

# EX. 14

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

---

TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
PUBLIC HEARING CONCLUSION - HUDSON SATELLITE SITE

---

In Raleigh, North Carolina  
Tuesday, August 22, 2017  
Transcribed by Brad Worley

Worley Reporting  
P.O. Box 99169  
Raleigh, NC 27624  
919-870-8070

1 (Transcriptionist's note: the following  
2 transcript is of proceedings held at the satellite  
3 hearing site following disconnection of the  
4 communications feed from the central Raleigh site.)

5 SEN. DANIEL: Because of the problems  
6 they've experienced and the number of -- really,  
7 there's a high volume of speakers that are still  
8 left in the metropolitan areas, so they just want  
9 the areas to each do their own speakers that are  
10 remaining. I think we have maybe eight here that  
11 are still wanting to speak.

12 And so this will -- hopefully, you'll be  
13 recorded by these gentlemen down here so it still  
14 all can be part of the record, and we're going to  
15 see if we can video it too. I'm not sure if they  
16 can do that without the -- that's the point. So  
17 the next speaker, then, is Josh Brannon. Stand  
18 right here. So you're recognized for three  
19 minutes, Josh.

20 MR. BRANNON: So my question to any  
21 legislators who still believe in gerrymandering is,  
22 would you -- if it were legal to break into voting  
23 machines and flip the ballots, would you do that?  
24 And if not, then how do you justify gerrymandering,  
25 because to democracy, it is exactly the same thing.

1 In -- in North Carolina, it's -- it's very hard to  
2 quantify the effect that -- that gerrymandering has  
3 on -- on the state-level districts simply because  
4 there's so many districts that don't have  
5 challengers due to the districts being so partisan  
6 in the first place.

7 However, as a proxy, we can use the  
8 congressional districts in North Carolina, and in  
9 2016, 47 percent of ballots cast in North Carolina  
10 for Congress were cast for Democrats. We elected  
11 23 percent of Democrats to Congress. We undermined  
12 half of Democratic ballots. That's functionally no  
13 different from breaking into voting machines,  
14 flipping half of the Democratic votes to  
15 Republican.

16 And, you know, if -- if we're going to  
17 continue to pretend we live in a democracy, we have  
18 to fix that. We can't have a situation where one  
19 party, each -- each voter has one and a half votes  
20 and the other party, each voter only has half a  
21 vote. That -- that's what we have right now.  
22 It's -- it's looking like for the General Assembly,  
23 the -- the outcome is going to be the same. The --  
24 the numbers have already been crunched, and out  
25 of -- out of 16 districts that were the closest to

1           being flipped to Democratic this past election  
2           season, 11 have now moved to be more Republican.  
3           So we're -- we're actually more gerrymandered now  
4           and not less. We have to fix this. We have to --  
5           we have to return to a national democracy, and  
6           we -- we have to have a system where one person has  
7           one vote, full stop. Thank you.

8                         SEN. DANIEL: The next speaker is Ted  
9           Alexander, and then following Mr. Alexander will be  
10          Charles Senf.

11                        MR. ALEXANDER: Thank you. My name is  
12          Ted Alexander. I'm from Shelby. I serve as the  
13          10th District Chairman for the North Carolina GOP.  
14          That covers Polk, Rutherford, Cleveland, Gaston,  
15          Lincoln, and parts of Buncombe, Catawba, and  
16          Iredell Counties. I do want to thank you for the  
17          opportunity to speak today and for holding these  
18          hearings.

19                        I'm here in support of these maps for  
20          redistricting. And while I know that they're  
21          probably not perfect, from what I've seen, what  
22          I've heard, otherwise these maps -- compared to  
23          previous maps drawn by both Republicans and  
24          Democrats in the past, are a vast improvement from  
25          where they've been set.

1                   The new districts, I've heard some  
2                   comments that I've agreed with, the fact that they  
3                   do. They are more contiguous. I think the  
4                   legislature's tried their -- their best to keep the  
5                   counties together where it's -- it's possible.  
6                   They are smaller and more compact for the most  
7                   part, and I do think that for the most part, they  
8                   represent the common interest of the communities  
9                   and they does -- do -- they do split fewer  
10                  precincts. But my point regardless of any of that,  
11                  and -- and this is my particular major point, is --  
12                  is that I know that the courts follow the North --  
13                  the North Carolina Constitution Article IV, Section  
14                  4, which says that the legislature is responsible  
15                  for drawing these districts and not the courts.  
16                  The -- the legislature are the elected officials.  
17                  And they -- that is the body that was designated by  
18                  the Constitution to do these districts.

19                  The fact is, in North Carolina, the  
20                  Republicans in the past almost decade have gained  
21                  in registration by about 125,000 voters.  
22                  Simultaneously, the Democrats have lost almost the  
23                  same, similar amount of voter registration.  
24                  They -- the fact is, they have lost -- Democrats  
25                  have lost nine out of the last ten presidential

1 elections, and they have lost three straight United  
2 States Senate races, and 14 out of the -- they've  
3 lost 14 out of the 18 partisan statewide races.  
4 These are statewide races. And I think my  
5 estimation is that these maps are simply a  
6 reflection of that reality of voter registration.

7 I'm concerned that continued litigation  
8 of these maps and districts will only serve to  
9 create continued unnecessary expense, chaos, and  
10 uncertainty for voters and candidates alike.

11 I'm a native of North Carolina. I grew  
12 up in Burke County. I can't recall a time in our  
13 state's history where districts have been  
14 challenged over and over and over just because  
15 someone or some group doesn't like the outcome. I  
16 would respectfully request and urge the courts to  
17 abstain from further undue interference. Thank you  
18 for your courtesy.

19 SEN. DANIEL: Next is Mr. Charles Senf.  
20 And if I didn't mention this, please identify  
21 yourself to the microphone so that it'll be in the  
22 record.

23 MR. SENF: Good evening. My name is  
24 Charles Senf. I'm from Lenoir, North Carolina.  
25 I -- I -- there's so much you want to say after

1           what you've listened to tonight. Transparent,  
2           inclusive, nonpartisan American democracy. We were  
3           not created equal or given our rights by the  
4           political operatives sequestered in the proverbial  
5           back room. The United States Constitution demands  
6           but a simple count of male citizens and slaves to  
7           apportion legislative districts. No mention of  
8           race, religion, habits, voting registration were  
9           required then or now.

10                         The information age has provided partisan  
11           hacks the ability to effect [inaudible] schemes  
12           with unerring precision. The computer offers a  
13           solution to the divisiveness this scheme has  
14           brought across America. Simply eliminate race,  
15           religion, gender, ethnicity, and political  
16           affiliation from the data fed into the  
17           redistricting programs. Publish open source the  
18           program and databases used so anyone might verify  
19           the process and duplicate the results. An  
20           inclusive, transparent, nonpartisan process to  
21           ensure our citizens choose their representatives  
22           and not the gerry way around. To paraphrase an old  
23           technical maxim, partisan in, partisan out. Thank  
24           you.

25                         SEN. DANIEL: Thanks. Next speaker will

1           be Mr. Norm Bossert. And following Mr. Bossert  
2           will be Cindy Sellers.

3                       MR. BOSSERT: Thank you. My name is Norm  
4           Bossert. I'm here from Transylvania County. I had  
5           a nice drive to get here. I was looking at my map  
6           up there, and I just want you all to know a fly  
7           landed directly on Macon County. I'm not sure what  
8           that means, but it means something. I'm sure of  
9           that.

10                      In 2010, I lived in Senate District 15.  
11           We had a Senator named John Snow. Fine man, hard  
12           worker, good representative for us who ran a race  
13           against Phone-in Jim Davis -- Senator Jim Davis.  
14           That was in a Democratic gerrymander. John Snow  
15           lost that election, and we Democrats have tried to  
16           figure out why for a long time.

17                      The bottom line is, in the districts that  
18           have been gerrymandered by the Democrats, a  
19           Republican won. And that 2010 year was a real  
20           critical election year here in North Carolina. It  
21           concerned everybody because eventually, a fellow  
22           named Tom Apodaca, who was a tremendous supporter,  
23           a tremendous supporter of nonpartisan  
24           gerrymandering in the state, nonpartisan  
25           redistricting, lost his passion for that when the

1           Republicans came into power. Find that  
2           interesting.

3                         I find a hopeful note -- just as a bit of  
4           history, I find a very hopeful note right now; I'm  
5           glad you all are doing hearings. I wish they had  
6           been done differently, but I'm glad you're doing  
7           them. You certainly heard a lot of people who have  
8           opinions, strong opinions, but I'm very, very  
9           excited, because near where I live, there's a  
10          Republican named Chuck McGrady, and he was one of  
11          the principal sponsors of House Bill 200. Along  
12          with people like Stevens, Jordan, Hardister,  
13          Adcock, Ager, Ball, Beasley, Bell, Brockman,  
14          Butler, Carney, of course, Brian Turner, a good  
15          friend of mine. All of those folks, Democrats and  
16          Republicans, looking to change the way we  
17          redistrict in North Carolina.

18                        Now, House Bill 200 isn't perfect from my  
19          point of view, and I don't love it, but at least  
20          it's a bill, I think, that has its heart in the  
21          right place, looking to redistrict this state in a  
22          nonpartisan fashion with a nonpartisan committee.  
23          I hold that to you, the current Senate and current  
24          General Assembly will look more carefully at the  
25          House Bill 200 and revisit this whole redistricting

1 business. The way you've done it is just going to  
2 create a lot of disorder in the state, and there's  
3 too much partisan discord already.

4 I personally am sick to death of the  
5 acrimony between Democrats and Republicans. I --  
6 the gentleman who spoke earlier about the numbers  
7 of people registering, I would just remind  
8 Republicans that 39 percent of the voters in this  
9 state are registered Democrats, 30 percent are  
10 Republicans, but 30 percent are a growing group  
11 called unaffiliated voters. They're sick of it,  
12 too. They're really sick of it, and they are going  
13 to hammer us all. Thank you.

14 SEN. DANIEL: Next speaker is Cindy  
15 Sellers, and then following Ms. Sellers will be  
16 Emily Wilkins.

17 MS. SELLERS: Wake up. Get woke. If you  
18 haven't heard that phrase get woke, you're going to  
19 hear it again sometime. My name -- good evening.  
20 My name is Cindy Sellers, and I live in Alexander  
21 County. I'm retired, proud retired school teacher,  
22 but I am a disenfranchised voter. I have watched  
23 this state slide down the slope for hopelessness  
24 and feeling like the middle class doesn't matter  
25 anymore while carrying on their backs for the

1 taxes.

2 We have to fund the nonprofits to help  
3 the poor and watching the poor only get poorer  
4 while the rich get richer. Those without  
5 conscience gerrymander voting districts so they can  
6 stay in power and follow the directions of ALEC,  
7 the -- the legislative agenda, ALEC, and they're --  
8 they're pushing us down -- that down our throats.

9 To me, there's a little bit of white  
10 supremacy that may be going on there. I'm not sure  
11 about that, I'm still wondering about that. But  
12 the Koch brothers don't care anything about us.  
13 You guys are supposed to, be in separate opinion on  
14 you guys. Being blue in a red state is  
15 infuriating, and those of us who are paying  
16 attention can see through all the games being  
17 played against the citizens by Republican  
18 legislators who march lockstep to the ALEC tune.  
19 Democratic legislators were not even given the  
20 chance to debate the devastating laws to benefit  
21 the rich and the corporation in the past. Even --  
22 not even from the past, not even from this state.

23 Throw the maps you have created in secret  
24 out in the trash, please. Computer programs to  
25 intentionally favor either group should be

1           outlawed, and maps should be drawn with both  
2           parties present. Shame on all of you who call  
3           yourselves a Christian in these times of racism and  
4           dirty politics and won't stop this. I'm a proud  
5           United Methodist and a Rotarian, and I bet some of  
6           the legislators are too, maybe many of them. One  
7           of the things that we say at the end of all our  
8           meetings is, is it fair to all concerned? Set  
9           things straight now. Change your ways. It's not  
10          too late. You know this is not right, and my vote  
11          should count. And indivisible, we were -- will  
12          persist to resist. Thank you.

13                        SEN. DANIEL: Next speaker is Ms. Emily  
14                        Wilkins, and then will be followed by Lynn Dorfman.  
15                        Is Ms. Dorfman still here? And so after that  
16                        would-be Thelma Eley.

17                        MS. ELEY: You've got that right.

18                        SEN. DANIEL: You'll be the last one.  
19                        You get the last word.

20                        MS. ELEY: All right. Very good.

21                        MS. WILKINS: Hi. My name is Emily  
22                        Wilkins, and I'm from Durham, North Carolina. And  
23                        it is my pleasure to be accompanying you here  
24                        tonight because I'm traveling back from the eclipse  
25                        today. So on my way home, I have to do something

1 political, switch it up.

2 In light of the unanimous Supreme Court  
3 rulings, what prevents North Carolina voters from  
4 free and fair elections? Gerrymandered maps, which  
5 disenfranchise black voters with surgical  
6 precision. These maps are no improvement. Black  
7 lives matter. Punching some folk into small  
8 pockets and stretching districts through six  
9 counties to enhance representation of predominantly  
10 white people repeats the same illegal districting.

11 I'd like to draw your attention to the  
12 following on the Senate redistricting plan. Please  
13 look at the District 47. It includes Madison,  
14 Yancey, Mitchell, McDowell, Rutherford, and Polk.  
15 These are six counties on the outskirts of  
16 Asheville. Also, look at Senate District 3: Vance  
17 County, Warren County, Northampton County, Bertie  
18 County, Martin County, and Beaufort County. You've  
19 already heard from your Republican colleagues that  
20 they don't like this, and I don't like it, either.  
21 Those are on the outskirts of Raleigh. Then, we  
22 have the concentrated areas. 41, suburbs of  
23 Charlotte, 28 for Greensboro, 29 for Winston-Salem,  
24 Franklin County dips into downtown Raleigh, number  
25 18.

1                   Dividing us by race is an old strategy to  
2                   deprive everyone of access to economic, social, and  
3                   political parity. Forward together, not one step  
4                   back. Forward together, not one step back.  
5                   Forward together, not one step back. Thank you.

6                   SEN. DANIEL: Final speaker is Ms. Eley.

7                   MS. ELEY: Oh, that's me. I thought  
8                   Lynn --

9                   SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Lynn Dorfman.

10                  SEN. DANIEL: Oh, did she come back yet?  
11                  Oh, she did not? Okay.

12                  MS. ELEY: All right. Good evening. My  
13                  name is Thelma Eley, and I'm from Hickory, North  
14                  Carolina. You know, sitting silently endorses  
15                  agreement to an existing situation or circumstance.  
16                  I stand before you today to loudly proclaim the  
17                  disapproval of the quote, unquote redrawn maps.  
18                  These maps are just -- they're unjust, and they do  
19                  not allow proper representation of the people of  
20                  North Carolina. The redrawn maps were created by  
21                  the originator of the previously drawn maps, Thomas  
22                  Hofeller.

23                  Now, I believe that his goal remains the  
24                  same. And that goal is the goal of the existing  
25                  governing body of North Carolina, the Republican

1 Party. Those are the ones who -- they have proven  
2 year over year that their concern is not for the  
3 marginalized, but for those who have those deep  
4 pockets and who look more like them.

5 Gerrymandering is not just and does not provide the  
6 voices of all North Carolinians to be heard.

7 As a member and a citizen of these United  
8 States of America, I -- I have the sacred right of  
9 being able to vote unencumbered and without  
10 suppression. A trusted entity must be engaged to  
11 draw the maps equitably that would provide the  
12 citizens of North Carolina the ability to voice  
13 their opinions and elect officials that will  
14 represent our voices, our issues, and our concerns.  
15 The amount of time and money that we spend on this  
16 issue could have been utilized for education,  
17 healthcare, and infrastructure. One person, one  
18 vote, and my vote should be valued just like those  
19 of the majority party. Thank you.

20 SEN. DANIEL: Thank you, everybody. That  
21 concludes this hearing, so we're going to adjourn  
22 the Caldwell County hearing of the Senate  
23 Legislative Redistricting Committee. I appreciate  
24 everybody coming here. Everybody was very  
25 respectful. We didn't have any disturbances like

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

some of the other locations had, so I appreciate  
your participation, and good night and safe  
travels.

(End of proceedings.)

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF WAKE

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPT

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript of proceedings held on August 22, 2017, is a true and accurate transcript of the proceedings as transcribed by me or under my supervision. I further certify that I am not related to any party or attorney, nor do I have any interest whatsoever in the outcome of this action.

This 28th day of August, 2017.

*Brad Worley*

Brad Worley, transcriptionist

Worley Reporting

P. O. Box 99169

Raleigh, NC 27624

919-870-8070

brad@worleyreporting.com