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HOUSE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2012

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 WEATHERFORD: Okay,
3 members, if we can get everybody to take their
4 seats, we are going to start here. Katie,
5 could you please call the roll?

6 THE CLERK: Representatives Adkins?

7 REPRESENTATIVE ADKINS: Here.

8 THE CLERK: Bernard?

9 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Here.

10 THE CLERK: Chestnut?

11 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Here.

12 THE CLERK: Dorworth?

13 REPRESENTATIVE DORWORTH: Here.

14 THE CLERK: Eisnaugle?

15 REPRESENTATIVE EISNAUGLE: Here.

16 THE CLERK: Fresen?

17 REPRESENTATIVE FRESEN: Here.

18 THE CLERK: Frishe?

19 REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: Here.

20 THE CLERK: Holder?

21 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Here.

22 THE CLERK: Horner?

23 REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Here.

24 THE CLERK: Hukill?

25 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Here.

1 THE CLERK: Jenne?
2 REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: Here.
3 THE CLERK: Jones?
4 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: Here.
5 THE CLERK: Kiar?
6 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Here.
7 THE CLERK: Legg?
8 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Here.
9 THE CLERK: Nehr?
10 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Here.
11 THE CLERK: Precourt?
12 Rogers?
13 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Here.
14 THE CLERK: Rouson?
15 REPRESENTATIVE ROUSON: Here.
16 THE CLERK: Schenck?
17 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Here.
18 THE CLERK: Workman?
19 REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: Here.
20 THE CLERK: Chair Weatherford?
21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Here.
22 THE CLERK: We have a quorum.
23 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
24 very much, Katie.
25 Good morning, members. We have a nice

1 long, full day today. How long we go will be
2 determined based on the amount of public
3 testimony we have and how much we want to talk
4 about the maps that we are going to be
5 proposing. So we are going to get everybody
6 out of here as soon as we possibly can, but we
7 also are going to make sure that we spend a lot
8 of time to thoroughly analyze the maps that are
9 before us.

10 As you know, we are here to workshop the
11 options for Florida state legislative and
12 congressional redistricting maps that were
13 passed by the respective subcommittees. Some
14 of you sit on those subcommittees, and some of
15 you do not, so in that regard, I would like to
16 thank the subcommittee Chairs and the
17 subcommittee members who worked very hard to
18 bring the product to this full Committee, and
19 we appreciate all the effort that you've put in
20 thus forth, as well as the staff, who have done
21 just a tremendous job from the very beginning
22 in making sure that we are prepared in all of
23 our meetings.

24 I had the opportunity to watch nearly
25 every subcommittee meeting, and it was the

1 product of what I thought was a very thoughtful
2 discussion. I feel like every member of the
3 subcommittee got a chance to learn about how
4 this process works, had their opportunity to
5 have input and frankly talk about something
6 that can be very personal to members of the
7 Committee and members of our body, and I
8 thought that the dialogue that took place was
9 very thoughtful and frankly appropriate and
10 respectful, and I appreciate all the members
11 for that.

12 I am also thrilled with the work product
13 that has been put forth, both in terms of how
14 those legal options that we have seem to
15 demonstrate great legal compliance, and the use
16 that -- the use of public input that we
17 utilized throughout the process when it was
18 legally appropriate.

19 So regarding today, I said back in
20 September that this Committee would give each
21 plan a second workshop, we would take a fresh
22 look, which is what we are here to do today,
23 and make sure that the public testimony that we
24 have gotten since December gets one more look
25 before we move forward and pass maps out of

1 this Committee.

2 Today's meeting will go just like this:

3 First we are going to consider the public
4 input. We will open the substance of the
5 meeting by letting any members of the public
6 who are here and wish to speak, the opportunity
7 to do so. So if you are here in the audience
8 and either you are here to share your thoughts
9 with us on these maps or perhaps you need to
10 supplement the information you have already
11 provided us, we will be giving you that
12 opportunity very shortly. Secondly, our staff
13 will then present us with public suggestions
14 regarding the maps that we've received since
15 releasing options -- since releasing the
16 options on December 6th. There's actually
17 quite a bit of public testimony we have
18 received since then. We have a lot of
19 feedback, and our staff is going to walk us
20 through it one at a time. When that is
21 concluded, we will then walk through the
22 options for Congress, State House and State
23 Senate, and try to see if we can't get some
24 good dialogue on that as well.

25 We will not be taking any votes today, so

1 we're not going to be taking any votes today,
2 we will not be going over amendments. Today is
3 simply a workshop.

4 We will be voting next Friday, though, in
5 this very Committee. So what does that mean
6 for each of us? This morning, the Rules and
7 Calendar Committee recommended that we readopt
8 the same procedure we had last year for
9 amendments for redistricting bills for this
10 Committee and for the floor. Basically what
11 that means is, assuming that this is approved
12 on the floor for next Tuesday, if you have any
13 proposed amendments to file to the bills that
14 we are workshopping today, those amendments
15 would have to be submitted by Wednesday of next
16 week, by noon. And the reason for that is
17 because the same rules -- we are going to have
18 a two-day -- basically a 48-hour rule to give
19 the members the opportunity of the public and
20 of the Committee to look at the amendments.

21 Now, substitute amendments only have to be
22 filed a day ahead of time, and so the deadline
23 for substitute amendments to the amendment
24 would have to be submitted by Thursday by noon.
25 So those are the two deadlines that you have to

1 make sure that you take into account before
2 next week's meeting.

3 So, after today, we will have a quick
4 turn-around. If you have an amendment, I
5 suggest that you work with our staff and make
6 sure that your amendments are properly prepared
7 and that you are properly prepared to discuss
8 them.

9 Again, this Committee will seek to vote
10 out a single map for Congress, a single map for
11 the State House and a single map for the State
12 Senate by next Friday. That would put
13 redistricting bills on the floor of the House
14 the week of Thursday, the week four of session.

15 With that said, are there any procedural
16 or timeline questions from members of the
17 Committee? Procedural or timeline?

18 Okay. Seeing none, before we hear from
19 the public, what we thought we might do and
20 kind of set a nice tone for the meeting is to
21 show you an example of how public input was
22 utilized throughout the process of making of
23 the maps that we have before us today, and to
24 help us out, we have the House's Office of
25 Public Information. They have prepared a very

1 short video that will walk us through some of
2 the highlights of how we utilized that public
3 input and how it impacted the process and the
4 map options so far. So we've got a short
5 little movie for everybody to wake you up. So
6 Jason, if you could, go ahead and turn that on
7 for us.

8 (Beginning of movie.)

9 THE NARRATOR: The Florida House of
10 Representatives continues to gather record
11 levels of public input as part of the 2012
12 redistricting process. Using traditional and
13 new media outreach, the House has spent the
14 last 16 months working to educate and engage
15 the public in all things Florida redistricting.

16 This effort fueled an unparalleled
17 response. The House now boasts 30,000 visitors
18 to each of its redistricting blogs. More than
19 500 fans on Facebook received 440 posts by
20 staff. Nearly 800 redistricting followers on
21 Twitter viewed 1,700 tweets. More than 40
22 tutorial videos are available on YouTube
23 showing residents how to take part in the
24 process, and especially how to use the House's
25 state-of-the-art My District Builder

1 application. The channel boasts more than
2 6,800 views.

3 In addition, more than 170 maps were
4 submitted to the Florida Legislature for their
5 consideration, 30 press releases were issued on
6 redistricting, and the House hosted five formal
7 media availabilities to help reporters
8 statewide better understand the redistricting
9 process and the My District Builder
10 application, 3,500 subscribers signed up to
11 receive regular e-mail updates about
12 redistricting, public service announcements in
13 English and Spanish ran in every major media
14 market in the state.

15 The 2011 redistricting public outreach
16 tour garnered nearly 5,000 attendees, and more
17 than 1,600 people provided public testimony.
18 In addition, hundreds more e-mailed, called or
19 posted the House's numerous resources. The
20 testimony is clearly reflected in the House's
21 proposed maps.

22 MR. SIERRA: I live in eastern Leon
23 County, and my House District is basically
24 based in Jacksonville, Senate district is in
25 Inverness. I would like to have these

1 districts more closer to home.

2 THE NARRATOR: How staff were able to
3 include these comments from Joseph Sierra in
4 each of the proposed congressional maps.

5 MS. WATSON: And we would like to be in
6 the same district as -- or all of Clay County
7 be together in something. That is our front,
8 and there's a lot of people here from Clay
9 County who feel exactly the same way.

10 MS. HUTTON: We would like our own
11 representation from somebody that is from Clay
12 County, that represents Clay County, the
13 values, the issues, the community.

14 THE NARRATOR: These comments from both
15 Lynn Watson and Marge Hutton were used in
16 several options of the proposed House maps,
17 which guarantee Clay County will have a
18 Representative that actually lives within the
19 county.

20 A VOICE: To see very core specifics
21 coming out, people who are very involved, like
22 the Supervisor of Elections, which I was
23 surprised that so many represented it coming
24 forward, saying, you know, draw the lines this
25 way, please, because it makes such a huge

1 difference in our jobs.

2 THE NARRATOR: The redistricting committee
3 heard from several Supervisors of Elections who
4 asked for a major reduction in splits of voter
5 tabulation districts, or VTDs. Our staff was
6 able to reduce these splits by more than
7 50 percent.

8 MS. REAM: In Hardee County, I definitely
9 would like to see that they keep us with the
10 inland counties.

11 THE NARRATOR: Each of the proposed State
12 House and congressional maps accomplished this
13 request from Kathleen Rheem.

14 MR. WELCH: I think in my particular area,
15 the main thing is to focus on the distinct
16 communities of interest between the coastal
17 communities that exist and the rural heritage
18 communities that exist in the eastern portions
19 of the county which are based on agriculture.

20 THE NARRATOR: During the meeting, Casey
21 Welch described that he would like to maintain
22 Highway 17 as an artery for districts in Hardee
23 County. All proposed maps reflect this design.

24 MS. DICKMAN: An appropriate dividing line
25 would be east and west more than by county

1 necessarily.

2 THE NARRATOR: In Wesley Chapel, Jocelyn
3 Dickman requested that districts in Pasco
4 County be divided east and west. Pasco County
5 happens to be the size of three House
6 districts, and each proposed map consists of an
7 east, west and central district.

8 MR. EASTMAN: I would like to see us have
9 a district where the student voice gets heard
10 as a unified thing instead of having us drawn
11 into a district that waters down our voice.

12 THE NARRATOR: In Orlando, Brian Eastman
13 asked for the UCF campus community to be kept
14 whole, and all proposed State House maps comply
15 with this request.

16 A VOICE: The area that I live in, my
17 district stretches 60 miles north and 20 miles
18 south, so we end up with a House district that
19 just is all over the place. So we don't have
20 much in common with many people in two other
21 counties, and actually not much to do in common
22 with people at the entire other end of this
23 county.

24 THE NARRATOR: House staff were able to
25 accomplish this request as all proposed House

1 maps create three compact seats entirely in
2 Brevard County.

3 A VOICE: I would go ahead and leave the
4 districts in Broward County more compact. I
5 would make the districts in Broward County
6 fewer.

7 THE NARRATOR: This request is reflected
8 in each of the proposed House maps, as they are
9 far more compact and aligned with municipal
10 boundaries.

11 MAYOR BLACK: I would like to recommend,
12 like I said, that instead of District 109,
13 which is one in particular going across from
14 Overtown, which is one of the most impoverished
15 neighborhoods, to Miami Beach, which is one of
16 the most exclusive, that they cut that off and
17 just let 109 stay on the other side of Miami --
18 the bridge from Miami Beach, because it doesn't
19 make any -- the salaries and the incomes are
20 completely different.

21 THE NARRATOR: Village of El Portal Mayor
22 Daisy Black's comments are reflected in the
23 proposed 2012 House maps. All proposals for
24 this House district now stop at Overtown. In
25 addition, they keep the Village of El Portal

1 whole.

2 MR. REYES: Right now we have four State
3 Representative districts that cut right through
4 the Town of Cutler Bay, and so we have four
5 Representatives for one -- a town of 40,000.
6 We have three congressional seats. So that
7 needs to change.

8 THE NARRATOR: Jamie Reyes' opinions are
9 reflected as each proposed House map keeps
10 Cutler Bay whole. Each of the proposed
11 congressional maps now keep Cutler Bay whole as
12 well.

13 MR. MATTHEWS: I was born in Sarasota and
14 I live in Bradenton now and I grew up by the
15 airport, and the airport sits right on the
16 county line, so the communities are very
17 intertwined. I know from experience that
18 there's a lot of community interaction between
19 the counties, so I hope they don't draw
20 districts strictly on county boundaries,
21 because if they do that, they will ignore that
22 community aspect, the greater community in
23 Sarasota and Manatee County.

24 THE NARRATOR: House staff paid particular
25 attention to David Matthews' comments as they

1 created congressional maps containing all of
2 Sarasota and most of Manatee. In addition, the
3 airport is in a singular district, and each
4 House map has four districts entirely in
5 Sarasota and Manatee County.

6 MR. RUSSO: Here in southwest Florida
7 where it is a lot more common sense, I think
8 that there should be three districts, as I
9 mentioned, southwest Florida, one in Sarasota
10 and Manatee County, the other in Charlotte and
11 north Lee, and the third in south Lee and
12 Collier, and in -- composing some interior
13 areas and interior counties here and there as
14 well.

15 THE NARRATOR: Joseph Russo's comments are
16 reflected in all of the proposed 2012
17 congressional maps precisely to how he
18 described the three districts in southwest
19 Florida.

20 MS. TRIPP: We are struggling
21 economically, and when I look, I can't help but
22 look at some of the districtings and seeing
23 that the masses of the populations are over in
24 the coastal regions, and then they come up and
25 sweep through the Glades and through the Lake

1 Okeechobee regions, and so you have -- it's all
2 split. But the mass -- the mass population in
3 the district is over on the coast, which have
4 no interest, have no same interest of the Lake
5 Okeechobee regions. So I am hoping that during
6 this process, that Senators and Representatives
7 will take a hard look at that and look at the
8 region at the heartland, and to preserve it, as
9 well as to enhance it economically.

10 THE NARRATOR: Each proposed congressional
11 map accomplishes Ashley Tripp's request, and
12 the proposed House maps respect her comments as
13 counties like Okeechobee, Glades and Highlands
14 are paired with other south Florida rural
15 counties.

16 House and Senate members took thousands of
17 valuable comments like this into account by
18 putting public testimony to paper, resulting in
19 new proposed maps for Florida State House,
20 State Senate and congressional districts.

21 To access more information about the
22 House's proposed maps or to submit public
23 input, visit Floridaredistricting.org and tell
24 us your story.

25 (End of movie.)

1 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: All right.
2 Thank you very much. And if we could, let's
3 thank the Office of Public Information for
4 doing a great job on that video. They took a
5 lot of input, and I thought that was a
6 tremendous job. Kudos to you guys for doing
7 that. Thank you. We appreciate it.

8 With that, in light of public testimony,
9 since we have now shown you our video that
10 is -- I think it is up for an Oscar, is that
11 right, Alex? Have we submitted that yet?

12 MR. KELLY: Yes.

13 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: We are pretty
14 sure it is being considered. We do have
15 members from the public that are here and wish
16 to speak. If you have not filled out a card,
17 we have them for you, we would like for you to
18 do that, but we do have one, I believe, that
19 has so far come forward. That is Chairman of
20 the Martin County Board of County
21 Commissioners, Mr. Edward -- I hope I am saying
22 this right -- Ciampi? Okay, great. Come on
23 forward, Chairman, and we welcome you here, and
24 thanks for being here and being a part of the
25 process. Sir, there is a mike -- you have to

1 push the button there, the mike will come on.

2 Great.

3 COMMISSIONER CIAMPI: I apologize. I
4 didn't hear my voice, but at home, we have
5 someone that does that and we have a couple of
6 minutes, so I apologize.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Budget cuts,
8 sir --

9 COMMISSIONER CIAMPI: Yes.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: -- budget
11 cuts.

12 COMMISSIONER CIAMPI: So that means we
13 won't have it either, then.

14 My name is Edward Ciampi. I am the
15 Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners
16 in Martin County. I am representing more our
17 citizens since this was a unique opportunity to
18 get an opportunity to address you this morning.

19 We were up here, a large contingent of us
20 were up here from the Treasure Coast for
21 Treasure Coast legislative days, and when I
22 heard -- we had thought we had missed our
23 opportunity to address you on the mapping for
24 our area, and when I had heard that you would
25 be meeting this morning, everyone went home

1 yesterday, but I decided to stay an extra day
2 so that I would have a chance to present our
3 case personally.

4 For those of you that are not familiar,
5 Martin County is south of St. Lucie County and
6 north of Palm Beach County on the east coast.
7 We go from the ocean to Lake Okeechobee -- that
8 is perfect, thank you -- and we are a community
9 of approximately 144,000 residents. We have a
10 couple of famous residents that you might be
11 familiar with, Tiger Woods, Celine Dion, Venus
12 Williams, and everyone thinks of themselves as
13 --

14 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Representativ
15 e Will Snyder.

16 MR. CAMPO: True. Senator Joe Negron,
17 Gayle Harrell, we have been very well
18 represented. And those three names in
19 particular, one of the reasons that we -- that
20 I wanted to come to address you.

21 We have done this on our own. We recently
22 approved our commission district mapping. And
23 I can imagine what a challenge it must be to
24 try to map out the entire state. For us, we
25 were trying to balance about 25,000 people into

1 each district, and where that number 18 is in
2 blue is -- we call it west of the Turnpike, is
3 beautiful country with very few citizens. So,
4 for us, you know, to shape the five districts
5 were challenging. Some needed 1,000, some
6 needed to give up 2,000, just like you are
7 doing, and we were pretty successful in that
8 regard.

9 What our concern is, is Martin County, and
10 hopefully some of you know our reputation, is a
11 very unique place. We have a four-story height
12 limit. We do not allow any buildings to be
13 built higher than four stories. We have a very
14 environmentally sensitive population. We in
15 the last several years have taken our
16 publicly-owned conservation lands from about
17 eight or nine percent to 25 percent using -- we
18 have taxed ourselves a half a cent sales tax
19 and used that money to purchase conservation
20 land so that it would never be able to be
21 developed ever. And so the community has that
22 mind set.

23 Now, different from our neighbors to the
24 north and south, we have a very, very slow rate
25 of growth and think of ourselves as a -- sort

1 of a jewel in regards to very little
2 development, and very specific and defined
3 development. And because of that, we have been
4 fortunate with our representation in the past.
5 Representative Gayle Harrell and Representative
6 Will Snyder have done a remarkable job
7 understanding our key sort of aspects of life,
8 and we have been fortunate.

9 The concern now is that the way the maps
10 are potentially going to be drawn, Martin
11 County, the northern portion would go a lot
12 more up into St. Lucie County, and with the
13 possibility of that representation being -- the
14 voters coming a lot more from St. Lucie County,
15 and then south Martin County would potentially
16 be defined much more by Palm Beach County. And
17 residents -- there was a couple of articles in
18 the newspaper, and you know how it goes, some
19 blogs and some electronic newsletters have gone
20 around, and I started to receive a lot of
21 calls, and one of the reasons was that my
22 district is Palm City, which in the last census
23 has become the largest community, and for us,
24 large is 23,000 people. Palm City is defined
25 by the south fork of the St. Lucie River to our

1 east, 95 and the Turnpike to our west, the
2 canal that heads you into Lake Okeechobee to
3 our south. So it really is an isolated, kind
4 of very defined community.

5 The other community, the county seat is
6 the City of Stuart, and how the map looks to be
7 drawn is slicing those two communities to the
8 north and the south along Monterey Road, which
9 is not like U.S. 1. It is a big road for
10 Martin County, but in a lot of other counties,
11 it is a country road. And our concern was that
12 by splitting it like that and having some of
13 the votes go north and some of the votes head
14 south, it really did not give us the
15 representation that we were hoping to maintain
16 in Martin County.

17 If this was a one or a two-year process, I
18 think we would all be more comfortable with
19 that, understanding that things will change,
20 but this is a decade process, and our concern
21 is although in the past we have been very
22 well-represented by the folks that I had
23 previously mentioned, our residents are nervous
24 that that might not be the case in the years
25 one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight,

1 nine and ten.

2 So what we would hope is that -- and we
3 did work with the website, which I will
4 compliment you on is a very effective tool. We
5 have had our own version, our GIS system, which
6 allowed us to do it at the county level, but
7 for residents, including myself, to be able to
8 use yours, your mapping tool, was very, very
9 helpful. And what our goal would be is to have
10 all of Martin County inclusive fall to the
11 northern section district, and all of Stuart
12 fall to the southern district. We feel that
13 that would be a much more compact version, the
14 residents in Martin County, and especially in
15 those two neighborhoods, it is sort of like a
16 yin and a yang, Palm City and Stuart being
17 somewhat next to each other. Slicing it one
18 north and one south would then -- just as you
19 see that dip in the road right where 95 and the
20 Turnpike sort of intersect there, that is --
21 yeah, that is Palm City right in that section
22 that says -- right where -- if the cursor's a
23 little bit to the left, if it went the other
24 way where Palm City went north and Stuart went
25 south, it doesn't really affect a lot of the

1 other maps. We had a couple of different
2 variations that we were fair to understand your
3 position, which if we create our perfect map,
4 what does that do west, south and north. The
5 version that I can send to you that we have
6 worked on locally maintains very compact, it
7 would be very easily understood for our
8 residents, especially in the City of Stuart and
9 in Palm City, and would really not disrupt the
10 rest of -- a trickle effect, if you will, a
11 rippling effect for the rest.

12 And that is what I would have to say. I
13 can answer any questions if --

14 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Chairman,
15 if I could, first of all, thank you for taking
16 the time. I think it is -- it shows how much
17 you care about your community that you stay up
18 an extra day just to be here with us and sleep
19 through a redistricting committee hearing, so
20 we appreciate you participating in that.

21 But I will tell you, we have looked at
22 several different variations of this, and I
23 think what you are bringing forth certainly has
24 some validity to it. We would love to see what
25 you guys could suggest to us on paper. I know

1 in the map that we have currently here, the one
2 that we are looking at has the City of Stuart,
3 all of the municipality of Stuart, whole within
4 the brown district there, or the burnt orange
5 District maybe. The yellow district to the
6 south, I believe, has -- I think it is split
7 between the two. So Palm City -- is Palm City
8 unincorporated?

9 COMMISSIONER CIAMPI: Correct.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay. It is
11 unincorporated. So part of the challenge we
12 have had in the process is, you know, that the
13 requirements that we live by speak specifically
14 to cities and counties and unincorporated
15 areas. We are able to view those, and we do
16 try to pay attention to them when they can, but
17 obviously, when you are trying to keep
18 deviations down and everything else, it gets
19 challenging.

20 But I will tell you the same thing I tell
21 the members of this Committee and every member
22 of the Legislature, if someone can bring forth
23 an idea that helps us supply our maps and make
24 them more compliant to the standards of
25 Amendments 5 and 6 --

1 COMMISSIONER CIAMPI: Right.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: -- we will
3 certainly take a very close look at them. So I
4 would encourage you to get those to us on
5 paper.

6 COMMISSIONER CIAMPI: We have them
7 electronically. We can submit them.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: That would be
9 great. And we will disseminate them to
10 everyone on the Committee, and may be something
11 we can take a look at next week when we are
12 doing amendments.

13 COMMISSIONER CIAMPI: Thank you very much.
14 I appreciate your time.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
16 very much. Members, does anybody else have a
17 comment or question for the Chairman?

18 Okay. Thank you, Commissioner.

19 COMMISSIONER CIAMPI: Best of luck.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Take care.

21 Okay. Moving forward, is there anybody
22 else from the public that wishes to speak?
23 Anybody else? All right. Thank you very much,
24 again, Commissioner.

25 Now that we have gone through the

1 speakers, we are going to go ahead and hear
2 from our staff, who is going to walk us through
3 some of the public suggestions that we have
4 received via e-mail, letter, social media, et
5 cetera. These are all thoughts that we have
6 received from the public post December 6th
7 since we have put the maps out. And so with
8 that, Mr. Kelly, we are going to recognize you
9 first to talk about the congressional.

10 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair, members.
11 What myself and after me Jeff Takacs and Jason
12 Poreda are going to be doing is going through
13 public input, public suggestions that have been
14 received since the House published its options
15 for maps on December 6th, and we are going to
16 be focusing on suggestions that we oftentimes
17 in a general sense refer to as drawable
18 suggestions where an individual has critiqued
19 something and given us an alternative as to how
20 to potentially improve the map.

21 And so what you have in your packet in tab
22 one of your packet is you have the information
23 that myself, Jeff and Jason will be presenting,
24 and if you look at -- each page is numbered,
25 and you will see a number of e-mails and so

1 forth, and posts on social media that we have
2 received. And what I will do is I will refer
3 to the page number. I am not going to present
4 everything, so if I happen to skip something
5 that you are interested in, just please let me
6 know and I will be happy to double back and
7 answer any questions you may have.

8 But, again, tab one of your packets, the
9 information received pertain to a number of
10 different types of requests, whether it is
11 referring to how counties and cities are
12 treated, or like the prior discussion, how
13 unincorporated areas are treated, and for the
14 benefit of the discussion, what I will do is I
15 will use the maps that are up, all -- we have
16 all three congressional maps that are proposed
17 up and available, so I will scroll through
18 these just to give you an idea as to how these
19 comments relate to the maps as well.

20 So referring to page two in tab one,
21 referring to Nassau County, there was a comment
22 received from a Fernandina Beach commissioner
23 regarding complimenting for keeping Nassau
24 County whole. Nassau County is actually split
25 in two of the three maps that are proposed.

1 Map 9041 and map 9045 split Nassau County, and
2 I will just give you an example of that, but
3 map 9043, which is also House Bill 6005, that
4 particular bill keeps Nassau County whole
5 again. So that was feedback from Nassau
6 County.

7 Moving on to page three, feedback that
8 came from a Duval County resident
9 complimented -- complimented map 9041 as being
10 a preferred map. And 9041, just to take a look
11 at what that actually does in the Duval County
12 area, this is actually that map, and the
13 particular map places the east side of Duval
14 County in one district, the west side into a
15 different district, combining it with the
16 eastern part of Nassau County and the northern
17 parts of St. Johns County.

18 Moving on to page four and also page five,
19 the Clay County supervisor's office has
20 communicated with us regarding how
21 Congressional Districts 3 and 5 interact with
22 the geography, the roads and neighborhoods in
23 Clay County. If you -- as members of the
24 subcommittee, you will remember that some
25 changes were made in the subcommittee meetings

1 to already take some of this input. We have
2 received recently additional input from the
3 Clay County supervisor's office as to how to
4 best not split neighborhoods, best use
5 roadways. So some of this has actually already
6 been factored in, and then some of this we just
7 received.

8 The one tough thing that you do get into
9 with the congressional maps, this is a good
10 example, a good reminder, is that because of
11 the requirement to achieve perfect population,
12 there is -- in almost every congressional
13 district, there's going to be at least one
14 place where a neighborhood may have been split
15 in order to achieve that perfect population.
16 So sometimes that does factor in and that may
17 make certain recommendations not operable, but,
18 again, we will be taking a look at this
19 particular recommendation.

20 Moving on to page seven, let's skip page
21 six, moving on to page seven, the point was
22 raised -- if you remember the public meeting in
23 The Villages, a reminder about keeping The
24 Villages communities whole. The Villages is
25 encompassed by northeastern Sumter County,

1 southern parts -- small southern parts of
2 Marion County and generally the municipality of
3 Lady Lake in Lake County is generically
4 considered to be part of The Villages. And I
5 will just take you to each of the maps just to
6 show you how that area is impacted. And in map
7 9041, The Villages community is actually kept
8 whole, so just to give you an idea. As you can
9 see, The Villages right there on the screen,
10 and the county boundary, which will appear.
11 And The Villages, again, generally speaking, is
12 considered to be Lady Lake, the northeastern
13 side of Sumter and southern parts of Marion
14 County.

15 Taking a look at map 9043, again, a
16 similar configuration, although on the Lake
17 County side, the division very specifically
18 goes in to take all of Lady Lake and all of
19 Fruitland Park, and otherwise, no other parts
20 of Lake County.

21 In looking at map 9045, a similar
22 configuration; however, the Lake County impact
23 spreads a little further, almost up to Eustis,
24 but not including Eustis.

25 Moving on to page eight, a very lively

1 comment from a Lake County resident actually
2 regarding this configuration. The Grand Isle
3 community -- Grand Island community was split
4 by a roadway. One of the impacts of using
5 roadways, of trying to create a nice aesthetic
6 look using major roadways and so forth, is that
7 that can have the possibility of splitting an
8 unincorporated community, and so that happens,
9 and that happens in almost every map, and those
10 are some of the tough decisions that you have
11 to weigh over as far as whether using that
12 roadway is the legally appropriate measure to
13 take, or whether you want to take into
14 consideration that unincorporated community.
15 And that is the impact here, right where I am
16 mousing over, that is the Grand Island
17 community, and you can see the road goes right
18 down through the community.

19 Moving on to page nine, there were just
20 general requests to keep Marion County whole in
21 the congressional maps, reacting to, generally
22 speaking, the Fifth Congressional District as
23 is drawn in each of the congressional maps.
24 The fifth Congressional District is an
25 African-American opportunity district, an

1 existing district today. It does take in small
2 parts of the population. Most of the
3 population in Marion County is not encompassed
4 in Congressional District 5 in any of the maps,
5 but, nonetheless, parts of Marion County are.

6 Now, I'll just zoom in to give you a view
7 of exactly what is taken in Congressional
8 District 5. It is, generally speaking, the
9 municipality of Reddick that is taken into
10 account, which you can see is kept whole in
11 Congressional District 5, so that's a city is
12 kept whole in the district; otherwise, the
13 district, generally speaking, takes very
14 non-populated portions of the county.

15 Moving on to item ten, coming back to
16 Martin County, there was an e-mail received
17 just regarding the congressional districts, and
18 the individual also commented on the House
19 districts, and later Jeff Takacs will be going
20 over a number of public feedback we have
21 received regarding the discussion from earlier,
22 the House districts in Martin County, but
23 regarding the congressional district, the
24 request was simply to keep Martin County whole.

25 In all of the proposed maps, Martin County is

1 kept whole in the 18th Congressional District.

2 Moving on to item 11, there was a few
3 e-mails received regarding the 22nd
4 Congressional District, and that is the same in
5 all the maps, so I will go to that area in map
6 9045 to give you a view. The comment concerns
7 the portions of the district that were defined
8 largely just by the need to get equal
9 population, the portions of the district that
10 go into more southern central parts of Broward
11 County, the Plantation area. The design of the
12 districts, both 21 and 22, and even 20 was
13 largely predicated on municipal boundary lines,
14 and where municipalities could not be kept
15 whole, trying to avoid multiple splits of a
16 municipality. So if a municipality had to be
17 split once, trying to make sure it was only
18 perhaps split one time. And the area is also
19 largely defined by District 20, which is a
20 district that is impacted by both Sections 2
21 and Sections 5 the of the Federal Voting Rights
22 Act. So, again, the southern portion that the
23 resident is asking to be cleaned up or changed
24 is largely based on, again, equal population,
25 and then also trying to keep city splits to a

1 minimum, if not keep municipalities whole,
2 which there are several municipalities kept
3 whole in both 21 and 22 and even 20.

4 The 12th page in your packet, if you
5 remember from the subcommittee meeting regards
6 the City of Hialeah, which is split in all the
7 different maps, and during your last meeting in
8 the congressional subcommittee, we had a brief
9 presentation regarding this very issue, noting
10 that in an effort to draw the districts with a
11 more geometric type meeting point where the
12 three Hispanic majority-minority existing seats
13 meet, Districts 25, 26 and 27, as they are
14 proposed in these maps, trying to create a more
15 clear, defined meeting point, the City of
16 Hialeah is one of the few cities that is split.
17 Most cities are kept whole. It is one of the
18 few that is split, and, again, it was to try to
19 maintain existing opportunities for racial
20 language minorities, for language minorities,
21 but at the same time trying to create something
22 of a more aesthetically compact shape to the
23 districts, a meeting point that is more clearly
24 defined for the residents in the affected
25 communities. In order to look at possibly

1 keeping Hialeah whole, it would have to really
2 be a dramatic redesign of these districts, but,
3 again, that was the feedback from the City of
4 Hialeah making that request.

5 I am going to skip on to item number 14
6 and also item number 15. Both -- and Jeff will
7 cover this somewhat later, too, and that is the
8 House map. Regarding the Poinciana community
9 in -- which is split between Osceola and Polk
10 Counties, we have received feedback,
11 essentially somewhat conflicting feedback or
12 conflicting requests. Some residents of the
13 area, including one who even submitted a State
14 House map, some residents of the area request
15 that Poinciana be kept whole in the maps, and
16 some residents actually specifically request
17 that Poinciana not be kept whole in the maps.
18 And just to give you an idea, this is the
19 Osceola County/Polk County division, and as you
20 zoom in, you can probably best see this using
21 the VTDs. You see Poinciana here. Poinciana
22 is on both sides of the county line, and,
23 again, in some of the maps, it is kept whole,
24 in some of the maps, it is not kept whole, and
25 so, again, we've received a request to keep it

1 whole and a request to not keep it whole.

2 I am going to skip on to items 18 to 22,
3 which all relate to a similar issue, and that
4 is how the congressional districts in
5 Hillsborough and Polk County relate to each
6 other.

7 In this particular example in terms of map
8 9045, District 15 is predominantly a
9 Hillsborough County district with about 90,000
10 residents in Polk County. Taking a look at map
11 9043 -- and, forgive me, I should say if anyone
12 gets lost in terms of bill numbers and plan
13 numbers, everyone, in your packet, there is a
14 little cheat sheet with the plan numbers and
15 bill numbers just in case any of this gets at
16 all confusing. In map 9043, this map has the
17 greatest concentration of both counties in
18 terms of sharing the district or --
19 Hillsborough County is approximately
20 two-thirds -- a little more than two-thirds of
21 the district, whereas all of the City of
22 Lakeland and, in total, about 180,000 Polk
23 County residents are in the district. And then
24 in map -- in map 9041, the District does not
25 impact Polk County at all. And the different

1 comments received in some cases, if you are
2 looking at pages 18 and 22, some individuals
3 actually suggested that those communities of
4 Lakeland and that area should be combined with
5 parts of Hillsborough County, but the City of
6 Temple Terrace, the City of Tampa have
7 requested that District 15 be concentrated in
8 as much of Hillsborough as possible. In this
9 particular instance, District 15, minus 5,700
10 residents, is entirely in Hillsborough County.
11 Those 5,700 residents were actually used to
12 exactly balance the populations in Sarasota and
13 Manatee Counties, which are approximately 5,700
14 residents too many for a congressional seat.
15 So, in this case, District 15 and District 16
16 are basically paired up so that those counties
17 can -- and largely have a single Representative
18 who will come from their region. So, again,
19 some of the input requested something more like
20 what is in 9041, and some requested crossing
21 the county line, including the City of
22 Lakeland, that relationship between Polk and
23 Hillsborough.

24 Moving to page 23, this particular
25 individual requested -- in terms of looking at

1 District 14, requested that that district be
2 included entirely in Hillsborough County. The
3 issue that -- the difficulty in doing so is
4 that this district -- Hillsborough County is a
5 Section 5 protected jurisdiction. This
6 particular district has a population that is
7 approximately about half either
8 African-American or Hispanic, and so this
9 district likely falls under the review of the
10 pre-clearance process, and the argument would
11 be that the combined African-American/Hispanic
12 communities are able to select a candidate of
13 choice, perhaps and possibly not
14 African-American or Hispanic, but, nonetheless,
15 able to select a candidate of choice. So in
16 order to maintain that, the district needs to
17 go into Pinellas County. Taking the district
18 out of Pinellas County would almost certainly
19 put that relationship in jeopardy and would
20 probably create issues in terms of the
21 pre-clearance process for this district, but,
22 nonetheless, the constituent was nonetheless
23 asking to have the district entirely in
24 Hillsborough County.

25 Moving on to item number 26, these last

1 few items are actual maps that were submitted
2 by members of the public in response to either
3 proposals by the House or proposals by the
4 Florida Senate. Item number 26 that is in your
5 packet is a map submitted by the redistricting
6 of Florida class at Florida Gulf Coast
7 University. It is an interesting map in that
8 it paints two extremes. The map generally
9 creates very compact shapes in terms of
10 districts; however, it has a high degree of
11 likelihood that it would have eliminated all
12 three African-American and two of the three
13 Hispanic seats in the state of Florida,
14 existing districts today. So the map would
15 create some serious litigation concerns, but,
16 nonetheless, it is an articulation of a very
17 compact design and it paints those two
18 extremes.

19 Moving on to page 27, I won't spend much
20 time on this map. The individual submitted a
21 map in response to the House's; however, the
22 population numbers were not drawn to the
23 mathematical quality, so most of what the map
24 does would have to be adjusted before it could
25 be utilized.

1 Maps 165, 166 and 167 were all submitted
2 by a Hillsborough County resident who went sort
3 of through an evolution of amending some of the
4 House proposals. This individual was very much
5 looking at what is now 9043. Initially in --
6 on page 28 of your packet, plan 165, the
7 individual makes a change to the Sarasota,
8 Manatee and Hillsborough County -- or Counties
9 area such that the municipality of North Port
10 in Sarasota County is put in with a district
11 that includes all of Charlotte County. So
12 Sarasota County becomes split, but then what
13 the individual does is keep Manatee whole and
14 pushes that district, District 16, into
15 Hillsborough County. In terms of looking at
16 the different variables of compactness and
17 other measurements, this is basically an even
18 trade-off in terms of how the House maps
19 currently -- or the House's proposals currently
20 makes the districts more compact and so forth.
21 This is basically a trade-off. It doesn't
22 affect the overall totals in terms of county
23 splits or city splits, so this is probably a
24 great example of just what a policy decision
25 would be in terms of a public suggestion.

1 Maps 166 and 167 carry the issue further.
2 What this individual was doing was coming back
3 to the Poinciana community and was looking at
4 how to keep the Poinciana community whole in a
5 district. In map 166, the individual keeps
6 Poinciana whole, the District 17 that is
7 largely coming from the rural, whole counties
8 to the south of it, and in map 167, the
9 individual takes an Osceola County-based
10 district and grabs the bulk of the Poinciana
11 community. The noted effect though of doing
12 that is it did noticeably make the maps less
13 compact compared to the House's proposals.

14 Map 168 was actually submitted by a -- I
15 believe Sarasota County resident in response to
16 actually one of the Senate's proposed maps.
17 The individual in this case looked at the
18 districts in Broward and Palm Beach County, and
19 just to give you an example of how that might
20 relate to the House's proposed maps, which are
21 identical in that part of the state, this
22 individual essentially took Districts 21 and 22
23 for all intents and purposes, and instead of
24 running the districts north to south, ran the
25 districts east to west, but still with a focus

1 on trying to keep cities whole and so forth.
2 It is a different look to the map, and it does
3 potentially, depending on how the districts are
4 drawn, create an opportunity to possibly make
5 the districts more compact. It is something
6 that we are taking a look at as to whether or
7 not this kind of configuration could be
8 utilized to help any of the maps. Not sure
9 where that will end up, but we are taking a
10 look at it.

11 In terms of maps 172, 173 and 174, which
12 are pages 32 through 34 in your packet, 172 is
13 really just an earlier version of 174, so you
14 can probably disregard that and look at 173 and
15 174.

16 173, this individual was reacting to one
17 of the House's proposals, and in this
18 particular case was actually looking at some of
19 the districts in the same area, District 22,
20 was also looking at the districts along the
21 Treasure Coast, Brevard County and so forth.
22 The end result, generally speaking, was that
23 the individual created noticeably less compact
24 districts in terms of creating more coastal
25 districts, as opposed to using whole counties,

1 which actually had the effect of keeping the
2 districts more compact as well. So the
3 individual went more for a coastal district
4 design, and it actually made the compactness
5 scores less compact.

6 174 is a similar -- similar situation, and
7 the individual did the same thing on both
8 coasts, making the districts more coastal, for
9 instance, in the Sarasota and Manatee County
10 areas, using the highway as opposed to keeping
11 the counties whole, but, again, it had the net
12 result of making the districts somewhat less
13 compact.

14 And with that, members, there's some
15 information that -- public input that the
16 Committee, we received last evening as we were
17 getting ready for the meeting, so your packets
18 were already printed. There is an additional
19 -- some additional public input in your packets
20 that both Jeff and I in our presentations will
21 be speaking to, some last-minute input.

22 Lori Edwards, the Supervisor of Elections
23 in Polk County, again referring to this
24 particular packet, the Supervisor of Elections
25 of Polk County did submit to us for

1 consideration to take a look at some
2 communities that maybe could be better kept
3 whole in Polk County. Oftentimes the
4 Supervisors of Elections are concerned with
5 voter islands, that being where a voter, when
6 they draw the -- let's say the county
7 commission district or the school board
8 districts, and then you draw the state
9 legislative and congressional districts, you
10 have possibility of having sometimes one person
11 or two people who have a ballot unto themselves
12 that is completely unique. The net result of
13 that is that that voter's vote could be
14 revealed in terms of elections data when
15 somebody looks for somebody that fits that
16 exact profile. So we try to avoid that as much
17 as possible, and anytime the supervisor has any
18 consideration, which we take a look at it very
19 seriously to try to help avoid those voter
20 islands. So Ms. Edwards just submitted this to
21 us. We really haven't gotten to look at it
22 much more than just getting it last night,
23 preparing for today, but we are planning to
24 take a look at this.

25 Skipping on just a few pages to the fourth

1 page in this addendum, the Mayor of Tampa also
2 sent an e-mail recently, coming back to the
3 discussion of how Hillsborough and Polk County
4 line up together with their congressional
5 districts, the Mayor of Tampa sent an e-mail in
6 support of map 9041, again asking for that seat
7 that is mostly in Hillsborough County.

8 And relating also -- this will come up in
9 Jeff's presentation. The next page comes from
10 a current council member in the municipality of
11 Oldsmar in Pinellas County. This particular
12 individual asked that the House look at the
13 Florida Senate's version of Congressional
14 District 9, which stretches from northern
15 Hillsborough through northern Pinellas. This
16 particular individual made the case that
17 Oldsmar and that part of the county had a
18 relationship with northern -- northwestern
19 Hillsborough County, and they asked that it be
20 looked at. The reason why I mentioned the --
21 how that relates to Jeff's proposal is we've
22 actually received a resolution from the City of
23 Oldsmar that Jeff will get into that actually
24 requests very much the opposite. So it was an
25 interesting request, but, nonetheless, this

1 particular council member asked that
2 northwe- -- or northeastern or northern
3 Pinellas County be lined up with northwestern
4 Hillsborough County. And with that, I am going
5 to turn it over to Jeff, unless you have any
6 questions.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,
8 Alex. Members, any questions for Alex before
9 we move forward to the House? Okay, great,
10 thanks.

11 Mr. Takacs, you are recognized.

12 MR. TAKACS: Thank you very much,
13 Mr. Chairman.

14 Before I get started going through the
15 House map public input that we've received, as
16 Mr. Kelly mentioned, don't forget that cheat
17 sheet that is in your packet that refers to the
18 bill number as it relates to the plan number as
19 well. I will probably generally be referring
20 to the plan number, so use that cheat sheet to
21 understand which bill that plan number lines up
22 with.

23 Going back to the main packet of public
24 input that we've received, if you look to page
25 36, we received some feedback from the Escambia

1 County Supervisors of Elections to try to avoid
2 those voter islands that Mr. Kelly described
3 just a moment ago within their county. This
4 was prior to the adoption of the amendment that
5 the House subcommittee had on each of the
6 proposals, and we believe that some of those
7 voter islands have been addressed by that
8 amendment, but we're not sure if they all have.
9 So what we have actually done is sent the
10 amended proposals to the supervisor's office,
11 asking that they review those and see if those
12 voter islands are still there or if there are
13 new ones, et cetera, and we are awaiting
14 further feedback from them. So that is page
15 36. And you will see on 37 and 38, that they
16 are pointing out the actual voter islands
17 between the districts.

18 Moving on here to -- to the next page,
19 page 40 here, let me -- to the best of my
20 ability, I am going to try to move around the
21 map to show some of the different aspects of
22 the public feedback that we have received and
23 so you can actually get a look at what the
24 proposal is. This is currently map number
25 9027. The thing about page 40, we received

1 some testimony from the folks in Navarre and
2 Navarre Beach and this area here where you see
3 where my mouse is, in Santa Rosa County, asking
4 that the folks of Navarre and Navarre Beach be
5 united together. Under the prior proposal by
6 the House subcommittee before the amendment,
7 that District 2 extended all the way to that
8 bottom section there, that little square type
9 section in Santa Rosa County. As you can see
10 in this amended version of 9027, that is no
11 longer, and now District 3 comes down to the
12 county line. That was in response to this
13 request. We were actually able to accomplish
14 what the folks in Navarre and Navarre Beach
15 were seeking in the amendment.

16 Moving on to page 41, this is actually
17 regarding District 4 and how it comes up into
18 the City of Crestview there just north of I-10.
19 Previously, prior to the amendment, the
20 district had just the city boundaries of the
21 City of Crestview within it, and we received
22 testimony asking if there was a better way to
23 use roadways and other areas right around
24 Crestview to make sure that neighborhoods that
25 are just outside of the city limits who really

1 consider themselves a part of Crestview be
2 included in that district, and as you can see
3 here, that was also accomplished by the
4 amendment by the subcommittee.

5 I am going to move ahead to page 43. This
6 came to us by a resident in Bay County asking
7 that -- there is a district wholly based in Bay
8 County there, District 6, and they asked that
9 the Panama City airport be included within that
10 district. As you can see -- I will zoom in
11 here just a little bit. Again, this was
12 something that we received prior to -- prior to
13 the -- to the amendment being adopted, and
14 there was a change made to include a major
15 portion of the airport wholly within District
16 6. So that was accomplished in response to the
17 public testimony that we received via that
18 e-mail.

19 Moving forward to page 45, 44 is a
20 previous communication that we received from
21 the Leon County Supervisors of Elections
22 office, the page 45 is actually an updated
23 response to the actual amendments that were
24 adopted by the -- by the House subcommittee.
25 They have asked that some specific areas that

1 relate to the boundary between Districts 8 and
2 9 be addressed to try to line up, similar to
3 the voter island concept, but just trying to
4 line up the districts to the county commission
5 districts or to precinct lines, and we are
6 currently reviewing those requests. You can
7 see the actual specific areas on pages 46, 47,
8 48 and 49. Just something to consider as we
9 would be reviewing those potential changes,
10 House District 8 is currently a
11 majority-minority black district, and so what
12 we would need to ensure is that those changes
13 did not bring the black voting age population
14 of that district below 50 percent. So that
15 would be something that would need to be
16 considered when looking at those changes.

17 I am going to zoom out here a little bit.
18 We've gotten a couple of phone calls from a
19 Taylor County resident who has left us some
20 voice mails regarding the rural counties in the
21 Big Bend area. Basically what this gentleman
22 is saying is that he would prefer that the
23 smaller rural counties in their region not be
24 tied to Leon County, if at all possible. As
25 you can see -- again, this is plan 9027. If

1 you look at that District 7, which has many
2 whole counties within it, Lafayette, Taylor
3 County here, Jefferson County, and so forth,
4 there is a portion of that district, as you can
5 see, in Leon County, which was simply done for
6 population equalization. So this would be the
7 actual plan that is closest to his request. He
8 did also on the voice mail ask that Taylor,
9 Madison and Lafayette Counties all be kept
10 whole and together within a district, and you
11 can see those three counties are here and that
12 is accomplished by the House plans.

13 Interestingly enough, I am going to zoom
14 in here on the Gadsden County/Leon County area.
15 We've received somewhat of opposite feedback
16 from some residents in northeastern Gadsden
17 County asking that they actually be linked with
18 Leon County and with northern Leon County.
19 There was some public testimony that we
20 received in the Tallahassee public hearing, if
21 you recall from the reports that we conducted
22 as a committee on the public input, it was NW-3
23 that outlined a specific attempt at a map that
24 Mr. Doug Croley submitted showing what he was
25 talking about as far as connecting northeastern

1 Gadsden County to northern Leon County. This
2 on page 51 is simply saying that they support
3 that concept that Mr. Croley brought forward.
4 Just as a consequence as you consider that,
5 that would be an additional county split
6 between Districts 8 and 9 if that were to be
7 addressed.

8 Moving on to page 52, this is a partial
9 submitted map that we received from Mr. Roy
10 Lyons. It specifically addresses -- I don't
11 have that map here on the screen, but I'll just
12 kind of go to that general area of the state so
13 you can look at it. It addresses the kind of
14 northeastern area of the state, excluding Duval
15 County. And what he proposes is a district
16 that would keep Baker, Union, Bradford Counties
17 whole, and then have portions of Columbia --
18 excuse me, it would have Nassau County whole as
19 well, and then portions of Clay County. When
20 you look at the map on the -- on the page
21 there, on page 52, some things jump out at me
22 when I first reviewed this map, the first of
23 which is that Columbia County would be split.
24 You can see there's a little bit of a
25 carve-out, kind of an odd-shaped carve-out on

1 the map there by Mr. Lyons, which would lead to
2 a county split for Columbia County. Also, too,
3 it would also -- thinking about -- and I will
4 get into this a little bit further when I
5 actually go into the workshop of the various
6 House proposals, but when you look at the
7 populations of Nassau and Duval Counties
8 combined, they equal roughly that of six House
9 districts. So if you were to take Nassau
10 County as Mr. Lyons has and placed it with
11 other counties that are not Duval County, it
12 would be a step away from that -- from that
13 concept. Also, he splits the City of Lake
14 City. And then also, too, looking at that
15 District 3 there on page 52, the population
16 deviation for that district would be minus
17 4,007, which would actually be a new low water
18 mark for population deviation on the plan,
19 which would affect the overall population
20 deviation for all of the House proposals. So
21 some things to consider in regards to that map.

22 Moving forward, we're going to kind of
23 zoom in here to the Duval County area on page
24 53. We received some comments from some
25 residents regarding the boundaries of Districts

1 15 and 16. As you can see here, District 15 --
2 let me see if I can show it a little bit here.
3 If you see where my mouse is there, that is
4 actually the St. Johns River, and you will see
5 that District 15 crosses over the river to grab
6 some population. We have received some
7 testimony similar to the one on page 53 that
8 suggests that the actual river be used as the
9 dividing line between the two districts. So
10 that is something that we are currently
11 reviewing as we move forward in this process.

12 Moving on to page 54, I will just kind of
13 zoom out here a little bit, we've received some
14 testimony from the residents of the beach
15 communities in Jacksonville Beach, Atlantic
16 Beach and Neptune Beach, which is in this
17 general area here. I will zoom in here just a
18 little bit further so you can see where those
19 areas are. We've received testimony from these
20 folks asking that the district to the south,
21 which is this pink district here, which is
22 wholly located in St. Johns County, come up and
23 grab these beach communities, and there's
24 specific reason for that as they talk about the
25 concept of District 11 and how it connects to

1 Nassau County. For those folks in this region
2 here, or in these three beach communities, for
3 them to travel north into Nassau County where
4 the other portion of this district is, they
5 contend that this is actually a non-contiguous
6 district because there is no way to get from
7 point A to point B. There was at one time a
8 ferry that connected the two areas of land
9 together, but it is my understanding that ferry
10 has been shut down or is in the process of
11 being shut down, so those folks are contending
12 that that is a non-contiguous district and just
13 talking about the general transportation issues
14 that would come from District 11 as it is
15 currently drawn. Thinking about connecting
16 those communities to the district to the south,
17 again, that would create an extra county split
18 and would also be a step away from that concept
19 that I talked about earlier of Nassau and Duval
20 Counties being six districts wholly contained
21 within the two counties.

22 But what I would like to do, Mr. Chairman,
23 thinking about this issue of contiguity, with
24 your indulgence, I would like to bring up Mr.
25 George Meros to talk about contiguity and how

1 that would work with this specific example.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Meros,
3 you are recognized.

4 MR. MEROS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
5 have looked at that issue, and we have done the
6 research on the requirements of contiguity, and
7 that district would comply with the contiguity
8 requirement. The contiguity requirement does
9 not require a specific roadway availability
10 from one point to another; in fact, waterways
11 can be crossed for contiguity purposes. So
12 there is no legal problem with that map based
13 on contiguity.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.
15 Mr. Takacs.

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

17 I am going to move ahead to page 57. We
18 received some input from the Clay County
19 Supervisor of Elections office as it relates to
20 the districts in their region. They have made
21 two requests, the first of which is there's one
22 census block that is used as the boundary --
23 that is a part of the boundary, I should say,
24 between Districts 18 and 19. They just ask
25 that that one census block be swapped between

1 the two districts so that the district
2 boundaries line up with the boundaries of Camp
3 Blanding, which is a Florida National Guard
4 base in the region. We have reviewed that
5 request. That particular census block is
6 essentially a roadway and doesn't affect
7 population, so we are going to continue to
8 review that request.

9 The second piece of that request talks
10 about the actual plan that is on your screen
11 here, which is 9031, and how these districts
12 relate for Clay County, specifically Districts
13 15 and 18. But basically they basically gave
14 their comments saying they do not like this
15 option of the three options, because of the way
16 the districts traverse the various
17 neighborhoods within northeast Clay County. So
18 that was their input for that.

19 Moving on to page 59, Mr. Kelly already
20 talked about the community of Poinciana. We
21 have also received some comments regarding the
22 House maps as far as how Poinciana is
23 addressed, and I will kind of zoom in here a
24 little bit so you can see it. Again, thinking
25 about the community of Poinciana, it does cross

1 the county lines there. As you can see in this
2 House proposal, the District 43 there stops at
3 the county line, which would essentially split
4 the community of Poinciana between the
5 districts. Mr. Laytham expressed his
6 displeasure for that current configuration, and
7 to his credit, he did offer some maps in
8 suggestion of how to change that. If you look
9 at page 60, which is map 164, you can see how
10 he works to address that, and a couple of
11 things that jump out there, his District 42
12 takes areas of the district that's in Polk
13 County to presumably include all of Poinciana.
14 The one challenge with this is that the
15 District 43 in his map is an attempt to be a
16 majority-minority Hispanic district, but,
17 unfortunately, the Hispanic voting age
18 population of that district dips below
19 50 percent. It is a 49.15 percent. So that
20 would be a consideration there. His second
21 attempt at 163, map 163, actually puts District
22 43 to have all of the community of Poinciana.
23 One of the challenges that would be presented
24 with this map is it does create an extra county
25 split, and also, by trying to equalize the

1 population, he did end up also splitting the
2 City of Kissimmee between two districts, which
3 is currently kept whole in District 43 on the
4 House proposals.

5 Next, if you look at page 62, we are going
6 to talk about the east Orange County and east
7 Orlando region as it relates to District 50.
8 Essentially what this person has requested is
9 that the western portion of east Orlando be
10 separated from a district that would run up to
11 Interstate 95, which is what District 50 does.
12 So essentially, to put it in a different way,
13 they believe District 50 comes too far to the
14 west.

15 When you think of Orange County, and I
16 will talk about this a little bit more when
17 I've actually workshopped the various plans,
18 municipal boundary lines were heavily used in
19 the crafting of the districts in this region,
20 and thinking about where District 50 is, there
21 are no incorporated communities, no
22 incorporated cities within that area. So in
23 the other various districts in the Orange
24 County region, municipality lines were heavily
25 used there.

1 Also, too, I should mention, when you look
2 at Brevard County -- I am going to zoom out
3 just a little bit, and this was consistent with
4 the public testimony that we received from the
5 residents of Brevard County. They were seeking
6 three House districts that were wholly within
7 their county that would separate the northern,
8 central and southern portions of the county,
9 and you can see that on this proposal,
10 Districts 51 through 53 achieve that. Brevard
11 County's population is too large there. You
12 can see there is a portion of District 50 that
13 is in Brevard County, and that is because their
14 population is too large for four districts, so
15 that is where that extra district was built.
16 Thinking about how the lines were drawn in
17 Brevard County, when you start building to the
18 south and go north, that is what happens with
19 that extra area of population in northwestern
20 Brevard County.

21 I am going to move south here just a
22 little bit to Indian River County on page 63.
23 We received some testimony from some folks
24 seeking that Indian River County be split
25 between two different districts. It was also

1 suggested that Indian River County be linked in
2 a district with Brevard County as opposed to
3 Indian River County. Members, as you remember
4 from the summer tour and the places where we
5 have gone specifically in this Treasure Coast
6 area, we received a lot of testimony throughout
7 the state from folks in various counties asking
8 that their counties be kept whole, and that is
9 a principle that we have kept as much as
10 humanly possible on these proposals. So that
11 was what happened here. Obviously Indian River
12 County is kept whole within this district, and
13 for extra population, it goes into St. Lucie
14 County.

15 That also kind of dovetails with the
16 comments I just made about Brevard County.
17 Brevard County, that southern district there,
18 that county line is kept intact because of the
19 comments we received from the residents of
20 Brevard County asking that they have three
21 whole districts within the county, a northern,
22 central and southern district within the
23 county.

24 Next I am going to move south here to
25 Martin County. We have received quite a bit of

1 testimony from the residents of Martin County,
2 and they have said some various things.
3 Obviously we have had the Chairman of the
4 county commissioner here today to present the
5 view of keeping the unincorporated area of Palm
6 City whole, as well as keeping the City of
7 Stuart whole in the same district. We have
8 also received testimony from residents of
9 Martin County asking that Palm City be kept
10 whole, we have received testimony from the
11 residents of Martin County asking that Stuart
12 be kept whole, but not linking the two together
13 in the same district. They never -- they
14 didn't take that next step. They simply said,
15 "Please make Palm City whole," "Please make
16 Stuart whole." As it was discussed earlier,
17 the municipal boundaries of Stuart are kept
18 whole within District 83, as you can see here.
19 So, again, kind of some differing opinions from
20 the residents of Martin County.

21 Taking a step further from that, we have
22 also received testimony from the folks in
23 Martin County asking that a district in Martin
24 County not be connected with either St. Lucie
25 County or Palm Beach County, which would --

1 thinking about the population of all of the
2 surrounding counties, would only leave you one
3 option, which would be to connect Martin County
4 with Okeechobee County to the west.

5 And I will zoom in here a little bit.
6 Lastly, thinking about the various testimony
7 that we've received from the residents of
8 Martin County, we have also been asked to have
9 the St. Lucie River here used as the dividing
10 line between a northern Martin County district
11 and a southern Martin County district. And
12 what specifically is interesting about that
13 type of a request is that you see here where my
14 mouse is, this is the city boundaries of the
15 City of Stuart. If you were to use the river
16 as the boundary line, you would cut the City of
17 Stuart in half. So we have -- thinking about
18 the previous comments we have received, it
19 would be in conflict with other testimony we
20 received from residents seeking to seek all of
21 Stuart be kept whole within a district.

22 I am going to skip ahead. All of that
23 various testimony from the residents of Martin
24 County is in your packet, and let me get to the
25 ending page so you know where that goes from.

1 It goes to page 76.

2 Moving on to page 77 in the packet, this
3 deals with the City of Pembroke Pines and a
4 specific neighborhood within that community
5 called Pembroke Falls. It is currently divided
6 between two House districts, District 99 and
7 104. I will get to that area. And this
8 testimony asks that -- that that neighborhood
9 be kept whole within the district, preferably
10 104 as it mentions in the testimony. And that
11 is something that we are currently reviewing.

12 Moving back over to kind of the western
13 area of the state here up to Pinellas County,
14 as Mr. Kelly mentioned, we received a
15 resolution from the City of Oldsmar as it
16 relates to, specifically in this proposal,
17 House District 64. You will see here that -- I
18 will zoom out here just a little bit. As you
19 look at House District 64 there, you will see
20 that it has a portion in northwestern
21 Hillsborough County and then comes into
22 Pinellas County for population, and you will
23 see as it takes that dip to the south, it
24 actually has all of the cities of Oldsmar and
25 Safety Harbor within its boundaries. Both of

1 those cities are kept whole within that
2 district. Again, thinking about the testimony
3 that we received on the congressional maps,
4 what the testimony from the resolution was was
5 that the people of Oldsmar, the City Council of
6 Oldsmar has asked that they not be linked with
7 a district that connects to Hillsborough
8 County, again, thinking about the testimony
9 that we receive on the congressional map, that
10 it would be in conflict and that we have
11 received testimony asking that those two
12 communities be linked within a congressional
13 district, so we're trying to sort through that.

14 When you kind of zoom out and look at the
15 populations of Pinellas and Hillsborough
16 Counties, specifically Pinellas, you will see
17 that -- and, again, I am going to go more into
18 detail about the proposals later, but you will
19 see that there are five districts wholly within
20 the county, and for population purposes, two
21 counties -- two districts actually cross the
22 county lines, 64, again, is the focus of the
23 residents of Oldsmar. When you look at the
24 populations of Hillsborough and Pinellas
25 Counties in those northern -- in that northern

1 region specifically, there would have to be a
2 district that crosses the county boundary line.
3 For the city boundaries of Oldsmar and Safety
4 Harbor, they are right there on the county
5 line. So it just -- as -- from a map-drawing
6 principle, it just made sense as we -- if we
7 had to cross that county boundary line, to
8 include entire municipalities, thinking about
9 the standards that are in Amendment 5.

10 I am going to kind of sneak back down
11 south here. If you look to page 80, we have
12 received some testimony from some residents in
13 Charlotte County, as well as the Enterprise
14 Charlotte Economic Council, seeking that
15 Charlotte County be split between two
16 districts. Here you can see that on this
17 proposal, that Charlotte County is kept whole
18 and all together within a House district, kind
19 of similar to the Indian River example a moment
20 ago. As we traveled the state, we heard from
21 residents in basically every community asking
22 that their county be kept whole if at all
23 possible in this process, and that is able to
24 be achieved here mathematically for the
25 residents of Charlotte County.

1 And I continue to move south here to Lee
2 County. There are some testimony that we
3 received from a number of different residents
4 within Lee County, and the first is regarding
5 the unincorporated area of Estero. If you will
6 bear with me here, I will try to zoom in on the
7 map to find that general area. If you look in
8 this general area here where my mouse is, I am
9 kind of going around the basic parameters of
10 what Estero is. Currently, that unincorporated
11 area is divided between two House districts,
12 and we have received a significant number of
13 communications and e-mails from the residents
14 there asking to be kept whole within a
15 district, and specifically to be kept whole
16 within District 76, which is the yellow
17 district there.

18 Thinking about that from the map-drawing
19 perspective, we believe as we are reviewing
20 this that with a few minor adjustments to the
21 populations within the districts, that this
22 could be accomplished, but, again, we are still
23 reviewing that -- those requests that have come
24 in to us.

25 Moving forward to page 84, this deals

1 with -- on the area of Pine Island within Lee
2 County and how it relates to the Cape Coral
3 area. This specific testimony asks that Pine
4 Island not be included in a district that has
5 the City of Cape Coral in it, but would rather
6 be in this district here, the yellow district.
7 You can see Pine Island here. This was
8 something -- these comments were basically
9 tailored to map 9021, which was actually a map
10 that was not moved forward to the redistricting
11 committee by the House subcommittee. So all
12 three of the proposals have Pine Island in that
13 District 76, the yellow district there.

14 The next is dealing with the community of
15 Matlacha in Lee County. Let me see if I can
16 find that. Here we go. If you kind of zoom in
17 here, you can see the Matlacha community here
18 right next to Little Pine Island. The
19 boundaries of that community actually start in
20 this region here and cross the waterway and
21 come into this region here. The residents of
22 Matlacha have asked that they be kept whole
23 within a district and within that District 76
24 there to the west. Obviously, the biggest
25 consideration when contemplating that move is

1 that right now, as you can see, the waterway is
2 used as the boundary way between the two
3 districts. So you have to cross that
4 geographic boundary line in order to bring in
5 all of the community of Matlacha within
6 District 76.

7 Members, I am now going to go to that
8 additional public input packet that is in your
9 packet as well. If you go towards the back of
10 that packet, there are three specific things
11 that we have received basically yesterday that
12 we wanted to share with you.

13 The first was from Lori Edwards, who is
14 the Supervisor of Elections of Polk County.
15 She specifically talked about the communities
16 of Solivita and Winetta. Currently they are
17 both split within the county, and she has
18 requested that if we took a little bit closer
19 look at VTDs, that we could keep those
20 communities whole. Again, obviously, we just
21 received that commentary yesterday, so we are
22 currently reviewing that to see if that is
23 feasible. And if you look at that next page,
24 she does outline on the map where those areas
25 are. Also to -- forgive me, I actually skipped

1 one.

2 Prior to Ms. Edwards' request, we did
3 receive some commentary from a resident in Clay
4 County recommending maps 9025 and 9027. Those
5 maps -- and I will show you here on this
6 proposal. This actual -- actually, let me show
7 you those proposals. The request from the
8 resident there, and this actually echos the
9 comments that were made in the Jacksonville
10 public hearing that we heard, was that the
11 residents of Clay County wanted a district
12 wholly contained within the county. And you
13 can see here, if you look at District 18, that
14 district is wholly within Clay County, and that
15 is why this resident has voiced their support
16 for the two plans that do that.

17 And lastly, members, thinking about public
18 input that we've received, we actually received
19 a partially-submitted map yesterday from Graham
20 Stacy. It is map number 175. It is the last
21 page here of the additional input packet. It
22 is actually a full map, but he only changes
23 four districts, and it is in the east
24 Hillsborough County area, and I will show you
25 the current proposal for that region. What

1 Mr. Stacy was seeking to do was to keep some of
2 the unincorporated communities, thinking about
3 Fishhawk and Bloomingdale in this region right
4 here, together and not be split between
5 districts. When you look at the map that is on
6 your packet here, you will see, if you kind of
7 compare it to the proposed map, it appears that
8 Mr. Stacy kind of sacrifices compactness in
9 Districts 63, 58 and 57 to achieve this goal of
10 keeping some of those unincorporated areas
11 whole.

12 Mr. Chairman, that concludes the House
13 public input.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Great. Any
15 questions for Mr. Takacs from the members?

16 Seeing none, we are going to move forward
17 to the Senate, and we've got Mr. Jason Poreda.
18 Mr. Poreda, you are recognized.

19 MR. POREDA: Thank you, Chairman. As we
20 kind of get the computer set up here for a
21 minute, I will just say we have received
22 considerably less public input regarding --
23 specifically regarding the State Senate map, so
24 we will kind of go a little bit in reverse
25 order that the other two maps would -- talking

1 about the written submissions first and then
2 talking about the maps.

3 We have received two full maps that are in
4 your packets here today, one by Patricia
5 Sullivan and another one by Bruce King. First
6 looking at Patricia Sullivan's map, she kind of
7 redrew the kind of the central part of the
8 state. That is page 87 in your books. She
9 kind of took District 20 and kind of centered
10 that around The Villages and north Lake County
11 communities and kind of drew a district there,
12 and then kind of redrawing the district kind of
13 surrounding that area as a result of drawing
14 that district. As you can see, District 14 and
15 District 9 as a result of those changes really
16 kind of have a long, irregular shape. It --
17 she also impacts very slightly District 1,
18 which is a district that traditionally elects a
19 minority candidate of choice. She also splits
20 Hernando County, which is kept whole on the
21 Senate map, and makes some additional county
22 splits as well. So there's some things to
23 consider in her map there.

24 Then on Bruce King's map, he made some
25 very minor tweaks to the map regarding city

1 splits, also kind of reorganized Lake County a
2 little bit and then has a different orientation
3 for the Panhandle districts. But that is the
4 two maps that we have received in entirety for
5 public submissions for the State Senate.

6 Now, kind of moving to some of the written
7 testimony that we have received regarding State
8 Senate map, first we will look at -- we
9 received some input from the residents of Pasco
10 County, as you can see here, just requesting
11 that the Pasco County -- Pasco County be
12 divided in a different way than it currently
13 is. That would obviously have an impact to the
14 districts that it is included in and possibly
15 the surrounding area.

16 Next, as we've heard from the other two
17 maps as well, requesting that The Villages be
18 kept whole. And as you can see here on this
19 map, on the Senate proposed map, The Villages
20 are kept whole. So that goal is accomplished
21 on this map as well.

22 And that is all the public input that you
23 have in your packet. There's a couple other
24 more general suggestions that we have received
25 that don't necessarily apply to one specific

1 map, but they are some good examples to show
2 here in the State Senate map, the first
3 regarding Putnam County, requesting that either
4 Putnam County be kept whole or splitting it
5 using the St. Johns River that you can kind of
6 see goes right by the City of Palatka and kind
7 of down that way. The difficulty with that, on
8 the current proposal, most of Putnam County is
9 kept entirely within District 20, as you can
10 see, but because of District 1, which is a
11 district that traditionally elects a minority
12 candidate of choice, that has the City of
13 Palatka and part of -- part of Putnam County,
14 it would be difficult to make those changes
15 there.

16 Then moving down to Polk County, we have
17 additionally received input about the Poinciana
18 communities that we have talked about in the
19 other maps, but more specifically, we have
20 received input about the City of Davenport,
21 requesting it be kept whole, and in the
22 district that is mostly in Polk County. And I
23 will turn on the city boundaries here so we can
24 see the City of Davenport. You can see right
25 there that it is currently split between two

1 districts, but this is actually an example of
2 something that -- that the Senate
3 Reapportionment Committee actually addressed in
4 the next version of this map, keeping that city
5 whole and in a district that is mostly within
6 Polk County.

7 The last piece of input that I will talk
8 about today is about the Hendry County. We've
9 received input from residents in that county,
10 and I will scroll the map down, requesting that
11 Hendry County right there, as you can see
12 highlighted, be kept whole and not be linked
13 with Palm Beach, Broward or Miami-Dade County,
14 just try to be kept with more rural
15 communities. As you can see, Hendry County is
16 kept whole; however, Hendry County is another
17 one of the Section 5 protected counties here in
18 the state and is currently linked with a
19 district that elects a minority candidate of
20 choice, so we have to take that into
21 consideration with Hendry County, kind of
22 limits what we can -- what is able to do with
23 that.

24 And, Chairman, that concludes the input
25 for the Senate.

1 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Great. Thank
2 you very much. Members, any questions?

3 Okay. Seeing none, members, we are now
4 going to move into the actual discussion in
5 greater detail the options that are on the
6 table, keeping in the order that we went before
7 with Congress, State House and State Senate.
8 As we go through the options, members, I
9 welcome your thoughts as to how you think we
10 should go through the process of narrowing down
11 the choices for State House and State -- and
12 congressional maps and Senate maps. So this is
13 your opportunity, after we do the quick brief
14 overview of the differences between the maps,
15 we would welcome conversation about any maps
16 that you are preferable to.

17 It would be my hope and goal, frankly,
18 that by the end of today, we could be in a
19 position where we would have some type of
20 preference as to a map that we would like to
21 move forward with for House, Senate and
22 congressional. That way, as members are trying
23 to file amendments and prepare for next week's
24 committee meeting, we are all kind of on the
25 same page.

1 So that being said, we are going to start
2 off with Mr. Kelly, I believe, who is going to
3 start off talking to us again about the
4 congressional map and the differences between
5 the three maps.

6 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and
7 thank you, members. I am just going to get the
8 maps lined up for your viewing.

9 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Kelly, I
10 may have gone out of order. Would you -- would
11 you like me to represent -- recognize the
12 Chairman of the committee first?

13 MR. KELLY: I would always defer to the
14 Chairman --

15 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes. First
16 of all, let me commend the Chairman of the
17 subcommittee, Representative Legg, who did a
18 great job in shepherding the three maps to us.
19 Representative Legg, you are recognized to
20 summarize in your opinion what you sent to the
21 full committee.

22 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Well, thank you,
23 Mr. Chairman, and you are way too kind with
24 your words, and Mr. Kelly does a much better
25 job than I could ever do, and you are giving me

1 too much credit to say that I shepherded.
2 Chair Holder and Vice-Chair Horner, they really
3 did all the heavy work. I just sat around and
4 watched them, so -- but with that,
5 Mr. Chairman, I just want to maybe get some
6 high level overviews for the members of the
7 full Committee so they kind of know what we
8 looked at and some of the rationale in terms of
9 a high-level view.

10 As you know, we had seven options to look
11 at in our subcommittee. I think that all seven
12 were a major improvement over the current
13 Florida congressional maps. I would have been
14 happy to present any of these -- any of the
15 seven maps to the full floor, because we -- I
16 do believe that all seven of them were lawful
17 and compliant with the new constitutional
18 amendments.

19 Our subcommittee had an interesting
20 discussion in our last meeting. We -- when we
21 narrowed the option down to our three top
22 choices, the subcommittee opted to use the
23 standards that are in the law, compare the maps
24 and pick the three choices that appear to best
25 balance the standards that are in the

1 Constitution and federal law. I thought it was
2 approp- -- that the appropriate recommendations
3 from the members of the subcommittee, a
4 recommendation, which basically was to let the
5 standards in the law guide us, and I supported
6 that recommendation. As a result, I think what
7 you have in front of you is three excellent
8 options for you to choose.

9 Just to speak briefly about the
10 differences and the similarity between those
11 maps, in all three, District 1 and 2 and 18 to
12 27 are identical. The differences occur
13 from -- basically from the north Florida
14 counties that are east of the Panhandle through
15 the central Florida and into the rural
16 communities of south Florida. Map 9041
17 stresses compactness slightly more so than the
18 other standards. As a result, map 9041
19 sacrifices some county and city splits. Map
20 9043 really performs the balancing act of all
21 three options, keeping more than 90 percent of
22 Florida municipalities whole. That in itself
23 is not some kind of legal threshold, but it is
24 still a nice milestone to achieve. Map 9045 is
25 in large part a similar map to 9041, except

1 that its attempt to keep some of the counties
2 whole that 94 -- 9041 splits.

3 So when you look at these maps, you will
4 see some trade-offs, and quite possibly you
5 might even see some pieces of the maps that can
6 be mixed and matched with others. I think the
7 subcommittee did an excellent job in that
8 regards, giving this Committee some real
9 choices.

10 With that, Mr. Chairman, I just want to
11 thank every member of the Committee for their
12 hard work, too, on this, and those are our
13 three recommendations to this Committee.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
15 very much, Chairman Legg. We appreciate that,
16 and we do appreciate the hard work of the
17 Committee, and commend your co-Chair and your
18 Vice-Chair. You guys did a great job. And
19 with that, we will turn it over to Alex to walk
20 us through some of the detailed differences
21 between the three maps. You are recognized,
22 Mr. Kelly.

23 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and
24 thank you, members.

25 Using map -- using map 9041, let's say, as

1 a base where I will describe the common points,
2 and then we will look at the other two as to
3 where they differ. As Chair Legg said,
4 Districts 1 and 2 are identical in all of the
5 maps. Generally speaking, the districts just
6 lean on the principle of keeping counties
7 whole. The couple counties that are split are
8 purely done so for the sake of equal
9 population.

10 Moving to the southern end of the state,
11 Districts 18 through 27, District 18 is a
12 district that has all of St. Lucie County and
13 all of Martin County, for the sake of equal
14 population, a little bit of Okeechobee County
15 and then goes into northern Palm Beach County.

16 District 19, moving to the southwestern
17 part of the state, District 19 is all of the
18 incorporated municipalities of Lee County, most
19 of Lee County, minus some of the Lehigh Acres
20 and North Ft. Myers unincorporated areas, and
21 then it includes the coastline, including
22 Naples, the entirety of Naples, and other
23 communities along the coast in Collier County.

24 District 20, as we mentioned some earlier
25 regards to the public testimony, Districts 20,

1 21 and 22, all three districts are primarily in
2 Palm Beach and Broward Counties. District 20
3 also there does have an extension into Hendry
4 County, which is an important component.
5 District 20 today is a majority-minority seat
6 and today also serves the African-American
7 communities of Hendry County, which is a
8 Section 5 covered jurisdiction. So in terms of
9 maintaining that, the district runs over into
10 the Clewiston area, it includes the entirety of
11 that, and in an effort to maintain Section 5
12 compliance, the district, again, maintains its
13 majority-minority status, and in the manner
14 that it is drawn, the district actually
15 includes the entirety of several municipalities
16 in the southern Broward County portion and also
17 in the near Lake Okeechobee/Palm Beach County
18 portions.

19 And Districts 21 and 22, kind of went over
20 them before, they are drawn in a north-south
21 pattern with the intent of trying to respect
22 municipal boundary lines as much as possible,
23 and really actually borrowing directly from
24 some of the public plans that were submitted in
25 terms of a strategy for how to keep these

1 municipalities whole in terms of -- mentioned
2 earlier, some of the additional public input
3 that's been received, some of the additional
4 public input, if you look at District 20, the
5 additional public input, instead of coming
6 through the Loxahatchee and Royal Palm Beach
7 area, District 20 was brought through Palm
8 Beach Gardens, and so we are looking at that
9 just to see if there's any advantages in terms
10 of municipal splits and compactness and other
11 measurements just to see if there's anything
12 gained by taking a slightly different path. So
13 we are taking a look at that based on some of
14 the guidance that we have gotten from the
15 additional public input.

16 Twenty-one, again, and 22, as described,
17 are, generally speaking, drawn with the intent
18 of trying to respect the municipal lines. I
19 will give you a visual of that. We originally
20 looked at trying to use perhaps the Turnpike in
21 these counties in terms of designing the
22 districts. However, the municipalities tended
23 to cross that, to sort of cross those major
24 roadways. So when you look at, for example,
25 District 21 -- and this is actually a good

1 example of a municipality that perhaps with a
2 minor adjustment we can actually probably keep
3 whole in terms of -- in terms of Coconut Creek,
4 but looking at the municipalities, you will see
5 that in many cases, they are kept whole in one
6 district or the other in attempts to strike a
7 balance between complying with the Voting
8 Rights Act, but at the same time trying to
9 respect the political geography as much as
10 possible.

11 District 23 encompasses much of southern
12 Broward and also the northeastern areas of
13 Miami-Dade County. District 23 is in large
14 part impacted by what you have in Miami-Dade
15 County, which are four majority-minority
16 districts, three of which are Hispanic, one of
17 which is African-American. I will turn the
18 city boundary lines off, turn the counties back
19 on, just so you can see where the split occurs.

20 So in looking at District 24 is a
21 majority-minority African-American seat, also
22 with a concentration of Haitian-American
23 residents. And then scrolling back out,
24 Districts 25, 26 and 27, again, our strategy
25 here was obviously, one, to maintain compliance

1 with the Voting Rights Act, which was to
2 maintain the ability for these districts to
3 perform for the Hispanic community's candidate
4 of choice, but also to try to bring something
5 more of a clean look, a more compact, geometric
6 type look to where these districts meet. If
7 you remember from the subcommittee, for the
8 members of the subcommittee, we discussed a lot
9 using the Tamiami Trail as a line where kind of
10 diving in to the Fountainebleau area where the
11 districts all meet, trying to -- if you think
12 about how this translates not just to
13 redistricting, but ultimately to voters going
14 back out with new districts, using those clear
15 roadways to try to minimize voter confusion and
16 so forth, but, again, trying to bring a much
17 more compact shape, and the numbers bear out
18 that the districts are significantly more
19 compact than the existing plans.

20 Now, in terms of some points that are
21 fairly common, although not identical, in all
22 the maps, Congressional District 5 in all the
23 maps travels from the Jacksonville area through
24 Palatka to Gainesville through northern Marion
25 County -- we mentioned before about the public

1 testimony regarding the Reddick area -- and
2 then through Lake County into Apopka, some
3 differences in terms of this district compared
4 to the current map and the way it's been drawn
5 here, it is not perfectly identical in all
6 three submissions, although it is very, very
7 similar. First it was drawn in order to
8 maintain the existing opportunity for
9 African-American -- the African-American
10 community. The NAACP submitted a map that drew
11 the seat at exactly a 48 percent black voting
12 age population, so in all three examples, it is
13 just slightly above that, a couple hundredths
14 of a percentage above that, that mark being
15 that that's what the NAACP submitted.

16 The district now encompasses the entirety
17 of Green Cove Springs, the entirety of Palatka,
18 the entirety of Apopka. It no longer impacts
19 Seminole County, it no longer impacts Volusia
20 County. So to the extent possible, we tried to
21 marry up the provisions -- the sort of Tier 2
22 provisions in Amendment 6 that look at
23 political and geographical boundary lines and
24 try to make sure that if the district was
25 traveling through a city, where possible, it

1 could include the entirety of that city, and
2 where unnecessary, the district would not split
3 a county if that was not necessary to maintain
4 the opportunity to elect. So some very subtle
5 differences when you dive into the details.

6 In all the maps, District 7 keeps Seminole
7 County whole, albeit it does it in a different
8 fashion in each of the maps. In plan 9041,
9 Seminole County is whole and the
10 Seminole/Volusia County line is not crossed.
11 The district in all three maps does include the
12 entirety of Maitland and the entirety of Winter
13 Park, but in this particular example, 9041, all
14 the population that's not in Seminole is in
15 Orange County. Go look at plan 9043. In this
16 particular instance, beyond Maitland and Winter
17 Park, most of the additional population that's
18 not in Seminole County is in Volusia County.
19 The way it was drawn -- I will turn on the city
20 boundary lines. The way it was drawn is to
21 encompass the entirety of municipal boundary
22 lines in Volusia County. So the fact that it
23 is crossing the county line, it has all of
24 Deltona, all of De Bary, and I believe that is
25 Orange City. So while it is crossing a county

1 line, respecting those municipal boundary
2 lines. And then I do believe in 9045, it is
3 more similar to -- yes, it is more similar to
4 9041 in which it is all Seminole and then parts
5 of Orange County.

6 So in terms of northeast Florida, now to
7 get into some of the more significant
8 differences, in northeast Florida, the effects
9 of the map on Nassau County are similar in maps
10 9041 and 9045. Nassau County is split so you
11 have a district that is the east side of Duval
12 County, the east side of Nassau County and the
13 northern half of St. Johns, splitting the city
14 of St. Augustine.

15 In the case of map 9043, 9043, which had
16 the lowest county splits of all the maps, map
17 9043 split 22 counties. Map 9041 split 26.
18 Map 9045 split 23. Map 9043 attempts to use
19 the population that is left over from
20 Congressional District 5 in Duval, aligning
21 that with Nassau, aligning that with Baker, to
22 create a district that is otherwise the entire
23 remaining portions of Duval, all of Nassau and
24 all of Baker. And I will just put the county
25 lines on to give you that visual. In part,

1 that was how 9043 was able to maintain county
2 lines in a better fashion.

3 In terms of District 3, there is a similar
4 district in all the maps that is essentially a
5 north Florida district, in this case in 9043,
6 that district does not include any parts of
7 Baker or Duval Counties or Nassau County. So
8 in that case, in 9043, the district pushes
9 further down into the Marion County area as a
10 result. In looking at the effects of that, the
11 portion of District 11 that is Marion County is
12 what essentially is typically affected by how
13 far over District 3 comes. In every case,
14 Marion County is still a significant portion of
15 a congressional district, but in the case of
16 9043, it's less of a portion of a congressional
17 district.

18 In all three of the maps, if you look at
19 District 6, there's a similar district,
20 however, as it relates to the Seminole County
21 district that we mentioned earlier. In map
22 9043, the sort of Volusia/Flagler/St. Johns
23 County district with some of Putnam includes
24 the entirety of St. Johns, the entirety of
25 Flagler, and then it does not include the

1 entirety of Volusia. In the other plans, the
2 district splits St. Johns, still includes the
3 entirety of Flagler, but then keeps Volusia
4 whole. So essentially there is the trade-off
5 of either keeping Volusia or St. Johns County
6 whole, but, again, in map 9043, which splits
7 Volusia County, all the municipal boundary
8 lines were kept whole.

9 Coming back to District 11, which we
10 mentioned before, generally speaking, District
11 11 includes the entirety of Citrus County, some
12 or all of Sumter, portions of Lake. Depending
13 on how far down District 3 pushes south and
14 depending on how far District 12 pushes north,
15 that determines what portions of Lake County
16 are maintained in the seat. So, for example,
17 in map 9043, the district is entirely Hernando,
18 Citrus, the balance of population, the most of
19 the population in Marion, all of Sumter and the
20 Lady Lake and Fruitland Park areas, those
21 municipalities are kept whole. Whereas, go
22 look at 9041, 9041 only splits Marion County
23 two ways, because District 12 is pushing up and
24 taking in most of Hernando County. Now, as a
25 result of that though, Hernando County is split

1 in map 9041. Citrus County is kept whole.
2 Citrus County is kept whole in all of the maps.
3 Sumter County in this particular case is split,
4 and District 11 goes a little further into --
5 into Lake County, although it is not a
6 significant amount of population of Lake, the
7 bulk of the main cities in Lake that are
8 heavily populated are still in District 10.
9 But, again, that just gives you a sense of the
10 push on the district depending on what is going
11 on in Districts 3 and 12.

12 And then looking at map 9045, this
13 particular case, the sort of Pasco County-based
14 seat has the entirety of Hernando County, and
15 there is a seat that is most of the population
16 of Marion, all of Levy, all of Citrus, all of
17 Sumter and includes a greater portion, just
18 slightly though, but a greater portion of the
19 Lake County area. As a result of that, the
20 municipality of Leesburg is split in that
21 exchange.

22 In terms of how those districts sort of
23 create a sort of pressure in the middle of the
24 state, you always have a district that is --
25 District 10 that is in part Lake County, Orange

1 County, northern Polk. Depending on the other
2 districts, that affects the proportion of those
3 counties. In this particular example, looking
4 at map 9045, the proportions that are Lake,
5 Orange and Polk are fairly similar to each
6 other. It is actually about 250,000 residents
7 in Lake, about 10,000 fewer than that in
8 Orange, and then 180 or so thousand in Polk
9 County.

10 District 9 in all the maps attempts to
11 create something of an opportunity for Hispanic
12 Floridians to vote together, to coalesce, but
13 at the same time does so in a very compact
14 fashion, albeit a different fashion in each of
15 the maps. So in the case of 9045, the map
16 includes the entirety of the Poinciana
17 community, most of -- excluding what's north --
18 or northeast or west -- sorry, northwest of
19 Interstate 4, Osceola County, and then portions
20 of Orange. Give you a comparison to map 9041,
21 map 9041 doesn't include the southern, more
22 rural parts of Osceola County. So those parts
23 are cut off for a more east to west type
24 district. And then map 9043 attempts to create
25 more of a squared-up type District 9,

1 attempting to create a more compact shape. Map
2 9043 does not go into Polk County, that being a
3 major difference. Map 9043, the balance of the
4 population is definitely in Orange County with
5 a couple hundred thousand residents from
6 Osceola County, but it does not go into Polk.
7 So it respects the county boundary line in map
8 9043.

9 Taking a look at the Tampa -- Tampa Bay
10 area, there are some commonalities, but then
11 there's also some significant differences.
12 Again, we talked about how some of the maps
13 have a sort of Pasco-based seat that goes north
14 and grabs most or all of Hernando. Map 9041
15 does that. It grabs about 60,000 residents in
16 the Oldsmar area in Pinellas County. It
17 attempts to maintain Section 5 compliance with
18 District 14. Hillsborough County
19 African-American/Hispanic residents are
20 combined with Pinellas County African-American
21 residents. District 13 maintains a seat
22 entirely in Pasco -- I'm sorry, Pinellas
23 County.

24 District 15, thinking back to some of the
25 public input that you heard before, District 15

1 is the one where the Mayor of Tampa, the
2 municipality of Temple Terrace had communicated
3 their preference was this more Hillsborough
4 County-based version of District 15, which only
5 has 5,700 residents from Manatee County, so for
6 all intents and purposes, it is almost entirely
7 a Hillsborough County seat. The result of that
8 is that District 17, which is largely southern
9 Polk County, very rural parts of Polk County,
10 Bartow, those areas, southern Osceola and
11 several very rural counties kept whole, and
12 then also the entirety of Charlotte County,
13 that district has a more almost squared-up type
14 northern border to it, not perfectly squared,
15 the lakes and such in Polk County and Osceola
16 County make it difficult to create a nice
17 perfect line, but, nonetheless, it has a more
18 squared-up northern border. And because 15 is
19 entire- -- mostly in Hillsborough, and 16 is a
20 Sarasota/Manatee seat, you essentially have a
21 very clean sort of western wall to the district
22 until you get down to the entirety of Charlotte
23 County.

24 Just to show you how that changes in the
25 other maps, in the case of map 9043, District

1 15 is drawn more to try to really take in a
2 very, very compact shape. It includes the
3 entirety of Lakeland. In this particular
4 district, this is the most of Polk County that
5 is included in the 15th District, albeit it is
6 still more than a two-thirds Hillsborough
7 County seat. Again, District 16, similar to
8 the others, minus 5,700 residents, it is
9 otherwise the entirety of Sarasota/Manatee.
10 District 17 is similar, albeit because District
11 17 is going into sort of the Fishhawk -- or
12 south of the Fishhawk area, as Jeff was talking
13 about before, in Hillsborough County, it
14 accounts for some population there, doesn't go
15 as far north into Polk County, albeit Polk
16 County is probably still -- I think it is still
17 the most significant population base in the
18 various versions of District 17.

19 And then just to compare to map 9045, as
20 we kind of talked about before, the District
21 15, minus 90,000 residents, is otherwise
22 entirely in Hillsborough County. District 17
23 in this particular case takes in a greater
24 number of Hillsborough County residents. So in
25 terms of population, the Hillsborough and Polk

1 County residents would greater rival each other
2 in this district, with Charlotte sort of
3 trailing in third in terms of the county's
4 impact on District 17.

5 And with that, Mr. Chair, those are the
6 differences between the maps, and I would be
7 happy to answer any questions.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Great.
9 Members, before we move to suggestions or
10 questions or any suggestions, are there any
11 specific questions about the maps or the
12 presentation that Mr. Kelly just provided us?
13 Any questions?

14 Okay. Seeing no questions, are there any
15 suggestions or comments based on the maps that
16 we just discussed?

17 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Mr. Chair?

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes,
19 Representative Hukill, you are recognized.

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

22 Yes, I do have a suggestion concerning
23 where we should be going on this. I think it
24 would be helpful to us as members and probably
25 help avoid some public confusion for us to

1 narrow in on a map today. The map I like is at
2 9043, which is behind tab HB 6005. I think
3 this is a great map. I think when you look at
4 various things like city splits and county
5 splits, it is an absolutely great map. It also
6 does a very good job with trying to balance the
7 various standards that we have to use in this
8 process.

9 And so my suggestion is that we use this
10 as a base map for next Friday and that we
11 narrow it down to that choice today, so that
12 everyone knows what map we are working off of.
13 And if there are potential changes that people
14 want to make or file amendments, we can use
15 this as our base map and draft to this map. So
16 my suggestion is that we narrow in and select
17 map 9043.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay.

19 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you,
20 Mr. Chair.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you for
22 that suggestion. I think we've got
23 Representative Workman, Representative Bernard,
24 then Representative Schenck, we will go in that
25 order. You are recognized, Representative

1 Workman.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: Mr. Chairman,
3 thank you for recognizing me.

4 I wasn't thinking along those lines, but
5 now that she said it, based on Amendment 6, you
6 know, it sets a lot of standards, especially in
7 the second tier of the law, roadways, bridges,
8 waterways, county lines, city lines, and
9 looking at for 9043, I want to concur with that
10 statement. I think we should make that the
11 base map.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
13 very much, Mr. Workman.

14 Representative Bernard, you are
15 recognized, sir.

16 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Thank you,
17 Mr. Chair.

18 I think my question -- it may be a
19 question, not a suggestion, but going to -- I
20 guess we can look at 9043 since that is the one
21 that we're talking about. Looking at the
22 configuration of the south Florida
23 congressional maps, on 9043, I am looking at
24 District 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24. I am really
25 concerned about the way that these districts

1 have been drawn in regards to -- like
2 specifically District 24 where it goes into
3 Broward County. It just seems to me that if
4 the Tier 1 -- if we are looking at Tier 1 where
5 we are creating the minority districts first,
6 it just seems to me that that district should
7 be specifically in Miami-Dade County where we
8 would bring it down into only Miami-Dade
9 County, and going into the creation of District
10 20, to me, it is just -- just looking at it and
11 going into Amendment 6, I just believe that
12 there's other ways that we can -- we can
13 recreate that district for it to be different.
14 Going -- this -- going into -- a majority part
15 of that district is in Broward County, and
16 going into how we have drafted -- the House
17 maps that you draw, Mr. Chair, I was looking at
18 House map where you drafted District 92, 94 and
19 95 where they are predominantly
20 majority-minority seats. However, when you
21 come down to south of Broward in the House
22 maps, District 101 and 102, those are
23 additionally majority-minority seats also.

24 So, to me, it just seems like it would be
25 better and -- to have District 22 to be a

1 majority-minority district where it would come
2 down from the creation of District 92, 94, 95,
3 and then to come down along the east side and
4 then to capture District 101 and 102 according
5 to the House maps, and that way, District 22
6 would only be in Broward County, whereas we can
7 change how we draft District 20 where District
8 20 would be specifically only in Palm Beach
9 County, and where now that would -- now
10 District 24 would be in Dade County where it
11 would be a majority-minority seat, District 22
12 would be specifically only in Broward County,
13 and it would be a majority-minority seat if you
14 bring it down to cover those parts in District
15 101 and 102, and then now District 20, you can
16 reconfigure it to make that district,
17 specifically the population of Palm Beach
18 County, where the total -- the total population
19 of Palm Beach County, you have a 17.3 percent
20 black population and a 19 percent Hispanic
21 population. If you recreate District 20 where
22 it would go along the east side and to include
23 the cities of West Palm Beach, Palm Springs,
24 all the way down to Delray Beach and Boca
25 Raton, that would be a compact district and you

1 can still send that district out to the Glades
2 where it would cover the Cities of Belle Glade,
3 Pahokee and South Bay, and still include the
4 town of Clewiston, which would be a Section 5.
5 What that would do is it would change District
6 20 to potentially be more of a coalition
7 district. I haven't looked at the numbers, but
8 it seems like it would be a coalition district
9 in Palm Beach County where the residents of
10 Palm Beach County would get to elect a
11 Representative of their choice, Broward County
12 would get District 22 as a majority-minority
13 seat and would be as compact as possible, and
14 District 24 would shift down into only Dade
15 County and it would be compact as possible, and
16 that way, the maps would be better drawn and
17 the residents of Palm Beach County, Dade and
18 Broward would get to represent -- would get to
19 elect a Representative of their choice and it
20 would be compact.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you. I
22 think I know what you are talking about -- no,
23 it was actually a very good explanation, and I
24 appreciate you taking the time to offer that.

25 A couple of things. The first thing I

1 want to mention is the maps -- for all the
2 members, just so you understand, all the
3 districts that were referenced by Mr. Bernard
4 are actually the same in all three maps. So it
5 is -- the concepts he is talking about would
6 apply to all three of the maps in the same way.

7 The second thing, I want to be clear that,
8 you know, we are not drawing any maps first,
9 whether they are minority-majority maps or
10 otherwise. Certainly we are cognizant of what
11 the Constitution says, cognizant of the fact
12 that we do not want to have retrogression in
13 any of our majority-minority districts, but at
14 the same time, we are not drawing any first. I
15 want to clarify that.

16 Before I turn it over to Alex Kelly to
17 speak directly to your question, I will tell
18 you I think the beauty of this process and the
19 beauty of democracy and the beauty of the
20 legislative process and the committee process
21 is that any member at any time can offer an
22 amendment. So what you just said certainly is
23 a lot of information, sounds like a dramatic
24 change to the map. I would encourage you,
25 Representative Bernard, to put it on paper,

1 offer it as an amendment for next Friday's
2 meeting, so we can actually take a look at it,
3 analyze it. Wednesday, noon deadline is the
4 deadline for the amendatory process. We would
5 love to take a look at it. We have different
6 forms of measurement that we can utilize and we
7 have utilized for the last six months, and we
8 will take that amendment and those changes into
9 consideration, and if they make dramatic
10 improvement to the map, the members of this
11 Committee will have an opportunity to vote on
12 it. So with that, I would encourage you to do
13 that. And, Mr. Kelly, if you would like to
14 address some of the comments as well, you may.

15 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16 Representative Bernard, we attempted over
17 the course of drawing the maps, several of the
18 items that you raised. In terms of -- starting
19 with District 24, in terms of maintaining its
20 majority-minority status, we were not able to
21 do so entirely in Miami-Dade County. You could
22 theoretically reduce the seat by six or seven
23 percentage points, but -- running over to the
24 coastline, but you still would have a question
25 as to whether that six or seven percentage

1 points is, in fact, a diminishment, and you
2 would still need to go to Broward County
3 somewhat to maintain the majority-minority
4 status.

5 So in terms of looking at that issue, we
6 have looked at that and don't believe that you
7 can maintain a majority-minority status for
8 District 24 entirely in Miami-Dade County.
9 And, again, at the very minimum, too, you would
10 also be raising a question as to whether the
11 drop in the black voting age population may be
12 significant enough to be a diminishment.

13 In terms of District 20, again, we had
14 problems with the numbers. Unless you actually
15 did combine some of those communities in
16 Broward County, as you mentioned, in terms of
17 like the State House map, today's State House
18 map, Districts 92, 93 and 94, 92 of which is --
19 which is actually a 34 percent black voting age
20 population, but in terms of using those
21 communities and in terms of going into Palm
22 Beach County without drawing in those
23 communities, it is very difficult, if possible
24 at all, to maintain the majority-minority
25 status.

1 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Mr. Chair?

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes,
3 Representative Bernard.

4 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Thank you,
5 Mr. Chair.

6 I didn't say for it to go into Palm Beach
7 County where I shifted District 22 to go along
8 the east coast from District 92, 94 and 95 and
9 then for it to go down all the way to the
10 county line, the Miami-Dade and Broward County
11 line, to cover the House District 101 and 102
12 where those are basically majority-minority
13 seats. So from 92, 94, 95, would come down to
14 the county line, to the Broward County line,
15 and not go into Palm Beach County.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I think what
17 we will do, because we could probably stand
18 here all day and try to understand exactly what
19 we are talking about, I think it would be much
20 better and clearer for the Committee and for
21 the public who is watching if they could
22 actually see on paper what it is Representative
23 Bernard is talking about, so Representative
24 Bernard, if you could work on a hard copy and
25 as an amendment or maybe something that you

1 could submit to the Committee as a whole, I
2 think that we certainly want to make sure that
3 we are taking a look at that. And anyone else
4 who has suggestions in the same light, no
5 matter whether it is in south Florida or any
6 part of the state, we want to make sure that
7 these maps are as legally compliant as they
8 possibly can be, and we are willing to look at
9 any amendment in any form. So thank you for
10 bringing that forth, Representative Bernard.

11 Representative Schenck, did you have
12 something to offer to the conversation?

13 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: I think so. As
14 we were going through the maps -- certainly I
15 want to congratulate Alex and staff on all the
16 hard work they have done on the congressional
17 maps. Alex, as you were going through them,
18 the thing I noticed, and I wanted to talk to
19 map 9041, is the fact that that map splits St.
20 Augustine and Nassau County, but it also splits
21 Sumter and Hernando County, and I find that
22 those splits are unnecessary, especially since
23 the other two maps do not do that. So it would
24 be my preference that we discard map 9041 and
25 focus on the other two.

1 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
2 very much. Any other comments from the
3 Committee?

4 Representative Horner, you are recognized,
5 sir.

6 REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Thank you,
7 Mr. Chairman.

8 I think 9043 is a fine map. I liked all
9 of them, and kudos to the team, did a great job
10 putting together. Chairman Legg and Chairman
11 Holder and the staff did a good job.

12 I just want to make sure that -- I think
13 in some of these other maps we've got some good
14 opportunities to reduce splits in some cities
15 and some counties. And so if there is some
16 opportunity to take some good concepts from the
17 other two and incorporate them in 9043, that we
18 will be able to do that through the amendatory
19 process. And I really look forward to seeing
20 Representative Bernard's amendment, so I hope
21 we are not getting too locked in to 9043 and
22 will be open to some of those changes.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I will
24 address that. I think that is a good point.
25 Is there any other comments or suggestions

1 before we move forward?

2 Okay. Here is what I will say:

3 Representative Horner, you bring up a good
4 point. I think there's been several
5 suggestions made by members that 9043 should be
6 the congressional map that we work off of. I
7 am inclined to go in the same direction. I
8 think what it does is it brings clarity to
9 everybody if we have now one map that we are
10 focusing on, which would be 9043.

11 But to Representative Horner's point, we
12 are not locked in to everything in 9043, and if
13 people want to bring forth amendments, if
14 there's some of the other maps that have been
15 submitted that you like certain portions of
16 them better, we can file amendments to 9043 and
17 make it a better product. So what we are going
18 to do, just for -- so everybody has a clear
19 understanding, we are going to move forward
20 with 9043, that will be the map that we will
21 take up next Friday, and we can file amendments
22 to that map.

23 So if anybody has any questions about
24 that, concerns about that, now would be a good
25 time to talk about it. Any questions or

1 concerns? Yes, Representative Rogers, you are
2 recognized.

3 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Thank you,
4 Mr. Chair.

5 I don't know, when I came into this
6 meeting, I was under the assumption that we
7 weren't going to move any maps out of this
8 Committee today.

9 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: We are not.

10 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Okay.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: In fact, all
12 maps will be available next week. What we are
13 doing is, we are trying to give clarity to the
14 public. We are also trying to give clarity to
15 the members, so that 9043 appears to be the map
16 that everyone seems to be favorable to. No one
17 else has suggested another map. So for
18 purposes of clarity for next week, if you are
19 going to file an amendment, you would file an
20 amendment to 9043. So 9043 can be changed, it
21 can be amended. We are going to look at all
22 amendments and have votes on them. But 9043
23 would be kind of considered the base map. So
24 that is -- is that clear?

25 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Very clear, but we

1 are not limited to just 9043?

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: No, but if
3 you liked a portion of another map, you could
4 essentially get to the same place in a
5 different way where you could take the -- you
6 could take the provisions of another map and
7 amend it onto 9043 and essentially it would
8 become the other map that you may have
9 preferred, so -- and if you want more detail,
10 we can get you with staff and myself and we can
11 talk further about -- to make sure that any
12 concerns that you have are addressed. Thank
13 you, Representative Rogers.

14 Any other comments or questions?

15 Okay. Thank you very much, Mr. Kelly. We
16 are now going to move forward into the House
17 map. Representative Schenck, who is co-Chair
18 of the House Committee, we'll give you an
19 opportunity to give us a brief overview while
20 Mr. Takacs is getting prepared. But great job
21 to you and co-Chair Dorworth. You guys did a
22 tremendous job in the House, and drawing 27
23 maps is one thing, drawing 120 maps is a
24 totally different thing, and I thought that you
25 guys did a great job. Really appreciate the

1 product you have brought forth, and look
2 forward to hearing about the differences
3 between the three, but you are recognized for a
4 brief introduction.

5 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Thank you,
6 Mr. Chair, and I just want to give a brief
7 overview before I turn it over to Jeff Takacs,
8 who I call the machine, and can probably talk
9 about it for hours, but I have warned him not
10 to.

11 The Committee co-Chair Dorworth and I
12 worked with were great, had a lot of good
13 suggestions, and so we limited -- passed on
14 three maps that we are going to talk about
15 today. So let me just quickly give the
16 overview.

17 Maps 9025 and 9027 are virtually
18 identical, with the exception of Districts 7, 8
19 and 9, which is in the Big Bend area, and I
20 have told Jeff to spend a little time with that
21 and those. And then map 9031 is identical to
22 9027 in the Big Bend area, but there are
23 several differences in Duval and Clay County,
24 as well as the central Florida area of Lake,
25 Seminole and Orange Counties as well. So map

1 9031 is -- is -- has a difference in two areas
2 of the state.

3 Mr. Chairman, those are the differences
4 between the three, and so then I would suggest,
5 much like we just did with the congressional
6 maps, we will have the machine go through those
7 maps, have some discussion and try to narrow it
8 from three to one so that we can have a working
9 base map for next Friday as well on the House
10 maps.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: That sounds
12 good. Thank you, Representative. And with
13 that, we will recognize Mr. Takacs to walk us
14 through the differences in the map.

15 MR. TAKACS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
16 With Chairman Schenck's blessing, I would like
17 to go through a three-hour presentation on the
18 120 districts of the map.

19 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Not granted.

20 MR. TAKACS: I would like to kind of do
21 this on a region-by-region basis and walk
22 through the map as we travel around the state.

23 If you look at the Panhandle region there,
24 looking at Districts 1 through 4, you will see
25 that essentially that region is bookended by

1 Districts 1 and 4 that are wholly within their
2 respective counties of Escambia and Okaloosa,
3 Districts 2 and 3 cross from Escambia into
4 Santa Rosa, and then Santa Rosa into Okaloosa.
5 An interesting point, the population of Santa
6 Rosa is that in that it can be kept whole
7 within a House map; however, it is land-locked
8 between two counties that have to be split. So
9 that is why you see the configuration the way
10 that it is as far as Santa Rosa being split
11 between Districts 2 and 3.

12 Moving forward here into the -- moving
13 east from Districts 5, and I will talk about
14 the Big Bend area. As Chairman Schenck
15 mentioned, Districts 7, 8 and 9 are one of the
16 pivot points, decision points, between maps
17 9025 and 9027, and I will show those one by one
18 as we continue to move forward.

19 District 5 here, you can see whole
20 counties was the driver of the building of this
21 district. As you can see, all of these
22 counties are whole here, Jackson County and so
23 forth. As you move south to District 6, it is
24 wholly contained within Bay County, and Panama
25 City is kept whole within that region as well.

1 I should also mention District 1 in Escambia
2 County does keep the City of Pensacola whole as
3 well. District 2 is the City of Gulf Breeze.
4 So that is a common theme as we travel about
5 the map as far as using municipal boundary
6 lines as dividing lines and keeping cities
7 whole within the various districts.

8 Again, this is map 9025, and you can see
9 what District 7 does -- I'm sorry, this is map
10 a 9027. What you can see here is what District
11 7 does is it has a larger swath of smaller
12 rural counties and keeps them all united,
13 thinking about Lafayette and Taylor, Jefferson,
14 Wakulla, Franklin and so forth, keeping them
15 all together within a district, and then for
16 population purposes, having it in a portion of
17 Leon County.

18 District 8 is a majority-minority black
19 district. It does contain all of Gadsden
20 County -- again, thinking about keeping
21 counties whole within this process, it contains
22 all of Gadsden County, as well as portions of
23 Leon.

24 The biggest pivot point between maps 9027
25 and 9025 is really District 9. You can see

1 here on this option that District 9 is wholly
2 contained within Leon County. I will show you
3 the other option, which is 9025. Bear with me
4 for just a moment. And I will kind of toggle
5 back and forth so you can see the difference
6 between the two. Here is District 9 in this
7 option, which is 9025, and you can see that it
8 has more of a portion of Leon County as far as
9 its -- the way that it is cut, and it actually
10 splits the City of Tallahassee in three, and
11 then it goes into Jefferson, Taylor and
12 Lafayette Counties. Again, I will kind of go
13 back and forth, but, again, this -- obviously,
14 this district is not wholly contained within
15 Leon County. Another difference, again, as I
16 mentioned, is that this option splits the City
17 of Tallahassee between three districts. The
18 other option, which I will go back to, splits
19 the City of Tallahassee twice. You can see
20 this version here. So, again, that is the only
21 difference between maps 9025 and 9027, so I
22 will continue to move forward and explain
23 essentially both of those maps simultaneously.

24 Moving on into the north and northeast
25 Florida region here, you can see District 10

1 again keeping counties whole within this
2 district. A portion of Alachua County is used
3 for District 10. In a previous draft of these,
4 and this was something that the subcommittee
5 examined, there was an option that would have
6 had the Alachua County only split twice, but
7 what that does is essentially for population
8 purposes, would then actually split Union
9 County between two districts there, 19 and 10.
10 So their preference was to make that third
11 split within Alachua County to keep Union
12 County whole, and then, again, this district be
13 based on keeping counties whole.

14 I am going to move into the Nassau and
15 Duval County area. As I had mentioned earlier,
16 if you look at the populations of Nassau and
17 Duval combined, they equal roughly that of six
18 House districts, and you can see that this plan
19 and all of the plans -- I should say Duval
20 County is another pivot point in one of the
21 maps, and I will explain that at the end, but
22 in maps 9025 and 9027, that principle is
23 adhered to with these six districts, again,
24 using -- Nassau County being kept whole, and
25 then coming into Duval, and then the other five

1 districts being wholly contained within Duval
2 County.

3 Districts 13 and 14 recreate
4 majority-minority black districts within the
5 region, and, again, thinking about county lines
6 and other roadways as far as boundaries, that
7 was the driver as far as building Districts 12,
8 15 and 16.

9 I will zoom out here a little bit and talk
10 about kind of the area just below Duval County.
11 When you look at St. Johns County, District 17
12 here, that district is wholly contained within
13 St. Johns County. It is then connected here,
14 District 24, as far as the county, which is a
15 district that has all of Flagler County and
16 then a portion of St. Johns County, and then
17 that comes into areas of Volusia County, which
18 I will talk about in a moment.

19 Moving here just over a bit, as we saw on
20 the video a moment ago, the residents of Clay
21 County requested that they have a district
22 wholly contained within the county. That is
23 here in District 18. Sorry about that. And
24 you will see that that -- that district does
25 keep the City of Orange Park whole and keeps

1 the City of Green Cove Springs whole, but
2 within District 19, again, using municipal
3 boundaries to attempt to keep cities whole as
4 much as possible. District 19, including that
5 southern portion of Clay, has all of Putnam
6 County, as well as all of Bradford and Union
7 Counties whole within it.

8 Moving over into kind of this area here,
9 District 20, this recreates a black opportunity
10 district within Alachua and Marion Counties.
11 District 21 has the remaining portion of
12 Alachua County, and then keeps these two
13 counties whole. Bear with me for just a
14 minute. I'm trying to see where I can see all
15 the county names. Sorry. There we go,
16 excellent. Now we can all see the county names
17 as we look through these districts as well. So
18 District 21 keeps all of Gilchrist and Dixie
19 Counties whole within it as well. Again,
20 keeping counties whole, the next district,
21 which is District 22, has all of Levy County
22 and then a portion of Marion County. District
23 23 is contained all within Marion County. That
24 was something we heard from the public
25 testimony from those residents, keeping --

1 trying to keep a district wholly within Marion
2 County. Actually, I am going to turn those
3 county names off, if you will bear with me, so
4 that we can see the district numbers as well.

5 Now I will talk about the Volusia County
6 area. Thinking about how District 24 comes
7 into Volusia County, if you take that
8 population and what is left within the county,
9 you can create three districts wholly contained
10 within Volusia County, and that is achieved by
11 Districts 25 through 27. District 26 recreates
12 a black opportunity district, and then District
13 25 has kind of more of the coastal areas here,
14 and some cities are kept whole here in the
15 southern end, and then District 27 consists of
16 basically the southern end of Volusia County.

17 Moving on to central Florida, central
18 Florida is one of the decision points between
19 maps 9025, 9027 and 9031. Again, this
20 configuration for central Florida is the same
21 between 9025 and 9027. It is different in
22 9031, and I will discuss that at the end rather
23 than try to go back and forth. It is a rather
24 large area, and I will just describe that at
25 the end.

1 Looking at -- if you look at -- here we
2 go. I wanted to turn those county boundaries
3 on. If you look at Seminole County here with
4 Districts 28 and 29, they are both wholly
5 contained within Seminole County, and using a
6 major roadway of U.S. 17/92 as the dividing
7 line between the two districts. I will kind of
8 zoom in here a little bit, too, so you can see
9 some of the municipal boundaries, as keeping
10 cities whole, again, was a theme as far as
11 building these districts in this region, as I
12 had mentioned earlier. Looking at the City of
13 Lake Mary and looking at the City of Longwood,
14 they are both kept whole, as well as the city
15 here, which is Winter Springs, as well as
16 Oviedo. So those are all kept whole between
17 the two districts.

18 As you -- as you move to the south here
19 with District 30, it does span Seminole and
20 Orange County. Thinking of the Maitland area,
21 as well as Altamonte Springs, those are areas
22 that have a lot of commonalities, even though
23 the county line separates them.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Jeff, there
25 are some curious members who are wondering if

1 when you were helping draft District 30, if you
2 were trying to make it look like a 1957 Chevy.
3 Would that be appropriate?

4 MR. TAKACS: Mr. --

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Zoom in on
6 that for us. Is it a Chevy?

7 MR. TAKACS: Folks, I have said that
8 redistricting is an art, not a science, but --

9 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Just kidding,
10 of course.

11 MR. TAKACS: Certainly, certainly.

12 Thinking about -- kind of talk about
13 Orange County a little more globally. Thinking
14 about Orange County, again, this is a big pivot
15 point between the different maps. If you look
16 at this region here, I am going to kind of pull
17 out Districts 45, 46 and 48. District 45 would
18 be a new black opportunity district within the
19 region, District 46 would recreate a
20 majority-minority black district in the region
21 and District 48 would recreate a
22 majority-minority Hispanic district within the
23 region. That majority-minority Hispanic
24 district spans Orange and Osceola County, and I
25 will talk about that in a moment, but we were

1 able to keep that district wholly within Orange
2 County, again, looking at county boundaries as
3 the driver of keeping these districts within
4 counties.

5 District 49, as was mentioned in the
6 video, kind of a UCF-based district, and I have
7 already talked about kind of Districts 50
8 through 53 here in the Space Coast area, so I
9 will kind of move into the more of a center
10 area of the state.

11 District 31, a northern Lake County-based
12 seat, which does come into areas of Orange
13 County here. District 32 wholly based within
14 Lake County. District 33 keeps Sumter County
15 whole. It looks at the area that is The
16 Villages. That has been mentioned previously.
17 Interestingly enough, the House subcommittee
18 examined this in great detail many weeks ago as
19 far as the concept of trade-offs between
20 keeping counties whole and cross-county
21 jurisdictions, and they were able to determine
22 that they can achieve both by keeping Sumter
23 County whole, as well as this region known as
24 The Villages. Again, looking at this region,
25 thinking about District 34, again, that keeps

1 all of Citrus County whole, comes into
2 Hernando. District 35 keeps all of Hernando
3 County whole.

4 When you look at Pasco County, its
5 population is that of -- equally of three House
6 districts, so that is what is achieved here
7 with 36 through 38. Again, trying to equalize
8 the populations, but utilizing roadways is --
9 was the driver as far as the separation between
10 the western, central and eastern districts
11 within Pasco County.

12 Moving into the Polk/Osceola region here,
13 I will kind of start out of order here. If you
14 look at District 40, that is a district wholly
15 contained within Polk County and has the most
16 of Lakeland within it. District 39 has the
17 northern portion there of Polk County, and then
18 for population purposes, comes into Osceola
19 County. District 41, again, wholly contained
20 within Polk County. As we look at Districts 39
21 and 41 -- actually, I'm going to zoom in and
22 look at some of the city boundaries here.
23 There are a lot of municipalities within Polk
24 County, as you can see, that have a lot of
25 meandering boundaries. As we have looked at

1 the boundaries between 39 and 41, we are
2 continuing to evaluate if there's opportunities
3 to keep more cities whole within this county,
4 within the districts, and we are going to
5 continue to evaluate that, and continue to
6 evaluate that across the map, to be honest.

7 Looking at District 42, it has the
8 majority of Osceola County and comes into the
9 eastern portion of Polk County. As I mentioned
10 here, District 43 is a majority-minority
11 Hispanic district that is wholly contained
12 within Osceola County. This would be a new
13 opportunity for Hispanic-Americans in that
14 region to elect a candidate of their choice
15 that previously did not exist.

16 I will kind of move to the -- I will move
17 to this region here. Thinking about the
18 four-county region of Pinellas, Hillsborough,
19 Sarasota and Manatee Counties, if you look at
20 the county boundaries here, you can see that
21 they are all kept intact, and that's because
22 those four counties' populations are that of
23 equal of 18 House districts. So what we did
24 was put those 18 House districts wholly within
25 those four counties and tried to cross county

1 boundary lines as few as possible, thinking
2 about Districts 64 and 70, crossing county
3 boundary lines. I should mention District 70
4 is a black opportunity district. And then
5 looking at the way that 70 kind of bisects
6 Sarasota and Manatee County, it was actually
7 enabling us to have four whole districts within
8 both of those two counties. So that would
9 explain that region here. And just kind of
10 coming back up to Hillsborough County, I should
11 mention that in this region, District 61
12 recreates the black majority-minority district,
13 and District 62 is actually a majority-minority
14 Hispanic district. That used to be an
15 opportunity district, but with the population
16 growth in that region of the Hispanic
17 community, it is now a majority-minority
18 district within the county. You can see
19 basically we just kind of segmented that off as
20 almost like a wheel as far as looking at this
21 area here from 63, 58, 57, 59 and 60; again,
22 keeping all of those districts wholly within
23 the county, using roadways as the predominant
24 divider between the districts and when possible
25 -- the City of Tampa is a large city, it is

1 actually too large to be kept whole within a
2 House district, so it is divided within this
3 plan. I will kind of zoom out here and talk
4 about --

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: If we could,
6 I think Mr. Kelly wanted to add something to
7 the conversation.

8 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just
9 wanted to note, too, as it pertains to the
10 minority opportunity and majority-minority
11 districts in the Hillsborough County area,
12 Hillsborough County is a Section 5-covered
13 jurisdiction, so there is a significant amount
14 of legal issues involved in terms of
15 maintaining those opportunities. Just wanted
16 to add that.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.
18 Continue.

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

20 As you look at this larger central Florida
21 area, again, trying to keep counties whole was
22 the driver here. You can see that these two,
23 Hardee and DeSoto Counties, are kept whole
24 within this district as it moves up into Polk
25 County. As you recall from the video, we

1 received testimony asking for U.S. 17 to be the
2 major artery of a district, and that is
3 achieved with District 56. District 55 keeps
4 all of Highlands, Okeechobee and Glades County
5 whole, then for population purposes, comes into
6 St. Lucie County, which is a county that has to
7 be split based on its population. I mentioned
8 Indian River County earlier in the public
9 comment. It is kept whole within District 54,
10 and, again, coming into St. Lucie for extra
11 population.

12 Looking at St. Lucie County, District 84
13 is wholly contained within the county. It is
14 actually not -- they don't have that
15 opportunity now. They are -- they sought that
16 in the public testimony that we received, that
17 they wanted to have a district wholly contained
18 within the county, and District 84 achieves
19 that.

20 We have talked a little bit at length
21 about Martin County and how it is divided.
22 There is one thing that I should mention --
23 actually two things I would like to mention.
24 One is that we have taken a pretty serious look
25 at the concept of keeping Martin County whole

1 within a House map, the population of Martin
2 County is so that it could be kept whole, but
3 the -- there are several challenges that are
4 presented with that.

5 When you look at the way District 82 is
6 configured and how it comes into Palm Beach
7 County here, the population of Palm Beach
8 County that is in District 82 then allows us to
9 have eight districts in Palm Beach County
10 wholly contained within the county. And I will
11 zoom in here a little bit. You will see that
12 that Palm Beach County/Broward line is kept
13 intact based on that population. So thinking
14 about that, just taking a step back, if you
15 were to take that population out of this
16 district and put Martin County whole all within
17 a district, what you would end up happening is
18 that all of the districts essentially south of
19 Martin County would end up needing to be
20 redrawn, and that county line be broken. And
21 then also thinking about as you move to the
22 north and to the west, all of these districts
23 would push up and push to the northwest, so you
24 would see a potential of 70 to 80 districts
25 that would need to be redrawn as a consequence

1 of keeping Martin County whole within this
2 plan.

3 Martin County is situated in that it is in
4 between two counties, St. Lucie and Palm Beach,
5 that need to be -- that need to be split based
6 on its population, but it is also surrounded by
7 counties that can be kept whole as you look at
8 Okeechobee County and Glades County and so
9 forth. So that is a challenge that was
10 presented there.

11 Again, talking about Palm Beach County, as
12 I mentioned, eight districts are wholly
13 contained within the county. There are two
14 districts that I want to point out
15 specifically, Districts 87 and 88. District 87
16 would be a new majority-minority Hispanic
17 district within the county, it would be a new
18 opportunity for Hispanic Americans in that
19 region. And District 88 is a majority-minority
20 black district that runs north to south along
21 transportation corridors, thinking about 95 and
22 U.S. 1. As you can see here, as we kind of
23 zoom in here a little bit, you can see that
24 city boundaries were heavily examined as we
25 were building the districts in this region and

1 trying to keep cities whole within this various
2 districts within this county.

3 I will move forward here to Broward
4 County. Again, that Palm Beach County/Broward
5 line is kept whole, as you can see here. When
6 you look at Districts 92, 94 and 95, they are
7 black opportunity districts. And you can see,
8 again, looking at the concept of keeping cities
9 whole and using roadways was predominantly
10 used, when possible, when building these
11 districts.

12 When you think about the more urban areas,
13 and we will talk about this as I move forward
14 into Miami-Dade County, thinking about there
15 are so many municipalities in Broward and
16 Miami-Dade Counties, that what we tried to do
17 was if we had to break a city boundary was
18 use -- was use roadways in order to do that.
19 So that way when voters are trying to
20 understand what district they live in, they can
21 say, well, if you live between this street and
22 this street, and this street and this street,
23 you are in the district, and that is what you
24 can see here by a lot of the square-like shaped
25 districts within Miami-Dade County.

1 I should mention that District 101 here
2 that is in Broward County, wholly in Broward
3 County, is a black opportunity district, and
4 District 102 here is a majority-minority
5 district that crosses both into the Broward and
6 Miami-Dade County lines.

7 Thinking about Miami-Dade County as a
8 whole, all of the 11 majority-minority Hispanic
9 districts are recreated within this proposal.
10 That was actually as a result of an amendment
11 that the House subcommittee examined to make
12 changes to District 113 to do that, to recreate
13 that majority-minority district. Looking at
14 Districts 107, 108 and 109, they are
15 majority-minority black districts, with
16 concentrations of Haitian populations --
17 Haitian-American populations, I should say,
18 being within Districts 107 and 108.

19 Again, as you look at this county as a
20 whole, there's a lot of square or
21 rectangle-shaped districts that are using
22 roadways as their boundaries to create those
23 smooth edges and create those shapes. And,
24 again, thinking about city boundary lines,
25 we -- they talked Cutler Bay in that video,

1 that is kept whole within this region as well.

2 Moving a little bit further south, when
3 you look at Districts 117 and 120, 120 is the
4 district that has all of Monroe County within
5 it. That was requested by the people of that
6 region, and then it comes up here into
7 Miami-Dade County for population purposes. And
8 then District 117 is a black opportunity
9 district within this region. That is actually
10 a recreation of that opportunity for those
11 residents in that region.

12 I will zoom out here and kind of curve up
13 here to the western side and just kind of
14 finish out by talking about Collier, Hendry and
15 Lee Counties. You can see here Collier County
16 has three districts within it. District 80 has
17 the northern portion of the county, and then
18 includes all of Hendry County, again, keeping
19 counties whole within this district as much as
20 possible. Looking at District 105, it crosses
21 Collier County into Miami-Dade County and
22 Broward County. That is a similar
23 configuration to a district that exists today
24 that was as a result of a DOJ pre-clearance
25 issue, and that was linking the Hispanic

1 communities within Collier to that of
2 Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. District 106
3 is wholly contained within Collier County. It
4 also keeps the City of Naples whole and runs
5 along Tamiami Trail here as its border within
6 the district between it and 105.

7 Again, looking at Lee County, as we will
8 finish up these two maps, Lee County has a
9 population that is roughly that of four House
10 districts, and you can see that there are four
11 districts that are wholly contained within the
12 county in this proposal. District 77 is the
13 bulk -- actually has all of the City of Cape
14 Coral within it, and that is the bulk of that
15 district, 78 has all of the City of Ft. Myers
16 within its boundaries, District 76 has all of
17 Bonita Springs and Sanibel within its
18 boundaries and links those barrier islands
19 together with areas to the south, and then
20 District 79 is an east Lee County seat.
21 Thinking about Lehigh Acres and the testimony
22 that we received there, that was their desire,
23 to see that created. And that is essentially
24 maps 9025 and 9027.

25 What I would like to do briefly is just

1 talk about the differences of where 9031 has
2 with those other maps, and it is in two
3 regions. It is in the northeast Florida area
4 with Duval and Clay Counties, and then in
5 central Florida, and I will just briefly
6 describe both of those and show those to you
7 here visually.

8 The major difference with 9031 is when you
9 look at Districts 15 and 18 and how they
10 connect Duval and Clay Counties, you can see
11 that, thinking about the previous plans,
12 District 18 kept all of Clay County whole
13 within those plans. This would deviate from
14 that. District 18 comes down into areas of
15 Clay County. And then District 15 is, you
16 know, a smaller geographic shape and then comes
17 in to grab all of Orange Park within Clay
18 County. So that is the difference with 9031 in
19 that region.

20 In looking at central Florida, the biggest
21 difference here is when you look at District
22 45. When I mentioned the previous maps,
23 District 45 was a -- is a black opportunity
24 district with a VAP, a black VAP, of roughly
25 40 percent. That decision point removes

1 that -- removes that seat and only has the
2 majority-minority black district within it
3 here, which is 46. And you can see the ripple
4 effect of what happens with the various
5 districts within Lake, Seminole and Orange
6 Counties. There are -- now you see three
7 districts cross the Seminole County/Orange
8 County line, 29, 30 and 49, and then District
9 39 becomes the district that is wholly
10 contained within Lake County, and then 32
11 becomes a southern Lake County using the
12 Turnpike as a dividing line as it crosses into
13 Orange County.

14 Mr. Chairman, those are the differences.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
16 very much, Mr. Takacs.

17 Members, are there any questions of Mr.
18 Takacs in regard to the three maps that we just
19 walked through? Any questions? Questions or
20 suggestions?

21 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Suggestions.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Let's do
23 questions first. Are there any questions
24 first?

25 Okay. Seeing no questions, Representative

1 Nehr, you are recognized for a suggestion or
2 comment.

3 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Thank you,
4 Mr. Chair.

5 That was a great presentation, thank you
6 so much. And based on this presentation, I
7 noticed, and please let me know if I am wrong,
8 that the maps 9025 and 9027 are almost nearly
9 identical. And what I noticed also in these
10 two maps is that they both create a new very
11 compact seat in Orange County. What I really
12 like about that new seat is that it has a
13 significant African-American population, and I
14 think that this is a great opportunity for
15 minority constituents.

16 So when I also no- -- when you were
17 mentioning the map 9031, I noticed that it did
18 not create that seat. So I would prefer that
19 we created that seat, so I would prefer maps,
20 Mr. Chairman, 9025 and 9027, and I would
21 suggest that we don't even consider 9031.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay. Thank
23 you for that suggestion.

24 Members, any other suggestions?

25 Representative Workman, you are recognized

1 for a suggestion, sir.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: Thank you very
3 much, Chairman.

4 I don't like 9031 either, just what it
5 does to Clay County, to be honest with you. So
6 9025 or 27 I think are the better two.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay. Thank
8 you for that comment.

9 Representative Holder, you are recognized
10 for a comment -- anybody else on deck? No,
11 okay. Representative Holder, and then
12 Representative Adkins.

13 Representative Holder, you are recognized.

14 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Thank you,
15 Mr. Chair.

16 9027 definitely gives Leon County -- if we
17 remember in the very beginning when we were
18 looking at this area, Leon County would have
19 its own seat, which in 9025, it doesn't. And I
20 think that that makes 9027 a lot more
21 consistent with following the county lines,
22 which we have been talking about. So I would
23 -- I would suggest 9027 over 9025.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: All right.
25 Thank you, Mr. Holder.

1 Representative Adkins for a comment.

2 REPRESENTATIVE ADKINS: Thank you,
3 Mr. Chairman. I recall staff mentioned that
4 map 9027 would only split Tallahassee two ways
5 as opposed to the three ways in the other map.
6 So it is a subtle difference, but I think it is
7 an important one, and I think that 9027 is a
8 map that I certainly would be comfortable with.

9 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay. Other
10 comments, suggestions, questions?

11 Representative Kiar, you are recognized
12 for a comment.

13 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Thank you,
14 Mr. Chair. Actually, it is a question with
15 regard to District 104. I thank you very much
16 though.

17 I am just wondering -- I am pretty
18 familiar with this area and I was wondering, is
19 that a Hispanic access seat now, or no?
20 District 104?

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I think
22 Representative -- not Representative -- Alex
23 Kelly is going to answer that question.

24 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Thank you.

25 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 Representative, I believe the Hispanic
2 voting age population exceeds about 43 percent
3 probably at this time. That may be too low to
4 say that it's got a reasonable chance of
5 performing for a Hispanic candidate. It
6 certainly increases the number of Hispanic
7 Floridians in a seat in that area, but I
8 probably would hesitate to call it an
9 opportunity district, because typically in that
10 part of the state, when you look at -- in terms
11 of voting age population and then actually
12 participating in the electoral process, there
13 is sometimes a 10 to 15 percent drop-off in
14 that. But, again, it is certainly a greater
15 concentration than the prior districts.

16 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Thank you. May I
17 ask one other question, Mr. Chair?

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes, sir.

19 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Thank you. Then the
20 only other question I was wondering, I am
21 looking at -- I am just curious. I think it is
22 District -- I want to say 105 where it
23 stretches from basically Collier all the way to
24 Miami-Dade, and I just -- I was just thinking
25 about this while I was watching, as I was

1 looking at it. Is that -- is that only in
2 Collier County, or does that go all the way
3 across the state?

4 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Jeff, you are
5 recognized.

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

7 That district does cross Collier County
8 into Miami-Dade County, as well as Broward
9 County.

10 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Thank you. May I
11 ask a follow-up, Mr. Chair?

12 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes for a
13 follow-up.

14 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: I am just wondering,
15 you know, and this is my own personal -- I
16 don't really understand if this is right or
17 not, but I know that in, for example, the
18 current Senate map, not the one that was
19 passed, but the one that people are still
20 currently serving in, it kind of reminds me to
21 be a similar district to Dave Aronberg's former
22 district and Lizbeth Benacquisto's district
23 right now where it just stretches across the
24 state, and I know, for example, in the Senate
25 maps they determined that they wanted to cut

1 that, because they believed it didn't comply
2 with the new amendment. So I am just
3 wondering, on this one district, because it
4 does seem to stretch straight across similar to
5 that, is it -- does this district comply with
6 the new amendments when it comes to compactness
7 and things of that nature?

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Very good
9 question, and I think Alex has got an answer
10 for it.

11 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12 Representative, ten years ago the
13 Legislature attempted to redraw something of
14 this seat entirely on the western side of the
15 state in Collier County and so forth. The
16 Department of Justice refused to pre-clear the
17 seat. The House had to go to federal court
18 with the Department of Justice there. The
19 concern there was that Collier County, which is
20 a covered jurisdiction under Section 5 of the
21 Voting Rights Act, the concern there was that
22 Hispanic Floridians would not be able to elect
23 a candidate of choice. Had the Legislature
24 just connected the seats in Miami-Dade, they
25 would be able to elect a candidate of choice as

1 part of -- I believe it was a court settlement
2 -- counsel is nodding yes -- as part of a court
3 settlement. The Legislature agreed to redraw
4 that seat, connecting it with Miami-Dade
5 Hispanic residents to maintain that ability to
6 elect. So that seat was actually a
7 court-ordered drawing.

8 Just so you know, in terms of a
9 difference, in terms of talking about
10 cross-state seats, as part of that settlement,
11 the effect of it was that there was another
12 district that was also drawn across state in
13 order to minimize what that court settlement
14 required, and that cross-state district has
15 been eliminated. But, again, this seat was
16 actually required per a court settlement and a
17 refusal to pre-clear.

18 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Thank you,
19 Mr. Chair. That was very helpful.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay, great.
21 Any other questions, suggestions, from members?

22 Yes, Representative Rogers, you are
23 recognized.

24 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: I am asking for a
25 definition of "opportunity districts."

1 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You would
2 like a definition of "opportunity districts"?

3 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: As it relates
4 to --

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: A legal
6 definition?

7 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: No, I will take
8 your --

9 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: No, you don't
10 want mine. Mine would probably not be as
11 accurate. We have Mr. Meros here. Is there a
12 legal definition of an opportunity district,
13 and if so, maybe our legal counsel could give
14 that to us.

15 You are recognized, Mr. Meros. Thanks for
16 being here. Would you turn the microphone on,
17 please?

18 MR. MEROS: There really is no precise
19 definition of an opportunity district or an
20 influenced district. The notion is that the
21 minority population would be sufficient to have
22 a significant influence and impact on policy
23 decisions. Sometimes you might want to say an
24 opportunity district might be one that could,
25 in fact, elect the minority's candidate of

1 choice, but may not. But those are -- those
2 are not legally precise terms. I guess you
3 didn't like that --

4 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: For a
5 follow-up.

6 MR. MEROS: -- explanation.

7 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Okay. How does
8 that differ from a coalition district?

9 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Meros?

10 MR. MEROS: Well, a coalition district is
11 one where either the minority population would
12 coalesce with another minority population and
13 vote similarly, or a minority population would
14 coalesce with a non-minority population and
15 vote similarly. That is the notion of two
16 groups getting together and voting in the same
17 way.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Maybe we can
19 have more coalition voting in the Florida
20 Legislature, what do you think about that?

21 Representative Rogers, do you have a
22 follow-up? You are good? Okay, great.

23 Thank you, Mr. Meros, for clarifying both
24 of those terms for us. We will continue to
25 work on our coalition building in the Florida

1 House for sure.

2 Any other questions or suggestions from
3 members?

4 What I have gotten from this is, you know,
5 there was a couple of suggestions to not move
6 forward with 9031 on the premise that it did
7 not have the minority-majority seat and the
8 access seat in Orange County. There was some
9 suggestion -- when you really look at 9025 and
10 9027, they are essentially the same everywhere
11 except for in the Tallahassee area. You have
12 one that has three county splits, or three
13 districts in one county; the other one has two.
14 I think in the spirit of the law and what we
15 are trying to do, the preferable district would
16 be 9027, which I think we had a few people
17 mention. So that doesn't mean that anything in
18 9025 or anything in 9031 that you may like,
19 members, or anything else cannot be
20 incorporated, but for the purposes of moving
21 forward and for clarity for the membership who
22 are going to be filing amendments, I think we
23 should move forward with 9027, and any
24 amendments that members may have can address
25 them to 9027 for next week's committee meeting.

1 Does anybody have any questions or
2 comments about that? Representative Kiar, you
3 are recognized.

4 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Thank you,
5 Mr. Chair. So the maps are -- the only map
6 then that is going to move forward is 9027 at
7 this time? So the other two are -- is that
8 what you --

9 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: It is not --
10 they will all be available for the committee
11 meeting next week, but the truth is now the
12 nuances between the districts are now becoming
13 much smaller. And so as opposed to hearing and
14 taking the time to go through three maps, the
15 idea would be we focus on one map. If you like
16 a portion of another map, you can file an
17 amendment, we would help you file the amendment
18 to add that -- those distinctions to 9027. So
19 it is -- if you want to incorporate any of the
20 maps that we are currently looking at now or
21 any other thing, or any other map that has been
22 drawn in the past, we can incorporate it, but
23 just so that members are clear about what to
24 draft amendments to, we are going to focus on
25 9027.

1 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Thank you very much.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Any other
3 questions?

4 Okay, great. Moving forward, we are going
5 to move to the Senate map introduction. Before
6 we do that, I would like to recognize Chairman
7 Representative Nehr, who has done a great job
8 on the Senate maps, and along with his partner,
9 Representative Hukill.

10 Representative Nehr, you are recognized to
11 give us a brief description, and then we will
12 turn it over to Jason Poreda to explain the
13 difference, or explain the map.

14 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Thank you,
15 Mr. Chairman.

16 Before Mr. Poreda gives a more detailed
17 presentation of the Senate map proposal, I
18 wanted to share with the members of the
19 Committee some details regarding the plan as a
20 whole and how it compares to the current
21 district plan that we have right now.

22 For the 40 districts in this map, there is
23 only a 1.84 percent total population deviation.
24 Compared to the current map, the bill reduces
25 the number of county splits from 45 all the way

1 down to 31, and the number of city splits from
2 126 to the really low number of only 78, and I
3 think that is a very, very good thing that we
4 did.

5 In looking at some of the more
6 mathematical compactness scores relating to
7 perimeters and height and width of districts as
8 it looks on the map, this proposed committee
9 bill consistently improves the compactness of
10 Florida's 40 State Senate districts. Looking
11 at some of the more functional compactness
12 measures, such as drive times, the bill again
13 consistently improves these measures of
14 compactness compared to the existing State
15 Senate map.

16 The bill maintains Florida's commitment to
17 compliance with the Federal Voting Rights Act
18 of 1965, both Sections 2 and 5, and the
19 Florida's constitutional standards regarding
20 racial and language minorities. In fact,
21 Mr. Chairman, the bill increases the number of
22 50 percent plus Hispanic voting age population
23 districts from three in the current map to five
24 in the proposed committee bill. So the bill
25 would most likely increase representation for

1 Hispanic Floridians.

2 Mr. Chairman, thank you for the
3 opportunity, and that concludes my comments.

4 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
5 very much, and congratulations again. With
6 that, we will move to Mr. Poreda, who is going
7 to walk us through some of the details of the
8 map.

9 MR. POREDA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
10 will try to get through the map as briefly as
11 possible so we can get out of here. So I will
12 kind of follow along with what Mr. Kelly and
13 what Mr. Takacs did and kind of talk about the
14 map regionally, as opposed to getting into the
15 specifics of exactly what each district does.

16 So I will first talk about Districts 2 and
17 4, which kind of work in conjunction to each
18 other. They are kind of horizontally drawn
19 districts that one includes the coastal
20 community of those counties, the other, the
21 more rural parts of those counties, and then
22 ends at the county line of -- I will turn on
23 the county names so you can see them -- of
24 Jackson and Bay County before moving further
25 east.

1 Kind of talking about -- I will kind of
2 start with talking about -- it's District 6 on
3 this map, but kind of talk about it with
4 District 3 and District 14 that you see there.
5 District 6, 3 and 14 all encompass basically
6 just whole counties. You can see District 6 is
7 made up entirely of whole counties,
8 specifically, Gadsden, Calhoun, Gulf, Liberty,
9 Franklin, Taylor, Wakulla, Jefferson, Leon,
10 Madison and Hamilton Counties. District 3
11 encompasses a lot of the counties -- whole
12 counties along the Nature Coast, as well as a
13 part of Marion. District 14 includes all of
14 Clay County, Bradford County and Alachua
15 County. So you can see that the -- how they
16 were all drawn.

17 Then kind of moving over into the
18 northeast Jacksonville area, I will first talk
19 about District 1 that you see here on the map,
20 which kind of stretches from the Jacksonville
21 area down through St. Johns County and the
22 Putnam County, eventually ending up in the
23 Daytona Beach area around in Volusia County.
24 That is a district that was redrawn that
25 traditionally elects a minority candidate of

1 choice, and this map kind of maintains that
2 same opportunity. District 5 and District 8
3 kind of drawn keeping with that minority
4 opportunity district that you see right there
5 kind of in mind. District 5 encompasses most
6 of the rest of Duval County and then keeps
7 Nassau County whole, and District 8 kind of
8 runs along the coast of St. Johns and Flagler
9 down into Volusia County there.

10 You can see here District 20 keeps -- has
11 the majority of Marion County, including all of
12 the City of Ocala, the majority of Putnam
13 County, and then goes a little bit into Lee and
14 Sumter Counties to keep The Villages community
15 whole, and then some of the municipalities here
16 in Lee County whole as well on the north side.

17 Kind of getting into the central Florida
18 area, District 19 is another district that
19 recreates a -- or kind of maintains a -- the
20 opportunity for minorities in the areas of
21 Orange County and part of Seminole County to
22 elect their candidate of choice, a district
23 that has traditionally elected their candidate
24 of choice.

25 District 24 is a new majority Hispanic

1 district that was drawn in central Florida that
2 encompasses part of Orange, Osceola and Polk
3 Counties. And then you can see some of the
4 public input that we received from Volusia
5 County was asking to keep the majority of that
6 county wholly together, and which this does
7 going a little bit south into Brevard County
8 and also Orange County for population.

9 Kind of going back over to the Gulf Coast,
10 you can see that kind of south of District 3
11 and District 20 that we talked about before,
12 District 11 here encompasses most -- all of
13 Hernando County and then a lot of Pasco and
14 Sumter Counties.

15 And then kind of in the Hillsborough area,
16 as we mentioned before, Hillsborough County is
17 a Section 5-protected county. District 18 that
18 you see here is a district that was redrawn to
19 create the opportunity for minorities in that
20 area to elect their candidate of choice. This
21 map kind of recreates that opportunity.

22 District 10 and District 13 are drawn wholly
23 within either Pinellas or Hillsborough County
24 to kind of give them a seat there. District 15
25 kind of wraps around that majority-minority

1 district that we talked about before,
2 encompassing the rest of Osceola County and the
3 north part of Polk County and a little bit of
4 south Orange County there.

5 In the center of the state, you see
6 District 17 that keeps several counties whole,
7 including the south part of Polk and then going
8 over to include the more rural parts of St.
9 Lucie and Martin Counties. And District 28 and
10 26 kind of run along the coast, the Space
11 Coast, down to the Treasure Coast here, kind of
12 keeping those communities whole there.

13 Going kind of back over to the Gulf Coast
14 real quick, you can Sarasota County was kept
15 whole in District 23, and then the more coastal
16 areas of Lee and Collier County were kept whole
17 or kept together in District 37.

18 Moving back over to kind of the southeast
19 Florida area, kind of zoom in a little bit so
20 you can see the District 29, which is a -- it
21 looks like a very thin district that kind of
22 runs from Palm Beach to Broward County. That
23 is a majority-minority black seat that was
24 recreated on this map. And the other districts
25 that you can see drawn around them kind of keep

1 those communities together kind of around
2 there, and a lot of respect was drawn to city
3 boundaries. Maybe I can try to turn them on so
4 you can see them, zoom in a little bit. That
5 is how some of these areas in here were drawn,
6 keeping that minority district in mind,
7 obviously splitting some cities, but where
8 possible, keeping the other boundaries whole.

9 And then as you go south, District 39, as
10 I mentioned before, residents of Hendry County
11 were asked to not be connected with residents
12 of Dade County. That is another district
13 that -- because of Hendry and Collier Counties'
14 Section 5 protection, that is another district
15 that was drawn -- recreated to maintain the
16 same opportunity that exists today in that
17 district.

18 And then there are three other districts
19 in Dade County that have a voting age --
20 Hispanic voting age population of above
21 50 percent. That would be 38, 36 and 35 here
22 on the map.

23 District 33 that you see there kind of
24 stretches over the Broward/Miami-Dade line.
25 That is a district that is a majority-minority

1 black seat that was redrawn as well.

2 And that's kind of the basic points of the
3 map.

4 A VOICE: Is there a fourth?

5 MR. POREDA: I'm sorry, that is right.
6 District 40 that you see right here that has
7 part of Hialeah, that is actually a fourth
8 majority-minority Hispanic district in Dade
9 County.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay, great.
11 Members, any questions for Mr. Poreda in regard
12 to the Senate map? Okay, Representative Kiar.

13 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: I just have a quick
14 question. I have been wondering about -- on
15 District 39, you see how there's -- you know,
16 it is a big district, but then all of a sudden,
17 there's like a little line that shoots all the
18 way through to butt up against the other
19 majority-minority district, and I am just
20 wondering, that little line right there, what's
21 the need for it and does that make a district
22 contiguous?

23 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You are
24 recognized.

25 MR. POREDA: Yes, that district does

1 remain contiguous. It is all wholly kept
2 together. The reason for those -- that kind of
3 extension of the district is to increase the
4 black voting age population of the district to
5 maintain that same opportunity since it is
6 connected to Collier and Hendry County, the
7 protected counties under Section 5.

8 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Just one follow-up?

9 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You are
10 recognized.

11 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: So I guess my
12 follow-up question to that is, does that then
13 decrease the black voting age population of
14 District 33, or does that still remain the
15 same?

16 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You are
17 recognized.

18 MR. POREDA: It doesn't decrease it under
19 50 percent. It is still an over 50 percent
20 majority-minority seat. The exact
21 percentage -- if you will give me a moment.
22 The percentage of the black voting age
23 population in District 33 that you see there on
24 the map is 57.75. On the current map that it
25 is right now, it is currently 59.23 percent.

1 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Thank you. Thank
2 you, Mr. Chair.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You're
4 welcome. Thank you.

5 Any other questions? Representative
6 Bernard, did you have a question? You are
7 recognized, sir.

8 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Thank you,
9 Mr. Chair. This will also be long-winded.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Then you can
11 probably predict what my suggestion will be.

12 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: But I just want
13 to get it on the record, Mr. Chair.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Please do so.

15 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: This is my
16 attempt to redo the minority districts in
17 District 29 and 33, which will change the
18 current -- this map, District 25, 29, 30, 34,
19 31, 32 and 33.

20 First let's go into District 29. What I
21 am proposing is based on the map that we -- the
22 House map that we picked, to configure it to be
23 more along the line of District 92, 94 and 95.
24 District 92, the total black population is
25 52,674.84. The District 94 is 85,310.57.

1 District 95 is 89,304. That would lead you to
2 a total of 227,290 black population. If you
3 combine those three districts, that totals
4 466,169, which would change that district to a
5 total black population of 48.76.

6 In regards to the Hispanic population in
7 that district, the -- in District 92, the total
8 Hispanic population is 27,530, in District 94,
9 it is 18,842 and in District 95, it is 26,206,
10 which would total 72,578.35, which would lead
11 you to a total Hispanic population of 15.57.

12 The total Haitian population in that
13 district, in 92, is 16,391, 16,527, 20,150,
14 which is a total of 53,068 population, which
15 would lead you to a total of 11.38 Haitian
16 population.

17 The total District 29 now would be --
18 basically it would look like exactly District
19 92, 94, 95, and where it wouldn't stretch into
20 Palm Beach County and where it would maintain a
21 compact shape in Broward County. The cities
22 that it would include would be -- it would make
23 the cities of Deerfield Beach more compact, Ft.
24 Lauderdale more compact, Oakland Park more
25 compact, Pompano Beach more compact, Wilton

1 Manors, Lauderdale Lakes, Margate, North
2 Lauderdale, Tamarac, Lauderdale Hill, Lazy Lake,
3 Plantation, North Lauderdale and Sunrise, and
4 that would be that district.

5 What it does is it changes how you would
6 draw the districts, the population in Palm
7 Beach County would also have to change. Based
8 on the current House map that we -- that we
9 said we are going to go with, currently
10 District 87 as it is drawn is a
11 majority-minority seat, and District 88 --
12 District 87 is a majority Hispanic seat and
13 District 88 is a majority-minority seat. If a
14 district is drawn from -- from the top of the
15 -- I think from North Lake all the way down to
16 the Delray Beach line, and it includes -- if
17 you go from Military Trail east to Dixie, or if
18 you go all the way out to the ocean, where if
19 you include the districts of 89, 90 and 91,
20 that would give you a total population of --
21 the total black population would be 30 percent,
22 the total Hispanic population would be
23 28 percent. The total voting age population, I
24 believe, would be near a 28 percent black
25 population and about a 26 percent Hispanic

1 population. Therefore, in Palm Beach County,
2 the residents of Palm Beach County would be
3 able to elect a Representative of their choice
4 by creating a coalition district where now they
5 would be different.

6 Now, what that -- the cities that this
7 district would include would be the cities of
8 Delray Beach, Boynton Beach, Lake Park, Lake
9 Worth, Lantana would be a stronger district,
10 Mangonia Park, Riviera Beach, West Palm Beach
11 would be much stronger. You would have the
12 cities of Cloud Lake, Glen Ridge, Green Acres,
13 Lake Shores, Palm Springs, Hypoluxo and the
14 City of Atlantis.

15 Next, because of the total population of
16 Broward County, based on the census, Broward
17 County's got a population of 1,748,066
18 population. The total population for Broward
19 County is 26.7 black, 25.1 percent Hispanic,
20 43.5 percent white. So the total black
21 population in Broward County is 466,733.62 and
22 the total Hispanic population is 438,764.66 and
23 the total white population is 760,408.71. By
24 changing District 29 to be predominantly in
25 Broward County, now what we can do is we have

1 to change District 33, which is a -- which is
2 now a Miami-Dade and a Broward County seat.
3 What I am proposing is that the Miami-Dade
4 District 33 seat would stay only in Dade
5 County, and that would include the district of
6 107, 108 and 109, which is the districts that
7 we drew out of this Committee. Now, what
8 you -- then what you would have to do is
9 District 31, as is proposed, what I am
10 suggesting is that we make that a coalition
11 district where it would be compact where you
12 would include the district of 101 and 102 and
13 you could add part of District 100 and part
14 of -- where you would probably split Miami
15 Gardens into two. By doing that, then District
16 31 would be a coalition district where it would
17 be -- you could probably add -- if you add
18 District 101 and 102, the total black
19 population for District 101 and 102 is
20 138,277.21, the total Hispanic population is
21 112,012.46 and the total Haitian population is
22 18,000. What I am proposing is that by
23 changing District 29 and 33, they would be more
24 compact and you would additionally add two
25 coalition districts and one in Broward and one

1 in Palm Beach County where those residents in
2 Broward and in Palm Beach County would get to
3 elect a Representative of their choice.

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
6 very much, Representative Bernard. We
7 appreciate that very thorough explanation, and,
8 again, I think I would suggest, as opposed to
9 responding to it, I think you've got some very
10 interesting suggestions there, I think we would
11 like to see them, and would encourage you or
12 other members to take a look at it in an
13 amendatory process, and that way we can see it
14 exactly for what it is and have a chance to
15 vote on it next Friday, but thank you very
16 much.

17 Representative Clarke-Reed, you are
18 recognized.

19 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Thank you,
20 Mr. Chair, and thanks for indulging me in this
21 question that has been coming up. Will you
22 please tell me, in all of these maps that we
23 are drawing, how are we counting the prison
24 population? Are they counted as voters in the
25 district that the prison is in? I just want to

1 clarify that.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I think I
3 know the answer to this, but I want to make
4 sure we are saying it right, so I am going to
5 let Alex answer.

6 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7 Representative Clarke-Reed, every Florida
8 resident, including inmates, are counted. So
9 whatever district they are counted in, they are
10 counted as a resident.

11 In terms of -- and just, you know, where
12 this subject goes sometimes in terms of things
13 like whether a minority district will perform
14 and things like that and does the prison
15 population affect that, you do look at
16 additional -- additional information to verify
17 that a district will perform. So if you have a
18 prison in a district, and if that district is
19 perhaps, let's say, a minority district, you
20 still look at additional information to make
21 sure that the district would perform, or have a
22 likelihood of performing for a minority
23 candidate of choice. But every Florida
24 resident who was here in the state April 1,
25 2010, is counted in this process.

1 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Follow-up,
2 Mr. Chair?

3 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: For
4 follow-up.

5 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Thank you
6 very much, Mr. Chair.

7 Thank you for that answer. Follow-up: Is
8 -- are the prisoners counted to the district
9 that they come from or their home district or
10 are they counted to the district that the
11 prison is in?

12 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: They are
13 counted in the district that they live in,
14 which would be the prison that they are in.

15 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: I don't think
16 you answered my question.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes, I did.
18 They are counted in the prison that they are
19 in.

20 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: They are
21 counted in the prison that they are in?

22 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes.

23 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Okay, thank
24 you.

25 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Any other

1 questions, suggestions?

2 Okay. Well, I think as we move forward
3 with the Senate map, certainly Representative
4 Bernard and many others have suggested ideas,
5 certainly they can do that by filing
6 amendments. Again, the amendment deadline is
7 Wednesday at noon. Substitute amendments would
8 be Thursday at noon. So please get those in in
9 time for that.

10 Well, members, this has been a long
11 committee meeting. If anyone doesn't have
12 anything else to share, I just want to thank
13 you for your indulgence today. I think we've
14 got a lot of work done. And as I explained
15 earlier, things are going to move very quickly
16 now, and next Friday when we ultimately take
17 these maps to the floor, we will -- I'm sorry,
18 as we vote to take these maps to the floor, we
19 will be making some decisions. So if you need
20 or if you think you need our staff to help you,
21 please reach out to them, but with that, I
22 appreciate everyone's thoughts today and
23 Representative Schenck moves we rise.

24 (Whereupon, the proceedings 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 167 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 9th day of February, 2012.

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

Notary Public

State of Florida at Large

Commission Expires:

November 13, 2014