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HOUSE REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2011

Transcribed by:

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

Court Reporter

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

2 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Okay, members,  
3 welcome back to Tallahassee. We are going to  
4 kick off the House redistricting meeting, and  
5 with that, Ben, will you please call the roll?

6 THE CLERK: Chair Schenck?

7 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Yes.

8 THE CLERK: Baxley?

9 REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: Here.

10 THE CLERK: Bernard?

11 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Here.

12 THE CLERK: Campbell?

13 REPRESENTATIVE CAMPBELL: Here.

14 THE CLERK: Clarke-Reed?

15 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Here.

16 THE CLERK: Corcoran?

17 REPRESENTATIVE CORCORAN: Here.

18 THE CLERK: Diaz?

19 REPRESENTATIVE DIAZ: Here.

20 THE CLERK: Drake?

21 REPRESENTATIVE DRAKE: Here.

22 THE CLERK: Frishe?

23 REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: Here.

24 THE CLERK: Hooper?

25 REPRESENTATIVE HOOPER: Here.

1 THE CLERK: Julien?

2 REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Present.

3 THE CLERK: Nuñez?

4 REPRESENTATIVE NUNEZ: Here.

5 THE CLERK: Rogers?

6 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Here.

7 REPRESENTATIVE CLARK: Schenck? I'm  
8 sorry.

9 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Yes.

10 THE CLERK: Young?

11 REPRESENTATIVE YOUNG: Here.

12 THE CLERK: Chair Dorworth?

13 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Okay. Co-Chair  
14 Dorworth hit a little bit of traffic coming out  
15 of Orlando, so he is running just a tad late.  
16 I am apparently here twice since that is how I  
17 answered, so I am covering for him.

18 Okay, members, it is good to see you all  
19 again this week. As you remember, two weeks  
20 ago we had had a discussion about various  
21 topics, so today, members, during today's  
22 meeting and our next meeting, which will be in  
23 two weeks from now, we are going to hear  
24 presentations regarding key decision points for  
25 drawing Florida State House maps.

1           At our last meeting, members of the  
2           subcommittee asked to see more details about  
3           the following options: Options for major  
4           population centers, trade-offs between whole  
5           communities versus cross-jurisdictional  
6           communities, and options for racial and  
7           language minority communities. Today, our  
8           analyst, Jeff Takacs, will be presenting on  
9           these issues over the next -- today and next  
10          meeting as well. Today Jeff is going to be  
11          covering points about Duval County, Orange  
12          County, Pinellas County, Hillsborough County  
13          and others.

14          Big picture, members: We need to bring  
15          this process in for a landing by the middle of  
16          November so that we can begin hearing PCBs or  
17          any member bills that get filed. To that end,  
18          co-Chair Dorworth and myself have specifically  
19          asked that staff be ready to present four to  
20          five complete options for the House map  
21          beginning as soon as possible after  
22          November 14th. That way, we can send them on  
23          to Chair Weatherford and the big Committee.

24          Your comments and questions over these  
25          next couple of meetings will be critical to

1           shaping any redistricting plans that we  
2           workshop and ultimately vote on. Chairman  
3           Weatherford set a goal for each subcommittee to  
4           provide the big Committee with three complete  
5           options for maps, and we plan on doing so.

6           I also have another goal in mind. I want  
7           the three maps that we pass from this  
8           subcommittee to the big Committee to be the  
9           most principle-driven, thoughtful and yet  
10          explainable and plain language of all the maps  
11          that the subcommittees approve and consider.  
12          So as you listen today, I ask you to think  
13          about not only the regions on the map that we  
14          are discussing, but how decisions that we make  
15          in those regions can and should be applied to  
16          the entire map.

17          With that said, members, any questions  
18          before I turn it over to Jeff for the  
19          presentation?

20          Okay. Seeing none, Jeff, the floor is  
21          yours.

22          MR. TAKACS: Thank you very much, Mr.  
23          Chairman.

24          Before I get started, what I would like to  
25          do before we start talking about some of the

1 major population centers is actually take a  
2 step back and look at the entire map as a  
3 whole. You will see her on the first slide 28  
4 counties, by virtue of their population, must  
5 be split within House districts. Every --  
6 thinking of the counties there on the map,  
7 counties from Escambia to Miami-Dade County  
8 need to be split there on that map. Something  
9 as you kind of --

10 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Jeff, let me just  
11 -- let me interrupt you for one minute --

12 MR. TAKACS: Sure.

13 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: -- just so we  
14 make it clear. Explain why they need to be  
15 split. They need to be split because the  
16 population of that county is over the size of  
17 an ideal district so that it is theoretically  
18 impossible for the whole county to be in one  
19 House district.

20 MR. TAKACS: Yes, sir. Thank you very  
21 much. Yes, that is exactly right.

22 When you look at this map as a whole,  
23 obviously, a region that may jump out at you is  
24 the I-4 corridor, whereas in every county  
25 within that corridor from Volusia, Seminole,

1 Orange, Osceola, Lake, Hillsborough and  
2 Pinellas Counties all need to be split because  
3 of their populations being over that of the  
4 ideal population for a House district.

5 Thinking about some of these different  
6 counties on this map, and we are going to talk  
7 about these counties here in a little bit, but  
8 just to kind of give you a taste of what is to  
9 come, Duval County, as an example, its  
10 population is enough for 5.5 House districts,  
11 Orange County, its population is enough for 7.3  
12 House districts, and Hillsborough County's  
13 population is enough for 7.85 House districts.

14 Okay. This next map, as you look at --  
15 again, looking at the state as a whole, there  
16 were some things that kind of jumped out at us  
17 when you look at counties that are combined  
18 together. When you look at that yellow region,  
19 which stretches from Escambia County to Alachua  
20 and Union Counties, if you take all of the  
21 populations of those counties and divide them  
22 between the ideal population of a House  
23 district, which is 156,678 people, that area on  
24 the map could produce 11.98 House districts.

25 So as you are thinking about balancing whole

1 counties versus small population deviations  
2 between each district, that is an issue that is  
3 an option for you as you look at that area as a  
4 whole.

5 Moving on to that map, thinking about  
6 Duval County and Nassau Counties, their  
7 populations combined equal 5.98 House  
8 districts. When you move into the central  
9 Florida area of the state, Orange County and  
10 Seminole County together combine for 10.01  
11 House districts, and then Orange County and  
12 Osceola County's populations together equal  
13 9.03 House districts. So those would be kind  
14 of in tandem, not all three together there as  
15 it shows on the map. And, again, these are  
16 just options that are before you. Again,  
17 moving to southwest Florida there, if you look  
18 at Charlotte and Lee County together, their  
19 populations equal 4.97 House districts.

20 There are nine cities across the state of  
21 Florida that must be split within House  
22 districts because their populations are too  
23 large for the ideal population of a House  
24 district. They are Tallahassee, Jacksonville,  
25 Orlando, Tampa, St. Petersburg, Port St. Lucie,



1 Ft. Lauderdale, Hialeah and Miami.

2 When you look at the map on the screen  
3 here, what this shows is the current State  
4 House districts, and then it overlays the  
5 current census data to show the regional  
6 population shifts based on those existing House  
7 districts. If you look at the red arrows on  
8 that map, it kind of shows where some of the  
9 population, according to House districts, is  
10 moving. As an example, if you look at the  
11 Tampa Bay region, which we are going to talk  
12 about here in a little bit, those districts are  
13 more under-populated, and the districts  
14 surrounding that area are currently  
15 over-populated. So there was a shift in  
16 population. Thinking about Pinellas County,  
17 Pinellas County was one of the two counties  
18 over the last ten years that actually lost  
19 population, Monroe County being the other.

20 Continuing on, looking at the red arrows  
21 around the map, you will see some population  
22 shifts to the outside of the Jacksonville area,  
23 as well as central Florida, and then one other  
24 thing to note as you look on the southern end  
25 of the map, the coastal areas of Palm Beach,

1           Broward and Miami-Dade Counties all saw shifts  
2           upward towards the Treasure Coast and then  
3           westward to Collier County in southwest  
4           Florida.

5           Going back to that slide, thinking about  
6           the over-populated House districts, just  
7           thinking regionally, central Florida tends to  
8           have more over-populated districts, southwest  
9           Florida, as I just said, and those areas  
10          outside of Tampa Bay.

11          Thinking about under-populated House  
12          districts, generally they are in northwest  
13          Florida, northern central Florida, and as I  
14          said, those coastal communities of Palm Beach,  
15          Broward and Dade Counties.

16          Thinking about the meeting that we had two  
17          weeks ago, we were asked to look at the major  
18          population centers of the state and how they  
19          could be drawn. The way to start that was is  
20          that we wanted to look at the most populated  
21          counties across the state, and this map  
22          illustrates that here before you. If you look  
23          at the blue and red-shaded counties, those are  
24          the counties that we will actually be examining  
25          this week and in our next meeting in two weeks.

1 Again, those most populated counties are  
2 Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Hillsborough,  
3 Orange, Pinellas and Duval Counties.

4 And with that, we will actually start  
5 right into Duval County. As you see here, this  
6 is the current State House map for the Duval  
7 County area. Duval County has eight districts  
8 that are all or in part in the county. The  
9 districts that are solely within the county are  
10 Districts 14, 15, 16 and 17, while 12, 13, 18  
11 and 19 have parts of Duval County and other  
12 counties.

13 Thinking about the population of Duval  
14 County itself, as I said earlier, it has the  
15 population of 5.5 House districts, roughly,  
16 depending on how many county splits you would  
17 like to have. With that said, Duval County  
18 does have to be split. When you think about a  
19 county having to be split, the next step would  
20 then be to look at the counties that surround  
21 it, because at least one of those districts has  
22 to go into one of the neighboring counties. So  
23 if you look on the packet there, I list the  
24 populations of all of the neighboring counties,  
25 including Nassau County, Baker County, Clay

1 County and St. Johns County. As I mentioned  
2 earlier, looking at the populations of Duval  
3 County and Nassau County together, they do  
4 equate to roughly six House districts, again,  
5 purely based on population.

6 Thinking about an example of the minimum  
7 number of House districts that could be built  
8 within Duval County, I am actually going to  
9 turn to one of the publicly submitted maps,  
10 which was map number 18 by Mr. Henry Kelly. If  
11 you see there on the map, you can see that  
12 there are in fact five whole districts within  
13 Duval County, and then that District 11 that he  
14 has the northern area of Duval County and then  
15 goes into Nassau and then actually into parts  
16 of Baker. Thinking about what I just said  
17 earlier about Duval County and Nassau County  
18 potentially equaling six districts, what could  
19 happen on this particular map is you could push  
20 that Baker County area of that district out of  
21 Baker County and into Duval if you chose to do  
22 that.

23 This map, as I said, creates six  
24 districts, one of which is a majority-minority  
25 district, which is District 16 on that map.

1           The black VAP voting age population for that  
2           district is 61 percent. The next highest  
3           district for black voting age population is  
4           District 15 at 28 percent.

5           This next map is an example of a map that  
6           has more than the minimum number of districts  
7           that could be a part of Duval County, and what  
8           this map actually does is takes more advantage  
9           of the bedroom communities that are surrounding  
10          Jacksonville, and this is map number 79 by  
11          Mr. Keith Laytham. As you look at this map,  
12          you can see that District 32 has just that  
13          western part of Jacksonville and then all of  
14          Nassau County, and then also districts go into  
15          St. Johns County, 33 and 39, and then District  
16          37 goes into Clay County as well. In fact, in  
17          this map, all of the neighboring counties,  
18          except for Baker County, have districts that go  
19          into both Duval County and that neighboring  
20          county. Similarly to the last map, this map  
21          creates one majority-minority black district,  
22          which is District 35. Its black voting age  
23          population is right at 50 percent. The next  
24          highest district for black voting age  
25          population is District 34, which is that

1 northern area of the district, at 47 percent.

2 Thinking about majority-minority  
3 districts, currently Duval County has two  
4 majority-minority black districts, which are  
5 Districts 14 and 15. What this map represents  
6 is current data, looking at the current census  
7 data at the VTD level, looking at all of the  
8 black voting age population percentages of 40  
9 or greater, and you can see there on the map,  
10 it is a relatively concentrated area. The  
11 total population of all of those shaded VTDs is  
12 actually 189,000 people, roughly, which is over  
13 the ideal population for a House district. The  
14 black voting age population for those shaded  
15 regions is 71 percent. So the question would  
16 occur, could the two majority-minority black  
17 districts be recreated in the current map? And  
18 the answer to that is yes. If you look to the  
19 slide here, what I have done here is this is  
20 actually shaded as one district, you can see  
21 that green district there, but it is actually  
22 the size of two House districts with the ideal  
23 population of two House districts. In fact, it  
24 is just 77 people over that of two House  
25 districts. And the black voting age population

1 of that mega-district, for lack of better  
2 words, is 52 percent. So thinking about that,  
3 taking that to the next step, what you could do  
4 is slice that area into two equal parts  
5 population wise to create two majority-minority  
6 black districts.

7 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Jeff?

8 MR. TAKACS: Yes, sir.

9 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Before you move  
10 on, let me ask a question. I assume -- or  
11 maybe not. Does that depend on how you slice  
12 it?

13 MR. TAKACS: Yes, sir, that was actually  
14 what I was just about to say.

15 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Okay.

16 MR. TAKACS: There would be a scenario  
17 where you could slice that county into two  
18 districts, and one could have a black voting  
19 age population of let's say 53 percent while  
20 the other could have 48 percent. So that is an  
21 option there.

22 Thinking about this too, there are more  
23 than one ways where you could create that  
24 mega-district, so to speak, that could be split  
25 into two. I just provided this one as a

1 visual, as an example, for you all to look at.

2 Mr. Chairman, that actually ends the Duval  
3 County portion, if there are any questions.

4 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Sure. Members,  
5 questions on the Duval portion? Representative  
6 Corcoran.

7 REPRESENTATIVE CORCORAN: What are the  
8 current two districts, 14 and 15, are they  
9 52 percent each?

10 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Jeff.

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

12 I don't know the exact percentage. I know  
13 they are both over 50 percent, but I don't know  
14 if they are 51 or 52, but they are both over  
15 50 percent.

16 REPRESENTATIVE CORCORAN: Thank you.

17 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Other questions,  
18 members?

19 Okay. Seeing none, we'll --  
20 Representative Bernard.

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

23 Are we going to discuss like Clay  
24 County -- the area of Clay County also? How  
25 does that -- how does Clay -- I guess I am



1 concerned about Clay County. And how does that  
2 affect Duval County also?

3 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Jeff, you are  
4 recognized.

5 MR. TAKACS: Thank you very much, Mr.  
6 Chairman.

7 And that is a good question, and it all  
8 depends on how you were to build districts  
9 within those two counties. Thinking about Mr.  
10 Laytham's map, he did utilize in that District  
11 37 on his map an area of Clay County that also  
12 went into Duval County.

13 Thinking about the directive that we had  
14 in our last meeting, thinking about major  
15 population centers, what we did was we broke  
16 that down by county, and -- for the seven  
17 largest counties across the state. But  
18 obviously that is something that needs to be  
19 considered are the bedroom communities that  
20 surround a particular major population center  
21 such as Jacksonville, and obviously Clay County  
22 is a big part of that.

23 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: One follow-up,  
24 Mr. Chair?

25 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Sure, go ahead.

1           REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD:   Because would  
2           Clay County be -- thank you, Mr. Chair.   Would  
3           Clay County be able to have their own  
4           Representative based on the scenarios that you  
5           have presented?

6           REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK:   You are  
7           recognized.

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

9           What I will do is actually I will go back  
10          just a moment to that first map that we looked  
11          at and look at the counties that must be split  
12          because their populations are over that of the  
13          ideal House district.   Clay County is among  
14          them, so there would have to be at least two  
15          House districts based on its population within  
16          Clay County.   As a policy decision, you all  
17          could decide to link that to Duval County or  
18          you could link it to another surrounding  
19          community if you chose to.

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

22          REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK:   Uh-huh.   Other  
23          questions, members?   Okay.

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

25          We are going to move on to Orange County

1 here, and you can see that the current State  
2 House map is on the screen. On this map, you  
3 can see that Orange County has 12 districts  
4 that are either all within the county or that  
5 share portions of the county with other  
6 neighboring counties. Thinking about a couple  
7 of districts that only share a minor portion of  
8 Orange County if you look on that map,  
9 Districts 34, 37 and 79 only have small  
10 geographic portions of the county, whether it  
11 is in that kind of north -- northern area where  
12 37 and 34 kind of creep into Orange County, and  
13 then District 79 or just a smidge there at the  
14 southern end comes into the county.

15 Thinking about Orange County's population,  
16 its population is enough for roughly 7.3 House  
17 districts, again, depending on how many county  
18 splits you would like to have for that area.  
19 Again, thinking about that, and actually would  
20 kind of dovetail nicely with Representative  
21 Bernard's question, when a county has to be  
22 split, it again forces you to look at the  
23 counties that surround that county, because at  
24 least one district is going to have to go into  
25 both counties. In this instance, a district

1 would have to go into either Brevard County,  
2 Volusia County, Seminole County, Lake County,  
3 Polk County or Osceola County. And, of course,  
4 it could be more than one, that policy decision  
5 would be yours, but at least one would have to  
6 do that, again, solely based on population.

7 Thinking about what I said earlier, again,  
8 solely based on population, if you were to add  
9 the populations of Orange and Seminole Counties  
10 together, it is roughly enough for ten House  
11 districts, and if you were to add the  
12 populations of Orange County and Osceola  
13 Counties together, it would roughly be enough  
14 for nine House districts. Thinking that to the  
15 next step further, though, you actually could  
16 not add all three of those counties to get an  
17 appropriate number of House districts, because  
18 the population deviation would be too great.  
19 So you'd have to kind of see them as in tandem,  
20 either Orange and Seminole, or Orange and  
21 Osceola. And, again, that is just an option  
22 for you.

23 What I wanted to show here is if you look  
24 on the screen there, I made it a whole  
25 district, but that is the boundaries of the

1 City of Orlando, and the reason I wanted to  
2 bring that up is Orlando is one of the cities  
3 that needs to be split by at least two House  
4 districts because its population is over that  
5 of the ideal population for a State House  
6 district, and I just wanted to kind of think of  
7 it from the map-building perspective. If you  
8 look at the size and shape of the City of  
9 Orlando, if you wanted to -- you know, it  
10 just -- the way that it is shaped, it just  
11 leads for districts to have to cut through it,  
12 because it is right there in the center of the  
13 county and it takes up almost all of the center  
14 of the county. It goes from the southern end  
15 of the county almost there to the northern end  
16 of the county kind of where Maitland is now,  
17 though, again, from the map-building  
18 perspective, it does tend to lead itself to be  
19 split amongst districts as you look to build  
20 from either, you know, east to west or north to  
21 south.

22 This is a map that it's an example of a  
23 map that only has three districts that are  
24 actually solely based in Orange County.

25 Mr. Graham Stacy created a map that uses the

1 approach of favoring extremely small population  
2 deviations and districts that are shaped --  
3 that are visually appealing or visually compact  
4 without really regarding as much county  
5 boundary lines, which is exactly why there are  
6 only three House districts that are solely  
7 within Orange County on this map.  
8 Interestingly enough, Mr. Stacy has actually  
9 took that approach throughout his submission,  
10 throughout the map, of where you have  
11 good-looking shapes, many of which cross county  
12 boundary lines.

13 I will talk about his map one more time.  
14 Thinking about Orange County and thinking about  
15 this specific map, it does not create a  
16 majority-minority black or Hispanic district.  
17 The top two black voting age population  
18 districts in Mr. Stacy's map are District 16,  
19 which you can see there in the kind of  
20 northwestern portion of the county, which is at  
21 40 percent, and then District 17, which is kind  
22 of right there in the heart of Orlando, which  
23 has a black voting age population of  
24 34 percent. The top two Hispanic voting age  
25 population districts in this map is District

1 18, which is just to the east of Orlando there  
2 at 40 percent, and District 32, which is there  
3 at the southern portion of the county at  
4 36 percent.

5           Currently Orange County has one  
6 majority-minority black district, which is  
7 House District 39. This map here, again, at  
8 the VTD level, shows the black voting age  
9 percentage at 40 percent or higher. Thinking  
10 about those shaded portions in Orange County,  
11 their population is 160,000, almost 161,000,  
12 which is, of course, above the ideal population  
13 for a State House district, and the black  
14 voting age population for that shaded region is  
15 68 percent. So thinking about that, the  
16 assumption would be is that a majority-minority  
17 black district could be recreated in Orange  
18 County, and then that actually takes you to the  
19 next question, which could be could a second  
20 majority-minority black district or a minority  
21 access district be drawn within Orange County.

22           When you look at the demographics and you  
23 look at the county as a whole, thinking again  
24 of Orange County, it is impossible to actually  
25 build a second majority-minority district

1           within Orange County; however, it may be  
2           possible to draw a majority-minority access --  
3           I'm sorry, a black access district within  
4           Orange County, but more analysis would be  
5           needed to determine if that is, in fact,  
6           feasible.

7                     According to the 2010 census, Orange  
8           County has a Hispanic voting age population of  
9           220,285, which, of course, is over the ideal  
10          population for that of a State House district.  
11          What this map illustrates are, again, all of  
12          those VTDs that have a Hispanic voting age  
13          population of 40 percent or greater. You can  
14          see there that they happen to be all basically  
15          linked together within one shape. The voting  
16          age population for those shaded areas is  
17          52 percent. So thinking about that, it could  
18          be assumed that a majority-minority Hispanic  
19          district could be built within Orange County.

20                    Again, kind of stepping back and thinking  
21          about the concept of building districts and  
22          thinking about this county, if you think about  
23          the graphic that is on your screen, and if you  
24          assumed for a moment that all of those shaded  
25          areas, or roughly all of those shaded areas



1           were a district, and then thinking about the  
2           area to the northwest of this area, which was  
3           where the black voting age population VTDs were  
4           shaded, it does create some issues when you are  
5           building districts as it relates to western  
6           Orange County. If you were to build districts  
7           in a fashion that created those two seats, you  
8           could potentially kind of separate southwest  
9           Orange County from the rest of the county,  
10          which would then mean what you would have to  
11          do, if that area didn't meet the ideal  
12          population for a State House district, it would  
13          have to then bleed over into another county,  
14          whether that be Lake County or Osceola County.  
15          So, again, just kind of thinking about building  
16          maps as you are looking at a county as a whole.

17                 Taking that to the next step forward, the  
18          rest of the area of Orange County, thinking  
19          about the areas of Maitland and Winter Park and  
20          then moving east into east Orange County, those  
21          are the areas that would be left on this map if  
22          you were to place those districts within the  
23          map, and, again, thinking about do we want to  
24          connect Orange County with a neighboring county  
25          like Seminole County, or thinking about east

1 Orange County, do we want to have that connect  
2 with Brevard County, again, those are decision  
3 that would be yours to make.

4 Currently there is a House district that  
5 crosses into both Orange and Osceola Counties  
6 that traditionally elects a Hispanic member of  
7 the House. According to the 2010 census,  
8 Osceola County has a Hispanic voting age  
9 population of roughly almost 85,000 people,  
10 which is over half of the ideal population for  
11 a House district. If you look at the map  
12 here -- again, this is looking at the VTD  
13 level, looking at Hispanic voting age  
14 population of 40 percent or higher -- if you  
15 look on the screen there, that black line  
16 symbolizes the border between Osceola and  
17 Orange County, as well as Osceola and Polk  
18 County, just to kind of show some distinction  
19 there for Osceola County. The total population  
20 for those shaded VTDs is just under 171,000,  
21 which is over the ideal population for a State  
22 House district. The Hispanic voting age  
23 population for those shaded VTDs is 54 percent.  
24 So taking that to the next step, with that  
25 information, it is possible to build a

1 majority-minority Hispanic district solely  
2 contained in Osceola County.

3 And thinking about the district that I  
4 just mentioned -- potential district that I  
5 just mentioned, as well as thinking about the  
6 potential majority-minority Hispanic district  
7 in Orange County, what kind of got us to  
8 thinking about that was actually a map that was  
9 submitted to us by LatinoJustice, which was a  
10 Congressional submission that had a district  
11 that went from Orange County down through  
12 Osceola and touched into areas of Polk County.  
13 And what led us to think about that was that --  
14 could that potential district be divided,  
15 thinking about the House map, into House  
16 districts that could create majority-minority  
17 districts, and obviously, as I answered  
18 earlier, the answer to that is yes. When  
19 looking at the demographics and looking at the  
20 area, you can see there actually on this  
21 screen, there are some areas there in Polk  
22 County that have some VTDs that have the  
23 Hispanic voting age population of 40 percent or  
24 higher. When thinking about, well, is there a  
25 possibility of building a third

1 majority-minority Hispanic seat in that area,  
2 or maybe even an access seat, when you take a  
3 look at the data and the demographics of that  
4 region, it actually is pretty difficult to  
5 create such a district. It is actually not  
6 really feasible, thinking about the  
7 demographics of those communities and the  
8 demographics of the communities that surround  
9 them.

10 Mr. Chairman, that concludes Orange  
11 County, if there are any questions.

12 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Okay, members,  
13 any questions on that portion of the  
14 presentation? Representative Nuñez.

15 REPRESENTATIVE NUNEZ: Thank you, Mr.  
16 Chairman, more of a comment.

17 I believe the points made about the  
18 potential for a new minority district in  
19 central Florida are important, and while I  
20 recognize that it is never as simple as  
21 technically creating another minority district,  
22 I believe we have to look at the data to ensure  
23 that the communities there will be able to  
24 elect a candidate of their choice. And I, for  
25 one, would like to see a commitment on the part

1 of the subcommittee to ensure that we are  
2 considering options to increase minority  
3 representation, so that at the end of this  
4 process, Mr. Chairman, we will be able to say  
5 on the record that we truly considered and  
6 weighed all the possibilities to ensure that  
7 the Legislature is reflecting the diversity of  
8 this state.

9 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Thank you.

10 Other comments? Representative Diaz.

11 REPRESENTATIVE DIAZ: I am personally in  
12 favor of increasing minority representation  
13 when we can. I am sure all of us are. My only  
14 concern is -- the question, I guess, is can we  
15 make that commitment right now this early on in  
16 the process? Are we possibly putting ourselves  
17 in a situation where we are over-promising  
18 something before we've even looked at a PCB or  
19 an actual member Bill? That is the concern I  
20 have.

21 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Thank you.

22 Representative Bernard.

23 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Thank you,

24 Mr. Chair.

25 When we were -- during the tour with the

1 -- I guess when we were in Orlando, like how  
2 did they say that they wanted to -- what are  
3 the communities that they want to be lumped  
4 with? Like did we get any comments regarding  
5 whether they wanted to be with Osceola County,  
6 or which counties did they say that they want  
7 to be lumped with?

8 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Jeff.

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

10 I think you saw a myriad of comments from  
11 that Orlando meeting, thinking about that  
12 concept. I can think of an example, his name  
13 was Mr. Doug Head. He made some suggestions  
14 asking for there to be black districts within  
15 Orange County. I don't remember if there were  
16 any comments made about crossing those  
17 districts or that area into other communities,  
18 and, likewise, there was -- there was sentiment  
19 to create Hispanic districts as well, but  
20 thinking about communities being lumped  
21 together, there -- I mean, there has been  
22 testimony, thinking about if there was a need  
23 to connect the two communities -- I know some  
24 folks in Osceola County expressed the desire,  
25 again, if they needed to, to come up into some

1 areas into Orange County. And, again, what  
2 this represents is just an option before you  
3 that shows just based on the population, if a  
4 district like that were to be built, it doesn't  
5 have to go into that other county. Again, just  
6 a menu option for you, so to speak.

7 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: One more  
8 follow-up, Mr. Chair?

9 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Sure, follow-up.

10 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Thank you, Mr.  
11 Chair.

12 Did we take a look at what is going on now  
13 in terms of the redistricting within that  
14 county? Because I know that LatinoJustice,  
15 they had a map that they suggested to the  
16 County, and that map was rejected. Have we  
17 looked at that also?

18 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Jeff.

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

20 Specifically about county redistricting,  
21 we haven't. And to take that question to the  
22 next step, what I presented here today was not  
23 actually a submission by LatinoJustice or any  
24 other group. What it was was that we saw the  
25 submission that they made as it relates to a

1 Congressional district, and it got us thinking,  
2 okay, well, is there more here as it relates to  
3 the State House map, thinking about that  
4 particular submission. So we haven't.

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

7 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Representative  
8 Frishe.

9 REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: Thank you, Mr.  
10 Chairman.

11 I think I see where Representative Nuñez  
12 is headed on this and where she is coming from,  
13 and I tend to agree with her. I think the PCBs  
14 we look at should have these kinds of options  
15 included in them, options to increase minority  
16 representation in areas such as we have seen,  
17 so that we can conclude the process by  
18 informing the redistricting committee, and  
19 anyone else who is really watching and  
20 following the process, that we have considered  
21 all the alternatives possible, and that I don't  
22 think it is a stretch to be able to make a  
23 commitment at this time, an appropriate  
24 commitment, to see that the bills we vote on  
25 include these options.



1           REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Thank you. Good  
2 points.

3           Other questions or comments at this point,  
4 members? Seeing none, why don't we move on to  
5 the next part of the state.

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

7           The next part of the state is Hillsborough  
8 and Pinellas Counties. What I have done here  
9 is combined the two, and we will talk about  
10 them in tandem. Obviously, they are their own  
11 counties and they have their own issues, but I  
12 wanted to bring them together for the purposes  
13 of this presentation.

14           This is the current State House map. Some  
15 things that kind of jump out as I look at it,  
16 Hillsborough County has six districts that are  
17 contained wholly within it, and six that are  
18 not, that share portions of Hillsborough County  
19 with other counties. One of those districts  
20 actually shares both portions of Hillsborough  
21 County and Pinellas County. Pinellas County  
22 itself has five districts contained wholly  
23 within it, and three districts that have  
24 portions within it and with that of a  
25 neighboring county.

1 Hillsborough County's population is enough  
2 for 7.85 House districts, so it would, in fact,  
3 need to be split within a House plan.  
4 Similarly, Pinellas County has a population of  
5 enough for 5.85 House districts, so it, too,  
6 would need to be split. And the reason I bring  
7 that up is, just like the examples before, is  
8 that when a county needs to be split, it then  
9 forces you to then look at the neighboring  
10 counties, because they are the potential areas  
11 where those districts could go. For these two  
12 counties, their neighboring counties are, of  
13 course, Pasco County, Polk County and Manatee  
14 County.

15 I am going to go back to actually Mr.  
16 Laytham's map, map number 79, for this next  
17 example. When you look at this region --  
18 actually, when you look at all of the maps that  
19 have been submitted to us, the complete plans,  
20 Pinellas and Hillsborough County were actually  
21 drawn quite similarly, thinking about the  
22 cross-county districts were tending to be more  
23 into the Pinellas and Pasco and  
24 Hillsborough/Pasco versus Hillsborough and  
25 Polk, as an example. This is an example of one

1 of those maps. Ironically, this is actually  
2 one that does have a district that crosses from  
3 Hillsborough into Polk County, which is  
4 District 49, which -- and you can also see  
5 there's actually one district that also crosses  
6 from Pinellas into Hillsborough, which is House  
7 District 53.

8 Some things to think about with this map,  
9 it creates no majority-minority black or  
10 Hispanic seat. The top two black voting age  
11 population districts on this map are District  
12 51, which is kind of right there in central  
13 Hillsborough County, at 43 percent, and  
14 District 63, which is there in the southern end  
15 of St. Petersburg, at 31 percent. The top two  
16 Hispanic voting age population districts are  
17 District 61, which is actually just to the  
18 left -- to the west of District 51 there in  
19 central Hillsborough, at 47 percent, and  
20 District 48, which is that yellow district  
21 there to the south of 51, and that percentage  
22 is 21 percent.

23 Just to note, thinking about this map and  
24 thinking about some testimony that we received,  
25 this map does send to keep smaller cities whole

1 and together within districts, while splitting  
2 some of the larger cities into one or more  
3 districts. Thinking about a comment that we  
4 received from a mayor of one of the small  
5 cities within Pinellas County, this would kind  
6 of jive with that particular request.

7           Currently the two counties have two  
8 districts that are majority-minority black  
9 districts that were built in 2002. Those are  
10 Districts 55 and 59. What this map shows you,  
11 again, is thinking about the VTD level, this is  
12 the black voting age population of 40 percent  
13 or above. When you look at -- actually, the  
14 entire area there on the screen is all parts of  
15 Pinellas or Hillsborough County. Thinking  
16 about all the way to the east where Plant City  
17 is there, there are some VTDs that are shaded,  
18 and then coming all the way down to southern  
19 St. Petersburg, some shaded areas as well. The  
20 total population of those shaded VTDs is almost  
21 196,000 people, which is over the ideal  
22 population for a State House district, and the  
23 black voting age population for those shaded  
24 VTDs is 63 percent. So thinking about that,  
25 the assumption could be made that one

1 majority-minority black district could be  
2 recreated in Hillsborough County, but a second  
3 majority-minority black district or a minority  
4 black access district could be drawn in a  
5 region. And to be quite honest with you,  
6 members, this is actually one of the biggest  
7 challenges facing you when creating a House map  
8 is answering that question, thinking about  
9 recreating the opportunity for the black  
10 communities that are currently in House  
11 District 55, would they be able to elect the  
12 candidate of their choice. That question is  
13 one of the biggest questions facing you as you  
14 build this map.

15 When you think about the current District  
16 55, if you look at southern St. Petersburg,  
17 which is some of the area that that district  
18 has now, that district then goes eastern into  
19 Hillsborough County, as well as south into  
20 Manatee and Sarasota Counties, so you may have  
21 to look at those counties as well when thinking  
22 about particular options for that district.

23 Currently Hillsborough County also has a  
24 district that has a Hispanic voting age  
25 population of 38 percent at the time it was

1 built in 2002, below -- again, thinking about  
2 Hispanic voting age population of 40 percent or  
3 higher, those are the shaded VTDs that  
4 represent that number. The total population of  
5 those shaded VTDs is 165,000 people, roughly,  
6 which is over the ideal population for a State  
7 House district, and its Hispanic voting age  
8 population, again, all of those shaded regions,  
9 is 53 percent. So thinking about that, it can  
10 be assumed that a House district that is a  
11 majority-minority Hispanic district could be  
12 built solely within Hillsborough County.

13 Now, again, thinking about what we were  
14 talking about in Orange County a little bit ago  
15 is actually a similar issue here in  
16 Hillsborough in that if you think about the  
17 shaded VTDs kind of there in western  
18 Hillsborough County, and you think about the  
19 areas just to the east of it, which were some  
20 of the shaded VTD portions of where the  
21 majority-minority -- or I should say where the  
22 VTDs of black voting age population of  
23 40 percent or higher is located, what that does  
24 is if you think about that area there on the  
25 screen that is south of what you see shaded

1 here, like thinking about where MacDill Air  
2 Force Base is, if you draw those districts, the  
3 two districts I just mentioned, in a certain  
4 way, you do potentially landlock that area, and  
5 if you were to build a district that had  
6 MacDill Air Force Base and those areas north to  
7 it, you would either have to hug the coast in  
8 Hillsborough County either to the south or to  
9 the northwest, or you would have to cross that  
10 district over into Pinellas County. So, again,  
11 kind of thinking about when you build one  
12 district or two districts, the ripple effect  
13 affects many other districts, and that is an  
14 example of that.

15 Mr. Chairman, that concludes that region.

16 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Members,  
17 questions on that region?

18 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Mr. Chair?

19 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Representative  
20 Bernard.

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

23 Seeing how Pasco County -- it seems like  
24 the population shifted to Pasco County. Did we  
25 take a look at how Pasco County would be drawn

1 and how would that affect -- how would  
2 Hillsborough County affect Pasco County?

3 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Jeff.

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

5 Similarly to your Clay County question,  
6 Pasco County is a bedroom community, not the  
7 whole county, but there are portions of Pasco  
8 County that are considered bedroom communities  
9 to the Hillsborough County area, and, again,  
10 that would be a policy decision that the  
11 subcommittee would need to make as far as how  
12 do you relate those two counties.

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

15 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Uh-huh. Other  
16 questions, comments?

17 Seeing none, why don't we move on to the  
18 next.

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

20 What I would like to do now is kind of  
21 step away from the major population centers and  
22 talk about another issue that was discussed in  
23 the last meeting, and that was the concept of  
24 the trade-offs between whole counties versus  
25 cross-jurisdictional counties.



1           The first example I would like to talk  
2           about is the most popular example of this  
3           nature that we heard many times along the tour  
4           in The Villages, is The Villages. If you look  
5           at the map here on the screen, those are all of  
6           Marion, Sumter and Lake Counties shaded. What  
7           makes The Villages unique is that as a  
8           community, it crosses into parts of all three  
9           of those counties. When you think about each  
10          of those three counties separately, Lake  
11          County's population is enough for roughly 1.9  
12          House districts, which means it does, in fact,  
13          have to be split between two districts.  
14          Conversely, Sumter County's population is  
15          enough for .6 House districts, so it can, in  
16          fact, be kept whole within a House plan if you  
17          choose to do so. Marion County there to the  
18          north has a population enough for 2.11 House  
19          districts, so, again, it would need to be  
20          split.

21                 So, again, thinking of what I just said  
22                 and thinking about those concepts, the next  
23                 question would be, well, is there a possibility  
24                 of drawing a district that would have all of  
25                 the cross-jurisdictional communities, The

1 Villages in this instance, while keeping the  
2 only county that is possible to be kept whole  
3 within this region, Sumter County, in fact,  
4 whole. And the answer to that is yes. Here  
5 you can see this is an example of a district  
6 that does just that. You can see, obviously,  
7 again, all of Sumter County is whole, that  
8 little portion there to the north crosses over  
9 into the Marion County area, and then what I  
10 did here is, thinking about just as an example  
11 of a visual for you all, I continued the  
12 district eastward into Lake County, and there  
13 are consequences of doing that, which I will  
14 mention here in just a second. That district,  
15 again, just as a visual for you to look at, the  
16 deviation for that district is short by 701  
17 people. And, again, thinking about  
18 consequences of building a particular district,  
19 this particular district splits the cities of  
20 Fruitland Park, Leesburg and Tavares.

21 And kind of taking a step back and  
22 thinking about building districts and building  
23 the state as a whole, although it may sound odd  
24 at first, this area of the state is actually a  
25 very critical area of the state from the

1 map-building perspective, and I say that  
2 because when you think about the peninsula of  
3 Florida, thinking about counties like Marion  
4 County, Sumter County, Lake County, they are  
5 smack dab in the middle, and if you decide to  
6 draw districts that are horizontal in nature  
7 like we talked about before, you may actually  
8 potentially landlock yourself when building  
9 districts. So thinking about, you know, a  
10 north-to-south-looking-like district would  
11 allow for other districts to continue  
12 southward, to the west and to the east. So  
13 just something to think about as you all build  
14 maps.

15 The next example is the issue of keeping  
16 the barrier islands whole within Manatee and  
17 Sarasota within one district. Here -- here are  
18 Manatee and Sarasota Counties on their own.  
19 Thinking about both counties, Manatee County's  
20 population is enough for 2.06 House districts,  
21 so it does, in fact, have to be split within a  
22 House map. Similarly, Sarasota County's  
23 population is 2.42 House districts, so it, too,  
24 would need to be split in a House map.

25 I want to take a step back and look at one

1 of the testimony areas that we received. This  
2 is SW-16, thinking about the presentations we  
3 had in previous meetings. This was the concept  
4 of having east and west districts in both  
5 Manatee and Sarasota Counties. Again, thinking  
6 about all four of those districts before you  
7 actually -- if you remember, all four of those  
8 districts are above the ideal population for a  
9 State House district. So that got us to  
10 thinking, okay, well, is there a possibility of  
11 creating a district that would link the barrier  
12 islands of both of those counties, and you can  
13 see that is our attempt to do so there, that  
14 yellow district. It does incorporate all of  
15 the barrier islands. When you think of the  
16 barrier islands and their population, if you  
17 were to kind of thin out that yellow district  
18 just to include the barrier islands, its  
19 population isn't anywhere near the ideal  
20 population for a State House district, so you  
21 have to then go eastward as you are building  
22 that district, and that is what we did here.  
23 Thinking about that district as an example, its  
24 population deviation is minus 219. Again,  
25 thinking about consequences for when you build

1 districts, this district actually splits the  
2 Cities of Bradenton, Sarasota and Venice.

3 When you think about the rest of the  
4 county and think about that green area for  
5 Manatee County and that brown area for Sarasota  
6 County, both of those areas are still over the  
7 ideal population for a State House district, so  
8 a further split would be needed in both of  
9 those counties if you were to create that  
10 yellow district to the west.

11 Thinking about this concept of trade-offs  
12 between cross-jurisdictional communities and  
13 whole counties, there really is no trade-off  
14 here, because as I said before, both of these  
15 counties need to be split anyway, so this is a  
16 potential split that you could have for these  
17 districts.

18 A couple of other things to think about:  
19 Coincidentally, one of the other issues that we  
20 talked about in this world was thinking about  
21 the concept of that airport, the  
22 Bradenton/Manatee airport, it actually crosses  
23 both of the county lines there.  
24 Coincidentally, as I put together this example  
25 for you, almost by sheer accident, I also

1 included all of the territory within the  
2 airport. So to answer that question, yes, that  
3 could be done as well.

4 One final point when you think about a  
5 district that looks like this and has a shape  
6 like this, when you look at the southern end of  
7 the district, again, thinking about barrier  
8 islands, there is an area there, kind of the  
9 southern end of that district and the Manasota  
10 Key area, in the southern area of that barrier  
11 islands, for those folks to get to the inland,  
12 they actually have to drive south to Charlotte  
13 County to then cross over and drive wherever  
14 they want to on the inland. So thinking about  
15 that, there is a possibility that that  
16 community may be more similarly linked to  
17 Charlotte County versus the rest of the  
18 district to the north. More analysis would be  
19 needed to determine that, but just something to  
20 think about, again, is thinking about the  
21 location of the district and how the  
22 constituents can drive to the Representative,  
23 and conversely, the Representative driving to  
24 their constituents.

25 The next example is Keystone Heights.

1           Interestingly enough, the boundaries of  
2           Keystone Heights are in both Bradford and Clay  
3           Counties. They look something like this, and  
4           the reason I say "something like this" is that  
5           when you look at the Clay County portion there  
6           to the east, that is the incorporated city  
7           boundaries of Keystone Heights. The area that  
8           crosses into Bradford County there, which is to  
9           the west, is what is called a census-designated  
10          place, so just to kind of put an area there for  
11          you to have a visual, that is about what that  
12          would look like.

13                 Here is what Bradford County and Clay  
14          Counties look like as a whole. Thinking about  
15          their populations, Bradford County has the  
16          population of .18 House districts and, in fact,  
17          could be kept whole within a House map. Clay  
18          County, as we talked about before, its  
19          population is roughly 1.22 House districts, so  
20          it would, in fact, need to be split.

21                 So thinking about that, if you wanted to  
22          keep the cross-jurisdictional area of Keystone  
23          Heights whole and together within a district,  
24          as well as trying to balance the trade-off  
25          between keeping whole counties whole and

1           keeping a cross-jurisdictional community like  
2           that together, you would need to put that  
3           district all within Bradford County and then  
4           build the rest of the district from there, and  
5           that is what I have done here, again, as an  
6           example. I included all of Bradford County,  
7           and then obviously I could have gone north or  
8           south or even further west if I wanted to, but  
9           just for this visual, I decided to go east and  
10          continue to build into Clay County. Just as an  
11          example, the population deviation for this  
12          district is short by 834 people. As I said  
13          before, it keeps all of Bradford County whole,  
14          and, consequently, of course, all of the cities  
15          within that county are whole as well. And as  
16          you move to the east within that district,  
17          obviously keeping Keystone Heights whole, you  
18          also keep the community of Penney Farms whole,  
19          and what you end up not doing with this  
20          particular district is you do not get into the  
21          Cities of Green Cove Springs or to Orange Park.  
22          In fact, this district uses both of those  
23          cities' boundary lines as a partial boundary  
24          line for the district as well, so they are not  
25          split within this district.



1           Similarly, the next example is Dunnellon.  
2           It is very similar to Keystone Heights in that  
3           the incorporated city area is actually all  
4           within Marion County, but the census-designated  
5           place or the community that has an affinity to  
6           Dunnellon is just across the border there in  
7           Citrus County. This is an approximation of  
8           what that community looks like.

9           Thinking about Citrus and Marion Counties  
10          together here, you can see them shaded  
11          individually. The population of Citrus County  
12          is enough for .9 House districts, so it could,  
13          in fact, be kept whole within a House map.  
14          Marion County, however, as I stated earlier,  
15          has the population of 2.11 House districts and  
16          would, in fact, need to be split.

17          So thinking about this concept of trading  
18          off between whole counties and  
19          cross-jurisdictional communities, if you wanted  
20          to achieve both of those goals for Dunnellon,  
21          what you would need to do is have all of Citrus  
22          County within that district and then have it  
23          come -- the population into the rest of  
24          Dunnellon, and then you could decide to take  
25          that -- the rest of that district wherever you

1 chose to. For this example, I decided to keep  
2 continuing into Marion County.

3 And as a note, thinking about Dunnellon,  
4 it is somewhat a unique situation where  
5 Dunnellon's airport is not within the city  
6 limits, it is actually just to the east --  
7 actually to kind of the northeast of the city  
8 limits. So when you think about trying to tie  
9 communities together and trying to tie all of  
10 an area that -- thinking about transportation  
11 and things that all would link a specific  
12 district, this area does, in fact, have the  
13 airport within it for this particular example  
14 for this district, but that is just something  
15 for you to think about is when you want to try  
16 to grab all of a community, thinking about the  
17 entire community. In this instance, an airport  
18 is separated from the city boundary lines.  
19 Thinking about this district, its population  
20 deviation is just over with 334 people, and,  
21 again, it keeps all of Citrus County whole  
22 while keeping the entire community of Dunnellon  
23 together.

24 The next example is the community of  
25 Poinciana. Poinciana is in both Osceola and

1 Polk Counties and again looks something like  
2 this. Poinciana is not an incorporated city.  
3 It is, in fact, a community. So looking at  
4 neighborhoods and looking at census-designated  
5 places, it looks somewhat like this. I may be  
6 off just a little bit for this example, but I  
7 wanted to give you a visual.

8 Thinking about both of those counties as a  
9 whole, you can see Polk County there to the  
10 west, the green area, and then Osceola County,  
11 the brown area to the east. That's what both  
12 of those counties look like. Thinking about  
13 their populations, Polk County's population is  
14 enough for 3.84 House districts, so it would,  
15 in fact, need to be split within a House plan.  
16 Osceola County's population is enough for 1.71  
17 districts, so it too would need to be split  
18 within a House map.

19 So thinking about that, since both  
20 counties need to be split anyway, and thinking  
21 of the trade-off between cross-jurisdictional  
22 communities and keeping counties whole, what  
23 you would want to do here is in this  
24 district -- it has all of Poinciana, but you  
25 are not actually able to achieve the whole

1 county within this -- within this district, you  
2 can see here I grabbed a large chunk of Osceola  
3 County, but that would be an example of -- you  
4 know, again, Osceola County needs to be split  
5 anyway, so you could split it like this, but  
6 the county can't be whole. So, you know, you  
7 would be -- there is, again, no trade-off there  
8 when you are thinking about the Poinciana  
9 community and the district there.

10 Again, you could have chosen to put that  
11 district into Polk County more if you chose to,  
12 or to have gone into another county. I just  
13 wanted to give you a visual, so I went east  
14 into Osceola County. That district's  
15 population is minus 930, and, actually, no  
16 cities were split in the creation of that  
17 particular district.

18 And this is the last example of this  
19 trade-off for today's meeting, thinking about  
20 cross-jurisdictional communities and keeping  
21 counties whole. There is an interesting little  
22 nuance in the map that relates to the border of  
23 Dixie County. You can see there in the  
24 northeast portion of the boundary for Dixie  
25 County, it is actually contiguous to a point

1           there where a piece of their boundary comes  
2           into Gilchrist County. And what I mean by that  
3           is that if you wanted to keep all of Dixie  
4           County whole, what you would have to do is have  
5           a district that had a portion of Gilchrist  
6           County that wraps around where that circle is  
7           there on the screen in that district as well  
8           because of that contiguous to a point.

9           So thinking about the population of both  
10          of those counties, they are both small  
11          counties, Dixie County has the population of .1  
12          House districts, and Gilchrist County has  
13          enough of a population for .11 House districts.  
14          So if you wanted to keep all of Dixie County  
15          whole, which is something that could be done,  
16          you would have to keep -- again, it would have  
17          to have a portion of Gilchrist County. Well,  
18          Gilchrist County is also a county that could,  
19          in fact, be kept whole in a State House map,  
20          and together they would look like this. And  
21          this is the only way, again, as I am saying,  
22          you could keep Dixie County whole is if you had  
23          a portion of Gilchrist County within that  
24          district.

25          Thinking about this district, again, this

1 is really just kind of more of a beginning of a  
2 district, its population is just over 33,000,  
3 so obviously you need roughly 123,000 more to  
4 complete that district. I wanted to show that  
5 little nuance to you within the county boundary  
6 line for Dixie County.

7 Mr. Chairman, those are all of my remarks.

8 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Thank you, Jeff.

9 Questions about this portion of the  
10 presentation, members, questions or comments?  
11 Representative Bernard, would you like to say  
12 something today? You are recognized.

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

15 In some of these trade-offs, specifically  
16 in The Villages, did you split any of the VTDS  
17 based on the first example on page 29?

18 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Jeff, you are  
19 recognized.

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

21 No, as a matter of fact, just to give you  
22 that visual, I just -- I built all in VTDS.

23 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Okay.

24 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Other questions,  
25 members? Representative Baxley.

1           REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: Thank you,  
2           Mr. Chairman.

3           Having evaluated this good presentation  
4           and a lot of the other information that we  
5           received, I have a suggestion, Mr. Chair, in  
6           fact, a recommendation for a standard that we  
7           should use in this process as we move forward.  
8           And it may sound over-simplified, but I think  
9           it has meaning.

10          I really think that the House maps that we  
11          draw should create -- or that we are going to  
12          create should actually -- we should drill down  
13          and see that every district must change. Every  
14          district has something that needs improving on.  
15          Every district has some split neighborhoods or  
16          communities that need to be put back together,  
17          that could be put back together. You know,  
18          some districts might improve just in a minor  
19          way, there might not be a big change with them,  
20          maybe that is all they need is a little change,  
21          just putting a neighborhood together or just  
22          putting a subdivision together that right now  
23          is split. And then others may need a dramatic  
24          change, you know, based on things that we are  
25          learning and the parameters of the new

1 guidelines that are entering the process this  
2 time.

3 But I think it is critical that at the end  
4 of this process that we can say to everybody,  
5 you know, that we didn't just keep any district  
6 the way it was, we improved every district.  
7 And if that improvement was small, keeping a  
8 few neighborhoods whole, or if it was large,  
9 that we didn't fail to go and look at every  
10 district and see if we could improve it and put  
11 some things together that may look broken at  
12 this point.

13 So I think we should be able to put  
14 forward some kind of plain language  
15 improvements regarding each district so that  
16 people can see that something positive happened  
17 with their district, in every single district.  
18 And maybe I said too much, but that is my  
19 suggestion, Mr. Chair.

20 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: No, no, thank  
21 you, Representative Baxley. The suggestion of  
22 changing all the districts while we are  
23 redistricting is very profound, but your point  
24 is well-taken. I think sometimes people gloss  
25 over the fact that everything is going to



1 change and should change, so you make a very  
2 good point. Thank you for that.

3 Other questions or comments, members?  
4 Representative Young.

5 REPRESENTATIVE YOUNG: Thank you, Mr.  
6 Chairman.

7 I do think Representative Baxley makes  
8 some good points, and I do want in concept to  
9 agree with that, but I also have a bit of a  
10 concern, and I wonder where those districts in  
11 counties like Hillsborough County and  
12 Jacksonville area, those districts that have  
13 some sort of federal or state legal protection  
14 for racial minorities, language minorities, how  
15 those would fit into that program. So I guess  
16 my question is, is it possible that in some  
17 situations we may just need to leave a district  
18 alone and not make a change? Is that legally  
19 possible? And that may be a question for  
20 staff.

21 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Sure. Let's go  
22 to staff first. Bob, I am going to ask you to  
23 address that question about the legal aspect of  
24 it. Is it legally possible to leave a  
25 court-protected or judicial-protected district

1 the same?

2 MR. WEST: That is a question more for the  
3 attorneys.

4 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: True.

5 MR. WEST: I think some of them will be  
6 very similar. All of them will be changed in a  
7 real way when we do the maps, but some of them  
8 will be similar and will have to be similar in  
9 order to meet the requirements.

10 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Thank you. And I  
11 guess, too, Representative Young, I would  
12 follow up your comments with I think that was a  
13 lot of today's presentations that when you look  
14 at these minority protected seats or access  
15 seats, that what -- what we do with those  
16 really dictates how the rest of the map spreads  
17 out. And so you bring up some very valid  
18 points.

19 Jeff, did you want to add something to  
20 that?

21 MR. TAKACS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
22 Yeah, just a minor point.

23 I mean, obviously, thinking about  
24 population, which is, in fact, what drives  
25 redistricting, the population is going to

1 change, has changed over the last ten years.  
2 So even if it is in a minor way, each district  
3 is going to have to change just solely based on  
4 its population.

5 So then taking that to the next step, it  
6 would be how do you make that change? Even if  
7 it is a minor, how do you make that change?  
8 Representative Baxley talked about, you know,  
9 maybe a neighborhood that may be cut or  
10 something else that may be minor, but because  
11 of the population change, each district does  
12 need to change at least slightly.

13 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Sure. I think,  
14 Representative Bernard, was that you that  
15 wanted to say something?

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

18 Mr. Chair, I do agree with Representative  
19 Baxley's point that every district must change,  
20 but I do want to make sure that the changes  
21 that are made to every district should be along  
22 the -- should follow the Florida Constitution  
23 and the United States Constitution.

24 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Okay. Others?  
25 Representative Dorworth.

1           REPRESENTATIVE DORWORTH: Thank you, Mr.  
2 Chair. I guess I -- listening to this today, I  
3 think we are right to be cautious. I think  
4 that there is -- as Representative Young  
5 suggested, there is reason to be cautious  
6 there, but I also think we can live up to what  
7 Representative Baxley is saying.

8           That improvement that we want for every  
9 district may relate to more than just a  
10 district itself. It is possible that we can  
11 preserve electoral opportunities for a minority  
12 community, but still improve the configuration  
13 of the districts in that county, for example.  
14 So while we comply with the Voting Rights Act,  
15 we also help provide the people of a county or  
16 region with the representation that they want.

17           So when we do roll out the PCBs or member  
18 bills, with your agreement, Chairman Schenck, I  
19 think it is fair to say that we should be  
20 prepared to speak to the merits of every single  
21 district, whether they be minor or major  
22 benefits. That is my comment.

23           REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Well spoken.

24           Other -- other questions or comments,  
25 members?

1           Okay. Then I guess I would close with  
2           this: First of all, Jeff, I think you did an  
3           outstanding job in your presentation today,  
4           really hammering home a lot of the thinking  
5           points that this Committee is going to have to  
6           look at over the next couple of weeks.

7           I would charge with this Committee for the  
8           next meeting in two weeks to think about really  
9           some of the points that were made in this -- in  
10          this presentation and how do county  
11          boundaries -- what role should they play in how  
12          we draw the new districts, because obviously  
13          they are the most recognizable geographical  
14          boundaries on a map that most people recognize.  
15          So while certainly counties have to be split  
16          because population dictates everything, we  
17          should all be thinking on what role county  
18          boundaries should be playing in the discussion,  
19          and I think we are going to discuss some more  
20          of that in two weeks.

21                 So Representative Clarke-Reed.

22                 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Thank you,  
23                 Mr. Chair.

24                 The presentation that was just given to us  
25                 on the southwest districts, will we be having

1           that presentation on other areas of the state  
2           as we go around?

3                    REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK:  Yes, we are going  
4           to continue in two weeks from now in our next  
5           committee meeting to look at other parts of the  
6           states as well with some of the same dynamics  
7           that are going on.

8                    Other questions or comments?

9                    Okay, members, well, listen, good work  
10          today, and we will see you in two weeks, and  
11          with that, Representative Diaz moves we rise.

12                   (Whereupon, the proceedings were  
13          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 62 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 20th day of February, 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

Notary Public

State of Florida at Large

Commission Expires:

November 13, 2014