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CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 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 LEGG: Members, let's call
3 the Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee to
4 order.

5 Katie, will you call the roll?

6 THE CLERK: Representatives Abruzzo?

7 REPRESENTATIVE ABRUZZO: Here.

8 THE CLERK: Albritton?

9 REPRESENTATIVE ALBRITTON: Here.

10 THE CLERK: Brodeur?

11 REPRESENTATIVE BRODEUR: Here.

12 THE CLERK: Burgin?

13 REPRESENTATIVE BURGIN: Here.

14 THE CLERK: Chestnut?

15 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Here.

16 THE CLERK: Fullwood?

17 Goodson?

18 REPRESENTATIVE GOODSON: Here.

19 THE CLERK: Holder?

20 Horner?

21 REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Here.

22 THE CLERK: Passidomo?

23 REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: Here.

24 THE CLERK: Plakon?

25 REPRESENTATIVE PLAKON: Here.

1 THE CLERK: Reed?

2 REPRESENTATIVE REED: Here.

3 THE CLERK: Taylor?

4 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Here.

5 THE CLERK: Trujillo?

6 Chair Legg?

7 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Here.

8 THE CLERK: Quorum is present.

9 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Thank you, Katie.

10 Members, as a reminder, if you would turn
11 off your cell phones since they interfere with
12 the mike, and I hope you are enjoying this
13 weather that we brought down from Tampa for you
14 guys to enjoy here.

15 So, members, much like our last meeting,
16 the bulk of today's meeting will consist of
17 staff presentation and opportunities for your
18 feedback and input regarding public testimony
19 for redistricting.

20 At our last meeting, staff summarized for
21 us what was heard in our first four regions we
22 visited this summer, including written input
23 about those same four regions and any partial
24 maps that have been submitted which impact
25 those regions.

1 Today's meetings will look similar to
2 that, with staff presenting public input
3 received from the fifth region, southwest
4 Florida, and any complete or near complete maps
5 submitted by the public.

6 Members, regarding that packet, you have
7 it in front of you right now. This is the same
8 packet of information that other subcommittees
9 will receive today. In tab two will be the
10 subject of what our analyst, Jeff Takacs, is
11 presenting today. As a reminder, all this
12 information will also be available on
13 www.floridaredistricting.org for anyone in the
14 public to review.

15 With that, Mr. Takacs, you are recognized
16 to present the summary of the public input from
17 southwest Florida.

18 MR. TAKACS: Thank you very much, Mr.
19 Chairman.

20 What I would like to do before we get
21 started walking through the --

22 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Is your mike on?
23 Hello? There you go.

24 MR. TAKACS: I have to get closer to it.

25 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: You're still not on.

1 MR. TAKACS: How about now? Hello, hello,
2 testing.

3 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: There you go.

4 MR. TAKACS: It is on.

5 Okay. What I would like to do -- thank
6 you, Mr. Chairman. What I would like to do
7 before we start walking through the fifth and
8 final region of the public input is to kind of
9 talk to you a little bit about -- as you are
10 looking at the screen, if you are following
11 along in the book, then we can coordinate
12 together.

13 As you look at this very first example,
14 you will see in the upper left corner of the
15 slide, it says "SW-1." If you are following
16 along in the book, you will look to that code
17 in the upper left corner as we kind of go
18 through the presentation.

19 We are actually not going through all of
20 the actual items in your packet, but for the
21 sake of time, we're going to kind of skip and
22 go through some of the highlights. So if you
23 are following along in the book, if you will
24 look to that upper left code; in this instance,
25 SW-1 is the first one. Of course, if you are

1 following along with what is on the screen, you
2 can just kind of watch as we move forward.

3 So with the first example here, we are
4 looking at two Congressional districts in
5 Hillsborough County. The testimony that was
6 given suggested I-75 as the dividing line
7 between east and west Hillsborough County, with
8 also the suggestion for that eastern portion to
9 actually continue up into eastern Pasco County
10 to complete that district.

11 Thinking about the districts as they
12 appear on the screen, that western district,
13 the green district, is actually too big for the
14 ideal population of a Congressional district,
15 while the eastern district, the brown district
16 there, is actually too small for the ideal
17 population of a Congressional district. So
18 adjustments would have to be made to both
19 districts to meet the ideal population for a
20 Congressional district.

21 Moving along to the next item, which is
22 SW-3, this addresses the 11th Congressional
23 District. There was testimony supporting that
24 Manatee and Pinellas Counties both be removed
25 from the district. You can see here on the

1 screen where the Pinellas County and Manatee
2 County portions, one kind of scoops up, the
3 other kind of scoops down.

4 You will also notice on the screen there
5 are three communities that are circled there,
6 the Westchase community, the Carrollwood
7 community, as well as Brandon. It was
8 suggested in the testimony that, you know,
9 thinking of removing Pinellas and Manatee
10 Counties from the district, you would need to
11 have more population for that district.

12 So it was suggested that those three
13 communities be absorbed into the 11th
14 Congressional District as a possible way to
15 meet that population.

16 Next also talks about the Brandon
17 community. There was testimony supporting that
18 Brandon actually be linked with a Congressional
19 district. That is in eastern Hillsborough
20 County. As you can see on the screen, they are
21 currently in the 12th Congressional District,
22 which is more linked towards Polk County.

23 So as you can see, there was testimony
24 there supporting that actually Brandon be
25 incorporated into eastern Hillsborough County.

1 Whether that would be in the 9th Congressional
2 District or another district altogether wasn't
3 specified.

4 It is also important to note, as we think
5 about the last meeting that we had, there were
6 several communities that we didn't have
7 parameters for, thinking about, you know,
8 someone would say, "Well, I think the community
9 of Brandon should be into a district." We
10 don't have actually what the parameters of that
11 community might be. That is why it is kind of
12 circled here on the slide.

13 And, members, obviously, we would love to
14 have your input if you represent that community
15 or know more about that community, would love
16 to get a better understanding of what that --
17 what that community might look like, so that is
18 what that example would look like.

19 Moving on, this is a pretty unique
20 testimony that we received in the Largo
21 meeting. It is talking about keeping small
22 cities together within districts. This was
23 actually someone from a small city, it was
24 actually the Mayor of South Pasadena who made
25 this recommendation.

1 The challenge here for us is that the
2 actual definition of a small city wasn't given
3 in the testimony. The Mayor talked about maybe
4 cities with 50 or less employees. You know,
5 obviously, we are all census driven here in
6 redistricting, so we might need to look towards
7 populations as far as how to define small
8 cities, but that was a suggestion, keeping
9 multiple cities together within a district.

10 Moving along to SW-12, this was to keep
11 Sarasota and Manatee Counties together within a
12 Congressional district. It is important to
13 note that when you do combine both of those
14 counties, you actually do go over the ideal
15 population for a Congressional district by
16 5,937.

17 So you would have to make some minor
18 adjustments to meet that population for that
19 district, but that's what those two counties
20 combined together would look like.

21 Next is the concept of keeping barrier
22 islands together within a district. As you can
23 see here on the slide, this is the barrier
24 island chain of Manatee County. It is kind of
25 in that red box there. Thinking about the

1 barrier islands, if you were to create a
2 district like that using these functional,
3 compact communities, it would create, you know,
4 kind of a longer, thin district that might
5 cross several county boundary lines, but that,
6 you know, obviously is an option that would be
7 there for you.

8 Next is a district that was talked about
9 quite a bit during several meetings, and this
10 is the idea of connecting Charlotte County with
11 western coastal communities as opposed to an
12 eastern coastal community.

13 On the screen, you will see Congressional
14 District 16. This is more of an issue --
15 thinking about Charlotte County specifically,
16 if you notice in western Charlotte County,
17 there are a couple of Congressional districts
18 that do encompass western Charlotte County, but
19 this would be more of the eastern Charlotte
20 County portion that would prefer to be linked
21 to the county -- to the districts north or
22 south of them versus a district that, you know,
23 spans the state and goes into the eastern
24 coastal communities.

25 Next, thinking about SW-22, this is the

1 community of Lakewood Ranch. They would like
2 to be whole within this process. Lakewood
3 Ranch is actually located east of I-75 in
4 Manatee County. You will notice on the actual
5 slide there, there is a circle there on the map
6 as we were looking to do research for today's
7 meeting.

8 Looking in the map, the actual Lakewood
9 Ranch could not be found. We know it exists,
10 and, again, this would be where, if you were
11 representing that area or knew more about that
12 specific community, we would love to get input
13 as to what the parameters of Lakewood Ranch
14 would look like.

15 We do know it is east of I-75, south of
16 301 and north of 64 in eastern Pasco -- I mean,
17 eastern Manatee County.

18 Next is talking about having more Hispanic
19 representation in Collier County. Currently
20 thinking about the Congressional districts,
21 there is one member of Congress in Collier
22 County that is Hispanic. The county as a
23 whole, the Hispanic voting age population is
24 21.9 percent. What you will see on the screen
25 is looking at VTDs, these are all of the VTDs

1 that have a Hispanic voting age population of
2 30 percent or greater.

3 So you can see the various concentrations
4 there across the county. Thinking about
5 Collier County, it is important to note that
6 the county is a covered jurisdiction under
7 Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

8 Next is SW-29, which is keep Lehigh Acres
9 whole. This was a kind of a real popular theme
10 that we had in the Lehigh Acres meeting, which
11 was the concept of feeling the separation
12 between east and west Lee County. Lehigh Acres
13 is a high growth area, and, again, they asked
14 to remain whole in this process.

15 It is an unincorporated community within
16 Lee County, so, again, looking for parameters
17 of how to actually define Lehigh Acres would be
18 greatly appreciated.

19 Moving next, we did talk a little bit
20 about Congressional District 16. There was a
21 lot of testimony in favor of eliminating
22 districts that cross the state. The one on
23 this screen is actually Senate District 27,
24 but, again, thinking about Congressional
25 District 16 was a district that was spoken of

1 quite a bit in this context. It may sound a
2 little silly, but the definition of crossing
3 the state wasn't given.

4 Someone who wanted to get really technical
5 could say, well, this doesn't actually cross
6 the entire state, there are pieces on both the
7 east and west extremities that are not within
8 that district, but thinking about generally
9 what the folks were discussing was
10 Congressional District 16 or districts that
11 look like Senate District 27.

12 Next is connecting the community of Estero
13 with the City of Bonita Springs in Lee County.
14 You can see here on the screen, that southern
15 area where we have the green district started
16 is all of Bonita Springs kept whole, and you
17 will see just to the north of it there on 45 is
18 the Estero community; again, another example of
19 a community where we are looking for the
20 parameters of what that would look like. But
21 that would be the beginning of a district if
22 one were to go that route.

23 The next couple of slides are talking
24 about Hendry County, which is a covered
25 jurisdiction under Section 5 of the Voting

1 Rights Act. The first piece of testimony we
2 received would actually recommend that the
3 county be split into at least two districts.
4 One would have the City of Clewiston connected
5 with an eastern district, while the City of
6 LaBelle would be connected to a western
7 district.

8 Obviously that is something that is at
9 your disposal as far as review, but that was
10 the concept of how that county could be split
11 into two if you wanted to make that policy
12 decision.

13 Counter to that, we also did receive
14 testimony that would ask to keep Hendry County
15 whole in this process. That is what Hendry
16 County looks like. Hendry County's population
17 is 39,140, obviously far short of the ideal
18 population for a Congressional district, but
19 obviously it could be kept whole in this
20 process if you chose to do so and connect it
21 with other communities.

22 Next is the concept of keeping the City of
23 Dunedin whole within one district. You can see
24 there on your screen what the City of Dunedin
25 looks like in Pinellas County. Like we talked

1 about in our last meeting, when you think about
2 having an entire city within a district,
3 sometimes doing so creates holes or
4 non-contiguous pieces of land that would have
5 to be addressed if it were to be completed as a
6 legislative district, and this would happen
7 here with the City of Dunedin.

8 Next, SW-47 is maintaining the
9 representation for the black community in St.
10 Petersburg and Pinellas County. You can see
11 here on the screen, this is all of the VTDS
12 with a 35 percent black VAP or higher.
13 Specifically this testimony was talking about
14 St. Petersburg, so if you look there on the
15 screen, you can see the southern St. Petersburg
16 area there where the VTDS are shaded, showing
17 the concentration of that community within that
18 city.

19 And lastly is SW-53, which was a partial
20 map that we received from a member of the
21 public, which kind of deals with multiple
22 southwest and southern congressional districts.
23 If you look at the screen, you know, of the six
24 districts that are drawn, the blue district to
25 the top, the brown one just to the southeast of

1 it and then the very southern district -- on
2 their map is Districts 2, 3 and 5 -- those were
3 the districts that came the closest to the
4 ideal population as far as population
5 deviation, while the other three were
6 probably -- the thought process was just to get
7 those districts started. Those populations are
8 far off of what the ideal population would be,
9 but that is what that map would look like as
10 submitted by a member of the public.

11 Mr. Chairman, that concludes my
12 presentation.

13 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Thank you very much.
14 Questions from members? Questions?
15 Representative.

16 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Thank you, Mr.
17 Chair. Did we receive any comments in regards
18 to Port Charlotte, the Punta Gorda area?

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

20 Specifically those cities, I would have to
21 go back and look at the packet. There is
22 nothing that is jumping out at me at this
23 moment, but I would love to go back and review
24 the entire packet for you and we can certainly
25 get back with you.

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

3 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Further questions?
4 Further questions? Representative Goodson.

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

7 Have you received a map that -- any map
8 that has the correct number in that map that's
9 been turned in as far as voters?

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

11 Are you talking about the ideal population
12 in this region?

13 REPRESENTATIVE GOODSON: Yes, in this
14 region.

15 MR. TAKACS: I believe that we have, and I
16 know that -- thinking about more presentations,
17 we are actually going to have another
18 presentation following me. Mr. Bob West, our
19 policy chief, is going to talk about all of the
20 statewide submitted maps that have been
21 submitted to us. We are just kind of -- these
22 are the partially submitted maps, and he is
23 going to go into detail of maps that were
24 submitted that encompass the entire state of
25 Florida.

1 REPRESENTATIVE GOODSON: Thank you.

2 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: With that, seeing no
3 further questions, I will segue right into our
4 policy chief, Mr. Bob West. He is going to
5 give us a presentation regarding the complete
6 congressional maps that were submitted to the
7 Legislature thus far. We have heard
8 presentations remarked thus far regarding
9 partial maps, so now we are going to spend some
10 devoted time to those maps that Florida
11 residents took time to complete in full. So
12 with that, members, if you can turn to tab
13 three in your packet, and Mr. West, the floor
14 is yours.

15 MR. WEST: Thank you.

16 Well, today what I am going to do is go
17 through the different maps and just give you a
18 little highlight from each map, and then at the
19 end we will sort of bring together some --
20 summarize some of that material at the end.

21 Up to this point, we've had 68 maps. Over
22 the weekend, we had several other maps, maybe
23 about four maps, and then we also have three
24 maps that are not in this presentation that
25 came in after we did the presentation.

1 And also, as you go through the maps, you
2 will see where we list the person's name and
3 where they are from, and sometimes that helps
4 you know the perspective that they are coming
5 from for each of the maps.

6 Our first map that we have here is from
7 Mr. Ortiz. He created this map -- it looks
8 like he did not -- he favored compactness over
9 whole counties. He is one of the only maps to
10 create all three minority-majority districts
11 for the black community.

12 And also in this map, if you look -- in
13 the past there's been quite a bit of thought
14 about keeping the Space Coast, Port Everglades
15 and the tourist areas in Orlando together. He
16 doesn't do that in this map.

17 He also creates three majority-minority
18 Hispanic seats in this map. And then in Hendry
19 County, he takes in just a little piece of it
20 without actually taking in any population, and
21 he drops that out, which Hendry County is a
22 Section 5 county, and that is something that I
23 think we are going to have to look at.

24 He did not appear to draw the map with
25 VTDs, he sort of ignored VTDs completely, but

1 he did obtain a deviation of just plus or minus
2 one person, which is -- takes a lot of time to
3 do.

4 This is one of two maps by John Libby. He
5 has the lowest number of counties split at 19,
6 and also one of the lower numbers of VTDs at
7 84, so he's really tried to keep those
8 communities together, and he only has a
9 deviation of three people. But this map does
10 eliminate two of the majority black seats.

11 Now, the next map, this was also another
12 map by Mr. Kelly. He said in his intent for
13 this map is he wanted to avoid retrogression,
14 but he did eliminate two of the black seats in
15 this map. His map five creates three black
16 seats that are all in the 30s in terms of black
17 VAP. Between the two maps, five -- four here
18 that you see, and five, the deviation -- he
19 does not split any VTDs. And he also tried to
20 link together similar communities and to keep
21 communities whole.

22 In five, he does something that is rather
23 unique, and if you look in the center of the
24 state, he has a district that holds Marion and
25 Alachua together in a set of -- in one

1 district, and then Lake County in a district of
2 its own, which when you are building maps, a
3 lot of times as you come into the center, that
4 is where you break up your districts.

5 Number six: This map was drawn
6 exclusively with VTDs, but the deviation on
7 this map is like 20,000 people, so he didn't do
8 a real good job of keeping the districts really
9 the same. This plan also reduces the black
10 majority-minority districts, and it tries to
11 locate a lot of your districts -- the plan
12 appears to try to locate districts entirely or
13 at least the majority of the districts in each
14 major city. In the southwest, the plan
15 uniquely creates a district that goes from
16 Naples through most of the rural counties of
17 south Florida. In the southwest, the plan also
18 creates another unique district that goes from
19 the Keys up through the more rural communities
20 of Miami-Dade, Palm Beach and Broward County.

21 Plan 20: This plan has a number of
22 non-contiguous districts. The plan would
23 almost certainly have some Voting Rights Act
24 problems. It significantly diminishes the
25 three seats represented by African-Americans

1 today. It also illustrates something to watch
2 out for. The plan keeps three Hispanic
3 majority-minority seats, but one of them is
4 52 percent Hispanic VAP, which oftentimes
5 Hispanic seats with a low VAP would only have a
6 35 to 40 percent Hispanic voter registration.
7 So this plan may have accidentally eliminated
8 an opportunity for Hispanic residents to elect
9 a candidate of their choice. The plan's
10 author -- author's districts were much more
11 regionally compact in north and central Florida
12 versus the south Florida seats, of which a
13 couple are much more spread out.

14 This is plan 26. The plan's author used
15 VTDs exclusively. This map had the most
16 continuity issues. Generally speaking, the
17 plan seemed to be more focused on regional
18 interests, more so than keeping geography
19 together. The plan definitely makes a
20 distinction between rural versus urban, and
21 rural versus coastal in some cases, including a
22 very large rural district starting in Polk
23 County and going south -- south, east and west,
24 and you can see the big district in the middle
25 there. The plan creates seats that are located

1 wholly in Pinellas and Hillsborough each. You
2 see in the one little map there. The plan also
3 appears to keep The Villages community whole in
4 Lake, Marion and Sumter Counties. The plan
5 does leave one majority-minority seat in place,
6 though it diminishes the voting age population
7 of the other seats.

8 This plan only splits four incorporated
9 cities, which is really quite remarkable,
10 almost -- I would say very -- almost impossible
11 to do. It does -- is remarkable. The plan's
12 author commented on or illustrated on how the
13 terminology of majority-minority can be
14 confusing. The author believes he created new
15 majority-minority districts when he actually
16 eliminated two African-American
17 majority-minority seats. People often
18 mistakenly add together minority populations
19 and think that they are a majority-minority
20 seat. The author definitely had a focus on
21 ensuring that while the major cities he
22 divided, that they stayed -- that they still
23 had dedicated or relatively dedicated voice
24 from one or more of the districts that
25 represented them. The plan's continuity was

1 perfect and it split only 19 counties.

2 In the next, we are going to take 36, 41
3 and 44 together. Thirty-six, 41 and 44 are all
4 submitted by a Manatee resident. The author
5 noted that he used county lines and then VTDs
6 to create his maps, with a goal in mind of
7 creating compact districts, and you can see as
8 it sort of progresses, how he worked it. You
9 can see the evolution of his deviations getting
10 smaller from one submission to the other. All
11 the maps are contiguous. The maps split
12 exactly 19 counties, which the city splits
13 vary -- but the city splits vary.

14 And then another thing, drive times for
15 several of the author's districts would likely
16 be significant. And what I mean by that is as
17 a district is spread out more, even though it
18 may be compact, it may be circle, it can take a
19 long time to go from one end of the district,
20 and we are looking to create a compactness
21 measure that will actually measure what those
22 drive times will be within a district.

23 Forty-two: This was drawn exclusively
24 with VTDs, it is perfectly contiguous, and the
25 author seems to be less occupied with the city

1 and county boundaries, in most of the state --
2 in the state, more concern will -- with -- and
3 in most of the state, more concern with
4 maintaining regional interests. This map here
5 only splits 17 counties. The deviations are
6 significantly off, though, and that is a lot of
7 times when you split counties and all and
8 try -- or try to bring those together so you
9 don't split, then you have to balance that out
10 with all the other things, and here he gave up
11 his deviations in order to achieve that. The
12 plan eliminates two majority-minority black VAP
13 districts, although it is -- although it is
14 another plan that manages to create a new
15 majority-minority Hispanic district, although
16 it is at the expense of one of the black
17 districts. And when you create Hispanic
18 districts, you have to look to make sure that
19 you are really creating one that will elect a
20 Hispanic.

21 This one is the second lowest in the
22 parameter test, and we are doing a compactness
23 test. What it will do, it will measure around
24 each -- as if you had walked around each of the
25 districts in the plan and adds all those

1 numbers together, and so the one that has the
2 least amount of walking is the lower number,
3 and this is the second lowest.

4 Forty-nine: Like others, the plan author
5 tried to create new districts -- I guess I
6 should show it to you -- new districts with
7 county lines in mind, using VTDs as the binding
8 block when below the county level. She makes
9 distinctions between coastal communities and
10 inland communities in multiple cases,
11 specifically in what she has referred to as the
12 I-4 corridor. The map creates a dedicated seat
13 in Pinellas, Hillsborough, Orange and each of
14 the three major southeast Florida counties.
15 She acknowledges that she did not consider
16 racial data in building these districts.

17 Fifty-one: The plan -- the plan author
18 stated that he was trying to make sure
19 southwest Florida had the foundation of another
20 congressional district. This map only splits
21 14 counties, has very low population deviation,
22 and so may be why it only splits 14 counties --
23 very high, I'm sorry. The map had the best
24 results for parameter compactness test, and it
25 also seemed to minimize geographic splits.

1 Generally speaking, the plan's author kept
2 districts within the particular region of a
3 state. The plan also very much keeps the
4 impact of major cities to their immediate area.

5 This next map was drawn exclusively with
6 VTDs. It has a high number of city and county
7 splits. It does maintain one majority-minority
8 black district, but eliminates the others.
9 Took a distinctively different approach to
10 Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach, which are
11 drawn very compactly, versus St. Lucie and
12 Martin County, which are drawn over to
13 Charlotte and Manatee, as you can see up there,
14 which is -- and splits Orange County into six
15 different districts.

16 Okay. This is another -- this is the
17 third plan by John Libby. In it, he wanted to
18 avoid regression of minority districts in his
19 explanation, and then draw compact districts
20 around them. He still does reduce one black
21 district to less than 50 percent VAP, voting
22 age population, but all three of his black
23 districts are at least 48 percent black VAP.
24 He creates a fourth majority-minority district.
25 Districts going -- district going from Brevard

1 to Palm Beach County is unique, one of many
2 maps that splits the southern Polk County from
3 the northern Polk County, does a split there.
4 He leaves Volusia County whole, but by
5 splitting Monroe and Lake Counties. And that
6 is kind of unique in the keeping Volusia whole,
7 because he does recreate the District 3
8 district.

9 This person submitted a lengthy
10 district-by-district explanation of his map.
11 He is the third best in county splits at 18,
12 second in city splits at 45, but he does
13 diminish the African-American seats by two.
14 And his unique comment was he was trying to
15 shorten the boundary lines, which is the
16 parameter test.

17 The next one is number 68. He
18 significantly reduces the black VAP for the
19 three African-American seats, splits the most
20 counties at 36, splits the third most cities at
21 45. He creates a coastal district in the
22 northeast, southwest and central Florida, but
23 they -- but he drew the coastal seats very
24 differently in southeast Florida. He split
25 Hillsborough County into four districts, splits

1 Seminole into three districts.

2 Now, also in your packet, you will find
3 some statistics that we have put together for
4 you, and these are just some of the numbers so
5 that you can compare plans. And we have gone
6 through -- first in that packet, you will see
7 at the beginning of their section is on
8 deviations, and that is -- how we get a
9 deviation is you take the largest -- the
10 maximum district from the smallest district and
11 you subtract them, and that is what your
12 deviation is that you see here.

13 The other one is non-contiguous districts.
14 That is just -- in every map, you will have --
15 that's a full map, you will have one
16 non-contiguous district. The Dry Tortugas will
17 always be non-contiguous. So anything higher
18 than that is a problem that we will have to go
19 in and fix in the districts.

20 And then the next -- the next one is
21 county splits, and what that is is how many
22 times -- how many counties were split by
23 districts. In the report that we gave you last
24 time, we said how many times the districts
25 split counties. This one is if this county was

1 split three, four, up to six times like we saw
2 with the one in Orange County, would count as
3 one split county in this number.

4 And then the same thing with the city
5 splits. It counts how many cities were split
6 in the same way, and it may have been split
7 once, it may have been split two, three, four
8 times.

9 And then VTD splits, and the thing with
10 congressional seats is if you are going to
11 achieve the plus or minus one person, you are
12 probably going to have to split a few VTDs. So
13 the ones that kept the maps whole and had the
14 best deviation and had the lowest numbers are
15 what you are looking for there.

16 And then the parameter test, I explained
17 that just a minute ago. And then here you have
18 the black voting age population, and the way
19 these numbers work, if -- it just tells you how
20 many are -- like it says 20 percent, that's how
21 many districts are 20 percent or more. Where
22 it says 30 percent, that's how many districts
23 are 30 percent or more. So you will see as the
24 number goes up, it gets smaller, because more
25 districts drop off, and the same thing with the

1 Hispanic districts.

2 And with that, open to some questions.

3 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Great. A lot of
4 numbers, good data. Questions? Representative
5 Taylor.

6 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr.
7 Chair, and I would like to also thank and
8 commend those members who submitted the public
9 maps, but because Amendment 6 passed and it is
10 a part of our Constitution, were there any
11 public maps submitted that followed Amendment
12 6?

13 MR. WEST: Their -- I think a number of
14 people felt like they did, you know, but that
15 is where you are going to have to determine
16 whether they did or not.

17 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: And if I can jump in
18 here, Representative, as you know, in Amendment
19 5 and 6, there is some broad definitions of
20 what is compactness, you know, there is not a
21 clear definition of that as we are aware of,
22 and we are trying to, sorry to use the pun,
23 wrap our arms around what that definition may
24 be. So --

25 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Okay, again,

1 follow-up. And I guess maybe this is a
2 procedural question on these particular maps.
3 Now, in order for these maps to even move
4 forward, a member, one of us, would have to
5 file this particular map, is that correct?

6 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: The way the process
7 works is obviously members of the public can do
8 maps, but we, as Chair Weatherford has asked
9 us, and I forget the date, November 14th --
10 November 14th is the deadline that he requested
11 that members of the committees or the
12 Legislature would submit maps, but we will also
13 be -- you know, depending on what we receive
14 from members, we will also be generating some
15 PCBs as well. So some of these -- I would
16 anticipate some of these maps will lay the
17 foundation or the framework for whether it be a
18 member bill or some of the PCBs as they move
19 forward.

20 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Okay, one
21 follow-up, Mr. Chair. I just want to get a
22 point of clarification.

23 So -- and you know as well as I do that
24 there is this ongoing lawsuit with Amendment 6,
25 and how does that prohibit us or how does that

1 -- how is that going to affect our ability to
2 draw a congressional map that follows Amendment
3 6, or do -- or we're going to wait for a ruling
4 to occur, or could you just help me out with
5 that particular procedure?

6 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Sure, excellent
7 question. It has no effect on what we do here.
8 We are -- Amendment 5 and 6, and 6
9 specifically, are on the books, that is what
10 the Speaker has told us that we will follow, so
11 we are proceeding with the current Constitution
12 as it is now, so it has no effect on us, we are
13 moving forward.

14 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: And one final
15 follow-up follow-up.

16 And so our map that we draw with our
17 particular bill -- and I have been talking with
18 Vice-Chair Horner about our ability to file,
19 because a lot of the members already have their
20 six bill slots already taken up, and he had
21 mentioned possibly a repealer, but wouldn't we
22 have to have a repealer bill to pass through
23 before we are able to file any additional
24 bills, or how would that work?

25 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Getting into the

1 nuances of the repealer bills and the
2 procedural aspect, I don't want to move outside
3 of my comfort zone and speak for Chair
4 Aubuchon, but as I am aware right now, that the
5 current proposals will take up one bill slot,
6 so, you know, if you want more clarity than
7 that, we may have to get with Chair Aubuchon to
8 provide specificity.

9 Chair Horner.

10 REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Thank you, Mr.
11 Chairman.

12 First of all, reviewing this on the
13 website and this presentation today, I am just
14 so impressed by the thoughtful, hard work these
15 people have put in. I have messed around with
16 My District Builder, and these folks have all
17 done a better job than I have come up with
18 today, so it is really good stuff.

19 One thing that I have noticed, and
20 Mr. West, maybe you can help me to know whether
21 I am being too much of a homer worried about
22 central Florida, but looking at the districts,
23 particularly where they've really tried not to
24 split counties, it appears that everyone has
25 done the natural thing, they have worked from

1 the two ends, and when they meet in the middle,
2 that's where all the splits take place. Is
3 that just my imagination, or is it -- it looks
4 like they do a great job, and then -- and I
5 can't speak for south Florida, I will let
6 Representatives Abruzzo and Fresen decide what
7 they did good there, because -- but when it
8 gets to central Florida, that is where it seems
9 to get a little messier on the maps where they
10 are trying to hold counties whole. Is that an
11 accurate observation?

12 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Chair Horner, I will
13 add to that when we get in a couple more
14 minutes, but if you want to kind of talk about
15 the general trends of what is happening with
16 that.

17 MR. WEST: That is probably very true,
18 because the worst thing that can happen when
19 you are a map drawer is to start at one end and
20 work all the way to the other end and end up
21 with 30,000 people in Key West that you have --
22 you don't know what to do with. So on drawing
23 maps, you sort of start at the corners and work
24 in, and so central Florida is where everybody
25 meets.

1 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Further questions?
2 Representative.

3 A VOICE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You had
4 mentioned the deadlines on November 1st and the
5 14th. I guess my question -- I am just trying
6 to seek clarity on the time lines. If -- I
7 guess if the public submit a map before
8 November 1st, will they get another opportunity
9 to submit another map after that -- we have --
10 after the members have submitted maps by
11 November 14th?

12 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: My understanding of
13 the process is November 1st is the deadline for
14 the members of the public to submit maps,
15 November 14th for members. They will still
16 have an opportunity to submit information, but
17 it is no longer a new map, it will be comments
18 on existing maps. So they will have
19 opportunity to provide public input,
20 information, but it won't be considered a new
21 submission. It would be considered kind of a
22 change of existing submissions. As you can
23 tell, we are going to have lots of maps to look
24 at, so their change could be significant to
25 where it looks as though it is a new map, but

1 in reality, it is a change of an existing map.

2 A VOICE: Okay. One more follow-up, Mr.
3 Chair. Regarding, Bob, Mr. West, you had
4 mentioned the compactness and -- can you
5 clarify in terms of how -- what tools are we
6 using to measure compactness, if you don't
7 mind?

8 MR. WEST: That is really where I am
9 programming right now is in the area of
10 compactness, and the parameter measurement was
11 one of the first ones and it is one of the ones
12 that is used quite -- quite readily in a lot of
13 cases and so forth. And it is also one of the
14 ones that -- it is not very interpretive. You
15 do a function, you get the parameter and that's
16 what it is. Some of the other ones we are
17 working on we hope to be coming out with soon,
18 and, you know, as we do, we will be putting
19 those reports out so you can see how the
20 different districts compare.

21 A VOICE: One more follow-up, Mr. Chair.
22 Is there any way that, you know, staff can tell
23 us after they have made a decision in regards
24 to compactness to let us know how compactness
25 is applied and for us to -- so now they can

1 give us guidance in regards to how compact --
2 the different ways to apply compactness, if you
3 don't mind?

4 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: What we will be
5 doing is that's -- the definition of
6 compactness really we as a committee have to
7 wrestle with. So I don't want to put it on
8 staff to come and present us and say this is
9 what their definition is. We will be working
10 hand in glove with them on what we view our
11 definition of compactness should be, looking at
12 some of their recommendations, hearing from our
13 members, is it the parameter test, is it a
14 radius from a central point test, there's going
15 to be lots of factors, and my own assumption is
16 there's probably not going to be a single
17 definition, but multiple definitions to factor
18 into one.

19 A VOICE: Thank you.

20 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: But we will be
21 putting that together.

22 A VOICE: Thank you.

23 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Further questions?

24 Mr. West, thank you.

25 Members, as you can tell, we have a

1 monumental task in front of us that Chair
2 Weatherford has asked us to do. He has asked
3 us to provide the full Committee with three
4 vetted options for congressional maps. As you
5 remember, Chair Weatherford set out two
6 deadlines for us: November 1 for the public
7 input, November 14th for us as members to come
8 forward with our own bill.

9 Going forward, I think these presentations
10 have illustrated some decision points about
11 congressional maps, and I would like to spend a
12 little bit of time to hear your thoughts and
13 considerations on some of these decision
14 points.

15 I think Chair Horner did an excellent job
16 of pointing out one problem. I think some of
17 the toughest decisions, and I am speaking
18 subjectively on this and want to get your
19 feedback, some of the more difficult times is
20 looking at some of our urban areas of our state
21 and how they are addressed. One potential
22 decision-making process that we could do as a
23 committee, and I want to get your feedback, is
24 do we start with the urban areas and move
25 outward? Do we perhaps look at how that

1 affects maybe the growth areas of our state,
2 such is the I-4 corridor, the southwest
3 corridor? Do we look at other issues such as
4 our existing maps and maybe start with our
5 existing maps and how they look, or do we look
6 at minority access seats and start there? We
7 have several decision points that we need to
8 kind of look at first and kind of look at what
9 we are going to springboard off of, and to kind
10 of give our staff some direction to start
11 putting together some maps for us to look at
12 and to wrestle with. I kind of open it up to
13 this Committee to hear your thoughts on where
14 we want to begin with. Do we want to look at
15 urban centers? Do we want to look at coastal
16 communities and move inward? As Representative
17 Horner suggested that all of those have some
18 positives and negatives, but we want to give
19 staff some direction for which they can come
20 back to us so we can move to that next step.

21 Representative Taylor, I see you chomping
22 at the bit there.

23 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Yes, because I
24 think as we are pondering over these particular
25 ideas, it is hard and difficult for me, knowing

1 that there is an ongoing lawsuit with Amendment
2 6 and not necessarily defining the framework of
3 where we are going to start with as far as the
4 definitions of contiguous or compactness or
5 whatever it is that we are trying to
6 accomplish. The first thing we have to do is
7 follow the law, and if we don't understand or
8 we haven't defined the law, how -- how can we
9 begin a process of starting in the -- whether
10 it be the urban areas or starting in let's just
11 say the Key West area or the Panhandle area?
12 That is difficult for me right now to digest,
13 because we've got to follow the letter of the
14 law, and until I know what the rule of the game
15 is, I can't necessarily say we should start in
16 the center of the state or the Panhandle or Key
17 West.

18 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: One thing I would
19 just comment on that is I believe the voters
20 have defined what the letter of the law is, and
21 now it is up to us to kind of wrestle with
22 those definitions, and those lawsuits being out
23 there, what they may, they really have no
24 effect on the way this Committee moves forward
25 on those issues. We have to move forward with

1 what the voters required us, and some of that
2 language is ambiguous, and we have to, you
3 know, look at how to address those, but
4 notwithstanding, I do think that we need to
5 move forward.

6 Further comments from this Committee on
7 your thoughts? Representative Passidomo.

8 REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: Thank you, Mr.
9 Chair. After spending the summer --

10 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Representative, can
11 you see if your mike is on there?

12 REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: It is on.

13 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Okay.

14 REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: I am just very
15 quiet spoken today. No, after spending the
16 summer traveling around the state, you know, I
17 realize for the first time how diverse this
18 state is, and also how much it has changed
19 since the last census in terms of development
20 and growth. So I think your suggestion that
21 maybe we start at urban areas or, you know, the
22 agricultural areas in the center makes some
23 sense, because, you know, those communities are
24 different than they were ten years ago, so
25 maybe we should look at, you know -- again,

1 look at what we did ten years ago and also how
2 it's changed, because most everybody that spoke
3 in front of us talked about keeping their
4 various communities together. The question is,
5 what is their community? Because I think it is
6 different now than it was ten years ago.

7 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Excellent point.

8 Further -- further comments? Further
9 comments? Representative Horner.

10 REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Thank you, Mr.
11 Chairman.

12 To answer your question, it is just my two
13 cents, maybe if we started with the minority
14 access seats and see if we can draw them as
15 compactly as possible to meet those standards
16 and use that as a start -- knowing that we
17 need -- we cannot retrogress if we want to pass
18 legal muster, so you start there and then build
19 out, making them as compact as legally
20 possible, that would just be my thought. When
21 I've played with the maps, that's been my
22 thinking.

23 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Further comments?

24 Further comments? Representative.

25 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Just a quick

1 question. Are we going to be using the VTDs?
2 Is that the plans of us, of the staff?

3 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: And I will punt this
4 to Alex, but my understanding is, as where
5 possible, we will be using the VTDs as much as
6 possible, but I will yield to you on the
7 technical aspect of that.

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

9 Yes, Representative Bernard, as much as
10 possible, staff are using the VTDs. We always
11 do recommend, in using any geography, that you
12 do give a close look to the map just to make
13 sure that the VTDs were drawn by the
14 Supervisors of Elections, and many of them did
15 a very fantastic job, but still make sure in
16 each county, when you are using the VTDs, that
17 they truly do match community lines. But, in
18 general, yes, the staff -- we are using the
19 VTDs as a basic building block. There are
20 situations where you would want to consider
21 deviating. For example, if you were trying to
22 wrap an entire city boundary line in or out of
23 a district, those city boundary lines are based
24 on census blocks, so at that point, even if you
25 were using VTDs throughout, you may want to

1 consider using census blocks for that purpose,
2 but, generally speaking, the VTDs match what
3 the supervisors intended to be lines that
4 would, A, help them administer elections in a
5 way that are simple and understandable for the
6 public, but B, also keep neighborhoods and
7 subdivisions together.

8 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Thank you.

9 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Further questions,
10 further questions?

11 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Mr. Chair?

12 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Representative
13 Taylor.

14 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Thank you. And I
15 guess I am going back to the process again and,
16 you know -- if there are let's just say 70
17 bills that are filed by the members, will those
18 bills be agenda'd and will we hear all 70, or
19 will staff go through it and try to determine
20 which ones pass more of the legal muster or
21 which ones are the best, or how will that
22 process go as far as the members' maps?

23 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Sure, and I would
24 have to get with Chair Weatherford and see how
25 he would like to go look at the maps. You

1 know, at this point, we have no bills filed by
2 members dealing with -- we have zero bills
3 filed by members dealing with maps, so I can't
4 really address that question until members
5 start filing bills.

6 With that, members, thank you very much
7 for your thoughts. What I would like to do is
8 ask staff if they could start mocking up some
9 maps for us to kind of kick off next committee
10 week -- committee meeting with, so we can at a
11 minimum have the ability to create some
12 alternatives from which we can start discussing
13 some of these issues.

14 Moreover, I would like to make it clear to
15 each of you that you are welcome to bring forth
16 your ideas, your thoughts, your decision points
17 and to ask some of these tough questions.

18 For -- there's some additional business
19 that you may want to be aware of. Before we
20 go, please note that in your packet there is a
21 memo that you received from Chair Aubuchon
22 regarding the rules and procedures for the
23 redistricting, including the special deadlines.
24 Please ensure that you and your staff are
25 familiar with these rules and procedures.

1 I want to thank you for your hard work,
2 for coming up on a Monday early to sit on this
3 Committee and to do your work. And with that,
4 without objection, Chair Horner moves we rise.

5 (Whereupon, the proceedings were
6 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 47 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