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HOUSE REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2011

Transcribed by:

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Court Reporter

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

2 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: (In progress)

3 suggestions the public gave for drawing
4 districts.

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

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

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

1 federal and state redistricting laws.

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

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

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

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

25 For the public, Chairman Weatherford is

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

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

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

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

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

1 staff.

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

7 Mr. Fairbrother, you are recognized.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 Now, members, regarding the packet you

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

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

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

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

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

25 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Take your time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 in the Senate and the congressional districts.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 that were to be considered.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: You are
6 recognized, sir.

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

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

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

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

5 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Any other
6 questions?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 Moving forward, looking at State House

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

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

1 or counties to the west.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 continued as well.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: You are

1 recognized to answer that.

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

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

15 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Okay. Thank you.

16 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Any follow-up
17 questions?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 more communities would need to be added to it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 Were there some concerns in regards to

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

3 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: You are
4 recognized, sir.

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

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

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

15 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Any further
16 questions?

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

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

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

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

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

25 (Whereupon, the proceedings were

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

STATE OF FLORIDA)

COUNTY OF LEON)

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

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

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

Dated this 21st day of February, 2012.

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

Notary Public

State of Florida at Large

Commission Expires:

November 13, 2014