

7/24/2019

Chestnut, et al., v. John H. Merrill

Congressman Bradley Byrne

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

----- +

LAKEISHA CHESTNUT, et al.		
Plaintiffs,		
		Case No.
vs.		2:18-CV-00907-KOB
JOHN H. MERRILL, Secretary		
of State,		
Defendant.		

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Washington, D.C.

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

**Deposition of CONGRESSMAN BRADLEY BYRNE**, a witness herein, called for examination by counsel for Plaintiffs in the above-entitled matter, pursuant to notice, the witness being duly sworn by MICHELE E. EDDY, RPR, CRR, a Notary Public in and for the District of Columbia, taken at the Rayburn House Office Building, 45 Independence Avenue, Southwest, Washington, D.C., at 9:58 a.m.

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7/24/2019

Chestnut, et al., v. John H. Merrill

Congressman Bradley Byrne

1 APPEARANCES  
 2 ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFFS:  
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 22  
 ALSO PRESENT:  
 Mitch Relfe, Legislative Director for  
 Congressman Bradley Byrne  
 Daniel Holmstock, Videographer

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1 PROCEEDINGS  
 2 Washington, D.C.  
 3 July 24, 2019  
 4 ---  
 5 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This is Video No. 1  
 6 in the video-recorded deposition of Congressman  
 7 Bradley Byrne taken in the matter of Lakeisha  
 8 Chestnut, et al. versus John H. Merrill in his  
 9 official capacity as Alabama Secretary of State.  
 10 It is pending before the United States District  
 11 Court for the Northern District of Alabama,  
 12 Southern Division, Case Number 2:18-CV-00907.  
 13 This deposition is being held at the  
 14 Rayburn Office -- House Office Building at 45  
 15 Independence Avenue, Southwest, in Washington,  
 16 D.C., on July 24th, 2019. The time on the video  
 17 screen is 9:59 a.m.  
 18 My name is Daniel Holmstock, and I'm the  
 19 legal videographer from Digital Evidence Group.  
 20 Our court reporter is Michele Eddy, in association  
 21 with Digital Evidence Group.  
 22 For the record now, will counsel please

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1 introduce themselves and whom they represent.  
 2 MR. SPIVA: My name is Bruce Spiva. I  
 3 represent the plaintiffs in the action.  
 4 MS. MADDURI: Lali Madduri, also for the  
 5 plaintiffs.  
 6 MR. RELFE: Mitch Relfe. I'm counsel  
 7 for the office of Congressman Byrne.  
 8 MR. DAVIS: Jim Davis representing  
 9 Secretary of State John Merrill.  
 10 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Will the court  
 11 reporter please administer the oath.  
 12 ---  
 13 **CONGRESSMAN BRADLEY BYRNE,**  
 14 **having been duly sworn, testified as follows:**  
 15 EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFFS  
 16 BY MR. SPIVA:  
 17 Q Good morning, Congressman Byrne.  
 18 A Good morning.  
 19 Q Thank you very much for taking your time  
 20 out. I know you have a busy schedule. We  
 21 appreciate that.  
 22 A Sure.

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Congressman Bradley Byrne

1 Q We'll try to keep the encroachment on  
2 your time to a minimum.  
3 If you can just state your full name for  
4 the record.  
5 A My name is Bradley Byrne, B-Y-R-N-E.  
6 Q What is your address, Congressman Byrne?  
7 A 22489 Sea Cliff Drive, Fairhope,  
8 Alabama, 36532.  
9 Q Have you ever been deposed before?  
10 A I have.  
11 Q In what capacity?  
12 A When I was a member of the State School  
13 Board, there was a lawsuit against the State  
14 School Board in our official capacity, and I  
15 believe when I was Chancellor of Postsecondary  
16 Education, there was a lawsuit against the  
17 Department of Postsecondary Education, and in my  
18 capacity as CEO of the system, I think I was  
19 deposed a couple of times.  
20 Q Okay. Other than those times, can you  
21 recall any other times that you were deposed?  
22 A I can't.

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1 A No.  
2 Q Was it more recent than that?  
3 A It was more recent than that, but I  
4 can't remember exactly when it was.  
5 Q Okay. And do you recall what you  
6 testified about in that redistricting case before  
7 the Board of Education?  
8 A There was some sort of a proposal, and I  
9 don't know if it was a legislative proposal or  
10 not, regarding the makeup of the districts and the  
11 State School Board. There are eight districts.  
12 And I was asked about my opinion about how my  
13 district -- my State School Board district would  
14 be put together.  
15 Q Okay. And so I take it at that time you  
16 were a member of the State Board of Education?  
17 A I think I was. I can't remember, to be  
18 sure.  
19 Q All right. And do you recall whether  
20 the districts changed as a result of that lawsuit?  
21 A I don't know what became of that  
22 lawsuit. I was just a witness.

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1 Q Have you ever testified -- we've got a  
2 little --  
3 A Doesn't mean anything.  
4 Q Okay. Have you ever testified in trial  
5 before?  
6 A Yes, I believe there was a trial  
7 regarding the redistricting of the State School  
8 Board in the Federal District Court of the  
9 Southern District of Alabama, and I think I and  
10 perhaps other members of the State School Board  
11 were required to come and testify at that trial.  
12 There was also a trial in the Montgomery  
13 County Circuit Court that I was a very brief  
14 witness in, and I think it was another one of  
15 those redistricting cases.  
16 Q Okay. And were you deposed in either of  
17 those cases?  
18 A I don't believe I was.  
19 Q Okay. In connection with the school  
20 board redistricting case, about what time period  
21 was that? Maybe I'll try to refresh your memory.  
22 Was it mid '90s?

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1 Q Okay. So let me just -- I'll briefly --  
2 you've been deposed before, but I'll just briefly  
3 go over kind of some of the, you know, usual  
4 ground rules. We're doing great so far. Usually  
5 because the court reporter has got to take  
6 everything down, I will try to wait until you've  
7 completed your answer before asking you the next  
8 question or jumping in. I would just ask if you  
9 would do the same, just wait for the whole  
10 question to come out before you answer, just so  
11 she can get everything down.  
12 If I ask a question and it doesn't make  
13 sense to you, please ask me and I will do my best  
14 to rephrase it. If you answer it, I'll assume  
15 that you understand it as asked. If you want to  
16 take a break at any time, you know, just let me or  
17 your counsel know and we can -- we can do that.  
18 Just -- we just ask that while a question is  
19 pending, if you can -- if you can answer the  
20 question and then we can take a break at that  
21 point.  
22 I don't think there's anything else.

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Congressman Bradley Byrne

1 And there's no reason why you can't  
2 testify completely and truthfully today? You're  
3 not on any medications or anything like that? I  
4 have to ask everybody that.  
5 A No, I'm not.  
6 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Your microphone fell,  
7 counsel.  
8 MR. SPIVA: Oh, thank you. The question  
9 is where did it fall to.  
10 Q And I will try to not gesticulate with  
11 my hands so that I don't knock the microphone off.  
12 And how did you -- how did you learn  
13 about this case, Congressman Byrne?  
14 A I believe I received notification of it  
15 from the Attorney General's office, State Attorney  
16 General's office. I may have read about it in the  
17 news before, but I can't be certain about that.  
18 Q Do you recall who you first talked about  
19 this case with?  
20 A There was a call in which there was a  
21 member of the Attorney General staff on the call,  
22 and there was a lawyer from a law firm in

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1 may be a need for me to give testimony and so sort  
2 of in general what my understanding of the case  
3 was, what my understanding of the proposed new  
4 districts would be, and what my attitude and  
5 concerns would be about that.  
6 Q Okay. And what did you say in response  
7 to those -- to those inquiries?  
8 A Well, somebody showed me at that time  
9 the actual proposed districts, and I told them I  
10 had great concerns about it.  
11 Q Okay. And we'll get into that in a  
12 minute. Did they show you anything else other  
13 than the proposed maps?  
14 A I may have seen a copy of the complaint,  
15 but if I did, I didn't read it very carefully.  
16 Q Okay. I guess that's probably one of  
17 the benefits of being a member of Congress and not  
18 a practicing lawyer anymore.  
19 A That is one of the benefits, and I  
20 greatly appreciate that benefit.  
21 Q I don't blame you at all.  
22 And do you recall anything else about

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1 Montgomery, maybe two lawyers from that law firm  
2 in Montgomery that were on the call.  
3 Q And do you recall who from the AG's  
4 staff was on that call?  
5 A No.  
6 Q Do you recall the names of the lawyers?  
7 A Not really.  
8 Q Was one of them Dorman? I'm forgetting  
9 Dorman's last name.  
10 MR. DAVIS: Walker.  
11 Q Was one of them Dorman Walker?  
12 A I think Dorman may have been on the  
13 call.  
14 Q You're familiar with Dorman Walker?  
15 A Oh, I've known Dorman a long time. His  
16 wife used to practice law with me.  
17 Q Okay. And about when was that that you  
18 received that call?  
19 A This year, but I can't remember when.  
20 Q Can you tell me what was discussed on  
21 the call?  
22 A That the case was pending, that there

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1 that conversation?  
2 A I really don't.  
3 Q Have you had any other conversations  
4 about the case since then?  
5 A Yes, just one to get us set up for this  
6 deposition today.  
7 Q Okay. Who did you talk to to get this  
8 set up for the depo?  
9 A I think, once again, there was somebody  
10 from the Attorney General's office. Mr. Walker  
11 may have been on that one, too.  
12 Q All right. Did you do anything to  
13 prepare for the deposition today?  
14 A Just to make sure I remembered some  
15 things about the district and some of the things  
16 that we had done in the district, particularly my  
17 town halls. I've done a lot of town halls. I  
18 wanted to go back and make sure that I was certain  
19 about what we had done.  
20 Q Did you look at any documents to  
21 prepare?  
22 A Not any documents per se, no, just where

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1 did we have town halls, how often, et cetera.  
 2 Q All right. To refresh your recollection  
 3 about that, did you talk to staff or --  
 4 A Yes, my staff would give me this  
 5 information.  
 6 Q Got you.  
 7 And any other conversations or meetings  
 8 to prepare for today's deposition?  
 9 A No.  
 10 Q Let me -- I'm not going into detail just  
 11 yet, but let me -- just so I know what you -- what  
 12 you looked at in preparing for today's deposition,  
 13 let me hand you -- I'm going to have marked a few  
 14 exhibits and then we'll -- I'll ask you whether  
 15 these are the documents that you looked at.  
 16 MR. SPIVA: Give us just a second.  
 17 We're just going to gather them up here.  
 18 Let me give these out one at a time so  
 19 we don't get confused. If we could -- if we could  
 20 have this one marked as Exhibit 1, please.  
 21 (Exhibit 1 was marked for identification  
 22 and attached to the deposition transcript.)

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1 Exhibit 2, please.  
 2 (Exhibit 2 was marked for identification  
 3 and attached to the deposition transcript.)  
 4 BY MR. SPIVA:  
 5 Q Congressman Byrne, Exhibit 2 is a  
 6 document that's labeled at the bottom "Alabama --  
 7 U.S. House, Revised Plan 2." Does this appear to  
 8 be one of the maps that you reviewed?  
 9 A The same answer on this one. They're --  
 10 they're all sort of different, but they're also  
 11 sort of the same, so it looks like it's one I may  
 12 have looked at.  
 13 Q Pretty similar to the ones you looked --  
 14 you probably looked at?  
 15 A Right.  
 16 MR. SPIVA: Okay. And I'll give you  
 17 what will be marked as Exhibit 3.  
 18 (Exhibit 3 was marked for identification  
 19 and attached to the deposition transcript.)  
 20 BY MR. SPIVA:  
 21 Q Congressman Byrne, this is -- this  
 22 Exhibit 3 is labeled "Alabama -- U.S. House,

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1 BY MR. SPIVA:  
 2 Q And, Congressman Byrne, if you could  
 3 just take a look at that. Like I said, we'll get  
 4 into detail in a little bit, but is that one of  
 5 the proposed maps that you looked at?  
 6 And just for the record, this one is  
 7 labeled "Revised Plan 1, Alabama -- U.S. House."  
 8 A I saw several. They were -- some of  
 9 them were pretty similar so I can't tell you for  
 10 sure that this is one that I saw, but it looks  
 11 like it might have been.  
 12 Q Okay. Do you know -- did anybody tell  
 13 you that the plans -- that the maps that you saw,  
 14 or the proposed maps that you saw, came from an  
 15 expert report of the plaintiffs?  
 16 A They may have, but I don't remember  
 17 that.  
 18 Q Okay. All right. I'll tell you what,  
 19 let me -- just as a matter of housekeeping, I'm  
 20 going to give you all four of these and then we'll  
 21 -- we'll come back to them in a minute.  
 22 MR. SPIVA: So if we could mark this as

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1 Revised Plan 3." And really the same question,  
 2 does this appear to be one of the ones you may  
 3 have looked at?  
 4 A The same answer.  
 5 Q Okay, got you.  
 6 MR. SPIVA: Just so we have them all out  
 7 on the table, if this could be marked as Exhibit  
 8 4.  
 9 (Exhibit 4 was marked for identification  
 10 and attached to the deposition transcript.)  
 11 BY MR. SPIVA:  
 12 Q Congressman Byrne, this one is labeled  
 13 "Alabama -- U.S. House, Illustrative Plan 4."  
 14 Does that -- does that appear to be one that you  
 15 reviewed in preparation?  
 16 A The same answer.  
 17 Q We'll come back to those in a minute.  
 18 Let me just ask you a few questions just kind of  
 19 about your background and the current -- and the  
 20 current map.  
 21 You're currently the congressional  
 22 representative for Alabama's First Congressional

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1 District?  
 2 A I am.  
 3 Q Okay. And can you describe your  
 4 district geographically?  
 5 A Uh-hmm. It's all of Mobile and Baldwin  
 6 Counties, all of Escambia County, all of  
 7 Washington County, and all of Monroe County and a  
 8 part of Clarke County.  
 9 Q And can you describe your constituents?  
 10 A Well, I have over 700,000 people that  
 11 live in my district. Some people live in urban  
 12 areas. Some people live in suburban areas. Some  
 13 people live in rural areas. Some people are  
 14 working in one type of work. Some people are  
 15 working in different types of work. So it's a  
 16 fairly diverse district. I like that, by the way.  
 17 And we try to make sure we stay in touch with  
 18 everybody in our district, wherever they live.  
 19 Q What are the racial demographics of your  
 20 district?  
 21 A Well, I don't know precisely.  
 22 Q Sure. I'm not asking for precise

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1 numbers, but -- sorry to interrupt, but if you  
 2 could give kind of a general description, that  
 3 would be helpful.  
 4 A Well, the majority would be white.  
 5 There would be a substantial African-American  
 6 population and much smaller numbers of Hispanic  
 7 Americans. And we do have Asian-Americans  
 8 particularly in the southern part of Mobile  
 9 County.  
 10 Q And you gave a little bit of that in the  
 11 last part of your answer, but can you describe how  
 12 the various racial groups, you know, how they're  
 13 kind of spread over the district in terms of  
 14 geographically? Are they segregated? Are they --  
 15 is it pretty spread evenly over the district?  
 16 A Well, the district's got so many  
 17 counties in it that you have white and  
 18 African-American people in every county. The  
 19 Asian-American population tends to be, not  
 20 exclusively, but the vast majority of them are in  
 21 Mobile County. And you do have a fairly sizable  
 22 Hispanic population in the southern part of

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1 Baldwin County. That's not to say there aren't  
 2 Asian-Americans --  
 3 Q Sure.  
 4 A -- and Hispanic-Americans in other  
 5 places, but that's where you tend to find them.  
 6 Q Okay. How about African-American  
 7 residents and white residents of the district, are  
 8 there -- can you describe kind of patterns of  
 9 residential -- residential patterns among those  
 10 two groups?  
 11 A Well, if you get into the four rural  
 12 counties, Monroe, Clarke, Escambia, and  
 13 Washington, I don't -- I don't know that there is  
 14 any sort of pattern. If there is, I haven't been  
 15 aware of it. In Baldwin County, there's a smaller  
 16 African-American population, smaller percentage,  
 17 but it's not like they're just in one part of the  
 18 county. You'll find pockets, I guess, of  
 19 African-Americans in different parts of Baldwin  
 20 County.  
 21 In Mobile County, it used to be that  
 22 African-Americans were only -- the majority were

Page 20

1 found in the eastern part of the City of Mobile,  
 2 Prichard, southern part of the City of Mobile, et  
 3 cetera, but there has been in the last, at least  
 4 several years, since I've been in Congress, a  
 5 growing number of African-Americans that are  
 6 moving out and they're locating in other areas.  
 7 So they're actually dispersing more, from my  
 8 experience. Some of that comes from the fact that  
 9 when I campaign, I go door to door, so I'm  
 10 literally seeing people when they come to the  
 11 door. And some of it is when I go out and do my  
 12 town halls, I'm seeing people in different parts  
 13 of my district. I know when people come to the  
 14 district, well, they come from this community. So  
 15 that's been a change in the last several maybe  
 16 more years.  
 17 Q In the City of Mobile, are there racial  
 18 patterns in terms of where people live?  
 19 A Well, as I said, you find a  
 20 disproportionately high number of  
 21 African-Americans in what I call the eastern part  
 22 of Mobile, east of where I-65 bisects the city.

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1 And also in the southern part of Mobile, we call  
 2 that area Down the Bay, Maysville, et cetera.  
 3 But, in my experience, in the last  
 4 several years, I'm seeing more African-Americans  
 5 moving west of I-65, and there's a more integrated  
 6 population out west than there used to be, and  
 7 that seems to be something that is evolving and  
 8 getting stronger.  
 9 Q Okay. How long have you seen that  
 10 pattern that you just described occurring?  
 11 A You know, I didn't notice it until I ran  
 12 for Congress in 2013. I think it was occurring  
 13 before I noticed it, but I certainly noticed it  
 14 when I ran for Congress the first time in 2013  
 15 because I went to so many different neighbors  
 16 knocking on doors. So you begin to see, you know,  
 17 there are a lot of African-Americans that are  
 18 living in Sims, for example, and so you see that  
 19 pattern begin to emerge. Since I was elected in  
 20 2013, I'm seeing it occur more and more  
 21 frequently.  
 22 Q Got you.

Page 22

1 Did you grow up in Alabama, Congressman?  
 2 A I did.  
 3 Q Where did you grow up in Alabama?  
 4 A I grew up in Mobile.  
 5 Q Did you grow up in the City of Mobile?  
 6 A I did.  
 7 Q And you previously served as a State  
 8 Senator from Alabama's 32nd State Senate District;  
 9 is that right?  
 10 A I did.  
 11 Q And what time period did you serve as  
 12 State Senator?  
 13 A I was elected in 2002. You assume the  
 14 office the moment of your election, so November of  
 15 2002 until I resigned to become Chancellor of  
 16 Postsecondary Education in May of 2007, I believe.  
 17 Q Okay. Were you ever involved in any  
 18 redistricting in any capacity in that role?  
 19 A Other than being a witness that I told  
 20 you about previously, but I wasn't on the  
 21 reapportionment committee, no.  
 22 Q I assume from the time period, too, it

Page 23

1 was probably either after the last redistricting  
 2 or before the next one.  
 3 A Yes, I don't remember when I was in the  
 4 legislature that I as a legislator ever actually  
 5 dealt with any reapportioning.  
 6 Q Okay. And you also previously served as  
 7 a member, as we briefly discussed earlier, as a  
 8 member of Alabama's Board of Education.  
 9 A Right.  
 10 Q And let me actually give you another  
 11 exhibit. Actually before I do that, what -- about  
 12 what time period were you on the Board of  
 13 Education?  
 14 A I was elected in 1994 in November. My  
 15 predecessor was appointed to be the DA of Mobile  
 16 County, and the Governor appointed me to serve out  
 17 the remainder of his term. So I actually assumed  
 18 my office in December of 1994 and left that office  
 19 when I was elected to the State Senate in November  
 20 of 2002, so eight years.  
 21 Q All right. I'm going to give you  
 22 another exhibit, which will be, I think, Exhibit

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1 5.  
 2 A I'll move these up here.  
 3 Q Sure, yes.  
 4 (Exhibit 5 was marked for identification  
 5 and attached to the deposition transcript.)  
 6 BY MR. SPIVA:  
 7 Q Congressman Byrne, this one is labeled  
 8 at the top "2011 State Board of Education  
 9 Districts." I realize that was well after the  
 10 time that you served on the BOE, but does -- does  
 11 this map appear to be pretty similar to the way  
 12 the districts were drawn when you were on the  
 13 board?  
 14 A It is not.  
 15 Q It's not, okay.  
 16 What are the major differences that you  
 17 see?  
 18 A Well, I can't speak to the other  
 19 districts, but my district, which is District 1,  
 20 was all of Mobile County, all of Baldwin County,  
 21 and all of Escambia County. No part of Mobile  
 22 County was a part of District, I guess that's --

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1 Q Five?

2 A Five? And I did not represent

3 Covington, Butler, Conecuh, or Crenshaw.

4 Q Okay. And when you were on the Board,

5 was there ever a court ordered change to the Board

6 of Education districts?

7 A No, I don't think so.

8 Q Okay. You don't recall like in 1996

9 there wasn't any kind of a change to the

10 districts?

11 A Not that I can recall. It certainly

12 didn't affect my district.

13 Q Okay. So during the time that you were

14 on there, as you recall, you didn't -- you

15 represented, as you said, Mobile, the whole county

16 of Mobile?

17 A Yes. My district from the moment I was

18 on the Board to the moment I left was all of

19 Mobile County, all of Baldwin County, all of

20 Escambia County.

21 Q What district did you represent? I

22 realize this is not the same configuration --

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1 Q '98. Or I guess I should say election

2 because you had been appointed. Did you serve

3 through '98?

4 A I was actually elected in '94. My

5 predecessor, John Tyson, was appointed by Governor

6 Folsom to be the DA in Mobile County. So he had

7 two months left on his term, and so the Governor

8 appointed me to serve out those two months before

9 I assumed my full four-year term in January of

10 1995.

11 Q I see, okay.

12 So when you first ran, you ran as a

13 Democrat.

14 A I did.

15 Q Okay. And you later -- you're currently

16 a member of the Republican party.

17 A Right.

18 Q And you at some point changed from the

19 Democratic party to the Republican party.

20 A In January of 1997.

21 Q Okay. Why did you switch parties?

22 A Because the Democratic party no longer

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1 A It was called District 1.

2 Q And it included, I think you said,

3 Mobile; did it also include Baldwin?

4 A All of Mobile, all of Baldwin, all of

5 Escambia.

6 Q Any other counties?

7 A No.

8 Q Were you aware that at some point after

9 you were on the Board that the map for the Board

10 of Education districts had changed?

11 A I was.

12 Q Okay. And what was your understanding

13 of what brought about that change?

14 A Well, I don't know what brought about

15 that change.

16 Q What -- strike that.

17 When you first got on the Board, you

18 were a Democrat at that point.

19 A I was.

20 Q When you ran for reelection, what year

21 was that?

22 A 1998.

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1 represented the principles that I stood for

2 politically. And I was regularly told by

3 Democratic leaders that I was not a Democrat, that

4 I was really a Republican. I was regularly told

5 by Republican leaders that I was not a Democrat, I

6 was really a Republican. And I sat down with

7 myself one day and said, you know what, you're not

8 really a Democrat, you're really a Republican.

9 And I think I was being honest with myself and my

10 constituents. I think it was the right thing to

11 do.

12 Q I know these things can be complicated,

13 but is there a way to describe in general terms

14 what principles you felt made you fit more with

15 the Republican party than with the Democratic

16 party?

17 A There were a bunch. And some of them

18 really came to focus for me being on the State

19 School Board. I was very much an education

20 reformer. I believed that our education system

21 should be there to serve the children, their

22 parents, not other things. And I found that the

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1 Democratic party stood for taking care of adults  
 2 first. And I found that to be totally contrary to  
 3 my view of things. I was not familiar before I  
 4 became on the State School Board with a two-year  
 5 college system. At that time we go to a two-year  
 6 college system, and I was not in agreement with  
 7 the way that the Democratic party approached the  
 8 two-year college system. I had great  
 9 disagreements with them about that. I also  
 10 disagreed with the Democratic party on basic  
 11 issues like abortion, gaming, Second Amendment  
 12 rights. And I was already at odds with the  
 13 National Democratic Party. What really startled  
 14 me was how much at odds I was with the State  
 15 Democratic Party. And that made it very clear to  
 16 me that I should change parties because, once  
 17 again, I was being honest with myself and with the  
 18 people I represent about where I stand on issues.  
 19 Q And on abortion, what -- how did you  
 20 differ from the Democratic party on the issue?  
 21 A I'm ardently pro life.  
 22 Q And on the Second Amendment, how did you

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1 differ from the Democratic party?  
 2 A I'm ardently pro Second Amendment.  
 3 Q Okay. Are you antigun control?  
 4 A Yes, I'm antigun control. I think we  
 5 have a right to bear arms under the Second  
 6 Amendment.  
 7 Q And there was another issue other than  
 8 education that you mentioned.  
 9 A Gaming.  
 10 Q Gaming. What was -- what was your  
 11 difference with the Democratic party on gaming?  
 12 A Well, again, the Democratic party was  
 13 very pro gaming and I was not. You remember in  
 14 1999, Governor Siegelman pushed a so-called  
 15 education lottery. And he expected the State  
 16 School Board to be supportive of his education  
 17 lottery. And I remember calling him on the phone  
 18 and telling him, because I wanted him to hear it  
 19 from me, that I was not supportive of his lottery.  
 20 I did not think his lottery was good for the  
 21 education system in the State of Alabama.  
 22 Q You became at some point the Chancellor

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1 of the Alabama Department of Postsecondary  
 2 Education?  
 3 A Uh-hmm.  
 4 Q When was that?  
 5 A That was May of 2007.  
 6 Q Okay. So that was after your time as a  
 7 State Senator?  
 8 A I was a State Senator and then Governor  
 9 Bob Riley called me and wanted me to leave the  
 10 State Senate, leave my private practice of law and  
 11 take on the role of Chancellor with a two-year  
 12 college system, a full-time job. When he  
 13 initially asked me to do it, I turned him down.  
 14 But he came back to me, and some other people came  
 15 back to me and persuaded me to do it, and I did  
 16 it.  
 17 Q And what were your -- what was the time  
 18 period that you did that role?  
 19 A I was the Chancellor from May of 2007  
 20 until I think May or June of 2009.  
 21 Q And what did you do after you were the  
 22 Chancellor of the Alabama Department of

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1 Postsecondary Education?  
 2 A I ran for Governor and lost.  
 3 Q Sounds like that was probably the only  
 4 election you ever lost, though.  
 5 A It's the only election I ever lost, but  
 6 I'll never forget it.  
 7 Q Yeah. I've heard from people that  
 8 that's the case, right, that's the -- you never  
 9 forget that one.  
 10 A That's true.  
 11 Q Yes.  
 12 So -- and what were your  
 13 responsibilities generally as the Chancellor?  
 14 A The Chancellor is the Chief Executive  
 15 Officer of Alabama's two-year college system. At  
 16 that time, the governing board was the State Board  
 17 of Education so I was formally appointed by the  
 18 State Board of Education. That's who I answered  
 19 to. They were like my Board of Directors. Since  
 20 then they've created a separate board to govern  
 21 that system. That's the way it was then.  
 22 So I was responsible for making sure

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1 that we carried out the laws, that we carried out  
2 the directives and policies of the State Board of  
3 Education, and that the system was delivering on  
4 our mission. At the time I took over, the  
5 two-year college system was in a true crisis.  
6 There were two Grand Jury investigations going on.  
7 The Birmingham News had just won the Pulitzer  
8 Prize reporting on corruption in the system.  
9 Q It's never -- when you get the Pulitzer  
10 Prize for a system that is corrupt, right --  
11 A Yes. I mean, when the biggest newspaper  
12 in your state gets the Pulitzer Prize, reporting  
13 about the corruption of the system you've just  
14 been appointed to take over -- and we were  
15 attracting a lot of new jobs to Alabama. The  
16 two-year college system is a critical, if not the  
17 critical component to providing the workforce  
18 education the people need to be able to be  
19 prepared for those jobs. And so the Governor  
20 said, look, I need for you to first and foremost  
21 clean up the corruption in the system. And the  
22 corruption was endemic in the system. Secondly,

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1 you've got to turn this system to be a much more  
2 effective provider of this education as we  
3 continue to develop Alabama economically. And  
4 then later on, after I became Chancellor, because  
5 of the recession, I had to do all of that while we  
6 were cutting tens of millions of dollars out of  
7 the system, but it was a daunting task. But I  
8 understood how important it was to the state and,  
9 despite the fact I did not want to do it -- and  
10 Governor Riley can tell you how much I did not  
11 want to do it -- I did it. I'm glad I did, and  
12 I'm proud of the work that we did.  
13 Q That's great.  
14 And you also practiced law, I know, over  
15 a long period of time. What kind of law did you  
16 practice?  
17 A I tell everybody I started out my career  
18 as a commercial litigator who did labor and  
19 employment law on the side and at the end of my  
20 career I was a labor and employment lawyer who did  
21 commercial litigation on the side. Both sides of  
22 law, obviously, and doing a lot of litigation.

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1 Q And where did you practice when you were  
2 practicing law?  
3 A I started out -- well, all of my  
4 practice was in Mobile -- geographically I was  
5 headquartered in Mobile. Obviously I had cases  
6 all over the State of Alabama, some in the  
7 panhandle of Florida, a couple in the Gulf Coast  
8 of Mississippi.  
9 Q Okay. Let me ask you, I know you've --  
10 it sounds like you've only had brief conversations  
11 kind of about this case, but you understand, I  
12 take it, Congressman, that you've been listed as a  
13 potential witness for the Secretary.  
14 A Yes, I have.  
15 Q And what topics do you expect to testify  
16 about at trial?  
17 A About the proposals that would  
18 significantly change District 1.  
19 Q Okay. Anything else?  
20 A No, sir.  
21 Q And what do you expect to testify about  
22 concerning that topic?

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1 A I would be testifying, I assume, about  
2 the significant concerns I have about the  
3 proposals in each of Exhibits 1, 2, 3, and 4, for  
4 the redrawing of District 1.  
5 Q We'll dive into that in just a minute.  
6 And let me just ask you before we do  
7 that, did you participate in any capacity in  
8 Alabama's redistricting process in the 2011  
9 redistricting cycle?  
10 A No, I was not in the legislature.  
11 Q Okay. Did you provide any input, have  
12 any conversations, anything like that?  
13 A Not about congressional districts. I  
14 think after the fact I had a discussion with Randy  
15 Davis who was the House Member somewhat -- in some  
16 way involved in doing this about the School Board  
17 District (indicating).  
18 Q And you're pointing to what I believe  
19 was marked as Exhibit 5?  
20 A Exhibit 5, yes. He and I had a  
21 discussion about that. It may have been after the  
22 fact. I'm not certain.

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1 Q After it had changed to this current  
 2 configuration?  
 3 A It was either as it was being proposed  
 4 in this configuration or after it had been  
 5 adopted.  
 6 Q Okay. And can you tell me, Congressman  
 7 Byrne, about that conversation with Mr. Davis?  
 8 A Yes, I was concerned about taking away  
 9 any part of Mobile County and putting it into  
 10 another district. He and I had a discussion about  
 11 why they decided to do that.  
 12 Q And why were you concerned?  
 13 A Because I think it's important to keep  
 14 counties whole. I think it's problematic for a  
 15 State School Board member from Montgomery to be  
 16 able to understand the problems with the school  
 17 system in Mobile County.  
 18 Q Okay. And what was your understanding,  
 19 if any, of why the current configuration was being  
 20 proposed?  
 21 A Well, because the population changes  
 22 within District 5, they needed to grow it, and so

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1 they were looking for ways to grow it. And they  
 2 decided to put part of it, as you can see from  
 3 Exhibit 5, in the northeastern quadrant of Mobile  
 4 County. And so I was expressing concerns about  
 5 having two school board members dealing with the  
 6 Mobile County School System. That was my primary  
 7 concern.  
 8 Q Did you have any understanding of  
 9 whether -- of what the change to the current  
 10 configuration of the Board of Education districts  
 11 did in terms of majority-minority districts,  
 12 either in District 5 or District 4?  
 13 A We didn't get into that. I was more  
 14 concerned about the problem of a person from  
 15 Montgomery trying to understand all of the issues  
 16 regarding the Mobile County School System.  
 17 Q Did you -- did you have an understanding  
 18 that District 5 is now in the State Board of  
 19 Education district -- State Board of Education  
 20 map, that that is not a majority-minority  
 21 district?  
 22 A Well, it was when I was on board. It

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1 just wasn't configured this way. But it was a  
 2 majority-minority district then.  
 3 Q Okay. And was that true the whole time  
 4 that you were on the school board?  
 5 A Yes, there were -- there were two  
 6 different members. I have forgotten the man that  
 7 was the member on it when I first was elected.  
 8 But he was retired and was replaced by Ms. Ella  
 9 Bell. So I worked with both of them and actually  
 10 spent a little bit of time in various places in  
 11 that district with them because they were  
 12 different school board members. And particularly  
 13 because I had a contiguous district to work with  
 14 them, there were times when there were people in  
 15 some of the counties just to the north of my State  
 16 School Board district would call me for help on  
 17 things, and I would tell them, I'm not your school  
 18 board member, but I'm happy to help.  
 19 Q Right.  
 20 A And I would always inform the member  
 21 from that district, hey, I've had this request  
 22 from people in your district. I don't want to do

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1 anything in your district unless you're okay with  
 2 it. In every case they would say, no, fine, I  
 3 appreciate you doing it. Sometimes that was true  
 4 because of the geographic proximity. It's a lot  
 5 easier for somebody from Mobile to deal with  
 6 Washington, Clarke, and Monroe, for example, than  
 7 it is for somebody from Montgomery. So I could  
 8 physically be present where it was very difficult  
 9 for somebody from Montgomery to physically be  
 10 present.  
 11 Q I take it from kind of the beginning of  
 12 your answer, it sounds like there were two  
 13 majority-minority districts in the plan while --  
 14 during the time that you were on the school board?  
 15 A Yes, there was this district, District  
 16 5, and I can't remember the number of the  
 17 district, but it was Dr. Hall -- Dr. Hall's  
 18 district. That was mainly Birmingham. I know it  
 19 was more than that. Dr. Hall was the vice chair  
 20 of the Board when I was on the Board. Vice chair  
 21 is elected by the Board. The governor's formally  
 22 the chair of the Board, but the vice chair really

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1 functions as the chair of the Board. So Dr. Hall  
 2 was our vice chair chair the whole time I was on  
 3 the Board, and I certainly had a lot of  
 4 interaction with Dr. Hall and sometimes in her  
 5 district.  
 6 Q Okay. Just looking at Exhibit 5, do you  
 7 recall if Dr. Hall represented what's labeled as  
 8 District 4 which kind of goes up into Jefferson  
 9 County and Birmingham?  
 10 A Yes, I think she did, but I don't know  
 11 that it was configured this way. I can't tell you  
 12 for sure.  
 13 Q Sure.  
 14 A Mainly when I was interacting with  
 15 Dr. Hall in her district, I was in the Birmingham  
 16 area.  
 17 Q What kinds of interactions did you have  
 18 with Dr. Hall concerning her district?  
 19 A We would have State School Board  
 20 meetings in her district. She would have other  
 21 meetings in her district pertaining to education,  
 22 and she would invite some or all of us to come to

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1 these meetings.  
 2 Q Sure.  
 3 A I tried to accommodate Dr. Hall every  
 4 chance I could. I had tremendous respect for her.  
 5 She was our leader. And if she asked me to do  
 6 something, if I could do it, and I was a  
 7 practicing attorney so I -- lawyer duties, but if  
 8 I could do it, I tried to make my schedule  
 9 available for her.  
 10 Q How about in District 5, it sounds like  
 11 you had some interactions with the representative  
 12 from -- school board member, I should say, from  
 13 District 5 as well?  
 14 A Oh, yes, yes. We had not just those  
 15 three counties, just above District 1, which would  
 16 be Washington, Clarke, and Monroe, but we had  
 17 meetings in Selma, Tuskegee. Lots of things  
 18 around Montgomery. Of course, when we met  
 19 formally, usually we were meeting in Montgomery,  
 20 but we had other things around Montgomery like the  
 21 Trenholm State Technical College there in  
 22 Montgomery. So I had a fair amount of meetings in

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1 District 5.  
 2 Q Okay. And who represented District 5  
 3 when you were on the Board?  
 4 A I think the gentleman's name when I was  
 5 first elected was Dr. Willie Paul, and then he  
 6 retired and he was replaced by Ella Bell, who I  
 7 think is still on.  
 8 Q Okay. Did you work with either Dr. Paul  
 9 or Ms. Bell?  
 10 A A lot.  
 11 Q What kinds of things did you work with  
 12 them on?  
 13 A Just about everything you can imagine  
 14 that was within the jurisdiction of the State  
 15 School Board. So it could be K-12 matters. It  
 16 could be postsecondary matters. There was a lot  
 17 of that. A lot of the good things about the Board  
 18 when I was on it was we all interacted with one  
 19 another about one another's districts a lot, and I  
 20 really appreciated, when I was first on the Board  
 21 and not as familiar with that district, Dr. Paul  
 22 was really good about explaining things to us,

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1 taking us there. I remember we had a State School  
 2 Board meeting in Tuskegee and we got there the day  
 3 before, spent the night. We got to tour, learned  
 4 all about Tuskegee. So I think Dr. Paul did a  
 5 really good job of making sure we knew about his  
 6 district, in each of his district, and I really  
 7 enjoyed doing that.  
 8 Q So let me shift gears again here and  
 9 just ask you if you're familiar with the term  
 10 "communities of interest" as it applies to  
 11 redistricting.  
 12 A I couldn't define it for you.  
 13 Q Okay. Not a formal definition, but do  
 14 you have a sense of kind of what that means or --  
 15 A No, you would have to tell me.  
 16 Q Okay. In your view, are there  
 17 communities of interest in your district?  
 18 A Of course.  
 19 Q Your congressional district?  
 20 A Yes.  
 21 Q Is there a way you can describe those?  
 22 A Yes.

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1 Q I can -- I can give you a current -- I  
 2 know you know it very well, but if it's easier to  
 3 talk about, looking at the current map, I can --  
 4 why don't we mark one just so we all have it in  
 5 front of us while you're -- while you're  
 6 discussing. So this will be Exhibit 6.  
 7 (Exhibit 6 was marked for identification  
 8 and attached to the deposition transcript.)  
 9 BY MR. SPIVA:  
 10 Q If you want to do it in connection with  
 11 Exhibit 6, which is the current map of the U.S.  
 12 House Districts in Alabama, or if you want to just  
 13 do it, you know, without referencing it, however  
 14 is, you know, easiest for you, but if you could  
 15 kind of describe the communities of interest in  
 16 your district.  
 17 A Sure. And I'll start with Exhibit 6  
 18 because it is helpful. If you look at this map of  
 19 those counties, everything feeds into Mobile  
 20 Baldwin, okay? First of all, you have two major  
 21 river systems that come together, and those two  
 22 river systems help define both the economy and the

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1 culture and the communities of that area, going  
 2 back hundreds of years. Many of the jobs for the  
 3 district are there in Mobile and Baldwin Counties,  
 4 and so you have people from Washington, Clarke,  
 5 Monroe, and Escambia, who travel into those  
 6 counties for their work and then go home at the  
 7 end of the day. So just sort of center of  
 8 everything is here in Mobile and Baldwin Counties  
 9 just because of what they do economically. A lot  
 10 of what the people in that area also get in terms  
 11 of information comes from the three television  
 12 stations there because people all get those  
 13 television stations, and they obviously get their  
 14 news from that. It used to be we had a common big  
 15 urban newspaper, the Mobile Register, we still do,  
 16 but it only prints three days a week so it's not  
 17 quite as strong as it used to be.  
 18 Q It's kind of a common thing around the  
 19 country, the local papers going online or just  
 20 going out of business.  
 21 A Well, in Alabama, the three biggest  
 22 newspapers have gone to I think three days a week.

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1 They have this online presence called AL.com. So  
 2 -- but it used to be that even people in Monroe  
 3 would get the Mobile Press-Register. That's where  
 4 they got a lot of their news. But certainly today  
 5 they get a lot of their news from those three  
 6 local television stations.  
 7 Also because of the fact that you've got  
 8 an urban area there in Mobile, a lot of people are  
 9 pulled into that for cultural activities, civic  
 10 activities, entertainment and things. So Mobile  
 11 and now -- now that Baldwin County has grown so  
 12 much, they're kind of a magnet for those four  
 13 counties north of there and pull people in, both  
 14 for work and for the other things I mentioned.  
 15 Q Okay. Now, I notice that Clarke County  
 16 is only partially in your -- in your district. Is  
 17 there -- to your knowledge, is there a reason why  
 18 that piece of Clarke County is included in  
 19 District 1 but not the rest of Clarke County?  
 20 A Well, I wasn't a congressman when this  
 21 --  
 22 Q Sure.

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1 A -- map was done so I'm not sure what  
 2 their motives were, but if you followed U.S. 43  
 3 north out of Washington County, it would go  
 4 basically through the middle of what you see there  
 5 as part of District 1. So that includes two key  
 6 communities, Jackson and Grove Hill. That's not  
 7 all of the city limits of Jackson or all the city  
 8 limits of Grove Hill, but a big part of each of  
 9 those run right where U.S. 3 goes through there.  
 10 And so the people in Grove Hill and Jackson will  
 11 drive down to U.S. 43 to get to Mobile both for  
 12 work and those other things that I mentioned.  
 13 Q Right. Okay. Any other things that you  
 14 would describe as communities of interest in your  
 15 district?  
 16 A Well, everything keys off of what I said  
 17 before. Obviously jobs, economics pull people in.  
 18 You've got that river system. A lot of us like to  
 19 hunt and fish and so the Mobile-Tensaw River Delta  
 20 is a very rich place in terms of habitat. We're  
 21 all interested in that. This is the oldest part  
 22 of the state of Alabama, founded by the French in

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1 1701, but you had other people that came in there  
2 to form that area. So you have this sort of  
3 historical tradition there. Mobile was a French  
4 city where Mardi Gras started in the United  
5 States. So Mobile -- used to be Mobile had Mardi  
6 Gras parades, nobody else did. Now these other  
7 places all have Mardi Gras parades. And so Mardi  
8 Gras has become something that pulls people  
9 together. We have a major university, University  
10 of South Alabama. It not only pulls people in  
11 from those areas, it does things out into these  
12 counties. So everything comes back to that for  
13 those four counties outside of Mobile and Baldwin  
14 County, everything comes back to that.

15 Now, the fastest growing county in the  
16 State of Alabama, and, therefore, in my district,  
17 is Baldwin County on the eastern side of Mobile  
18 Bay. And so you used to just talk about Mobile,  
19 but my answer previously included Baldwin County  
20 because increasingly you've got Baldwin County  
21 pulling people in, whether it's to the eastern  
22 shore of Baldwin County or down there on the

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1 beaches, Orange Beach and Gulf Shores, which are  
2 tremendous hubs for tourism activity -- people  
3 play and have fun. Also as part of our sort of  
4 shared culture down there is we love seafood. And  
5 the seafood industry is very important to that  
6 district. Lots of restaurants, not just in Mobile  
7 and Baldwin Counties, but even these other places,  
8 lots of restaurants specialize in seafood. So  
9 that's another part of it. Gosh. While the  
10 economy is diverse in that area, there are certain  
11 things about the economy of that area that are  
12 unique. For example, you've got a port. No other  
13 part of Alabama has a port on the ocean or the  
14 Gulf of Mexico. As I said, seafood is a big part  
15 of it. And recreational fishing is a big part.  
16 So you have -- if you just think about that part  
17 of Alabama, and every part of Alabama is unique  
18 and has its own good attributes, but those --  
19 those are unique attributes, good attributes for  
20 that part that pull people together.

21 Q Okay. Do you believe that communities  
22 of interest under the current Alabama map -- but

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1 here I'm not just focusing on your district but  
2 the whole state -- do you think they're generally  
3 kept together under the current map?

4 A Well, I haven't thought about it for  
5 other districts, and I can't claim that I have the  
6 same level of knowledge about the other districts.

7 Q Sure.

8 A But knowing what I know about them, I  
9 think there are common interests in each of these  
10 districts. You can look at the map and tell that  
11 there are some districts that are geographically  
12 larger than others. And the larger they are, the  
13 more geographic area you cover, the less you have  
14 communities of interest. So that might be the  
15 case. But when you look at like the District 5,  
16 which I call it the Tennessee Valley. My daughter  
17 actually lives up there so I'm familiar with it  
18 through her, but I've also spent a lot of time  
19 working up there. That is clearly a community of  
20 interest because of the fact that they share the  
21 Tennessee River. The Tennessee Valley Authority  
22 provides their power. They have their own unique

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1 history up there. Huntsville, which is right near  
2 Madison County, is where they made the rocket for  
3 Apollo 11. So there's a lot of pride around that  
4 for obvious reasons. It's a more mountainous  
5 area. Where I live, it's more of a flat, coastal  
6 plain going down to the beaches area. So those  
7 two areas are pretty distinct. You can tell that.

8 District 2 is mainly -- we know it  
9 mainly as the wiregrass, plus Montgomery and some  
10 suburban counties. Wiregrass is a pretty  
11 well-defined region that has its own separate  
12 economy, special features, culture. Their  
13 agriculture is somewhat different from the  
14 agriculture that I have in my district. So  
15 they're more common that way.

16 District 7 is largely what we would know  
17 as the Black Belt in Alabama, not because of  
18 people's race but because of the soil.

19 Q Right. Yes.

20 A And so those counties have a lot in  
21 common with one another. And it's contiguous to  
22 my county, and obviously I have a part of Clarke

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1 County that is considered to be a part of it. So  
 2 Representative Sewell, who represents District 7,  
 3 and I work together a lot because we have a lot of  
 4 things that we have in common.

5 Q I went to law school with Representative  
 6 Sewell.

7 A Well, she and I -- she was, by the way,  
 8 the bond lawyer -- one of the bond lawyers --  
 9 outside bond lawyers when I was Chancellor of the  
 10 Postsecondary system. This is before she was in  
 11 Congress.

12 Q Right, yes, sure.

13 A So before she and I were colleagues, she  
 14 was my lawyer.

15 Q Oh, okay.

16 A So she and I have a good working  
 17 relationship. I knew some from my time before  
 18 being in Congress about that district, Dr. Paul  
 19 obviously introduced me to a lot, but I think  
 20 Representative Sewell does a good job of that as  
 21 well. So I see her district as having a community  
 22 of interest.

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1 have a lot in common and that sort of grouping  
 2 makes sense to me.

3 Q Okay. Does it make sense to, with  
 4 respect to kind of what you just said, District 6  
 5 and District 7, to separate the suburban areas of  
 6 Birmingham from the -- from the city itself?

7 A Well, I would prefer -- this is not with  
 8 regard to that district -- with all districts -- I  
 9 prefer to keep counties whole. But -- and I don't  
 10 know why they chose to do it this way. It may be  
 11 that they thought putting Birmingham together with  
 12 the Black Belt districts made more of a community  
 13 of interest than the suburban counties for  
 14 Birmingham. I don't know. But I just -- just  
 15 knowing those counties, I think that they have a  
 16 lot in common.

17 Q Okay. Do you think the City of Mobile  
 18 has anything in common with the Black Belt  
 19 counties?

20 A Not as much. Mobile historically --

21 Q I keep mispronouncing it. I tried to  
 22 get it right, but I keep -- I keep saying it

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1 East of Alabama, District 3, that's Mike  
 2 Roger's district. It's a little bit  
 3 geographically bigger, but we kind of tend to see  
 4 east Alabama as its own geographic region within  
 5 the state. It goes from Russell all the way up to  
 6 Cherokee, but you've got Opelika and Auburn where  
 7 Auburn University is, an extremely important asset  
 8 to the State of Alabama.

9 And then District 4, which is Robert  
 10 Aderholt's district, is over there just below the  
 11 Tennessee Valley. You have Cullman. You have  
 12 Jasper. These are -- they tend to be kind of the  
 13 same area. And that area right in the center,  
 14 District 6, that's Gary Palmer's district. That's  
 15 mainly the suburban areas to the City of  
 16 Birmingham. The part of District 7 that gets up  
 17 into Jefferson County is mainly -- mainly the City  
 18 of Birmingham. So all of this area of District 6  
 19 is the suburban areas to Birmingham.

20 So when I look at those, with not having  
 21 the same level of knowledge about each of those  
 22 districts as I do about my own, I do see that they

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1 wrong.

2 A It's real simple. It's Mobile.

3 Q Mobile, yes.

4 A Mobile historically was the port through  
 5 which timber and agricultural products moved from  
 6 the interior of the state of Alabama and then out  
 7 to the world.

8 Q Right.

9 A And so back in those days, when that was  
 10 a very important part of the economy of the  
 11 interior of the state, then there probably was  
 12 more contact between Mobile and the Black Belt.  
 13 That's not nearly as important anymore. So I  
 14 don't see as much contact and have not in my life  
 15 have seen as much contact between those Black Belt  
 16 counties and the southwestern part of the state.  
 17 They just don't have that connection as much as  
 18 they used to. I wish we had more of a connection,  
 19 to be honest with you, but it's just the  
 20 practicalities of the economy that they have  
 21 there. Mobile is not as important to them because  
 22 they're not moving things through the port as much

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1 as they used to.

2 Q Right. Okay.

3 Let me ask you, if you would, can we

4 flip back to the current Board of Education map,

5 which I think is Exhibit 5.

6 A Five.

7 Q Five, yes. I apologize. There are a

8 couple questions I think I neglected to ask you

9 when we were talking about that. Do you -- do you

10 view the 2011 Board of Education plan as --

11 respecting communities of interest? And in

12 particular, kind of focusing on your area of the

13 state and the area above it, so kind of what are

14 now labeled District 1 and District 5. I mean, do

15 you -- do you view that as respecting communities

16 of interest, or not really?

17 A Not really.

18 Q How come? I apologize, I know you

19 covered some of this before.

20 A That's fine.

21 I don't think that Conecuh, Butler,

22 Crenshaw, and Covington look to Mobile very much,

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1 Q Ella Bell, yes.

2 Has she ever expressed to you any

3 concerns about the current configuration of the

4 district -- of her district?

5 A I don't think I've talked to Ms. Bell

6 since the current configuration of this district

7 was made.

8 Q Okay. Have you -- have you heard from

9 anybody concerns about the current configuration,

10 especially with respect to District 5?

11 A Well, I referenced earlier the

12 conversations I had with Mr. Davis, who was the

13 representative who was in charge of putting

14 together the State School Board districts. I

15 certainly registered to him my concerns. I don't

16 know that I remember hearing anybody else have the

17 same concerns or at least voice them.

18 Q Okay. So let's maybe now turn back to

19 what we've been calling the proposed plans or

20 revised plans. Why don't -- why don't we start

21 with what was Exhibit 1, which is labeled "Revised

22 Plan 1, Alabama -- U.S. House, Revised Plan 1."

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1 whereas obviously the people in the northeast

2 quadrant of Mobile County that are in District 5,

3 they look to Mobile all the time. So they've been

4 essentially for purposes of the State School Board

5 taken out and put into a district that looks more

6 to Montgomery.

7 Q Okay. When you say "looks to," I think

8 I kind of like intuitively understand what you

9 mean, but can you explain a little bit more what

10 you mean by "looks to"?

11 A Where do you get your news from. Where

12 is the big city that you go shopping. Where are

13 the commonalities of the economy. Where is the

14 commonality in your traditions. You think of

15 Conecuh, Butler, Crenshaw, and Covington being

16 more a part of what we call the wiregrass. And,

17 like I say, they look to Dothan and Montgomery.

18 They don't look to Mobile as much.

19 Q Okay. Has -- I think you -- you said or

20 named the current representative as Ms. Bell, I

21 believe?

22 A Ella Bell.

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1 A Uh-hmm.

2 Q As soon as I can get it in front of me,

3 let me just ask you, what is your view of revised

4 plan 1, which is Exhibit 1?

5 A I don't think it's good for the counties

6 that are presently in District 1 that would remain

7 in this district, which would be Mobile, Baldwin,

8 and Escambia. And I don't think it's good for the

9 counties that are presently in District 2, which

10 are Covington, Coffee, Dale, Henry, Houston, and

11 Geneva.

12 Q Why not?

13 A Well, they are two different regions of

14 the state, and they don't have the commonality

15 that you see presently existing within present

16 Districts 1 and 2. It's a long way from West

17 Mobile to the eastern part of Houston County. So

18 a congressman has to cover that whole area if

19 they're doing their job right. So it is -- if you

20 look at the present composition of District 1,

21 it's not easy, but it's not as hard to get around

22 that district and cover all those different

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1 communities. Whereas if you had to go all the way  
 2 from West Mobile County to Houston County, it  
 3 would be far more difficult to cover all of those  
 4 communities. I mentioned earlier, I do a lot of  
 5 town halls. I do them in every community you can  
 6 imagine, big, small, rural, doesn't matter.

7 Q Yes.

8 A It would be very difficult for me to be  
 9 able to cover what's here in District 1 and have  
 10 the same level of town halls and certainly get to  
 11 the variety of places I try to get to. Plus  
 12 there's such a difference in the economies, et  
 13 cetera, and what you're an advocate for in  
 14 Congress, that you would still be an advocate for  
 15 the entire district, but it would dilute your  
 16 ability to be the advocate for the district. A  
 17 Senator and a Governor represent the whole state,  
 18 and they have to look out for the whole state. A  
 19 congressman looks out for their district.

20 Q Right.

21 A They're the ones totally focused on the  
 22 district. So right now as a congressman from

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1 District 1, I can totally focus on what I  
 2 described to you earlier as the economy and the  
 3 other needs for the present composition of  
 4 District 1. What you would be asking a  
 5 congressman to do under Exhibit 1 is to take that  
 6 same level of effort and spread it out over a much  
 7 broader array of interests. I wouldn't say that a  
 8 congressman wouldn't try to do it, but I don't  
 9 think even somebody working as hard as they  
 10 possibly could, could do it as well or with the  
 11 same level of attention and focus that there needs  
 12 to be, plus you're splitting Mobile County up  
 13 between District 2 and District 1, and I do not  
 14 think it's in the district -- in the interest of  
 15 the people of Mobile County to be split up like  
 16 that. I think they need to have a whole county  
 17 working with one congressman. I think they need  
 18 to be conjoined with the whole county of Baldwin  
 19 County.

20 Q Okay. Do you think there would be any  
 21 benefits to the people of the City of Mobile to a  
 22 configuration such as this?

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1 A I think it would be to the detriment of  
 2 the people to the City of Mobile. I've been very  
 3 involved in economic development efforts in that  
 4 area for a long time. And splitting up our  
 5 congressional representation would hurt those  
 6 economic development efforts which have, frankly,  
 7 done an amazing -- we have gotten an amazing  
 8 result these last several years. Airbus has a  
 9 plant there, for example. That Airbus plant just  
 10 didn't show up there. There was substantial  
 11 effort to make it happen. We have a Navy shipyard  
 12 there in Mobile. That Navy shipyard didn't just  
 13 show up there and still remain there. There's  
 14 substantial effort for that to happen. I'm  
 15 picking out some big examples.

16 Q Sure.

17 A I would -- I would think it would hurt  
 18 those efforts based upon my experience going  
 19 forward for there to be two congressmen  
 20 representing that area rather than one.

21 Q Something you mentioned a minute ago or  
 22 kind of at the beginning of the answer you gave

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1 about the map, you said that it would be  
 2 difficult, I think, to kind of represent --  
 3 effectively represent the whole area because --  
 4 was that in terms of the wiregrass counties in the  
 5 eastern part of the proposed District 1, is that  
 6 mainly because of the distance or because of other  
 7 factors?

8 A Other factors as well. Distance,  
 9 certainly, is a big part of it. It's a larger  
 10 geographic area, therefore, more difficult to  
 11 cover. But there's a big difference in the  
 12 Covington and Geneva, Coffee, Dale, Henry, Houston  
 13 economy, what they focus on, than there is in the  
 14 Escambia, Baldwin and Mobile, of the counties  
 15 presently in there. One of the big things about  
 16 those eastern counties is you've got right in the  
 17 middle of that Fort Rucker.

18 Fort Rucker is a major focus for any  
 19 congressman representing that area. It represents  
 20 an enormous number of jobs, not just at the Fort  
 21 but private sector businesses that do business  
 22 with the Fort. You've got a lot of military

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1 retirees around in the -- in the communities  
 2 around the Fort.  
 3 Houston County and Dothan, they have two  
 4 or three different very important businesses going  
 5 on there, but one of their newest things, they've  
 6 got an osteopath college, a medical school,  
 7 osteopath school. That's very different from a  
 8 medical school like you have at the University of  
 9 South Alabama in Mobile. Not worse or better,  
 10 just different.  
 11 Q Right.  
 12 A You have a major university in Mobile  
 13 County. They do not have a major university in  
 14 the eastern counties in District 1, but they look  
 15 just north to Pike where Troy University is. Troy  
 16 University is a very different university from the  
 17 University of South Alabama. Not better or worse.  
 18 Different.  
 19 Q Right.  
 20 A So the interest that you would be trying  
 21 to represent in these eastern counties are  
 22 fundamentally different from the interests over

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1 here in the western part, Mobile, Baldwin, and  
 2 Escambia. Even though there's some commonality in  
 3 agriculture, the agriculture is different.  
 4 They've got more poultry and cattle over there  
 5 than we do on our side. We have more row crops  
 6 than they do. So even though the agriculture may  
 7 be similar, there's still some significant  
 8 differences. So, for example, in Mobile and  
 9 Baldwin Counties where I focus on things like  
 10 fixing the red snapper season, which is a federal  
 11 thing, believe it or not, making sure that we have  
 12 the proper funding for the Navy shipyard in  
 13 Mobile. I can really focus on things like that.  
 14 But if you throw into the mix Fort Rucker, Troy,  
 15 these other agricultural interests that are  
 16 different from mine, then, once again, not just  
 17 from the geography, but from the diversity of  
 18 interest, I'm spreading my focus. I'm spreading  
 19 my efforts over a much broader array of interests.  
 20 Q Okay. Are there any issues like that  
 21 that you can think of where it would present kind  
 22 of a conflict in the way you would need to vote on

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1 a given issue? I understand that they're  
 2 different, they're kind of different issues, but  
 3 where you would say, well, gosh, I got to vote  
 4 for, you know, some water issue over here but I've  
 5 got -- I've got to vote contrary to that because,  
 6 you know, it's a more land-based area. Can you  
 7 think of anything like that?  
 8 A You know, I'll give you an example. We  
 9 had a water bill that moved through Congress a  
 10 couple years ago, and because I represent these  
 11 seafood areas, some of the seafood interests came  
 12 to me and said we want to include in the bill the  
 13 authorization of a study about oyster production.  
 14 Okay? Very important to that area. The Georgia  
 15 members saw that language and thought that it was  
 16 there to try to protect the flow of water that  
 17 ultimately gets down to Appalachia Coia because  
 18 they have their own oysters. And that's where the  
 19 Chattahoochee flows out of Georgia along the line  
 20 with Alabama, and then through Florida.  
 21 And so I was able to tell them, no, this  
 22 has to do with my district, which is over here.

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1 Q Right.  
 2 A It doesn't have to do with this side  
 3 over there, and I'm not getting into your water  
 4 wars because there's a water war between Alabama,  
 5 Georgia, and Florida --  
 6 Q Right.  
 7 A -- with regard to the Chattahoochee and  
 8 water coming out of the Atlanta. So that was -- I  
 9 was able to escape what would have been a blocking  
 10 vote from the Georgia delegation over that. But,  
 11 in large part, it's not necessarily how you vote.  
 12 It's how much time -- there's only so many hours  
 13 in the day.  
 14 Q Right.  
 15 A I only have so many people on my staff.  
 16 Okay? If you make me take my time, my staff and  
 17 divide it along a much greater geographic area, a  
 18 much wider area of interest, each one of those is  
 19 going to get less attention, less effort.  
 20 Something is going to suffer. That's just the  
 21 nature of the world that we live in.  
 22 Q Right.

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1 A So, once again, that's the difference  
 2 between being a congressman and a Senator.  
 3 Q Right.  
 4 A A Senator looks after the entire state.  
 5 Q Right.  
 6 A The congressman is focused on his or her  
 7 district. I focus on my district. Congresswoman  
 8 Roby who presently represents District 3 -- is  
 9 that what it is?  
 10 Q I think so, yes.  
 11 A Yes. Is it 2?  
 12 Q Two.  
 13 MR. DAVIS: Roby is 2.  
 14 A She really focuses on her district. She  
 15 knows that stuff about Fort Rucker. And she got  
 16 it. And if she needs my help, she'll call me and  
 17 I'll give it to her, but I recognize her as the  
 18 expert on Fort Rucker. If she needs some help  
 19 with Troy, even though I don't represent Troy, she  
 20 calls me and I'm going to help her, but I  
 21 recognize that she's got the expertise on that.  
 22 All of us in the Alabama delegation have that

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1 but in federal programs, federal grants, and even  
 2 in economic development. Believe it or not,  
 3 they'll take a congresswoman or congressman when  
 4 they're doing -- pitching somebody to come to an  
 5 area and bring them in the room and say this is  
 6 why this area is so important. This is why you  
 7 should bring your business or factory and locate  
 8 it here. I play that role. I know everybody else  
 9 in delegation plays that role as well.  
 10 Q Sure, okay.  
 11 MR. DAVIS: Before you go to the next  
 12 question, Congressman, do you need a break or a  
 13 cup of water?  
 14 THE WITNESS: I would love a cup of  
 15 water.  
 16 MR. SPIVA: I'm sorry. I apologize.  
 17 I've been sitting here drinking this.  
 18 THE WITNESS: Are we taking a break?  
 19 MR. SPIVA: Yes, why don't we take a  
 20 few-minute break.  
 21 MR. DAVIS: Just a couple minutes.  
 22 THE WITNESS: Yes, that would be great.

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1 understanding. If Congresswoman Sewell tells me  
 2 "I need some help with something in the Black  
 3 Belt," you tell me where you want to go, I'm going  
 4 to get behind you and help you. We do that for  
 5 one another. It's one of the strengths of our  
 6 delegation, is that we do that. But we have to  
 7 have that focus and expertise by the member from  
 8 that district to lead the rest of us and, frankly,  
 9 to lead the state as to where we need to go.  
 10 Q Right. I understand you are -- you are  
 11 seeking to be the next Senator from Alabama.  
 12 A I am. I am.  
 13 Q You're going to have a change of focus.  
 14 A I am. I am. And that's why right now I  
 15 can sort of see the difference.  
 16 Q Right.  
 17 A There is -- there is a fundamental  
 18 difference between being a Senator, for that  
 19 matter a Governor, and being a congressman.  
 20 Congressmen or congresswomen focus on their  
 21 district. They're the advocate for their  
 22 district. And that's true not just in legislation

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1 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The time is 11:06  
 2 a.m. and we're going off the record.  
 3 (A brief recess was taken.)  
 4 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The time is 11:11  
 5 a.m. and we're back on the record.  
 6 MR. DAVIS: Before we continue, Bruce,  
 7 am I correct that we have an understanding that  
 8 this deposition be used only for purposes of this  
 9 litigation?  
 10 MR. SPIVA: Yes.  
 11 MR. DAVIS: Including the video, the  
 12 deposition transcript, all of that.  
 13 MR. SPIVA: Yes, yes. It's not under  
 14 seal, obviously, but we have no intent of like,  
 15 you know, displaying this on the evening news or  
 16 anything, you know -- anything like that, yes,  
 17 right, exactly. I mean, I just -- I just want to  
 18 be careful that I'm not like agreeing to keep it  
 19 under seal because then it creates all kinds of  
 20 problems when you have, as you know, Congressman,  
 21 when you have to file, you have to file with a  
 22 motion, and, you know, if there's anything that's

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1 referenced or anything like that --

2 MR. DAVIS: No, no, I'm not suggesting

3 it should be under seal. I just want the typical

4 understanding that with most depositions, it would

5 be used for purposes of the litigation.

6 MR. SPIVA: Yes, that is -- that is -- I

7 will agree to that, yes.

8 BY MR. SPIVA:

9 Q So, Congressman Byrne, was there

10 anything else that was of concern to you regarding

11 revised plan 1, which is I think labeled as

12 Exhibit 1?

13 A Well, at least in general I've covered

14 all of it, but there's -- there are a lot more

15 details I could go into with regard to the

16 different economies, et cetera. But, in general,

17 I think I've told you about the spread of time,

18 spread of resources and advocate over a greater,

19 not only geographic area, but greater different

20 types of interests.

21 Q And then maybe just focusing on, for a

22 minute, the CD 2 under the revised plan 1, and if

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1 of her effort into it, but as smart and capable

2 and hardworking as she is, I don't think she could

3 do it as well.

4 Q And you noted -- well, I'll note, and

5 tell me if you agree, the proposed District 7

6 under revised plan 1, that actually is a lot more

7 kind of compact than the District 7 and

8 Representative Sewell's district in the current

9 plan.

10 A Yes.

11 Q Would you agree with that?

12 A I would. I do have concerns about

13 splitting Tuscaloosa County. I think that split

14 into Jefferson County, but it's presently split

15 into Tuscaloosa County. And I think Congressman

16 Aderholt or Congressman Sewell will handle it very

17 well, but I think Tuscaloosa will be better off

18 with one congressman.

19 Q Right. And Jefferson is currently split

20 as well.

21 A Yes.

22 Q So any other concerns about any of this,

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1 it's helpful to look at the current plan.

2 A Yes.

3 Q In looking at that --

4 A Yes, here.

5 Q -- do you have any further concerns

6 other than the ones you've already articulated

7 concerning the proposed CD 2 under revised plan 1?

8 A Well, I think I said this earlier, but

9 I'll make sure I say it again. I think putting

10 that part of Mobile or any part of Mobile County

11 in the same district with the county that's

12 basically centered on Montgomery is going to

13 dilute the efforts that we're making there to

14 build our economy, and also it's asking somebody

15 who is basically focused on Montgomery to try to

16 learn completely different, you know, economic

17 setting, cultural setting, civic setting. And I

18 think that's asking a whole lot from the person

19 that represents District 2. I don't think they

20 could do it as well. I'm not saying that they

21 wouldn't put their effort forth. For example, if

22 that was Terri Sewell, I think she would put all

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1 you know, District 7, District 2, District 1 under

2 revised plan 1?

3 A I have focused just on what it does to

4 District 1. I haven't really looked that much at

5 Exhibit 1 as to what it would do to the other

6 districts. It does make some changes, but I think

7 from my perspective, the biggest problem is what

8 it does to District 1 and District 2 and -- let's

9 see, District 1 and District 2.

10 Q Okay. As you know from, you know, at

11 least briefly reviewing the complaint and, you

12 know, you understand kind of the basic allegations

13 in this complaint, that the plaintiffs are seeking

14 to create a second majority African-American

15 district. Do you think there would be a benefit

16 to the African-American community to having a

17 second majority African-American district?

18 A I don't really have an opinion about

19 that. I'm more concerned about the people where I

20 live. I don't think it's a benefit to the people

21 of Mobile County, whether they're

22 African-American, white, Hispanic, or

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1 Asian-American, to have a congressman from  
 2 Montgomery. I don't care what the race of the  
 3 congressman is. I don't -- if Martha Roby is  
 4 going to be the congressman that would come in  
 5 there, I don't think it's good for the people in  
 6 my district to have a congressman who is mainly  
 7 focused on Montgomery.

8 Q Okay. Now, would you agree that the  
 9 voting in your district in the current  
 10 configuration is fairly racially polarized? When  
 11 I -- just to get a little definition, I mean, you  
 12 know, the vast majority of African-Americans in  
 13 your district tend to vote, you know, for your  
 14 opponent, for the Democratic candidate, and the  
 15 vast majority of whites tend to vote for yourself.

16 MR. DAVIS: Object to the form.

17 A I don't -- I don't know the numbers.  
 18 Frankly, I don't pay that close attention to that.  
 19 In general I know that more African-American's  
 20 vote Democrat. More whites vote Republican.  
 21 There has been more -- some shifting going on  
 22 there, as a matter of fact. You're seeing, like

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1 in Mobile, the City of Mobile, you're seeing more  
 2 whites voting Democrat. And in Baldwin County  
 3 where I live, you're seeing more African-Americans  
 4 vote Republican. So even that's shifting around.

5 Q Okay. You haven't actually seen the  
 6 plaintiff's expert reports in this case, have you?

7 A No.

8 Q Would it surprise you that an estimated  
 9 97 percent of African-Americans in your district  
 10 voted -- sorry, it sounds impolite -- but voted  
 11 against you, voted for your opponent in the last  
 12 election?

13 MR. DAVIS: Object to form.

14 A I don't know the numbers and so I can't  
 15 say I'm surprised. Like I say, when I look at the  
 16 results of an election, I'm really not paying that  
 17 close of attention to it or concerned about that.

18 Q Okay. Do you know whether -- what the  
 19 African-American candidate of choice was in the  
 20 last congressional election?

21 A Well, my opponent -- are you talking  
 22 about my election?

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1 Q Yes.

2 A My opponent, the Democrat, was Robert  
 3 Kennedy. But I don't know -- as I said, I didn't  
 4 go back and look at the results after the fact. I  
 5 don't know exactly how the vote split out. I know  
 6 generally how many votes I got, generally how many  
 7 votes he got, but I can't tell you where they came  
 8 from.

9 Q Okay. How about the City of Mobile, do  
 10 you know how the votes split out in the City of  
 11 Mobile in the --

12 A In my election?

13 Q Yes.

14 A I didn't look that closely. I think I  
 15 carried Mobile, but I don't know.

16 Q Okay. And I think you acknowledged a  
 17 minute ago that, you know, most African-Americans  
 18 in your district tend to vote Democratic as  
 19 opposed to the majority of whites voting  
 20 Republican. Why do you think that's the case?

21 MR. DAVIS: Object to form.

22 A That is a great question, and it's

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1 something that I not only have thought a lot  
 2 about, I've worried over because I don't think  
 3 it's healthy. I think there's some traditional  
 4 things going on. African-Americans look to the  
 5 Democratic party as the party that primarily  
 6 ushered through the civil rights legislation in  
 7 the '60s. Although, if you go back and look at  
 8 the history, it would not have happened without  
 9 Republican votes in both the House and the Senate,  
 10 and there were key opponents to that legislation  
 11 that were southern Democrats, but I think  
 12 African-Americans look to that and look to that  
 13 history. But more and more I think what's  
 14 happening in my district is really reflective of  
 15 what's happening in the country. People are  
 16 finding differences -- I don't want to use the  
 17 word polarization. I don't like it. People find  
 18 differences among one another because they have a  
 19 different view of what American -- what the  
 20 federal government should do for America, so it's  
 21 more ideological in my mind than it is racial.

22 Q Why do you think that -- well, first let

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1 me ask you, would you agree, though, that that --  
 2 that ideological difference closely tracks with  
 3 race, corresponds to race?  
 4 A I don't know because I've never actually  
 5 seen a study on that, but I know from talking to  
 6 people, be they white or African-American or  
 7 Hispanic or Asian-American, it really starts with  
 8 their role of the federal government or what's the  
 9 role that should be of the federal government.  
 10 So, clearly you've got people in my district of  
 11 different races who see that in completely  
 12 different ways.  
 13 And so I think it's more of what's  
 14 happening across the country, that is that we have  
 15 difference -- those of us who view the federal  
 16 government as something that should be far more  
 17 active than some of the rest of us do.  
 18 Q Do you think African-Americans tend to  
 19 view the role of the federal government more  
 20 robustly as one that should be more active than  
 21 white Alabamans tend to view it?  
 22 A I think that -- I don't know about more

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1 What issues, if any, do you believe are  
 2 important to the African-American community in  
 3 your district?  
 4 A The same issues that are important to  
 5 the white people in my district. Their jobs, the  
 6 education of their children, the safety of their  
 7 homes and their community, the continuation of the  
 8 opportunities that have been afforded to them.  
 9 They want more opportunities for their children  
 10 and their grandchildren. I just don't see a  
 11 difference there. When you really sit down and  
 12 talk with them, as I do in my town hall  
 13 meetings -- I had one in Prichard on Friday, for  
 14 example. The main issue in my town hall meeting  
 15 on Friday was tolls for the new bridge coming  
 16 across I-10. And there were white and  
 17 African-American people there who had the same  
 18 type of disagreement with the tolls, same  
 19 intensity of disagreement with the tolls. It  
 20 didn't make any difference.  
 21 Q That was a green disagreement, right,  
 22 about how much green they're going to have to

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1 white Alabamans, but the African-Americans that I  
 2 have talked to about this express their desire to  
 3 have the federal government do more.  
 4 Q Would you say that's because those  
 5 African-Americans that you talked to view that as  
 6 in their interest?  
 7 A I'm not sure we drilled down that far to  
 8 know. Sometimes people will take an ideological  
 9 point of view that's not congruent with their  
 10 interests. So I can't say that for sure.  
 11 Q Okay. Do you believe that the needs of  
 12 African-Americans in your district differ from the  
 13 needs of other constituents in your district?  
 14 A No.  
 15 Q Why not?  
 16 A Because I think what people need is the  
 17 same. What they need from their families is the  
 18 same. What they need from their communities is  
 19 the same. What they need from their nation is the  
 20 same.  
 21 Q Do you have a sense of whether there are  
 22 certain -- let me strike that.

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1 spend.  
 2 A Most things are like that. In my  
 3 experience, most things are like that. People are  
 4 people are people are people. They  
 5 have the same concerns. You might find like, for  
 6 example, Friday, that one concern there is,  
 7 there's a community in Mobile County called  
 8 Africatown. And it's a very important community.  
 9 It's where the last group of slaves who were  
 10 illegally brought here, by the way, in 1860 or  
 11 1861, it's where they congregated and formed a  
 12 community. We just recently found the ship that  
 13 they came over on. It's a big deal.  
 14 Q I read about that.  
 15 A We've got some ideas on trying to build  
 16 on that and build that community. One concern  
 17 that they have that's specific to them, but this  
 18 is -- it's more geographic -- it's one of the  
 19 routes that people might take to get around the  
 20 bridge would come right through Africatown and  
 21 would harm, potentially, the activities a lot of  
 22 us are interested in looking at to try to build up

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1 Africatown. But I can tell you from talking to  
 2 the Mayor of Mobile, who happens to be white, that  
 3 that is not something that is white or  
 4 African-American. That is, hey, this is a major  
 5 opportunity for Mobile. Let's not let this bridge  
 6 thing mess up what could be a major opportunity.  
 7 But the -- but the concerns that people have were  
 8 the same.

9 Q What about in terms of socioeconomic  
 10 needs? I mean, does the African-American or at  
 11 least on average -- obviously all of these things  
 12 you can't -- you can't talk about everybody  
 13 because there are people of different  
 14 socioeconomic needs of all races -- but on  
 15 average, are the socioeconomic needs of  
 16 African-Americans in your district greater than  
 17 the socioeconomic needs of whites?

18 A Well, in general the answer is no, but  
 19 there are some specifics, I think, that are  
 20 important. This is not just true in Mobile  
 21 County. It's true in other places in Alabama.  
 22 Unfortunately a disproportionate number of

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1 African-American children are going to some of our  
 2 worse schools. If you want to give everybody an  
 3 opportunity in America, they got to get a good  
 4 quality education. So the one of the reasons why  
 5 I got so involved in education reform prior to  
 6 going to the school board was -- in my view was  
 7 the next real fight in the civil rights movement  
 8 is over education. How do we get quality  
 9 education to every child in Alabama, be they  
 10 white, be they African-American, be they Asian, be  
 11 they Hispanic. That should be something that we  
 12 should all be concerned about. But in terms of  
 13 the actual need, it's the same. It's just that  
 14 we've got a specific manifestation of it  
 15 disproportionately affecting young  
 16 African-Americans.

17 Q Would you say that the income level, the  
 18 average income level of African-Americans in your  
 19 district is lower than the average income of  
 20 whites in your district?

21 A I've not seen any data on that so I  
 22 can't give you an answer.

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1 Q Okay. What about educational  
 2 attainment, do you know whether there's a lower  
 3 level of educational attainment on average among  
 4 black -- blacks in your district than whites?

5 A Well, as I said earlier, I think some of  
 6 them got lower quality education, a  
 7 disproportionate number of them got lower quality  
 8 education. So I don't know the actual data, but I  
 9 would not be surprised to see -- if you don't get  
 10 education early, it tends to have a going-on  
 11 effect. You may not be able to get into college  
 12 or you may not think about going to college. So I  
 13 think it's one of the most important, if not the  
 14 most important thing we need to be working on is  
 15 how do we give everybody, wherever they come from,  
 16 whoever their parents are, the best possible  
 17 education we can give them.

18 Q That's right. You did speak to that.  
 19 Sorry to repeat, but what -- what about  
 20 healthcare, are there -- and health outcomes, have  
 21 you seen any data on whether African-Americans on  
 22 average in your district have kind of lower

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1 healthcare outcomes, greater healthcare needs than  
 2 whites on average in your district?

3 A I've not seen any data, but I've been  
 4 very involved with community health centers in my  
 5 district. In fact, I got an award for that.  
 6 Community health centers tend to be more prevalent  
 7 in African-American districts. They're not only  
 8 in African-American communities. So I do try to  
 9 work with community health centers because I think  
 10 that they're the best way to provide healthcare to  
 11 people that are in poor communities. And so I do  
 12 see that there's a need for us to do more with  
 13 those community health centers. I am glad to see  
 14 the University of South Alabama Medical Center  
 15 providing really good, quality healthcare to  
 16 everybody in our area. And it just happens to be  
 17 located in an African-American community. So the  
 18 people in that community are like right there,  
 19 easy for them to access. So I can't give you  
 20 anything from the data, but I do think that  
 21 there's a need for us to work harder at that.

22 Q Am I right that you supported the repeal

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1 of ObamaCare?  
 2 A I did.  
 3 Q Do you believe that most -- the majority  
 4 of African-Americans in your district supported  
 5 the repeal of ObamaCare?  
 6 A I don't know.  
 7 Q And from the people you've talked to,  
 8 the African-Americans you talked to in your  
 9 district, do you get the sense that they support  
 10 the repeal of ObamaCare?  
 11 A Some have told me that they do. Some  
 12 have told me that they don't. I can't quantify  
 13 that, though, because it's not like we  
 14 scientifically polled it or even tried to go out  
 15 and figure out the race of people who are  
 16 responding on the telephone or by email to the  
 17 office. But I have had African-Americans say that  
 18 they didn't like ObamaCare. They wanted us to do  
 19 something different.  
 20 Q Right.  
 21 A And I've had -- I have had  
 22 African-Americans say that they supported it. One

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1 that comes from the federal government community  
 2 health centers. I've forgotten the name of the  
 3 program. But in a community health center, you go  
 4 and they take care of you and have a sliding scale  
 5 of what you pay based on your income. It may be  
 6 that some people go into community health centers  
 7 have Medicaid. Some of them may be on Medicare.  
 8 Some of them I know, because I've talked to them,  
 9 are on private insurance and they prefer to use  
 10 their private insurance at a community health  
 11 center for all the reasons I said earlier. So I  
 12 don't know that it -- that they're benefiting any  
 13 more than any other healthcare institution is from  
 14 any expansion of Medicaid.  
 15 Q Has Alabama accepted the expansion of  
 16 Medicaid under ObamaCare?  
 17 A No.  
 18 Q That's not really an option, I guess,  
 19 for people who wouldn't otherwise qualify for  
 20 Medicaid, to take advantage of the expansion of  
 21 Medicaid under ObamaCare in Alabama.  
 22 A A lot of people who don't qualify for

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1 of the things that -- going back to community  
 2 health centers. 100 percent of African-Americans  
 3 that I've talked to about community health centers  
 4 like community health centers. That's one of the  
 5 reasons I'm so focused on community health  
 6 centers. The reason they are, as these community  
 7 health centers are located in their communities,  
 8 in their neighbors. It's easy -- it's easy for  
 9 them to physically access these centers. And the  
 10 centers are really set up to focus primarily on  
 11 the person. And so you can see where people would  
 12 say "I really like going there because they really  
 13 care about me." And so I do think that community  
 14 health centers are in my mind a big part of what  
 15 should be a solution to the healthcare problem  
 16 throughout America, particularly in my district,  
 17 and I think we could put more resources into that  
 18 by putting less resources into ObamaCare.  
 19 Q Are those community health centers  
 20 supported by the expansion of Medicaid under  
 21 ObamaCare?  
 22 A No, they're supported by direct money

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1 Medicaid are accessing healthcare through these  
 2 community health centers. And, as I say, they  
 3 take you regardless of your circumstances and  
 4 figure on the sliding scale how much you will  
 5 contribute.  
 6 Q Okay. Have you seen any polling either  
 7 in Alabama or nationwide about whether  
 8 African-Americans support the repeal of ObamaCare?  
 9 A I haven't.  
 10 Q Do you believe that African-Americans in  
 11 your district supported the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act?  
 12 A I'm not sure I've ever heard from an  
 13 African-American one way or the other. Let me  
 14 think about that for a second. I can't -- they  
 15 may have, but I can't recall any particular  
 16 conversation at this point in time.  
 17 Q Okay. About whether an African-American  
 18 or the African-American community at large  
 19 supports -- supported the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act?  
 20 A I don't remember any conversation about  
 21 that.  
 22 Q Okay. You were supportive of the Tax

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1 Cuts and Jobs Act.  
 2 A Oh, I absolutely was, yes, sir.  
 3 Q And have you -- since you've been a  
 4 congressman, have you taken a vote on the  
 5 reinstatement of kind of Section 4, Section 5 of  
 6 the Voting Rights Act?  
 7 A I don't believe I have. I don't think  
 8 we have. Yeah.  
 9 Q Are you familiar with HR 1, the For The  
 10 People Act which expands voter registration,  
 11 voting access that was passed this year?  
 12 A Yes.  
 13 Q It was passed by the House this year.  
 14 A Yes.  
 15 Q Were you in support of that?  
 16 A I was not.  
 17 Q And --  
 18 A But not because it did the things you  
 19 mentioned, but because of other things.  
 20 Q Why were you against it?  
 21 A Because they put a bunch of other stuff  
 22 in there that I thought was not germane to what it

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1 A No, there was a ton of stuff. One of  
 2 the things that disappointed me about that was, it  
 3 was a bill that was just loaded up. And a lot of  
 4 mistakes we make around here are when we take a  
 5 good idea, if this is a good idea, we start  
 6 loading other things on there. Then we destroy  
 7 the good idea. That's not a Republican or  
 8 Democrat thing, but everybody does that around  
 9 here from time to time.  
 10 Q Right.  
 11 A And I was disappointed in a bill that  
 12 could have been such a good bill that could have  
 13 gotten a lot of bipartisan support I think was put  
 14 together in such a way to where we were guaranteed  
 15 it was only going to be partisan.  
 16 Q Do you think that African-Americans in  
 17 your district on average support the measures that  
 18 were in HR 1?  
 19 A I've never had anybody in an  
 20 African-American community talk to me about HR 1.  
 21 Q What about -- would you support the  
 22 reinstatement of Section 5 of the Voting Rights

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1 was supposed to be about and I did not think would  
 2 be helpful to what we're trying to do in America.  
 3 I want everybody to vote, and I'm actually  
 4 encouraged by the number and percentage of people  
 5 that have been voting, particularly in Alabama,  
 6 these last two or three or four election cycles.  
 7 I'm pretty passionate about that. But I don't  
 8 think -- I think that bill, while it pretended to  
 9 be for that, I don't think it actually was going  
 10 to accomplish that. I think it did some other  
 11 things that I didn't think were pertinent to that  
 12 effort.  
 13 Q Do you recall what it was that you  
 14 didn't like about the bill?  
 15 A We can give a full breakdown. We had --  
 16 I think we put out a statement at the time or we  
 17 can give you something. But that bill was pretty  
 18 vague and complex. It would take me a while to  
 19 take you through everything that was a problem  
 20 with it.  
 21 Q Okay. I just didn't know if there was  
 22 any like major thing that stood out.

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1 Act? This is the portion that was struck down by  
 2 the --  
 3 A The formula?  
 4 Q Yes. Yes.  
 5 A The formula? No. I think there's a  
 6 better way to do that.  
 7 Q And what's that?  
 8 A I think we should have it apply to  
 9 everybody in America.  
 10 Q You would support something that would  
 11 apply essentially to the preclearance review to  
 12 all states?  
 13 A Yes, what I keep saying is, if it's good  
 14 enough for Alabama, why isn't it good enough for  
 15 California? Are we saying Alabama is more racist  
 16 than California? Are we saying Alabama is more  
 17 racist than Missouri? Are we saying Alabama is  
 18 more racist than Maryland? Because if you look at  
 19 what's happened in the last several years, you'll  
 20 find more racial incidences in places like that  
 21 than you will in Alabama, yet we're going to take  
 22 a law and formula and use it to only focus on a

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1 few parts of America. If it's good for Alabama,  
 2 it's good enough for everybody.  
 3 Q Right. And I'm not -- I'm not  
 4 disagreeing with that at all. But there was like  
 5 a coverage formula that, you know, involved  
 6 looking at registration rates and --  
 7 A Which I think was prejudicial to  
 8 Alabama, and I'm afraid a new one would be equally  
 9 prejudicial. That's why I said the easiest way to  
 10 do this is, if we're going to do this at all,  
 11 apply it to everybody.  
 12 Q Would you support that? Would you  
 13 support reinstating a preclearance regime if it  
 14 applied to all states?  
 15 MR. DAVIS: Object to form.  
 16 Q Go ahead.  
 17 A When that is conjoined with some other  
 18 things, I might. For example, I don't think you  
 19 should have preclearance. I think maybe the best  
 20 way to do it is tell everybody in America, every  
 21 local, state, et cetera, jurisdiction, you submit  
 22 to the Justice Department before you implemented

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1 the things that preclearance states you used to  
 2 have to do. And that gives a heads-up to the  
 3 Justice Department. If they want to bring an  
 4 action in Federal Court, they can because they  
 5 have that power to do that today, the Justice  
 6 Department does today. Private individuals have  
 7 the right to do that today. That wasn't taken  
 8 away by the Supreme Court ruling. I just don't  
 9 want Alabama to be singled out, and I think we  
 10 have been. I think in the last couple, three  
 11 decades that's been unfair, and I don't want that  
 12 -- I'm not going to vote for something that  
 13 singles out Alabama in a negative way like that.  
 14 Q I mean, you would agree with me, though,  
 15 that there was -- there was quite a history in  
 16 Alabama of suppressing black voting rights.  
 17 A Oh, yes. I mean, prior to the civil  
 18 rights laws in the 1960s, sure there were. But  
 19 we're 50-plus years past that. And there's been a  
 20 dramatic change in Alabama. I was a kid in the  
 21 '60s so I wasn't an adult when all of that was  
 22 going on, but I know the difference between the

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1 way things were in the '60s and the way they are  
 2 today, and they're dramatically different.  
 3 Q Do you -- do you know whether your  
 4 African-American constituents agree with you that  
 5 that preclearance regime shouldn't be  
 6 reimplemented, whether it's implemented just for  
 7 Alabama or for the whole country?  
 8 A Never had an African-American  
 9 constituent talk about that with me.  
 10 Q Do you know what position the state  
 11 NAACP in Alabama has taken on that issue?  
 12 A I don't.  
 13 Q Do you know the current president of the  
 14 state NAACP?  
 15 A I don't think I do.  
 16 Q I assume you haven't met with the  
 17 president of the NAACP of the State of Alabama?  
 18 A I don't think we've had a request from  
 19 the state or local NAACP for a meeting. We take a  
 20 lot of meetings with groups. We can't always give  
 21 it to them exactly when they want them, but when  
 22 they make a request, we try to figure out a way to

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1 set up the meeting. And I just can't recall ever  
 2 getting a request for a meeting from them.  
 3 Q Okay. I take it from your answer, then,  
 4 it sounds like you haven't met with the local  
 5 NAACP?  
 6 A I don't -- well, not formally. There  
 7 may be some members of that group that have met  
 8 with me in other ways.  
 9 Q Yes.  
 10 A But -- and we have people that come to  
 11 my town hall meetings. I have no idea whether  
 12 they are or they aren't.  
 13 Q Right.  
 14 A There are times where they identify  
 15 themselves, but it's not unusual for them to come  
 16 and not identify themselves as being a member of  
 17 this group or that group. So I could have had a  
 18 large number of members --  
 19 Q Sure, right.  
 20 A -- of the local NAACP be at a town hall  
 21 meeting and I wouldn't know it.  
 22 Q Right. But it's not like you -- you

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1 haven't had a meeting with, say, the president of  
 2 the City of Mobile's NAACP chapter?  
 3 A I don't think I have. I don't think  
 4 they have requested one.  
 5 Q Have you ever requested one of them?  
 6 A No. I mean, I typically don't request  
 7 meetings with people. They request meetings with  
 8 me. I was telling you earlier, there's only so  
 9 many hours in the day.  
 10 Q Sure.  
 11 A I try to respond to other -- my  
 12 constituents' request. There are times when I  
 13 reach out to a group, but there's usually a  
 14 particular reason for that, some event has  
 15 occurred or something that does involve my job  
 16 where I feel like, hey, I need to go out and reach  
 17 out to them.  
 18 Q Sure.  
 19 A But in 90-plus percent of the cases,  
 20 people are calling up and say we want to meet with  
 21 our congressman, and my staff tries to figure out  
 22 how to fit it into my schedule.

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1 have to go back through my calendar going back to  
 2 when I started. I meet with a lot of  
 3 African-Americans. I don't always know, as I said  
 4 --  
 5 Q Who they're affiliated with?  
 6 A -- who they're affiliated with because  
 7 they tend to come to me because of a concern about  
 8 a particular issue. So we're being responsive to  
 9 a particular issue.  
 10 Q Sure.  
 11 A They may be there as part of a group and  
 12 I just don't know it.  
 13 Q Yes, totally understand. I know a lot  
 14 of -- the job of a Congress person, you're mainly  
 15 doing a lot of what is constituent services,  
 16 right?  
 17 A Right.  
 18 Q It's not a Republican or Democratic  
 19 issue.  
 20 A Oh, yeah, and sometimes it may be a  
 21 concern -- a specific concern for a community.  
 22 Q Right.

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1 Q Is there an Urban League Chapter in  
 2 Mobile?  
 3 A I don't know of one if there is.  
 4 Q I assume you haven't met with the head  
 5 of the Urban League in the City of Mobile?  
 6 A I don't think I've ever had a request  
 7 from them for a meeting.  
 8 Q Are you familiar with an organization  
 9 called LULAC? It's the League of United Latin  
 10 American Citizens.  
 11 A I'm not familiar with them.  
 12 Q I think I got -- I think I probably got  
 13 the acronym a little bit wrong. It's Swedish  
 14 LULAC, but I got the -- I think I mixed up the  
 15 words. But you never met with LULAC, I take it,  
 16 either?  
 17 A Not that I know of.  
 18 Q Are there any other African-American or  
 19 Latino or Hispanic-focused organizations like the  
 20 NAACP, like the urban league, that you have taken  
 21 a meeting with since you've been congressman?  
 22 A I've met with so many groups. I would

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1 A And you may have a group of people come  
 2 to see you because of that concern for that  
 3 community, but you don't necessarily know what  
 4 organizations they're with or not. They're just  
 5 there because they all agree about this one issue.  
 6 And so we try to take -- if somebody asks for a  
 7 meeting, we try to figure out a way to make that  
 8 meeting happen. We try to figure out a way to  
 9 make it happen as close to where they live as we  
 10 can because I know it's difficult for people to  
 11 come to places. So I frequently try to go out to  
 12 people. So if a group in a community says we need  
 13 to meet with you about X, if it's possible, I try  
 14 to go out to them. It's not always possible  
 15 because of my schedule having to be up here voting  
 16 so much. So sometimes they have to come to my  
 17 office, but I prefer to go to them.  
 18 Q You mentioned town halls. Have you had  
 19 town halls in the City of Mobile?  
 20 A Oh, yes. Lots of them.  
 21 Q Have you had town halls in kind of  
 22 African-American residential sections of Mobile?

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1 A I have.  
 2 Q Tell me about that.  
 3 A Well, it's more than once. It goes back  
 4 several years from now. We just pick places -- what  
 5 try -- we don't stay in the same place.  
 6 Q Right.  
 7 A So I've had them downtown. Downtown is  
 8 -- tends to be more African-American than not.  
 9 We've had them in -- there's a high school in what  
 10 I was calling the southern part of Mobile.  
 11 There's a high school there that we had a town  
 12 hall in, which was more memorable for me because  
 13 we had a lot of planned parenthood people there.  
 14 We didn't know that we were going to have that.  
 15 Instead of being focused on that community, which  
 16 is what I like my town halls to be on, we had a  
 17 lot of planned parenthood people that showed up  
 18 for some reason.  
 19 We've had lots of meetings in -- this is  
 20 just outside the city limits of Mobile in  
 21 Prichard, like we just had one last week. I think  
 22 we -- some of the data I told you, I think we

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1 Q What about on issues of civil rights? I  
 2 know that that's kind of a broad term. Have you  
 3 had African-Americans at any of these town halls  
 4 or elsewhere express to you that they disagreed  
 5 with your position on civil rights?  
 6 A Not civil rights per se. It may be a  
 7 particular issue that someone might associate with  
 8 civil rights.  
 9 Q Can you give me an example?  
 10 A Well, I'm trying to think of one because  
 11 I said might.  
 12 Q Right. Right.  
 13 A I do remember one of the times that I  
 14 ran, I ran against a Democrat by the name of  
 15 Burton LaFlore. I think Burton raised something  
 16 in that race, but it's been several years ago and  
 17 I don't recall now exactly what it was.  
 18 Q Right.  
 19 I forgot to ask you about one -- when we  
 20 were talking about the various bills, the First  
 21 Step Act involving federal sentencing and prison  
 22 laws.

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1 found out that almost half of my town halls are in  
 2 African-American communities, but that's spread  
 3 out all over the district, not just the City of  
 4 Mobile.  
 5 Q Have any people at those town halls, any  
 6 African-Americans expressed any disagreement with  
 7 your stances on any particular bill or issues?  
 8 A Yes. I have -- in my town halls it's  
 9 not unusual for people of all races to disagree  
 10 with me. That's why I have my town halls.  
 11 Q It comes with the territory.  
 12 A Yes, that's why I have my town halls. I  
 13 think people deserve to have their representative  
 14 come to their communities and listen to them. And  
 15 so it's not infrequent that I go to a town hall  
 16 and have people stand up and disagree with me.  
 17 I've had African-Americans disagree with me. I've  
 18 had white people disagree with me, some of them my  
 19 friends. But that's the essence of being a  
 20 congressman. If you only hear what you want to  
 21 hear, you're not going to be a very good  
 22 congressman.

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1 A Oh, yes.  
 2 Q Did you --  
 3 A The one that the President supported?  
 4 Q Yes.  
 5 A I did not support that.  
 6 Q Okay. Why didn't you?  
 7 A Because I thought that it had the  
 8 potential for releasing people too early who had  
 9 committed some pretty serious crimes, not just  
 10 possession, but people were actually actively  
 11 involved in the distribution of very dangerous  
 12 drugs. I'm much more concerned about the people  
 13 that are involved in distributing the drugs than I  
 14 am the people that are using the drugs. The  
 15 people that use the drugs need help. The people  
 16 who are distributing the drugs need to be put in  
 17 jail and stay in jail.  
 18 Q Do you remember whether  
 19 African-Americans in your district supported the  
 20 First Step Act?  
 21 A Never heard anything from any of them  
 22 about that.

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1 Q Let me just take a quick look at my  
2 notes. I think we're getting close to the end  
3 here.  
4 A Sure.  
5 (Discussion off the record.)  
6 Q Just one more. Are you familiar with  
7 the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the  
8 SCLC?  
9 A Oh, yes.  
10 Q Do you know who the Alabama chapter  
11 president is of that now?  
12 A I do not.  
13 Q Have you met with them?  
14 A I don't believe they've ever requested a  
15 meeting, but I'm obviously familiar with that  
16 group.  
17 Q Famous -- has a famous founder, right?  
18 A Absolutely. Representative Sewell  
19 brings a group down, we call it The Pilgrimage  
20 every year. It's really sponsored by a group  
21 called Faith In Politics. So I've tried to  
22 participate in that every year. I've been very

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1 interested in the civil rights movement going back  
2 several years. I've got a lot of books about it.  
3 And my wife's family was sort of around it. She  
4 lived in Montgomery. Her parents -- her mother in  
5 particular were friends with some of the people  
6 who were very active in the civil rights movement  
7 in the Montgomery area. So I've always been  
8 interested in it. I'm very familiar with the  
9 history of it.  
10 I don't know who's in charge of it in  
11 Alabama right now, but if anybody in any of those  
12 groups wants a meeting with them, they're going to  
13 get it. And I'm probably seeing them at The  
14 Pilgrimage every year, but I don't always know  
15 who's who.  
16 Q Right.  
17 A And there's a lot of people there. But  
18 I love going to The Pilgrimage. I love the time  
19 we get to spend together talking about what  
20 happened in the '60s and '70s and what we can do  
21 to work together today.  
22 Q And tell me what that is again. You

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1 mentioned it briefly, what is The Pilgrimage?  
2 A There's a group here called Faith In  
3 Politics here in Washington. And they started  
4 working some years ago with Representative John  
5 Lewis from Georgia. And they bring people to  
6 Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma. They call it  
7 The Pilgrimage because it's like coming back. Not  
8 only do they go -- we go to the main sites of  
9 civil rights actions in Birmingham and Montgomery  
10 and Selma, but we have programs as part of it.  
11 People make presentations. When Representative  
12 Sewell was elected, because she's from Selma,  
13 she's a daughter of Selma.  
14 Q Right. Yes.  
15 A She became a lot more active in it.  
16 After I was elected, she said -- knowing me like  
17 she did, she said, "Bradley, you need to be  
18 involved in The Pilgrimage. I said, "What is it?"  
19 She told me. I said, "Wow, that's really cool."  
20 So we participated at least in some part of it  
21 every year since my first year. I couldn't do it  
22 my first year because I had a conflict. So we

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1 were actually there with John Lewis and all of  
2 them for the 50th Anniversary of the Selma to  
3 Montgomery march, which was one of my sort of top  
4 10 experiences in my life to be with John Lewis at  
5 that very important -- President Obama spoke, as  
6 you probably know, in Selma. That was a really  
7 cool experience.  
8 What I'm saying is, I'm probably talking  
9 to some of the people you're talking about when  
10 I'm at The Pilgrimage every year, but I don't  
11 always know who's an officer of what because --  
12 Q Sure.  
13 A -- I know it's important, but we're so  
14 caught up in what's going on with the event of  
15 that day.  
16 Q Sure.  
17 Give me just one second to confer with  
18 my co-counsel --  
19 A Sure.  
20 Q -- the real brain here, and then --  
21 A I used to have one of those.  
22 MR. SPIVA: Thank you so much,

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Chestnut, et al., v. John H. Merrill

Congressman Bradley Byrne

1 Congressman Byrne. It's been a pleasure. I  
 2 appreciate you taking the time to do it.  
 3 THE WITNESS: Good to see you.  
 4 MR. SPIVA: We can go off the record.  
 5 Oh, sorry. You -- I'm sorry, Jim.  
 6 MR. DAVIS: It's okay. For the record,  
 7 I do not have any questions.  
 8 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: That's what I was  
 9 waiting for. Okay. The time is 11:49 a.m., July  
 10 24th, 2019. We are going off the record,  
 11 completing the videotaped deposition.  
 12  
 13 (Signature having not been waived, the  
 14 deposition of Congressman Bradley Byrne was concluded  
 15 at 11:48 a.m.)  
 16  
 17  
 18  
 19  
 20  
 21  
 22

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1 Congressman Bradley Byrne, c/o  
 Office of the Attorney General  
 2 501 Washington Avenue  
 Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0152  
 3  
 4 Case: Lakeisha Chestnut, et al., v. John H. Merrill  
 Date of deposition: July 24, 2019  
 5 Deponent: Congressman Bradley Byrne  
 6  
 7 Please be advised that the transcript in the above  
 8 referenced matter is now complete and ready for signature.  
 9 The deponent may come to this office to sign the transcript,  
 10 a copy may be purchased for the witness to review and sign,  
 11 or the deponent and/or counsel may waive the option of  
 12 signing. Please advise us of the option selected.  
 13 Please forward the errata sheet and the original signed  
 14 signature page to counsel noticing the deposition, noting the  
 15 applicable time period allowed for such by the governing  
 16 Rules of Procedure. If you have any questions, please do  
 17 not hesitate to call our office at (202)-232-0646.  
 18  
 19  
 20 Sincerely,  
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 22 express written consent.

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1 CERTIFICATE OF SHORTHAND REPORTER  
 2  
 3 I, Michele E. Eddy, Registered Professional  
 4 Reporter and Certified Realtime Reporter, the court  
 5 reporter before whom the foregoing deposition was  
 6 taken, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript  
 7 is a true and correct record of the testimony given;  
 8 that said testimony was taken by me stenographically  
 9 and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my  
 10 supervision; and that I am neither counsel for,  
 11 related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this  
 12 case and have no interest, financial or otherwise, in  
 13 its outcome.  
 14 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my  
 15 hand and affixed my notarial seal this 28th day of  
 16 July, 2019.  
 17  
 18 My commission expires July 14, 2022  
 19  
 20 \_\_\_\_\_  
 MICHELE E. EDDY  
 21 NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR  
 22 THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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1 Digital Evidence Group, L.L.C.  
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 2 Washington, D.C. 20036  
 (202) 232-0646  
 3  
 4 SIGNATURE PAGE  
 Case: Lakeisha Chestnut, et al., v. John H. Merrill  
 5 Witness Name: Congressman Bradley Byrne  
 Deposition Date: July 24, 2019  
 6  
 7 I do hereby acknowledge that I have read  
 8 and examined the foregoing pages  
 of the transcript of my deposition and that:  
 9  
 10 (Check appropriate box):  
 11 ( ) The same is a true, correct and  
 complete transcription of the answers given by  
 me to the questions therein recorded.  
 12 ( ) Except for the changes noted in the  
 attached Errata Sheet, the same is a true,  
 13 correct and complete transcription of the  
 answers given by me to the questions therein  
 recorded.  
 14  
 15 \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE WITNESS SIGNATURE  
 16  
 17  
 18  
 19  
 20 \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE NOTARY  
 21  
 22

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Pages 114 to 117

7/24/2019

Chestnut, et al., v. John H. Merrill

Congressman Bradley Byrne

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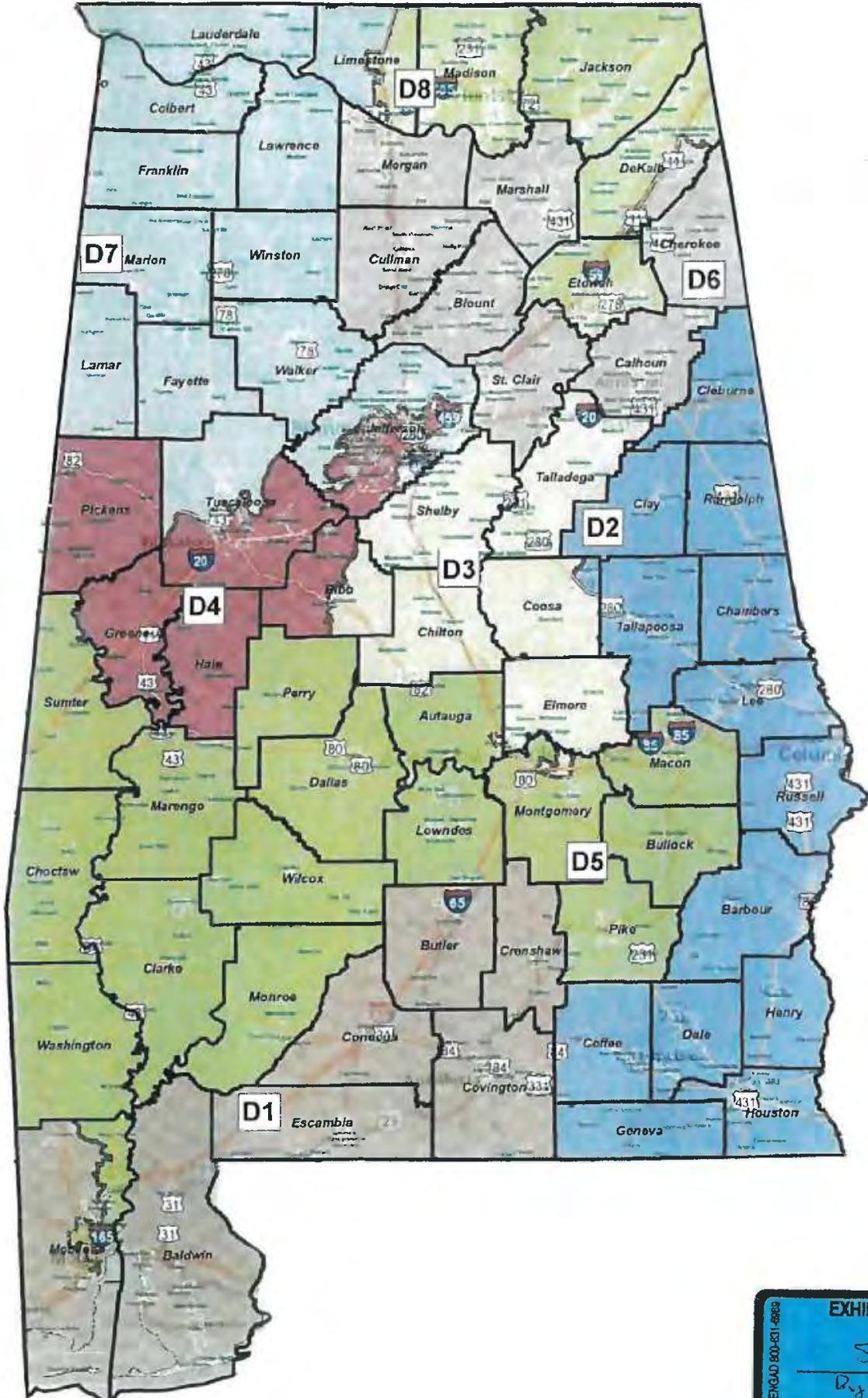


EXHIBIT  
5  
Rymer







