

EXHIBIT 8

STATE OF MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING
CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING PLAN
AND
LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING PLAN

Montgomery County - Shady Grove
August 10, 2011 7:00 P.M.

SPEAKERS:

CHIP BERMAN

DON O'NEILL

DOUG MAINWARING

STEPHEN MCLAUGHLIN

JOSEPH DOANE

STEVE SHAPIRO

LYNN CREECY

DELEGATE ANA SOL GUTIERREZ

more or less Golden Rule basis, as one of the earlier speakers alluded to, retribution is probably going to be forthcoming.

And then, finally, there are laws, federal laws, that say that these districts should be relatively compact and, unless they are made compact, the courts may have to address the wrong that's been done. Thank you.

MADAME CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Steve Shapiro. And then followed by Lynn Creecy.

MR. SHAPIRO: Good evening, Madame Chair and members of the Committee.

MADAME CHAIRPERSON: Good evening.

MR. SHAPIRO: My name is Steve Shapiro. I live in Bethesda. A few years back during previous redistrictings, I lived in Silver Spring right along the Prince George's-Montgomery County border. And at that time, I had similar concerns that you've heard tonight to the way the current 4th District was

established as far as a relatively small piece of ribbon in Montgomery County was joined by a ribbon to a piece, larger piece, in central Prince George's County. That basically disenfranchised many of us who lived in the smaller Montgomery County section.

And I was particularly concerned, not that we were being paired with Prince George's County, but that we were being paired with a part of Prince George's County that was not adjacent to where we lived. If we had been moved with our neighbors in Adelphi, Beltsville, Laurel, that would have been a much more compact, reasonable looking district than to merge us with areas much further to the south with a narrow ribbon.

I understand there are even maybe more egregious similar situations in the Baltimore region, more so than just in the Montgomery and Prince George's County area. But I urge the Committee, also, to try to establish a little bit more compactness.

Ideally, Montgomery County, with its fairly large population, would have one district entirely within its borders and share about one half of a district with an adjoining part of the state. A reasonable option to do this would be to maybe take the western third of Montgomery County and pair it with Western Maryland, which, based on history and geography, would be a reasonable situation and one that existed several decades ago. Keeping the Montgomery section about equal in size to the Western Maryland section I think would keep it from being overly dominated by the Montgomery section and, thus, would be fair to the Western Maryland residents, as well as to the Montgomery County residents.

And another option, if that wouldn't work, would be to take the eastern third of Montgomery County and pair it with its immediate neighbors adjacent to either Prince George's or Howard County. But in any event, one district in Montgomery and then

half of a district with immediate neighbors adjoining either to the west or to the east.

In some respects, the current congressional districts have made my job as a Democratic precinct chair a little bit too easy. As others have said, my candidates almost always win, at least in the general election. That's not necessarily a bad thing, but I am concerned that it has decreased turnout and interest a little bit. Most of the discussions in the primary where most of the candidates tend to agree and there is little or no discussion in the general, where the result is usually a foregone conclusion.

I live in precinct 77 now, which is in between Friendship Heights and Glen Echo, not too far from the Potomac River, and I'd be pleased to be part of that western third of Montgomery if that would be split into the Western Maryland district.

I'd also like to speak briefly about the legislative redistricting. A decade ago, I had

proposed a study looking at more single member House districts. As you all know, it's up to the Governor and the legislature whether to split the senate districts into one, two, or three pieces on a case by case basis. I believe that smaller districts would help reduce the size of elections and increase interest in the elections and, also, reduce the interest in slights.

In fairly homogenous districts, I do note that many of my neighbors disagree with that and are perfectly comfortable having three at-large. However, I think the single member district concept is even more important in places where there is a fair amount of diversity within a district where there may be significant variations, either due to political affiliation, racial makeup, other demographics, that it may make sense to keep populations from being unfairly diluted by spreading some of the current state senate districts into more one or two member

districts.

So, in closing, I appreciate you being here to listen to our views tonight and hope that, even in consideration of the other factors that I know you need to consider, if keeping districts a little more compact and cohesive could be something in the equation. Thank you very much.

MADAME CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

MS. CREECY: Good evening. My name is Lynn Creecy and I'm a resident of Olney, Maryland.

MADAME CHAIRPERSON: Okay.

MS. CREECY: 2012 marks the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812, which Maryland is commemorating on its license plates. 2012 is also the 200th anniversary of the first gerrymandered districts by Massachusetts Governor Elbridge Gerry. I urge Maryland to commemorate this anniversary by eliminating the tortuously drawn boundaries of Congressional District 4.