25 maintained, and actually, they currently have

1 two State Representatives within their city.  
2 This is actually what all of the city would  
3 look like, but they asked that they keep their  
4 split. Again, you do see that in some of these  
5 cities across the state where they ask, "No, we  
6 don't want to be kept whole, we want to have  
7 more than one voice in Tallahassee, so we like  
8 our current level of representation," and the  
9 City of Coconut Creek is an example of that.

10 We received testimony asking that we  
11 maintain the Palm Beach County  
12 majority-minority black districts, both in the  
13 State Senate and the State House. You will see  
14 there that both of those districts are outlined  
15 on the map. House District 84 is on that  
16 bottom map there before you.

17 This was an interesting example. What we  
18 received in this, it was actually a written  
19 submission that we received, was there wasn't  
20 specific directions on how to draw a map, but  
21 what they did was saying if you were to draw a  
22 map within Palm Beach County, there are  
23 specific areas in northern, central and  
24 southern Palm Beach County that could be linked  
25 together that have similar interests, similar

1 ideas, similar communities that could be linked  
2 together to be districts. So that is all of  
3 Palm Beach County as a whole, and, again, if  
4 you look at the testimony in your book there,  
5 you will see what cities they specifically were  
6 talking about, including into districts as we  
7 move forward.

8 Again, similar to what I just said a  
9 moment ago, some folks in Okeechobee County  
10 asked that they maintain their current level of  
11 representation. Similar to the City of Coconut  
12 Creek, Okeechobee County has two members of the  
13 Legislature in the State House, and they asked  
14 that that be maintained.

15 Moving on, we received testimony regarding  
16 House District 78. Some folks testified that,  
17 you know, it was a challenge for whoever  
18 represented that district to represent all of  
19 the people within that community. You can see  
20 that on the screen here, that district is the  
21 reddish district that goes from the City of Ft.  
22 Pierce all the way south, thinking about where  
23 Delray Beach is, in that area. Again, some  
24 folks testified thinking that it would be  
25 difficult for a member of the Legislature

1 representing that district to be able to do the  
2 travel necessary, it is too large, those sorts  
3 of things. Interestingly enough, just thinking  
4 about ideal population, District 78 is roughly  
5 520 people short of the ideal population.

6 Next, thinking about Indian River County,  
7 Representative Bernard, this answers your  
8 question. We did receive testimony in that  
9 southeast region, thinking about Indian River  
10 County. We also received some in the central  
11 region of the state. The testimony here was  
12 asking that Indian River County have two  
13 members in the State House. You can see they  
14 asked to be kept whole in the congressional and  
15 Senate maps, but for our purposes here, they  
16 asked that they be divided into two members of  
17 the House, and you can see this is actually  
18 just the current districts there, District 29  
19 to the left and then District 80 to the right.

20 As I mentioned before, thinking about what  
21 we heard from the Daytona Beach -- what is it  
22 called -- the Daytona Beach Chamber of  
23 Commerce, excuse me, this was -- we received  
24 some priorities from the Palm Beach County  
25 Commission as it relates to redistricting, and

1           it really talks about the number of districts  
2           that are a majority of their county, and they  
3           asked -- thinking about Palm Beach County as a  
4           hole, it has enough for roughly eight and a  
5           half House districts, and what they propose was  
6           they would like to see nine members of the  
7           House of Representatives representing Palm  
8           Beach County.

9           Mr. Chairman, that concludes -- wait, I'm  
10          sorry, I have one more. Sorry about that.

11          This was some written testimony, it is not  
12          a map here on the screen, but this is some  
13          testimony that we received, again, thinking  
14          about Palm Beach County. This gentleman wrote  
15          to us thinking about the nine House members  
16          representing Palm Beach County and the House of  
17          Representatives. That's the summation of  
18          that written testimony.

19          REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Excellent. Any  
20          questions on the southeastern region?  
21          Representative Bernard, you are recognized for  
22          a question, sir.

23          REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Thank you, Mr.  
24          Chair.

25          Were there some concerns in regards to



1           like Miramar and Pembroke Pines that were  
2           brought up?

3                    REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK:  You are  
4           recognized, sir.

5                    MR. TAKACS:  Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6                    Yes, Representative Bernard, there were.  
7           If you look in the book, there are some issues  
8           within there that were talked about, again,  
9           thinking about, for the sake of time, I just  
10          didn't bring up every issue that was raised,  
11          but there are some issues in the book thinking  
12          about the City of Miramar in that area.

13                   REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD:  Thank you, Mr.  
14          Chair.

15                   REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK:  Any further  
16          questions?

17                   This is probably as good a time as any  
18          just to thank our staff.  I mean, if you went  
19          to all these meetings, if you toured around the  
20          state, you know exactly how organized we were,  
21          and that is a great credit to our professional  
22          staff, so thank you very much, and that  
23          presentation was amazing.  If there's ever a  
24          legislative geography bee, you are going to be  
25          my first draft pick, because I feel like you've

1 really got a good grasp of the state of  
2 Florida.

3 Also worth noting on the subject of those  
4 meetings, we have a few redistricting  
5 celebrities on this Committee, people who  
6 actually made it to all 26 committee meetings.  
7 One is Representative Bernard, one is  
8 Representative Clarke-Reed, one is  
9 Representative Julien. Representative Rogers  
10 made it to 25, just one spot short of  
11 perfection. Representative Passidomo made it  
12 to 22, so that was quite an effort. I, myself,  
13 did not.

14 Having seen that, having seen no  
15 questions, just as a reminder, in the early  
16 October interim committee meeting, the  
17 subcommittee will cover the fifth region,  
18 southwest Florida, and the complete or near  
19 complete maps submitted from the public.

20 Thank you again for all your hard work so  
21 far in this process. I look forward to  
22 working -- continuing to work with you, all of  
23 you, over the coming months, and with that,  
24 Representative Young moves we rise.

25 (Whereupon, the proceedings were

1           concluded.)  
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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF FLORIDA )

COUNTY OF LEON )

I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned, and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting under my direction;

That the foregoing pages 2 through 66 represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of the tape-recording;

And I further certify that I am not of kin or counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

Dated this 21st day of February, 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

Notary Public

State of Florida at Large

Commission Expires:

November 13, 2014