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4
5 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

6 ON

7 REAPPORTIONMENT

8
9 PUBLIC HEARING

10 JULY 27, 2023

11 1:37 p.m

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14
15 CERTIFIED STENOGRAPHER:

16 CAROL J. REYER (APEARING REMOTELY)

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 2</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 July 27, 2023 1:37 p.m.</p> <p>3</p> <p>4 THE CLERK: Senator Barfoot?</p> <p>5 SENATOR BARFOOT: Here.</p> <p>6 THE CLERK: Senator Bell?</p> <p>7 SENATOR BELL: Here.</p> <p>8 THE CLERK: Senator Chesteen?</p> <p>9 SENATOR CHESTEEN: Here.</p> <p>10 THE CLERK: Senator Figures?</p> <p>11 SENATOR FIGURES: Here.</p> <p>12 THE CLERK: Senator Livingston?</p> <p>13 SENATOR LIVINGSTON: Here.</p> <p>14 THE CLERK: Senator Orr?</p> <p>15 SENATOR ORR: Here.</p> <p>16 THE CLERK: Senator Roberts?</p> <p>17 SENATOR ROBERTS: Here.</p> <p>18 THE CLERK: Senator Scofield?</p> <p>19 SENATOR SCOFIELD: Here.</p> <p>20 THE CLERK: Senator Singleton?</p> <p>21 SENATOR SINGLETON: Here.</p> <p>22 THE CLERK: Senator Smitherman?</p> <p>23 SENATOR SMITHERMAN: Here.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 4</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE LOVVORN: Here.</p> <p>2 THE CLERK: Representative</p> <p>3 Pringle?</p> <p>4 REPRESENTATIVE PRINGLE: Here.</p> <p>5 THE CLERK: And Representative</p> <p>6 Reynolds?</p> <p>7 REPRESENTATIVE REYNOLDS: Here.</p> <p>8 THE CLERK: We've got 21 present.</p> <p>9 We have a quorum.</p> <p>10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 21 members</p> <p>11 being present, we do have a quorum.</p> <p>12 Mr. Chairman.</p> <p>13 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: The next item</p> <p>14 on the agenda is the election of co-chairs</p> <p>15 for this committee. Do I have a --</p> <p>16 Representative Clouse?</p> <p>17 REPRESENTATIVE CLOUSE:</p> <p>18 Representative Pringle, I nominate</p> <p>19 Representative Pringle for chairman.</p> <p>20 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Co-chair of the</p> <p>21 House? Go ahead. Do I have a second? Do</p> <p>22 we have a nomination for -- yes, Senator</p> <p>23 Figures.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 3</p> <p>1 THE CLERK: Senator Williams?</p> <p>2 SENATOR WILLIAMS: Here.</p> <p>3 THE CLERK: Representative Almond?</p> <p>4 REPRESENTATIVE ALMOND: Here.</p> <p>5 THE CLERK: Representative Boyd?</p> <p>6 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Here.</p> <p>7 THE CLERK: Representative Carns.</p> <p>8 (No audible response.)</p> <p>9 THE CLERK: Representative Clouse?</p> <p>10 REPRESENTATIVE CLOUSE: Here.</p> <p>11 THE CLERK: Representative Ellis?</p> <p>12 REPRESENTATIVE ELLIS: Here.</p> <p>13 THE CLERK: Representative</p> <p>14 England?</p> <p>15 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: Roll</p> <p>16 Tide.</p> <p>17 THE CLERK: Roll Tide.</p> <p>18 Representative Hall?</p> <p>19 REPRESENTATIVE HALL: Here.</p> <p>20 THE CLERK: Representative Jones?</p> <p>21 (No audible response.)</p> <p>22 THE CLERK: Representative</p> <p>23 Lovvorn?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>1 SENATOR FIGURES: Mr. Chairman,</p> <p>2 thank you for the recognition. I think in</p> <p>3 light of us having come back here for this</p> <p>4 reason of redrawing the congressional</p> <p>5 lines for the State of Alabama, coming</p> <p>6 from the court case, I think that it's</p> <p>7 important that we show diversity in our</p> <p>8 chairmanships, and I think it would send a</p> <p>9 great message of -- in the spirit of</p> <p>10 fairness and in the spirit of</p> <p>11 bipartisanship that we have one chair from</p> <p>12 the House who is -- one chair from each</p> <p>13 house, if you will, be a minority. And I</p> <p>14 would like to yield to Representative Hall</p> <p>15 for that nomination for the House</p> <p>16 co-chair.</p> <p>17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And I'd</p> <p>18 like to nominate Chris England.</p> <p>19 SENATOR FIGURES: I second.</p> <p>20 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: We have a</p> <p>21 motion and a second. Do we have a motion</p> <p>22 to close nominations on the House</p> <p>23 co-chair?</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So moved.</p> <p>2 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: We have a</p> <p>3 motion and a second. Now we have -- do we</p> <p>4 just want to vote on the House -- do you</p> <p>5 want to vote on the House first?</p> <p>6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, sir.</p> <p>7 SENATOR FIGURES: I'd like to have</p> <p>8 a roll call vote, Mr. Chair.</p> <p>9 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: We have a roll</p> <p>10 call vote on the House co-chairman. The</p> <p>11 clerk will call the roll and you'll</p> <p>12 announce -- the members will announce who</p> <p>13 they are supporting.</p> <p>14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:</p> <p>15 Mr. Chairman?</p> <p>16 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Yeah.</p> <p>17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: A point of</p> <p>18 order, who are the candidates?</p> <p>19 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: It would be me</p> <p>20 and Representative England.</p> <p>21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. So</p> <p>22 the vote would be mention Representative</p> <p>23 England or Representative Pringle?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 Pringle.</p> <p>2 THE CLERK: Senator Figures?</p> <p>3 SENATOR FIGURES: Representative</p> <p>4 Chris England.</p> <p>5 THE CLERK: Senator Livingston?</p> <p>6 SENATOR LIVINGSTON:</p> <p>7 Representative Pringle.</p> <p>8 THE CLERK: Senator Orr?</p> <p>9 SENATOR ORR: Representative</p> <p>10 Pringle.</p> <p>11 THE CLERK: Senator Roberts?</p> <p>12 SENATOR ROBERTS: Representative</p> <p>13 Pringle.</p> <p>14 THE CLERK: Senator Scofield?</p> <p>15 SENATOR SCOFIELD: Representative</p> <p>16 Pringle.</p> <p>17 THE CLERK: Senator Singleton?</p> <p>18 SENATOR SINGLETON: Representative</p> <p>19 England.</p> <p>20 THE CLERK: Senator Smitherman?</p> <p>21 SENATOR SMITHERMAN:</p> <p>22 Representative England.</p> <p>23 THE CLERK: Senator Williams?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: CHAIRMAN</p> <p>2 PRINGLE, yes, for the House co-chair.</p> <p>3 Then we'll elect a Senate co-chair.</p> <p>4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you,</p> <p>5 Mr. Chairman.</p> <p>6 SENATOR FIGURES: And I'm just</p> <p>7 asking that one would be a minority and</p> <p>8 the other one would be a majority, or if</p> <p>9 you will, one a Democrat and the other one</p> <p>10 a Republican.</p> <p>11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I second.</p> <p>12 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Well, you heard</p> <p>13 the motion. The Clerk will call the roll,</p> <p>14 and the members will announce a vote for</p> <p>15 either Pringle or England.</p> <p>16 THE CLERK: Senator Barfoot?</p> <p>17 SENATOR BARFOOT: Representative</p> <p>18 Pringle.</p> <p>19 THE CLERK: Senator Bell?</p> <p>20 SENATOR BELL: Representative</p> <p>21 Pringle.</p> <p>22 THE CLERK: Senator Chesteen?</p> <p>23 SENATOR CHESTEEN: Representative</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p> <p>1 SENATOR WILLIAMS: Representative</p> <p>2 Pringle.</p> <p>3 THE CLERK: Representative Almond?</p> <p>4 REPRESENTATIVE ALMOND:</p> <p>5 Representative Pringle.</p> <p>6 THE CLERK: Representative Boyd?</p> <p>7 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD:</p> <p>8 Representative Chris England.</p> <p>9 THE CLERK: Representative Carns</p> <p>10 -- Representative Clouse?</p> <p>11 REPRESENTATIVE CLOUSE:</p> <p>12 Representative Pringle.</p> <p>13 THE CLERK: Representative Ellis?</p> <p>14 REPRESENTATIVE ELLIS:</p> <p>15 Representative Pringle.</p> <p>16 THE CLERK: Representative</p> <p>17 England?</p> <p>18 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND:</p> <p>19 Representative England.</p> <p>20 THE CLERK: Representative Hall?</p> <p>21 REPRESENTATIVE HALL:</p> <p>22 Representative Chris England.</p> <p>23 THE CLERK: Representative Jones?</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: 2 Representative England. 3 THE CLERK: Representative 4 Lovvorn? 5 REPRESENTATIVE LOVVORN: 6 Representative Pringle. 7 THE CLERK: Representative 8 Pringle? 9 REPRESENTATIVE PRINGLE: Pringle. 10 THE CLERK: Representative 11 Reynolds? 12 REPRESENTATIVE REYNOLDS: 13 Representative Pringle. 14 THE CLERK: It's 14 to 7 for 15 Pringle. 16 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Thank you, 17 ladies and gentlemen. 18 The next order of business is to 19 elect a Senate co-chairman. Do I have a 20 -- the floor is open for nominations. 21 Senator Bell? 22 REPRESENTATIVE HALL: Chair? 23 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Yes,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p> <p>1 Livingston. 2 THE CLERK: Senator Bell? 3 SENATOR BELL: Senator Livingston. 4 THE CLERK: Senator Chesteen? 5 SENATOR CHESTEEN: Senator 6 Livingston. 7 THE CLERK: Senator Figures? 8 SENATOR FIGURES: Senator 9 Singleton. 10 THE CLERK: Senator Livingston? 11 SENATOR LIVINGSTON: Livingston. 12 THE CLERK: Senator Orr? 13 SENATOR ORR: Senator Livingston. 14 THE CLERK: Senator Roberts? 15 SENATOR ROBERTS: Senator 16 Livingston. 17 THE CLERK: Senator Scofield? 18 SENATOR SCOFIELD: Senator 19 Livingston. 20 THE CLERK: Senator Singleton? 21 SENATOR SINGLETON: Singleton. 22 THE CLERK: Senator Smitherman? 23 SENATOR SMITHERMAN: Senator</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p> <p>1 Representative Hall? 2 REPRESENTATIVE HALL: I'd like to 3 nominate Senator Singleton. 4 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Do we have a 5 representative for -- 6 SENATOR FIGURES: I second. 7 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Do we have a 8 second on Mr. Livingston? 9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second. 10 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: We have a 11 second. 12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We've got a 13 second? 14 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Yeah, we've got 15 a first and second. The question now is 16 on Senator Singleton or Senator 17 Livingston. The clerk will call the roll. 18 Those in favor of Livingston will say 19 "Livingston," and those for Singleton will 20 say "Singleton." 21 Clerk, call the roll. 22 THE CLERK: Senator Barfoot? 23 SENATOR BARFOOT: Senator</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 13</p> <p>1 Singleton. 2 THE CLERK: Senator Williams? 3 Senator Williams? 4 SENATOR WILLIAMS: I'm sorry. 5 Livingston. I was looking at my map just 6 for a minute. 7 THE CLERK: Representative Almond? 8 REPRESENTATIVE ALMOND: Senator 9 Livingston. 10 THE CLERK: Representative Boyd? 11 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Senator 12 Singleton. 13 THE CLERK: Representative Clouse? 14 REPRESENTATIVE CLOUSE: Senator 15 Livingston. 16 THE CLERK: Representative Ellis? 17 REPRESENTATIVE ELLIS: Senator 18 Livingston. 19 THE CLERK: Representative 20 England? 21 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: Senator 22 Singleton. 23 THE CLERK: Representative Hall?</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE HALL: Senator 2 Singleton. 3 THE CLERK: Representative Jones? 4 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: Senator -- 5 Senator Singleton. 6 THE CLERK: Representative 7 Lovvorn? 8 REPRESENTATIVE LOVVORN: Senator 9 Livingston. 10 THE CLERK: Representative 11 Pringle? 12 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Senator 13 Livingston. 14 THE CLERK: Representative 15 Reynolds? 16 REPRESENTATIVE REYNOLDS: Senator 17 Livingston. 18 THE CLERK: It's 14 to 7 for 19 Livingston. 20 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Moving on to 21 the next item of business to review and 22 approve the minutes from the last meeting. 23 They're inside your packet. So do I have</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p> <p>1 you're submitting a plan, we need your 2 name, your address, and your phone number. 3 And if you're submitting on behalf of 4 another organization, we need the name of 5 that organization, its address and phone 6 number. That way if we have any questions 7 from the committee, we'll know who to 8 contact to address those questions. 9 As you know -- yes. Yes, Senator? 10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Will we 11 adopt -- wait until that July 13th meeting 12 to adopt or whatever (inaudible) at the 13 next meeting? 14 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: We have on the 15 agenda today to adopt the guidelines. 16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. 17 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Yeah. Anyway, 18 we'll discuss the guidelines today. As 19 you well know, the Governor has called a 20 special extraordinary session for July 21 17th to start. After that session, the 22 plan will be presented to the Federal 23 Court in Birmingham on August the 14th,</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p> <p>1 a motion? 2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So moved. 3 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: I have a 4 motion. Do I have a second? 5 (Inaudible.) 6 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: I have a 7 second. All in favor say "aye." 8 (Collective aye.) 9 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: The minutes are 10 approved. 11 I'd like to thank everybody for 12 being here today. I'd like to remind 13 everybody that July the 7th at 5:00 p.m. 14 is the deadline to submit plans to the 15 committee. I believe we already have over 16 100 from as far away as France, so we 17 will -- we are processing them as fast as 18 possible, and we will talk about those at 19 the next meeting, which will be July the 20 13th in Room 200 here. 21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You need to 22 submit your name. 23 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Yeah, and if</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p> <p>1 and then we'll have a hearing in 2 Birmingham when the Court schedules it. 3 But this is just one of many steps we have 4 to go through on this process. 5 Everybody on the committee has 6 been given a copy of the guidelines. We 7 ask you to please review those guidelines. 8 Since today is just a public hearing, 9 we're not going to adopt anything. But we 10 do want to hear -- we want you to read the 11 guidelines, review them, and we'll discuss 12 them and we'll vote on them the next 13 meeting. So that gives you plenty of time 14 to look at them and review them. 15 SENATOR FIGURES: Mr. Chairman? 16 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Yes, ma'am. 17 SENATOR FIGURES: So am I looking 18 at the -- what's the heading that you've 19 got? Just what's the name? 20 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Reapportionment 21 Committee Redistricting Guidelines. 22 SENATOR FIGURES: What's the date? 23 Do you have a date on there?</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p> <p>1 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: May 5th, 2021. 2 They're carried over from the last adopted 3 guidelines. That's the reason we want 4 everybody to read them and look at them. 5 Yes? 6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm looking 7 at these, but they seem to me to be the -- 8 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Will you please 9 turn your microphone on? 10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I thought I 11 had it on. 12 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: No. There you 13 go. 14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you 15 so much, Mr. Chairman. 16 I'm looking at these dated May 5, 17 2021. These are the ones that we had last 18 time. My question is: How do these 19 differ in any way from those we used 20 before if they're the same, or what? 21 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: They're the 22 same. We gave you the ones that we had to 23 adopt last time for your review and input,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p> <p>1 procedure that we'll adopt if we're 2 offering amendments to these guidelines? 3 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: We're going to 4 have a meeting to discuss them, yes, sir, 5 in the next meeting. 6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It would 7 seem to me that it would be important for 8 us to try to change the procedure 9 considering the initial procedure got us 10 in a little bit of hot water. So maybe 11 over the course of the next couple of 12 weeks we can take a look at these 13 guidelines and see if there's some things 14 that need to be tweaked so we can avoid 15 any back in court for doing the same thing 16 and expecting a different result. 17 So do I need to submit any changes 18 to these guidelines in writing prior to 19 the next meeting, or do I need to wait 20 until we get there? 21 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: It would be 22 helpful, yes, sir. That way we can have 23 the lawyers review the changes to make</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p> <p>1 and we're going to talk about them and 2 vote on them next time. 3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, I'm 4 saying this because I already had a copy 5 of these from last year, and I just wanted 6 to make sure that I'm on the right page. 7 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Yes, ma'am. 8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Start off 9 right -- 10 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Yes, ma'am. 11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- in 12 unity -- 13 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Yes, ma'am. 14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- the way 15 we are. Thank you. 16 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: We're not 17 hiding anything. These are the existing 18 guidelines, and we want everybody to look 19 at them and review them, and we'll talk 20 about them next time. 21 Yes, sir? 22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Will there 23 be -- I guess there will be some sort of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p> <p>1 sure they're compliant with the 2 Constitution and Section 2 of the Voting 3 Rights Act. 4 Yeah, we want input. Everybody 5 look at it, everybody read it, and if 6 you've got a suggestion, make a 7 suggestion. So we'll be glad to look at 8 it. 9 MR. WALKER: I'd also like to 10 point out the big white sign in the back 11 of the room that's got if you have 12 questions or comments, it's got an email 13 address you can send it to. So if the 14 cameras could catch that, it would be 15 greatly appreciated. 16 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Yeah, we need 17 to get -- we need to get that sign up 18 front, and we need the sign-up sheet. 19 MR. WALKER: If we can get that 20 email, we want the people -- we're going 21 to live stream this meeting, the public 22 hearing so everybody can watch it, and we 23 want that email up front so anybody</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p> <p>1 watching can send an email comment in or 2 ask a question that the clerk will read to 3 us. 4 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Thank you. 5 MR. WALKER: But I need the clerk 6 to bring me the sign-up sheet for the 7 public hearing. Thank you. 8 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Mr. Walker, are 9 you ready for the public hearing? 10 Come forward. 11 MR. WALKER: Do you want me to sit 12 down here? 13 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Yeah. We'll 14 need -- we'll need a microphone for you, 15 so. Let me -- I know Mr. Blacksher is 16 here. I've seen him, and he's an attorney 17 representing some of the plaintiffs. And 18 I want to give great deference to the 19 attorneys. If there are any attorneys 20 here representing plaintiffs, will you 21 raise your hand? 22 Is there anybody here representing 23 one of the plaintiffs that's not an</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p> <p>1 Roberts; Senator Scofield; Senator 2 Singleton; Senator Smitherman; and Senator 3 Williams. And, also, Representative 4 Almond, Representative Boyd, 5 Representative Carns, Representative 6 Clouse, Representative Ellis, 7 Representative England, Representative 8 Hall, Representative Jones, Representative 9 Lovvorn, Representative Pringle, and 10 Representative Reynolds. 11 Following the release of the 2020 12 census, the Alabama Legislature enacted 13 new districts for Alabama's members of 14 Congress. The new congressional districts 15 were challenged in Federal Court by three 16 lawsuits: Singleton v. Merrill, which 17 challenged the new congressional districts 18 as unconstitutional racial gerrymanders; 19 Caster v. Merrill, which alleges the new 20 congressional districts violate Section 2 21 of the Voting Rights Act; and Merrill -- 22 Milligan v. Merrill, which alleges the new 23 congressional districts violate both the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p> <p>1 attorney? 2 Okay. Mr. Blacksher, would you 3 like to kick us off today? 4 MR. WALKER: I need a little 5 preamble before we start. 6 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Okay. 7 MR. WALKER: Am I on? 8 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Yeah. 9 MR. WALKER: Good afternoon and 10 welcome to this hearing. My name is 11 Dorman Walker. I'm a lawyer who 12 represents the Reapportionment Committee. 13 I'm the committee's hearing officer for 14 this hearing. 15 The committee has two chairs: 16 Senator Steve Livingston is the chair for 17 the Senate, and Representative Chris 18 Pringle is the chair for the House of 19 Representatives. The members of the 20 committee are Senator Barfoot; Senator 21 Bell; Senator Chesteen; Senator 22 Livingston; Senator, excuse me, Figures; 23 Senator Livingston; Senator Orr; Senator</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p> <p>1 Constitution and the Voting Rights Act. 2 In 2022, a federal trial court in 3 Birmingham entered a preliminary 4 injunction forbidding the State from using 5 the new congressional districts. The 6 basis for the trial court's ruling was its 7 preliminary determination that the new 8 congressional districts violate Section 2 9 of the Voting Rights Act. The trial court 10 did not address the argument that the new 11 congressional districts are 12 unconstitutional. 13 On June 8, 2023, the United States 14 Supreme Court affirmed the trial court's 15 preliminary ruling. This means that the 16 new congressional districts must be 17 redrawn in a way that complies with 18 Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. 19 At the 2022 preliminary injunction 20 hearing, the Caster and Milligan 21 plaintiffs introduced 11 proposed remedial 22 plans. The Singleton plaintiffs had 23 previously introduced three proposed</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p> <p>1 remedial plans. Additional remedial plans 2 were submitted in amicus filings to the 3 Supreme Court and more recently after the 4 announcement of this hearing, including a 5 new remedial plan jointly proposed by the 6 Caster and Milligan plaintiffs. 7 The purpose of this hearing is for 8 the Reapportionment Committee to take 9 public comments on a potential new map. 10 Speakers may reference any plan that has 11 been submitted, but they do not have a 12 reference to -- they do not have to 13 reference a particular plan. 14 Speakers will be called to speak 15 from the list of persons who signed up 16 before the hearing. If time allows, after 17 all of the registered speakers have been 18 called upon, I will ask if anyone else 19 wants to speak. So if you did not sign up 20 but have now decided you want to speak, 21 I'll try to give you an opportunity to do 22 so. 23 When your name is called, please</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p> <p>1 Before I call the first speaker, I 2 will add to the record of this hearing a 3 letter jointly submitted by the Caster and 4 Milligan plaintiffs in support of their 5 jointly proposed remedial plan, which will 6 be Exhibit No. 1 to the hearing 7 transcript. 8 (Exhibit No. 1 marked for 9 identification and attached 10 hereto.) 11 MR. WALKER: And I don't have a 12 list of people who signed up. 13 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: I'll call them. 14 MR. WALKER: Okay. 15 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Are we ready? 16 MR. WALKER: Yeah. 17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mr. Chair? 18 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Yes, sir. 19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just a 20 point of order to kind of -- there's some 21 confusion that I want to make sure the 22 record is clear. There are -- the 23 plaintiffs in the case that got us here</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p> <p>1 come up to the lectern to speak. It's 2 important to be able -- to enable the 3 court reporter, who is not physically 4 present, to be able to hear you. When you 5 start to speak, please identify yourself 6 by stating your name for the record. 7 Please limit your comments to the topic of 8 this hearing, which is how new 9 congressional districts should be drawn. 10 Because of the purpose -- because the 11 purpose of the hearing is to take 12 comments, committee chairs will not take 13 questions or the committee members will 14 not take questions. 15 Each speaker will have three 16 minutes. I will give you a one-minute 17 warning. Persons listening to this 18 hearing remotely may submit by email 19 comments to be included on the record 20 using the email address displayed near me. 21 That is district@alsenate.gov. That's 22 district, d-i-s-t-r-i-c-t, at 23 a-l-s-e-n-a-t-e dot gov, g-o-v.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p> <p>1 today are the Caster and Milligan 2 plaintiffs, correct? 3 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Yes, sir. 4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. 5 Because there was some mention about the 6 Singleton map, but that is not an issue 7 we're talking about today, correct? 8 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: The Singleton 9 map is on the agenda today. 10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, no, I 11 guess what I'm asking is because it 12 appears that the plaintiffs in the 13 relevant case are the plaintiffs from the 14 Miller -- Milligan and Caster. And those 15 are the maps that were provided also, 16 correct? 17 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Correct. 18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All right. 19 Because I just want to make sure the 20 record is clear that the Singleton map and 21 that plaintiff is not a party to what 22 we're doing today. 23 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: But the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 30</p> <p>1 Singleton map was introduced as a bill, 2 and I understand the plaintiff's attorneys 3 did not show up. Now, nobody from the 4 plaintiffs are here. Well, the 5 attorney -- are you an attorney for the 6 plaintiffs? 7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, we're 8 the plaintiffs. 9 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Oh, you're a 10 plaintiff. Okay. Well, I'm going to call 11 on you, okay. So thank you. 12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So I just 13 want to make sure that there's no 14 confusion about why we're here and what 15 the -- so we're here because of the 16 Milligan and Caster plaintiffs. 17 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: I understand. 18 Yes, sir, Senator? 19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I also 20 wanted to be clear as well is the fact 21 that in this process there are two phases. 22 The first phase is what the Court has 23 addressed. This is a totally independent</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 32</p> <p>1 three plaintiffs here. 2 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Okay. Let's 3 start with those three plaintiffs. If 4 you'll come up. I'm going to give a 5 plaintiff five minutes instead of three. 6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I was about 7 to ask you what you -- 8 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Yeah, I'm going 9 to give y'all a little extra time. So 10 please come forward. And I need you to 11 stand at the microphone, announce your 12 name very clearly for everybody to hear, 13 and I'm going to give you five minutes. 14 MR. WALKER: Be sure -- and be 15 sure to speak clearly. 16 MR. MILLIGAN: Good morning or 17 good afternoon. My name is Evan Milligan. 18 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Well, I'm going 19 to give you five minutes each. 20 MR. MILLIGAN: Really? 21 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Oh, yeah. We 22 want to hear from you. So, yeah, give 23 five minutes each. That's fine.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 31</p> <p>1 phase dealing with remedy. And I think if 2 you read those orders, they will address 3 remedy totally independent from the fact 4 that they've decided on this particular 5 case. And because of that, it's not a 6 bridge that carries over; it's a bridge 7 that guides us over. Now we're over here 8 in the remedy phase. That's a whole 9 different process in terms of us. The 10 Court is going to apply strict scrutiny to 11 the process to which we put together, and 12 because of that, those procedures and 13 processes have to be addressed just as 14 much as the fact of what got us to that 15 point. Thank you. 16 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: And thank you. 17 With that, I would like to -- ma'am? 18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I cannot 19 hear you. 20 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Would you like 21 to address the committee first? You are a 22 plaintiff in the case, correct? 23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There are</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 33</p> <p>1 MR. MILLIGAN: Sure. Well, do all 2 of you have copies of the letter that was 3 submitted into the record today? Okay. 4 What's the best way for me to get them to 5 the folks on the panel? 6 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: We'll get 7 copies and send them out. 8 MR. MILLIGAN: Okay. 9 MR. WALKER: Have you got copies? 10 MR. MILLIGAN: Yeah, there's 11 enough for every member of the committee. 12 If you'd just -- if you'd just hand them 13 the envelope, then they can sort out the 14 distribution. But thank y'all for hearing 15 from us. We won't actually take the whole 16 15 minutes you've allotted, I don't think, 17 right. 18 But we want to say we are -- as 19 one of the members just indicated, our 20 case was the one that the Supreme Court 21 ruled on in terms of hearing our argument 22 about the opportunity districts here in 23 the State of Alabama.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p> <p>1 The three -- the three-judge 2 district court panel held unanimously that 3 there was evidence of racial polarization 4 in voting here to a degree that without 5 opportunity districts for Black voters in 6 the state you wouldn't have an 7 additional -- you wouldn't have black 8 voters here in Alabama outside of District 9 7 able to elect a candidate of their 10 choice. That ruling, that was from the 11 lower district panel. And when the 12 Supreme Court ruled on June 8th in our 13 favor, they affirmed that lower court's 14 ruling. 15 The map that we're presenting to 16 this body is one that features two 17 opportunity districts. It addresses other 18 issues with the -- with HB1, which is the 19 map that we filed the lawsuit against 20 particularly in regards to cracking the 21 voting strength of Black voters in the 22 Black Belt. So the map that we're 23 producing actually keeps hold the 18</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p> <p>1 found out of compliance, and then also 2 that the Supreme Court also recognized 3 were out of compliance with Section 2 of 4 the Voting Rights Act. 5 And we strongly urge you to 6 consider our remedial map. Thank you for 7 having given me the opportunity to speak. 8 We hope that the materials we provided are 9 also helpful. 10 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Thank you so 11 much, Mr. Milligan. 12 And you are, sir? 13 MR. SIMELTON: I'm not quite as 14 tall as Mr. Evan, so I'll raise -- lower 15 the mic. 16 Good afternoon, ladies and 17 gentlemen. My name is Bernard Simelton. 18 I'm president of the Alabama State 19 Conference of the NAACP. The NAACP is one 20 of the plaintiff organizations in the 21 Allen vs. Milligan case, and we are here 22 today to express our full support of the 23 map that has been approved by all of the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p> <p>1 counties that form the core of the Black 2 Belt. They're either placed in District 7 3 or District 2 of our remedial map. So 4 that addresses the cracking problem. 5 And this is also a map that splits 6 a very -- it only splits seven counties 7 and ten precincts. It doesn't touch the 8 northern part of the state. I believe 9 that's districts -- Districts 4 and 5 in 10 the Huntsville area and around Decatur. 11 So this is a map that we're keeping. 12 What you already voted into law in 13 2021, it preserves the northern part of 14 the state. And the alterations to the map 15 actually mirror what this body did with 16 the State Board of Education map as far as 17 uniting Mobile with Montgomery, and some 18 of the other alterations. We feel like 19 this is a map that keeps the State of 20 Alabama on the right side of the Voting 21 Rights Act. It addresses the issues with 22 our current congressional map that the 23 lower federal panel took issue with and</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p> <p>1 plaintiffs and submitted by our lead 2 attorney. So we want to be sure that 3 you-all understand the plaintiffs' map and 4 that it has the full support of all of the 5 plaintiffs. 6 The plaintiffs' map also meets the 7 standard that the Supreme Court has laid 8 out as far as what's required -- what will 9 be required as we redraw these maps. The 10 SCOTUS, the Supreme Court, ensured that 11 African-Americans are able to select or 12 elect a person of choice when it comes to 13 representing them in the -- in Congress, 14 and we want to be sure that everyone 15 understands that this -- these maps will 16 certainly give people of color, 17 African-Americans the opportunity to 18 select the person of choice that will 19 represent them in Congress, and be able to 20 work with them in the district in which 21 they live in. 22 We're urging the redistricting 23 committee and the Alabama Legislature</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p> <p>1 later on to adopt this map so that we can 2 move this process forward and be ready for 3 our next election. The NAACP and its 4 members across the State of Alabama and 5 the plaintiffs look forward to working 6 with the redistricting committee to answer 7 any other questions that you may have 8 through our attorneys so that we can meet 9 the deadline that has been set by the 10 courts of the United States of America. 11 Thank you very much. 12 MR. WALKER: Mr. Simelton, just to 13 correct the record for a second and make 14 sure it's clear, you said the map -- the 15 remedial map that's been handed out, the 16 one titled "VRA Plaintiffs' Remedial Map," 17 is supported by all the plaintiffs. And 18 am I correct in understanding you meant 19 all of the Milligan plaintiffs? 20 MR. SIMELTON: Yeah, all the 21 Milligan plaintiffs, right. 22 MR. WALKER: Okay. Thank you. 23 And do you know if it's also</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p> <p>1 MS. JACKSON: -- if it's okay with 2 you. Is it okay with you? 3 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Yes, ma'am. 4 MS. JACKSON: Okay. Dear 5 Apportionment [sic] Committee Members, 6 Evan Milligan, Shalela Dowdy, Letetia 7 Jackson, Khadidah Stone, Greater 8 Birmingham Ministries, and the Alabama 9 State Conference of the NAACP, 10 collectively known as the Milligan 11 plaintiffs, and Marcus Caster, Lakeisha 12 Chestnut, Bobby L. Dubose, Benjamin Jones, 13 Rodney Love, Manasseh Powell, Ronald Smith 14 and Wendell Thomas that are collectively 15 known as the Caster plaintiffs jointly 16 submit the attached remedial plan. 17 As you know, on June 8, 2023, the 18 Supreme Court of the United States ruled 19 in favor of both the Milligan and Caster 20 plaintiffs in holding that Alabama's 2021 21 congressional redistricting plan HB1 22 violated Section 2 of the Voting Rights 23 Act. No other group of plaintiffs have</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p> <p>1 supported by all of the Caster plaintiffs? 2 MR. SIMELTON: Yes. 3 MR. WALKER: But you don't speak 4 for the Singleton plaintiffs? 5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Correct. 6 MR. SIMELTON: No, we're not 7 speaking about the Singleton. 8 MR. WALKER: Thank you very much. 9 MR. SIMELTON: All right. Thank 10 you. 11 MS. JACKSON: Thank you. Good 12 afternoon, Mr. Chairman. My name is 13 Letetia Daniels Jackson. I'm one of the 14 plaintiffs. And for the benefit of those 15 in attendance and those watching, I'd like 16 to actually read into the record our 17 letter that supports our remedial map and 18 particularly lays out all of our claims -- 19 all of what we are trying to accomplish. 20 I know you have a copy, but 21 everybody doesn't, so I would like to read 22 it into the record -- 23 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: That's fine.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p> <p>1 successfully challenged HB1. Because the 2 Alabama Legislature's enactment of this 3 plan would likely resolve the pending 4 case, we urge the committee to give 5 careful consideration of our VR [sic] 6 Plan. 7 In affirming the three-judge 8 district's preliminary injunction against 9 HB1, the Supreme Court upheld the district 10 court's findings that, quote, Black 11 Alabamians enjoy virtually zero success in 12 statewide elections; that political 13 campaigns in Alabama have been 14 characterized by overt and subtle racial 15 appeals; and that Alabama's extensive 16 history of repugnant racial and 17 voting-related discrimination is 18 undeniable and well-documented, close 19 quote. The Court also held that the 20 district court had, quote, faithfully 21 applied our precedence and correctly 22 determined that HB1 violated Section 2, 23 close quote. The Court also held that the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 42</p> <p>1 district court had, quote, "faithfully 2 applied our precedents and correctly 3 determined that HB1 violated Section 2," 4 close quote.</p> <p>5 The Supreme Court also affirmed 6 the findings that the elections in Alabama 7 were racially polarized. Quote, "On 8 average, Black voters supported their 9 candidates of choice with 92.3 percent of 10 the vote, while White voters supported 11 Black preferred candidates with 15.4 12 percent of the vote," close quote. And 13 according to all the trial experts, racial 14 polarization in Alabama is, quote, 15 "intense, very strong, and very clear," 16 close quote.</p> <p>17 Given the extreme degree of 18 racially polarized voting in Alabama, the 19 trial court's preliminary injunction 20 order, which was upheld by the Supreme 21 Court, emphasized the practical reality 22 that any remedial plan will need to 23 include two districts in which Black</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 44</p> <p>1 And then I'll move forward to our 2 final. Indeed the overall core 3 retention -- in addition to that, we -- 4 for instance, we leave -- Districts 3, 4, 5 5, 6, and 7 largely maintain the core of 6 the districts as drawn by the legislature 7 in HB1, and Districts 1 and 2 reflect 8 modest changes necessary to bring Alabama 9 into compliance with the Voting Rights 10 Act. Indeed, the overall core retention 11 percentage of the Voting Rights Act 12 remedial plan is over 80 percent. In 13 further deference to the legislative's 14 past policy -- Legislature's past policy 15 choices, the VRA plan splits Jefferson 16 County in essentially the same manner as 17 HB1, and it splits Mobile County similar 18 to the way in which the Legislature did so 19 in its enacted 2021 state board of 20 election [sic] plan. Finally, the VRA 21 Plaintiffs' Remedial Plan is based on the 22 plaintiff's illustrative plans, including 23 Cooper Illustrative Plan 2 and Duchin</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 43</p> <p>1 voters either comprise a voting age 2 majority or something quite close to it. 3 For this reason, any plan that proposes 4 remedial districts in which Black voters 5 constitute less than a voting age majority 6 or something quite close to it almost 7 certainly will not conform to the district 8 court's order.</p> <p>9 The VRA Plaintiffs' remedial plan 10 carefully adheres to the decisions of both 11 the United States Supreme Court and the 12 federal district court. The Voting Rights 13 Act plan contains two districts that 14 perform consistently for Black voters in 15 primary and general elections. It also 16 remedies the cracking of the Black Belt 17 community of interest, identified by the 18 courts, by keeping the eight core Black 19 Belt counties together within these two 20 remedial districts, does not split 21 Montgomery County or any other core Black 22 Belt county, and has zero population 23 deviations.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 45</p> <p>1 Illustrative Plan A, which the Supreme 2 Court identified as legally acceptable 3 remedies, but makes specific changes to 4 better reflect legislative choices like 5 limiting the number of county splits and 6 protecting district cores.</p> <p>7 For this reason -- for these 8 reasons, the Milligan and Caster 9 Plaintiffs strongly and respectfully urge 10 the Legislature to adopt our plan. Thank 11 you.</p> <p>12 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Thank you so 13 much for coming today. I will now 14 recognize for three minutes the people who 15 have signed up, and the first person will 16 be Trey Bruce.</p> <p>17 MR. BRUCE: Good afternoon. My 18 name is Trey Bruce, and I live in 19 Birmingham where I was raised. I 20 graduated from Vestavia Hills High School 21 in 2016 and then Auburn University in 22 2019.</p> <p>23 I'm here today just to share my</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p> <p>1 opinion as a citizen regarding the 2 redistricting of Alabama. I'm not with a 3 particular group or organization. I had 4 the privilege when I was at Vestavia High 5 School to learn from a wonderful teacher 6 named Amy Maddox, who taught me for two 7 years in US History, as well as in a 8 program called We the People, a mock 9 congressional hearing program that taught 10 us the importance and relevance and 11 constitutional principles to the 12 governance of our nation. And she really 13 instilled in all of us students that even 14 if we didn't end up going on to be 15 historians or lawyers or politicians, that 16 all of us needed to be active and informed 17 citizens, so that is why I'm here to give 18 my public testimony. 19 For as long as I have known what 20 congressional districts were and was 21 taught that in school, Alabama's map never 22 particularly made sense to me in the way 23 that 25 to 30 percent of our state's</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p> <p>1 counties. 2 So for all of those reasons, I'm 3 in support of what is known as the VRA 4 plan presented by the Milligan and Caster 5 plaintiffs, and I look forward to seeing 6 our state move in a direction that is more 7 representative for all of our citizens. 8 Thank you. 9 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Thank you so 10 much. The Chair now recognizes Travis 11 Jackson of Montgomery. 12 MR. JACKSON: Thank y'all for 13 allowing me the opportunity to speak. 14 Reapportionment Committee, my name is 15 Travis Jackson. I'm a Black Lives/Voter 16 Matter activist who volunteers with an 17 organization by the name of Rolling to the 18 Polls, a voting rights advocate group of 19 likeminded people driving voters to their 20 proper or accurate voting locations. 21 Also, I am an Iraq veteran. I 22 mention this because I fought for the 23 rights of all Americans, and that includes</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p> <p>1 population is made up of Black individuals 2 and that only one of our seven districts 3 presented an opportunity for Black people 4 to choose the representative of their 5 choice. And, of course, as we know, on 6 June 8th the Supreme Court ruled that 7 Alabama's congressional elections in 2020 8 likely violated Section 2 of the Voting 9 Rights Act. 10 I have had a chance to review the 11 letter and plan that the Milligan and 12 Caster plaintiffs have just shared with 13 you and just discussed, and it makes a lot 14 of sense to me. Again, some of the key 15 points that they pointed out, this would 16 allow for two majority Black districts in 17 the map, two opportunities for Black 18 individuals in our state to elect the 19 representative of their choice. They 20 indicate that there's 80 percent core 21 retention with this map compared to the 22 previous map, and this would also keep 23 protection for all of our Black Belt</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 49</p> <p>1 Black voters. 2 In this testimony, I would like to 3 elaborate on the importance of drawing 4 more majority minority voting districts. 5 I do so by explaining Black voters' 6 obstacles. Black voters have always been 7 the major factor for a much wider 8 democracy. This is a proven fact 9 throughout our American history. When it 10 pertains to repairing human or civil 11 rights, whether that's voting, healthcare, 12 education, employment, housing, and 13 feeding our neighbors or homeless people, 14 Black voters were and have continued to 15 become the political super heroes within 16 our economy. 17 On June 8, 2023, the US Supreme 18 Court declared the current Alabama voting 19 district map, which was made in 2022, is 20 discrimination towards Black voters. The 21 Black or, as we call it, the woke vote has 22 always been under attack by the Alabama 23 government. Even though the Voting Rights</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 50</p> <p>1 Act of 1965 was signed into law, Alabama 2 voters are still to this day facing 3 systemic racism, voter suppression or, as 4 I like to call it, Jim Crowe 2.0. 5 A prime example of voter 6 suppression or Jim Crowe 2.0 towards Black 7 voters to this day is strict voter ID 8 laws. These type of voting laws have 9 influenced a decrease in Black voter 10 turnout. In return, White voter turnout 11 has definitely increased. 12 Under these unethical laws, it is 13 a requirement to show specific photo ID. 14 According to Brennan Center for Justice 15 data, 25 percent of Black voters don't 16 have photo IDs compared to 11 percent of 17 all races combined. Other difficulties 18 Black voters face on election days are 19 lengthy lines, heavy police presence 20 inside and outside voters' buildings, and 21 being directed to incorrect voting 22 locations. 23 Also, I have experienced myself</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 52</p> <p>1 Talladega, Alabama. In 2020, I was a 2 congressional nominee for Congress in 3 Alabama's third congressional district. 4 I'm also the executive director and 5 co-founder of Transform Alabama, a 6 501(c)(3) dedicated to improving voter 7 turnout and voter engagement using hip hop 8 culture. 9 Our organization was intimately 10 involved in the redistricting process 11 beginning in 2021. We helped mobilize 12 people to the public hearings in Anniston 13 and Calhoun County, Representative Boyd, 14 and we had a great turnout and had voices 15 from all over Talladega and Calhoun County 16 expressing their concern with how the maps 17 were drawn. This coalition was a 18 multiracial group, a group that came from 19 various backgrounds. So, again, we've 20 been watching this case closely. 21 The SCOTUS decision on June the 22 8th, like so many times in Alabama 23 history, has propelled the State of</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 51</p> <p>1 being misguided phone calls. 2 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: You have 30 3 seconds, sir. Go ahead. 4 MR. JACKSON: All right. Six of 5 Alabama's seven congressional districts 6 have a majority White voter population, 7 Alabama's Black population is 27 percent. 8 In the Pledge of Allegiance, it states 9 "Liberty and justice for all." Therefore, 10 Black voters should be in that word "all" 11 through moral legislative action. 12 Therefore, I strongly plead for the 13 committee members to sketch a second 14 reasonable majority minority district. 15 This is 2023, not 1953. 16 Thank you for your consideration. 17 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Thank you so 18 much. We appreciate you being here today. 19 And the next -- the Chair now 20 recognizes, is it Adia Winfrey from 21 Talladega? 22 MS. WINFREY: Good afternoon. My 23 name is Dr. Adia Winfrey. I'm from</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 53</p> <p>1 Alabama and the people of Alabama to the 2 forefront of voting rights change. And 3 like the last few centuries, we are the 4 pinnacle of that change, but often 5 Alabamians do not see the benefit. And my 6 concern is that we are already seeing -- 7 we're less than three weeks out from the 8 Supreme Court decision, and we already see 9 how the plaintiffs in Alabama are changing 10 the country and what voting rights mean in 11 other states. But where does that leave 12 us in Alabama? 13 So what I implore each of you to 14 do is put your politics aside and put the 15 people of Alabama in the forefront. I 16 stand with the plaintiffs in the Milligan 17 case. I stand beside this map, and I 18 really implore you guys to make decisions 19 for the people because, as the previous 20 speaker stated, when Black Alabamians and 21 Black voters are given the opportunity for 22 their voice to be heard, everybody 23 benefits. It's not just about two</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 54</p> <p>1 districts. It's about the entire State of 2 Alabama. Thank you. 3 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Thank you, 4 Dr. Winfrey. 5 The Chair now recognizes Tyrone 6 Maye from Jackson. Is Tyrone Maye here? 7 MR. MAYE: (Inaudible), but I 8 didn't sign up. (Inaudible), but I didn't 9 sign up. 10 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: The Chair now 11 recognizes Rhondel Rhone from Fulton -- 12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 13 (Inaudible). 14 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Okay. All 15 right. That's fine. The Chair now 16 recognizes Felicia Pond from Montgomery. 17 Okay. The Chair -- hasn't Rhondel James 18 already spoken? 19 Rhondel James from Montgomery? 20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ronald. 21 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Ronald. I'm 22 sorry. 23 MR. JAMES: Good evening. My name</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 56</p> <p>1 the district that's going to represent 2 what we look like, the minds and the 3 concerns of the people that are in those 4 districts. Don't split us up. Keep us 5 together. Let us be effective so that we 6 can push Alabama forward. Because when we 7 all vote, we all win. So thank you so 8 much for hearing us today. We ask that 9 you do what's right and we continue to do 10 what's right, and let's push Alabama 11 forward progressively together. 12 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Thank you so 13 much for being here today. 14 The Chair now recognizes Dr. Joe 15 L. Reed from Montgomery. Welcome, 16 Dr. Reed. 17 DR. REED: Thank you, sir. To the 18 chairs of this important committee, to the 19 members of the committee, to all who are 20 listening, my name is Joe L. Reed. I'm 21 chairman of the Alabama Democratic 22 Conference, the Black Political Democratic 23 Caucus of Alabama. I'm also vice chair</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p> <p>1 is Ronald James. I'm the state organizer 2 for Black Voters Matter Here in the State 3 of Alabama. We could stand up here and 4 repeat over and over things that we 5 already know. Numbers don't lie. 6 A great professor of mine once 7 told me that if we don't know our history 8 that it will tend to repeat itself. 9 Alabama has a history of being disobedient 10 or not recognizing the federal mandates in 11 its history. We stand here today at the 12 same precedence again with the mandate 13 that's been handed down. We just ask that 14 we follow the mandate and make the maps 15 equal and fair. The maps that are 16 represented here today by the plaintiffs, 17 the people of Alabama, especially in the 18 Black Belt, which would be most affected 19 by how these maps are drawn, support these 20 maps. 21 We're not begging for anything. 22 We're just asking to have a fair shot, 23 have a fair chance to represent people in</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p> <p>1 for minority affairs of the Democratic 2 party of Alabama. And I appreciate the 3 opportunity to come before this committee 4 and express some thoughts I have about the 5 plan. 6 Before going further, I want to 7 commend the plaintiffs in this lawsuit. 8 You're to be commended for moving forward. 9 I've always thought we would win. I've 10 got to get my -- collect my stake for one 11 of my friends, who told me we weren't 12 going to win it, and I told them we would 13 win it. And I'm going to get my stake 14 pretty soon, and I want it to be a real 15 good stake and not some little stake. 16 Back to the real issue. I have 17 been privileged for the last 45 to 50 18 years of participating in reapportionment 19 plans, and by and large, we've been very 20 successful. I've worked with everybody I 21 possibly could to get plans done, and one 22 of the most enjoyable times I had to work 23 with someone was Speaker Jimmy Clark of</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 58</p> <p>1 Barbour County. It's amazing that Speaker 2 Clark used to chair the Sovereignty 3 Commission, and yet we put together a 4 reapportionment plan that never left 5 Montgomery County, Alabama. It was 6 approved by the state courts. 7 I want to mention two or three 8 things about this plan, and I'm going to 9 try not to repeat what others have already 10 said. We believe that -- we know that the 11 plan has to be constitutional. You've got 12 to protect the one person, one vote. We 13 understand that. We also realize and 14 accept the fact you've got to be racially 15 fair. 16 Now, let me say this. With all 17 due respect to everybody here, I'm not 18 here to down any plan. I'm here to 19 promote a plan. My goal very simply is to 20 get two majority Black safe districts. 21 That's what I'm here for, to ask the 22 Legislature to pass two solid majority, 23 safe Black districts. Anything less than</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 60</p> <p>1 the second district. I don't believe 2 that. And we're going to -- the Alabama 3 Democratic Conference is going to advance 4 a plan, and I understand we've got some 5 time to draw some lines, but we're going 6 to advance a plan that gives us a little 7 more help than these other plans do. I'm 8 not condemning, I'm not fussing, or 9 nothing like that. I'm talking about the 10 -- I'm a results person. I'm for the 11 results. And that is when the end comes, 12 when the sun goes down at the end of the 13 day, what do you have. And my point is, 14 unless we have a majority voting age 15 population, a sizable one, we will have 16 nothing. And I'm not mad with anybody at 17 all, but you've got to be real and do a 18 reality check. 19 Also, there are some kind of lines 20 that are going to have to be -- you're 21 going to have to split them. There are 22 some splits, yes, necessary splits. I've 23 drawn some in the past where I've split</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 59</p> <p>1 that is a hollow log. 2 I've looked at these -- some of 3 these other plans, and I'm going to say 4 that with all due respect, I differ with 5 them because I noticed one of the plans 6 that my friends have produced, one is 7 about 51 percent Black and voting age. 8 They forgot to count the prisoners. There 9 are prisoners in these districts, and 10 these prisoners can't vote. And that's 11 going to reduce the voting age population 12 in these districts. That's very 13 important. We saw what happened in 14 Grimsley's district down in Henry County 15 when you reapportioned the Alabama 16 Legislature recently. I'm not condemning 17 his appointment or nothing like that at 18 all. But we saw he represented that 19 district for some time. But the minute it 20 changed just a little bit, he was, what, 21 gone with the wind. 22 So I don't believe that we've got 23 a safe Black district in the second -- in</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 61</p> <p>1 some counties, and I'll draw some more. 2 We have to split some counties. But there 3 are some unnecessary splits because there 4 are some arguments over who will get Sugar 5 Hill, Harper Valley, and Peyton Place. 6 That's irrelevant here. 7 What we want and what we need, and 8 I'm going to stop with this, we need a 9 clear, safe, two majority Black districts, 10 not with 1 percent here and 1 percent 11 there, a half a percent. I'm talking 12 about something that's realistic. 13 So I want to say again, 14 Mr. Chairman, we're going to submit 15 something to you. I want to say to the 16 plaintiffs, I thank you, you've done a 17 good job. And I'm going to commend your 18 lawyers for it. Some of them I know very 19 well. I don't have no fight. I just want 20 results, and right now I have not seen a 21 plan yet advanced that would give us the 22 comfort in getting two majority Black 23 districts to the United States Congress</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 62</p> <p>1 and the Alabama Democratic Conference will 2 be one. 3 And I do -- I will say this. I 4 would also encourage to the plaintiffs, we 5 need to just sit down and talk because 6 we're all on the same wavelength. We're 7 all trying to get the same thing. So we 8 don't have a fight. Let's sit down and 9 talk and try to put one together we all 10 get behind. And we know -- and I'll say 11 to the White legislators here, there are 12 going to be two Black districts. 13 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Thank you, 14 Mr. Reed. 15 DR. REED: So why don't you help 16 us. 17 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: And I look 18 forward to seeing you on July the 14th. 19 But we'll put your plan up on the screen 20 if you'll have it submitted by 5:00 p.m. 21 July the 7th. 22 DR. REED: Thank you, sir. 23 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: And I know you</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 64</p> <p>1 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Is that it? I 2 think that's it. 3 MR. BLACKSHER: That's it, that's 4 it. 5 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Okay. Thank 6 you. 7 MR. BLACKSHER: Thank you, yeah. 8 The map that's up on the screen 9 now is the map that the Singleton 10 plaintiffs are supporting. The Singleton 11 plaintiffs' constitutional claim is still 12 pending before the district court. It's 13 consolidated with the other two cases, 14 Milligan and Caster. 15 And the victory in the Supreme 16 Court establishes that the plan enacted in 17 2021 violated Section 2 of the Voting 18 Rights Act, but it did not address what 19 the remedy should be. However, the 20 Supreme Court did affirm the ruling of the 21 three-judge district court, and I need to 22 read the district court's opinion as 23 follows.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 63</p> <p>1 will. Thank you so much, Dr. Reed. 2 I'm going to take a moment and 3 recognize Mr. Jim Blacksher from 4 Birmingham. 5 DR. REED: He deserves it. Give 6 him a hand. 7 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Jim, I'm going 8 to do you like I just did Dr. Reed. I'm 9 going to give y'all five minutes because 10 y'all are so deeply involved. 11 MR. BLACKSHER: So thank you very 12 much, Mr. Chair. I, too, want to 13 congratulate -- 14 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Can I get the 15 clerk to change the map to the plan that 16 Mr. Blacksher -- 17 Do you want your plan up there, 18 Mr. Blacksher? 19 MR. BLACKSHER: Yeah, if -- 20 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: If you'll 21 convert the map for me, please. 22 MR. BLACKSHER: -- you'll get 23 Donna to put the --</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p> <p>1 This is the -- this is the 2 injunction that this -- this Legislature 3 is going to have to enforce. It's because 4 there was a violation, we know there have 5 to be two opportunity districts in order 6 to correct the Section 2 violation, but 7 those opportunity districts must also 8 satisfy the Constitution. 9 And here's what the pending 10 injunction says: If we determine that the 11 plan violates Section 2 of the Voting 12 Rights Act, that would not be a 13 determination that the Milligan plaintiffs 14 are entitled to a map of their choice or 15 to one of the remedial maps submitted to 16 establish the first Gingles requirement. 17 Those maps are illustrative maps submitted 18 for the purposes of establishing liability 19 under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. 20 The Legislature retains 21 flexibility in their work subject to the 22 rule that a district drawn in order to 23 satisfy Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p> <p>1 must not subordinate traditional 2 districting principles to race 3 substantially more than is reasonably 4 necessary to avoid Section 2 liability. 5 And the question then before this 6 committee is what plans can they enact 7 that will at once provide a remedy 8 consistent with Section 2 of the Voting 9 Rights Act; and, two, still comply with 10 the Constitution. And the governing case 11 is Cooper vs. Harris in the Supreme Court 12 2017. It says that this committee must 13 have a strong basis in evidence to 14 conclude that Section 2 demands such 15 race-based steps as splitting counties 16 along racial lines. The State must 17 carefully evaluate whether a plaintiff 18 could establish all the Gingles 19 preconditions, including effective White 20 block voting in a new district created 21 without those measures, and we see nothing 22 in the legislative record that fits that 23 description.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p> <p>1 adopted -- proposed this map called CLC 2 Map No. 1, and it provides two opportunity 3 districts without splitting a single 4 county along racial lines. Jefferson 5 County, Mobile County, Montgomery County. 6 Tuscaloosa is split the way the 7 Legislature split it in 2021 in order to 8 equalize population. 9 All of the Black Belt counties, 10 except for Barbour, are in one district, 11 not two, but one district, and the second 12 opportunity district is Jefferson County 13 itself, which depends on crossover voting 14 with White voters in Jefferson County. 15 Jefferson County is the one county in 16 Alabama that has demonstrated that there 17 is crossover voting that can support Black 18 candidates' choices. 19 So I point out that problem to the 20 Court -- to the committee about how it 21 must follow its work and the rules it must 22 follow in doing this work. Thank you. 23 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Thank you,</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p> <p>1 So what I'm pointing out here is 2 that the -- and the lawyers can provide 3 better explanation of what this is 4 referring to, but this committee, in 5 addition to adopting a plan, has to make 6 sure it has before it evidence that it 7 does, in fact, perform as an opportunity 8 district. 9 And in Cooper vs. Harris, the 10 Supreme Court looked at election returns 11 to see how the districts performed in past 12 elections to determine whether or not 13 candidates favored by Black voters won 14 that district -- could win that district. 15 So the Singleton plaintiffs 16 introduced early on in the litigation, in 17 fact, back before this committee convened 18 in October of 2021, three plans, the whole 19 county plans that we stand by. 20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: One minute. 21 MR. BLACKSHER: One minute. 22 But the Campaign Legal Center, in 23 a brief submitted to the Supreme Court,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 69</p> <p>1 Mr. Blacksher, and I know we'll see you on 2 July the 13th. 3 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: 4 (Inaudible) a question? 5 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: No, we're not 6 going to -- today is just input from the 7 public. 8 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: Can we 9 not ask a presenter a question? 10 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: We, we -- all 11 right. I'll let you ask a question, 12 Representative England. 13 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: 14 (Inaudible.) 15 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Well, it's a 16 public hearing, so let's go. You can ask 17 a question. 18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We ask 19 witnesses in public hearings questions all 20 the time. 21 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Okay. I'm 22 sorry, I'm sorry. 23 Ask the question, Mr. England.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 70</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: 2 Mr. Blacksher, could you come back up? 3 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: That's his map 4 right there. It was actually in your 5 folder. It's one of -- it's one of the 6 Singleton plans that we sent to you. It's 7 in your package. It's one of the 8 Singleton plans in your package, yes. 9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 10 Representative England. 11 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: Yeah, 12 just -- I'm not going to keep you long. I 13 just want to make a -- I just want to make 14 a very clear distinction. You -- your 15 case, the case that you represent is still 16 pending, correct? 17 MR. BLACKSHER: We're representing 18 the Singleton plaintiffs in a case that's 19 still pending before the three-judge 20 court, and it's not been -- our 21 constitutional plan against the 2021 plan 22 has not been addressed, yes. 23 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: All</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 72</p> <p>1 under the Constitution because of the way 2 it splits Mobile and Jefferson County 3 along racial lines. 4 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: All 5 right. So, but the question is do you -- 6 so you do not agree with the maps from the 7 Caster or Milligan -- the map that was 8 presented from the Caster and Milligan 9 plaintiffs, correct? 10 MR. BLACKSHER: It's not a 11 question of whether I agree with it or 12 not. I think it's a good map for the 13 purpose for which it was drawn. I'm just 14 saying that I don't believe it's going to 15 be able to pass strict scrutiny if it goes 16 before the three-judge court for that 17 decision. 18 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: And you 19 say strict -- satisfying the standard of 20 strict scrutiny because why? 21 MR. BLACKSHER: Because it splits 22 counties along racial lines to achieve a 23 racial target of 50 percent plus one.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p> <p>1 right. So you aren't a party to the case 2 that we're here on -- like, what got us 3 here, correct? 4 MR. BLACKSHER: No, we're 5 consolidated. We are parties in the 6 consolidated litigation, and we are 7 parties to what remedy is adopted by the 8 three-judge court, yes, sir. 9 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: All 10 right. Mr. Walker asked you a question 11 initially that said -- or not asked you a 12 question, but asked the other presenters a 13 question saying were you -- whether or not 14 you agreed with or were presented with the 15 maps from the Milligan and Caster 16 plaintiffs. Have you seen those maps? 17 MR. BLACKSHER: Yes. 18 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: All 19 right. Do you agree with those maps? 20 MR. BLACKSHER: I agree that those 21 maps provide opportunity districts for 22 Black voters, but I have my doubts about 23 whether it could satisfy strict scrutiny</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 73</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: But your 2 -- each map that you presented also does 3 that? 4 MR. BLACKSHER: No. 5 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: Well, I 6 mean, because Tuscaloosa is split. 7 MR. BLACKSHER: Tuscaloosa is 8 split, as are five other counties in order 9 to accomplish zero deviation. And that 10 split in Tuscaloosa County was not drawn 11 by us, but by this committee back in 2021. 12 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: So you 13 would agree that in order to satisfy the 14 Voting Rights Act you are allowed to split 15 precincts, split counties, and whatever is 16 necessary to accomplish that objective? I 17 think that's actually dictum from one of 18 the opinions. 19 MR. BLACKSHER: As long as it's 20 not done along racial lines, the splits 21 have to be done to accomplish zero 22 deviation. 23 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: Doesn't</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 74</p> <p>1 one of the maps you present actually have 2 small percentages of deviation? 3 MR. BLACKSHER: No. Well, 4 Singleton's -- Singleton 1 and 2 had 5 deviations that were not zero. Singleton 6 3 has a zero deviation. 7 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: And the 8 purpose of that deviation -- 9 MR. BLACKSHER: This one here has 10 a zero deviation, the CLC plan. 11 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: So some 12 of the plans that you presented, the 13 purpose of the deviation was to attempt to 14 find a way to satisfy the Voting Rights 15 Act requirements, correct? 16 MR. BLACKSHER: I'm sorry. Say 17 again. 18 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: So two of 19 the maps that you presented had small 20 deviation in an attempt to make -- to try 21 to satisfy the requirements of the Voting 22 Rights Act, correct? 23 MR. BLACKSHER: No.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 76</p> <p>1 congressional districts that split a 2 single county from 1819 until, I guess, 3 1965 when the first plan was drawn in 4 response to Westberry vs. Sanders. So for 5 over a century, no counties were split, 6 and the good thing about that is that it 7 means that districts are drawn according 8 to political communities, the counties 9 themselves, and it helps constrain 10 gerrymandering of any type. It doesn't 11 prevent gerrymandering. 12 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: I'll ask 13 you just this one question and I'll let it 14 go. 15 MR. BLACKSHER: Sure. Sorry. 16 I'm -- 17 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: Why did 18 the -- over the course of time, why did we 19 increase the number of counties being 20 split? 21 MR. BLACKSHER: Because Westberry 22 vs. Sanders was developed by the Supreme 23 Court in subsequent cases in the 1970s to</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 75</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: So why do 2 you have deviation in those two maps? 3 MR. BLACKSHER: You're talking 4 about Singleton 1 and Singleton 2? 5 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: Yes, sir. 6 MR. BLACKSHER: Well, because 7 Singleton 1 was drawn without splitting a 8 single county for any reason. And by the 9 way, this is not something that's not 10 going to be taken up at this time, but 11 this committee needs to know that you can 12 keep -- you can draw a plan that keeps all 13 the counties whole and produces two 14 opportunity districts, but it has -- 15 Singleton 1 had a maximum population 16 deviation of 2.47 percent. 2.47 percent. 17 And the Supreme Court has said if you had 18 adopted that, it's likely that that would 19 have satisfied the Supreme Court standard 20 for equal population in congressional 21 districts because it's done to keep from 22 splitting any counties. 23 You know, this state did not have</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 77</p> <p>1 say you had to achieve close to zero 2 deviation for congressional districts 3 only, not for house and senate districts, 4 not for state board districts, not for 5 county commission or school board 6 districts. But just for congressional 7 districts the Supreme Court was looking to 8 require zero deviation, plus or minus one 9 person, and that necessarily requires 10 splitting at least six counties. Every 11 map out there that you've seen has to 12 split at least six counties in order to 13 accomplish zero deviation. 14 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: So I just 15 want to make sure we understand. 16 Splitting counties and deviation is 17 allowed when it's necessary, correct? Is 18 that correct? 19 MR. BLACKSHER: When it's 20 necessary to achieve population deviation, 21 that's correct. 22 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: Okay. 23 Because I don't want anybody walking away</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 78</p> <p>1 from this process believing that we are 2 required to have zero deviation and no 3 county lines split because, again, we're 4 trying to accomplish the objectives of the 5 Voting Rights Act. 6 MR. BLACKSHER: Yeah. 7 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: We are 8 allowed certain -- we are afforded certain 9 deviations and also splitting of precincts 10 and counties to accomplish that objective, 11 and I just want to make sure we all 12 understand that as we go through this 13 process. 14 MR. BLACKSHER: Representative 15 England, you are preaching to the choir. 16 I am only pointing out that you've got a 17 problem when those splits are done 18 intentionally along racial lines. 19 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Mr. England -- 20 the Chair now recognizes -- is there 21 anybody else that has a question for 22 Mr. Blacksher? 23 (No audible response.)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 80</p> <p>1 redrawing of the congressional map, I 2 would not support a map that shrinks 3 Congressional District 7. I would, 4 however, support a map that includes all 5 of Jefferson County and Tuscaloosa County 6 and Black Belt in District 7, and all of 7 Montgomery and Mobile in District 2." 8 Those are the comments I have, 9 Chairman Pringle. 10 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Thank you so 11 much. 12 The Chair now recognizes Mr. Mike 13 Bunn from Baldwin County. 14 MR. BUNN: Yes, sir. 15 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: If you'll tell 16 us what you're here to talk about, sir. 17 MR. BUNN: Well, just a little 18 historical perspective for what it's 19 worth. I was asked about this. I run 20 Historic Blakeley State Park and -- 21 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Would you speak 22 into the microphone? 23 MR. BUNN: I run Historic Blakeley</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 79</p> <p>1 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Thank you, 2 Mr. Blacksher. I'm sure we'll have 3 further discussions on July the 13th. 4 With that, I believe we have -- 5 Mr. Walker, do you have some questions 6 that have been emailed in or comments? 7 MR. WALKER: I do. Let me read 8 the two comments that we've received over 9 the course of the hearing. 10 One is from Kay Smith. "Dear 11 Redistricting Committee, I would like to 12 add my support to the plaintiffs and other 13 speakers and their suggested remedial map 14 to fairly represent the voters of Alabama. 15 I submit that as a White voter in 16 Birmingham I, too, have felt a lack of 17 representation for many years now. I 18 would hope that the new plan would give 19 progressive voters like me, regardless of 20 race, a voice at long last. Thank you for 21 considering this suggested plan." 22 The other comment that was 23 received is from Tiffany West. "In the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 81</p> <p>1 State Park. 2 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: We have several 3 hundred people watching us online. 4 MR. BUNN: Okay. So I'm in the 5 Mobile-Tensaw Delta. And just want to 6 point out, historically speaking, that 7 that's been a united community for a long 8 time, if you go back in all the Colonial 9 eras, which you don't need a whole history 10 lesson. I write books, and I won't bore 11 you with all that. But if you go all the 12 way back from the 1700s up until when the 13 battle that was fought at our park was 14 fought was actually in Baldwin County, but 15 was fought defending the City of Mobile. 16 So I was asked a little bit about that, 17 and just for historically speaking we've 18 been a united community on both sides of 19 the bay for a long time. 20 We even had a history of ferries 21 running between the communities for a long 22 period of time before the 23 Cochrane-Africatown Bridge was built and</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 82</p> <p>1 opened in the 30's that united those 2 communities a little bit more efficiently 3 than the ferries. So there's a little bit 4 of a community on both sides of the bay 5 that I think we're very cognizant of down 6 in the Mobile Bay region. 7 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Thank you so 8 much for being here today. 9 MR. BUNN: Thank you. 10 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: And forgive me, 11 but the Chair now recognizes Rodreshia 12 Russaw from Dothan. Did I butcher that? 13 I'm sorry. 14 MS. RUSSAW: Good afternoon. Hi, 15 my name is Rodreshia Russaw Glasgow. I am 16 the executive director of The Ordinary 17 People Society, known as T.O.P.S. Also a 18 board member of Alabama Forward and vice 19 chair second congressional district ADC, 20 Alabama Democratic Conference. 21 I am here and standing with our 22 plaintiffs, the Evan vs. Milligan -- I'm 23 sorry, the Milligan vs. Allen plan that</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 84</p> <p>1 Some of the maps that I have seen 2 specifically splits in two some of the 3 highest populated counties, particularly 4 in Elmore where there is 1,154 inmates. 5 Limestone, 2,302 inmates. Montgomery 6 really didn't break down. I didn't see 7 too much variance in Bullock. But I 8 just -- for the numbers record, Bullock 9 has 1,485. Tutwiler, 714. 10 And so as we know, Alabama is 11 still among five -- the fifth state in the 12 United States that has the highest 13 incarceration rate. I ask that you would 14 adopt this map on behalf of the plaintiffs 15 because it also shows that it is not 16 cutting the district lines particularly 17 impacting those that are eligible to vote 18 within those districts. 19 And so I thank you for hearing us 20 today, and we look forward to the upcoming 21 meetings that we have. Thank you so much. 22 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Thank you so 23 much.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 83</p> <p>1 has been presented before you. I just 2 wanted to raise a couple of concerns of 3 mines specifically because, as we know, 4 Mr. Joe Reed explained how this affects 5 those that are incarcerated in our prisons 6 specifically. 7 And as we know, in 2008 the NAACP 8 Legal Defense Fund held the back of Pastor 9 Glasgow on the Glass vs. Allen lawsuit 10 against ADOC for those that are 11 incarcerated to be able to vote while 12 they're in prison as long as they did not 13 have a crime involving moral turpitude. 14 Why is that important to today? 15 Because there's still thousands of 16 incarcerated people who are eligible to 17 vote inside of the prisons. And, 18 unfortunately, because of the lack of 19 voter education, they are voting from 20 where they're housed and not where they 21 live in their particular county, 22 increasing prison gerrymandering, which is 23 my concern.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 85</p> <p>1 The Chair now recognizes Mary 2 Williams from Montgomery. 3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible) 4 the next person. 5 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: The next 6 person, David Russell from Birmingham. 7 MR. RUSSELL: I really just signed 8 up to just let them know -- to keep the 9 numbers high. But while I'm here, I 10 did -- I do make quite a few observations. 11 I love what the senator from Mobile 12 stated, that at least when you're doing 13 the president and vice president, at least 14 we should have a minority in one of those 15 seats because it is not what it is, but 16 what it's projected to look like outside 17 the public. 18 It appears that the public 19 probably would see that, you know, even 20 those these are two Black districts, but 21 yet still we have two White chairpersons. 22 So I wish you-all would kind of over -- 23 look at those appointments again. So if</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 86</p> <p>1 you have a White chair, at least we can 2 get a Black vice chair. 3 Thank you. 4 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Thank you. 5 The Chair now recognizes Gregory 6 Clarke from Birmingham. 7 MR. CLARKE: My appreciation to 8 the Chair, Committee Members. I'm 9 JaiGregory Clarke, representing Faith in 10 Action Alabama. We're a multi-faith, 11 multiracial organization whose mission is 12 to dismantle systemic racism in order to 13 produce pathways of opportunity for every 14 Alabamian. 15 Today I implore you to draw 16 congressional maps that empower and give 17 voting power to Black and Brown 18 communities in Alabama. For far too long, 19 minority communities, particularly Black 20 and Brown citizens, have faced significant 21 obstacles in exercising their right to 22 vote and achieving fair representation. 23 Historical injustices and systemic</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 88</p> <p>1 principles in the redistricting process: 2 First, we must ensure that Black and Brown 3 communities are not fragmented or diluted 4 through gerrymandering tactics. By 5 respecting the geographic, cultural, and 6 socioeconomic boundaries of our 7 communities, we can allow for cohesive 8 representation that truly reflects our 9 interests and needs. 10 Secondly, majority minority 11 districts must be established to empower 12 our communities to elect representatives 13 who understand our unique experiences and 14 concerns. It is through these districts 15 that we can overcome historical barriers 16 and provide opportunity for 17 underrepresented communities to have our 18 voices heard. 19 Transparency and public 20 participation are paramount. I implore 21 the committee to conduct the redistricting 22 process openly, engaging community 23 organizations, advocacy groups and</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 87</p> <p>1 barriers have hindered our ability to 2 fully participate in the democratic 3 process, but we stand at a critical 4 juncture where we have the opportunity to 5 right these wrongs and ensure that every 6 voice is heard. We must acknowledge the 7 painful history of voter suppression and 8 disenfranchisement by Black and Brown 9 communities in Alabama. 10 Our communities have persevered, 11 fought for or rights, and contributed 12 immensely to the fabric of our state. It 13 is time to recognize our resilience and 14 address the longstanding inequalities we 15 continue to face. Drawing congressional 16 maps that give voting power and 17 representation to our communities is not 18 only a moral imperative, it is -- it is a 19 legal obligation. 20 We must uphold the Voting Rights 21 Act of 1965 and protect the rights of 22 minority voters. To achieve this, I urge 23 this committee to prioritize the following</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 89</p> <p>1 residents in meaningful dialogue. 2 Finally, I implore you members -- 3 I implore you members of the Alabama 4 Reapportionment Committee to seize this 5 moment, to be on the right side of 6 history, and to draw congressional maps 7 that give voting power to Black and Brown 8 Alabamians. Together, let us build a 9 future where every Alabamian has a voice, 10 where fairness prevails, and where our 11 democracy truly shines. 12 Thank you for your time. 13 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Thank you so 14 much. We appreciate you being here today. 15 And now the Chair recognizes 16 Donald J. Williams from Montgomery. 17 MR. WILLIAMS: I yield. 18 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Yield. 19 Mr. Williams yields. 20 Now the Chair recognizes Byron 21 Evans from Selma. 22 MR. EVANS: I yield. 23 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Do you yield?</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 90</p> <p>1 Mr. Walker, do you have any more 2 comments that have come in on the email 3 address? 4 MR. WALKER: Chairman Pringle, I 5 don't have any other comments. Oh, wait, 6 I've got one. A late arrival. 7 This is from James Butler. "I'd 8 like to leave a comment to the committee 9 in this hearing that I hope that the map 10 which I, James Butler, proposed to the 11 committee in an email earlier this week is 12 shown to this committee. I believe its 13 compactness and ability to secure two 14 opportunity districts would satisfy the 15 plaintiffs of both cases." 16 That's all I have. 17 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Are there any 18 additional comments while you're here? 19 Yes, sir. Please come forward and state 20 your name, and you'll have three minutes. 21 MR. MATTHEWS: Thank you most 22 graciously. My name is Frank James 23 Matthews, III, from Birmingham, Alabama.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 92</p> <p>1 I ended up being the first Black 2 person that happened to be a Black man 3 that got in a runoff in District 2 there 4 in the city council of Birmingham, 5 Alabama, and to this day, no Black person 6 has gotten that seat. 7 The young people or Black 8 population majority, the older Black 9 people are majority population. But what 10 they did, when I ran for state 11 representative and almost got in a 12 runoff -- missed it by 200 votes with 13 Oliver Robinson -- they changed the 14 district from way at the top of the 15 Birmingham map and went way to almost the 16 bottom of the Birmingham map and brought 17 in enough of Shelby County, which was 18 literally White. And I liked 200 votes 19 from becoming the first Black man, the 20 first convicted Black man to be a 21 councilperson in District 2. 22 What I say I want to say to the 23 NAACP, I want to say to all of these other</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 91</p> <p>1 And I kind of touch a little tendencies 2 that the good legislator, consummate 3 politician Joe Reed mentioned initially 4 when he first spoke about convicts, and 5 then a young lady just spoke again about 6 the population of the prisons and the 7 handicaps that faces us. 8 I was arrested at 11 year olds in 9 the county jail in Limestone, Alabama. 10 Had a criminal career with some 38 11 arrests. Out of all that, I turned the 12 lemons into lemonade. I walked down 13 Highway 22 in '80 and picked up paper, 14 like Michelangelo painted a picture, as a 15 convict. And one day I had a premonition, 16 and I seen myself as sold my right to vote 17 to the prison system. I was able to 18 change my life in prison, got an early 19 release from prison. And of all people, 20 Governor Guy Hunt gave me a pardon, and I 21 was able to run for elected office. I ran 22 for mayor, I ran for city council twice, 23 and I ran for state representative first.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 93</p> <p>1 groups, you better count your numbers and 2 who has a propensity for voting. So if 3 you don't have a propensity for voting, 4 you can have the Black young, you can have 5 older Blacks in the district and still 6 have White representation. So I suggest 7 that you go up there in North Huntsville, 8 in that area up there where Ms. Hall is, 9 because the Black people in that area have 10 a high propensity for voting. 11 So you could do the same way they 12 did to me way down in Shelby County and 13 got that cotton, picked that cotton and 14 rowed it down the river, and kept me from 15 being elected. So that's one of the 16 things you better make sure. Don't say 17 it's just Black and don't say it's just 18 young. 19 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Mr. Williams, 20 that's -- 21 MR. WILLIAMS: Count your votes 22 before you go at them. Thank you very 23 much.</p>


Page 94

1 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Thank you.
 2 Is there anybody else who would
 3 like to say something before we conclude
 4 this public hearing?
 5 (No audible response.)
 6 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: With that, the
 7 public hearing is closed and we stand in
 8 adjournment.
 9 The gentleman -- I'm sorry, I
 10 didn't see you.
 11 MR. McGOWIN: It won't take but a
 12 second just to say something because --
 13 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: I'm terribly
 14 sorry.
 15 MR. McGOWIN: Dr. Reed made a
 16 profound statement when he talked about
 17 look at these districts and make sure
 18 people can vote. I'm from a county that
 19 has a prison, and right next door, Barbour
 20 County has a prison. I see these prison
 21 numbers in these maps. We need to make
 22 sure that we have people in these
 23 communities that can vote, of voting age

Page 95

1 and are going to be able to do something.
 2 So I'm looking forward to seeing your map,
 3 Dr. Reed, and thank you all for allowing
 4 me just to say a brief word to this
 5 committee. Let's make sure we've got
 6 something in our --
 7 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Sir, we need
 8 your name.
 9 MR. McGOWIN: John McGowin, County
 10 Commissioner of Bullock County District 3.
 11 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: John McGowin.
 12 Thank you so much, John.
 13 All right. With that -- is there
 14 anybody else? I don't want to make that
 15 mistake twice.
 16 (No audible response.)
 17 CHAIRMAN PRINGLE: We are
 18 adjourned.
 19 (Whereupon, the hearing was
 20 adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.)
 21
 22 END OF HEARING
 23

Page 96

1 CERTIFICATE
 2 STATE OF ALABAMA)
 3 COUNTY OF JEFFERSON)
 4 I hereby certify that the above
 5 and foregoing proceeding was taken down by
 6 me by stenographic means, and that the
 7 content herein was produced in transcript
 8 form by computer aid under my supervision,
 9 and that the foregoing represents, to the
 10 best of my ability in accordance with the
 11 quality of the Zoom recording, a true and
 12 correct transcript of the proceedings,
 13 Page 1 through 95, occurring on said date
 14 at said time.
 15 I further certify that I am
 16 neither of counsel nor of kin to the
 17 parties to the action, nor am I in anywise
 18 interested in the result of said case.
 19 Signed 14th day of July, 2023.
 20 
 21
 22 Carol J. Reyer, CCR
 23 Comm. Expires: 9-15-2026
 License No.: ACCR#: 333
 License Expires: 9-30-2026

[1 - act]

Page 97

1	66:14 74:4 75:4 80:7 92:3,21 2,302 84:5 2.0 50:6 2.0. 50:4 2.47 75:16,16 200 15:20 92:12 92:18 2008 83:7 2016 45:21 2017 66:12 2019 45:22 2020 24:11 47:7 52:1 2021 18:1,17 35:13 40:20 44:19 52:11 64:17 67:18 68:7 70:21 73:11 2022 25:2,19 49:19 2023 1:10 2:2 25:13 40:17 49:17 51:15 96:18 21 4:8,10 22 91:13 25 46:23 50:15 27 1:10 2:2 51:7	30's 82:1 333 96:22 38 91:10 3:00 95:20 4 4 35:9 44:4 45 57:17 5 5 18:16 35:9 44:5 50 57:17 72:23 501 52:6 51 59:7 5:00 15:13 62:20 5th 18:1 6 6 44:5 7 7 10:14 14:18 34:9 35:2 44:5 80:3,6 714 84:9 7th 15:13 62:21 8 8 25:13 40:17 49:17 80 44:12 47:20 91:13 8th 34:12 47:6 52:22	9 9-15-2026 96:22 9-30-2026 96:23 92.3 42:9 95 96:12 a ability 87:1 90:13 96:9 able 27:2,4 34:9 37:11,19 72:15 83:11 91:17,21 95:1 above 96:3 accept 58:14 acceptable 45:2 accomplish 39:19 73:9,16 73:21 77:13 78:4,10 accordance 96:9 accr 96:22 accurate 48:20 achieve 72:22 77:1,20 87:22 achieving 86:22 acknowledge 87:6 act 21:3 24:21 25:1,9,18 35:21 36:4 40:23 43:13 44:10,11 47:9 50:1 64:18 65:12,19,23 66:9 73:14 74:15,22 78:5
1 28:6,8 44:7 61:10,10 68:2 74:4 75:4,7,15 96:12 1,154 84:4 1,485 84:9 100 15:16 11 25:21 50:16 91:8 13th 15:20 16:11 69:2 79:3 14 10:14 14:18 14th 16:23 62:18 96:18 15 33:16 15.4 42:11 1700s 81:12 17th 16:21 18 34:23 1819 76:2 18313 96:20 1953 51:15 1965 50:1 76:3 87:21 1970s 76:23 1:37 1:11 2:2	2		
2 21:2 24:20 25:8,18 35:3 36:3 40:22 41:22 42:3 44:7 44:23 47:8 64:17 65:6,11 65:19,23 66:4,8	3 3 44:4 52:6 74:6 95:10 30 46:23 51:2		

[act - appears]

Page 98

87:21 action 51:11 86:10 96:16 active 46:16 activist 48:16 actually 33:15 34:23 35:15 39:16 70:4 73:17 74:1 81:14 adc 82:19 add 28:2 79:12 addition 44:3 67:5 additional 26:1 34:7 90:18 address 16:2,5,8 21:13 25:10 27:20 31:2,21 64:18 87:14 90:3 addressed 30:23 31:13 70:22 addresses 34:17 35:4,21 adheres 43:10 adia 51:20,23 adjourned 95:18,20 adjournment 94:8 adoc 83:10 adopt 16:11,12 16:15 17:9 18:23 20:1 38:1	45:10 84:14 adopted 18:2 68:1 71:7 75:18 adopting 67:5 advance 60:3,6 advanced 61:21 advocacy 88:23 advocate 48:18 affairs 57:1 affected 55:18 affects 83:4 affirm 64:20 affirmed 25:14 34:13 42:5 affirming 41:7 afforded 78:8 african 37:11,17 africatown 81:23 afternoon 23:9 32:17 36:16 39:12 45:17 51:22 82:14 age 43:1,5 59:7 59:11 60:14 94:23 agenda 4:14 16:15 29:9 agree 71:19,20 72:6,11 73:13 agreed 71:14 ahead 4:21 51:3 aid 96:7 alabama 5:5 24:12 33:23	34:8 35:20 36:18 37:23 38:4 40:8 41:2 41:13 42:6,14 42:18 44:8 46:2 49:18,22 50:1 52:1,5,22 53:1,1 53:9,12,15 54:2 55:3,9,17 56:6 56:10,21,23 57:2 58:5 59:15 60:2 62:1 68:16 79:14 82:18,20 84:10 86:10,18 87:9 89:3 90:23 91:9 92:5 96:2 alabama's 24:13 40:20 41:15 46:21 47:7 51:5,7 52:3 alabamian 86:14 89:9 alabamians 41:11 53:5,20 89:8 alleges 24:19,22 allegiance 51:8 allen 36:21 82:23 83:9 allotted 33:16 allow 47:16 88:7 allowed 73:14 77:17 78:8	allowing 48:13 95:3 allows 26:16 almond 3:3,4 9:3,4 13:7,8 24:4 alsenate.gov. 27:21 alterations 35:14,18 amazing 58:1 amendments 20:2 america 38:10 american 49:9 americans 37:11,17 48:23 amicus 26:2 amy 46:6 anniston 52:12 announce 6:12 6:12 7:14 32:11 announcement 26:4 answer 38:6 anybody 21:23 22:22 60:16 77:23 78:21 94:2 95:14 anyway 16:17 anywise 96:16 apearing 1:16 appeals 41:15 appears 29:12 85:18
--	---	---	--

[applied - blacksher]

Page 99

applied 41:21 42:2 apply 31:10 appointment 59:17 appointments 85:23 apportionment 40:5 appreciate 51:18 57:2 89:14 appreciated 21:15 appreciation 86:7 approve 14:22 approved 15:10 36:23 58:6 approximately 95:20 area 35:10 93:8 93:9 argument 25:10 33:21 arguments 61:4 arrested 91:8 arrests 91:11 arrival 90:6 aside 53:14 asked 71:10,11 71:12 80:19 81:16 asking 7:7 29:11 55:22	attached 28:9 40:16 attack 49:22 attempt 74:13 74:20 attendance 39:15 attorney 22:16 23:1 30:5,5 37:2 attorneys 22:19 22:19 30:2 38:8 auburn 45:21 audible 3:8,21 78:23 94:5 95:16 august 16:23 average 42:8 avoid 20:14 66:4 aye 15:7,8	barriers 87:1 88:15 based 44:21 66:15 basis 25:6 66:13 battle 81:13 bay 81:19 82:4 82:6 becoming 92:19 begging 55:21 beginning 52:11 behalf 16:3 84:14 believe 15:15 35:8 58:10 59:22 60:1 72:14 79:4 90:12 believing 78:1 bell 2:6,7 7:19 7:20 10:21 12:2 12:3 23:21 belt 34:22 35:2 43:16,19,22 47:23 55:18 68:9 80:6 benefit 39:14 53:5 benefits 53:23 benjamin 40:12 bernard 36:17 best 33:4 96:9 better 45:4 67:3 93:1,16	big 21:10 bill 30:1 bipartisanship 5:11 birmingham 16:23 17:2 25:3 40:8 45:19 63:4 79:16 85:6 86:6 90:23 92:4,15 92:16 bit 20:10 59:20 81:16 82:2,3 black 34:5,7,21 34:22 35:1 41:10 42:8,11 42:23 43:4,14 43:16,18,21 47:1,3,16,17,23 48:15 49:1,5,6 49:14,20,21 50:6,9,15,18 51:7,10 53:20 53:21 55:2,18 56:22 58:20,23 59:7,23 61:9,22 62:12 67:13 68:9,17 71:22 80:6 85:20 86:2 86:17,19 87:8 88:2 89:7 92:1,2 92:5,7,8,19,20 93:4,9,17 blacks 93:5 blacksher 22:15 23:2 63:3,11,16
	b		
	back 5:3 20:15 21:10 57:16 67:17 70:2 73:11 81:8,12 83:8 backgrounds 52:19 baldwin 80:13 81:14 barbour 58:1 68:10 94:19 barfoot 2:4,5 7:16,17 11:22 11:23 23:20		

[blacksher - chairman]

Page 100

63:18,19,22 64:3,7 67:21 69:1 70:2,17 71:4,17,20 72:10,21 73:4,7 73:19 74:3,9,16 74:23 75:3,6 76:15,21 77:19 78:6,14,22 79:2 blakeley 80:20 80:23 block 66:20 board 35:16 44:19 77:4,5 82:18 bobby 40:12 body 34:16 35:15 books 81:10 bore 81:10 bottom 92:16 boundaries 88:6 boyd 3:5,6 9:6,7 13:10,11 24:4 52:13 break 84:6 brennan 50:14 bridge 31:6,6 81:23 brief 67:23 95:4 bring 22:6 44:8 brought 92:16 brown 86:17,20 87:8 88:2 89:7	bruce 45:16,17 45:18 build 89:8 buildings 50:20 built 81:23 bullock 84:7,8 95:10 bunn 80:13,14 80:17,23 81:4 82:9 business 10:18 14:21 butcher 82:12 butler 90:7,10 byron 89:20 c c 27:22 52:6 96:1,1 calhoun 52:13 52:15 call 6:8,10,11 7:13 11:17,21 28:1,13 30:10 49:21 50:4 called 16:19 26:14,18,23 46:8 68:1 calls 51:1 cameras 21:14 campaign 67:22 campaigns 41:13 candidate 34:9 candidates 6:18 42:9,11 67:13	68:18 career 91:10 careful 41:5 carefully 43:10 66:17 carns 3:7 9:9 24:5 carol 1:16 96:21 carried 18:2 carries 31:6 case 5:6 28:23 29:13 31:5,22 33:20 36:21 41:4 52:20 53:17 66:10 70:15,15,18 71:1 96:17 cases 64:13 76:23 90:15 caster 24:19 25:20 26:6 28:3 29:1,14 30:16 39:1 40:11,15 40:19 45:8 47:12 48:4 64:14 71:15 72:7,8 catch 21:14 caucus 56:23 ccr 96:21 census 24:12 center 50:14 67:22 centuries 53:3	century 76:5 certain 78:8,8 certainly 37:16 43:7 certified 1:15 certify 96:3,14 chair 4:20 5:11 5:12,16,23 6:8 7:2,3 10:22 23:16,18 28:17 48:10 51:19 54:5,10,15,17 56:14,23 58:2 63:12 78:20 80:12 82:11,19 85:1 86:1,2,5,8 89:15,20 chairman 4:12 4:13,19,20 5:1 5:20 6:2,9,10,15 6:16,19 7:1,1,5 7:12 10:16,19 10:23 11:4,7,10 11:14 14:12,20 15:3,6,9,23 16:14,17 17:15 17:16,20 18:1,8 18:12,15,21 19:7,10,13,16 20:3,21 21:16 22:4,8,13 23:6,8 28:13,15,18 29:3,8,17,23 30:9,17 31:16 31:20 32:2,8,18
--	--	---	--

32:21 33:6 36:10 39:12,23 40:3 45:12 48:9 51:2,17 54:3,10 54:14,21 56:12 56:21 61:14 62:13,17,23 63:7,14,20 64:1 64:5 68:23 69:5 69:10,15,21 70:3 78:19 79:1 80:9,10,15,21 81:2 82:7,10 84:22 85:5 86:4 89:13,18,23 90:4,17 93:19 94:1,6,13 95:7 95:11,17 chairmanships 5:8 chairpersons 85:21 chairs 4:14 23:15 27:12 56:18 challenged 24:15,17 41:1 chance 47:10 55:23 change 20:8 53:2,4 63:15 91:18 changed 59:20 92:13	changes 20:17 20:23 44:8 45:3 changing 53:9 characterized 41:14 check 60:18 chesteen 2:8,9 7:22,23 12:4,5 23:21 chestnut 40:12 choice 34:10 37:12,18 42:9 47:5,19 65:14 choices 44:15 45:4 68:18 choir 78:15 choose 47:4 chris 5:18 8:4 9:8,22 23:17 citizen 46:1 citizens 46:17 48:7 86:20 city 81:15 91:22 92:4 civil 49:10 claim 64:11 claims 39:18 clark 57:23 58:2 clarke 86:6,7,9 clc 68:1 74:10 clear 28:22 29:20 30:20 38:14 42:15 61:9 70:14	clearly 32:12,15 clerk 2:4,6,8,10 2:12,14,16,18 2:20,22 3:1,3,5 3:7,9,11,13,17 3:20,22 4:2,5,8 6:11 7:13,16,19 7:22 8:2,5,8,11 8:14,17,20,23 9:3,6,9,13,16,20 9:23 10:3,7,10 10:14 11:17,21 11:22 12:2,4,7 12:10,12,14,17 12:20,22 13:2,7 13:10,13,16,19 13:23 14:3,6,10 14:14,18 22:2,5 63:15 close 5:22 41:18 41:23 42:4,12 42:16 43:2,6 77:1 closed 94:7 closely 52:20 clouse 3:9,10 4:16,17 9:10,11 13:13,14 24:6 coalition 52:17 cochrane 81:23 cognizant 82:5 cohesive 88:7 collect 57:10 collective 15:8	collectively 40:10,14 colonial 81:8 color 37:16 coma 32:10 combined 50:17 come 5:3 22:10 27:1 32:4 57:3 70:2 90:2,19 comes 37:12 60:11 comfort 61:22 coming 5:5 45:13 comm 96:22 commend 57:7 61:17 commended 57:8 comment 22:1 79:22 90:8 comments 21:12 26:9 27:7,12,19 79:6,8 80:8 90:2 90:5,18 commission 58:3 77:5 commissioner 95:10 committee 1:5 4:15 15:15 16:7 17:5,21 23:12 23:15,20 26:8 27:12,13 31:21 33:11 37:23
---	---	--	--

38:6 40:5 41:4 48:14 51:13 56:18,19 57:3 66:6,12 67:4,17 68:20 73:11 75:11 79:11 86:8 87:23 88:21 89:4 90:8 90:11,12 95:5 committee's 23:13 communities 76:8 81:21 82:2 86:18,19 87:9 87:10,17 88:3,7 88:12,17 94:23 community 43:17 81:7,18 82:4 88:22 compactness 90:13 compared 47:21 50:16 compliance 36:1 36:3 44:9 compliant 21:1 complies 25:17 comply 66:9 comprise 43:1 computer 96:7 concern 52:16 53:6 83:23 concerns 56:3 83:2 88:14	conclude 66:14 94:3 condemning 59:16 60:8 conduct 88:21 conference 36:19 40:9 56:22 60:3 62:1 82:20 conform 43:7 confusion 28:21 30:14 congratulate 63:13 congress 24:14 37:13,19 52:2 61:23 congressional 5:4 24:14,17,20 24:23 25:5,8,11 25:16 27:9 35:22 40:21 46:9,20 47:7 51:5 52:2,3 75:20 76:1 77:2 77:6 80:1,3 82:19 86:16 87:15 89:6 consider 36:6 consideration 41:5 51:16 considering 20:9 79:21 consistent 66:8	consistently 43:14 consolidated 64:13 71:5,6 constitute 43:5 constitution 21:2 25:1 65:8 66:10 72:1 constitutional 46:11 58:11 64:11 70:21 constrain 76:9 consummate 91:2 contact 16:8 contains 43:13 content 96:6 continue 56:9 87:15 continued 49:14 contributed 87:11 convened 67:17 convert 63:21 convict 91:15 convicted 92:20 convicts 91:4 cooper 44:23 66:11 67:9 copies 33:2,7,9 copy 17:6 19:4 39:20 core 35:1 43:18 43:21 44:2,5,10 47:20	cores 45:6 correct 29:2,7 29:16,17 31:22 38:13,18 39:5 65:6 70:16 71:3 72:9 74:15,22 77:17,18,21 96:11 correctly 41:21 42:2 cotton 93:13,13 council 91:22 92:4 councilperson 92:21 counsel 96:15 count 59:8 93:1 93:21 counties 35:1,6 43:19 48:1 61:1 61:2 66:15 68:9 72:22 73:8,15 75:13,22 76:5,8 76:19 77:10,12 77:16 78:10 84:3 country 53:10 county 43:21,22 44:16,17 45:5 52:13,15 58:1,5 59:14 67:19 68:4,5,5,5,12,14 68:15,15 72:2 73:10 75:8 76:2 77:5 78:3 80:5,5
--	---	--	---

80:13 81:14 83:21 91:9 92:17 93:12 94:18,20 95:9 95:10 96:2 couple 20:11 83:2 course 20:11 47:5 76:18 79:9 court 5:6 16:23 17:2 20:15 24:15 25:2,9,14 26:3 27:3 30:22 31:10 33:20 34:2,12 36:2 37:7,10 40:18 41:9,19,20,23 42:1,5,21 43:11 43:12 45:2 47:6 49:18 53:8 64:12,16,20,21 66:11 67:10,23 68:20 70:20 71:8 72:16 75:17,19 76:23 77:7 court's 25:6,14 34:13 41:10 42:19 43:8 64:22 courts 38:10 43:18 58:6 cracking 34:20 35:4 43:16	created 66:20 crime 83:13 criminal 91:10 critical 87:3 crossover 68:13 68:17 crowe 50:4,6 cultural 88:5 culture 52:8 current 35:22 49:18 cutting 84:16 d d 27:22 daniels 39:13 data 50:15 date 17:22,23 96:12 dated 18:16 david 85:6 day 50:2,7 60:13 91:15 92:5 96:18 days 50:18 deadline 15:14 38:9 dealing 31:1 dear 40:4 79:10 decatur 35:10 decided 26:20 31:4 decision 52:21 53:8 72:17 decisions 43:10 53:18	declared 49:18 decrease 50:9 dedicated 52:6 deeply 63:10 defending 81:15 defense 83:8 deference 22:18 44:13 definitely 50:11 degree 34:4 42:17 delta 81:5 demands 66:14 democracy 49:8 89:11 democrat 7:9 democratic 56:21,22 57:1 60:3 62:1 82:20 87:2 demonstrated 68:16 depends 68:13 description 66:23 deserves 63:5 determination 25:7 65:13 determine 65:10 67:12 determined 41:22 42:3 developed 76:22 deviation 73:9 73:22 74:2,6,8	74:10,13,20 75:2,16 77:2,8 77:13,16,20 78:2 deviations 43:23 74:5 78:9 dialogue 89:1 dictum 73:17 differ 18:19 59:4 different 20:16 31:9 difficulties 50:17 diluted 88:3 directed 50:21 direction 48:6 director 52:4 82:16 discrimination 41:17 49:20 discuss 16:18 17:11 20:4 discussed 47:13 discussions 79:3 disenfranchis... 87:8 dismantle 86:12 disobedient 55:9 displayed 27:20 distinction 70:14 distribution 33:14
--	---	--	---

[district - england]

Page 104

<p>district 27:21,22 34:2,8,11 35:2,3 37:20 41:9,20 42:1 43:7,12 45:6 49:19 51:14 52:3 56:1 59:14,19,23 60:1 64:12,21 64:22 65:22 66:20 67:8,14 67:14 68:10,11 68:12 80:3,6,7 82:19 84:16 92:3,14,21 93:5 95:10 district's 41:8 districting 66:2 districts 24:13 24:14,17,20,23 25:5,8,11,16 27:9 33:22 34:5 34:17 35:9,9 42:23 43:4,13 43:20 44:4,6,7 46:20 47:2,16 49:4 51:5 54:1 56:4 58:20,23 59:9,12 61:9,23 62:12 65:5,7 67:11 68:3 71:21 75:14,21 76:1,7 77:2,3,4 77:6,7 84:18 85:20 88:11,14 90:14 94:17</p>	<p>diversity 5:7 documented 41:18 doing 20:15 29:22 68:22 85:12 donald 89:16 donna 63:23 door 94:19 dorman 23:11 dot 27:23 dothan 82:12 doubts 71:22 dowdy 40:6 dr 51:23 54:4 56:14,16,17 62:15,22 63:1,5 63:8 94:15 95:3 draw 60:5 61:1 75:12 86:15 89:6 drawing 49:3 87:15 drawn 27:9 44:6 52:17 55:19 60:23 65:22 72:13 73:10 75:7 76:3,7 driving 48:19 dubose 40:12 duchin 44:23 due 58:17 59:4</p>	<p>e e 27:23,23 96:1 96:1 earlier 90:11 early 67:16 91:18 economy 49:16 education 35:16 49:12 83:19 effective 56:5 66:19 efficiently 82:2 eight 43:18 either 7:15 35:2 43:1 elaborate 49:3 elect 7:3 10:19 34:9 37:12 47:18 88:12 elected 91:21 93:15 election 4:14 38:3 44:20 50:18 67:10 elections 41:12 42:6 43:15 47:7 67:12 eligible 83:16 84:17 ellis 3:11,12 9:13,14 13:16 13:17 24:6 elmore 84:4 email 21:12,20 21:23 22:1</p>	<p>27:18,20 90:2 90:11 emailed 79:6 emphasized 42:21 employment 49:12 empower 86:16 88:11 enable 27:2 enact 66:6 enacted 24:12 44:19 64:16 enactment 41:2 encourage 62:4 ended 92:1 enforce 65:3 engagement 52:7 engaging 88:22 england 3:14,15 5:18 6:20,23 7:15 8:4,19,22 9:8,17,18,19,22 10:2 13:20,21 24:7 69:3,8,12 69:13,23 70:1 70:10,11,23 71:9,18 72:4,18 73:1,5,12,23 74:7,11,18 75:1 75:5 76:12,17 77:14,22 78:7 78:15,19</p>
--	--	---	--

[enjoy - following]

Page 105

enjoy 41:11 enjoyable 57:22 ensure 87:5 88:2 ensured 37:10 entered 25:3 entire 54:1 entitled 65:14 envelope 33:13 equal 55:15 75:20 equalize 68:8 eras 81:9 especially 55:17 essentially 44:16 establish 65:16 66:18 established 88:11 establishes 64:16 establishing 65:18 evaluate 66:17 evan 32:17 36:14 40:6 82:22 evans 89:21,22 evening 54:23 everybody 15:11,13 17:5 18:4 19:18 21:4 21:5,22 32:12 39:21 53:22	57:20 58:17 evidence 34:3 66:13 67:6 example 50:5 except 68:10 excuse 23:22 executive 52:4 82:16 exercising 86:21 exhibit 28:6,8 existing 19:17 expecting 20:16 experienced 50:23 experiences 88:13 experts 42:13 expires 96:22,23 explained 83:4 explaining 49:5 explanation 67:3 express 36:22 57:4 expressing 52:16 extensive 41:15 extra 32:9 extraordinary 16:20 extreme 42:17 f f 96:1 fabric 87:12	face 50:18 87:15 faced 86:20 faces 91:7 facing 50:2 fact 30:20 31:3 31:14 49:8 58:14 67:7,17 factor 49:7 fair 55:15,22,23 58:15 86:22 fairly 79:14 fairness 5:10 89:10 faith 86:9,10 faithfully 41:20 42:1 far 15:16 35:16 37:8 86:18 fast 15:17 favor 11:18 15:7 34:13 40:19 favored 67:13 features 34:16 federal 16:22 24:15 25:2 35:23 43:12 55:10 feeding 49:13 feel 35:18 felicia 54:16 felt 79:16 ferries 81:20 82:3 fifth 84:11	fight 61:19 62:8 figures 2:10,11 4:23 5:1,19 6:7 7:6 8:2,3 11:6 12:7,8 17:15,17 17:22 23:22 filed 34:19 filings 26:2 final 44:2 finally 44:20 89:2 find 74:14 findings 41:10 42:6 fine 32:23 39:23 54:15 first 6:5 11:15 28:1 30:22 31:21 45:15 65:16 76:3 88:2 91:4,23 92:1,19 92:20 fits 66:22 five 32:5,13,19 32:23 63:9 73:8 84:11 flexibility 65:21 floor 10:20 folder 70:5 folks 33:5 follow 55:14 68:21,22 following 24:11 87:23
---	---	--	--

[follows - handed]

Page 106

follows 64:23 forbidding 25:4 forefront 53:2 53:15 foregoing 96:4,8 forgive 82:10 forgot 59:8 form 35:1 96:7 forward 22:10 32:10 38:2,5 44:1 48:5 56:6 56:11 57:8 62:18 82:18 84:20 90:19 95:2 fought 48:22 81:13,14,15 87:11 found 36:1 founder 52:5 fragmented 88:3 france 15:16 frank 90:22 friends 57:11 59:6 front 21:18,23 full 36:22 37:4 fully 87:2 fulton 54:11 fund 83:8 further 44:13 57:6 79:3 96:14 fussing 60:8	future 89:9 g g 27:23 general 43:15 gentleman 94:9 gentlemen 10:17 36:17 geographic 88:5 gerrymandering 76:10,11 83:22 88:4 gerrymanders 24:18 getting 61:22 gingles 65:16 66:18 give 22:18 26:21 27:16 32:4,9,13 32:19,22 37:16 41:4 46:17 61:21 63:5,9 79:18 86:16 87:16 89:7 given 17:6 36:7 42:17 53:21 gives 17:13 60:6 glad 21:7 glasgow 82:15 83:9 glass 83:9 go 4:21 17:4 18:13 51:3 69:16 76:14 78:12 81:8,11 93:7,22	goal 58:19 goes 60:12 72:15 going 17:9 19:1 20:3 21:20 30:10 31:10 32:4,8,13,18 46:14 56:1 57:6 57:12,13 58:8 59:3,11 60:2,3,5 60:20,21 61:8 61:14,17 62:12 63:2,7,9 65:3 69:6 70:12 72:14 75:10 95:1 good 23:9 32:16 32:17 36:16 39:11 45:17 51:22 54:23 57:15 61:17 72:12 76:6 82:14 91:2 gotten 92:6 gov 27:23 governance 46:12 governing 66:10 government 49:23 governor 16:19 91:20 graciously 90:22	graduated 45:20 great 5:9 22:18 52:14 55:6 greater 40:7 greatly 21:15 gregory 86:5 grimsley's 59:14 group 40:23 46:3 48:18 52:18,18 groups 88:23 93:1 guess 19:23 29:11 76:2 guidelines 16:15 16:18 17:6,7,11 17:21 18:3 19:18 20:2,13 20:18 guides 31:7 guy 91:20 guys 53:18 h half 61:11 hall 3:18,19 5:14 9:20,21 10:22 11:1,2 13:23 14:1 24:8 93:8 hand 22:21 33:12 63:6 handed 38:15 55:13
--	--	---	--

[handicaps - injunction]

Page 107

handicaps 91:7 happened 59:13 92:2 harper 61:5 harris 66:11 67:9 hb1 34:18 40:21 41:1,9,22 42:3 44:7,17 heading 17:18 healthcare 49:11 hear 17:10 27:4 31:19 32:12,22 heard 7:12 53:22 87:6 88:18 hearing 1:9 17:1 17:8 21:22 22:7 22:9 23:10,13 23:14 25:20 26:4,7,16 27:8 27:11,18 28:2,6 33:14,21 46:9 56:8 69:16 79:9 84:19 90:9 94:4 94:7 95:19,22 hearings 52:12 69:19 heavy 50:19 held 34:2 41:19 41:23 83:8 help 60:7 62:15 helped 52:11	helpful 20:22 36:9 helps 76:9 henry 59:14 hereto 28:10 heroes 49:15 hi 82:14 hiding 19:17 high 45:20 46:4 85:9 93:10 highest 84:3,12 highway 91:13 hill 61:5 hills 45:20 hindered 87:1 hip 52:7 historians 46:15 historic 80:20 80:23 historical 80:18 86:23 88:15 historically 81:6 81:17 history 41:16 46:7 49:9 52:23 55:7,9,11 81:9 81:20 87:7 89:6 hold 34:23 holding 40:20 hollow 59:1 homeless 49:13 hop 52:7 hope 36:8 79:18 90:9	hot 20:10 house 4:21 5:12 5:13,15,22 6:4,5 6:10 7:2 23:18 77:3 housed 83:20 housing 49:12 human 49:10 hundred 81:3 hunt 91:20 huntsville 35:10 93:7	59:13 83:14 improving 52:6 inaudible 15:5 16:12 54:7,8,13 69:4,14 85:3 incarcerated 83:5,11,16 incarceration 84:13 include 42:23 included 27:19 includes 48:23 80:4 including 26:4 44:22 66:19 incorrect 50:21 increase 76:19 increased 50:11 increasing 83:22 independent 30:23 31:3 indicate 47:20 indicated 33:19 individuals 47:1 47:18 inequalities 87:14 influenced 50:9 informed 46:16 initial 20:9 initially 71:11 91:3 injunction 25:4 25:19 41:8
		i	
		identification 28:9 identified 43:17 45:2 identify 27:5 ids 50:16 iii 90:23 illustrative 44:22,23 45:1 65:17 immensely 87:12 impacting 84:17 imperative 87:18 implore 53:13 53:18 86:15 88:20 89:2,3 importance 46:10 49:3 important 5:7 20:7 27:2 56:18	

42:19 65:2,10 injustices 86:23 inmates 84:4,5 input 18:23 21:4 69:6 inside 14:23 50:20 83:17 instance 44:4 instilled 46:13 intense 42:15 intentionally 78:18 interest 43:17 interested 96:17 interests 88:9 intimately 52:9 introduced 25:21,23 30:1 67:16 involved 52:10 63:10 involving 83:13 iraq 48:21 irrelevant 61:6 issue 29:6 35:23 57:16 issues 34:18 35:21 item 4:13 14:21	51:4 54:6 jaigregory 86:9 jail 91:9 james 54:17,19 54:23 55:1 90:7 90:10,22 jefferson 44:15 68:4,12,14,15 72:2 80:5 96:2 jim 50:4,6 63:3 63:7 jimmy 57:23 job 61:17 joe 56:14,20 83:4 91:3 john 95:9,11,12 jointly 26:5 28:3 28:5 40:15 jones 3:20 9:23 10:1 14:3,4 24:8 40:12 judge 34:1 41:7 64:21 70:19 71:8 72:16 july 1:10 2:2 15:13,19 16:11 16:20 62:18,21 69:2 79:3 96:18 juncture 87:4 june 25:13 34:12 40:17 47:6 49:17 52:21 justice 50:14 51:9	k kay 79:10 keep 47:22 56:4 70:12 75:12,21 85:8 keeping 35:11 43:18 keeps 34:23 35:19 75:12 kept 93:14 key 47:14 khadidah 40:7 kick 23:3 kin 96:15 kind 28:20 60:19 85:22 91:1 know 16:7,9,19 22:15 38:23 39:20 40:17 47:5 55:5,7 58:10 61:18 62:10,23 65:4 69:1 75:11,23 83:3,7 84:10 85:8,19 known 40:10,15 46:19 48:3 82:17	lady 91:5 laid 37:7 lakeisha 40:11 large 57:19 largely 44:5 late 90:6 law 35:12 50:1 laws 50:8,8,12 lawsuit 34:19 57:7 83:9 lawsuits 24:16 lawyer 23:11 lawyers 20:23 46:15 61:18 67:2 lays 39:18 lead 37:1 learn 46:5 leave 44:4 53:11 90:8 lectern 27:1 left 58:4 legal 67:22 83:8 87:19 legally 45:2 legislative 1:5 45:4 51:11 66:22 legislative's 44:13 legislator 91:2 legislators 62:11 legislature 24:12 37:23
j	j 1:16 89:16 96:21 jackson 39:11 39:13 40:1,4,7 48:11,12,15	l	
		l 27:23 40:12 56:15,20 lack 79:16 83:18 ladies 10:17 36:16	

44:6,18 45:10 58:22 59:16 65:2,20 68:7 legislature's 41:2 44:14 lemonade 91:12 lemons 91:12 lengthy 50:19 lesson 81:10 letetia 39:13 40:6 letter 28:3 33:2 39:17 47:11 liability 65:18 66:4 liberty 51:9 license 96:22,23 lie 55:5 life 91:18 light 5:3 liked 92:18 likely 41:3 47:8 75:18 likeminded 48:19 limestone 84:5 91:9 limit 27:7 limiting 45:5 lines 5:5 50:19 60:5,19 66:16 68:4 72:3,22 73:20 78:3,18 84:16	list 26:15 28:12 listening 27:17 56:20 literally 92:18 litigation 67:16 71:6 little 20:10 23:4 32:9 57:15 59:20 60:6 80:17 81:16 82:2,3 91:1 live 21:21 37:21 45:18 83:21 lives 48:15 livingston 2:12 2:13 8:5,6 11:8 11:17,18,19 12:1,3,6,10,11 12:11,13,16,19 13:5,9,15,18 14:9,13,17,19 23:16,22,23 locations 48:20 50:22 log 59:1 long 46:19 70:12 73:19 79:20 81:7,19 81:21 83:12 86:18 longstanding 87:14 look 17:14 18:4 19:18 20:12 21:5,7 38:5 48:5	56:2 62:17 84:20 85:16,23 94:17 looked 59:2 67:10 looking 13:5 17:17 18:6,16 77:7 95:2 lot 47:13 love 40:13 85:11 lovvorn 3:23 4:1 10:4,5 14:7,8 24:9 lower 34:11,13 35:23 36:14 m ma'am 17:16 19:7,10,13 31:17 40:3 mad 60:16 maddox 46:6 made 46:22 47:1 49:19 94:15 maintain 44:5 major 49:7 majority 7:8 43:2,5 47:16 49:4 51:6,14 58:20,22 60:14 61:9,22 88:10 92:8,9 make 19:6 20:23 21:6 28:21 29:19	30:13 38:13 53:18 55:14 67:5 70:13,13 74:20 77:15 78:11 85:10 93:16 94:17,21 95:5,14 makes 45:3 47:13 man 92:2,19,20 manasseh 40:13 mandate 55:12 55:14 mandates 55:10 manner 44:16 map 13:5 26:9 29:6,9,20 30:1 34:15,19,22 35:3,5,11,14,16 35:19,22 36:6 36:23 37:3,6 38:1,14,15,16 39:17 46:21 47:17,21,22 49:19 53:17 63:15,21 64:8,9 65:14 68:1,2 70:3 72:7,12 73:2 77:11 79:13 80:1,2,4 84:14 90:9 92:15,16 95:2 maps 29:15 37:9 37:15 52:16 55:14,15,19,20
--	---	--	---

[maps - necessary]

Page 110

65:15,17,17 71:15,16,19,21 72:6 74:1,19 75:2 84:1 86:16 87:16 89:6 94:21 marcus 40:11 marked 28:8 mary 85:1 materials 36:8 matter 48:16 55:2 matthews 90:21 90:23 maximum 75:15 maye 54:6,6,7 mayor 91:22 mcgowin 94:11 94:15 95:9,9,11 mean 53:10 73:6 meaningful 89:1 means 25:15 76:7 96:5 meant 38:18 measures 66:21 meet 38:8 meeting 14:22 15:19 16:11,13 17:13 20:4,5,19 21:21 meetings 84:21 meets 37:6 member 33:11 82:18	members 4:10 6:12 7:14 23:19 24:13 27:13 33:19 38:4 40:5 51:13 56:19 86:8 89:2,3 mention 6:22 29:5 48:22 58:7 mentioned 91:3 merrill 24:16,19 24:21,22 message 5:9 mic 36:15 micHELANGELO 91:14 microphone 18:9 22:14 32:11 80:22 mike 80:12 miller 29:14 milligan 24:22 25:20 26:6 28:4 29:1,14 30:16 32:16,17,20 33:1,8,10 36:11 36:21 38:19,21 40:6,10,19 45:8 47:11 48:4 53:16 64:14 65:13 71:15 72:7,8 82:22,23 minds 56:2 mine 55:6 mines 83:3	ministries 40:8 minority 5:13 7:7 49:4 51:14 57:1 85:14 86:19 87:22 88:10 minus 77:8 minute 13:6 27:16 59:19 67:20,21 minutes 14:22 15:9 27:16 32:5 32:13,19,23 33:16 45:14 63:9 90:20 mirror 35:15 misguided 51:1 missed 92:12 mission 86:11 mistake 95:15 mobile 35:17 44:17 68:5 72:2 80:7 81:5,15 82:6 85:11 mobilize 52:11 mock 46:8 modest 44:8 moment 63:2 89:5 montgomery 35:17 43:21 48:11 54:16,19 56:15 58:5 68:5 80:7 84:5 85:2 89:16	moral 51:11 83:13 87:18 morning 32:16 motion 5:21,21 6:3 7:13 15:1,4 move 38:2 44:1 48:6 moved 6:1 15:2 moving 14:20 57:8 multi 86:10 multiracial 52:18 86:11
			n
			n 27:23 naACP 36:19,19 38:3 40:9 83:7 92:23 name 15:22 16:2,4 17:19 23:10 26:23 27:6 32:12,17 36:17 39:12 45:18 48:14,17 51:23 54:23 56:20 82:15 90:20,22 95:8 named 46:6 nation 46:12 near 27:20 necessarily 77:9 necessary 44:8 60:22 66:4 73:16 77:17,20

[need - particularly]

Page 111

<p>need 15:21 16:1 16:4 20:14,17 20:19 21:16,17 21:18 22:5,14 22:14 23:4 32:10 42:22 61:7,8 62:5 64:21 81:9 94:21 95:7 needed 46:16 needs 75:11 88:9 neighbors 49:13 neither 96:15 never 46:21 58:4 new 24:13,14,17 24:19,22 25:5,7 25:10,16 26:5,9 27:8 66:20 79:18 nominate 4:18 5:18 11:3 nomination 4:22 5:15 nominations 5:22 10:20 nominee 52:2 north 93:7 northern 35:8 35:13 noticed 59:5 number 16:2,6 45:5 76:19</p>	<p>numbers 55:5 84:8 85:9 93:1 94:21</p> <p>o</p> <p>o 27:23 objective 73:16 78:10 objectives 78:4 obligation 87:19 observations 85:10 obstacles 49:6 86:21 occurring 96:12 october 67:18 offering 20:2 office 91:21 officer 23:13 oh 30:9 32:21 90:5 okay 6:21 16:16 23:2,6 28:14 29:4 30:10,11 32:2 33:3,8 38:22 40:1,2,4 54:14,17 64:5 69:21 77:22 81:4 older 92:8 93:5 olds 91:8 oliver 92:13 once 55:6 66:7 ones 18:17,22 online 81:3</p>	<p>open 10:20 opened 82:1 openly 88:22 opinion 46:1 64:22 opinions 73:18 opportunities 47:17 opportunity 26:21 33:22 34:5,17 36:7 37:17 47:3 48:13 53:21 57:3 65:5,7 67:7 68:2,12 71:21 75:14 86:13 87:4 88:16 90:14 order 6:18 10:18 28:20 42:20 43:8 65:5 65:22 68:7 73:8 73:13 77:12 86:12 orders 31:2 ordinary 82:16 organization 16:4,5 46:3 48:17 52:9 86:11 organizations 36:20 88:23 organizer 55:1 orr 2:14,15 8:8 8:9 12:12,13</p>	<p>23:23 outside 34:8 50:20 85:16 overall 44:2,10 overcome 88:15 overt 41:14</p> <p>p</p> <p>p.m 1:11 p.m. 2:2 15:13 62:20 95:20 package 70:7,8 packet 14:23 page 19:6 96:12 painful 87:7 painted 91:14 panel 33:5 34:2 34:11 35:23 paper 91:13 paramount 88:20 pardon 91:20 park 80:20 81:1 81:13 part 35:8,13 participate 87:2 participating 57:18 participation 88:20 particular 26:13 31:4 46:3 83:21 particularly 34:20 39:18 46:22 84:3,16</p>
---	---	--	---

[particularly - politicians]

Page 112

86:19 parties 71:5,7 96:16 party 29:21 57:2 71:1 pass 58:22 72:15 past 44:14,14 60:23 67:11 pastor 83:8 pathways 86:13 pending 41:3 64:12 65:9 70:16,19 people 21:20 28:12 37:16 45:14 46:8 47:3 48:19 49:13 52:12 53:1,15 53:19 55:17,23 56:3 81:3 82:17 83:16 91:19 92:7,9 93:9 94:18,22 percent 42:9,12 44:12 46:23 47:20 50:15,16 51:7 59:7 61:10 61:10,11 72:23 75:16,16 percentage 44:11 percentages 74:2	perform 43:14 67:7 performed 67:11 period 81:22 persevered 87:10 person 37:12,18 45:15 58:12 60:10 77:9 85:4 85:6 92:2,5 persons 26:15 27:17 perspective 80:18 pertains 49:10 peyton 61:5 phase 30:22 31:1,8 phases 30:21 phone 16:2,5 51:1 photo 50:13,16 physically 27:3 picked 91:13 93:13 picture 91:14 pinnacle 53:4 place 61:5 placed 35:2 plaintiff 29:21 30:10 31:22 32:5 36:20 66:17	plaintiff's 30:2 44:22 plaintiffs 22:17 22:20,23 25:21 25:22 26:6 28:4 28:23 29:2,12 29:13 30:4,6,8 30:16 32:1,3 37:1,3,5,6 38:5 38:16,17,19,21 39:1,4,14 40:11 40:15,20,23 43:9 44:21 45:9 47:12 48:5 53:9 53:16 55:16 57:7 61:16 62:4 64:10,11 65:13 67:15 70:18 71:16 72:9 79:12 82:22 84:14 90:15 plan 16:1,22 26:5,10,13 28:5 40:16,21 41:3,6 42:22 43:3,9,13 44:12,15,20,21 44:23 45:1,10 47:11 48:4 57:5 58:4,8,11,18,19 60:4,6 61:21 62:19 63:15,17 64:16 65:11 67:5 70:21,21 74:10 75:12 76:3 79:18,21	82:23 plans 15:14 25:22 26:1,1 44:22 57:19,21 59:3,5 60:7 66:6 67:18,19 70:6,8 74:12 plead 51:12 please 17:7 18:8 26:23 27:5,7 32:10 63:21 90:19 pledge 51:8 plenty 17:13 plus 72:23 77:8 point 6:17 21:10 28:20 31:15 60:13 68:19 81:6 pointed 47:15 pointing 67:1 78:16 points 47:15 polarization 34:3 42:14 polarized 42:7 42:18 police 50:19 policy 44:14,14 political 41:12 49:15 56:22 76:8 politician 91:3 politicians 46:15
---	--	--	--

<p>politics 53:14</p> <p>polls 48:18</p> <p>pond 54:16</p> <p>populated 84:3</p> <p>population 43:22 47:1 51:6 51:7 59:11 60:15 68:8 75:15,20 77:20 91:6 92:8,9</p> <p>possible 15:18</p> <p>possibly 57:21</p> <p>potential 26:9</p> <p>powell 40:13</p> <p>power 86:17 87:16 89:7</p> <p>practical 42:21</p> <p>preaching 78:15</p> <p>preamble 23:5</p> <p>precedence 41:21 55:12</p> <p>precedents 42:2</p> <p>precincts 35:7 73:15 78:9</p> <p>preconditions 66:19</p> <p>preferred 42:11</p> <p>preliminary 25:3,7,15,19 41:8 42:19</p> <p>premonition 91:15</p> <p>presence 50:19</p> <p>present 4:8,11 27:4 74:1</p>	<p>presented 16:22 47:3 48:4 71:14 72:8 73:2 74:12 74:19 83:1</p> <p>presenter 69:9</p> <p>presenters 71:12</p> <p>presenting 34:15</p> <p>preserves 35:13</p> <p>president 36:18 85:13,13</p> <p>pretty 57:14</p> <p>prevails 89:10</p> <p>prevent 76:11</p> <p>previous 47:22 53:19</p> <p>previously 25:23</p> <p>primary 43:15</p> <p>prime 50:5</p> <p>principles 46:11 66:2 88:1</p> <p>pringle 4:3,4,13 4:18,19,20 5:20 6:2,9,16,19,23 7:1,2,12,15,18 7:21 8:1,7,10,13 8:16 9:2,5,12,15 10:6,8,9,9,13,15 10:16,23 11:4,7 11:10,14 14:11 14:12,20 15:3,6 15:9,23 16:14 16:17 17:16,20</p>	<p>18:1,8,12,21 19:7,10,13,16 20:3,21 21:16 22:4,8,13 23:6,8 23:18 24:9 28:13,15,18 29:3,8,17,23 30:9,17 31:16 31:20 32:2,8,18 32:21 33:6 36:10 39:23 40:3 45:12 48:9 51:2,17 54:3,10 54:14,21 56:12 62:13,17,23 63:7,14,20 64:1 64:5 68:23 69:5 69:10,15,21 70:3 78:19 79:1 80:9,10,15,21 81:2 82:7,10 84:22 85:5 86:4 89:13,18,23 90:4,17 93:19 94:1,6,13 95:7 95:11,17</p> <p>prior 20:18</p> <p>prioritize 87:23</p> <p>prison 83:12,22 91:17,18,19 94:19,20,20</p> <p>prisoners 59:8,9 59:10</p> <p>prisons 83:5,17 91:6</p>	<p>privilege 46:4</p> <p>privileged 57:17</p> <p>probably 85:19</p> <p>problem 35:4 68:19 78:17</p> <p>procedure 20:1 20:8,9</p> <p>procedures 31:12</p> <p>proceeding 96:4</p> <p>proceedings 2:1 96:11</p> <p>process 17:4 30:21 31:9,11 38:2 52:10 78:1 78:13 87:3 88:1 88:22</p> <p>processes 31:13</p> <p>processing 15:17</p> <p>produce 86:13</p> <p>produced 59:6 96:6</p> <p>produces 75:13</p> <p>producing 34:23</p> <p>professor 55:6</p> <p>profound 94:16</p> <p>program 46:8,9</p> <p>progressive 79:19</p> <p>progressively 56:11</p> <p>projected 85:16</p>
--	--	--	---

[promote - reed]

Page 114

<p>promote 58:19</p> <p>propelled 52:23</p> <p>propensity 93:2 93:3,10</p> <p>proper 48:20</p> <p>proposed 25:21 25:23 26:5 28:5 68:1 90:10</p> <p>proposes 43:3</p> <p>protect 58:12 87:21</p> <p>protecting 45:6</p> <p>protection 47:23</p> <p>proven 49:8</p> <p>provide 66:7 67:2 71:21 88:16</p> <p>provided 29:15 36:8</p> <p>provides 68:2</p> <p>public 1:9 17:8 21:21 22:7,9 26:9 46:18 52:12 69:7,16 69:19 85:17,18 88:19 94:4,7</p> <p>purpose 26:7 27:10,11 72:13 74:8,13</p> <p>purposes 65:18</p> <p>push 56:6,10</p> <p>put 31:11 53:14 53:14 58:3 62:9 62:19 63:23</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">q</p> <p>quality 96:10</p> <p>question 11:15 18:18 22:2 66:5 69:4,9,11,17,23 71:10,12,13 72:5,11 76:13 78:21</p> <p>questions 16:6,8 21:12 27:13,14 38:7 69:19 79:5</p> <p>quite 36:13 43:2 43:6 85:10</p> <p>quorum 4:9,11</p> <p>quote 41:10,19 41:20,23 42:1,4 42:7,12,14,16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">r</p> <p>r 27:22 96:1</p> <p>race 66:2,15 79:20</p> <p>races 50:17</p> <p>racial 24:18 34:3 41:14,16 42:13 66:16 68:4 72:3,22,23 73:20 78:18</p> <p>racially 42:7,18 58:14</p> <p>racism 50:3 86:12</p> <p>raise 22:21 36:14 83:2</p> <p>raised 45:19</p>	<p>ran 91:21,22,23 92:10</p> <p>rate 84:13</p> <p>read 17:10 18:4 21:5 22:2 31:2 39:16,21 64:22 79:7</p> <p>ready 22:9 28:15 38:2</p> <p>real 57:14,16 60:17</p> <p>realistic 61:12</p> <p>reality 42:21 60:18</p> <p>realize 58:13</p> <p>really 32:20 46:12 53:18 84:6 85:7</p> <p>reapportioned 59:15</p> <p>reapportionm... 1:7 17:20 23:12 26:8 48:14 57:18 58:4 89:4</p> <p>reason 5:4 18:3 43:3 45:7 75:8</p> <p>reasonable 51:14</p> <p>reasonably 66:3</p> <p>reasons 45:8 48:2</p> <p>received 79:8,23</p> <p>recently 26:3 59:16</p>	<p>recognition 5:2</p> <p>recognize 45:14 63:3 87:13</p> <p>recognized 36:2</p> <p>recognizes 48:10 51:20 54:5,11,16 56:14 78:20 80:12 82:11 85:1 86:5 89:15 89:20</p> <p>recognizing 55:10</p> <p>record 27:6,19 28:2,22 29:20 33:3 38:13 39:16,22 66:22 84:8</p> <p>recording 96:10</p> <p>redistricting 17:21 37:22 38:6 40:21 46:2 52:10 79:11 88:1,21</p> <p>redraw 37:9</p> <p>redrawing 5:4 80:1</p> <p>redrawn 25:17</p> <p>reduce 59:11</p> <p>reed 56:15,16 56:17,20 62:14 62:15,22 63:1,5 63:8 83:4 91:3 94:15 95:3</p>
---	---	--	---

[reference - right]

Page 115

reference 26:10 26:12,13	reporter 27:3	73:1,5,12,23	respecting 88:5
referring 67:4	represent 37:19	74:7,11,18 75:1	response 3:8,21
reflect 44:7 45:4	55:23 56:1	75:5 76:12,17	76:4 78:23 94:5
reflects 88:8	70:15 79:14	77:14,22 78:7	95:16
regarding 46:1	representation	78:14 91:23	result 20:16
regardless	79:17 86:22	92:11	96:17
79:19	87:17 88:8 93:6	representatives	results 60:10,11
regards 34:20	representative	23:19 88:12	61:20
region 82:6	3:3,4,5,6,7,9,10	represented	retains 65:20
registered 26:17	3:11,12,13,15	55:16 59:18	retention 44:3
related 41:17	3:18,19,20,22	representing	44:10 47:21
release 24:11	4:1,2,4,5,7,16	22:17,20,22	return 50:10
91:19	4:17,18,19 5:14	37:13 70:17	returns 67:10
relevance 46:10	6:20,22,23 7:17	86:9	review 14:21
relevant 29:13	7:20,23 8:3,7,9	represents	17:7,11,14
remedial 25:21	8:12,15,18,22	23:12 96:8	18:23 19:19
26:1,1,5 28:5	9:1,3,4,5,6,7,8,9	republican 7:10	20:23 47:10
35:3 36:6 38:15	9:10,11,12,13	repugnant	reyer 1:16 96:21
38:16 39:17	9:14,15,16,18	41:16	reynolds 4:6,7
40:16 42:22	9:19,20,21,22	require 77:8	10:11,12 14:15
43:4,9,20 44:12	9:23 10:1,2,3,5	required 37:8,9	14:16 24:10
44:21 65:15	10:6,7,9,10,12	78:2	rhondel 54:11
79:13	10:13,22 11:1,2	requirement	54:17,19
remedies 43:16	11:5 13:7,8,10	50:13 65:16	rhone 54:11
45:3	13:11,13,14,16	requirements	right 19:6,9
remedy 31:1,3,8	13:17,19,21,23	74:15,21	29:18 33:17
64:19 66:7 71:7	14:1,3,4,6,8,10	requires 77:9	35:20 38:21
remind 15:12	14:14,16 23:17	residents 89:1	39:9 51:4 54:15
remotely 1:16	24:3,4,5,5,6,7,7	resilience 87:13	56:9,10 61:20
27:18	24:8,8,9,10 47:4	resolve 41:3	69:11 70:4 71:1
repairing 49:10	47:19 48:7	respect 58:17	71:10,19 72:5
repeat 55:4,8	52:13 69:3,8,12	59:4	86:21 87:5 89:5
58:9	69:13 70:1,10	respectfully	91:16 94:19
	70:11,23 71:9	45:9	95:13
	71:18 72:4,18		

[rights - sent]

Page 116

rights 21:3 24:21 25:1,9,18 35:21 36:4 40:22 43:12 44:9,11 47:9 48:18,23 49:11 49:23 53:2,10 64:18 65:12,19 65:23 66:9 73:14 74:14,22 78:5 87:11,20 87:21 river 93:14 roberts 2:16,17 8:11,12 12:14 12:15 24:1 robinson 92:13 rodney 40:13 rodreshia 82:11 82:15 roll 3:15,17 6:8 6:9,11 7:13 11:17,21 rolling 48:17 ronald 40:13 54:20,21 55:1 room 15:20 21:11 rowed 93:14 rule 65:22 ruled 33:21 34:12 40:18 47:6 rules 68:21	ruling 25:6,15 34:10,14 64:20 run 80:19,23 91:21 running 81:21 runoff 92:3,12 russaw 82:12,14 82:15 russell 85:6,7 s s 27:22,23 safe 58:20,23 59:23 61:9 sanders 76:4,22 satisfied 75:19 satisfy 65:8,23 71:23 73:13 74:14,21 90:14 satisfying 72:19 saw 59:13,18 saying 19:4 71:13 72:14 says 65:10 66:12 schedules 17:2 school 45:20 46:5,21 77:5 scofield 2:18,19 8:14,15 12:17 12:18 24:1 scotus 37:10 52:21 screen 62:19 64:8 scrutiny 31:10 71:23 72:15,20	seat 92:6 seats 85:15 second 4:21 5:19,21 6:3 7:11 11:6,8,9,11,13 11:15 15:4,7 38:13 51:13 59:23 60:1 68:11 82:19 94:12 secondly 88:10 seconds 51:3 section 21:2 24:20 25:8,18 36:3 40:22 41:22 42:3 47:8 64:17 65:6,11 65:19,23 66:4,8 66:14 secure 90:13 see 20:13 53:5,8 66:21 67:11 69:1 84:6 85:19 94:10,20 seeing 48:5 53:6 62:18 95:2 seem 18:7 20:7 seen 22:16 61:20 71:16 77:11 84:1 91:16 seize 89:4 select 37:11,18 selma 89:21	senate 7:3 10:19 23:17 77:3 senator 2:4,5,6 2:7,8,9,10,11,12 2:13,14,15,16 2:17,18,19,20 2:21,22,23 3:1,2 4:22 5:1,19 6:7 7:6,16,17,19,20 7:22,23 8:2,3,5 8:6,8,9,11,12,14 8:15,17,18,20 8:21,23 9:1 10:21 11:3,6,16 11:16,22,23,23 12:2,3,3,4,5,5,7 12:8,8,10,11,12 12:13,13,14,15 12:15,17,18,18 12:20,21,22,23 12:23 13:2,3,4,8 13:11,14,17,21 14:1,4,5,8,12,16 16:9 17:15,17 17:22 23:16,20 23:20,21,21,22 23:23,23,23 24:1,1,2,2 30:18 85:11 send 5:8 21:13 22:1 33:7 sense 46:22 47:14 sent 70:6
---	--	---	--

[session - start]

Page 117

session 16:20,21 set 38:9 seven 35:6 47:2 51:5 several 81:2 shalela 40:6 share 45:23 shared 47:12 sheet 21:18 22:6 shelby 92:17 93:12 shines 89:11 shot 55:22 show 5:7 30:3 50:13 shown 90:12 shows 84:15 shrinks 80:2 sic 40:5 41:5 44:20 side 35:20 89:5 sides 81:18 82:4 sign 21:10,17,18 22:6 26:19 54:8 54:9 signature 96:20 signed 26:15 28:12 45:15 50:1 85:7 96:18 significant 86:20 simelton 36:13 36:17 38:12,20 39:2,6,9	similar 44:17 simply 58:19 single 68:3 75:8 76:2 singleton 2:20 2:21 8:17,18 11:3,16,19,20 12:9,20,21,21 13:1,12,22 14:2 14:5 24:2,16 25:22 29:6,8,20 30:1 39:4,7 64:9 64:10 67:15 70:6,8,18 74:4,5 75:4,4,7,15 singleton's 74:4 sir 6:6 19:21 20:4,22 28:18 29:3 30:18 36:12 51:3 56:17 62:22 71:8 75:5 80:14 80:16 90:19 95:7 sit 22:11 62:5,8 six 51:4 77:10 77:12 sizable 60:15 sketch 51:13 small 74:2,19 smith 40:13 79:10 smitherman 2:22,23 8:20,21 12:22,23 24:2	society 82:17 socioeconomic 88:6 sold 91:16 solid 58:22 soon 57:14 sorry 13:4 54:22 69:22,22 74:16 76:15 82:13,23 94:9,14 sort 19:23 33:13 sovereignty 58:2 speak 26:14,19 26:20 27:1,5 32:15 36:7 39:3 48:13 80:21 speaker 4:10 5:17 6:1,6,14,17 6:21 7:4,11 11:9 11:12 15:2,21 16:10,16 18:6 18:10,14 19:3,8 19:11,14,22 20:6 27:15 28:1 28:17,19 29:4 29:10,18 30:7 30:12,19 31:18 31:23 32:6 39:5 53:20 54:12,20 57:23 58:1 67:20 69:18 70:9 85:3 speakers 26:10 26:14,17 79:13	speaking 39:7 81:6,17 special 16:20 specific 45:3 50:13 specifically 83:3 83:6 84:2 spirit 5:9,10 split 43:20 56:4 60:21,23 61:2 68:6,7 73:6,8,10 73:14,15 76:1,5 76:20 77:12 78:3 splits 35:5,6 44:15,17 45:5 60:22,22 61:3 72:2,21 73:20 78:17 84:2 splitting 66:15 68:3 75:7,22 77:10,16 78:9 spoke 91:4,5 spoken 54:18 stake 57:10,13 57:15,15 stand 32:11 53:16,17 55:3 55:11 67:19 87:3 94:7 standard 37:7 72:19 75:19 standing 82:21 start 16:21 19:8 23:5 27:5 32:3
---	--	--	--

[state - terms]

Page 118

state 5:5 25:4 33:23 34:6 35:8 35:14,16,19 36:18 38:4 40:9 44:19 47:18 48:6 52:23 54:1 55:1,2 58:6 66:16 75:23 77:4 80:20 81:1 84:11 87:12 90:19 91:23 92:10 96:2 state's 46:23 stated 53:20 85:12 statement 94:16 states 25:13 38:10 40:18 43:11 51:8 53:11 61:23 84:12 statewide 41:12 stating 27:6 stenographer 1:15 stenographic 96:5 steps 17:3 66:15 steve 23:16 stone 40:7 stop 61:8 stream 21:21 strength 34:21 strict 31:10 50:7 71:23 72:15,19	72:20 strong 42:15 66:13 strongly 36:5 45:9 51:12 students 46:13 subject 65:21 submit 15:14,22 20:17 27:18 40:16 61:14 79:15 submitted 26:2 26:11 28:3 33:3 37:1 62:20 65:15,17 67:23 submitting 16:1 16:3 subordinate 66:1 subsequent 76:23 substantially 66:3 subtle 41:14 success 41:11 successful 57:20 successfully 41:1 sugar 61:4 suggest 93:6 suggested 79:13 79:21 suggestion 21:6 21:7	sun 60:12 super 49:15 supervision 96:7 support 28:4 36:22 37:4 48:3 55:19 68:17 79:12 80:2,4 supported 38:17 39:1 42:8 42:10 supporting 6:13 64:10 supports 39:17 suppression 50:3,6 87:7 supreme 25:14 26:3 33:20 34:12 36:2 37:7 37:10 40:18 41:9 42:5,20 43:11 45:1 47:6 49:17 53:8 64:15,20 66:11 67:10,23 75:17 75:19 76:22 77:7 sure 19:6 21:1 28:21 29:19 30:13 32:14,15 33:1 37:2,14 38:14 67:6 76:15 77:15 78:11 79:2 93:16 94:17,22	95:5 system 91:17 systemic 50:3 86:12,23 t t 27:22,22,23 96:1,1 t.o.p.s. 82:17 tactics 88:4 take 20:12 26:8 27:11,12,14 33:15 63:2 94:11 taken 75:10 96:4 talk 15:18 19:1 19:19 62:5,9 80:16 talked 94:16 talking 29:7 60:9 61:11 75:3 tall 36:14 talladega 51:21 52:1,15 target 72:23 taught 46:6,9,21 teacher 46:5 tell 80:15 ten 35:7 tend 55:8 tendencies 91:1 tensaw 81:5 terms 31:9 33:21
--	---	---	--

[terribly - understand]

Page 119

terribly 94:13 testimony 46:18 49:2 thank 5:2 7:4 10:16 15:11 18:14 19:15 22:4,7 30:11 31:15,16 33:14 36:6,10 38:11 38:22 39:8,9,11 45:10,12 48:8,9 48:12 51:16,17 54:2,3 56:7,12 56:17 61:16 62:13,22 63:1 63:11 64:5,7 68:22,23 79:1 79:20 80:10 82:7,9 84:19,21 84:22 86:3,4 89:12,13 90:21 93:22 94:1 95:3 95:12 thing 20:15 62:7 76:6 things 20:13 55:4 58:8 93:16 think 5:2,6,8 31:1 33:16 64:2 72:12 73:17 82:5 third 52:3 thomas 40:14 thought 18:10 57:9	thoughts 57:4 thousands 83:15 three 24:15 25:23 27:15 32:1,3,5 34:1,1 41:7 45:14 53:7 58:7 64:21 67:18 70:19 71:8 72:16 90:20 tide 3:16,17 tiffany 79:23 time 17:13 18:18,23 19:2 19:20 26:16 32:9 59:19 60:5 69:20 75:10 76:18 81:8,19 81:22 87:13 89:12 96:13 times 52:22 57:22 titled 38:16 today 15:12 16:15,18 17:8 23:3 29:1,7,9,22 33:3 36:22 45:13,23 51:18 55:11,16 56:8 56:13 69:6 82:8 83:14 84:20 86:15 89:14 together 31:11 43:19 56:5,11	58:3 62:9 89:8 told 55:7 57:11 57:12 took 35:23 top 92:14 topic 27:7 totally 30:23 31:3 touch 35:7 91:1 towards 49:20 50:6 traditional 66:1 transcript 28:7 96:6,11 transform 52:5 transparency 88:19 travis 48:10,15 trey 45:16,18 trial 25:2,6,9,14 42:13,19 true 96:10 truly 88:8 89:11 try 20:8 26:21 58:9 62:9 74:20 trying 39:19 62:7 78:4 turn 18:9 turned 91:11 turnout 50:10 50:10 52:7,14 turpitude 83:13 tuscaloosa 68:6 73:6,7,10 80:5	tutwiler 84:9 tweaked 20:14 twice 91:22 95:15 two 23:15 30:21 34:16 42:23 43:13,19 46:6 47:16,17 53:23 58:7,20,22 61:9 61:22 62:12 64:13 65:5 66:9 68:2,11 74:18 75:2,13 79:8 84:2 85:20,21 90:13 type 50:8 76:10 tyrone 54:5,6 u unanimously 34:2 unconstitutional 24:18 25:12 undeniable 41:18 under 49:22 50:12 65:19 72:1 96:7 underrepresen... 88:17 understand 30:2,17 37:3 58:13 60:4 77:15 78:12 88:13
--	--	--	--

understanding 38:18	upheld 41:9 42:20	vote 6:4,5,8,10 6:22 7:14 17:12 19:2 42:10,12 49:21 56:7 58:12 59:10 83:11,17 84:17 86:22 91:16 94:18,23	64:17 65:11,19 65:23 66:8,20 68:13,17 73:14 74:14,21 78:5 83:19 86:17 87:16,20 89:7 93:2,3,10 94:23
understands 37:15	uphold 87:20	voted 35:12	vr 41:5
unethical 50:12	urge 36:5 41:4 45:9 87:22	voter 48:15 50:3 50:5,7,9,10 51:6 52:6,7 79:15 83:19 87:7	vra 38:16 43:9 44:15,20 48:3
unfortunately 83:18	urging 37:22	voters 34:5,8,21 42:8,10 43:1,4 43:14 48:19 49:1,5,6,14,20 50:2,7,15,18,20 51:10 53:21 55:2 67:13 68:14 71:22 79:14,19 87:22	vs 36:21 66:11 67:9 76:4,22 82:22,23 83:9
unidentified 4:10 5:17 6:1,6 6:14,17,21 7:4 7:11 11:9,12 15:2,21 16:10 16:16 18:6,10 18:14 19:3,8,11 19:14,22 20:6 28:17,19 29:4 29:10,18 30:7 30:12,19 31:18 31:23 32:6 39:5 54:12,20 67:20 69:18 70:9 85:3	used 18:19 58:2	votes 92:12,18 93:21	w
using 25:4 27:20 52:7	using 25:4 27:20 52:7	voting 21:2 24:21 25:1,9,18 34:4,21 35:20 36:4 40:22 41:17 42:18 43:1,5,12 44:9 44:11 47:8 48:18,20 49:4 49:11,18,23 50:8,21 53:2,10 59:7,11 60:14	wait 16:11 20:19 90:5
v	v 24:16,19,22 27:23		walked 91:12
valley 61:5	valley 61:5		walker 21:9,19 22:5,8,11 23:4,7 23:9,11 28:11 28:14,16 32:14 33:9 38:12,22 39:3,8 71:10 79:5,7 90:1,4
variance 84:7	variance 84:7		walking 77:23
various 52:19	various 52:19		want 6:4,5 17:10,10 18:3 19:18 21:4,20 21:23 22:11,18 26:20 28:21 29:19 30:13 32:22 33:18 37:2,14 57:6,14 58:7 61:7,13,15 61:19 63:12,17
vestavia 45:20 46:4	vestavia 45:20 46:4		
veteran 48:21	veteran 48:21		
vice 56:23 82:18 85:13 86:2	vice 56:23 82:18 85:13 86:2		
victory 64:15	victory 64:15		
violate 24:20,23 25:8	violate 24:20,23 25:8		
violated 40:22 41:22 42:3 47:8 64:17	violated 40:22 41:22 42:3 47:8 64:17		
violates 65:11	violates 65:11		
violation 65:4,6	violation 65:4,6		
virtually 41:11	virtually 41:11		
voice 53:22 79:20 87:6 89:9	voice 53:22 79:20 87:6 89:9		
voices 52:14 88:18	voices 52:14 88:18		
volunteers 48:16	volunteers 48:16		

[want - zoom]

Page 121

70:13,13 77:15 77:23 78:11 81:5 92:22,23 95:14 wanted 19:5 30:20 83:2 wants 26:19 warning 27:17 watch 21:22 watching 22:1 39:15 52:20 81:3 water 20:10 wavelength 62:6 way 16:6 18:19 19:14 20:22 25:17 33:4 44:18 46:22 68:6 72:1 74:14 75:9 81:12 92:14,15 93:11 93:12 we've 4:8 11:12 11:14 52:19 57:19 59:22 60:4 79:8 81:17 95:5 week 90:11 weeks 20:12 53:7 welcome 23:10 56:15 wendell 40:14	went 92:15 west 79:23 westberry 76:4 76:21 white 21:10 42:10 50:10 51:6 62:11 66:19 68:14 79:15 85:21 86:1 92:18 93:6 wider 49:7 williams 3:1,2 8:23 9:1 13:2,3 13:4 24:3 85:2 89:16,17,19 93:19,21 win 56:7 57:9 57:12,13 67:14 wind 59:21 winfrey 51:20 51:22,23 54:4 wish 85:22 witnesses 69:19 woke 49:21 won 67:13 wonderful 46:5 word 51:10 95:4 work 37:20 57:22 65:21 68:21,22 worked 57:20 working 38:5 worth 80:19 write 81:10	writing 20:18 wrongs 87:5 y y'all 32:9 33:14 48:12 63:9,10 yeah 6:16 11:14 15:23 16:17 21:4,16 22:13 23:8 28:16 32:8 32:21,22 33:10 38:20 63:19 64:7 70:11 78:6 year 19:5 91:8 years 46:7 57:18 79:17 yield 5:14 89:17 89:18,22,23 yields 89:19 young 91:5 92:7 93:4,18 z zero 41:11 43:22 73:9,21 74:5,6,10 77:1,8 77:13 78:2 zoom 96:10
---	---	---