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1 PERMANENT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

2 ON REAPPORTIONMENT

3 PUBLIC HEARING

4
5 DATE: SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2021

6 TIME: 2:00 PM CST

7 LOCATION: FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA

8
9
10 Senator Jim McClendon, State Representative

11 Chris Pringle, Attorney Dorman Walker are in

12 attendance virtually.

1 SENATOR MCCLENDON: Welcome,
2 everybody. Thank you for joining us today.
3 This is the 27th of 28 public hearings we
4 have held around the state of Alabama. My
5 name is Jim McClendon, and I am the Senate
6 Chair of Redistricting. On my right is
7 Representative Chris Pringle, who is the
8 House Chair of Redistricting. And on my
9 left is Mr. Dorman Walker. Mr. Walker is an
10 attorney and works for the Redistricting
11 Committee. And Mr. Walker will be your
12 hearing officer today. Every ten years the
13 census is done in order not only to count
14 people and find out what the numbers are in
15 each district but to find out where the
16 people are living in each district. Ten
17 years ago we redistricted, and we had ideal
18 district sizes at that time. And people
19 move. They move in; they move out. And we
20 get away from the concept of one person, one
21 vote. And so the purpose of redistricting
22 is to go back and redraw the lines to
23 reestablish the ideal numbers for each
24 district. This Committee, Redistricting
25 Committee will be concerned with, of course,

1 redistricting the Alabama Senate, Alabama
2 House, the State Board of Education, and the
3 Congressional districts. You are here with
4 us, and we welcome your comments and your
5 testimony, and your suggestions on how we go
6 about doing this, and what you would like to
7 see done in your area. We establish an
8 ideal number for House and Senate districts,
9 and the others as well. On the House --
10 everybody coming online, please mute your
11 microphone and turn your camera off. You'll
12 have a chance to participate in this after
13 folks in the audience speak to us live. An
14 ideal Senate district is 143,551, and an
15 ideal House district is 47,850. So, what
16 happens is districts change over time, and
17 it's our job to go back and make the lasso
18 bigger or smaller to get to the correct
19 number. To give you an idea of some House
20 and Senate districts in your area and what
21 has happened with the population, for
22 example, Senate 22 has lost about -- it's
23 about 7,600 under the ideal amount. Senate
24 32 is about 33,600 over. Senate 34 is
25 about 5,500 over. So, those districts where

1 they've got more people than they need, we
2 have got to rearrange the lines. Now, one
3 thing that can happen is a district can end
4 up after we do the census count and they
5 have about the right number of people in it,
6 and you would think we wouldn't have to mess
7 with that district, but what happens is that
8 the adjacent district might have a big
9 increase or decrease in population. So,
10 when the lines shift on one district, it's
11 bound to affect an adjacent district. As
12 far as the House districts in your area --
13 let's see here. 64, House 64 is up by 4,600.
14 66 -- that is yours, Representative Baker --
15 is down by about 1,600. 92, House District
16 92 is down by 3,200. These are round
17 numbers. 3,200. 94, that is Representative
18 Faust, is up by 11,600. 95 is up by 14,600
19 people. 96 is up by 8,300. And 98 is down
20 by 5,300. So, you can see there is major
21 changes. This is no surprise. We saw it
22 coming, and you saw it coming, too. There
23 is big, big changes down at that end of the
24 state, and our job is to get those back in
25 balance. Let me introduce to you State

1 Representative Chris Pringle. Chris?

2 REPRESENTATIVE PRINGLE: Thank
3 you, Senator. It's a pleasure to be with
4 you. It's a pleasure to see so many
5 distinguished friends in the audience. I'm
6 glad you could join us. Today we will call
7 you to speak in the order in which you
8 signed up. Each speaker will be limited to
9 three minutes. If you need more time, at the
10 end, we'll come back and around and let you
11 speak. When called, please come to the
12 microphone, clearly state your name and
13 spell it, and identify which community you
14 represent or which district or districts you
15 would like to speak about. If you decide
16 you would like to speak but have not signed
17 up, at the end we will ask anybody who would
18 like to come forward and speak. If you are
19 participating remotely, send your questions,
20 and we will read them into the record. This
21 hearing is being transcribed by a court
22 reporter working remotely. If you have
23 something you would like to introduce into
24 the record or an exhibit, bring it to the
25 microphone with you and leave it with the

1 hearing officer in the room. They will get
2 that to us, and we will have it entered into
3 the permanent record of this Committee.
4 Today's public hearing is on the issue of
5 redistricting. We're not here to discuss
6 any issue pending before the Legislature
7 outside of that one particular issue. So,
8 please keep all your comments germane to
9 that. With that, I'm going to turn it over
10 to Mr. Dorman Walker, who will be your
11 hearing officer. Thank you for attending.

12 MR. WALKER: Thank you,
13 Representative Pringle, and thank you,
14 Coastal Alabama, Fairhope campus for hosting
15 this. Thank you for those of you who are
16 attending in the auditorium today and
17 attending online. Your participation is
18 important. It's important for the
19 Legislature to hear what you have to say
20 about how the lines should be drawn. Before
21 we start taking testimony today, I want to
22 go over with you the process that the
23 Legislature is going through and also go
24 over with you some of the rules that the
25 Legislature has to follow as it draws

1 districts. Senator McClendon talked about
2 ideal population. If you're not familiar
3 with that term, it's simply the new state
4 population, which I'm going to say is 5
5 million. It's a little more than that, but
6 let's just round it to 5 million. Divided by
7 the number of districts at issue. So, if
8 you're trying find the ideal population for
9 the Senate, you divide 5 million by 35
10 because we have 35 Senate districts. If you
11 want to find the ideal population for the
12 House, you do 105. And, of course, 8 for
13 the State Board of Education, 7 for
14 Congress. So, going back to the Senate, if
15 you divide the state's population by the 35
16 districts, you get the ideal population of
17 143,551. So, ideally, after redistricting,
18 every Senate district should have 143,551
19 people in it, except, fortunately, the
20 Legislature has allowed itself a little
21 leeway. And it can vary from that ideal
22 population for the House, Senate, and State
23 Board of Education districts by 5% either
24 above or below. So, the Legislature can
25 populate a Senate district anywhere from

1 136,373 to 150,759. -729. Excuse me. And
2 that leeway allows the Legislature the
3 ability to accommodate traditional
4 districting objectives, such as preserving
5 the integrity of political subdivisions,
6 maintaining communities of interest, and
7 creating geographically compact districts.
8 Congressional districts do not have the same
9 latitude. They must be drawn as equally as
10 possible. I'm not sure if it was Senator
11 McClendon or Representative Pringle that
12 said this is our next to the last hearing.
13 We have been doing hearings since the 1st of
14 September. All of the hearings are being
15 transcribed by a court reporter. And those
16 transcripts will be posted online fairly
17 soon. All you do if want to see them is
18 Google "Alabama Legislature," and there
19 will be a tab for reapportionment. I know
20 what we are really doing is redistricting,
21 but the word "reapportionment" somehow got
22 in there long ago, and that is what we're
23 stuck with. "Reapportionment," click that,
24 and you will get to a series of folders, one
25 for each hearing. You can read the

1 transcript of the testimony received at that
2 hearing, as well as look at any exhibits
3 that were received at that hearing. In
4 addition, there will be a folder for other
5 comments that were received not in
6 connection with the hearing, and you can see
7 those comments, too. I will just say that
8 if you're participating here today, if
9 you're in the auditorium or participating
10 remotely, now is the best time to give us
11 your comments. However, if you want to
12 submit something separately, the sooner you
13 do that, the better, if you want somebody to
14 look at it. Right now members of the State
15 Board of Education, the Congressional
16 staffers, and legislators are meeting with
17 our map drawer and talking about their
18 districts. And that is something that
19 requires a high degree of coordination
20 because one district may need to lose
21 population, and there needs to be a
22 determination made of what makes sense for
23 that district to shed, and there are a lot
24 of factors that go into that, while some
25 adjoining districting may need to gain or

1 may also need to shed. No single district
2 can act alone, if you will. There has to be
3 coordination among them that has to be
4 worked out. But, ultimately, there will
5 come forth Congressional, State Board of
6 Education, and legislative plans from the
7 Committee. And when Governor Kay Ivey calls
8 a special sessional for redistricting, I
9 imagine that those bills will be prefiled
10 and you can go -- once the special session
11 is called, you can go to the legislative
12 website and look at those prefiled bills if
13 you want to. There will be other people,
14 other legislators also that will be
15 submitting bills. We know that, for
16 example, Senator Singleton has said that he
17 is going to sponsor a draft bill for the
18 Congressional districts. It's a bill that,
19 of course, has seven Congressional
20 districts, does not split any counties,
21 varies from ideal population by about 2.44%,
22 which is unusual, and does not have any
23 majority black districts, instead has
24 districts that one has about 40% black
25 voting age population, and the other a 45%

1 black voting age population. So, it has the
2 opportunity for there to be two members of
3 the Alabama delegation who are the candidate
4 of choice of black voters, but it doesn't
5 necessarily guarantee that. And there will
6 be other legislators who introduce other
7 plans, too. If you have a plan that you
8 want to be considered, you're welcome to
9 submit it. However, if you want it to be
10 considered by the Legislature as a whole,
11 you need to get a legislator to sponsor that
12 and introduce it as a bill. When the
13 special session is called, the Legislature
14 will convene, and there will be committee
15 hearings about the bills. My understanding
16 at the time is that those will be public.
17 People who are vaccinated will not need to
18 mask. People who are not vaccinated can
19 attend but must mask. That, of course,
20 could change. But in addition, those
21 hearings will be live streamed, as will the
22 legislative session itself. So, that is the
23 process we're in. Next, I would like to
24 talk about the rules that the Legislature
25 has for drawing districts. It can't simply

1 draw them any way it wants. It has to
2 comply with the requirements of the federal
3 and state Constitution and federal and state
4 law, as well as it has to comply with
5 race-neutral redistricting criteria that the
6 Legislature has adopted for itself. So,
7 let's go over what those are. Foremost and
8 non negotiable are two: One is one person,
9 one vote, which is a fancy way of saying
10 that after redistricting all of the
11 districts must have identical population if
12 they're Congressional, or near identical
13 population if they're State Board of
14 Education or legislative. And in addition,
15 the Legislature will not pass any
16 redistricting plan that it understands
17 discriminates on the basis of race, color,
18 or membership in a language minority group.
19 And if you wonder where that phrase comes
20 from, it comes from Section 2 of the Voting
21 Rights Act, which is the workhorse,
22 antidiscrimination provision of the Voting
23 Rights Act. In addition, no district will
24 be drawn in a manner that subordinates
25 race-neutral criteria -- and I'll go over

1 what those are in a second -- to
2 considerations of race, color, or membership
3 in a language minority group, except that
4 race, color, or membership in a language
5 minority group may predominate over
6 race-neutral redistricting criteria if there
7 is a strong basis in evidence to do so in
8 order to comply with Section 2. The Supreme
9 Court has defined a strong basis in evidence
10 as a good reason to believe that race must
11 be used in order to satisfy the Voting
12 Rights Act. Now, the race-neutral
13 districting criteria that the Legislature
14 has adopted are not really unique to
15 Alabama. You can find almost all of these
16 in other states around the nation. Some
17 states have slightly different versions or
18 have rules that are unique to those states
19 or the interest of those states. But
20 generally, Alabama's version of guidelines
21 are what you would find in almost any other
22 state. And they include a requirement that
23 districts be reasonably compact. That is a
24 relative term. Obviously, a Congressional
25 district is going to be much larger than a

1 House district, but both have to be compact
2 within the context of their plans. Another
3 is that all districts should be drawn to
4 reflect the democratic will of the people.
5 That is one of the reasons for these
6 hearings and why your participation is so
7 important, so that the Legislature can have
8 input from the people about how those
9 districts should be redrawn. Districts are
10 drawn on the basis of total population. The
11 census gives us lots of different ways of
12 reporting information about the population.
13 We could get, for example, the population of
14 all people who work in forestry or all
15 people who have graduate degrees or all
16 people who are of a certain age. But we
17 don't use that. We use the broadest
18 classification of population the census
19 gives us, which is the total population of
20 the state or of a district on census day,
21 April 1, 2020. And that, obviously,
22 includes a lot of people who can't vote,
23 such as minors, or people who are not yet
24 eighteen, people who have lost the ability
25 to vote because they have committed certain

1 crimes, people who are residing in Alabama
2 but are not citizens, or people who are not
3 citizens of the United States. So, even
4 though many of these people can't vote, by
5 long tradition, total population is used to
6 draw districts, although at times we will
7 look at voting age population, that is the
8 population eighteen and older, as necessary
9 to ensure compliance with the Voting Rights
10 Act. The Legislature has to draw 35 Senate
11 districts, and it has to draw 105 House
12 districts, although the Constitution would
13 allow us to have 106 House districts. All
14 districts are single-member districts. That
15 means from each district only one person is
16 elected. In other places in the country,
17 there are multi-member districts from which
18 multiple people can be elected from the same
19 district. We don't have that. Another one
20 of the criteria is that contests between
21 incumbents will be avoided whenever
22 possible, and contiguity among districts is
23 required, which means every point on the
24 boundary of a district must be tangent to a
25 point of another district or one of the

1 Alabama boundaries. Contiguity across water
2 is allowed. So, for example, if we have a
3 district that spans Mobile Bay, the fact
4 that it doesn't physically connect doesn't
5 mean it's not contiguous, because contiguity
6 across water is allowed. Districts shall
7 respect communities of interest,
8 neighborhoods, and political subdivisions to
9 the extent practicable. A community of
10 interest is defined as an area with
11 recognized similarities of interest,
12 including but not limited to ethnic, racial,
13 economic, tribal, social, geographic, and
14 historical identities. Under certain
15 circumstances, the term "communities of
16 interest" may also include political
17 subdivisions, such as counties, voting
18 precincts, municipalities, tribes, and
19 reservations -- tribal lands, and
20 reservations, and school districts. The
21 discernment, weighing, and balancing of the
22 varied factors that contribute to
23 communities of interest is an intensely
24 political process best carried out by
25 elected representatives of the people. Let

1 me just add that perhaps among the most
2 helpful testimony that the Committee can
3 receive is testimony that you might be able
4 to give about communities of interest that
5 need to be respected when lines are
6 redrawn. Districts should be reasonably
7 compact, and districts should be drawn to
8 contain the minimum amount of counties. In
9 addition, the Legislature will try to
10 preserve the core of existing districts. In
11 establishing legislative districts, the
12 Reapportionment Committee and the
13 Legislature give due consideration to all of
14 these criteria, but as indicated, the two
15 overarching and non negotiable criteria are
16 equality of population and
17 nondiscrimination. In addition, among the
18 race-neutral districting criteria, there may
19 be times when those conflicts, and the
20 Legislature will have to at its own
21 discretion determine which one takes
22 priority. We're ready now to receive public
23 comments. I will start first with the
24 people that are in the auditorium at Coastal
25 Alabama, Fairhope, and then I will see if

1 anyone who is online wants to make a
2 comment. If you're online and you want to
3 make a comment, please raise your hand or
4 send in a comment by chat, and it will be
5 read into the record. And then I will go
6 back again and see if anybody wants to speak
7 before closing the hearing. The first
8 person who has indicated they want to speak
9 is -- I think it's Ms. Sonenstein. I can't
10 read the first name. Forgive me. If you
11 would, come up to the -- before you speak,
12 let me ask, are there any members of the
13 media present in the auditorium? If there
14 are, would you identify yourself? We just
15 like to have some idea about coverage. Yes,
16 sir. What media do you represent?

17 FROM THE FLOOR: (Inaudible).

18 MR. WALKER: We couldn't quite
19 hear you.

20 FROM THE FLOOR: Al.com.

21 MR. WALKER: Oh. Okay. Thank you.
22 All right. Ms. Sonenstein? Are any media
23 online? If you are, please send in a
24 message by chat. Yes, ma'am. Would you
25 mind spelling your first and last name?

1 MS. SONENSTEIN: I would be happy
2 to. It's Freya, F-r-e-y-a, last name
3 Sonenstein.

4 MR. WALKER: I'm so sorry.

5 MS. SONENSTEIN: No problem.
6 It's something I experience all the time.
7 Good afternoon. I want to start by
8 thanking the Coastal Community College and
9 the Committee for hosting these hearings
10 where you will hear the concerns of our
11 residents regarding the redistricting
12 efforts following the release of the 2020 US
13 census. I grew up in Baldwin County, and I
14 retired here close to a decade ago. And I'm
15 speaking today for the League of Women
16 Voters of Baldwin County. The League of
17 Women Voters is a non partisan organization
18 that does not endorse specific candidates or
19 political parties. Our vision is to empower
20 all voters and to defend democracy. As
21 Alabama faces the challenges of
22 redistricting, we ask you to make sure that
23 the Congressional districts are fairly
24 drawn. And we would ask you to have them
25 conform to the following mandated criteria:

1 That they're substantially equal in
2 population, geographaically connected, and
3 they respect communities of interest and the
4 integrity of municipalities and counties.
5 And I know you have already said that is
6 what you plan to do and are mandated to do.
7 And you have defined what communities of
8 interest are. Over the past seventy years
9 since I first lived here in Baldwin County,
10 it's undergone a massive transformation.
11 Increasingly, many of the farms and orchards
12 have turned into housing for newcomers
13 attracted to the quality of life of Baldwin
14 County. My own father and mother built one
15 of the first houses in the Spanish Fort
16 development that foretold what the future
17 would be here. This trend has continued
18 unabated, and the headlines for the 2020
19 census are that Baldwin County has
20 experienced massive growth. And you have
21 noted that in some of the growth of the
22 population in some of our legislative
23 districts. Baldwin County was the fastest
24 growing county in Alabama, and the seventh
25 faster growing county in the US. Clearly,

1 these populations shifts will mean that you
2 will need to reconsider the boundaries for
3 our Congressional District Number 1.
4 Certainly, there will no longer be a need to
5 add a portion of Clark County to the
6 district. As you propose a new
7 Congressional map for Alabama, we urge you
8 to correct the inequities in the current
9 map. Our Congressional map districts are
10 not compact. They do not follow county
11 boarders as Constitutionally prescribed, and
12 the strangely shaped District 7 appears to
13 have packed as many people of color into a
14 single district to ensure minority
15 representation in that district but weakens
16 minority and voting influence elsewhere in
17 the state. Seven counties are split in the
18 Congressional map, and it doesn't seem to be
19 a coincidence they include two of the most
20 popular cities in Alabama: Birmingham and
21 Montgomery. Surely, residents of a single
22 city and its surrounding metropolitan area
23 are a community of interest that should not
24 be split up. The League of Women Voters of
25 Baldwin County endorses a whole county

1 approach to redrawing the Congressional
2 map. This approach will correct some of the
3 current challenges to fair representation in
4 our state and provide all Alabama citizens
5 with better opportunity to participate fully
6 in the democratic process. Thank you for
7 the opportunity to provide this testimony.

8 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Ms.
9 Sonenstein. You've read your comments into
10 the record, but if you want to also to put
11 your written document there into the record,
12 give it to a coordinator there at the
13 auditorium, and it will be attached as an
14 exhibit to the transcript. You don't have to
15 do that, but just if you want to, you may.

16 MS. SONENSTEIN: I will be happy
17 to do that.

18 MR. WALKER: Thank you. Just to
19 follow up on your comments, I note that
20 Baldwin County's population increased over
21 the last ten years by just shy of 50,000
22 people and a little more than 25%, which is
23 a huge increase. The next person to speak
24 is Representative Bradley Byrne.

25 REPRESENTATIVE Byrne: Thank you,

1 Chairman McClendon, Chairman Pringle.
2 Thanks for doing this across the state of
3 Alabama. Thanks for being with us today. So,
4 I have represented District 1 in the Alabama
5 State School Board, District 32 in the
6 Alabama State Senate, and District 1 in the
7 US House of Representatives. I would like to
8 speak to each one of those. Let me start
9 with the state Senate seat. I know that that
10 Senate district has grown dramatically.
11 Supposedly it's designed to keep a community
12 of interest together that involves people
13 that live along the Baldwin County coastline
14 from the eastern shore down to our beach
15 communities in the southern part of the
16 county. They do form a community of
17 interest, and as difficult as it's going to
18 be to try to keep that community of interest
19 together, I would ask that the Committee and
20 the Legislature do so. So many issues that
21 involve those areas are common. Now, there
22 are some differences. I understand that.
23 But the commonalities far outweigh the
24 differences, and I hope that the Committee
25 and the Legislature will take those into

1 account. Let me talk about the
2 Congressional district. I understood what
3 the lady said before. I love my old
4 Congressional district. I hate to see any
5 part of it taken away, but I understand
6 there has been enough growth in Baldwin
7 County that it affects the Congressional
8 district, and there may have to be some
9 changes. Let me plea for this: Mobile and
10 Baldwin County need be kept together, and
11 they need to be kept whole. It would be
12 very difficult for a Congressman from
13 another area, particularly someone that
14 might have to come from Birmingham, through
15 Tuscaloosa, through Selma, to stay on top of
16 the myriad of issues that are so important
17 down here in this part of the state. So, I
18 ask the Committee and the Legislature to
19 keep District 1, Mobile and Baldwin County
20 in District 1, together and whole, and as
21 many of the present counties and places in
22 those counties kept in the district as
23 possible. It's a good district. There is a
24 genuine community of interest among those
25 areas as you represent somebody in the

1 United States House of Representatives. And
2 I think if you could keep that as much
3 together as you possibly can, that would
4 serve the people of this area well. Let me
5 come to the third one, which is the 1st
6 District on the State School Board. If I
7 had known the Legislature was going to make
8 the changes they made to that district last
9 time, I would have come to this hearing and
10 spoken out then. I think the Legislature
11 made a tremendous mistake when they drew
12 District 1. District 1 now has somebody
13 that represents part of it that comes from
14 Montgomery all the way into Mobile County.
15 Now, part of the job of being a State School
16 Board member is you have to stay in close
17 contact with each of your local school
18 districts and the schools in those
19 districts. So, we now have more than one
20 person representing the Mobile County School
21 District on the Alabama State School Board.
22 The Mobile County School District is the
23 single largest school district in the state
24 when it comes to student population. It
25 takes an enormous amount of time to stay in

1 touch with that district. I know. I did it
2 for eight years. And I think it's a
3 tremendous mistake to have somebody from
4 Montgomery trying to do that. I'm not
5 picking on the person from Montgomery who is
6 doing it. I would say this about anybody.
7 It's almost impossible to figure out how
8 somebody can keep up with all that is going
9 on in the Mobile County district and the
10 rest of the that district together. So, I
11 would plead with the Committee, plea with
12 the Legislature to go back to the old
13 boundaries for District 1, which were all of
14 Mobile County together, all of Baldwin
15 County together, and all of Escambia County
16 together. That district works. There is a
17 true community of interest there. I do not
18 think that there is a community of interest
19 there the way it is presently drawn. Once
20 again, gentlemen, I appreciate what you are
21 doing. I think this is the right thing, to
22 let the people of this state speak out. Mr.
23 Walker is well-known around the state as a
24 tremendous lawyer in this area. He will
25 give you great advice. I look forward to

1 working with you in the days to come as you
2 do this very important job. Thank you.

3 MR. WALKER: Thank you,
4 Representative Byrne. There is no one else
5 in the auditorium who has signed up to
6 speak. Is there anyone else who would like
7 to speak at this time even if you didn't
8 originally sign up to speak? Okay. Come
9 forward, sir.

10 MR. WAKELEY: (Inaudible) Good
11 afternoon, Representative Pringle, Senator
12 McClendon. Good to see you both. Can you
13 hear me (inaudible)?

14 MR. WALKER: It might be better
15 you took off your mask. You're a little
16 muffled.

17 MR. WAKELEY: Is that a little
18 better?

19 REPRESENTATIVE PRINGLE: Take you
20 mask off.

21 MR. WALKER: I think you should
22 remove your mask, if you don't mind.

23 MR. WAKELEY: It's a
24 little contrary to organizational policy.
25 The reason I'm here is to talk about a

1 couple of things, actually. One of them
2 is -- if you have the map in front of you,
3 I would love to talk to you about a couple
4 of districts specifically. Districts 66 and
5 64 on the House map are really elongated. I
6 think they fall afoul of the compactness
7 consideration. And, actually, in District
8 66, the quickest way to get from one end to
9 the other to it is to drive two hours
10 through Florida. It is really, really
11 elongated. And y'all are going to have
12 plenty of opportunity to sort of make that a
13 little more of a compact district as things
14 go on, and I would suggest that you do so.
15 The second part, you'll be less likely to
16 hear -- you'll be less likely to want to
17 hear. And I would like to say that some of
18 the residents of Districts 66 and 64 would
19 probably be a little more likely to be able
20 to make this meeting -- this is mostly
21 Fairhope residents and a few folks from
22 Mobile, from my understanding. But a lot of
23 those folks would be more likely to make
24 this meeting if it were after working hours.
25 So, I would encourage you -- I know you have

1 heard that many times already during these
2 hearings. I would encourage you to take
3 that under further consideration for next
4 redistricting committee. Thank you.

5 MR. WALKER: I think you stated
6 your name when you began, but we couldn't
7 understand it. Would you mind stating your
8 name and spelling it for the court reporter?

9 MR. WAKELEY: Sure. Dev, D as in
10 delta, E as in echo, V as in Victor.
11 Wakeley, whiskey, alpha, kilo, echo, lima,
12 echo, yankee. Thank you.

13 MR. WALKER: Thank you very much,
14 and thank you for your comments. Is there
15 anyone else in the auditorium who would like
16 to speak at this time? If so, please
17 come forward. Okay. I don't see anybody, but
18 we have a number of people who are attending
19 remotely. Is there anyone attending remotely
20 who would like to speak?

21 MS. OVERTON: There are no
22 questions or comments, but we do have two
23 members of the media that have put in their
24 names in the chat.

25 MR. WALKER: Okay.

1 MS. OVERTON: The first one is Guy
2 Busby, editor of the Courier Gulf Coast
3 Media. The second one is Gabrielle
4 (inaudible) and I will spell this rather
5 than to butcher it. L-a-

6 MR. WALKER: Langan (phonetic.)

7 MS. OVERTON: Langan.

8 MR. WALKER: Thank you for your
9 coverage, you two media members, as well as
10 the person who is in the auditorium. All
11 right. One last call for anybody who wants
12 to speak in the auditorium, Wave your
13 hand or stand up. Yes, ma'am. Please come
14 forward. Welcome.

15 MS. CADELL: Thank you.

16 MR. WALKER: Would you state your
17 name?

18 MS. CADELL: My name is Barbara
19 Cadell.

20 MR. WALKER: Okay. Could you --

21 MS. CADELL: I live in Mobile
22 County. And I spoke at the Mobile County
23 version of this hearing. I want to thank
24 you all for extending yourselves to have
25 this many hearings. However, it's my

1 understanding and I want to be clear that
2 you are not going to have anymore hearings
3 specifically for school board, state school
4 board, or other state legislative districts
5 when you have the legislative session. When
6 the special session is called, will it be a
7 three-in-one where all three maps will be
8 presented?

9 MR. WALKER: When the session is
10 called, it will be for the purpose of
11 passing the Congressional plan, the State
12 Board of Education plan, the legislative
13 House plan, and the legislative Senate
14 plan.

15 MS. CADELL: It will be an
16 all-in-one special session?

17 MR. WALKER: All four of those
18 maps have to be passed in this special
19 session in order to be ready for the
20 elections next year.

21 MS. CADELL: So, you're not
22 (inaudible). These are kind of complicated
23 situations.

24 MR. WALKER: I'm sorry, ma'am.
25 You're not -- you got cut off.

1 MS. CADELL: I just want to be
2 clear. Thank you.

3 MR. WALKER: Thank you. Is there
4 anyone else who is attending remotely who
5 would like to speak? Last chance.

6 MS. OVERTON: Felicia says, "I
7 know in prior meetings we were told that the
8 special session would be broadcast online."

9 MR. WALKER: Yes. As I said
10 earlier, it will be live streamed.

11 MS. OVERTON: "Will there be
12 options for virtual comments?"

13 MR. WALKER: Not for the session.
14 Anybody else? Okay. Thank you very much
15 for attending either in person and remotely.
16 Your participation is important to the
17 process. This hearing is closed.

18
19 (Hearing concluded.)
20
21
22
23
24
25

CERTIFICATE

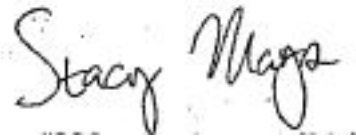
STATE OF ALABAMA

LAUDERDALE COUNTY

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing proceedings were taken down by me in stenotype, and the questions and answers thereto were reduced to computer print under my supervision, and that the foregoing represents a true and correct transcript of the testimony given by said witness upon said hearing.

I further certify that I am neither of counsel, nor of kin to the parties to the action, nor am I in anywise interested in the result of said cause.

Signed the 8th day of October, 2021

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stacy Mays". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Stacy Mays

Alabama CCR #229. Expires 9/30/2022

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